

(Annual Report - Session)

W. H. H. H.

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The following table shows the results of the election of members of the Legislative Assembly for the year 1939.

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**Proceedings of the Fourth Session of the Assam Legislative
Assembly assembled after the first General Election
under the Sovereign Democratic Republican Cons-
titution of India.**

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at
10 A. M., on Monday, the 7th September, 1953.

P R E S E N T

Shri Kuladhar Chaliha, B. L., Speaker, in the Chair, the ten
Ministers, the two Deputy Ministers, two Parliamentary Secretaries
and eighty-seven Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Borkanda-Sapatgram-Dotma Road

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI asked :

*13. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department
be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether he has lately received any representation
for the construction of the Barkanda-Sapatgram-
Dotma Road ?
- (b) If so, whether he contemplates to undertake the
construction of this road and if so, when ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) replied :

13. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Government have decided to undertake the cons-
truction during the coming winter, under the 5-Year Development
Plan.

Secretariat Building

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA asked :

*14. (a) What action has been taken by Government against the Officers of the Public Works Department and the Contractor for bad workmanship in the Secretariat building in spite of the defects pointed out by the Reinforced Concrete Specialist of the Department ?

(b) Do Government propose to appoint a Committee of experts to examine in details the Secretariat building with regard to its construction and ascertain if it can be considered safe in view of innumerable cracks that have developed and are developing ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) replied :

14. (a)—The defects pointed out by the Reinforced Concrete Specialist of the Public Works Department had been brought to the notice of the Architects who subsequently got them rectified by the Contractor.

The Public Works Department were not in-charge of the supervision of the construction works, which had been entrusted by Government to the Architects. As such the question of penalising Public Works Department officers does not arise. The Architects have certified that the building as designed and constructed is safe for designed loads and there have been no constructional defects. The cracks that have appeared and reported inevitable in the type of construction adopted which consists of a Reinforced Concrete framed structure with wall panels filled with concrete blocks. The cracks in the wall panels are expected to disappear after a few annual washings. The building has also been subject to the Earthquake shock of 1950.

(b)—This is not considered necessary in view of the fact that the Architects have certified that the building as designed and constructed is safe for designed loads and there have been no constructional defects.

****Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Is it a fact, Sir, that at the time of construction of the Secretariat building the architect and contractors assured that the building will be raised into a three storied building and subsequently they did not agree to do so in accordance with the original plan and said that it was not possible to raise it into a three storied building ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): This is a new Question, Sir, I want notice of it.

Benami Management of Big Excise Shops of Sibsagar District

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI asked :

*15. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the Minister-in-charge of Excise received a letter from Shri Girindranath Barua of Nazira, dated 22nd May, 1953 giving vivid description of the Benami management of big excise shops of Sibsagar District ?
- (b) Whether a copy of that letter was also received by the Chief Minister ?
- (c) Whether any action was taken and if so, by whom and when the enquiry was conducted ?

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister) replied :

15. (a)—Yes. On enquiry it is reported that no person by the name of Girindranath Barua of Nazira, was found.

(b)—Yes, the same was forwarded to the Excise Branch of the Revenue Department.

(c)—Secret enquiries were made last June through the Superintendent of Police, Sibsagar who could not find any proof that the shops in question were not run by the licensees of the shops.

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI: Who conducted this secret enquiry, Sir ?

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister): The Superintendent of Police, Sir, I have already stated.

Mr. SPEAKER: You mean under his direction ?

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister): Under the direction of the Deputy Commissioner, the Superintendent of Police made the enquiry.

Shri THANURAM GOGOI: Is it a fact, Sir, that the present Superintendent of Excise had been serving for a suitable period in Lakhimpur District, before he was transferred to Sibsagar District ?

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister): That question does not arise, Sir.

Shri THANURAM GOGOI: It does arise, Sir, because with the transfer of the Superintendent of Excise from Lakhimpur to Sibsagar two Benamdar parties, namely, Khan Party and Kahar Party of Dibrugarh have penetrated from Dibrugarh into Sibsagar district and have been getting settlement of excise shops under benami arrangement with the help of the present Superintendent of Sibsagar.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister): That does not arise, Sir.

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI: Will Government appoint enquiry committees, consisting of officials and non-officials to enquire into the allegations about Benami lessees?

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister): I do not see at present any necessity for such enquiry committees.

North Gauhati Ferry Ghat

Shri DANDIRAM DUTTA asked :

*16. (a) Are Government aware that the present North-Gauhati Ferry Ghat is highly congested?

(b) Whether any action has been taken to remove this difficulty faced by the travelling public at the Ferry Ghat?

(c) Are Government aware that this particular Ferry Ghat is the only gate-way from North bank to South bank and vice-versa and every section of people passes through it?

(d) Do Government propose to construct a permanent waiting house in the Ferry Ghat giving shelter to the passengers coming from distant places, from sun and rain?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) replied :

16. (a)—Government have no precise information, nor any complaint has been received on the matter. They are, however, prepared to accept the hon. Member's statement as correct.

(b)—Government will look into the matter and take action if considered necessary.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—As per terms of the lease the lessee is to provide two sheds 15 feet by 15 feet for the temporary accommodation of travellers, one at each side of the ferry and as such no question of constructing a shed by Government arises. But if the lessee has not yet provided it, necessary steps will be taken to get it constructed by the lessee immediately.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI**: Sir, may I know whether the lessee has constructed those sheds ?

***Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister)**: I cannot give the information off hand, Sir. I want notice of it. But, it has been stated in my reply that, "But if the lessee has not yet provided it, necessary steps will be taken to get it constructed by the lessee immediately".

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI**: Sir, do not the Government consider that construction of a shed there is difficult for want of sufficient space of land ?

***Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister)**: That is a new question, Sir.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI**: That is not a new question as reference is there in the question regarding congestion.

***Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister)**: I have replied to that and said, Government are, however, prepared to accept the hon. Member's statement as correct.

***Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS**: Sir, are Government aware that the North-Gauhatighat has been shifted at present to Rajaduar ?

***Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister)**: Yes, Sir, it has been shifted.

***Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS**: What are the reasons for this change, Sir ?

***Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister)**: That is a new question, Sir.

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA**: Has the Minister personal knowledge of the North-Gauhatighat ?

Mr. SPEAKER: He has got to depend on what is reported to him.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the Table)

IVth Grade Employees of the State Government of Assam

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB of Sidli asked :

18. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) If the IVth Grade employees of the State Government of Assam submitted a Memorial stating their miserable living conditions and praying for amelioration of their condition and removal of their long-felt grievances on 27th February 1952 ?

- (b) If it is a fact that a copy of a resolution passed in a meeting of their Association held on the 18th January, 1953 was presented to the Government placing on record their sense of disappointment at the apathy of the Government in taking action to remove their grievances?
- (c) If Government have taken any step in this matter after receipt of the copy of the said resolution?
- (d) If not, why not?
- (e) If so, what are they?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) replied:

- 18. (a)—Yes.
- (b)—Yes.
- (c)—Yes.
- (d)—Does not arise.

(e)—The question of revision of pay of low paid Government Officers including 4th Grade Government Servants, is under active consideration of Government.

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB of Sidli: I want to know what is meant by 'active consideration of Government'?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): It is not passive.

Examiner of Local Accounts and Deputy Examiner of Local Accounts

SRIMAN PRAFULLA GOSWAMI asked:

- 19. Will Government be pleased to state—
 - (a) Whether any enquiry was made against the Examiner of Local Accounts by the Anti-Corruption Department?
 - (b) What was the report submitted by the Anti-Corruption Department?
 - (c) Whether Government has taken any steps against the particular Officer?
- 20. Will Government be pleased to state—
 - (a) Why Government have not yet appointed the Deputy Examiner of Local Accounts?
 - (b) When Government propose to appoint the said Officer?
 - (c) Whether Government propose to re-organise and expand the Examiner of Local Accounts Department in view of increased volume of works and other factors?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) replied :

19. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The report is confidential and it is not in public interest to disclose the contents thereof.

(c)—The matter is under consideration of Government.

20. (a)—The Deputy Examiner of Local Accounts has, in fact, been appointed already.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—It is being gradually re-organised and expanded according to necessity.

Assembly Secretariat Staff

SRIMAN PRAFULLA GOSWAMI asked :

21. (a) Do Government give any daily allowance to the reporters who work during the Assembly Session ?

(b) Do Government give such daily allowance to the other employees of the Assembly Secretariat ?

(c) If not, why not ?

(d) Are Government aware that the employees and Officers of the Assembly Secretariat almost every-day during the Assembly Session work overtime from morning 8-30 or 9 A. M. to 8 or 9 P. M. ?

(e) If so, do Government propose to sanction a special daily allowance to these employees of the Assembly Secretariat during the Assembly in Session ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) replied :

2. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No.

(c)—During the Assembly Session work in all the Departments including Assembly Secretariat increases and Assistants have to work till late hours. No benefit in the shape of special pay, honorarium or daily allowance has ever been sanctioned to Assistants for this work in any Department.

(d)—Yes, but their work in other times is considerably less.

(e)—Government do not propose to consider the sanction of daily allowance for employees of the Assembly Secretariat for reasons given in (c) and (d) above.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: May I ask whether the same rate of daily allowance is given to all Reporters both English and Vernacular ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): I want notice of this question.

SRIMAN PRAFULLA GOSWAMI: Do Government give any extra allowance to the Finance Department for preparation of the Budget?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Yes, same honorarium to those who are actually engaged in the preparation of the Budget.

SRIMAN PRAFULLA GOSWAMI: Will Government consider about giving some such extra allowance to the employees of the Assembly Secretariat also for over-time work during the Assembly session?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): That was taken into account but it was found that this was not justified.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Is it a fact that Vernacular Reporters are not given daily allowance if they do not write anything but remain engaged in the Assembly?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): In the hon. members do not speak in vernacular how can the Stenographers, who are to report Assamese and Hindi speeches find work? And if a reporter does not actually do any reporting work it is difficult for Government to give him any reporting allowance.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Do they not remain engaged for the whole time though they may not have the opportunity of recording anything?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Yes.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: And for that no allowance is given?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Allowance is given for the work done.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: Do they earn allowance by writing one or two sentences?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Yes.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA: Do the Members who do not give any speech in this House receive allowance (Loud Laughter)?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): My idea is, if possible, our Members should also sometimes speak in Hindi and Assamese.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Should those people suffer for the fault of the Members?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): There is no question of suffering.

Maulana ABDUL JALIL: पिछलि Budget session के मोके पर हिन्दी Speech हवे थी कि नही।

Nagarbera Public Health Dispensary

Shri RADHACHARAN CHOUDHURY asked :

22. In view of frequent outbreak of Cholera and Malaria, do Government propose to provide the Nagarbera Public Health Dispensary with a Compounder at an early date ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) replied :

22.—A proposal for the entertainment of Compounders in some Public Health Department Dispensaries is under examination ; the case of Nagarbera Public Health Dispensary will receive due consideration.

Employees of the Assam State Transport

Shri RADHACHARAN CHOUDHURY asked :

23. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the employees of the State Transport, Assam, are given any extra allowances or remuneration for the extra works they do on Sundays and public holidays ?

(b) If not, do Government propose to remunerate them for such extra works ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) replied :

23. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Does not arise.

Shri RADHACHARAN CHOUDHURY : Unstarred question 23.

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, State transport ৰ Driver, Conductor আদিক ববিবাব, অথবা পাব্লিক হলিদিইজ'ত কাম কৰিলে এলাৱেন্স দিয়া হয় নেকি ?

Mr. SPEAKER : আপুনি 'মাইক'ৰ ওচৰলৈ আহি কওকহি ।

Shri RADHACHARAN CHOUDHURY : What is the remuneration given for the work done on Sundays and holidays to the different categories of.....

Mr. SPEAKER : অসমীয়াতে কওক ।

Shri RADHACHARAN CHOUDHURY : মই জানিব খুজিছো State Transport ত যি সকল কৰ্মচাৰীয়ে ববিবাব অথবা পাব্লিক হলিদিইজ'ত কাম কৰে তেওঁলোকক কেনেকুৱা ভাবে অথবা কিৰেট'ত allowance দিয়া হয় ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) : কি 'ৰেট'ত দিয়া হয় নই off-hand এতিয়াই কব নোৱাৰো । সময় দিলে কব পাৰিম ।

Shri RADHACHARAN CHOUDHURY : State Transport office ত কাম কৰা কৰ্মচাৰী সকলকো দিয়া হয়নেকি ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) : যেয়ে কাম কৰে তেওঁলোকক দিয়া হয় ।

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Is it a fact that in the Factories Act working on Sundays or any holiday is considered to be working overtime and for that double wage is given?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Yes.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Whether this is paid to State Transport workers?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Yes, to daily rated workers.

Main Road of Tura Town and Tura-Phulbari Road

Shri AARAN SANGMA asked:

24. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Why in certain parts in the middle of the main road of Tura Town, gravelling was made with boulders of improper sizes (although there are some existing rocks) which is dangerous to the pedestrians?

(b) When the main roads of Tura Town will be pitched?

25. Do Government propose to send an expert to inspect the road nearabout 2½ mile in Tura-Phulbari Road to make it a short-cut one in order to avoid erosion and extreme round about nature and also to save heavy recurring expenditure?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) replied:

24. (a) Government have no information. A report has been called for from the Executive Engineer.

(b)—Attempt will be made to provide funds for the work in the next or subsequent year's budget and work can be taken up only when funds have been arranged.

25.—The proposal is being examined.

Development Projects

Shri JOGAKANTA BARUA asked:

26. Will Government be pleased to state whether any Development Project like, Community Project, Pilot Project, Dimria Project, Kaki Reclamation Project been taken beyond Barpathar?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister) replied:

26. The Mikir Hills-Golaghat Community Development Block at present under implementation extends beyond Barpathar. A Community Development Block has been sanctioned in the North Lakhimpur Subdivision and four National Extension Service Blocks sanctioned in the Majuli area, Sibsagar Subdivision, Dibrugarh Subdivision and Naga Hills district respectively.

Present Chief Engineer of Public Works Department**SRIMAN PRAFULLA GOSWAMI** asked :

27. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) On what date the present Chief Engineer of Public Works Department is to retire ?

(b) Whether the present Chief Engineer of Public Works Department is moving Government for extension of his service after the due date of retirement ?

(c) If so, whether Government have decided to retain him after the due date of his retirement ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) replied :

27. (a)—On the 10th February 1954.

(b)—No.

(c)—Does not arise.

SRIMAN PRAFULLA GOSWAMI : May I ask whether the present Chief Engineer has applied for leave preparatory to retirement ?**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister)** : I cannot say off hand.**SRIMAN PRAFULLA GOSWAMI** : What will be the attitude of the Government if he applies for such leave preparatory to retirement (Laughter) ?**Mr. SPEAKER** : This is a hypothetical question. I cannot allow this.**Ministerial staff of the Veterinary Department****Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS** asked :

28. (a) Is it a fact that an order was served to the Director of Veterinary Department to raise the pay scale of the Ministerial staff of his office as soon as the Veterinary and Livestock Section is amalgamated ?

(b) If so, why the pay scale is not yet raised though both the sections are already amalgamated ?

Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAJUMDAR (Minister) replied :

28. (a)—No.

(b)—Dose not arise.

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS : Is it a fact that the Veterinary and Live-stock Departments have already been amalgamated ?

Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (Minister) : Yes.

Motion regarding public agitation against Sales Tax in Assam

Shri BIMALA KANTA BORAH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise on a point of order. The Motion before the House is : 'That this Assembly do now take into consideration the public agitation against Sales Tax in Assam'.

This Motion, I submit, is out of order and the reasons for that are as follows—

We have been asked to consider the public agitation against Sales Tax. This Motion is very vague and therefore out of order. The object of the Motion is not stated, nor the decision of the Assembly is sought by this Motion as required by Rule 43.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister) : Sir, may I make a submission ? Now there is nothing before the House. It may so happen that the hon. Member may not move this Motion. So let the Motion be moved first.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই, এই সদনৰ বিবেচনার্থে তলত দিয়া প্রস্তাৱটো (Motion) উত্থাপন কৰিলো।

"That this Assembly do now take into consideration the public agitation against Sales Tax in Assam."

এই প্রস্তাৱ সম্পৰ্কে মই মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়ৰ ওচৰত এটা Explanatory note দাখিল কৰিছোঁ। আৰু সেই note ৰ ওপৰত ভিত্তি কৰি আলোচনাৰ অৱতৰনা কৰিম। সেই নোটটো হৈছে—“A persistent and countrywide public agitation is going on throughout the State against Sales Tax. In some towns the mercantile community and the general public have even gone on strikes and Hartals. In the columns of the newspapers of the State and from numerous public platforms vehement criticisms have been made and are being made against Sales Tax in Assam.”

Mr. SPEAKER : Motion moved is that this Assembly do now take into consideration the public agitation against Sales Tax in Assam.

Shri BIMALA KANTA BORAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I submit that this Motion is out of order for several reasons.

