





**Proceedings of the Ninth Session of the Assam Legislative  
Assembly assembled after the Third General Election  
under the Sovereign Democratic Republican  
Constitution of India**

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong at 10 A.M. on  
Tuesday, the 16th March, 1965.

**PRESENT**

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY, B.L., Speaker in the  
Chair, four Ministers, three Ministers of State, one Deputy Minister and  
thirty-eight Members.

**Oath of Allegiance by new Members:**

Shri Nila Kanta Hazarika, a newly elected Member from Dergaon  
(Reserved for Scheduled Castes) was sworn in.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**STARRED QUESTIONS**

(To which oral answers were given)

**Re: Percentage of H. E. and M. E. School-going Children in the  
State**

**Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) asked:**

- \*74. Will the Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to state—
- (a) What is the percentage of H. E. and M. E. School-going children in the State of Assam?
  - (b) What steps Government propose to take to bring the percentage of such School-going children to a reasonable one?
  - (c) How many M. E. and H. E. Schools are there in the State of Assam both full-fledged Government and those receiving deficit grants?
  - (d) What is the number of recognised M. E. Schools getting *ad-hoc* grant?
  - (e) When Government propose to extend deficit grant to these schools?

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Deputy Minister, Education) replied:**

74. (a)—Of the age-group 11-14, 33.7 per cent are attending schools. Of this 15 per cent are in lower classes of High Schools, 15.6 per cent are in Middle English Schools and 3.3 per cent are in Middle Vernacular Schools. Of the age group 14-18, 19.3 per cent are in schools—all in High or Higher Secondary Schools.



(b)—The Third Plan target for the age-group 11-14 was to enrol 40 per cent of the relevant age-group. The achievement till March, 1964, that is the first three years of the plan, is 33.7 per cent. In the Fourth Plan it is proposed to achieve at least 47.6 per cent attendance in this age-group. In the age-group 14-18 the target for the Third Plan was to enrol 22 per cent and during the first three years the achievement has been 19.3 per cent. The proposed target in the Fourth Plan for the age-group 14-18 is 30 per cent. The target so far achieved and the targets aimed at for the Fourth Plan seem to be reasonable.

(c)—Government Schools—

1. M. E. School	...	...	...	...	68
2. High School	...	...	...	...	9
3. Higher Secondary and Multipurpose School					21

Schools receiving deficit grant—

1. M. E. ...	...	...	...	...	922
2. High, Higher Secondary and Multipurpose ...					482

(d)—The number of M. E. Schools getting *ad-hoc* grant is 460.

(e)—The cases of these schools will be taken up when funds permit.

**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat):** Sir, may I know from the hon. Deputy Minister from what source these figures have been collected?

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA:** The Education Department has a statistical Cell and the figures are collected by this Cell.

**Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA:** Middle English আৰু হাইস্কুলত school going children cent per cent কৰিবলৈ চৰকাৰে কোনো আঁচনি হাতত লৈছেনে?

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA:** বৰ্তমানলৈকে প্ৰাইমাৰী স্কুলতে school-going children ৰ শতকৰা এশ জনৰ ভিতৰত এশ জন কৰাতো সম্ভৱ হোৱা নাই। এনে স্কুলত M. E. আৰু হাই-স্কুলত cent per cent কৰিবলৈ যি ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে তাৰ বাবে বৰ্তমান আমাৰ হাতত ধন নাই।

**Shri PRABIN KUMAR CHOUDHURY (Boko):** Sir, may I know what is the number of Venture Schools?

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA:** Sir, this figure is not available with me. I shall supply the information later.

**Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN (Karimganj-North):** Sir, do the Government think that the attempt made by the Government to increase the number of school-going children has been satisfactory?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** It is a matter of opinion.

**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA:** Sir, may I know when this assessment was made?



**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA:** Last year.

**Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA:** *Ad-hoc* grant পোৱা এই ৪৬০ খন M. E. স্কুলৰ ভিতৰত কিমান স্কুলক এই বছৰ Deficit grant দিয়া হব আৰু যদি Fund নাই তেনেহলে কিমান স্কুলক Deficit grant এই বছৰ দিবৰ বাবে বাজেট ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছিল?

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA:** বৰ্তমান বছৰতো আমাৰ আধিক অৱস্থা সন্তোষজনক নোহোৱাৰ বাবে কিমান স্কুলক deficit বা *ad-hoc* grant দিব পৰা হব এতিয়াও ক'ব পৰা নাই।

**Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN:** Sir, may I know what is the number of Middle Schools which have not yet received any sort of grant?

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA:** This figure is not available with me at the moment.

**Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamarpur):** Sir, may I know from the Minister what is the number of schools which have received recognition from the department but have not received any grant from the Government?

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA:** This figure is not available at the moment. I shall supply the figure later on.

**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA:** Sir, the Government have already made the budget proposals for the Education Department. Do the Department think that the allotment made for the year will be sufficient for all these institutions?

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA:** To meet the expenditure the proposed amount is not sufficient.

**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA:** What steps the Government have taken to obtain sufficient fund for the development of these schools?

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA:** Sir, the budget was passed in the last year. After that we had to incur some huge expenditure in increased pay scales, etc. The hon. Member is aware that this year the financial position of the Education Department is not at all satisfactory. So under the tight budget it is difficult to obtain sufficient fund for development of these schools.

**Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA:** প্রতি বছৰ ১৫ মাৰ্চৰ আগতে স্কুলবোৰক Deficit grant দিয়া হয়। কিন্তু আজি ১৬ মাৰ্চ পালেহি কোনো grant দিয়া নাই। সেই কাৰণে এই বছৰত কিমান টকা grant দিব জানিব খোজোঁ।

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA:** Deficit grant দিবৰ বাবে কোনো টকা earmark কৰা নেথাকে। শিক্ষা বিভাগৰ যি পুঁজি তাৰে পৰাই এই সাহায্য দিয়া হয় যি বোৰ স্কুলে Terms and conditions fulfil কৰে। এই বছৰ ১ কোটি ১৬ লাখ টকা কেৱল বদ্ধিত নিৰিখত দৰ্মহা দিব লগা হোৱাত এইবাৰ কিমান স্কুলক এই সাহায্য দিব পৰা হব এতিয়াই কোৱা টান।



**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA:** Sir, may I know from the Deputy Minister-in-charge of Education whether it will be possible to meet the demand from the proposed fund? May I also know on what basis they are making this financial allotment to these schools?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance):** Sir, may I explain the position? Sir, in my budget speech I have already drawn the attention of this House that, so far as the next financial year is concerned, our plan provision would entirely be the same as has been made during the current year. So far as the Education Department is concerned a very small amount of the provision is spent on the construction of buildings and other non-recurring expenditure. Most of the expenditure is incurred on giving grant to schools and also for giving scholarship. Therefore, there will be no scope for an increased expenditure during the next year as the size of the annual allocation for Education Department will remain static.

It will be difficult for the Education Department to undertake any increased activity unless and until more funds in the Fourth Five Year Plan are available. As the financial position of the State is very tight, it is also not possible to make any provision within the normal funds and no schedules have been accepted this year.

**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA:** Then on what basis the planning is made for these schools?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** The schools which were taken up last year will continue to get the grant during the current year also.

**Shri PRABIN KUMAR CHOUDHURY:** Are Government aware that people in the 'char' area are educationally backward? Do Government propose to give them special consideration in taking up schools?

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA:** Government always give special consideration to the backward areas, subject to availability of funds.

**Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB (Kokrajhar):** May I know under what conditions *ad-hoc* grants are converted into deficit grants?

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA:** There are some terms and conditions. When these are fulfilled, schools are entitled to get deficit grants.

**Re: Regional Engineering College in Assam**

**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) asked:**

\*75. Will the Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that there is proposal for establishment of a Regional Engineering College in Assam?

(b) If so, whether Government has finalised the proposal and selected any site for establishment of the said Institution?



**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA** (Deputy Minister, Education) replied :

75. (a)—Yes.

(b) —The location of the College at Silchar has been finalised in consultation with Government of India. The actual site is at Bharakai Tea Estate near Silchar.

**Shri PULAKESHI SINGH** (Sonai) : May I know how much land will be required for this project?

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA** : 500 acres.

**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA** : May I know whether the question of acquiring land has been finalised and, if so, when?

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA** : It is not yet finalised.

**Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE** (Katigora) : May I know whether the Government of India will bear the entire cost of this Regional Engineering College ?

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA** : Yes, Sir.

**Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN** (Karimganj-North) : Do Government think that within the course of a year all the formalities in respect of acquisition of land will be finalised?

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA** : It is difficult to commit anything now.

**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA** : May I know what will be the estimated cost of this institution?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED** (Minister, Finance) : Two crores of rupees.

**Re: Suspension of Teachers of Gauhati Veterinary College**

**Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHOUDHURY** (Patacharkuchi) asked :

\*78. Will the Minister-in-charge of Veterinary be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that some teachers of Veterinary College, Gauhati were suspended in connection with purchase of cattle at Shillong in 1963 ?
- (b) Who are the teachers and when they were suspended and by whom ?
- (c) What are the charges for suspension ?
- (d) Whether they were the final authority to certify the quality of the cattle as well as payment for the cattle ?



**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance)** replied :

78. (a)—Only one Professor of Assam Veterinary College has been placed under suspension in connection with purchase of Cross-bred Cattle at Shillong in the year 1963.

He was a member of a Committee for selection of Cross-bred Cattle, etc.

(b)—Shri B. N. Kakati, Professor of Gynaecology, A. V. College. He was placed under suspension with effect from 29th May 1964 by the Government.

(c)—The following are the charges against him—

(i) That Shri Kakati was appointed as a member of a Committee for selection of Cross-bred cows, etc., at Shillong. But he utterly failed to discharge his responsibility properly as a member of that Committee.

(ii) That this failure resulted in financial loss to the Government for which Shri Kakati has been held responsible.

(d)—Director of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary, Assam being the Head of the Department, was the final authority to certify the quality of the animal as well as payment for the cattle. But the Officers serving in various Committees set up by the Purchase Board also had the responsibility regarding the various functions assigned to them.

**Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora):** May I know whether Government have taken any action against the Director as he was the final authority?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** That action also has been taken against the Director then in-charge.

**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat):** Since when this Officer was suspended?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The date has been given: 29th May 1964.

**Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHOUDHURY (Patacharkuchi):** May I know whether Shri Kakati has been reinstated in his post now?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** I am not aware of the present position.

**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA:** Who was the Director at the time of purchase of cattle?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** At that time Shri J. N. Buzarbarua was officiating as Director, Veterinary Department.



**Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHOUDHURY:** Is it a fact that the present Director, Dr. Rao, was present at the time of purchasing cattle in Shillong? And once in the house of Shri P. Choudhury, M.L.A.?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** As I said, Shri Buzarbarua was the officiating Director at that time.

**Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHOUDHURY:** Is it a fact that the present Director was in Shillong at the time of purchase of cattle and he took photographs with these cattle?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** I am not aware of this fact.

**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA:** Who is the enquiring officer?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** The enquiring officer is our Commissioner for Agriculture.

**Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE:** May I know whether proceedings have been drawn up against all the members of the Selection Committee?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** The other members of the Committee were Shri R. K. Roy and Shri J. C. Chakravarty, Deputy Director. The last-named retired and no action could be taken against him. Against others action has been taken.

**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA:** Is it not a fact that in the middle of the purchase, the present Director took over charge and he was also responsible for purchase of these cattle?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** As far as I know, at that time Shri Buzarbarua was the officiating Director.

**Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur):** May I know how many heads of cattle were purchased during the period when Capt. Buzarbarua was in charge of the Directorate?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** I want notice.

**Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE:** May I know whether these cases were detected before that particular officer (whose name the Finance Minister mentioned) went on retirement?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** That I cannot say, but if these cases had been detected before his retirement, action would have been taken against him also.

**Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHOUDHURY:** Is it a fact that Dr. Rao was present at the time of purchase of cattle and he countersigned certain documents prepared by Shri Kakati?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** I want notice.



**Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI:** Is it a fact that only three or four heads of cattle were purchased during the period when Capt. Buzarbarua was the officiating Director and the rest were purchased after Dr. Rao joined?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** I am not aware of that.

**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA:** Will the Finance Minister make an enquiry?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** Yes, Sir, I will look into it.