Firstly, this Motion asks the House to consider the public agitation against Sales Tax, which is very vague. The object of the Motion has not been stated and no decision of the Assembly is sought for, as required under Rule 45. Rule 45 says "A matter requiring the decision of the Assembly shall be decided by means of a question put by the Speaker on a Motion proposed by a member". So, it is intended that the issue must be specifically raised so that the House may give a decision on the subject. This is absent in this case. Then, Sir, the language of the Motion is so vague that anything and everything pertaining to Sales Tax may be discussed under this Motion. It will be a roving discussion without any clear object and no Minister, much less any Member of the House, can usefully take part in the discussion without knowing the purpose and scope of the Motion.

Secondly, Sir, the subject-matter of the discussion, is the public agitation against Sales Tax but the nature and object of the public agitation are not stated. Is it for the repeal of the Sales Tax Act, or is it for the modification of the Act, or for amending certain sections, or improper operation of the Act, or for making the rules under the Act more stringent and drastic or for removal of some officers who are in charge of the application of the Act? Anything of the kind may be intended by this Motion. It is, therefore, very vague and, as such, out of order.

Then, Sir, this Motion is out of order for another reason. This Motion is identical with the resolution which was disallowed by the Chair on 3rd September, 1953. That Resolution ran like this. "This Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take necessary steps to repeal the Assam Sales Tax Act as amended up-to-date with Rules made thereunder on being reported by a Non-official Enquiry Committee set up to go into the question of a Sales and Purchase Tax in the State".

Sir, on a perusal of that Resolution and the present Motion it will be clear that the object of both these is the same—at any rate, substantially identical. It is true that the word "Act" is not used in the Motion. That has been purposely done to avoid any pitfall. The Mover brought a Resolution for the repeal of the Sales Tax Act and that Resolution was declared by the Chair as out of order. Now, having failed to enter by the front door the Mover is intending to come by the back door. He should not be allowed to do so. The proper procedure for repeal or modification of the Sales Tax Act is by means of an Amending Bill. Instead of that, the Mover has brought before

the House a vague and purposeless Motion. I, therefore, submit that the Motion is out of order.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, এই প্রস্তাব সম্পর্কে অষ্টম অধ্যায়ত (Chapter 8) ত আমি নিয়মাবলী প্রস্তুত কৰিছোঁহক, আনৰ মাননীয় বন্ধু শ্রীযুত বৰা ভাণ্ডাৰীয়াই যি আপত্তিৰ উত্থাপন কৰিছে, সেই আপত্তিৰ সেই অধ্যায়ৰ (Chapter) ভিতৰত কোনো ঠাই নাই। প্ৰথমতে মই নিয়মাবলীৰ ৪৬নং নিয়মৰ (Rule 46) প্ৰতি তেখেতৰ আৰু সদনৰ সদস্যসকলৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰোঁ। তাত আছে যে, "The Speaker shall decide on the admissibility of a motion and shall disallow any motion if, in his opinion, it does not comply with the provisions of the rules regarding the admissibility of motions."

ইয়াত সংশোধনৰ কোনো ঠাই নাই। তেখেতে যি দুটা আপত্তি তুলিছে তাৰ প্ৰথমটো হৈছে এই যে এই প্ৰস্তাবটো অৰ্থহীন (Vague), আৰু দ্বিতীয়টো হৈছে এই যে এনে ধৰনৰ প্ৰস্তাব এটা আগতে বাতিল কৰা হৈছে।

মই কওঁ যে এই প্ৰস্তাবটো কেতিয়াও অৰ্থহীন (Vague) হোৱা নাই আৰু হব নোৱাৰে। ইয়াত এটা স্পষ্ট প্ৰশ্ন (Issue) উত্থাপন কৰা হৈছে, আৰু সেইটো হৈছে বিক্ৰি কৰাৰ বিৰুদ্ধে হোৱা জনসাধাৰণৰ আপত্তি, প্ৰতিবাদ আৰু বিক্ষোভ। সেইটো ইয়াত স্পষ্টকৈ কোৱা হৈছে। ইয়াতকৈ আৰু বেচি স্পষ্ট প্ৰশ্ন (Issue) হব নোৱাৰে বুলিয়েই মই ভাবোঁ। যিটো প্ৰস্তাব বাতিল কৰা হৈছিল, তাত দেখিব যে বিক্ৰি কৰা আইনখন বাতিল কৰিবলৈ বিচৰা হৈছিল; কিন্তু বৰ্তমান প্ৰস্তাবৰ দ্বাৰা বিক্ৰি কৰাৰ বিৰুদ্ধে ৰাইজৰ মাজত যি তুমুল আপত্তি আৰু বিক্ষোভৰ উদয় হৈছে সেইটো আলোচনা কৰাৰ কথাহে কোৱা হৈছে।

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you just look into the wording of Resolution No.9, which was disallowed?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: আগৰ প্ৰস্তাবটো হৈছে যে—This Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take necessary steps to repeal the Assam Sales Tax Act as amended up-to-date with Rules made there under on being reported by a Non-official Enquiry Committee set up to go into the question of a Sales and Purchase Tax in the State, তাত দুটা প্ৰশ্ন বা উদ্দেশ্য (Issue) জৰিত আছিল বুলিয়েই প্ৰত্যাখ্যাত হৈছিল।

Mr. SPEAKER: I am concerned with the wording. The one speaks of repeal of the Act and the other asks for consideration of the public agitation against the Sales Tax in Assam.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: ইয়াত কোৱা হৈছে বিক্ৰি কৰাৰ বিৰুদ্ধে আন্দোলন আৰু বিক্ষোভৰ কথা। আজি এই প্ৰস্তাবটোত আইন খনৰ সম্পৰ্কে একো কোৱা হোৱা নাই। বিক্ৰি কৰা যি পদ্ধতিত চলিছে সেই বিষয়েহে কোৱা হৈছে। দ্বিতীয়তে, আগতে আলোচনা হোৱা কথাৰো পুনৰাবৃত্তি কৰা হোৱা নাই। এচেম্বলীৰ নিয়মাবলীৰ ১৩ পৃষ্ঠাৰ ২ নম্বৰত আছে যে "Where substantially identical motions stand in the names of two or more members, the Speaker, unless the members have agreed, shall decide, etc."

Shri MOHIKANTA DAS (Parliamentary Secretary): On a point of information, Sir. May I know what is the object of this Motion?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: উদ্দেশ্যটো আগতে পঢ়ি দিয়া হৈছে যে গোট্টেই বাজ্যতে বিক্ৰি কৰিব বিবন্ধে যি আন্দোলন চলিছে—

Mr SPEAKER: What is the ultimate object of your Motion ?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: উদ্দেশ্যটো হৈছে যে গোট্টেই বাজ্যতে হবতাল হৈছে, প্ৰতিবাদ সভা হৈছে আৰু এই বিক্ৰি কৰিব বিবোধিতা কৰা হৈছে। গতিকে সেই বিলাকৰ এটা বিশদ আলোচনা কৰি এই সম্পৰ্কে যিটো ভাল বুলি বিবেচনা কৰা হয়, সেইটোকে চৰকাৰে কৰিব লাগে।

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): প্ৰস্তাৱটোত তেখেতে কৈছে যে সদনৰ সদস্যসকলে আলোচনা কৰি চৰকাৰে কি কৰিলে ভাল হব তাকে কোৱা হৈছে।

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: মোৰ উত্তৰ দিয়া হোৱাই নাই। এচেম্বলীৰ নিয়মাৱলীৰ ১৫ পৃষ্ঠাৰ ৪র্থ দফাত আছে যে “It shall not revive discussion of matter which has been discussed in the same session”.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is that Rule you refer to ?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Rule 55 at page 15, Sir, গতিকে যিটোৰ বিষয়ে আলোচনা হোৱা নাই সেইটোৰ পুনৰালোচনাৰ কথাই নুঠে। তাৰ পিচত “The Speaker shall decide on the admissibility of a motion and may disallow a motion or a part thereof.” ইয়াত পুনৰালোচনা বা তেনে কে নো কথাৰ উল্লেখ নাই। তেনেস্থলত আমাৰ মাননীয় সদস্যই যিটো প্ৰশ্ন কৰিছে সেইটো ইয়াত উঠিব নোৱাৰে বুলিয়েই নই ভাবোঁ।

Shri MOHIKANTA DAS (Parliamentary Secretary): On a point of information, Sir. My Friend is not clear on my point of information. I want to ask him through you whether he wants abolition of the Sales Tax Act. I want to be clear on that point, Sir, because I will have to ponder over the matter.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই ইতিপূৰ্বেই উল্লেখ কৰিছোঁ যে মোৰ বৰ্তমান Motionৰ দ্বাৰা চলিত বিক্ৰী কৰ আইনখন বাতিল কৰা বা সেই আইনৰ কোনো সংশোধনা অনা সম্পৰ্কে কোনো কথাই ইয়াত অনা হোৱা নাই। মোৰ বৰ্তমান Motion টো ভালকৈ পঢ়িলে দেখা যাব যে, বিক্ৰী কৰ সম্বন্ধে জনসাধাৰণৰ তৰফৰ পৰা যিবিলাক আপত্তি আৰু প্ৰতিবাদ উঠিছে, তাৰে যদি এই সদনত ভালকৈ আলোচনা কৰি বৰ্তমান অৱস্থাত চৰকাৰৰ কৰ্তব্য কি সেইটো দেখুৱাই দিব পৰা য়, তেন্তে তাৰ ওপৰত ভিত্তি কৰি চৰকাৰে দেশৰ জনসাধাৰণৰ অনুকূলে এটা সুব্যৱস্থা কৰ পাৰে। তাৰ আগতে বিক্ৰী কৰ আইনখন বাতিল কৰা নকৰাৰ কোনো প্ৰশ্নই উঠিব নাৱাৰে।

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): On a point of information, Sir. My Friend says that it will raise a definite issue, what is that definite issue ? There is no definite issue here.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : এই বিক্রী কৰ সম্পৰ্কে যিটো বাজহুৱা আপত্তি আছে, তাকেই মই এই সদনত উত্থাপন কৰিছোঁ। গতিকে, বিক্রী কৰৰ বিৰুদ্ধে দেশব্যাপী যি তুমুল প্ৰতিবাদ আৰু বিকোভ চলিছে তাক চৰকাৰ আৰু সদনৰ ওচৰত উত্থাপন কৰাই মোৰ উদ্দেশ্য।

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : It may be abolition, it may be modification, it may be anything.

Shri BIMALA KANTA BORAH : My Friend, the Mover, wants Government to take certain steps which ought to have been shown in Resolution in the shape of a clause. But without that clause which ought to have been there the words in the Motion are vague.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : অৱশ্যে, যদি দৰ্কাৰ হয়। সেইটো হবও পাৰে আৰু হয়তো বা তাৰ কোনো দৰ্কাৰো নহব পাৰে। কিন্তু মোৰ Motionত তাৰ কোনো অৱতাৰণা নাই।

Mr. SPEAKER : I have heard Mr. Bora and I have heard also Mr. Bhattacharyya. I have looked into the Resolution No.9, which was previously disallowed by me and wherein it is stated that "This Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take necessary steps to repeal the Assam Sales Tax Act, etc....." and in this Motion it is stated "That this Assembly do now take into consideration the public agitation against Sales Tax in Assam" while moving these Motions the Mover made vehement criticism against Sales Tax in Assam. Some how or other both these Resolutions have same objective, that is, by these Resolutions the Mover wants that Sales Tax should be abolished. As such I find that they are identical and as the first one was disallowed, this also should be in the same position. So I disallow the Motion.

Motion regarding the "Financial Irregularities, Losses, etc.," referred to at paragraph 16 at pages 21-43 of the Appropriation Accounts 1950-51 and Audit Report of 1952 of the Government of Assam

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assembly do now take into consideration the "Financial Irregularities, Losses, etc.," referred to at paragraph 16 at pages 21-43 of the Appropriation Accounts, 1950-51 and the Audit Report, 1952 of the Government of Assam.

Mr. SPEAKER : Motion moved is that, the Assembly do now take into consideration "The Financial Irregularities, Losses, etc.," referred to at paragraph 16 at pages 21-43 of the Appropriation Accounts, 1950-51 and the Audit Report 1952 of the Government of Assam.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I take my stand to raise a point of order against the Motion brought forward by my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, because in my opinion it is out of order. Sir, by this Motion my Friend wants to raise a discussion about certain irregularities that have been found by the Audit Department against certain Departments of Government. These irregularities are recorded in the Appropriation Report Sir, and almost all Departments are involved in these irregularities. This report is being examined by the various Departments and up till now we have not got their answers. In other words, we do not know as yet what the other side has got to say regarding these irregularities. As I said, we have got no information up till now of the other side of the picture whether those irregularities as reported by Audit had really taken place. Of course all these things will come before the Public Accounts Committee that has been constituted by this House with 9 or 10 Members from this Legislature. Now, Sir, this Public Accounts Committee will go into these irregularities carefully. That is, it will carefully examine all these irregularities and in their enquiry the Heads of Departments involved will be called to satisfy the Public Accounts Committee as to what they have got to say about those irregularities. They will come as witnesses before the Public Accounts Committee and they will be subjected to examination and cross examinations. Besides the Members of this House, the Accountant General of Assam will also be present in the discussions of this Public Accounts Committee. After hearing the officers concerned about these irregularities, the Committee will hold discussion and come to certain decisions. Those decisions will be published in the form of a Report and will then be placed before this House giving full facts before the House about those irregularities, whether the irregularities did occur and if they had occurred, what are the explanations and whether those explanations are acceptable to the Public Accounts Committee or not. Then and then only we will get the full picture about these things and the House will be in a position to discuss them fully.

Now, Sir, if the House agree to discuss about these things at this stage, I think it will be unfair to our officers as it will be a discussion without hearing what they have got to say. If we do this without knowing both sides of the picture, we will be doing injustice to our officers and our Departments. Another thing, Sir, some of these irregularities which my Friend, the Mover, wants the House to discuss now are *sub-judice*. That also is one of the reasons why this matter should not be discussed at this stage.

Again as I have already said, the members of the Public Accounts Committee are something like judges because they are to come to certain findings from the reports of the Auditor General

as well as from the explanations of the heads of departments, and those findings will be in the nature of judicial orders. Sir, if a discussion is held now, we cannot expect the members of the Committee to keep an open mind, for the deliberations in the meetings. Now, Sir, before the Committee reports its findings, if we go into discussions at this stage, it will be something like playing of Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark. Sir, generally the Minister-in-charge of Finance is required to explain the irregularities before this House, and if I do that now, then it will be like making up my mind and arriving at a decision of these things before hearing our officers. How can I go to that Committee with an open mind to hear the officers? Sir, this is a very awkward position, and the other members of the Committee will be placed in similar awkward position. Sir, my Friend, Mr. Umaruddin, of the Opposition is also a member of the Committee. When he goes to that committee he will have to hear the evidence and reports and then take up a decision. If without hearing the other side, he forms an opinion, he will then go to that Committee not with an open mind but with fixed ideas. Therefore, he will be placed in such a position that it may not be wise for him to take part in the discussions. Sir, can we preclude him from taking part in this discussion? I feel Sir, we cannot do so. Therefore, Sir, this is not the stage at which a discussion should be held. If a discussion is held now, it will be tantamount to showing disregard to the Committee that was appointed by the House. Sir, I do not say that my Friend will not get an opportunity to discuss these irregularities—there should be free and frank discussions about these irregularities, but the time is not opportune. I am very anxious to have free and frank discussion after the Public Accounts Committee will send its findings. Sir, I again submit, it will be doing injustice to the Committee appointed by the House if we are to discuss all these irregularities now before the House. Sir, this is why I feel and feel very strongly that the Motion of my Friend is out of order, and I hope you will disallow the Motion.....

Mr. SPEAKER : Have you got the reports of the various Heads of Departments with you?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : No, Sir. The Public Accounts Committee is being summoned on the 14th and I hope my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, will have ample opportunity to discuss all these irregularities, and I will help him with all the facts, as we do not want to screen any officer.

Shri RAJENDRANATH BARUA : Sir, this Motion is out of order and I support every word of Mr. Bora, the Finance Minister and his every word I think is supported by the Parliamentary practices in vogue. Sir, I like to refer to Halsbury's Laws of England, Page 344 Articles 693 and 694.

Article 693 reads.—“.....Accounts showing the expenditure of the various departments for each financial year (called the Appropriation Accounts) must be submitted to the Comptroller and Auditor General before November, 30 following the expiration of that financial year. That officer then draws up a report upon the accounts of each department, in which he calls the Committee of the Public Accounts, to the House.....”

Article 694 reads.—“.....When Parliament meets in the following January or February, these reports are presented to the House of Commons together with the Appropriation Accounts, and are then considered by a sessional committee called the Committee of Public Accounts, whose duty it is to examine the accounts and to report upon them to the House.....”

So, Sir, this is only a report of the Appropriation Accounts which is in the first stage, the second stage comes when the Public Accounts Committee will take these things into consideration, and the third stage will come for discussion on the floor of the House. So I think my Friend is anticipating the whole thing. We are now at the first stage, the second stage has not yet come—how then can we discuss the third stage? Sir, this is also supported by the new Assembly Rules—Page 30—Rule 127—which reads—“.....(1). There shall be a Committee on Public Accounts for the examination of accounts showing the appropriation of sums granted by the House for the expenditure of the Government of Assam, the annual financial and revenue accounts and such other accounts laid before the House as the Committee may think fit.....”

So, Sir, the first stage has come; that is laying up of the Appropriation Accounts for 1950-51. Then again Sir, clause (10) of the Assembly Rule 127 at page 31—reads—“The committee may hear officials or take evidence connected with the accounts under examination.....”. Sir, as Mr. Bora has pointed out that the Committee will take evidence of the officials.....

Mr. SPEAKER : What is the legal position? What about Article 151 of the Constitution of India?

Shri RAJENDRANATH BARUA : At this stage Sir, if this Motion is accepted—it will prejudice the Members of the Public Accounts Committee, and the Committee will be in a very awkward position. So Sir, when it is in the first stage.....

Mr. SPEAKER : Do you mean to say that it is illegal?

Shri RAJENDRANATH BARUA : I don't say that it is illegal. I think it will be absolutely out of convention that has been followed in Parliament as well as in this House.....

Mr. SPEAKER : What is the position—illegal or legal?

Shri RAJENDRANATH BARUA : It may be construed as illegal in as much as it will be breaking a long time honoured convention.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I appreciate the line of arguments advanced by the Hon'ble Finance Minister and feel that there is a difference between the legality and impropriety. If Mr. Barua had advanced the arguments that it is not possible to discuss this fairly so as to do proper justice to it, perhaps, we could have reconciled to that position to a certain extent. But Mr. Bora appears to have anticipated the argument of my friend Mr. Bhattacharyya regarding this matter. The Motion, as it appears, is "That the Assembly do now take into consideration 'the Financial Irregularities, Losses, etc., referred to at paragraph 16 at pages 21-43 of the Appropriation Accounts, 1950-51 and the Audit Report, 1952 of the Government of Assam'" Sir, here, nowhere there is any wording of condemnation or repudiation of a matter that has been placed before this House. Under Article 51(2) it has been said, "The reports of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India, 'relating to the accounts of a State shall be submitted to the Governor or Rajpramukh or the State who shall cause them to be laid before the Legislature of the State'". And, Sir, in accordance with this Article these reports are placed before this House. Once they are placed before the House, these are the properties of the House, and the House can discuss anything. It is one thing to say that by discussing the reports on the floor of the House, the House will be doing an injustice to certain officers, and it is quite a different thing to say that we are precluded from discussion. Sir, nowhere under the Constitution it will be found that the House is precluded from discussion of these reports.

Mr. SPEAKER : Mr. Barua's stand is different from that of Mr. Bora. Mr. Bora has not maintained that the House is precluded from discussion.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : I quite understand, Sir, I will reply to both. First of all, it is not illegal to discuss the Audit Report by this House because neither under the Constitution nor under the Rules there is any provision to preclude discussions. Once the Report comes before the House, we may either discuss it or may postpone its discussion. So I do not agree with Mr. Bora.

Secondly, regarding Mr. Barua's contention, I feel, Sir, we have, through the discussion, the right to draw the pointed attention of the Public Accounts Committee to certain irregularities. In this connection I feel that Mr. Bora is anticipating the

arguments of Mr. Bhattacharyya without first hearing what he was saying. Sir, this House has every right, without in any way prejudicing the issue, to draw the pointed attention of the Public Accounts Committee to the irregularities. Sir, under the circumstances my contention is that so far as the question of drawing the pointed attention of the Public Accounts Committee is concerned, we are entirely within the right to discuss the Audit Report.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak a few words. I heard my Friend, Mr. Goswami and was really surprised to note the arguments advanced by him. Now, Sir, before I deal with any other point, I would like to take up the point which Shri Barua, Deputy Speaker, has raised, as in my opinion, that is very much relevant. I mean Rule 127 of the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules makes the position quite clear. Mr. Goswami said that the House has got every right to discuss the Audit Report at any stage. The House will remember that it has appointed a Public Accounts Committee to examine and scrutinise the Audit Reports and Accounts etc. We have appointed this Committee, during the Budget Session, and we have delegated our power or authorised the said Public Accounts Committee to do the same. But Mr. Goswami in his speech overlooked this point. Sir, it has been made perfectly clear in the subsequent paragraphs of sub-rules of Rule 127 of the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules. Under Sub-Rule (8) "The Committee may appoint one or more sub-committees, each having the powers of the undivided Committee, to examine any matters that may be referred to them, and the reports of such sub-committees shall be deemed to be the reports of the Committee if they are approved at a meeting of the Committee." Under this Rule, all the members need not necessarily scrutinise all the subjects, which, in fact, is also not possible. A certain member may specialise in certain subject. Then the Committee, when divided into sub-committees, may take up the subjects according to their special aptitudes, and take evidence of the representatives of different departments. Now Sir, Sub-Rule (9) of Rule 127 of the Legislative Assembly Rule reads as follows:—

"The Committee may, if it thinks fit, make available to Government any completed part of its reports before presentation to the House. Such reports shall be treated as confidential until presented to the House."

Now, Sir, the procedure has been laid down here, and unless the House decides to withdraw the said power from the Public Accounts Committee, the matter cannot be taken up at this stage. Unless this House is bent upon to pass a judgment before giving hearing, this Assembly has no right to take up this matter now. There was question from the Hon'ble Speaker as to its

legality or otherwise. In my opinion, Sir, it is to a certain extent illegal also. Sir, without giving proper opportunity to the persons concerned whose action we are going to criticise, if we come to a decision or say something at random, it will prejudice the whole issue. Sir, it will be a one sided affair. If the Audit Report is taken as a gospel truth, there was no necessity to appoint a Committee. The very fact of appointing the Committee pre-supposes that the Audit Report is not the last word. The alleged irregularities may have certain reason for justification which the Committee appointed by this House will thoroughly enquire into and place its considered views to this House in due course. The Committee Members have full right to enquire into this charges and other allied facts and satisfy themselves whether there were actually any irregularity or not.

In case any negligence or irregularity or any other mistake or defects whether wilful or unintentional is found, the Members have the right to make and pass resolution either condemning the action of particular officers of the department or supporting them. They may be satisfied after hearing the officers concerned that due to certain circumstances, it might not have been possible for the officer or the Department to act upto expected standard. So without giving any hearing to the officers concerned whose heads are on the charger, how can we pass judgment? Another absurd point was put forward by Shri Bhattacharyya that there is no reason to anticipate that the action of the officer will be condemned or they will be abused in any way. Then what is the good of discussing the matter? Only to praise them? If so, that is also dangerous. The report is there in black and white. The Members elected are intelligent enough to understand the same. If they find any ambiguity or difficulty, that will be removed when the committee sits and matters are explained. The Accountant General and the Officers and Members will all be there. The Finance Minister also will be there. Nothing will be done in private there to hide anything. Many persons of different groups and departments will be present in the committee meeting and after giving full hearing to the officer of the department concerned, the members of the committee will be in a position to give a correct report. They will have the opportunity of hearing both the sides. Now, Sir, think of my colleague Shri Bora's position, being the Chairman of the public Accounts Committee how can he take part in the debate at this stage today? Had I been in his position, I would have refrained from hearing the discussion to keep my mind free from any bias. Once we have delegated certain power, now by our action today we are going to take away that power, whether it is fair or not, is a vital point to be considered. Considering all the points, I think, it will be in the fitness

of things to say that this is not the time to discuss the matter on the floor of the House. The report of Public Accounts Committee when submitted to this House after proper hearing and scrutiny should be considered by this House. The report will convey the correct picture—a picture which will be drawn after hearing both the sides and on the basis of that report we shall be in a position to discuss the matter. This is not an opportune moment to discuss the matter as it will deprive the officers of their most legitimate right.

Shri NARNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in support of the point of order raised by the Finance Minister, I beg to submit that in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, the reports of the Comptroller and Auditor-General relating to the accounts of the State shall be scrutinised by the Public Accounts Committee of that State Legislature, before being discussed by the House. This provision is under the Rules 107-112 of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly Rules, 1950. My submission is that this procedure is to be followed here also, and so this Motion is not admissible as the accounts have not been scrutinised by the Public Accounts Committee.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir. Here two questions have been brought again with regard to the admissibility of my Motion. Firstly, the question of 'legality' and secondly, the question of 'propriety.' Now with regard to the question of legality, it is very clearly written in article 151 of the Constitution of India. So I need not discuss it. With regard to the question of propriety, reference has been made to Rule 127 of our Assembly Rules. I have very carefully gone through this rule and I do not find that in any way this rule disallows the discussion by this House of the particular matters which have been sought to be discussed through my Motion. Now, almost all the advocates on behalf of the point of order have said that it will take away the right of the Public Accounts Committee. I beg to submit, Sir, that it is not so. They have confused between the part and the whole. The Public Accounts Committee is a part of this House and therefore this House has got its inherent right and also the responsibility to give certain directions to which a parallel may be brought with regard to the introduction of a Bill for consideration. We send Bills to the Select Committee elected by the House, but simply because the Bill is sent to the Committee, discussion on the Bill at the time of consideration stage is not ruled out. So if some points of contention are sought to be brought in this House it should not be presumed that there is certain prejudice in the manner. There may be certain matters on which the

Committee may be asked to give its special attention. But giving special attention does not necessarily mean giving this sort or that sort of judgment. It is that kind of anticipation that has been brought here by those who have raised or supported the point of order. The reference to the West Bengal Assembly Rules also is not relevant in this connection because something might be done by a particular rule in a particular State Assembly. We are not bound to follow the rules of other State Legislatures. If it is found that there is a ruling in Parliament that in Parliament no discussion is allowed before the matter is discussed and thrashed out by the Committee on Public Accounts then we would be bound by it, but not by drawing a parallel from some other States. Therefore, for the question sought to be discussed through the Motion, it is only meet and proper that the Motion should be discussed without prejudice and discussion does not necessarily mean prejudice. Of course, I understand that "a guilty mind is always suspicious" and those who are guilty are always suspicious lest some difficult situation may arise for them out of the exposure of their guilts and misdeeds disturbances.)

Mr. SPEAKER: I have heard carefully the Hon'ble Finance Minister and the Hon'ble Mover of the Motion.

Article 151 of the Constitution lays down:—

“(1) The reports of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India relating to the accounts of the Union shall be submitted to the President, who shall cause them to be laid before each House of Parliament.

(2) The reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India relating to the accounts of a State, shall be submitted to the Governor or Rajpramukh of the State, who shall cause them to be laid before the Legislature of the State”.

For our purpose the 2nd clause is more relevant.

In England the Public Accounts Committee is a Standing Committee of the House of Commons, presided over by a Member of the Opposition. This Committee receives the annual report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of his examination of the accounts of the Government Departments. He draws attention to any unauthorised or unnecessarily extravagant expenditure. The Committee, in its turn, reports to the House of Commons. Though it is not debated by the House, it assists control by the treasury over expenditure by the departments. The very existence of the Committee tends to check extravagant expenditure in the departments; and more so under the Chairmanship of a member from the Opposition.

There was no provision in the Government of India Act, 1919, requiring the Auditor-General's report to be laid before the Legislature, but in practice this used to be done in pre-Independence and pre-Reform days.

The words, 'relating to the accounts of a State', make it clear that the reports of the Comptroller and Auditor-General is to be confined to comment on the accounts, *viz.*, whether the accounts are properly kept, whether the financial provisions of the Constitution, Laws and Regulations have been duly observed; and that it is not the business of the Audit Report to criticise the policy followed by the Government or to decide whether the country is receiving value for its work.

When the report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General is laid before each House of Parliament under Article 151 (1), they shall be scrutinised by the Committee of Public Accounts of each House. Our Parliament has framed rules for the purpose. Similarly the report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General relating to the accounts of the State should be scrutinized by the Public Accounts Committee of the State Legislature before being discussed by the House.

Rules 107--112 of West Bengal Legislative Assembly Rules, 1950 will illustrate the procedure in the State Legislature there.

Rule 109 is relevant for our purpose. 'No discussion of the accounts of the State and the reports of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon shall take place in the Assembly until the report of the Committee on Public Accounts on such accounts and reports has been presented to the Assembly under Rule 112'.

This is a wholesome rule as the House gets the advantage of the criticism of the Public Accounts Committee from the administrative point of view and the Government would be in a position to explain many matters which may apparently look enigmatical and elucidate their reasons for such expenditure.

Our rules on Public Accounts are silent about the exact procedure to be followed, but it is advisable to follow the wholesome procedure framed by the West Bengal Government under Rule 109 which I have mentioned above.

The Leader of the House may bring an amendment on the Rules on those lines if he so chooses. This will clarify the stage at which the accounts are to be discussed.

Therefore for greater convenience of the House and to obviate duplication of business, I postpone the Motion until the Public Accounts Committee submits its report.

The laying of the report is to give the Members of the House a chance to be acquainted with facts from the Governmental side so that after the receipt of the reports of the Public Accounts, they may usefully contribute to the discussion.

On a broad principle every Member has a right to discuss any matter which is laid on the table and unless there are very special reasons to the contrary, the above principal will always be followed.

Now I postpone the Motion until the report of Public Accounts Committee is made available to the Members.

Further discussion on the Resolution regarding fixation of the same scale of pay, dearness allowance and other amenities to the teachers of all High Schools in Assam

Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমাৰ বিপক্ষ দলপতী মাননীয় গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াই চৰকাৰী হাইস্কুল আৰু সাহায্যপ্ৰাপ্ত হাইস্কুলৰ শিক্ষক সকলৰ Pay Scale আৰু মৰগীয়া বানচ সমান কৰিবলৈ এই সদনত এটা প্ৰস্তাৱ দাঙি ধৰিছিল। কিন্তু কেনেকৈনো Pay Scale আৰু বানচ সমান কৰিব লাগিব তাৰ কোনো উপায় উল্লেখ নকৰিলে। তেখেতে এইটো কোৱা নাই যে সকলো চৰকাৰী স্কুল Deprovincialised কৰি একে Pay Scale কৰিবলৈ বিচাৰে নে সকলো সাহায্যপ্ৰাপ্ত হাইস্কুলবিলাক Provincialise কৰি সকলোকে সমান শাৰীলৈ আনিবলৈ বিচাৰে।

Provincial হাইস্কুলবিলাক Deprovincialised কৰিবলৈ গলে তেখেতসকলেই জনসাধাৰণক উচতাই ফুৰিব—চৰকাৰে অন্যায় কৰিছে বুলি; আৰু এইবিলাক কথাৰ দ্বাৰা জনসাধাৰণৰ মাজত যি আন্দোলন হব, তাৰ গুৰি ধৰোতাও তেখেতসকলেই হব। অৰ্থাৎ ৰাম জন্মৰ আগতে বাহ্মিকীয়ে ৰামায়ন ৰচনা কৰাৰ নিছিনাকৈ তেখেতসকলে audit report দাখিল নকৰাকৈ যেনেকৈ সমালোচনা কৰিবলৈ এতিয়াও লাগি ফুৰিছিল তাৰে পৰা বুজা যায় তেখেত সকলোৱে হকে নহকে অকল সমালোচনা কৰিবলৈহে উঠি পৰি লাগে, কোনো কথাতে অন্তৰ আছে বুলি মনে নধৰে, Sir।

এই কথাটো কাৰো অবিদিত নহয়, আৰু আমিও ভালকৈ জানো যে, এই শিক্ষকসকলেই আমাৰ সমাজৰ গুৰি ধৰোতা ও লৰা-ছোৱালী সকলৰো ভৱিষ্যত। এওঁলোকেই আমাৰ হাজাৰ হাজাৰ লৰা-ছোৱালীৰ ভৱিষ্যত নিৰ্ণয় কৰোতা। এনে স্থূলত শিক্ষকসকলৰ দৰমহা বঢ়োৱা বিষয়ে মই নিজেই পক্ষপাতি আৰু গভৰ্ণমেণ্টেও ইয়াৰ বিষয় সজাগ। ক্ৰমে ক্ৰমে বাঢ়াই দিয়াত ক্ৰটি কৰা নাই। সেই বিষয় বোধকৰো তেখেতসকলেও ভালকৈ জানে। কিন্তু এইটো কথা ঠিক যে আয় অনুসৰিহে ব্যয় কৰিব পাৰি। যেনেকৈ লৰা-ছোৱালী বিলাকক যিমান টকা দৰকাৰ সিমান খিনি টকা দিবলৈ হয়তো অভিভাবকৰ ইচ্ছা থাকিব পাৰে কিন্তু তেওঁলোকে পাবো জনো সকলোৱে? উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে কলিকতাত লৰাছোৱালী পঢ়াবলৈ সাধাৰণতঃ ভালকৈ চলিবলৈ হলে এশ টকাকৈ লাগে। কিন্তু অভিভাবক অসমৰ্থতাৰ কাৰণে ১০০ টকাৰ ঠাইত ৮০ টকা দিব লগীয়া হয়, তেতিয়া যদি কয় যে ৮০ টকাত চলিব নোৱাৰি অভিভাবকে তাৰ বেচি টকা কৰ পৰা পঠায়? সেই বুলি লৰা-ছোৱালী বোৰে আন্দোলন কৰিব নে? ঠিক চৰকাৰৰ ক্ষেত্ৰতো সেই একে। চৰকাৰো এটা পৰিয়ালৰ নিচিনা।