**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA:** When can we expect completion of the enquiry and finalisation of the report?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** We have already asked the officer concerned to expedite the enquiry.

**Shri TARAPADA RHATTACHARJEE:** As it involves a big sum of money, will Government consider the desirability of setting up an enquiry committee to go into the details of the entire matter?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** It is not warranted. The enquiry is being conducted by a very senior officer.

**Re: Construction of (Embankment and Drainage) Bund to control the Saraipani River in Titabar (Jorhat Subdivision).**

**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat)** asked:

\*79. Will the Minister-in-charge of P. W. D. (E. & D.) be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that Government has already taken up the constructional work of the E. and D. bund to control the Saraipani River in Titabar (Jorhat Subdivision)?
- (b) If so, whether the work has been already completed?
- (c) If not, why not?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance)** replied:

79. (a)—No, Government has taken up an Irrigation Scheme on the Saraipani River.

(b)—The work is nearing completion.

(c)—Does not arise in view of (b) above.

**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA:** May I know when this project was taken up by Government?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** I am not aware of the date, but before the financial year is out, the project will be completed.



**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA** : Is it a fact that due to objections from a few families, the Department has not been able to complete the project till to-day ?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED** : I am not aware of this fact. The only thing I know is that before this financial year is out, the project is expected to be completed.

**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA** : Will Government enquire about what, I said ?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED** : I will enquire.

**Re: Conversion of Gauhati Municipal Board into a Municipal Corporation**

**Shri PRABIN KUMAR CHOUDHURY (Boko)** asked :

\*80. Will the Minister-in-charge of Municipal Administration be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government contemplated to convert the Gauhati Municipal Board into a Municipal Corporation ?
- (b) If so, when it is going to be materialised ?

**Shri CHATRASING TERON (Minister, Municipal Administration)** replied :

80. (a) & (b)—Government appointed a one-man Commission of Inquiry to consider all aspects of the matter. The report of the Commission is under scrutiny of the Government. For final decision Government are awaiting the report of the Urban Rural Relations Committee appointed by the Government of India.

**Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora)** : May I know, Sir, when this Commission was constituted ?

**Shri CHATRASING TERON** : Sir, the Commission was constituted by the Government of India. I do not know exactly on what date the Commission was constituted.

**Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHOUDHURY (Patacharkuchi)** : Sir, what will be the financial implication ?

**Shri CHATRASING TERON** : Sir, all these questions are under consideration of the Government.

**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat)** : Sir, who is the member of the Commission ?

**Shri CHATRASING TERON** : Sir, it is an one-man Commission and he is Shri Devendra Nath Sarma.



**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA:** Sir, may I know whether one-man Commission has been constituted at the initiative of the State Government or by the Central Government?

**Shri CHATRASING TERON:** Sir, this was initiated by the State Government.

**Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN (Karimganj-North):** Sir, whether this post has been sanctioned on salary basis?

**Shri CHATRASING TERON:** Sir, some honorarium is given.

**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA:** Sir, what are the terms and references fixed by the Government for this one-man Commission?

**Shri CHATRASING TERON:** Sir, a separate notice will be required.

**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA:** Sir, when we can expect the finalisation of the report of the one-man Commission?

**Shri CHATRASING TERON:** Sir, I have already mentioned this in my reply that Government is awaiting the report of the Urban Rural Relations Committee appointed by the Government of India. As soon as that report is available then on that basis it will be considered whether Gauhati will be declared a city or not.

**Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN:** Sir, since when this Commission has been appointed?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** It has submitted its report already.

**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA:** Sir, may I know whether any other Committee has been set up by the Government to go into the details of the Municipal Administration?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** How does this question arise?

*Re: Requisite qualifications to be declared as a City.*

**Shri PRABIN KUMAR CHOUDHURY (Boko)** asked:

\*81. Will the Minister-in-charge of Municipal Administration be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that there is not a single city in Assam?
- (b) If so, whether any town of Assam has acquired the requisite qualifications to be declared as a city?

**Shri CHATRASING TERON (Minister, Municipal Administration)** replied:

81. (a)—Yes.

(b)—According to 1961 Census, Gauhati has acquired the requisite qualifications to be declared as a city from the point of view of population.



**Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora):** Sir, what is the population of Gauhati at present?

**Shri CHATRASING TERON:** A little over a lakh, Sir,

**Shri RAMESH CHANDRA BAROOAH (Dibrugarh):** Sir, what is the requisite qualification necessary to constitute a city?

**Shri CHATRASING TERON:** Sir, this question is also considered by the Urban Rural Relations Committee appointed by the Government of India. From the tentative report that has come to us it appears that to declare a particular town as a city at least there should be a population of 5 lakhs and its income not less than a crore of rupees. But these are all tentative and we are yet to receive the final report.

**Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN (Karimganj-North):** Sir, to make Gauhati a city worth the name, do the Government propose to set up an Improvement Trust?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** It is a separate question.

**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat):** Sir, what are the basis under which a town can be converted into a city?

**Shri CHATRASING TERON:** Sir, I have already stated it. I have already stated about the question of population and the other basis is that a city or corporation cannot run without finance.

**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA:** Sir, what are the preliminary arrangements Government have so far made to convert this town to a city?

**Shri CHATRASING TERON:** Sir, no other steps except appointing a Commission to examine the matter have been taken.

(Starred question Nos. 76, 77 and 82 were not put as the hon. questioners were absent).

### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

**Re: Investment of money in Umiam Hydro Electric Project, Naharkatiya Thermal Project, etc.**

**Shri SANTI RANJAN DAS GUPTA (Lumding)** asked:

40. Will the Minister of Electricity be pleased to state—

(a) How much money has so far been invested in the following schemes and projects (The amount may be stated separately against each scheme)?

- (i) Umiam Hydro Electric Project;
- (ii) Naharkatiya Thermal Project;



- (iii) Gauhati Thermal Project ;
- (iv) Garo Hills Thermal Project ;
- (v) Kopili Investigation Scheme ;
- (vi) Umtru Hydro Electric Project.

(b) What was the running expenditure for Umtru Hydro Electric Project during 1962-63 and 1963-64 and the revenue receipt derived therefrom ?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Electricity, etc.)** replied :

40. (a)—The anticipated expenditure till the end of 1964-65 is as follows :—

(i) Umiam Hydro Electric Project—

Umiam Stage I (Generation only) Rs.1,077 lakhs.

Umiam Stage II ... Rs.176 lakhs.

Transmission and Transformation including  
Sub-Transmission and Distribution ... Rs.954 lakhs.

(ii) Naharkatiya Thermal Project—

Naharkatiya Thermal Project (Generation) ... Rs.774 lakhs.

Naharkatiya Thermal Project (Transmission) Rs.409 lakhs.

(iii) Gauhati Thermal Project ... Rs. 75 lakhs.

(iv) Garo Hills Thermal Project ... Rs.110 lakhs.

(v) Kopili Investigation Scheme ... Rs. 44 lakhs.

(vi) Capital Investment on Umtru Hydro Electric Project. Rs.210 lakhs.

(b)—Running expenditure inclusive of establishment, interest on capital and depreciation, is given below :—

1962-63 ... Rs.17.12 lakhs.

1963-64 ... Rs.17.95 lakhs.

An estimate of revenue receipt expected to be derived from the project during the two years, is as follows :—

1962-63 ... Rs.50 lakhs.

1963-64 ... Rs.62 lakhs (approx.):



**Re: Venture Middle English Schools in Barpeta Subdivision**

**Shri MAHADEV DAS (Bhowanipur, Reserved for Scheduled Castes)** asked :

41. Will the Minister, Education be pleased to state—  
 (a) How many Venture Middle English Schools are without recognition in Barpeta Subdivision?  
 (b) Where they are situated?  
 (c) When would they be given due recognition?

**Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH (Minister, Education)** replied :

41. (a)—Eight.

(b)—1. Bahbari.

2. Baghabar.

3. Barpeta.

4. Bagidwara—Sorbhog.

5. Bagriguri—Sorbhog.

6. Rampur—Chanmama.

7. Ganakkuchi.

8. Jalah.

(c)—On compliances with term and conditions laid down by the Education Department.

**Re: Venture Girls' High School at Tezpur Town**

**Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchala)** asked :

42. Will the Education Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government is aware that the public of Tezpur have started a Venture Girls' High School at Tezpur Town to relieve the Tezpur Multipurpose Government Aided Girls' High School which is over crowded?

(b) Whether Government is aware that the said Venture Girls' High School has been started in the Assamese Girls' M.V. School in the morning with the permission of the authority since about six months?

(c) Whether it is a fact that the School authority of the Venture Institution made representation to the Government for recognition of the School and for grants-in-aid?

(d) Whether Government propose to extend all assistance to this enterprise for the expansion of Girls' Higher Education?



**Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH (Minister, Education)** replied :

42. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Yes, on fulfilment of the terms and conditions laid down by the Education Department for recognition.

*Re: Roads taken up by Dibrugarh Municipality*

**Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahowal)** asked :

43. Will the Minister-in-charge, Municipal Administration be pleased to state—

(a) The number of roads taken up by the Dibrugarh Municipality in the year 1962-63 and 1963-64 ?

(b) The total amount sanctioned for roads, water supply, sanitation and other development works ?

(c) Any amount sanctioned for Hand Carts to carry nightsoils ?

**Shri CHATRASING TERON (Minister, Municipal Administration)** replied :

43. (a)—In the year 1962-63—5 roads. 1963-64—7 roads.

(b)—A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

(c)—Nil.

*Re: Suspension of Hailakandi Town Committee*

**Shri RAMPIRIT RUDRAPAUL (Hailakandi)** asked :

44. Will the Minister of Municipal Administration be pleased to state—

(a) When the Town Committee of Hailakandi was superseded by Government ?

(b) Whether Government has declared Hailakandi Town as a Municipal area ?

(c) If so, when ?

(d) If not, why not ?

(e) Whether the Government is aware that there is a demand for election ?

(f) If so, the steps taken in this respect ?

(g) When election will be held ?



Shri CHATRASING TERON (Minister, Municipal Administration) replied :

44. (a)—With effect from 22nd September 1961.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—From 21st December 1963.

(d)—Does not arise.

(e)—Government have not received any demand or request for holding the General Election.

(f)—Does not arise.

(g)—Election will be held after the assessment is completed and voter list prepared.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora): Sir, when this Town Committee was superseded by the Government?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is already there.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Sir, what are the reasons for superseding the Town Committee?

Shri CHATRASING TERON: Sir, this is due to certain anomalies.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, what are those anomalies?

Shri CHATRASING TERON: Sir, I want a separate notice.

✓ Adjournment Motion *Re: Forcible realisation of taxes by Naga hostiles in some of the villages on Sibsagar—Nagaland border*

Mr. SPEAKER: I have got a notice of Adjournment Motion by Shri Dulal Chandra Barua and Shri Tarapada Bhattacharjee. As it is a continuous matter it cannot be a subject of Adjournment Motion. I, therefore, rule it out.

### Time-table for Voting on Demands

Mr. SPEAKER: I called another meeting of the Business Advisory Committee of the Assam Legislative Assembly at 12.30 P.M. on 9th March, 1965 to consider the time-table for voting on Demands for grants for 1965-66.



As the dates for voting on Demands for grant for 1965-66 have already been fixed on 22nd March, Monday, 23rd March, Tuesday, 24th March, Wednesday, 25th March, Thursday, 26th March, Friday, 27th March, Saturday, 29th March, Monday, and 30th March, Tuesday upto 12.30 p.m., the House will have about 27 hours exclusively for the purpose.

A time-table showing the allotment of time for the different Ministers, prepared by the Assembly Secretariat as approved by the Business Advisory Committee has been circulated in the House.

I hope this has the approval of the House.

(The House indicated approval).

**Calling Attention Re: Observance of 'No Pay Day' by All Assam Aided College Ministerials' Association on 2nd March, 1965**

**Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN (Karimganj-North):** Sir, myself, Shri Tarapada Bhattacharjee and Shri Dulal Chandra Barua beg to call attention of the Education Minister under Rule 54 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly to a matter of urgent public importance, i.e., observance of 'No Pay Day' by All Assam Aided College Ministerials' Association on 2nd March last throughout the State.

The All Assam College Ministerials' Association observed No Pay Day on 2nd March, 1965 last, as a mark of protest as the first step against the apathetic attitude of the Government towards the reasonable demand of the Association.