গোন্ধামী ডাঙৰীয়াই কৈছে যে চৰকাৰে সাহায্য প্ৰাপ্ত হাইস্কুলৰ শিক্ষক সকলৰ দৰমহা বঢ়োৱাৰ কাৰণে একো কৰা নাই। কিন্তু চাক, মই তেখেতক কও যে ১৯৪৭ চনৰ আগতে শিক্ষক সকলে কি পাইছিল আৰু বৰ্তমানে কি পায় সেইটো এবাৰ ভাবি চাওক। আগতে চৰকাৰে অৱশ্যে বৃদ্ধি চৰকাৰে সাহায্য প্ৰাপ্ত হাইস্কুলৰ কাৰণে মাত্ৰ শতকৰা ৯ টকা খৰছ কৰিছিল। কিন্তু বৰ্তমান আমাৰ চৰকাৰে খৰছ কৰিছে শতকৰা ২০। বিপক্ষ দলৰ নেতা গোন্ধামী ডাঙৰীয়াই কৈছিল সাহায্য প্ৰাপ্ত হাইস্কুলৰ শিক্ষক আৰু চৰকাৰী হাইস্কুলৰ শিক্ষক সকলৰ দৰমহা আৰু মৰগীয়া বাণচ আদি একে সমান scale কৰিব লাগে। মই আগেয়েই কৈ আহিছোঁ। তাৰ কোনো ব্যৱস্থাৰ কথা নকলে। Provincialised কৰি নে deprovincialise কৰি এই নামৰস্য বাধিব পাৰি। Deprovincialised কৰিলে আন্দোলন আৰু বেচিহে হব। আৰু সেই আন্দোলনৰ গুৰি ধৰোতা তেওঁলোকেই হব। আৰু যদি Provincialised কৰিবলৈ বোৱা যায় তেনেহলে টকা পইছাৰ কথা আহি পৰে। তেতিয়া হলে যি পৰিমাণে চৰকাৰী হাইস্কুলত শিক্ষক আদি লোৱা হয় সেই পৰিমাণে প্ৰত্যেক স্কুলতে লৰ লাগিব। তেখেতসকলে জানে নে নাজানে কব নোৱাৰো। আগতে কিমান স্কুল আছিল। প্ৰত্যেক স্কুলে কিমান টকা পাইছিল। আগতে মাত্ৰ ২২ খন চৰকাৰী স্কুল আছিল। সেইবোৰ স্কুলত মাহে ৪/৫ শ টকা মাত্ৰ সহায় দিছিল। এতিয়া চৰকাৰী স্কুল ২৬ খন হ'লগৈ আৰু প্ৰত্যেক খনতে ১০০০ টকাৰ কমে সাহায্য দিয়া নহয়। আনহাতে বেচৰকাৰী হাইস্কুল ১৭১ খনৰ পৰা ১৭৫ খনলৈ বৃদ্ধি পাইছে। এইবোৰ স্কুলে আগতে ২০০/৩০০ টকাতকৈ বেচি সাহায্য পোৱা নাছিল। এতিয়া প্ৰত্যেক খন বেচৰকাৰী স্কুলে ৫২০ টকাৰ কমে সাহায্য পোৱা নাই। কিছুমান টাইবেল স্কুলে তাতকৈ বেচিও পায়।

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS : কোনো হাইস্কুলে ৫২০ টকাতকৈ বেছি পোৱা নাই। Sir, I may bring to the notice of the House that not more than Rs. 520 has been granted to Dhamdhama High English School.

Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI : No, Sir, I have requested the Government not to decrease the grant of Dhamdhama Aided High School from Rs. 620 but when the Managing Committee could not appoint other two graduates as desired by the department the original amount might have been decreased. Mr. Das may not know about this, Sir. তেওঁ বোধকৰো ভালকৈ নাজানে। Sir. যাহোক মই আগেয়ে কৰা খৰছৰ লগত বৰ্তমান খৰছৰ এটা তুলনাহে দেখুৱাবলৈ বিচাৰিছোঁ। আগতে য'ত প্ৰায় ৭ লাখ টকাহে খৰছ কৰা হৈছিল বৰ্তমান তাৰ ঠাইত, ১৭,২,৯০০ লাখ টকা খৰছ কৰিছে। তথাপিও তেখেতসকলে যদি চৰকাৰে aided school বিলাকৰ কাৰণে একো কৰা নাই বুলি কয় তেন্তে উপাই নাই।

(At this stage the Speaker vacated the Chair and Shri Hem Chandra Hazarika a Member of the Panel of Chairmen, occupied it.)

সিদিনা গোন্ধামী ডাঙৰীয়াই প্ৰস্তাৱৰ আলোচনা প্ৰস্তুতত উল্লেখ কৰিছিল যে সম্ভৱতঃ অসমৰ শিক্ষক সকলেই ভাৰতৰ ভিতৰত আটাইতকৈ কম নিৰিখত দৰমহা পায়। কিন্তু চাব বেঙ্গল এখন আমাৰ অসমতকৈ বহুত বেছি ৰাজহ অথচ বেঙ্গলৰ aided school ৰ শিক্ষকসকলে অসমৰ শিক্ষক সকলতকৈ কমহে পায়। সেইদৰে মাদ্ৰাজ, উৰিষ্যা আদি ৰাজ্যৰ aided school ৰ শিক্ষক সকলে আমাৰ শিক্ষক সকলতকৈ বৰ বেছি নাপায়। তেখেতে আৰু এটা কথা কৈছে যে শিক্ষক সকলৰ দৰমহা ৮০ টকাতে আৰম্ভ আৰু ৮০ টকাতে শেষ। সেইটোও ঠিক নহয় কাৰণ আগতে allowance আদিৰ কোনো ব্যৱস্থা নাছিল, কিন্তু বৰ্তমানে সকলো শিক্ষকে দৰমহাৰ উপৰিও allowance ১০—২০ টকাকৈ। তাৰ মানে হেড মাষ্টাৰবোৰে পায় ২০ টকা আৰু আন graduate বোৰে পায় ১০ টকাকৈ। অৰ্থাৎ চৰকাৰৰ পৰা ৭ টকা আৰু managing committee ৰ পৰা ৩ টকা।

গতিকেই কব পাৰি ৮০ টকাতে আবন্ত আৰু ৮০ টকাতে শেষ নহয়। এই প্ৰসঙ্গত সিদিনা বৰুৱা ডাঙৰীয়াই কোৱা যোজ্ঞানা এটালৈ মনত পৰিছে।

“কলিয়াবৰত পৈয়েক মৰিল ঢেকীদিওতে মনত পৰিল”।..... (হাহি)

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: আকৌ কওক।

Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: ঠিক তেনেকুৱা কথা, চাব কিবা কৰিলেও একো কৰা নাই বুলি কয়। তেখেতে যি বিষয়ে এতিয়াহে ভাবিছে সেই বিষয়টো কংগ্ৰেছে বহু দিনৰ আগতেই ভাবিছে আৰু চৰকাৰলৈ পৰামৰ্শও দিছে যাৰ কাৰণত চৰকাৰেও এই বিষয়ে বিবেচনা কৰি আছে। তেখেতে শিক্ষকৰ কথা ভবাতকৈ ৪র্থ শ্ৰেণীৰ *mercenials* সকলৰ কথাও ভবা উচিত আছিল; কাৰণ তেওঁলোকৰ দৰমহা ২২ টকাতে শেষ। কিন্তু তেওঁলোকৰ কথা হলে গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াই চিন্তাই কৰা নাই। সাহায্য প্ৰাপ্ত হাইস্কুলৰ মাষ্টৰ সকলৰ দৰমহা কমহোৱা নাই বুলি মই নকওঁ। তেওঁলোক সমাজৰ মেকদণ্ড জাতিৰ ভবিষ্যৎ ছাত্ৰ সকলৰ জীৱন গঢ়োতা। লৰা-ছোৱালীৰ ভাল বেয়া তেওঁলোকৰ উপৰতে নিৰ্ভৰ কৰে। তেওঁলোকৰ দৰমহা বঢ়াইদি জাতিৰ উন্নতি সাধন কৰিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰা নিশ্চয় বাঞ্ছনীয়, কিন্তু তেওঁলোকক উচিতাই দি *strike* কৰিবলৈ বৰ অনুপ্ৰেৰণা দিয়া বাঞ্ছনীয় নহয়। শিক্ষক সকলেও অকন অকন লৰা-ছোৱালীবোৰ লগত লৈ *strike* কৰা উচিত নহয়। কোমল মনৰ অকন অকন লৰা ছোৱালী বোৰে *strike* নো কি বুজিয়েই নাপায়। সেই লৰা-ছোৱালীবোৰক কোমল বয়সতে ৰাজ্যত বিস্মৃতাৰ সৃষ্টি কৰিবলৈ শিকালে আমি দেশৰ লোক স্মৃতাৰ হব পাৰে বুলি কেনেকৈ আশা কৰো? ই সচাকৈয়ে—বৰ পৰিতাপৰ কথা। আৰু এটা ইয়াৰ লগতে কওঁ চাব, আগতে শিক্ষক সকলৰ দৰমহা কোনো ধৰা বন্ধা নিৰ্বন্ধ নাছিল। এতিয়া—হেড মাষ্টাৰ সকলৰ ১৭৫ টকাৰ পৰা ৪০০ টকালৈ আৰু আইন সহকাৰী শিক্ষক সকলৰ ১০০ টকাৰ পৰা ২৫০ টকালৈ, অৱশ্যে মই আগতেই কৈ আহিছোঁ বৰ্ত্তমান অৱস্থালৈ চাই এই খিনি টকা আশাতীত নহয়—তাবোপৰি তেখেতসকলে যদি খবৰ কৰিছে, নিশ্চয় এইটো তেখেতসকলে জানে যে অলপতে পালিয়ামেণ্ট, মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা সম্বন্ধে আলোচনা বিশেষ ভাবে কৰিছে আৰু এই শিক্ষা সংগঠনৰ অৰ্থে দেশৰ চাৰিও ফালে জন মতৰ ওপৰত ভিত্তি কৰি, মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বৰ্ড গঠন কৰিছে। সেই ধাৰালৈ লক্ষ্যৰাখিলে, ভাৰত চৰকাৰৰ নিৰ্দেশ অনুযায়ী আমাৰ শিক্ষক সকলক, দৰমহা দিবলৈ অগেয়ে চেষ্টা কৰিছে। চৰকাৰৰ এই সহানুভূতিসূচক প্ৰচেষ্টাৰ ওপৰতো তেখেতসকলে অৰিশ্বাস কৰে যদি আমাৰ কবলগীয়া একো নাই। সেই কাৰণে হয়তো কৰ্ত্তণ প্ৰস্তাৱ দাঙি ধৰিছে।

(কৰ্ত্তণ প্ৰস্তাৱ নহয়—প্ৰস্তাৱহে—চাব)

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: He is speaking like a mercenary.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): The word “mercenary” used by Mr. Das is very objectionable, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN (Sjt. HEM CH. HAZARIKA): Mr. Das please withdraw the word.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: I withdraw it.

Shri DHARANI DHAR BASUMATARI: তেখেত সকলৰ মাজত কৰ্ত্তণ অকৰ্ত্তণ একেই চাব। যি কি নহওক Sir, Aided High School বিলাকৰ শিক্ষকসকলৰ দৰমহা আৰু বৃদ্ধি হব লাগে। তেওঁলোকৰ ভাষণত কেৱল বেচৰকাৰী হাইস্কুলৰ শিক্ষক সকলৰ দৰমহা বৃদ্ধি হব লাগে বুলিলেই উচিত কোৱা নহল। এই শিক্ষক সকলৰ বাহিৰেও, কম দৰমহা পোৱা অথচ দেশৰ অত্যাবশ্যকীয় পুলিচ বিভাগৰ কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ কথাও ভাবিব লাগিব আৰু তেওঁলোকৰ দৰমহাও বৃদ্ধি কৰিব লাগে। বৃদ্ধিটো কৰিব লাগে—কিন্তু ওপৰৰি টকা আহিব কব পৰা? এই অসমৰ স্থল অথবা উপায়ৰ সম্বন্ধে তেখেতসকল নিমাত। শিক্ষক সকলৰ দৰমহা ধৰক ৫ টকাকৈও বেচি কৰি দিবলৈ ললেও কিমান যে টকা হব ভাবি চাওক।

চৰকাৰী হাইস্কুলত ৫৮৫ জন শিক্ষক আছে, বেচৰকাৰী অথচ সাহায্য প্ৰাপ্ত হাইস্কুলৰ ৩,০৪৭ জন শিক্ষক আছে আৰু তেওঁলোকক দিবলৈ কিমান টকা লাগিব? আৰু এই অতিৰিক্ত টকা ক'ব পৰা আহিব? বিত্ত আগমনৰ পথহে ইয়াত বিশেষকৈ বিবেচনা কৰিব লগীয়া কথা—
 বিটো কথাৰ ওপৰত, শ্ৰীযুত গোস্বামী অথবা, তেওঁ অনা প্ৰস্তাবৰ ওপৰত হোৱা আলোচনাত অংশ গ্ৰহণ কৰা সদস্য সকলে অলপো জোৰ দিয়া নাই—বৰং তেওঁলোকে, তেনে পথত বাধাৰহে সৃষ্টি কৰিছে। Sales Tax ব্যৱহাৰ ফলত আমাৰ দেশৰ চাৰিও ফালে বিকোভৰ সৃষ্টি (Agitation) হৈছে বুলি তেওঁলোকে আৰ্জি এই সদনৰ আগত প্ৰস্তাবৰ অবতারণা কৰিছে। আমি জনাত তেনে হোৱা নাই। তেওঁলোকেই কেৱল দুখীয়া জনসাধাৰণৰ প্ৰতিবুলি বিবেচনা কৰিছে, এনে প্ৰস্তাব উত্থাপন কৰিছে আৰু তেনে কৰাৰ পৰা ৰাইজৰ উপকাৰ হ'ব বুলি ভাবিছে। এনেকৈ যদি প্ৰত্যেক ক্ষেত্ৰতে বিৰোধীতা কৰে তেন্তে জনহিতকৰ কিকাম আমাৰ ইয়াত হ'ব পাৰে? এনে অৱস্থাত তেওঁলোকে ভাষণ দিওতে বিশেষ সাৱধান হৈ যি ইচ্ছা তাকে যেন ভবিষ্যতে আৰু নকয়। কাৰণ, অসম, ভাৰতৰ ভিতৰতে এখন সকলো ফালে পিচপৰা দেশ আৰু সেইকাৰণে ইয়াৰ সৰল জনসাধাৰণক ৰাজনৈতিক ক্ষেত্ৰত বিচলিত কৰিবলৈ যেন তেওঁলোকে আগ নাবাঢ়ে।

তাৰ পিচত শ্ৰীযুত গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াই কৈছে—আমাৰ শিক্ষাৰ মান কমি গৈছে আৰু ইয়াৰ প্ৰধান কাৰণ শিক্ষকৰ কম দৰ্শনহা বুলি তেখেতে অভিহিত কৰিছে। এই উক্তিৰ সত্যাসত্যতা সদনৰ সদস্য সকলৰ ওপৰত ভাৰ থাকিল। তাৰ পিচত আকৌ তেখেতে কৈছে—চৰকাৰী হাইস্কুলৰ শিক্ষকে ২০ জন আৰু বেচৰকাৰী স্কুলৰ শিক্ষকে ৮০ জন ছাত্ৰ পঢ়ায়। সেই সংখ্যাটো ঠিক নহয় যেন লাগে তাৰ ঠাইত যথাক্ৰমে ১৪ জন আৰু ৬৯ জনহে বোধ হয়। মই জানো সাহায্য প্ৰাপ্ত বেচৰকাৰী হাইস্কুলৰ বাহিৰেও 'ভেনচাৰ' হাইস্কুলও ৫০ খন মান হ'ব। যত ৫০০ জন মান শিক্ষক আছে। এই ভেনচাৰ হাইস্কুল বিলাকত কোনো কোনোৱে ১৩০, ১৫০, ২০০ টকালৈ সহায় পাইছে আৰু ১৫০ টকাৰ কম সহায় পোৱা স্কুল কমহে আছে। চৰকাৰী বেচৰকাৰী হাইস্কুল বিলাকৰ শিক্ষকৰ বেতন, সকলোৰে সমান কৰিবলৈ হলে সেই টকা, মই ওপৰৰি টকাৰ কথা কৈছো—ক'বপৰা আহিব? সেই কাৰণে মই কও, তেওঁলোকৰ দৰ্শনহা বৃদ্ধিৰ প্ৰস্তাবৰ লগতে টকা অহাৰ sourceত আলোচনা কৰিলেহে, টকা বৃদ্ধিকৰি বিতৰণ কৰা আৰু সেই অনুপাতে টকা অহাৰ ক্ষমতা ৰক্ষা কৰা হয়।

শিক্ষকৰ বাহিৰেও আৰু অতি কম বেতন পোৱা ৪ৰ্থ শ্ৰেণীৰ কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ বেতন বৃদ্ধিৰ ways and meansৰ কথা চৰকাৰে ভাবিয়েই আছে। তেনেস্থলত, বিৰোধী দলৰ সদস্য সকলে, চৰকাৰৰ অগ্ৰগতিৰ পথত যেন বিৰোধীতা নকৰে আৰু আনহাতে নিৰীহ সৰল জন-সাধাৰণৰ মাজত অথবা প্ৰচাৰ কৰি তেওঁবিলাকক যেন বিপথে চালিত নকৰে। ইয়াকে কৈ মই, শ্ৰীযুত গোস্বামীৰ প্ৰস্তাবটোৰ বিৰোধীতা কৰি, মোৰ বক্তব্য সামৰিলো।

Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Resolution before the House is this; "This Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take necessary steps for the fixation of same scale of pay, dearness allowance and other amenities to the teachers of all High Schools in Assam". Sir, the object of my reading out the Resolution is this; to explain away certian points of objection which were raised by Shri Mohendra Nath Deka on the previous day, with regard to its wording. He said that the wording of the Resolution implied something which was absolutely absurd. He said that the expression "fixation of the same scale of pay" meant the same scale of pay for all the teachers. In other words, starting from the vernacular teacher to the headmaster all should get the same scale of pay! Sir, is such an interpretation indicative of any

commonsense? What the sponsor of the Resolution intends is this; the same scale of pay is to be given for the corresponding categories of teachers as between Government high schools and aided high schools. This is the proper interpretation. Of course the wording could have been a little more specific, but certainly we have got some intelligence and have to look at it from the context and the background, in order to put the correct interpretation.