The demands were as follow—

- (1) A revised pay scale and other benefits for the III and IV Grade employees of the Non-Government Colleges of Assam,
- (2) Advances, Housing Loan, etc.
- (3) Medical Aid.
- (4) Leave, Better Service conditions.

The Association submitted memorandum to the Education Department and to the Education Minister on the 16th February, 1965 but the Association did not get any response from the Government. Hence they observed this 'No Pay Day'. This has created much discontent among the 3rd and 4th grade employees of the Aided Colleges of Assam. Hence this Calling Attention Motion.

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Deputy Minister, Education):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the All Assam Aided College Ministerials' Association observed 'No Pay Day' on 2nd March, 1965, alleging apathetic attitude of the Government towards the reasonable demands of the Association. The demands are—

- (1) Revised pay-scales and other benefits for III and IV grade employees of the Non-Government Colleges of Assam;
- (2) Advances, Housing Loans, etc.



- (3) Medical Aid;
- (4) Examination facilities;
- (5) Leave;
- (6) Better Service conditions.

The question of sanctioning reasonable and uniform pay scales of the Office Assistants and Librarians of the Aided Colleges was raised for the first time on 25th August, 1962 in course of discussion with the then Secretary, Education; Director of Public Instruction; Under Secretary, Finance and others. The Director of Public Instruction recommended a pay scale of Rs.125—175 for Upper Division Assistants, and Rs.60—125 for Lower Division Assistants. For Librarians the recommended scale of pay is Rs.125—275. Responsibility for Grade IV does not lie with Government as in case of Grade IV of Aided Schools. This matter has since been under correspondence with the Finance Department. They have asked for certain more information. The matter is now at that stage. It is not, therefore correct that the Government is apathetic to the grievances of the All Assam Aided College Ministerials' Association at least so far as their pay scales are concerned.

As regards other points, about house building advances, medical aid, leave and better service conditions, it may suffice to say that house building advances, medical aid to Government employees even are subject to certain rules. Unless these rules are extended to cover non Government employees also, it will not be possible to give such benefits to the Aided College Ministerial employees. As regards leave and better service conditions the matter will need further examination and no opinion can be hazarded without detailed examination.

**Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora):** Sir, is it not a fact that the Government informed before the last General Election that after the General Election is over, Government will consider their cases? Is not it a further fact that the College funds are not sufficient to meet the expenditure incurred in connection with the Grade IV employees?

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA:** Sir, as I have already mentioned, the matter is now under examination and we are in correspondence with Finance. Moreover ministerial staff of Aided Colleges are not Government employees. In Aided Colleges 26 per cent of the fee income is reserved for ministerial and Grade IV employees.

**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat):** Sir, whether at the last Pay Committee any evidence was taken from these employees? If so, what was the effect?

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA:** Sir, I have no information.

**Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN:** It appears from the statement of the Deputy Minister, Education, that as late as in January, 1962, prior to the General Election, an assurance was given to these College staff; now it is March, 1965. May I know, Sir, from the Deputy Minister how many more years her Department would require to finalise this problem?



**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA** : Sir, the ministerial staff of the Colleges are under their respective Governing Bodies and the regulations differ. So it will take some time to gather the necessary information sought for by the Finance Department and I hope it will be finalised soon.

**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA** : Sir, whether Government received any representation from the ministerial staff of these Colleges?

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA** : Representations are there as I have already mentioned and that is why we have taken up the matter with Finance.

**Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN** : Sir, do not the Government consider that three years time should have been considered enough to get all data in respect of these employees?

**Mr. SPEAKER** : Let us pass on to the next item. Shri Stanley D. D. Nichols-Roy.

### General discussion of the Budget

**Shri STANLEY D. D. NICHOLS-ROY (Cherrapunji, Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)** : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in adding a few words to the discussion on the budget, I wish to say only a few words in regard to those Departments which have come to my attention regarding some problems and grievances that the people of my District have in regard to the action of the Government in the last year and proposed work in the next year.

First, Sir, a statement has been given by the Finance Minister in regard to the security of the country. Some people have asked if the Emergency is still in existence, why has the Government allowed people with Chinese passports to come back to Shillong when these people of Chinese nationality were rounded up in 1962 a few weeks after the Emergency started? There was a question in the minds of everybody but the reply generally given was that these people were taken away and put into camps for security of the country and while the Emergency was still on, it was expected that they would not return. So when they have been brought back to Assam people are wondering is there really an Emergency on? Because if people who were supposed to have been dangerous to the security of the country were taken away and put into camps in 1962, are they no longer in the same position, or is it a fact that the Emergency is kept in name only? These are some of the questions which the people are asking and wondering about.

In regard to various Departments, Sir, I would first mention about my District. In my District one of the most puzzling problems is the fact that people do not get satisfaction when they approach various officers. Various roads are taken up from year to year and people are told that when the trees are cut and lands taken compensation will be paid to them; but years go by and many people do not get their compensation and some of them receive it very late, some of them never at all and some of them in a leisurely fashion. Sir, while building roads in the hills the portion taken by the road is 15' x 20' where the portion actually damaged is very much greater. In the slopes of the hills orange gardens, betelnut gardens and other plantations are damaged by all the roads that are being built. But unfortunately the policies of the Government seem to be compensate for the portion which has actually



been occupied by the road and not for the damages caused on the slopes. Sometimes they say that they will compensate for that damage also but by the time they got compensation, the damages of the trees have been covered up because the earth and stones have already covered up the trees and bushes on the slopes. Many of the people in our District are poor cultivators depending for their livelihood on these various plantations they have on the slopes, and when the road commences which is supposed to be for the betterment of the District and of the people, they complain because they lose their livelihood. So I would request the Government to consider this question very earnestly because there are very serious complaints of delays in this Department for payment of compensation and I knew of many cases which I have dealt with personally where people are not getting their due compensation. The District authorities who are in-charge of this are very slack, and perhaps there are not enough officers in charge of this work. But all we know is that people do not get their compensation in time. I referred to another matter of compensation, Shella-Shillong Amingaon Ropeway, the survey of which was taken up some years back and yet some people in the Mawlong and Tyna area have not received the compensation for the trees cut down when the survey was made.

Sir in regard to agriculture, the Minister-in-charge of Agriculture had given a statement the other day, which was interesting in regard to the increase in yield in agriculture production in the State. I was glad that he did admit that one of the biggest problems we are facing is the agriculture in the hill areas. Since in Assam and in the whole of the North-East area the hills comprise practically 70 per cent of the total land, it is one of the biggest problems and we have to find out ways and means to improve agricultural production in the hill areas. Sir, I think, and it is the opinion of many in this area, that the Government have not paid enough attention to this problem. Government have not applied their mind seriously to the problem of agriculture in the hill areas. If we cannot grow paddy, we can grow other crops. We know that hill areas are suitable for other crops. We can grow fruit trees. But unfortunately horticulture is not being properly developed in this State. If we compare horticulture in the hill areas of Uttar Pradesh and Kashmir, it is obvious that there is far greater and better development of horticulture in those areas than in Assam. Experts have remarked in various reports that have been made on horticulture in Assam that horticulture can be developed very easily but nothing has been done about it. A few years ago the Government of Uttar Pradesh in the special Horticulture Department got the services of some experts through the United Nations Organisation and as a result horticulture in Uttar Pradesh during the past ten years has improved considerably, but here we have done nothing except to allow the growers to be frustrated by the diseases and the various pests that have affected the fruit trees in these areas. There is no proper Department to look after these things and to undertake research and development of this very important aspect of growing of fruits in the hill areas. Even the small amount of work that the Department also does is not at all adequate to tackle the problem. They do supply seedlings but that too is not adequate in quantity and what is actually required.

The Minister-in-charge of Agriculture has also mentioned the other day that reports have been received regarding the betel-nut disease which I had mentioned in the previous discussion on the Governor's Address. He has also mentioned that there were demonstration-plots and they have started tackling the problem. But, Sir, as recent as February, 1965 there



was a report by the District Agriculture Officer on the betel-nut disease and so on in the Sehar area and other bordering areas. The amount of damage done and the loss of the growers is in the neighbourhood of 75 per cent to 100 per cent and he said that in this village alone all the 350 to 380 families have been affected. Every single family had been affected by this disease on their betel-nut trees and in the suggestions indicated in his report I saw nothing in regard to the so-called demonstration plots that the Minister referred to in this particular village. As a matter of fact it came as news to me because the people of that area have not been shown how to tackle the disease. So I wonder whether that report is correct in regard to the various demonstration plots that have been established to show people how to tackle the disease. Therefore, I would request the Government to consider the recommendations of the District Agriculture Officer very seriously. He suggests certain measures which are considered to be indispensable, one of which is the establishment of a Research Station. He has referred to the fact that the Indian Central Arecanut Committee appears to have also proposed for the establishment of a Regional Research Station somewhere in Assam, and he has suggested that this station can be established in the village Laityra where there is plenty of betel-nut cultivation. I think something should be done in a proper way. So I would request the Agriculture Minister to go into this matter in a very thorough way and not just depend on the reports which might have been placed before him by his Department.

Sir, another Department which continues to receive criticism from my people is the Supply Department, and I think on every opportunity we should mention about this. Sir, the other day we have heard about the insult, so to say, to one of the leaders when he asked for sugar for his whole village consisting of 250 houses in the Jowai Sub-division and the Sub-divisional Officer gave them only five Kg. of sugar for the whole village. Even if we give one grain of sugar per person I think, the amount will not cover the total population of the village. There are also reports of sugar being sold at a high rate in the rural areas. In Shillong we have still sugar scarcity because the District authorities have refused to give sugar to all shops as before. It seems that an artificial scarcity condition is being created by the District authorities by not supplying sugar to all shops and it continues to be a subject of complaint. C. I. Sheets are still almost impossible to get. One has to wait for years, and years together. I do not know why something concrete and more vigorous action are not undertaken by the Government to obtain roofing requirements of our people.

Sir, another problem that has been mentioned by the hon. Finance Minister in his Budget Speech is about mineral development in the hills and I was surprised to note that he said that mining in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills would be taken by the State Mining Corporation, and limestone and other minerals will be exploited by them. The question is who has given the minerals for mineral exploitation to this State Mining Corporation? Sir, as far back as in 1956, the people of this District had sent representations to the Union Minister of National Resources and Scientific Research in regard to the question of ownership of minerals in the District and we claimed that so far as minerals in this District are concerned, these belong to the owners of the mines, and land and nowhere in the Constitution or in any Act it is stated that the minerals belong to Government. As a matter of fact this matter



was referred to the Government of India with the request that it should be examined under Article 143 of the Constitution and that the Central Government should take up this matter and the people be given an opportunity to give evidence in this case, but up till now we have not heard that this matter has been finally decided and until it is finally decided it was requested at that time and continues to be requested till today that leases should not be granted for exploitation of minerals in this District to others. Sir, when we saw this statement that the Government was preparing to export lime and limestone from this District, it disturbed us because this is one of the small industries that our people are now engaged in, having their own mines, and they are exporting lime and limestone to other places and if this Government decide to take exploitation of these minerals from them, then it will not only adversely affect ownership of these mines but the small livelihood that our people is getting from these mines will also be affected. So, I would request Government to postpone giving the Mining Corporation orders to exploit these mines until at least this question is answered and settled.

Now, Sir, I come to the question of dissatisfaction of various sections of our hill people as has been mentioned during discussion on the Autonomous District Budgets. If we go into the report given to us, there we will see various statements have been made by the Executive Members also and not only by their opposition in which they have expressed dissatisfaction over the insufficient funds allotted to them for development of their respective District Councils. It seems that Government depend mostly or only on funds of the Government of India under Article 275 of the Constitution for development of these areas and very little is spent from the State General Fund. Article 275 is meant for supplementing the development in hill areas, whereas from the remarks given by the District Councils of North Cachar Hills and Mikir Hills it is obvious that these District Councils are not given sufficient funds and for lack of sufficient funds they have not been able to do proper development in their areas. As a matter of fact, it surprised us when we saw that in the North Cachar Hills District dissatisfaction is there regarding carry over of some matters from the days of exploitation by a foreign Government. We find at page 6 of the discussion on the Autonomous District budget that porters used by the Government servants without payment is evidence of bygone days existing even today after so many years of independence and so many years of our own Government—this practice of porters being used by Government servants without payment.

Again, in North Cachar Hills there is existing the same old story of neglect in its development.

Then, Sir, I think, very little has been provided in the Budget for the Department of Tourism. In page 320-321 of the Budget estimates, we find in 1964-65 a provision of only Rs. 1.25 lakhs has been given to the Department of Tourism. In 1965-66 an allotment of Rs. 1.37 lakhs has been made when other Governments, even in this country many States like the Government of Kashmir, have been spending a large amount of money in tourism and receiving back a large portion of revenue from it. It is surprising that Assam having rich resources and natural attractions for tourists has not been developed in this respect. Sir, I enquired about this matter and



I found that the Tourism Department of our State has not done a single thing in the hill areas. Here, in the Umiam Hydro Electric Project there is a large lake which is a real attraction for tourists—but they have done nothing. Whereas, in other States in India where there are lakes they have constructed Tourists Lodges, provided boating facilities and so on and so forth to attract the tourists. We have found in some States, some lakes have been made useful by desilting them. But here nothing has been done in this respect, especially, developing those places which are obviously attractive for tourism. Government should take up this matter urgently as this is a real source of income for the Government as well as to the people which brings to my mind the fact that a very difficult situation has been created by the permit system for foreign tourists to come into Assam. If a place like Assam is called strate ic from the point of security, Kashmir State where the security question is not less, there the permit system has been abolished. We do not see why permit system for Assam should not be done away with. In foreign countries the Government of India has been advertising tourists to visit our country but they have not been told about various problems to be faced by them when they come and visit some States for which permit is required. The Government of India have also advertised that tourists can bring to our country their own cars and about other facilities. In Assam, Sir, there are very few places in the State where tourists can comfortably stay. So, in this connection, I request the Government to look into this matter, because if this department is developed it will really be a source of income to our people.

In regard to health, at page 3 of the Memorandum of the Budget, we find that some money is allotted for the hill areas to be spent on Dispensaries. This has also been mentioned by my friend Mr. Lyngdoh the other day. Sir, before building new Dispensaries I would like to suggest that there is no use building new Dispensaries unless you can staff them. Even in the existing ones, there are no Doctors, no Nurses and no staff. Even in the big villages or thickly populated areas like Shella or Mawlong, there are many complaints about the existing Dispensaries. In the villages at Shella, where there is a Dispensary, there is no Doctor and there is very little medicine. There is supposed to be a visiting Doctor coming from Mawlong but he goes very seldom. Complaints from Mawlong area are also very often received. There is no use wasting money in constructing new buildings when there are no Doctors even in the existing ones. What is the use of having buildings only to be eaten up by white ants?

Then again, Sir, Government decided to set up certain Hospitals and Dispensaries in some areas. The sites for them are not yet finalised. Why they are not finalised? In Cherrapunji, there is supposed to be a big Hospital. The matter was pending for the last 3 or 4 years. The final selection of the site was not finalised until recently due to some misunderstanding. There was a committee composed of the Deputy Commissioner, the Civil Surgeon, the Block Development Officer, the Chief Executive Member and I was also present. We sat down for finalising the selection of the site for the Hospital last Summer. There should have been no further problem. We thought that by the Winter the work would be started. But up till now nothing has been done in this direction and we wonder if anything at all will come out. There does not seem to be any sense of urgency in getting it done, even though there are funds particularly for this project.



Now, in regard to one of the biggest problems in the hill areas which is land. I have mentioned already about compensation of land taken for the purpose of roads and so forth. Sir, the other day, there was a public meeting in which this matter was raised and questions were asked—"What is the position of the people who come from Bhutan or Nepal?" "Are they foreigners?" "Are we supposed to give land to them?" "Is there any restriction" etc., etc. Because this is one of the biggest problems in this area where people from Nepal and Bhutan came and took land here. They burnt the forests and destroyed the land. Sir, no one knows what to do about it. Obviously, it is a very serious matter and we believe that the Soil Conservation Department with the help of the representatives of the District Council can take proper steps. But because of the fact that they are not Indian citizens, it rather becomes difficult. Government should also see if they can tackle this problem in a proper way.

Sir, land is also taken by the Government for public purposes and there are many complaints about this. Because when it is taken for legitimate purpose, people do not complain, but they complain at the way the land is taken. Now, the most recent case is in regard to taking of land in Barapani Umroi areas. We are told that the Army required five or six thousand acres. But, Sir, already there is shortage of good land for our agriculturists, but here the Army demanded five or six thousand acres. But the fact is that the District Council is supposed to be in charge of land in this area and even when the District Council requested the Deputy Commissioner to postpone requisitioning until the matter was carefully looked into, they completely ignored this. Then about 1700 acres of land were requisitioned without reference to the District Council and without caring for the feelings of the people in that area. This came on top of the attempt or desire of the Air Force to requisition about one thousand acres and to take a part of the Shillong Peak. Discussions were held on this matter with the Chief Minister, and so far as we know it is still pending. But, Sir, on the top of all this, because of this requisition of 1,700 acres, people of Umroi are very much disturbed. Sir, without consultation with the representatives and without saying a word to the people, like dictators, they grab the land. Sir, this is the feeling of the people. They feel that Government do not consider the feelings of people.

Sir, in regard to one of the matters which had also been mentioned by my friend Mr. Lyngdoh the other day, that is the allocation of funds, I also find some irregularities in my constituency when we come to the Block Committees and even in the Advisory Council. Sir, we find that plans are all made beforehand and they do not allow us to allot funds from one head to another. As a matter of fact, we have an allocation of Rs.4 lakhs in the Budget for something called Tribal Research Institute. Now, we wonder who has really demanded this Tribal Research Institute? When we cannot spend money on much needed development of agriculture, or horticulture, can we spend four lakhs merely on tribal research work of some institution? Are the local tribal people merely to be museum specimens for research? Are we not to receive help which we really want for development? Sir, these things and many other things in the Budget really disturbed us. I am told that this Tribal Institute is under the Education Department. I believe, Sir, if you put the question to all hill people whether they want this Institution, I am sure, they will say if there is shortage of funds, do not plan for such things, spend money on good schools, good roads, etc. and



improve our agricultural activities. Sir, I again appeal to the Government that when they want to plan some things for the hill people, they should take into consideration the real needs of the people of that area. Thank you, Sir.

**Shri INDRESWAR KHAUND (Jaipur):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I congratulate the Finance Minister for his illuminating speech. Sir, we have many problems in the State to be solved and yet in spite of that that the Finance Minister has thought it fit not to impose any new tax is a gratifying fact, although it is likely that physical targets of the new Annual Plan as a whole would be somewhat smaller than in the current year for want of finance. At page 16 of the Budget Speech the Finance Minister has stated, "when it is remembered that, compared to the current year, materials will have to be bought at higher prices next year and that technical and other personnel will have to be paid higher salaries and wages, the physical targets of the next Annual Plan as a whole will perhaps be somewhat smaller than in the current year." This is a very disturbing feature in his speech. At this stage we cannot afford to make our targets smaller. The Finance Minister has, of course, suggested some measures to check this unfavourable trend. He says that this unfavourable trend can be checked by becoming more vigilant and by resolving to observe more economy in expenditure and by becoming more efficient in conducting our duties and in organising our system of administration in such a way that each rupee can go a longer way next year than in the current year. Sir, when we have already drawn up schemes to go ahead for the development of our country, we must keep up the tempo. We cannot go slow. So, Sir, after almost 14 years of development we cannot and we should not make our targets smaller which may create our problems more complicated. It is true that it is difficult to meet our demands with our own resources. Our resources are limited and unless we get sufficient help from the centre we cannot meet our demands. But, I do not understand why in spite of our repeated requests the Finance Minister complains that the Centre has not yet realised the gravity of our problems and persistently they are refusing not only liberal grants but even our due share. That is a very important matter, and I believe, if we persist on, the Centre will accede to our genuine demands not only from the point of view of our backwardness but from the point of view of our State being a vital and strategic one. We must impress upon the Centre that Assam's problems need speedy solution and the State today has faced with problems which are to be solved speedily, so that we may not have to face the same problems being further complicated by negligence in future. The Finance Minister has suggested some measures to counteract the trends in future and certainly we should strictly observe them. He suggests that more vigilance in our expenditure should be observed and that we should make our administration run in such a way that each rupee can go a longer way next year than in the current year. In this connection I beg to offer a few suggestions for consideration of the Finance Minister. First of all there are some programmes which are, I think, not necessary. For example, the Social Education Department. I do not think that we are getting any benefit out of this Department and the money spent on this scheme appears to me to be a waste. So, Sir, if we abolish this scheme, I do not think that we will suffer in our progress in any way.

Then, Sir, we have a huge amount of arrear revenue, and I suggest that these arrears should be collected. If we do so, that will help us a lot. If the Mouzadari system fails to collect revenue in time this should be abolished or it should be geared up to collect revenues in time. Not



only from the point of view of revenue but also from the point of view of administration it does not look well to see such huge amounts of revenue lying as arrears.

There are also cases of tax evasion. For example, if we can tighten the administration we can get some more revenue specially in respect of certain branches like Sales Tax. Now-a-days, Sir, neither the dealers nor the purchasers insist on cash-memo. Out of hundred purchasers, I believe, 50 per cent revenue are not realised. So, Sir, tax evasion in this department has considerably increased and though some more commodities have been produced and manufactured in huge quantities every year, we get much less revenue for these commodities. There are some people who are manufacturing bricks under Benami in order to evade tax. There are other departments like the Motor Vehicles Department. In this Department also there is tax evasion. In our State there are a large number of private taxis, i.e., private cars running as taxis. In the Dibrugarh Subdivision alone there are not less than 500 such private taxis running every day and earning huge sums of money. These taxis are earning every day about Rs.10,000 but they do not have to pay tax accordingly. This evasion of tax should be checked. If the Motor Vehicle Officers of the District are alerted, I think, we will get more money out of this revenue paying Department. Also if we intensify the activities of the mobile courts, we will get more money. Sir, the Forest Department is also a revenue paying Department. There is tax evasion in this Department also. Where there are thatch mahals and sand mahals under this Department, there is tax evasion also. So, Sir, strict vigilance should be kept and administration should be tightened up and the district officers should be alerted in this respect. If we do so, we will get larger revenue than what we are getting now.

Sir, I beg to speak a few words regarding Agriculture. Sir, agriculture has become one of the most important departments. From our experience for the last few years, so far agriculture is not advancing according to our planning. I do not say that it is in primitive stage, but yet we have the primitive implements. The plough is not yet improved and it is going on as it is since the days of Mahabharat. Now it is time that we should look into this and affect some improvement. In this regard the Finance Minister has stated that there has been improvement in agricultural production. He has also cited some examples. He has cited the case of Shri Golap Gohain in the Dibrugarh Subdivision. Yes, Sir, it is true Shri Gohain has produced 104 maunds of paddy in one acre of land. He is a progressive cultivator. He has shown that two adults and one minor can be fed out of the produce of 1 bigha of land whereas at the present rate of average produce, we need 2 bighas of land to feed one adult and one minor. But these are instances and such instances are few. The question is whether production has increased in the State as a whole. In my opinion production has not improved. Sir, an overwhelming majority of our people are agriculturists but many of them are not even skilled cultivators. Many of them do not take to agriculture as a profession and we have not been able to educate the great number of actual cultivators. Our people should be trained in proper technique of Agriculture. In this connection, Sir, I beg to offer a few suggestions for favour of consideration by the Government. One of my suggestions is that we are depending too much on human and animal power—lack of proper implement is one of the causes of our backwardness in agriculture. Sir, the most important



factor in the life of a farmer is the plough-bullock. Everybody knows what kind of bullocks we have in our State. They are very poor. We have often seen the man behind the plough forcing the poor animal labouriously in order to improve his cultivation. So my suggestion is that we should decide once for all, at least to some extent, to take up the help of machines in agriculture. We should take the help of these machines to supplement our 'animals' power if we want to push up agriculture. Now-a-days small machines are available. It will relieve the farmer from the drudgery and monotony. It is not possible to purchase tractors and other machines on a large scale. So to begin with my suggestion is that we should create a small pool of these machineries in every Anchalik Panchayat so that in times of need of the farmers these machines can be used to supplement the bullock. We should also create such a pool at District and Subdivisional levels so that in times of need we can render such help to the farmers.