Shri MOHENDRA NATH DEKA: He said, "all high schools".

Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: Yes, but there are only two categories of high schools, *viz*, the Government high schools and the Aided high schools. There is no other category of high schools in the State. The object of the Resolution is to treat these two categories of high schools on the same footing. So far as emoluments and other amenities are concerned, the expression "same scale of pay" means same scale for corresponding categories of teachers as between Government and Aided high schools. That is the clear meaning of this Resolution. Sometime, the Members on the other side in their enthusiasm to oppose the Opposition take recourse to literalism and all kinds of device. In this case also, in their fervour to oppose the Resolution literalism has been pushed to the extreme. Here I cannot do better than to tell the House of a certain joke on literalism. A certain man went to a restaurant and ordered for a dinner. Now, the first item in the menu was turtle soup. So the dinner after tasting the soup called for the waiter and asked him "Well waiter, I do not find a particle of a turtle in the soup". "What of that" replied the waiter. "Supposing you ordered for Cabinet Pudding, would you expect to have the Food Minister in it?" ... (laughter). Sir, similar is the attitude of my Friend, Mr. Basumatari. He wanted that there should not be any criticism of Government in this House. If so, what is this House for? My Friend fears that any criticism of the Government will be misconstrued by the illiterate electorate outside and thereby they will be misled. That is the fear of the other side, that any criticism of the action or of the policy of Government will mislead the people outside. I do not understand why this complex of fear should be in the minds of my friends opposite. This House is to examine, to criticise the policy of Government and to offer suggestions. So far as we on this side are concerned, Sir, when we make criticism we are prepared to face public opinion outside and take the consequences. We have no fear to face the electorate for whatever we say in this House is actuated by a *bonafide* motive. But our friends on the other side are afraid to come out and meet criticism. This is their

fear. They have not the courage to face the public outside. But we on this side do not suffer from this complex. We know that when people outside find from our criticism that we are speaking the right thing, they will find that our criticisms will bring about disillusionment among them. On the other hand our friends opposite are afraid that our criticisms will create disillusionment in the minds of our people outside. Why this fear of disillusionment? Because they give them many false hopes-many promises. Our people may be illiterate, but they have common sense, they have got discerning minds to judge the criticisms. By our criticisms we are not going to mislead them. My friends on the other side know that once there is that disillusionment it will be difficult for them to hoodwink the electorates for the second time.

Now, Sir, let me come to the merit of the Resolution. First of all, what is the fundamental principle underlying this Resolution? The principle that this Resolution implies is that at present we are not pursuing a uniform policy in the matter of secondary education. Sir, this secondary education forms the most important stage in the whole course of education from the very beginning to the final stage, *i. e.* from the Primary to the M. A. degree. Now at present literacy is only 15 to 16 per cent. in this State. We should not rest content with 'literacy' only, if we have to take our rightful place among the progressive countries of the world. We have to accelerate the speed of our education specially of the secondary stage because it is only after a man has finished the secondary stage of education that he can be called educated. So, Sir, I say that secondary stage is the most important stage in the whole course of our education. But, Sir, why this discrimination should occur? I will cite from the figures of the budget the glaring disparity between one category of schools and the other. Sir, we must admit that secondary education forms the main link in the process of education as a whole and in that case we must see whether this Government or we are doing our full duty towards our people in the matter of education. Sir, I do not deny that Government has been spending lots of money in secondary education. But the whole point is this whether the policy Government followed in this direction is at all satisfactory or whether we should do something more for its betterment. One thing we must not overlook here is the quality of the product we produced from our schools.

Now, Sir, I want to show from figures that there are 20 Government High Schools and 188 Aided High Schools in Assam. These 20 Government High Schools receive a grant to the tune

of 24 lakhs of rupees annually. Government have been spending about 1 lakh 20 thousand for each of these 20 Government High Schools annually.

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): I want to correct the hon. Member, it is 26 Sir, and not 20.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: All right, Sir, I will take it at 26. Now, taking 400 as the average enrolment in each High School, the total number of students will be between 9 and 10 thousand and for these the Government are spending as much as 24 lakhs whereas in 188 Aided High Schools even if we take 300 as the average enrolment, the total will come to 56 thousand and odd for which the Government has been spending only about 22 lakhs. So far as the Aided High Schools are concerned the recurring grant for 188 such schools - I am subject to correction by the Education Minister—is only 12 thousand on the average per School as against 1 lakh for a Government High School. Now, let the House consider whether Government is justified to spend 12 thousand rupees on an Aided High School as against 1 lakh on a Government High School, when the Aided High Schools are doing the same kind of duty and the same function, that is, to impart secondary education to our children. As a matter of fact these Aided High Schools are doing more national service because they are imparting education in the rural areas, they work with sacrifice like missionaries under very trying circumstances. This question of imparting education in the rural areas by Aided Schools was given a fillip by the non-co-operation movement of 1920-21 when most of the Government High Schools had to be closed down and those people who were more patriotic and nationalist spirited, went out to fight British imperialism, started their own schools by sacrificing their all to serve the people. That is the history and background of these Aided High Schools, Sir. Have we forgotten the past, have we forgotten history as to what these Aided High Schools have done? We have got to revise the whole policy, we must see that there must be no room for any discrimination between the Government High Schools and the Aided High Schools. My Friend, Mr. Goswami, has said that there is a great deal of difference between the pay of the teachers of the Aided High Schools and those of the Government high schools. As a matter of fact some Aided High Schools have produced much better results than many Government High Schools. Then where is the moral or legal justification on the part of the Government to grant more money to a certain class of schools and less to the other? We must see that in the matter of education there should be no discrimination,

and that should be the policy of the Government. We find, Sir, that these Aided schools have been discharging their responsibilities fairly well, there may be some bad institution which may not be making satisfactory progress, and to which we are drawing the attention of the Government. Sir, the Government must examine the whole educational policy and come to some effective policy of placing the two categories of schools in the same footing. We have also to provide against indiscriminate growth of aided high schools in this State.

Then, Sir, comes the question of financial implication. The question of financial stringency comes when we sponsor something from this side, but when something is sponsored from the Government side, there is no question of financial stringency. Sir, the total expenditure for 188 Aided High Schools will come up to one crore and eighty eight thousand on the basis of one lakh per School as in the case of Government High Schools. Now for a little over 200 High schools of both categories the total cost will come to about Rupees 2 crores. Sir, we are already spending about 24 lakhs for Government high schools and 22 lakhs for Aided high schools, i.e., a total of about Rs. 50 lakhs and so the difference is one crore and fifty lakhs of rupees. Sir, if we can find the extra 1 crore 50 lakhs, we can bring the two categories of schools at par. Sir, now the question arises whether or not we can find this one crore and fifty lakhs of rupees. With a stroke of the pen it is not possible to do this. The first question is whether we should accept the objective or ideal underlying the Resolution and then examine the feasibility by its implementation from financial point of view. Sir, as far as implementation of the scheme is concerned—it may be done slowly. There must be a progressive scheme of raising the Aided High Schools to the level of Government High School. Sir, there should be certain criterion in the matter of selection—viz., a duration of the schools, results, qualification of the staff etc., and on the basis, the Aided High Schools should be progressively brought into the status of Government High Schools. Whether Government high school is doing well or not is another question but the Aided schools are doing national service, there must not be Government schools and Aided High Schools in a National Government—all schools should be Government schools. So far as education is concerned, Government should do away with the title of Government High Schools and Aided High Schools. This is, in my opinion, a wrong nomenclature. High Schools are High schools and there can be no discriminatory treatment. Now, Sir, as far as the financial aspect is concerned, how are we going to find this money? If we follow the progressive policy in the matter of education we can bring

all the schools in the same category within a certain number of years. Then again, Sir, in the matter of giving grants there should be no discrimination. We have seen, Sir, in certain places with a lesser population more grants are being given whereas in some deserving cases no grants are given. If any body challenges me in this respect I will come with some facts and figures. Sir, a sum of 22 lakhs has been distributed to the Aided schools not evenly and according to certain fixed principles but at the instance and pressure of some individuals. Let there be certain committee for this distribution and let that committee make the distribution of grants after examining the claim of each School carefully. Sir, some schools with ten years standing have not got any grant at all.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: For ten years!

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): I have not been able to follow him.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member says that there are some schools with ten years standing which are not getting any grant from the Government.

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Can you name any school?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Sapatgram High School.

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Grant was given to that school.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: That is only a special grant for a specific purpose. No general recurring grant was given to that school. Whether this has been done deliberately by the Head of the Department or by the Minister for Education, I don't say that, I say that the matter has not received the proper attention of the Government. My submission is that the Education Minister should see that grants are evenly given to all schools and not that a certain school will get the grant and some other will not get it. Government should do all these things only under pressure or request from any party or individual, but justice must be done to all. So, Sir, Government must take into account all these things and adopt a policy, a progressive policy in the matter of education to implement the objective of the Resolutions. With these few words, Sir, I support the Resolution brought forward by my Friend, Mr. Goswami.

Adjournment.

The Assembly was then adjourned for lunch till 1-30 P. M.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, যি প্ৰস্তাৱটো সদনৰ সমুখত আছে সেই প্ৰস্তাৱ সম্পৰ্কে আলোচনা প্ৰসঙ্গত কিছুমান অপ্রাসঙ্গিক দেখা গৈছে। তাৰ ভিতৰত এটা হৈছে যে চৰকাৰে, চৰকাৰী আৰু বেচৰকাৰী যিবিলাক হাইস্কুল আছে তাত যি পৰিমাণে টকা খৰচ কৰিছে.....

Mr. SPEAKER: If you speak in Assamese some of the Members will not be able to follow.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I was speaking a little in Assamese for the advantage of Mr. Basumatari. মোৰ বিশ্বাস অসমীয়া বিপৰ্টিৰ সকলোও ঠিক বিপৰ্টি দিব পাৰে।

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Basumatari can follow English. Besides, if you speak in English, Members from the Hill areas, such as the Lushai Hills etc., will also follow. It will also be better reported.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: বসুমতাৰী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ লগত যিমান খিনি কথা জড়ীত সেইখিনি কথা মই তেখেতৰ সুবিধাৰ অৰ্থে অসমীয়াতে কওঁ। বসুমতাৰী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ কথাকে ধৰা যাওক। তেখেতে দাবি কৰিছে যে তেখেতে বহুত ধুন বাগৰিছে... (Interruption from the Chair).

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Bhattacharyya, will you please speak in English?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: However, I bow down to your wish, Sir. So far as Shri Basumatari is concerned, he claims that he has got greater experience of different types of High Schools than the Leader of the Opposition who has moved this Resolution. I do not contest his statement, Sir. Because I personally know he rolled on in different Schools, both Government and non-Government, in order to get his Matriculation Certificate.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Basumatari said that his experience is based on his experience gained on inspection of different High Schools.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Yes, Sir, that is also a type of inspection! At any rate, Sir, it is not by going to different Schools that one is entitled to have an expert knowledge. That is my contention. Mr. Basumatari said that in Orissa the scale of pay of the Aided High Schools is less than that of the teachers of the Aided High Schools in Assam. Sir, I do not know what is the source of his information. But from what we get from

this publication of the Government of India, Bureau of Education, where there has been given a comparative table of the scales of pay of different States of India we find that the scale of pay in Orissa is higher than in Assam.

Mr. SPEAKER: Government or Aided ?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Both Government and non-Government. For the time being, however, I am confining myself to non-Government institutions. So, Sir, we shall be grateful if we know his source of information. Secondly, he contested the necessity and urgency of raising the pay scale of the High School teachers on two points. First, he said that there is not enough money in the exchequer, and secondly that there are still worse paid staff even in the Government itself who need more urgent help, for example, he pointed out to the Chaprasis standing in this Hall. Now, Sir, so far as the exchequer is concerned, it is only possible to save money by proper disposition of the money that is in hand. If money to the extent of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ crore of rupees be wasted or lost or misappropriated or irregularly spent, then naturally for nation building departments there will be dearth of money. But if every pie of the exchequer is properly spent and properly disposed of then there will be no difficulty for giving adequate pay to all the teachers both Government and non-Government. He also claimed that in comparison with the pre-independence days, the pay of the High School teachers of the non-Government High Schools have increased. Yes, in terms of rupees it has increased, but we should remember that the value of money is to be assessed in terms of its purchasing power. From the Government reports we find that taking 1939 as the base year, the price structure at present stands at Rs. 423. This shows that the prices of things have risen more than 4 times. So, naturally the purchasing power has gone down to that extent. This aspect of the matter should also be borne in mind when we talk of salaries.

Mr. SPEAKER: What was the salary in pre-war days ?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Even in pre-war days the salary of a graduate teacher was not less than Rs. 40 per month. Even if we admit that the salary of the teachers has gone up, it is only a little over the double of what it was. But the price index shows a rise of more than 4 times. But when the price index shows a rise of more than four times and when there was a rise in the pay only to the extent of two times, there is a real wage cut to the extent of over 200 per cent. Further, we should also bear in mind that the standard of living for a teacher should be fairly good, because if a teacher is in a hungry state then he shall have to do other jobs. For example, he shall have to

run after private tuition and thereby he will be compelled to give less attention to serious studies with the result that the students in the institution where he serves will suffer. As a matter of fact, the Commission appointed by the Government of India for enquiring into the affairs of Secondary Education also brought pertinent attention to this particular point. So we should remember that the pay that we give to the teachers, nay to all employees, should be adequate to give them a fair standard of living. Shri Basumatari, I am glad that he has now come to the Chamber, that day said that he is an agriculturist, and referring to us he said that perhaps we have had no experience of agriculture. So, Mr. Basumatari, an agriculturist, was elected to the Legislature and he now draws a salary of Rs.150 per mensem and a daily allowance of Rs.10-8-0 plus a conveyance allowance of Rs.2-8-0—the total thus coming to Rs.13 per day—and yet he voted for the Resolution which sought to raise the daily allowance of Members to the extent of Rs.20 per day.

Mr. SPEAKER: Why don't you confine to the Resolution itself? Are you also not getting this amount?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: So, we the representatives of the common men are drawing a monthly salary of Rs.150 and a cumulative daily allowance of Rs. 13, yet we say that this is inadequate and therefore some of us have demanded that our allowance should be raised, and there are very strong reasons for that also. If for a man of our standard *i. e.*, an average man, that is necessary why should a graduate serving in an institution should not have at least the same standard as ourselves? I am demanding for them a bare maintenance and not for stocking for the rainy days. If it is necessary in my case, it is also equally necessary for another man.

Further, it has been said that the Opposition will do well to give more attention to the low-paid staff *i. e.*, Chaprasis and the so-called Class IV employees, and Mr. Basumatari has been claiming that Government has already looked into that matter. But the truth is that it is only we who are fighting to bring a Resolution or Motion to the effect that their pay may be raised. So when Mr. Basumatari says: "Bring also the case of category IV officers," he is only shedding crocodile tears. As I say this is only counterposing one point against another point in order to bypass the main issue. If you really feel that the class IV employees.....