Then again, Sir, there should be some Committees at District level for production. We have got Supply Advisory Committees, Land Advisory Committee, etc., but we have not got any Production Advisory Committee. So it is time that we should have such Production Committees at District and Subdivisional levels as well as in Anchalik Panchayats. Such Committees will be responsible for increasing production.

Then again, Sir, another important factor is education. By that I do not mean any college or school education ; what I mean is the flow of technical advice and guidance to the villages. So far technical advice and knowledge is concerned, now these are confined to offices and files. We have not been able to keep the flow of such advice and guidance going to the farmers. Under the present arrangement the Gram Sevak is to give such advice and guidance to the farmers. He is merely a matriculate with very elementary knowledge of agriculture. He cannot be expected to give training to the farmers in subjects like animal husbandry, agricultural technique, co-operation, organisation, etc. So with such kind of people it is not possible to expect any improvement in our agricultural production. Therefore, my suggestion is that our Gram Sevaks should be equipped with all necessary knowledge on agriculture.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** You have another two minutes.

**Shri INDRESWAR KHAUND :** Sir, I need another ten minutes.

Now, Sir, I come to our Panchayats. The Panchayats are the most important institutions for taking up developmental activities in rural areas. But at present their activities are confined to other things than agricultural production. As a matter of fact almost all our Panchayats are now entrusted with the supply and distribution matters, for example, supply and distribution of cement and supply and distribution of C.I. sheets, etc. Some arrangement should be made to utilise the Panchayats for the purpose of improvement of agriculture.

Then, Sir, the Agriculture Officer in the District although he is a technical man to whom the agriculturists look for advice and guidance, he is generally seen in his office. Out of 7 days he is confined for 6 days in his office doing paper-works. My suggestion is that he should be relieved of such paper-works so that he can have more time to go to the villages for giving advice and guidance to the villagers.



Likewise, the Block Development Officers are found to attend more to office works than attending to works in the fields. In the same way the Gram Sevak also does paper works. But in the case of Gram Sevak some paper-work is necessary. But so far as the District Agriculture and Block Development Officers are concerned, paper-works certainly hamper their other activities as technical men.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Your time is over, Mr. Khaund.

**Shri INDRESWAR KHAUND:** Sir, I will conclude only with one point. There are some special needs and circumstances of Dibrugarh about which my friends from Dibrugarh have already emphasised. I am one with them and I would say that the Government should look into these special needs and take special measures for their fulfilment.

**Shri HOPINGSTONE LYNDOH (Nongstoin, Reserved for Scheduled Tribes):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very thankful to you for giving this opportunity to speak a few words on the budget that has been placed before this house by the Finance Minister. Sir, the Finance Minister in his budget speech firstly raised the question of National loss and gain and he has also mentioned about the border disputes with other countries like China. He has said—"Notwithstanding the cleverly manipulated withdrawal from this side of the Mac-Mohan Line, Communist China has given no indication, much less proof, of its desire to be friends with us".

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to this warning that now we are engaged in boundary demarcation of India and Pakistan. Sir, the Khasi and Jaintia Hills has been facing various problem since Independence. This District is not getting any favourable consideration from this Government or from the Government of India. Sir, the present unfriendly attitude of the Government towards the Khasi and Jaintia Hills is really very regrettable. I am afraid of the friendliness attempt with foreign countries; we will lose our territory. Sir, there were many good fertile lands in the border of Khasi and Jaintia Hills like Ballat area, Nolikata and Moheshkhola that our people have lost by the new demarcation. Sir, the survey party when they surveyed the land, they were always on the road side and clear area, while the Pak party was very active in the fields and in the jungle, and it is very unfortunate that these fertile lands have been allotted in favour of Pakistan, as our party just agreed to the suggestion and demand of the Pak survey party. Sir, there was a time when there were no pillars there in the border and the people were enjoying these fertile lands and now there are pillars all along the area and these fertile lands have been demarcated in favour of Pakistan. This is very unfortunate, Sir, that it has happened in our territory. Sir, to be friendly with any country of the world we should not part with our own territory. Sir, according to our Khasi customs and practices when the independent Khasi States were functioning, if anybody surrendered a part of territory to another country, that ruler or leader was regarded as a Traitor. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I just bring this matter before this house to press that our Government should be very very strong in this matter so that our country as a whole does not suffer the loss of territory to the great disadvantage of our people of this area in particular.



Sir, regarding Inter-Districts boundary demarcations I want to speak a few words. Sir, there have not been proper Inter-Districts boundary demarcations in three districts, viz., United Khasi-Jaintia Hills, Kamrup and Nongpoh Districts. Sir, this question was raised as far back as in 1875, 1876 and 1877 during the British days but the then Deputy Commissioners could not settle the borders of these three Districts. The boundaries fixed by somebody in 1876 could not be agreed and this question has been pending since then. Sir, I agree that this question could not be pursued during the British time; but now we have got our independence. Now we have got our National Government. So I do not understand why this question cannot be raised and settled now. This is a very important matter and I feel that this should be settled early.

Sir, last week we have seen the high-handed order of the District Forest Officer, Kamrup District, that No. T. P. of timbers will be allowed from United Khasi-Jaintia Hills to Kamrup and I have heard that there was also a charge that the District Council Forest Staff has stolen tree from some Reserved Forest, I do not know how far it is true, but I believe that not only this but there will be clashes in other matters also.

Sir, if it is not settled properly and immediately then the economy of the District as a whole will be badly affected and it may also affect the sentiments of the people. Sir, I would like to tell you about the background of Nangwah area. Before 1875-77, Nangwah Elaka was a part and parcel of Khasi Independent State. In 1876-77 there was an agreement between the District Officers of Khasi-Jaintia Hills and the District of Kamrup, and Nangwah Elaka was included in the District of Kamrup for administrative convenience. But the demarcation work was not properly looked into at that time. As a result, the boundary demarcation of this area remained unsettled and this is still continuing. Sir, I am not going to accuse any official but this has happened because of the negligence of the Government. The Khasi inhabitants there are crying of the high-handedness and harassment of Kamrup officials but I do not believe that there is intentional harassment. I think it is the act of ignorance of the customs and practices of the Khasis by the non-Khasi officials. Now coming to another area, Kharshai which consists of about 10 to 12 Khasi villages, I would like to tell the house that this area also was part and parcel of the Khasi Independent State, but now they say that it has fallen into the District of Kamrup, but this also in 1875-76 was not settled by the then Deputy Commissioners of the two Districts. The people there also are crying because of the ill-treatment by Government, both social and economic.

Sir, to re-include the Khasi area under Kamrup District in the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills Autonomous District, I raised it before the Union Home Minister during his last visit to Shillong but the Chief Minister of Assam told that the matter will be looked into by him and the District Council, but, Sir, up till now nothing has been done from Government side. If in 1876 the British annexed this part to Kamrup for their administrative convenience, why not now to United Khasi-Jaintia Hills again for the same reason? Now, I would like to mention something about the famine in Lynggam area of my constituency. Sir, this area is in between the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills and Garo Hills. Sir, the famine in this area has occurred because of the flowering of bamboo in 1962-63. Sir, this has been continuing since last two years and the Government have sanctioned some lakhs of



money to give relief to the people of this area. But this relief has not solved the problem of the people. Sir, the population of this area will be about 10 to 12 thousands. I do not deny also the fact that the T. A. D. Minister has promised to look into it when the matter was brought to his knowledge, but I would draw the attention of the Government that the local officers like the B.D.O. and the S.D.O. should see the day to day life of the people and to suggest some short and long term measures which could ease the situation and remove the distress of the famine-affected people. Sir, I received a report that some people have already died because they have nothing to eat for two years. Sir, now, the people of this area mainly depend on the bamboo shoots and herbs and I do not know what they will do in this dry season. They have nothing as substitute as all herbs disappeared. I hope Government will do its best to give relief to them.

Now, I would like to come back again to the subject of education in the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills which I mentioned in my speech on the Governor's Address. Sir, it may mentioned that Primary education have been transferred to the District Council. But the grants for venture and other schools have not yet been transferred to the District Council. Under these circumstances, it is very difficult to introduce one system and improve the standard of education in the District Council areas. It has been noticed that one side of the administration of these schools is being managed by the State Government and the other side has been transferred to the District Councils. In this way it is very difficult to run these schools and to raise the standard of education. Sir, another thing I would like to mention about the Schools managed by the Ramakrishna Mission in the District. Sir, the Ramakrishna Mission gets direct assistance from the Centre to this State Government. They give stipends easily to the students who go in for education in their schools. As a result a large number of students have been attracted by those Ramakrishna Mission Schools. Similarly, there are certain local missions like the Catholic Church and the Presbyterian Church which are maintaining thousands of Lower Primary Schools, hundreds of Middle English and High Schools and also Colleges but they do not get similar facilities from Government. Sir, the Secretary or the Under Secretary of Finance can always come to Cherra to give aid to Ramakrishna Mission, but he cannot come for the District Council which functions under the Constitution of India. Why this special and secret attention to one mission? Sir, a feeling has been aroused in the minds of the people that Government is neglecting our people and is very much hostile to the interest of the people of this District. Sir, Ramakrishna Mission officials defy the orders of the District Council, they give stipend at random from Rs. 10 to Rs. 80 per month to the students who join in their schools; they purchase students from other recognised schools and establish rival schools everywhere. Sir, I would like to request the Government to be very careful on this issue to see that the Schools transferred to the District Council get facilities for their improvement and expansion.

Sir, as the time is very short, now I will come to the royalty on minerals. Sir, you know the District Council has to maintain a big establishment, and lakhs of rupees have been spent to maintain the Lower Primary Schools and it has to administer the whole District; but, Sir, under the Constitution, the District Council has been given only a few powers to deal with finance and revenue, and it has been becoming increasingly difficult for the District Council to function properly as the royalty on minerals which is due to the District Council U.K. and J. Hills has not yet been given by the Government for the last thirteen years, and so also taxes on vehicles and other taxes of the



last two year. As a result the District Council, I think, will have a deficit Budget and for that it cannot either expand education or develop the District and administration. In this regard I would request the Government to see to the matter and give the District Council the share of royalty which is due to it so that the District Council could function properly.

Sir, next I come to agriculture. I have seen in the Budget Speech that crores of rupees are being spent for improvement of agriculture and agricultural production. We the representatives have suggested to the Government and the people also demanded to extend irrigation facilities for reclaiming waste lands to raise production, but I am very sorry to say that there is no sign of reclamation, there is no sign of any irrigation project and there is no sign of any improvement in agriculture or agricultural production. I do not know whether it is due to ignorance of the so-called trained staff of the Department or due to non-cooperation of the people as some people said but as far as I am concerned. I have submitted schemes to the Director of Agriculture to reclaim some areas like the valley of Wah Blei, Umiap field, Rangdikheh field, etc., to reclaim the vast areas, and if these three valleys only are reclaimed and irrigated then, Sir, the production of rice could be raised which will be sufficient for the whole western area of this district. If the Government is interested in reclamation and increase of production then they can reclaim the Umroi valley which is only a few furlongs from the Umiap Dam. If this is done then the production of rice from this alone could support the whole Bhoi area. But it is very unfortunate, Sir, that nothing has been done in this respect by the Government. I do not understand, Sir, unfortunately the Minister, Agriculture is not in this Chamber today, why the Government does not take up irrigation from the Umiap project to irrigate the vast area to improve agricultural production. This is a very big area, a very fertile one; but nothing has been done by the Agriculture Department. Sir, I am sorry to refer that the workers of the Electricity Department who are very experts in electricity but destructive in other respects. For example I have received complain during my touring and seen that in Umling and Kharshai area they have destroyed the forest wealth of the district indiscriminately. If they continue destroying the forest wealth like this, I do not know what would happen ultimately to the forest wealth of the district.

Now, Sir, I come to Anti-corruption. In the Governor's Address we have seen that noticeable success has been achieved in this regard. But what I see is that there is corruption everywhere. It is no longer anti-corruption; it has become multi-corruption in the real sense. If anybody challenges I can prove with facts, figures and other materials to substantiate my charge. I personally referred some cases to the Department but now action that has been taken by the Department is multi-corruption.

Now, Sir, I would refer to the non-availability of C. I. sheets in my district. Sir, U. K. & J. Hills is the heaviest rainfall district in the world. The District Council has given grants for construction of so many Lower Primary Schools for expansion of education. The buildings have been constructed but there is no roof for want of C. I. sheets, and the frames of the buildings are rotting as they are exposed to rain and sunshine. Not only that, Sir, some grants given by the District Council for construction of Lower Primary Schools have not been utilised yet for want of C. I. sheets. I am sorry to say, Sir, that ultimately the Government will find fault with



the District Council for not utilising the amounts granted for construction of School building in the current year. But the fact remains that unless C. I. sheets are available for roofing these grants cannot be utilised as they are sanctioned under the Head for Roofing. Sir, our people are religious minded and they go to Church to pray to God. But these people are deprived of a roof under which they can pray for want of C. I. sheets even for these Church buildings.

Sir, now I would like to refer to the Forest Department and the Soil Conservation Department of the Government. These departments are doing something no doubt, but they are camping in certain areas for show and there is no measure to prevent erosion of the sub-soil or to preserve the forest wealth of the District of U. K. & J. Hills. Nepalese and Bhutanese people have destroyed the whole forest areas by indiscriminate cutting of tree and burning of forest, but Government is not taking any steps to prevent these people. Every year more and more Nepalese and Bhutanese are coming from their own country; they are temporarily settling here and there and are destroying our forests. If this process is not stopped I do not know what will happen. I am not preaching here disintegrity of any community in this State. I am speaking about the activities of the Government to protect the interest of the tribal people, the forest wealth of this country and to stop coming in of the foreigners who exploit our people.

Sir, I now come to Excise. Sir, we see and if you go along the roads you will see that there are Police with steel helmet on the street because Government are very much aware of the agitation of the people. Sir, it has been written in the newspaper that there will be shortage of rice within a few months, I think in May or June. Again there will be scarcity of rice. Sir, you have heard that the Members of this House have spoken about the scarcity of sugar here and you have also heard that it has created disturbance in this town. I do not know what will happen when there is no rice. I do not know what the Government is doing. If they implement the Excise Act in the District of United Khasi and Jaintia Hills according to the resolution passed unanimously by the District Council and stop the illegal distillation of liquor with rice then the problem and scarcity of rice can be solved at least in this District. But nothing is being done in this direction. Sir, I am not denying that the Minister-in-charge of Tribal Area Department wrote to me last time that I might go to his room to discuss these things, but what can I discuss over the decision of the District Council. I think that if the Government implement the Excise Act in this district as per resolution passed by the District Council which is supposed to be a body of representatives of the Tribal people of Khasi and Jaintia Hills and stop illicit distillation of liquor, the existing production of rice will be sufficient and there will be no scarcity of rice in this district. Sir, you know that in the areas of Mawphlang, Sohiong and Nongspung in each village of 100 houses, there are four or five distillaries and they are distilling without any authority of Law. Everyone knows that one distillery consumes more rice than 100 families in a village. Distillaries consume more rice than the people can consume there. Sir, there are reports to the District Council and also to the Deputy Commissioner about the crimes committed by people after being influenced by liquor. Sir, it will be a blessing to the people if the Government implement the Excise Act immediately in this District. [Since you have given me very little time I could not complete my points. I would like to get some more time later on. Thank you, Sir.



**Mr. SPEAKER:** Mr. Sangma, do you like to speak now ?

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA** (Baghmara, Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): Sir, I have just arrived and so I am not prepared I may be allowed to speak in the afternoon.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** No, you cannot speak in the afternoon because the whole of the afternoon has been given to the Finance Minister to reply.

**Shri CHATRASING TERON** (Minister, T. A. D.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, while participating in the general discussion on the Budget proposals that have been laid before the House by the Finance Minister, I would like to confine myself to come to the salient points that have been mentioned in the comments from the different Autonomous District Councils. Sir, a feeling has been expressed that there is no utility in placing the Budget proposals before the District Councils since it has been felt by some of the hon. Members of the District Councils that their suggestions are not implemented by Government. Sir, in this connection, I would like to mention that every year before the Budget proposals are made, representatives of the District Councils are requested to come and discuss the new proposals that are being included in the next year's proposals for the tribal areas, which is being done every year. Of course, it is true that probably because of certain pre-occupation and some other engagements it might not have been possible for the representatives of some of the District Councils to be present in time for a discussion. For that it is only for the Government to regret, because it is deprived of the valuable advice which otherwise would have been available to the Government if it would have been possible for the hon. representatives of the District Councils to come and discuss the matters.

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA:** On a point of information, Sir. Is it not possible for the Government to send the schedules for new proposals to the District Councils ? We have been told that the representatives of the District Councils are requested to come here and discuss the new proposals. We are also informed that sometimes due to pre-occupations the representatives of the District Councils could not come to Shillong for a discussion. So, I think it would be better for the Government if the schedules could be sent to the District Councils for joint discussion by the Members.

**Shri CHATRASING TERON:** It would have been very nice if all the schemes could have been placed before the District Councils, but unfortunately schemes from the Districts are usually received very late and therefore time factor intervenes. So the Government feels that if the member who is solely in charge of the District Council, particularly the Chief Executive Member, is consulted probably the purpose would be served. Therefore, because of the time factor which is very much intervening, this procedure is followed. Of course, I have no hesitation to consider and examine if such a procedure can be evolved in future as suggested by the hon. Member from Baghmara.

Then, Sir, so far as the annual schemes under Article 275 are concerned, probably the hon. Members from the Autonomous Districts, who are in this House will remember that before these were included in the Budget, initial discussions were held. At the same time the hon. Members who are also Members of the Advisory Council for the Autonomous Districts have the



scope for further discussion while it is again placed in the meeting of the Advisory Councils and in those meetings the hon. Members will be at liberty to make suggestions which they think desirable for certain changes in the proposals itself.

**Shri STANLEY D. D. NICHOLS-ROY (Cherrapunji, Reserved for Scheduled Tribes):** On a point of information, is it possible for the Members to be given opportunity of changing the Budget proposals from one head to another? From past experience we have found that in the Advisory Council we are given this opportunity.

**Shri CHATRASING TERON:** Sir, the hon. Member from Cherrapunji is a member of an Advisory Council and so far as I remember, changes from one head to another so long it is confined within the total allocation were made on the advice of the hon. Members. Therefore, there will be no difficulty in that regard. What we are to observe in this is to be within the total allocation.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The point is whether transfers of amounts from one head to another can be done?

**Shri CHATRASING TERON:** Before those are implemented it can be done if the Advisory Council so desires provided they are not committed expenditure on continuing schemes.

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA:** What is the difficulty for the Government to send these proposals to the District Councils before these are included in the budget?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Time factor.

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA:** Time factor can be got rid of by Government.

**Shri CHATRASING TERON:** It is really difficult because after passing of the budget schemes, taken up are to be implemented and selection of new schemes greatly depends upon their successful implementation.

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA:** I am not referring to new schemes but to allocation of funds under Article 275 for different departments.

**Shri CHATRASING TERON:** I have already said about that. Coming to the observations that have been made by District Councils, in spite of the fact that they have expressed very extreme views, I feel that all these views are but the result of the extreme anxiety of the hon. Members of the District Councils for expeditious and early development of the regions in which they are living and the regions which they are representing. Such an anxiety is undoubtedly well come and I believe the spirit of anxiety and impatience for expeditious development will help in actual implementation of developmental works.



Now, regarding observations of works of P. W. D. particularly, Sir, in this respect about the road programme, on previous occasions also it has been said and criticisms levelled regarding the slow progress in the road communication programme, which is considered to be one of the most vital problems in the expeditious development of the Autonomous Districts. Sir, we are in a better position in respect of communication in these areas than what we had before independence. At the end of the 2nd Plan, from the figures available with me, we had about 2,000 miles of road constructed and during 3rd Plan the proposal was to construct additional 1,290 miles of different categories of roads in the Hills district. It is expected considering the present tempo of work that P. W. D. will be able to complete the target fixed for the Third Five Year Plan. But at the same time, the difficulties and difficult conditions under which the P. W. D. is to work are necessary to be taken into consideration for proper appreciation of the sum total of the situation. Sir, in the hill districts not only there is the problem of dearth of contractors but at the same time there is the problem of dearth of labour for actual execution of the works which are the main factors affecting the progress of road construction. Besides, the difficult terrain is another problem. Over and above these, for gravelling of roads, I am told, in some hill areas, for instance, in Mizo Hills, boulders and stones required for the purpose are to be carried from a distance as far as 10 miles or more. Criticisms are levelled about the slow progress in construction of roads and sometime it is suggested that if the Government have the anxiety to develop road communications in the hill areas, why they do not bring most modern machinery and take up road works to complete them expeditiously?

In this connection, I would not like to elaborate much. I only crave the indulgence of the hon. Members to draw their attention to the resources position which is very much intervening in the execution of our projects, particularly, in the hill road projects.

Now, Sir, let me take up the question of education. After independence substantial progress has been made in all stages of education in the hill areas. The percentages of educated and literate persons in the hill district compare favourably with the percentage of the plains districts of the State. As revealed in 1961 census the percentage of literacy in the Hills Districts is 28.26 per cent against the State average of 27.36 per cent. The total number of Arts and Science Colleges in the Hills is at present eleven. There are 4 Multipurpose and Higher Secondary Schools, 96 High Schools, 358 Middle Schools and 3,187 Primary Schools in the Hill Districts. The total enrolments in these institutions are 11,063 in the High and Higher Secondary Schools, 18,636 in the Middle Schools, and 1,35,410 in the Primary Schools. So, so far the enrolment is concerned, we find that average population coverage is 348 for each Primary School, 2,472 for each Secondary School and 1,11,157 for each College. The lower coverage for colleges is due to the fact that considerable number of Tribal Students read in colleges outside the Hills districts. So, in nutshell this is the position regarding the progress of education in the Hills Districts. So, I feel, Sir, in respect of educational progress and literacy, it compares favourably with the plains districts and overall State averages. But in spite of this overall picture in respect of educational progress I do feel that much more are yet to be done. I shall be failing in my duty if mention is not made of the contribution made by the people towards this progress and the initiative and interest taken by the people of the Hill districts for the advancement of education.



Added to this enthusiasm and keen interest of the people, the liberal assistance and encouragement given by the Government has been of considerable help. Anxiety has been expressed about the delay in taking up construction of buildings, for schools taken over by Government. But it depends on the question of availability of funds. Construction Government school buildings is being taken up in a phased manner subject to the availability of the resources. But unfortunately number of schools taken up by Government are increasing every year, but resources available for construction are not up to the mark.

Then, I come to the question of dispensaries and hospitals. It is true that a large number of dispensaries and hospitals are going without doctors. Of course this state of affairs is not only in the Hills Districts alone, but this is equally true in respect of plains districts too. I think dearth of doctors is a problem not only of a backward State like ours but I understand that even in the States like Maharashtra and West Bengal, the problem is equally acute. Sir, there are other reasons for which we are suffering more in the Hill Districts due to shortage of doctors. Firstly, it is stated that the pay scale given to the doctors is not attractive to induce them to go and serve in the interior areas. It is unfortunate that even doctors from among the hill people are generally hesitant to serve in the interior places of hill areas where conditions of life are otherwise difficult. Of course, I am not sure if much more amenities and emoluments are given whether it may attract them. But having three Medical Colleges in our State, I am sure, after the Fourth Five Year Plan the position will substantially improve.

Sir, I do not like to take much time of the House. Now, I am coming to the points raised in connection with agriculture. Sir, my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture has exhaustively dealt with the agricultural problems of the State, both for the hill as well as for plains Districts. I would like to say that a great deal has still remained to be done in this direction.

Sir, I also endorse the views expressed by the hon. Members that improved method of agriculture should be taken to increase production. Sir, in the next year we propose to initiate a land use survey in all Autonomous Districts by the Soil Conservation Department. Therefore, land survey will be carried out in the Hill Districts. At present we do not know exactly what is the area available for the purpose of wet cultivation and which area will be proper for cultivation of other crops. Unless and until these things are ascertained, it is very risky to take effective steps for inducing people to take to varieties of new crops to subsidise their economy. Sir, until and unless land use survey is properly made, areas in different hill districts are located so as to determine what particular variety of crop will be suitable in which area, it is not possible to proceed in a scientific manner to achieve an expected result.