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the time, 15 minutes? You have exhausted that time.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Sir, instead of counterposing the question of Class IV officers as against that of the teachers there should be a proposal that everybody should be given a minimum decent standard of living. If that had been done by

Mr. Basumatari that would have been very much appreciated by us but instead of that he said that the teachers should not be given a higher pay.

Shri BIMALA KANTA BORA: Nobody said that.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: If he had not said like that it is of course good. I say that a Resolution ought to have been moved by him in this House but that was not done.

Another thing to which I draw his attention is that it is true that in comparison with the pre-war days the expenditure for Education has been slightly raised. But one will find that in the year 1946-47 the total appropriation of this Government was Rs. 7,44,08,069, and in 1950-51 it was Rs. 17,47,08,078. When there has been greater taxation on the people there has been greater expenditure also. So, we find that there has been a rise in the income and there has been a rise in the expenditure also. If for giving real benefit to the people—the benefit which people deserve—some adjustments are to be made, I suggest that a Resolution should come and the House should accept it and there should not be an effort to sidetrack the principal issue. But Mr. Basumatari does not seem to have understood the real intention and implication of the Resolution.

Another point that our Finance Minister that day claimed in course of interjecting is that our State stands in a high position among the different States of India with regard to expenditure on Education. That may be correct. So far as my information goes, Assam stands perhaps third in the proportion of expenditure on Education and we should congratulate ourselves for what we have done in this respect. But he should remember one thing. What is the general rate of expenditure for Education in India including Assam? I am giving the figures of India. It is Rs. 2·3 per head per year. In Assam's case it may be a little more or less but the Indian figure is Rs. 2·3 whereas in the United Kingdom it is Rs. 74·5, in the United States of America it is 87·3 and in the U. S. S. R. it is Rs. 360 per individual per year. These are the figures compiled by the Bureau of Statistics, Bombay, but when we find.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Did you ask what is the capital income of those places?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Taking into consideration the *per capita* income of those countries also, the ratio will not be favourable for us. If we cite 2 instances namely of U. S. S. R. and India, in U. S. S. R. they spend Rs. 360 per head per year for Education whereas we spend only Rs. 2·3 and from all available sources, we know that the

per capita income of individuals in U.S.S.R. is not 150 times higher than that of India. So this expenditure is not favourable.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is your income ?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: The average income of an Indian per year will be near about Rs.225. Even if it is so, it does not go in favour of the question raised. Now, as I said in course of previous debates there is no good in taking pride of being the tallest in the company of dwarfs. In Sanskrit, there is a saying—একগুণি দ্বায়তে. If the Government which spends Rs. 2 per head per year in Education claims that they spent a lot and that there is no more to spend then I beg to submit that it will be a very ridiculous stand and that it will not be supported by any consideration of the civilised world. Therefore, Sir, we should see that if we want to build up our country and if we want to raise the standard in our country, we shall have to spend more money for Education and that also we shall have to spend more equitably. I am not saying that the pay and allowances drawn by the Government School Teachers are high. But the position of non-Governmental institutions is still worse. And, therefore, while I hold that the position of the Government institutions should also be still improved, I press that special attention should be given to the non-Governmental educational institutions. With these words, Sir, I support the Resolution moved by my Friend, Shri Goswami.

***Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to give my whole-hearted support of the Motion moved by my Friend, Shri Goswami. Education is, in fact, the most important item of which our State should incur expenditure. In this State the work of the Aided High Schools in imparting secondary education is very great. Had education imparted in the Government high schools scattered in various places (26 in number) been improved we can very easily realise that literacy might have been obtained at this time.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the normal literacy ?

***Shri GHANAKANTA GOGOI:** I think, it is 16 per cent. more or less. In fact, the credit of giving education to a vast section of people that claim to be educated in this State goes to the private enterprise. The people that can be given this credit of organising these High Schools are not only organisers of those schools but are also teachers and those schools have been organised in the localities when Government have done nothing to impart education and to start Secondary Schools. These teachers have just done a lot of propaganda to organise these schools. And I am also amongst the patriots in this State and we can say that the school teachers can claim to be the first class patriots.

Mr. SPEAKER : Do you include yourself too ?

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI : I am not a teacher now. But I want to be included in that credit also. The pay that these private teachers are drawing is not equal to what the teachers in the Government Schools are drawing. We are of a classless society.

Mr. SPEAKER : Not yet.

***Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI :** As an ideal, Sir. And we do not want that there should be two classes of people getting different pay and doing the same work. It may be said that some of the elementary High School teachers are young graduates who from the very beginning started as Assistant Headmasters. It is a fact that they were not trained to fill in the responsible posts, but they took pleasure to the work and worked very sincerely and made up their deficiency and in course of a few years they became efficient in teaching and in managing the High Schools. We can just realise this from the results of the Aided High Schools all over the State. In fact we have seen many teachers of the Government Schools who are not as sincere as many of the teachers of the Aided High Schools in the discharge of their duties. For instance, when the Education Minister visited the Aided High Schools in Dibrugarh, many of the teachers of the Aided High Schools invited the Minister to the outlaying part of the subdivision whereas the Headmaster and the staff of the Dibrugarh Government Girls' High School who reside within the town did not care even to see the Minister and inform him about the inadequate housing condition of the Dibrugarh High School for girls. The School is situated near the Circuit House of Dibrugarh. I can tell myself to the Hon'ble Minister that in one hall six classes are run without a single partition wall. You can just well-understand the difficulty under which the teachers and the boys are to face for want of housing arrangements. There were sheds in the school under which classes are held. Last year, one shed accommodated 2 classes. But out of negligence, the shed broke down and was dismantled. There is no room for extra accommodation of the classes held there. This is the condition of the High School. The Government High Schools teachers are better paid than the Aided High Schools.

Sir, this disparity in the matter of pay must go. However, I find that there are lapses of money of the grants and then some amounts out of the budget remains unspent and, Sir, provision is being made in the Budget for new items. Sir, for this the Education Minister should come and make provision. Sir, to raise the pay scales.....

Mr. SPEAKER : What are the suggestions ?

***Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI** : Sir, in this respect we refer to the clause 118 of the Five-Year Plan which says, "One of the chief causes of the poor standard in the educational institutions is the lower scales of salaries paid to teachers and the highly unsatisfactory condition of their service. The Central Government have taken steps to improve them in the Centrally administered areas and recently some States have also taken similar steps, but on the whole conditions remain very satisfactory. We are convinced that no improvement in the existing system will be possible without improving the conditions of service of teachers and putting their remuneration on fair basis of comparison with other services. We strongly recommend that every State Government should examine the position of teachers' salaries and, within the limits of their resources, endeavour to raise the scale of pay". And clause 119—"In view, however, of the large numbers involved and the strained resources of the State, the relief that might be expected from this measure is not likely to be sufficient and will have to be otherwise supplemented. Whenever possible additional facilities in the form of accommodation, fee concessions for their children's education, etc., should be provided. In village schools attempt should be made to provide every teacher with a plot of land where he and his family can grow their own vegetables. While all measures should be taken to prevent the evil of private tuitions, avenues of useful educational work should be provided by which teachers can supplement their income and at the same time help the cause of educational improvement and expansion in their leisure hours. They could, for instance, be given the chance of participating in activities like conducting refresher courses of teachers of lower classes during vacation, organising extension services in universities, running evening classes for working children, undertaking social education work, etc., and paid extra allowance for the same. Besides, adding to their income, participation in these activities should, in many cases, help to enrich the personality of the teachers concerned and improve his knowledge".

Sir, I do not know what steps are being contemplated for implementation by this Government, and others in this matter and Sir, we have just heard the Opposition speaking about the status of the Aided school teachers so that it may be equal to the status of Government employees of the high schools. Sir, also we are asked as to how we can find the grant. I can just give one suggestion. We have seen, Sir, all the text-books that are prescribed for different classes are being changed almost annually. The same courses are used in different schools of a Subdivision, and what I suggest—we have so many educational experts, these experts may be empowered by our Government to just prepare text-books to the standard that may be published by the Government.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : Sir, I raise to oppose the Resolution moved by my Friend, Shri Hareswar Goswami. The Resolution is so vague that if this is passed in this House it will lead Government to confusion. It is not clear from the Resolution whether Mr. Goswami wants to fix the pay scales of the teachers according to the scale of the Aided High School teachers or according to the scale of the Government High School teachers. Moreover, Sir, he wants to fix the same scale for all the teachers of all high schools. This cannot be done. So this Resolution cannot be accepted by the Government, and I oppose this Resolution. But at the same time, Sir, I support the principle laid down in the Resolution that woes and miseries of the Aided High School Teachers have greatly increased. It is not possible for these Teachers, drawing a salary less than Rs.100 per month to maintain their families. It is also not proper that there should be such disparity of pay between a graduate teacher of an Aided High School and a graduate teacher of a Government High School. Now, to remove all these grievances, the teachers of aided High Schools are long agitating and, at last I must mention that they have taken a very drastic action of resorting to strike and that they have dragged the students also and the students are also indulged in indiscipline. But at the same time, Sir, I must say that it is high time for Government to see to the wretched condition of these teachers and to increase the pay scales of the teachers of the Aided High Schools. I am sorry, Sir, to find that my friends in the Opposition are trying to show that Government is not doing anything to ameliorate the condition of the teachers of the Aided High Schools. Sir, if my friends carefully study the Government help to the Aided High School Teachers—since 1946 they will be satisfied as Mr. Bhattacharyya has just now said that the price of things have increased four times that the grants to the Aided High Schools Teachers have also been increased more than four times.

In 1946 Government aid to Aided High School Teachers was not more than Rs.50 or 60 and maximum was Rs.200 per month.

(Shri Gauri Sankar Bhattacharyya and Shri Ranendra Mohan Das : No, no, that is not true).

In 1948 it was raised from Rs.200 to Rs.400 and in 1949 it rose upto Rs.1,200 per month in some cases and the minimum being Rs.520. So, this cannot be said that this Government is not sympathetic to the condition of the Aided High Schools teachers.

Mr. SPEAKER : Can you give the figures of 1949 ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : I have not got the figure with me, Sir.

There are 175 Aided High Schools getting aid between Rs.520 to 1,200 and about 50 getting aid between Rs.100 to 400 and

besides these there are 75 Venture High Schools. But by this I am not going to say that the condition of the Aided High School teachers have been improved. So, I would request the Government to take up this measure earnestly and to see if the condition of these school teachers can be raised and whether they can be given increased amount of pay.

Sir, In this connection, I must also mention the condition of those officers who are drawing a pay which is less than Rs.100 per mensem. It is not possible for these officers with this pay to maintain their families. Especially, I would like to mention about the cases of the fourth grade officers. It is not possible for such officers drawing less than Rs.100 per mensem to maintain themselves and their families. Their woes and miseries have increased. Government should also take up their case and raise their scale of pay.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: We have another resolution.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: Along with raising the pay of the Aided High School teachers, I request the Government also to see that the pay of those teachers and officers who are drawing less than Rs.100 per mensem now is also increased because, I think, the minimum pay of all officers at the present time should not be less than Rs.100 per mensem. That is my personal view. Sir, Mr. Goswami has raised a point and has given some comparison with the pay of Aided High School teachers of this State with other States and said that the pay in those States is much higher. I would have been glad if Mr. Goswami would have compared the income of those States and the income of our State. Our income is Rs.12 to 13 crores, whereas the income of those States, like Bombay and Madras is Rs.50 to 60 crores. So, in comparing the pay, he ought to have taken into consideration the income of those States. Now, I would invite my Friend, Mr. Goswami and his associates to support the Government to raise the income of our exchequer by raising the income and economic condition of our people so that the grievances of all these officers can be redressed.

With these few words, I oppose the Motion moved by my Friend, Mr. Goswami.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Goswami you can speak now.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: I would like to speak after the Minister speaks as I would like to hear his points and then I will give a reply.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the Minister like to speak now?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): I will speak after I hear him.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Goswami you better speak now.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been put in a disadvantageous position as I have had not the opportunity to hear from the Minister-in-charge of Education, his reply to certain important points I raised in this discussion. It is, however, the practice elsewhere that whenever a private member moves a Resolution, the Minister at least at the preliminary stage speaks something although he wounds up the debate afterwards so that the Mover of the Resolution may reply to the points raised by the Government. That opportunity has not been given to me and, therefore, it will not be possible for me to reply to the points that will be raised later by the Minister-in-charge of Education.

Sir, in this Resolution, the main burden of the speeches by the Members of the Treasury benches is that the Resolution is not happily worded. Mr. Deka went so far as to say that this Resolution, if it is given effect to, will end in chaos. Sir, I must say that Mr. Deka has confused between grades and scales of pay. I did not in my Resolution say that the teachers of the Aided High Schools should be given the same grade but I said scales of pay but here is a difference between scales and grades. Unfortunately, that point was not understood by my Friend, Mr. Deka.

Then, regarding Mr. Basumatari, he in his enthusiasm to oppose the Resolution went so far as to say that the Aided High Schools teachers' strike was also a political strike in the sense that certain political parties instigated them. I am really sorry that he made such a statement. He should remember that the President of the Aided High School Teachers' Association for the last three years have been Congress people. People like, Shri Siddhinath Sarma and Shri Bimala Prasad Chaliha, the President of the Pradesh Congress, were holding the position of President and the present President is Shri K. P. Tripathy and during their presidency such Resolutions were passed by the Aided High School Teachers' Association.

Sir, it is always easy and convenient to say that this is a political stunt, that our Resolutions and speeches here are all political stunts. I would then say that the Five-Year Plan is another political stunt of the Congress. Not only that, the Congress Manifesto itself is a political stunt and also the speeches of the Congress Members who say that they accept the spirit of the Resolution but are not ready to act upon them. Sir, I never moved this Resolution in that spirit. I expected that in reply figures would be met by figures, recommendations would be met by recommendations and arguments by arguments. But, unfortunately, the Congress Party today delights in indulging more in sentiment, more in cheap talk than in actual fact.

Sir, so far as scales of pay of the primary and secondary school teachers are concerned, I made it clear which are the States who pay better scales of pay than we do. Mr. Basumatari, without going into these scales—I doubt whether he has seen this book at all (showing a book)—said that in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Madras and West Bengal the scales of pay are lower than those in Assam. Sir, I have again gone through the figures and I find that even in the Government schools in Orissa the scales are better than ours, so is the case with Madras. In West Bengal, the scales are at par with ours. Then, as you know, in West Bengal a scale has been sanctioned for the teachers of the aided secondary schools. Unlike our State, it is not left to the whims of the managing committee or a particular individual. In Orissa, Sir, the scale of Assistant teachers of aided schools is Rs.100—150—(E.B.)—(for B. A. and B. Sc.) 190—(E. B.)—10—200. The rate of Dearness Allowance is also higher than what we pay here.

Then, Sir, it was argued that if any improvement in their scale of pay were to be made, there must be all round improvement touching all categories of staff. Sir, I congratulate them for thinking in these terms, and I hope, Sir, if I have the time to move my Resolution No.24, which states “This Assembly is of opinion that Government of Assam do take necessary steps to appoint a new pay Commission in Assam to revise and refix the scales of pay of all employees serving under the Government directly or indirectly so as to make the same uniform, equitable and fair”, my Friends, Mr. Basumatari and Mr. Das will support it. But, unfortunately, it is our experience, Sir, that whenever any good Resolution is tabled by the Members of the Treasury Benches, some discussion perhaps takes place behind the doors and the Members come here and say, ‘they are not going to move those Resolutions’. But I can assure this House that that sort of thing will never be done by the Members from this side of the House. Sir, another thing that needs mention here is the spirit in which we are working. Even if we say something good it has become customary for the Members opposite to oppose us. The other day in the House of the people when a resolution on ‘Unemployment’ was moved by the Communist Member, Mr. Gopalan, that resolution was amended (because something was wanted) by Mr. Deshmukh himself, so that discussions could take place. There also the ratio is 1 to 4. But there the steam-roller majority did not say, “we will not consider your resolution”. But what do we find here, Sir? Whenever we say anything good it is customary for the Treasury Benches to get up and say, “we will not listen to these things. It may be good, but when it has been submitted by Mr. Goswami, it must be bad”!

Sir, Mr. Deka was giving figures about America and other countries. It has always been his practice, while speaking, to give figures. But, Sir, life is not mathematics. I remember, a Professor of mine said 7 *plus* 5 does not always make 12 in our work-a-day life; generally it makes 11 and rarely 13 and never 12. I hoped, Sir, instead of dividing some figures by some other in this way, the Members opposite would go to the spirit of the Resolution and see their way to accept it, even in a modified form. I did never say that there was no room for amendment. We never say that we do not make mistakes—unlike them who think themselves to be infallible—and therefore we cannot accept any amendment from our side. On the contrary, we say that it is quite possible for us to commit mistakes, which can be rectified if you accept the spirit of the Resolution. As a matter of fact, this Resolution cannot be given effect to unless a Bill is brought before this House. At that time those can be corrected, but is there any use in arguing about legal technicalities and the wording of the Resolution now?