#### Adjournment

The House then adjourned till 2 P. M. for lunch.

After Lunch.

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have with rapt attention listened to the speeches of nearly sixty hon. Members participating in the discussion of this year's Budget. Sir, I welcome their criticism for I have no doubt that in placing observations and offering criticisms their only objective was to improve the present conditions.



and state of affairs and help the Government in its efforts towards the development of the State. Some of the criticisms have been very helpful and will certainly be given due considerations in improving matters. Sir, I therefore feel that the hon. Members deserve congratulations for their contributions and suggestions in the course of discussion of this year's Budget. These observations have also given me an opportunity of clearing many points and removing many of these doubts. As the hon. Members might have noticed I have taken a good deal of care and pain in placing before the House as clear a picture as possible regarding our financial position, our achievements and the programmes which Government desire to pursue. This was done only with the objective of acquainting the hon. Members with the real facts and proposals, so that they may study and examine them and thereafter may give their considered views to help us improve and modify our plans and schemes wherever necessary. Sir, after considering all the facts and figures if objective observations and criticisms are made, certainly they can be helpful. But unfortunately, some observations and adverse remarks have also been made which either have no relevance totally disregarded facts and figures. And it is here I feel, Sir, that such criticisms serve no purpose at all and betrays the glaring facts that those hon. Members do not go through the voluminous papers placed before them before indulging in general observations and making some uncharitable remarks—a state of affairs which does neither credit to them nor help the Government. So, I would take the time of the House in placing once again the real financial position of the State, the achievements which we have so far made during the period of the Third Five Year Plan and also what we propose to do in future. Sir, nevertheless I would not hesitate to admit that with all our plans, schemes and efforts, as has been stated by some of the hon. Members, we have not made as much progress as we all expected and wanted to make. But the question is—what are the reasons for this short-fall and slow progress? Why our earnest efforts have not yielded results in improving the material conditions of our people in the country and in the State to the extent we wanted?

Sir, I feel the answer to these causes which have retarded our progress and which have stood in the way of our development is not a simple one. We have been telling the House, and the hon. Members also are aware, that many of our successful efforts in implementation of the schemes have been reduced to nullity because of natural calamities like earthquakes, floods, sand storms, etc. Because of repeated loss and damage to property resulting from natural calamities, notwithstanding more emphasis on schemes which can help in increasing production or in development of our State, we have not made much headway. We often have to divert our expenditure, attention and energy towards repairing our loss and damage and then our efforts in the direction of new schemes are interfered resulting in less production. The hon. Members will also bear me out that since we became independent we have not been allowed to give our whole attention to development and progress and have very often to divert our attention, energy, time and expenditure to matters which could have possibly been avoided and perhaps this country and State would have been able to make tremendous progress.

The hon. Members are aware of the situation developing in the country soon after partition of India. The hon. Members are also aware how progress and developmental activities have suffered from disorder resulting from exploitation of religions and languages for personal ends and from the



Chinese aggression. To meet these challenges we had to divert not only time and energy of our officers but also to incur a huge expenditure for maintenance of law and order, and for protecting our country by increasing the strength of our Police and Defence forces and by undertaking many of such activities on which expenditure could have been avoided and better utilised for improving our education extending our roads and doing many things which would have helped in our development. These are the matters to which I want to draw the attention of this House, not by way of apology, but to indicate that these troubles from within and without have hampered our progress and development. Therefore, Sir, as I said, there is no easy answer to give as to why we have not made as much progress as we wanted and we wished to do. Sir, I would like the hon. Members to consider also what is happening in our neighbouring countries. We have decided, rightly or wrongly, that our efforts in our country towards development and progress will be made through democratic methods and by persuading the people to take a particular course and not by forcing them as is done in countries governed under dictatorial rule. Sir, it might perhaps have been possible for us to make more advance in our country if we had not followed the democratic method and had gone the way of either China or Soviet Russia. But we have selected a path, a way of life which gives us opportunity to live as freely as we like with all the freedom of expression, thought and action. For all the freedom we have we may have to pay a price in that our development and progress are not as fast as in countries like Soviet Russia and Communist China.

Then, Sir, we must also not forget that ours is a nation not born new. Ours is a nation, which, unfortunately, after 250 years of foreign rule, inherited some legacy left behind by that rule. Where the changes take place because of revolution it is easy to wipe off the past and to start with a clean slate. But that is not what happened in our country. We could not make a fresh start but we had to carry on the work with officers trained in a different atmosphere altogether. They came to us with a mentality and a way of life not suited to developmental programmes and activities quite unknown or alien to the authorities under British rule. Thus we encountered difficulties toward the implementation of our programme and not proceeding as fast as the hon. Members would like us to go. These are the facts of life of which we cannot lose sight of.

Then, Sir, I feel that we have become experts in talking, all of us—I am not blaming only the members of the Opposition, I include myself and the members on this side also. We write too much in newspapers, we talk too much and we criticise too much but we do not become practical and give any concrete shape to our ideas with the result that all of us remain content to give advice without making any contribution towards developing the country. That unfortunately is the position to-day throughout the country. We find so many people giving advice to Ministers, giving advice to the members of the Assembly, giving advice to various officers, but no one is prepared to think even as to what contribution he has made towards the development of the country and for improving the present state of affairs. (A voice : Resources are with the Ministers). I am not blaming the Opposition only. I say there is a defect in our character. I feel there is a crisis in our moral character. To-day we only indulge in criticising each and everyone, but we do not examine as to what actually we should contribute for improving and developing our country. These are the facts which have to be taken into consideration. Secondly, Sir, many of us talk about



corruption in the country, but nobody seriously thinks about the cause of this corruption and how it can be uprooted. Is the responsibility only of the Government to eradicate corruption? Unless and until there is improvement in the moral character of our people, which we should strive to achieve, there can be no progress in this behalf. Of course, Government will do whatever is possible to eradicate corruption and the members are justified in asking Government to take necessary steps in that respect. But I would like to emphasise before the House that it is impossible for any Government to eradicate corruption unless and until there is improvement in the mentality of the people and the moral character of the people. So to bring about this change it should be the concern and the responsibility not only of the Ministers and the high officials, but all of us. In whatever way and in whatever capacity we can, we should try to improve our moral behaviour and our moral character. I have also no hesitation in telling the hon. Members that, based on the experience of our country and of our State, I have tremendous expectations and hope from our young generation. With the coming in and participation of young men in the administration, the future does not look so gloomy. Sir, it is my faith and belief that as our young generation will get more and more scope, will gain experience and will realise that corruption will endanger our freedom, things will improve.

**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat):** On a point of clarification, Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister, what is the root of corruption?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** As regards the root of corruption I think the hon. Member himself knows more than I can tell him. Today each and every one of us is anxious to improve our standard of living which can only be done by purchasing all kinds of articles, to which we have not the means. So, in order to get all these things whenever an opportunity occurs it becomes difficult to resist the temptation of seeking funds by showing favours.

**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA:** No, my point is, whether the Minister from his own experience has found out what is the root of corruption?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** I have already said, Sir, that the main root of corruption is that in our country when a man having no means to buy the good things of life for himself or for his family, wants to lead a life beyond his means, he resorts to these undesirable means...

**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA:** What the Minister said may be correct but according to me, the root or the basis of corruption is election.

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** Elections may have brought some corruption but if there are no elections what would we have? We would have dictatorship which will be no cure for the evil. Today our people do not realise that the country cannot progress, that the country cannot prosper and improve unless and until we all work hard. Sir, if we look to some foreign countries, say West Germany which was destroyed during the last two wars, we have a lesson to learn from them. No one from outside went to West Germany to repair the destruction caused to that



country, yet today Germany, within a few years of its destruction, has better and improved buildings and industries and has made progress in all respects. It is so because her people work hard; they do not grumble. They sacrificed their present for the future. That spirit of sacrifice is absent in our people and thus our country suffers and makes a slow progress. Then, Sir, we also lack confidence in ourselves. Today there is a feeling in the minds of many that nothing can improve, that nothing can be better and that everything will always remain static and in this same condition. This absence of faith and confidence in ourselves, in our country, in our people, is also one of the causes why we have not made much improvement. Sir, these preliminary observations I have made to arouse the hon. Members to serious thoughts and to seek their helping hand, irrespective of party affiliations and irrespective of other considerations, with a view to create an atmosphere and mentality in our State as will help us in the improvement and progress of our country. We should move forward as a team to create confidence and faith in our people and in the future of Assam and of India.

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA** [Baghmara (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: It is good for the Government to invite our co-operation, but in actual practice that is not the case. For example, I would like to know why in the nomination to the Development Committees in Garo Hills no members belonging to other parties were taken in? I do not know why the Government suffers from this sort of mentality?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED**: I shall come to those details when I will deal with the Community Development matters. But just now I want to appeal to hon. Members to create such an atmosphere.. ..

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA**: My question has not been answered, Sir?

**Mr. SPEAKER**: The Minister said that he will come to that later on.

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED**: If my friend exercises a little patience, I will come to that part of his question also when I deal with Community Development; I shall try to meet all the specific points raised by the hon. Members. My friend happens to be the Chief Executive Member of the Garo Hills District Council. I would very much appreciate if he can show me the way how to get the co-operation of all the people living in his area for the development of Garo Hills. He is a person who is in a position to show me the way if I have failed in any direction.....

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA**: Please allow the elected members to serve as elected members .....

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED**: I would appeal to my friend to have patience. I am at present discussing the larger questions and not dealing with any particular subject or person. I appeal to my friend to realise that in order to help our country to advance, progress and become prosperous, first of all, it is essential to create an atmosphere as will enable varieties of people in our State to live a peaceful life. We should not put emphasis on matters which are not helpful and conducive to the improvement and progress of our country.



Now, Sir, with this preliminary observations I would like to deal with the various points raised by the hon. Members in their speeches and observations. I am sorry that the hon. Member who often plays the role of the shadow Finance Minister in the Opposition, Shri Santi Ranjan Das Gupta, is not present here. Sir, he said that the deficit could not be of about 11 crores but that deficit under revised estimate was about 29 crores of rupees and that in the next financial year it would be 39 crores of rupees and that he accused me of manipulating the figures.

Sir, I wish he was here to listen to my reply to the points raised by him. I would like to refer him to what I have already clearly mentioned at page 10 of my Budget Speech. The anticipated deficit closing balance at the end of the year 1964-65 was (—)Rs.570 lakhs. This closing balance of (—) Rs.570 lakhs has been revised, in the revised estimate for 1964-65, to (—) Rs.402 lakhs. This amount of (—)Rs.692 lakhs, mentioned by the hon. Member, is not the deficit closing balance for 1964-65 but only the overdraft with the Reserve Bank of India as per the revised Budget estimate for 1964-65, and the revised closing balance is only (—) Rs.402 lakhs. This amount of (—)Rs.402 lakhs does not include the amount of Rs.290 lakhs being the special and normal Ways and Means Advance from the Reserve Bank of India remaining unpaid at the close of the year. This cannot be shown in the expenditure side in view of the revised accounting procedure. The next figure of Rs.10 crores referred as short-fall by Shri Das Gupta, is also not correct. If the hon. Member would like to go through Volume I of the Budget for 1965-66, he will see that, whereas at item O(2) at page IV of the Volume I, i. e., in Statement 'A', an amount of Rs.10 crores has been shown on the receipt side as loan from the Reserve Bank of India (Short-fall) yet this amount has also been shown at page 12, i. e., on the expenditure side at O(3). These two receipts and expenditure counter-balance each other and therefore, there is no exaggeration either of receipts or of expenditure to the extent of Rs.10 crores as complained by the hon. Member.

Regarding the third amount of Rs.10 crores mentioned by the Member he felt that because the actual for 1963-64 shows a revenue receipts of only Rs.49.55 crores as against the revised receipts for 1963-64 of Rs.53.77 crores, thus registering a short-fall in actual collection of about Rs.4 crores in the year 1963-64, the same thing will happen in the year 1964-65 also and that, instead of collecting a sum of Rs.64.11 crores as estimated in the revised estimate for 1964-65, the Government would be able ultimately to collect only about Rs.54 crores and thus show a short-fall of about Rs.10 crores in actual collection.