Then, Sir, about the number of teachers and students: in the figures given to day by my Friend, Mr. Umaruddin, we find that aided high school teachers give education to more than 90 per cent. of the student population, whereas only 10 per cent. are educated in the Government schools. He has spoken also about the results in the Government Schools *vis a vis* the aided schools, about fees and other things. Whereas about Rs. 22 lakhs is being spent on only 24 Government Schools, for 188 Aided Schools the sum spent is near about Rs. 22 lakhs. Sir, even figures tell the whole story with what attitude we look at these schools. Education is the responsibility of the State. It has been accepted that Education, Health and Housing are responsibilities of the State. And no civilised State, far less a welfare State can say that these are not responsibilities of the State. Then if Education is the responsibility of the State, it is the duty of Government also to see that education prospers. It is no use to say that we have been spending 18 per cent. of our State revenue on education and that it is not possible to spend more. But we must find some other sources to get money to have better education to our people and to give a fair deal to our Aided School Teachers and other Teachers. Sir, I am not saying that our other staffs are well paid. They too need our sympathy and we should do everything possible to better their lot. But that should not be the argument for stopping or for doing nothing for another class of people. Have we not increased the salaries of some classes of people at the expense of others? These things are to be considered. Everybody who has eyes to see and ears to hear has seen and they have heard all these things. It is said what will be the amount of money required? If I am to say that, the amount of money

that will be required will be a colossal one. Yes when education is the responsibility of the State and when we have to look to the well-being of so many people, the cost may be a colossal one. But then, the cost will not be beyond our expectation. Sir, immediately if we raise the figure from 80 to 100, i. e. to give an immediate increase of 20 rupees only, the amount of money to be required immediately will be between rupees 33 and 34 lakhs. But the gradual income will also increase. We have seen from our Budget of 3 crores we have been able to increase our income to 12 crores. So our income will gradually increase also.

Mr. SPEAKER : You mean income from the Schools ?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : No, Sir, I mean the State income. Sir, it is not only for other people to see that national income should increase; it is also the duty of the Government to open avenues of employment and avenues of new income so that the State income may increase. But that has not been done. Even in the Five-Year Plan what do we find ? I am not here to criticise the Five-Year Plan. But I want to point out that what we find is a static plan, it is not a dynamic plan. There we do not find anything of industrialisation of the country to increase the national income of the State. Therefore, if we make this immediate increase a sum of rupees 33 or 34 lakhs will have to be obtained and if we give a scale from 100 rupees and above, then some additional amount will be required. But it may be said that it is not possible to get this sum of rupees 33 or 34 lakhs. In this connection I want just to refer to one thing. And that is the Audit Report which was placed before the House. What we found there was a colossal wastage of public money by a State which has only 12 crores as revenue to cater to the various needs of the country. If the Government is serious in finding money, they should at least stop this wastage. And if this is done, I am sure a good amount will be available for education.

Mr. SPEAKER : You have to confine yourself to the points raised in the discussions.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : But this point was also raised by Mr. Basumatari. He asked where is the money ? Also Mr. Deka raised this point. Now, Sir, if this colossal wastage is stopped, then at least a part of the money can be obtained from that source. Then there is also money that lapses. We know that money granted by the Central Government often lapses because we could not carry out our purposes for which the money was given. That money can also be obtained. Then, Sir, there is also in the recommendation of the Secondary Education Commission about the financial responsibilities which is not only troubling our

mind but even the Secondary Education Commission had to give thought to it. Regarding finances it writes, "The most important problem connected with any scheme of re-organisation of education is the problem of finance, next in importance is the question of the personnel to be attracted to the teaching profession. The Commission recommends that while some of the recommendations might be implemented without any large financial outlay, it is to be stated quite frankly and categorically that the majority of the recommendations of the Commission cannot possibly be implemented without adequate financial help from the Centre and from the State. The Commission has emphasised the fact that although in the Constitution, secondary education is stated to be the responsibility of the State, the Centre cannot absolve itself of its primary responsibility owing to the large interest it must necessarily have on All-India progress in agriculture, industry, trade, commerce and in the training of citizens. The analogy of the United States has been pointed out in this respect, where although education at this level is a State responsibility, the Federal Government has taken note of the overall picture and is now giving substantial aid to the States for several of the advances in education, particularly vocational education. The Commission quotes the Successive Acts that have been passed in the United State of America ending with the Smith Hugh's Act under which a Federal Board for Vocational Educational has been constituted and legislation for central aid has been passed. The Commission recommends that a similar endeavour must be made by the Central Government if education is to be tackled successfully and in the larger interests of the country, sound educational system should be introduced and educational advance to be promoted.

"There is a talk for levying an educational cess. I will not go into the merit of that. But off-hand I can say that if a levy is necessary to day it can be imposed also immediately on certain organisations. There may be a levy on the Burma Oil Company for education, there may be a levy on the R. S. N. N. and I. G. N. Company, and similiary on the Railway, Tea, etc.

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): As regards Railway, it is also in the Report of the Commission.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Yes, it is in the Report. But my point is that immediately the Oil Company at Digboi or the Tea Companies can also be saddled with this cess for education I am only opposed to having this levy on the poor people who have already been over-taxed to day.

Sir, when we are discussing this question it has come to my notice also that because the teachers on the 25th and 26th last resorted to a strike, Government is contemplating victimisation of the teachers and punishing them.

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): That is not true, Sir.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: If it is not true, I am thankful to Government for that. But at the same time we must not forget that under the Constitution the people have the right to agitate, they have the right to protest against certain action of Government which they consider wrong.

Lastly, Sir, I would only request the Minister for Education as I will not have an opportunity to meet all the points in his speech not to look to this Resolution in a way which will not be helpful to anybody, but to look to the spirit of the Resolution, to the spirit of demand of time and to look to the real necessity of the teachers, to come to the aid of these poor paid teachers. As I said just now, everywhere there is scale of pay, but in Assam there is no fixation of scale. Let that scale be given immediately as the teachers are used to it in the rest of India. Sir, in the Five-Year Plan this scheme was mentioned, let it be implemented so that the teachers may get some relief.

With these few words, Sir, I again hope that my Resolution would be accepted in its proper spirit.

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been listening carefully for these two days the points that have been raised by my Friends in this discussion and also the speech delivered by my Friend, Shri Goswami. But I am sorry I have not found any new fact—any new argument which Shri Goswami has brought to this discussion, except those that have already been discussed by us in Conferences and which have been presented in this Brochure published by the Bureau of Education. Sir, these points have already been discussed in the Education Ministers' Conference. The Planning Commission took note of this and the Secondary Education Commission has taken note of it. This indicates the sympathy with which we are approaching the problem. The problem is there and though we had not been able to solve it, does not indicate any lack of sympathy. Financial imperiousness, as my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya has mentioned, has hampered us. I would like to inform my Friend as well as the hon. Members of the House that Shri Saiyadim, Joint Adviser, Ministry of Education who has presented this brochure, has made mention of this. Sir, the Government is conscious of the fact that for the success of the educational system the teaching personnel should be well-trained, and they should be given adequate pay. There should be improvement of their conditions of service. This is a basic fact and we have acknowledged it: That is why in the Ministers' Conference it was discussed. The Planning Commission and the Secondary Education Commission also discussed this. But the point is financial feasibility.

Sir, many speakers from this side of the House mentioned about the conditions of Aided High Schools which existed before 1947. I do not like to go into this again. But I must mention that we have approached the problem with sympathy. Sir, before 1947 these schools used to receive grants varying from Rs.50 to Rs.150 or Rs.200.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA: Nalbari used to get more than Rs.500.

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): There were only three or four schools which used to receive grants of Rs.700 or more. But the condition which existed then with regard to other High schools in general was very miserable. Sir, the grant in-aid was only from 50, and it varied from 50 to 200 only. Sir, after 1947, this fact was realised and immediately the grant in aid was increased. In 1949 a new scheme was introduced. I do not propose to explain this new scheme, but this new scheme contemplated fixing a minimum scale of pay for the aided high school teachers. Sir, Shri Goswami has made mention about Kashmir and other States. There is no use bringing into this debate facts which relate to Great Britain, United States of America, U.S.S.R. and other places. But I want to mention, Sir, that in the U.K. there is differentiation of pay between men and women teachers, but this does not prevail any where in India. In U. K. Sir, the differentiation of pay is rather more than 50 per cent. There is also differentiation of pay in Tasmania and in some countries near Australia. But here in India there is no such differentiation of pay between men and women teachers.

Sir, Shri Goswami has brought facts from this Brochure which are favourable to him, but he has lost sight or ignored facts which may show better condition in our State. I want to place before the House the comparative table in the scales of pay for Secondary School Teachers in the States in India, 1950—51 at page 4, of this Brochure.

In Mysore, the minimum pay scale for High school teachers is Rs.70 and maximum Rs.150 and it requires 14 years to reach that maximum. In Bombay the minimum scale is Rs.75 and maximum is Rs.200, and it requires 21 years to reach that maximum.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: On a point of clarification, Sir, this is an average of both the Aided and Government High schools.

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Yes. Then, Sir, with regard to Bihar my Friend has mentioned that the scale of pay is Rs.700 but that is a Selection Grade. Rs.300 is the efficiency bar.

These facts have already been discussed in the Education Ministers' Conference and these are being presented here in this Brochure on which Shri Goswami has based the case for this Resolution. Sir, in Madras the minimum is Rs.85 and the maximum is Rs.175 and it requires 13 years to reach that maximum. Sir, I do not propose to go into all these things further. In Delhi the minimum scale of pay is Rs.120 and the maximum is Rs.300. With regard to Delhi, Sir, I want to point out that the Delhi High school standard is different from that of Assam, *i. e.* it is almost equivalent to the Intermediate standard in Assam. A student passing the final examination of the Board of Secondary Education in Delhi is entitled to get himself admitted into the B.A. Class and the Head Masters of such schools must be first class M.A. or M.Sc., and their pay scale has also been fixed accordingly. When we consider the question of Delhi, we must also take a note of this fact.

Sir, in 1949 when we introduced this new scheme in our schools it was a great step forward. Still we do not say that it was the last word on the subject. Sir, we maintain that we have yet a lot more to do for the improvement in pay scales for teachers, and we are approaching the problem with sympathy. Sir, I must mention that the year 1949 is a land-mark in the history of education in Assam, because we introduced improvement of far reaching importance in the Secondary Education of Assam—we introduced compulsory Primary Education. Before the year 1949, financial provision for Secondary Education was only 5 to 7 lakhs. After 1949 it has gradually been raised till it has come now to near about 22 lakhs. If the Schools in the autonomous districts are also taken into account, the total comes to about Rs.26 lakhs. This will show how education in Assam has been gradually expanding.

For the last few years we have been trying our level best to relieve the Aided High School teachers by way of giving them Interim relief. In this year's budget there is a provision of more than 3 lakhs of rupees on this account. But unfortunately the teachers have not yet accepted this. The provision is there.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: May I know whether there is cash or dearness allowance?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): It was Interim Relief in 1951, but this year the amount provided is for Dearness Allowance. It was expected that the Managing Committee would supplement our scale of Rs.7 with Rs.3 from their funds.

Shri Goswami has referred to the teachers' demonstration of August 25th and 26th. I am sorry, Sir, the teachers in their zeal to make this demonstration, dragged out the students also to the streets. Sir, the teachers whose duty it is to enforce discipline on the students have themselves dragged them out to make a common cause with them. This is a painful fact. Reports have reached us from many parts of Assam, specially from Cachar, which go to show that when the students of Aided High Schools failed to prevail upon the Government School students to join them, they went so far as to coerce them physically. And, Sir, these are painful facts. We must pause and ponder where are we leading our young generation to. On the 19th of August I met some of the teachers at Jorhat and I asked them not to precipitate action. I told some members of the Committee who came to meet me here that this question was under consideration and we shall try our best to meet their demands. But, Sir, inspite of this request and inspite of this assurance, they paid no heed to what I said on behalf of the Government and started to make demonstration. Is not this a great betrayal, Sir?

Shri RANENDRA MOHON DAS: Have you not betrayed the teachers?

(Voices from Government benches: Never, never, their case is under sympathetic consideration of the Government).

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): How can we, Sir, under these circumstances, entrust teachers with the education of our young boys?

Then coming to the Resolution itself, I am constrained to say, Sir, this Resolution, as pointed out by several of my Friends, especially Shri Mahendra Nath Deka, is vague, and does not bring out a precise issue.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Then why did you not request the Speaker to declare it out of order?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): I do not invoke the aid of the Speaker in getting it declared out of order. Rather I thank the Mover for affording me an opportunity to clarify the actual position. What I want to point out is that, this Resolution, does not reflect the demand made by the teachers. The teachers' demands, as placed before us, are for increased dearness allowance, scale of pay in uniformity with the pay of Government School teachers. Here no mention has been made about Government scales

Rather the Mover pointed out that our scales are lower than those in many other States. This Resolution has not been happily worded. My Friend, Shri Goswami, has admitted it and he expressed that it ought to have been amended.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: It could have been amended. We do not consider it defective, but if Government had considered it defective, it could have been amended.

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): It does not reflect the demands, how can you think that it expresses the demand made by the Aided High School teachers? But this Resolution cannot be construed to mean what is wanted by them. Sir, in 1949 when the new scheme of aid was introduced, there were 175 High Schools which were taken into this scheme. Of course there were some schools which did not come under the scheme, and it may be that these schools did not want any aid because they were proprietary schools, e. g., Bilashipara School, Sankardev Seminary of Jorhat, etc. But even though some schools did not come for aid because they were proprietary schools, 175 schools were there which came under the operation of the scheme and were given the minimum grant-in-aid of Rs.520 and this scheme means that Rs.65 for each class and Rs.40 per annum for each additional class would be granted and the total amount thus comes to Rs.520 for each school and the pay scale of graduate teachers are fixed at Rs.80 per mensem, for the under graduate at Rs.60 and for the normal Matriculate at Rs.50. If you compare these scales with that of Bihar which he has mentioned, you will find that in Bihar a B.A., or B.Sc., gets a pay from Rs.75 to 150 and that of the I.A., or I.Sc., from Rs.60 to 100 and a trained B.A., or B.Sc., gets scale of Rs.200 to Rs.320 (Government scale). After Rs.320 the Selection Grade begins from Rs.320 to 700. With regard to Assam, the scale is Rs.175 to Rs.350 and after that the Selection Grade begins. There is variation in scale of pay between different States and I agree to that. He has blamed the Government while moving the Resolution for the lower standard of pay with regard to Government teachers. Then what is the scale this Resolution seeks to fix? If the Government scale is lower than the scale in other States then what is the standard we should take? In that way, Sir, the Resolution is not precise. I have already mentioned the case of Delhi. In Delhi the Head Teacher must be an M.A., or M.Sc., and he is the Head Master of the school where the Matriculation standard is equal to I.A., or I.Sc. During these few years, the expenditure for general education has greatly increased and it is more than 18 per cent. of revenue that we are spending on education and my Friend, Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya, admitted this. It stands third in point of expenditure and I want also to

show that the Government contribution has also increased during these years. From this report published by the Bureau of Education we can find that the total expenditure on percentage basis, Government contribution increased from 54 per cent., to 56.4 per cent. In West Bengal, the total expenditure on Education the Government contribution was 37.6 per cent., as against 35.6 per cent. during the previous year. Our percentage of increase is rather higher than that of the West Bengal. In Bihar, Government contribution increased from 26 to 27.6 per cent. With regard to Bombay, the percentage of the Government contribution to total expenditure increased from 50 to 54.1 per cent., our position is higher than that of Bombay by 2 per cent. In Uttar Pradesh Government contribution fell from 45.9 to 45.1 per cent. We have been spending more in education. Sir, I want to bring out another pertinent fact in this connection. This fact was taken into account by the Finance Commission too. While the Finance Commission enlisted Uttar Pradesh and Bihar as backward provinces in matter of education and proposed primary education grants, Assam being enlisted as a forward State was left out of the picture. I had to mention this fact in the Education Ministers' Conference. Assam is taking a forward step in the matter of education and has been spending more in the matter of education. I raised this question in that Conference. Was Assam to be penalised for this? Is Assam to be excluded from Primary Education grants for these?

Going into the financial implication, Sir, there are 175 aided high schools at present which are being given full grant according to the scheme. But there are 75 other high schools which have been given only partial grants which vary from Rs.200 to 400. There are about 10 to 11 high schools which are getting near about Rs.400 and these high schools will have to be taken into consideration. If we accept the proposal, the number of high schools would be about 250. Leaving aside these 250 high schools, there are near about 50 high schools which have sprung up during these years and which are not getting any grant at all, which are not yet recognised nor affiliated by the University. These schools will have to be taken into consideration in future and in regard to financial implication the ultimate expenditure would be like this: According to the Government calculation an amount of Rs.1,800 is the average expenditure required for maintenance of a Government high school per month. To raise the 250 schools to the Government standard the immediate financial implication would be about Rs.54 lakhs annually, and dearness allowance at the rate of $17\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. would be about Rs.12 lakhs. Then that would come to Rs.71 lakhs, but that is not all. The ultimate implication would be about Rs.90 lakhs, and of course the fee income would be near about Rs.15 lakhs and then with the less fee income it would be about Rs.75 lakhs. But we will have to

take into consideration the Middle Schools and the Middle Vernacular Schools. We cannot leave the Middle Vernacular Schools and Middle English Schools out of the picture. Their cases need also consideration and for that we require also additional Rs. 20 lakhs. That is the financial implication.

There is also another aspect of this question. In many of the aided high schools the enrolment is near about 300. There are only 15 high schools or a little more than that in the State, where the enrolment is about 500 and they are Palasbari, Nalbari, Chamata, Bajali, Barpeta Vidyapith, etc.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: That is about Kamrup, what about rest of Assam?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): If we take into consideration the question of reorganisation of the schools according to enrolment and according to location, many schools which have sprung up during recent years will have to be abolished, if necessary. The schools will have to be reorganised according to enrolment and according to location. In some areas, there are three or four schools, whereas in some Mauzas there are none at all. These things we will have to be taken into consideration. I do not mean that only the enrolment should be taken into consideration, besides enrolment we must consider location.

In Bihar the schools have been classified and the Head Master of a school where the enrolment is above 500 is paid at a scale of Rs.200 to Rs.250. In schools where the enrolment is less than 500, the Headmaster is paid a scale of Rs.175 to Rs.275 and in schools with enrolment at less than 200 the scale is Rs. 150 to Rs.200. But Assistant teachers of these schools a B.A., or B.Sc., trained, get Rs.75 to Rs.175 passed inter and trained, or ordinary B.A., or B.Sc., get a scale Rs.60 to Rs.100. Passed Matriculate and trained get a scale of Rs.45 to Rs.75, passed Middle and trained or passed Matriculate get a scale of of Rs.40 to Rs.60. This shows that our scale compares favourably with Bihar.

Maulavi Md. UMARUDDIN: Has Government accepted their scale?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): With regard to Aided High Schools we have fixed the minimum only. Maximum has not been fixed.

Sir, Shri Goswami was analysing the causes of deterioration. He mentioned about gradual deterioration in educational standard, he mentioned that teachers have no attraction for the vocation. I agree with him. They have been misplaced. I have got another reason for this deterioration. It is the lack of sense of discipline among some of the teachers. There is yet another fact which should be taken into consideration. It is this, if we try to enforce the departmental standard, many of these teachers will go out of employment

for want of requisite qualification and that is why also the educational standard has gradually deteriorated.

Maulavi Md. UMARUDDIN: What about Government Schools ?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): In the Government Schools if they have deteriorated, the reason is there (*Laughter*).

Sir, Shri Goswami has brought in this discussion the question of College Teachers also in his speech. I do not propose to take that into consideration because it is not within the scope of this Resolution.

Sir, he mentioned that Government has fixed a higher standard for posts of Professors and a lower standard for Administrative Service. What I want to say to this is that the academic qualification is not the only criterion for Administrative Service because a man having highest academic qualification may not shape well in the Administrative Service.

For the Administrative Service, the Public Service Commission considers not only academical qualification, but takes note of physical fitness, quick judgment and similar activities.

Shri BIMALA KANTA BORA: What about aid to the large number of venture high schools ?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): I have already mentioned that there are 50 Venture High Schools which have not yet been given any grant at all. And if those schools are taken into consideration, the number of high schools getting aid will come to about 300. Now, 175 such schools are getting Government aid and another 75 get partial aid. If the 75 venture schools are added to it then the number would be about 300.

Now, coming to the Resolution itself, I want to reiterate what I have already stated that no useful purpose will be served by accepting this Resolution. We have in our mind to better the scale of pay, that is why this question has not only been discussed by this Government, but also by the Central Government, the Planning Commission and also the Secondary Education Commission has submitted its report. My friend, Mr. Goswami has profusely quoted some of these recommendations; so I need not read them again. In accordance with our Constitution, Secondary Education is the responsibility of the State. But this Commission, has recommended to

bring about uniformity and improvement in the standard of education, and that the Central Government should come to the aid of the States. This is what we have been pressing during these years. We must wait and see how the Central Government re-act to these recommendations. For the information of the house, I would say that the Central Ministry of Education has already appointed a Committee to examine the details of these recommendations.

Lastly, I must say in closing this debate that it is not because we have any lack of sympathy for these teachers that we have not been able to do something up till now, but because lack of our financial resources. The House has seen what will be the financial implication if this proposal is implemented. We will have to improve technical education when the recommendation of the Secondary Education Commission will have to be implemented. The expenditure on education alone will come to about Rs. 5 crores and for this eventuality we must be prepared from now and for that purpose we have to request the Central Government to give us sufficient monetary help. No useful purpose will be served by accepting this Resolution, which is not precise, at this stage; therefore, I would request my Friend not to press this Motion, but to wait and see and co-operate with us for a joint move to the Government of India for the implementation of recommendations submitted by the Secondary Education Commission.

With these words, I would request my Friend again not to press his Resolution. I must reiterate what I have mentioned earlier. It has been painful for me to find the school teachers making this demonstration in spite of the assurance that we will consider their case. I would request my Friend, Mr. Goswami, just to think and pause what would be the consequence if students are dragged into this demonstration? What will be the fate of our younger generation? I do not want to impute any motive in moving this Resolution to Mr. Goswami. He may be thinking in the same lines as we have been thinking. But I request him that he should not press this Motion as there is no precise issue in this Resolution.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will Mr. Goswami withdraw his Resolution?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: No, Sir, I am not going to withdraw my Resolution.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take necessary steps for the fixation of same scale of pay, dearness allowance and other amenities to the teachers of all High Schools in Assam.

The Assembly divided as follows :—

Ayes—16

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| 1. Shri Ranendra Mohan Das. | 9. Maulavi Md. Pahar Khan. |
| 2. Maulavi Mehrab Ali Laskar. | 10. Maulavi Tazuddin Ahmed. |
| 3. Mr. A. S. Khongapai. | 11. Shri Radha Charan Chaudhury. |
| 4. Mr. Mahan Singh. | 12. Shri Hareswar Goswami. |
| 5. Md. Sahadat Ali Mandal. | 13. Shri Gaurisankar Bhat-tacharyya. |
| 6. Shri Tamizuddin Pradhani. | 14. Shri Dandiram Dutta. |
| 7. Raja Ajit Narayan Deb of Sidli. | 15. Shri Sarju Prasad Singh. |
| 8. Moulavi Md. Umaruddin. | 16. Shri Ghana Kanta Gogoi. |

Noes—61

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| 1. Shri Bishnu Ram Medhi. | 24. Shri Khorsing Terang. |
| 2. Shri Motiram Bora. | 25. Mr. Harison Momin. |
| 3. Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy | 26. Mr. Emerson Momin. |
| 4. Shri Rupnath Brahma. | 27. Mr. Emonsing Sangma. |
| 5. Maulavi Abdul Matlib Mazumdar. | 28. Maulavi Kobad Hussain Ahmed. |
| 6. Shri Ram Nath Das. | 29. Shri Jatindra Narayan Das. |
| 7. Shri Omeo Kumar Das. | 30. Shri Hareswar Das. |
| 8. Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury. | 31. Shri Khagendranath Nath. |
| 9. Shri Baidyanath Mookerjee. | 32. Shri Hakim Chandra Rabha. |
| 10. Shri Siddhinath Sarma. | 33. Shri Mahadeb Das. |
| 11. Pu R. Dengthuama. | 34. Shri Narnarayan Goswami. |
| 12. Pu Lalbuai. | 35. Shri Baikuntha Nath Das. |
| 13. Pu Ch. Saprawnga. | 36. Shri Sriman Prafulla Chandra Goswami. |
| 14. Shri Ramesh Chandra Das Choudhury. | 37. Shri Dharanidhar Basu-matari. |
| 15. Maulavi Mahmud Ali. | 38. Shri Purandar Sarma. |
| 16. Maulavi Abdul Jalil. | 39. Shri Sasadhar Ghose. |
| 17. Shri Ram Prosad Chubey. | 40. Shri Davidson Bhobora. |
| 18. Shri Raghunandan Dhubi. | 41. Shri Mohi Kanta Das. |
| 19. Shri Raichand Nath. | 42. Shri Biswadev Sarma. |
| 20. M. Moinul Haque Choudhury. | 43. Shri Gahan Chandra Goswami. |
| 21. Shri Gauri Sankar Roy. | 44. Maulavi Nural Islam. |
| 22. Mr. A. Alley. | 45. Shri Baliram Das. |
| 23. Shri Nihang Rongpher. | |

Noes—*concl'd.*

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| 46. Shri Mahendra Hazarika. | 55. Maulavi Faiznur Ali. |
| 47. Shri Bimala Kanta Bora. | 56. Shri Ramesh Chandra Barooah. |
| 48. Shri Lila Kanta Bora. | 57. Shri Indreswar Khound. |
| 49. Shri Chanoo Kheria. | 58. Shri Jadunath Bhuyan. |
| 50. Shri Nilmani Phookan. | 59. Shri Harihar Choudhury. |
| 51. Shri Harinarayan Baruah | 60. Shri Dalbir Singh Lohar. |
| 52. Shri Thanuram Gogoi. | 61. Shri Jadab Chandra Khaklari. |
| 53. Shri Purnananda Chetia. | |
| 54. Shri Sarveswar Barua. | |

(The Resolution was negatived.)

Resolution regarding diversion of the flow of water from Tarrang river to the old bed of the Champamati river in Sidli and Kokrajhar police stations in the district of Goalpara

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB Of Sidli: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take necessary steps to divert the flow of water from the Tarrang river to the old bed of the Champamati river in Sidli and Kokrajhar police stations in the district of Goalpara.

Sir this is a very practical and prosaic Resolution where there is no room for melodrama or sentiment with which we were treated in previous Resolution. This matter vitally affected the people in the greater part of Sidli and Kokrajhar police stations. Sir, about 13 or 14 years ago, Champamati river which used to be a very useful river began changing its course during the floods and after sometime the whole water began to run into a small canal which was once an irrigation canal. Then that canal in course of years became a river and for the last 3 or 4 years the whole flow of water of this Champamati comes down to the Tarrang river. As a result of this, the Tarrang stream which was a very small and narrow stream and also shallow became over-flooded and began breaking through several villages in its course. Its sudden development threatened the railway bridge and the railway authorities had to divert a portion of the water through another channel to save the bridge. The Champamati, Sir, was rather a big river and also deeper. But gradually it dried up and became unfit for irrigation and is completely useless for navigation and other purposes also. As a result the trade that used to be carried on either bank of Champamati river was gone, and the people in the neighbourhood became poorer and their paddy fields on both sides became completely barren. At present Champamati river is completely dry in the upper region and the people by the side of the river have no water for irrigation and drinking purposes, and they are completely deprived of the benefit of a flowing river. Sir, at present the lower regions of the Champamati is being kept alive by two small tributaries and one small

irrigation canal. There is a great demand from the people of the locality that the flow of Tarrang river should be diverted again to Champamati river; this will not only go to help the people living in the neighbourhood of the Champamati, but will also go a long way to save the people living on the either side of the Tarrang from the havoc generally caused by it. The railway bridge over it will also be saved. Sir, I hope the Medical Minister will bear me out in this respect, and also how useful this project will be to the people of that locality. There is not much time to say more on this Resolution. With these few words I move my Resolution for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Resolution moved is that this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take necessary steps to divert the flow of water from the Tarrang river to the old bed of the Champamati river in Siddli and Kokrajhar police stations in the district of Goalpara.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the mover of the Resolution, Raja Ajit Narayan Deb, has described very clearly the situation arising from diversion of water from Champamati to the river Tarrang. Sir, I should like to place a few more aspects which this particular change has given rise to. Sir, Champamati river is a tributary to the Brahmaputra river, and there is also another tributary called Gaurang. They are some miles apart and both rise from the Bhutan hills and fall to the Brahmaputra. Now, Sir, as a result of this diversion of water of Champamati through Tarrang, the water of Tarrang flows into Gaurang at a point a few miles north of Lakhiganj with the result Gaurang has to carry a much larger volume of water from that point to the Brahmaputra than it used to carry before, and naturally a large number of villages have been eroded and it became a menace to the people of the locality. The Hon'ble Minister-in-charge knows this situation that a number of villages near Bilasipara have been completely eroded. The Bilasipara Bazar which is a very important transit centre with a population of about 8,000 is threatened with erosion. The Assam Access Road is at some point not more than 30' from the river. The result of the protection works is not satisfactory because Gaurang is carrying a much larger volume of water for the last few years, and the people have been making representations to the Government in this respect. The Hon'ble Minister, Public Works Department paid a recent visit to those places, and I would particularly request him not only to protect the Assam Access Road, but at the same time to save those places menaced by the Gaurang river, particularly Bilasipara, an important commercial centre with a population of about 8,000 as stated above.

Now, Sir, my suggestion is that by the diversion of the water from the Tarrang to Champamati will greatly reduce the water in Gaurang, and at the same time it will also go to protect the Assam Access Road. Now, Sir, by the diversion of the water from the Tarrang to Champamati, it will be regenerated and it will thus be very useful for irrigation and other purposes ; and as a matter of fact it will not only supply drinking water to the people, but also for a large number of cattle during the cold weather because at present Champamati gets dry during that season. So, Sir, I hope the Government will feel the urgency and importance of this project, because it will not only save and protect the Assam Access Road, but it will also greatly go to benefit a large number of the people by saving them from the ravages done by the Orang, and also it will add to the benefit of the people living on the banks of the Champamati river. I hope Government will take early action as this is absolutely an important project. Sir, I think Government will have practically no difficulty in accepting this Resolution.

With these few words, Sir, I support the Resolution brought forward by my Friend, Raja Ajit Narayan Deb.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it will not be out of place to give a brief history of this small Tarrang. Before 1935-36 this Tarrang was a small channel and the villagers used to cut channels from it to irrigate their fields. Then sometime after, it was found that the water was not sufficient to irrigate the fields. The villagers then cut some channels from the river Champamati and joined them with the Tarrang river in order to augment the supply of water to Tarrang. Sometime after, Champamati was also divided into three small channels and damaged the irrigation works of these villagers. Then the Tarrang became very terrible and torrential and we had to build a new bridge over this new Tarrang. Sir, it is very dangerous to cut channels specially on rivers in certain areas. Unless the project is properly surveyed, it is not possible for me to say at this moment whether it can be taken up and divert the Tarrang to the low bed of the river Champamati. So, Sir, I regret that I cannot assure my Friend that the Public Works Department will immediately take up the matter. But I assure you, Sir, I shall ask the Public Works Department to investigate the matter and if after necessary survey of the place, if the Department considers that the scheme is feasible of being implemented, I will put it up, before the Embankment and Drainage Advisory Committee for consideration and then only it can be taken up, if considered suitable.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN : Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to order surveying this project during this cold weather, Sir ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) : As I told him before, Sir, we have taken 32 schemes in hand. Of these, we have taken up work of only 22 at present and there still remains another 10 to 12 schemes without being surveyed. As such, Sir, these schemes will automatically get priority over any new scheme.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN : In view of the special urgency of the scheme, this scheme may be surveyed as a special case.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) : If it is possible, I shall look into the matter and shall try to get it surveyed during this year.

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB of Sidli : Am I to understand that the Minister will look into this matter personally at an early date ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) : I have already inspected the river site during my visit to this place last time, and I shall again inspect the site, if necessary.

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB of Sidli : Sir, in view of the assurance of the Hon'ble Minister I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

(The Resolution was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.)

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M., on Tuesday, the 8th September, 1953.

Shillong :
The 24th April, 1954.

R. N. BARUA,
Secretary,
Legislative Assembly, Assam.

AGENTS IN INDIA

1. Messrs. Thacker Spink & Co., Calcutta.
2. Messrs. W. Newman & Co., Calcutta.
3. Messrs. S. K. Lahiri & Co., Calcutta.
4. Messrs. R. Cambray & Co., 6 and 8/2, Hastings Street, Calcutta.
5. Messrs. D. B. Taraporevala Sons and Co., 103, Meadow Street, Fort, Post Box No.187, Bombay.
6. The Indian School Supply Depot, 309, Bow Bazar Street, Calcutta.
7. The City Book Company, Post Box No.283, Madras.
8. The Director, The Book Company. Limited, Book Sellers and Stationers, 4/4A, College Square, Calcutta.
9. The Manager, The Imperial Publishing Co., 99, Ry. Road, Lahore.
10. Messrs. Chapala Book Stall, Shillong.
11. Messrs. Sirbhumi Publishing Co., Calcutta.
12. The Proprietor, 'Graduates Union,' Gauhati.
13. Mr. Banwarilal Jain (Book Seller), 1719/2002, Mati Kutra, Agra (India).
14. Messrs. Low Book Society, 65/3, Harrison Road, Calcutta.
15. The Director, Benares Corporation, University Road, P.O. Lanka.
16. Messrs. Law Book Society, 4A, Wellington Square, Calcutta.
17. Messrs. Bodh Raj Marwah, Booksellers, Shop No.63, Pusa Colony Market, Delhi-Karol Bagh, New Delhi.