This feeling of the Member that there would be short-fall in actual collection of revenue in 1964-65 as against the revised estimate for the same year amounting to about Rs.10 crores is actually not quite correct.

The actual collection of revenue for 1963-64 was about Rs.49.55 crores only as against the revised estimate for 1963-64 of Rs.53.77 crores. The reason for revision of the revenue receipt figure for 1964-65, from Rs.61.78 crores to Rs.64.11 crores, under the revised estimate, has been clearly given at pages 8 to 12 of the Budget Speech for 1965-66. If the hon. Member cares to go through the pages he will be fully enlightened and satisfied that there has been no manipulation of figures by the Finance Department. In this connection, it might incidentally be clarified that the reason why the revenue receipts have risen from the revised estimate for 1963-64 of Rs.57.77 crores to



Rs.61.78 crores as in the original Budget estimate for 1964-65, can be seen at page 3, Statement 'A' item L(6) wherein it is seen that grants in aid from the Central Government are estimated to have increased from Rs.20.27 crores in the revised estimate for 1963-64 to Rs.24.96 crores in the Budget estimate for 1964-65. The details of this item may be seen at page 43 of the same Volume under L-6(A) and (B). These figures will perhaps make it quite clear to the hon. Member that the rise in revenue receipt is not a guess work but is based on solid facts and figures.

Regarding the last item of Rs.3 crores referred to as short-fall by the hon. Member, it appears that this amount has been arrived at by him by adding an estimated so-called short-fall of Rs.44 lakhs to the opening balance in the Budget for 1964-65 of (—)Rs.2.52 crores. As these figures have already been taken into consideration elsewhere by adding this amount of Rs.3 crores there has been duplication by the hon. Member. From these facts and figures given above it is quite clear that the hon. Member does not appreciate the fundamental points involved in preparing the Budget by a State Government. The preparation of a State Budget is a very complicated matter and is not likely to be understood by a layman unless he goes into it very thoroughly and applies his mind intelligently to the various figures shown therein.

Apparently, the hon. Member has applied the principle of household budgetting, with which even he may not be familiar, to the principles of State budgetting which cannot be compared at all to household budgetting.

The Members of the House can rest assured that under no circumstances would the Finance Department try to manipulate any figure. The interest of the Finance Department lies in placing figures and facts as they are and absolutely no advantage is gained by the Department by putting up bogus figures.

As regards the assumption of the hon. Member that the next year's deficit would be Rs.35 crores, he has apparently arrived at that figure by adding the estimated impact of the Pay Committee's recommendations amounting to Rs.5 crores to the deficit balance for the current year as worked out by him at Rs.29.92 crores. Needless to say, as has clearly been shown, that his estimated deficit closing balance of (—)Rs.29.92 crores is absolutely incorrect. It follows that the deficit closing balance of the next year also under no circumstances amount to (—)Rs.35 crores as claimed by the hon. Member. In point of fact, we estimate that the closing balance will amount to (—)Rs.8 crores. The figure of (—)Rs.11 crores is not actually the closing balance but merely the overdraft with the Reserve Bank of India which we expect at the close of the next financial year.

Sir, I hope that the house now will be satisfied that there is no manipulation in the figures and the deficit shown by us is based on facts and figures as illustrated in the budget. Sir, it was very difficult for me to follow his observations. Examining his speech I have no hesitation in saying that he was not correct in his assumptions.

Now, Sir, a very thoughtful speech has been made by my revered friend, Shri Omeo Kumar Das. He has also raised a number of points in his speech. I propose to deal with them with a view to clear many of the doubts which are in his mind. Sir, in raising the question of the *per capita* income in our State, he has regretted that it is the lowest of all States in India.



From a study of the growth of total income of India and Assam it will be seen that during the First Five Year Plan (1951-52 to 1955-56), the State national income of Assam at constant (1948-49) prices had gone up by 19.8 per cent against the corresponding all India rise of 18.4 per cent. The rise in total income of Assam at constant prices during the decade covered by the First and Second Plans was 32.5 per cent as against the All India rise of 43.3 per cent.

However, the growth of *per capita* income in Assam at constant prices over the decade 1951-61 has remained practically static. The figures of *per capita* income of Assam and India for the years 1950-51, 1955-56 and 1960-61 to 1963-64 are given below. It will be seen that the *per capita* income of Assam in 1950-51 at both current and constant prices was higher than the All India figure. In 1955-56 also in terms of current prices the Assam figure was higher although at constant (1948-49) prices it was almost at par with the All India average. In the year 1960-61 however, Assam's *per capita* income both at current and constant prices is considerably lower than the All India figure and this is true for the succeeding years for which the estimates are available. This phenomenon is attributable to the high growth rate of population during the decade 1951-61 i.e. 34.4 per cent compared with the corresponding All India figure (22.3 per cent).

Per capita income in rupees

	At current prices		At 1948-49 prices	
	Assam	India	Assam	India
1950-51	290.7	266.5	255.5	247.5
1955-56	274.1	255.0	268.0	267.8
1960-61	311.1	325.7	253.5	293.2
1961-62	327.4	333.6	265.5	294.3
1962-63	326.0	339.4	255.9	294.7
1963-64	354.7	...	267.2	300.4

The point which the hon. Member has emphasised is that since 1960-61 *per capita* income in Assam has been lower than in India. This is perhaps correct. But, Sir, this is mainly due to the increase of population. Sir, this does not indicate that we have not made any progress but that we have gone to the lower cost because of the high growth of population during the last decade. Then, Sir, he put a very pertinent question whether after three plan periods the gap between the poor and the rich was still as wide as before and if so why Government has failed to make it narrower. I think that was one of the points raised by him. Sir, in this connection I would like to point out that one of the objectives of our planning is the reduction of inequalities in incomes and the Five Year Plans have been framed with this end in view. The implementations of the Five Year Plans, therefore, can and should be regarded as steps in that direction. The question whether the plans have in fact succeeded in reducing disparity of incomes or not was referred to a Committee consisting of top Statisticians and Economists (Mahalanobis



Committee) which has already gone into it but this committee could not arrive at definite conclusions. After analysing the available data, the Committee concluded that the available data, inadequate as they were, did not establish any clear trend. All the same it noted generally that an average person, whether in urban or in rural areas, was better fed, better clothed and even better housed in the 1960's than in 1950's and that the working conditions had also improved generally over this period. On the other hand, since there was also some evidence that the rate of growth in income for certain high income groups had been higher than the rate of growth of income of employed persons for the country as a whole, it was not possible for the committee to pronounce a definite judgment, even of a broad nature, on the changes in income distribution. The findings of the Monopoly Commission, recently set up by the Government of India may, in due course, throw more light on this question. Therefore, Sir, it is very difficult for us to make any observation on the question put by him when even the Expert Committee could not give us the answer definitely. Sir, but I may here state that we are taking steps for reducing the disparities in income among different classes in society. The disparities in income fall broadly under two classes, *viz.*, disparities in income between different regions due to uneven growth of the economy and inequalities of income of individuals. We are taking the following steps:—

The approach for reducing income disparities among individuals has been:

- (i) to strive for securing equality of opportunities through provision of—
  - (a) gainful employment for all those who seek work;
  - (b) education and other social services, which besides raising the income earning capacity of individuals bring about a measure of redistribution of income and provide the basic necessities;
  - (c) social security measures like provident fund and health insurance; and to counter the tendency towards concentration of economic power through extension of the public sector, widening opportunities for new entrants and exercise of Government's regulatory powers and financial measures.

Sir, as the hon. Members know, the magnitude of efforts to be made in this direction is very great but in any case we are trying our best to cover the entire State under Community Development programme, bringing the services of experts in the fields of agriculture, animal husbandry, small industries, co-operation, to the door of the poorest villagers through the net-work of extension officers. Improved seeds, implements and fertilisers are now available everywhere in the State, and no small farmers could have hoped to command all these facilities needed for improving their incomes but for the steps taken by the Government. The backward pockets within each of the blocks are receiving special attention. Flood control measures are receiving special attention to remove the handicap of the people in the flood affected areas. During the first three years of the Third Plan nearly Rs.5.5 crores has been spent on flood control schemes. Electric power generation has received special attention. Sir these are the various schemes which we have taken and we feel that all these activities will to a great extent remove this disparity which exists between the rich and the poor.



Sir, my Friend, Shri Dulal Chandra Barua, in the course of discussion stated that the funds allotted to us by the Government of India are not spent. According to him, we would have got more funds from the Government of India if what is allotted had been spent by us. I submit, Sir, that he is suffering from some misconception in this matter. I also had occasion to refer to this matter last year pointing out that his criticism in this regard was without any basis. If any one has given him any information on which he has based his criticism then it is absolutely incorrect. In the Budget Speech also I mentioned that the entire amount allotted to us under the plan provision has been spent. In my Budget Speech I also mentioned that the financial target of Assam's Third Plan have been exceeded by 27.7 per cent. It is not a question of not spending but we have exceeded the target by 27.7 per cent. As a result, the size of the State Third Plan has been raised from Rs.120 crores to Rs.133.3 crores. The supplement to the Budget Speech for 1965-66 entitled "Study of Third Plan Achievements from 1961-62 to 1964-65 and Programme for 1965-66" has described in detail the major physical achievements of the State Third Plan. Annexure "C" to this volume also gives in tabular form physical achievements under some major projects under each sector. The hon. Members are perhaps aware of all this, and, therefore, it will be sufficient for me to pin-point some of these achievements. In this connection I may point out that the allocation for the next year is the same as for current year while the size of the Annual Plan for the current year is higher than the Plan for the last year by about Rs.2 crores. This means that broadly speaking, the size of the State Annual Plan has been the same during 1963-64, 1964-65 and 1965-66. Since a major portion of the Plan expenditure becomes committed as soon as the expenditure is incurred in a particular year, it would be easily understood that the size of the Annual Plan remains constant, not much new work can be undertaken each year. This explains the complaint of the hon. Members that not more has been done than what had been done last year. My colleagues the Minister-in-charge of Education, and P.W.D. have all been blamed for not increasing the tempo of activity but, since the Plan provisions will remain the same, they will have little scope to increase their activities. Let us take the Education budget as an example. If the whole State Plan for two consecutive years remains in equal size, it is likely that the size of the sectoral plan under education too will remain constant in those years. Now, since the expenditure on new schools opened and new grants and scholarships given in a year becomes committed for the subsequent year, no new schools can be opened and new grants and scholarships can be given next year within the constant Plan allocations. In other words, the old schemes taken up in the previous years continue and no new schemes can be taken up. Of course, a part of the Education Plan under any year will, however, contain many schemes of capital nature such as construction of buildings which are not to be repeated in the subsequent years. This portion of the total funds becomes something like revolving fund and corresponding amounts may be utilised in subsequent years for new construction activities. But in any sectoral plan such capital portion is of small size. Therefore, by and large, if the Plan size remains constant it will not be possible to undertake many new activities in the subsequent year. This is the main reason why physical targets for the three years from 1963-64 to 1965-66 cannot go on ever increasing. It will also be easily seen that this is one of the main reasons for slowing down the rate of



physical achievements in this State for the Plan period as a whole. It is in this context I would like to give the hon. Members a bird's eye view of our achievements during the Plan period till now and the expected achievements during the next year.

**Agricultural production :** My colleague, Shri Moinul Haque Choudhury very exhaustively dealt with the subject under his charge and I would like to add only a few things. I hope after these explanations the hon. Members will be satisfied that whatever was possible within our means have been done in order to improve agriculture. Against an estimated total outlay of Rs.4.77 crores during the Third Plan, achievements in physical terms have been as follows:—  
(1) Production potential for additional output of 1.76 lakh tons of food-grains has been created ; production in 1965-66 of oilseed, sugarcane, will be respectively 9,000 and 25,000 tons more than the level in 1960-61 while corresponding figures for cotton and jute will be respectively 3,000 and 3,00,000 bales. About 14 lakh acres will be benefited by major irrigation projects; 4,000 acres will be reclaimed ; 20 lakh acres will be brought under plant production schemes. About 10 thousand tons of fertilisers are expected to be distributed during this period and this indicate; utilization of this very important material in Assam at an increasing rate for increased food production. Similarly, utilization of compost and green manures have been increasing over the years. Technically qualified personnel are essential to man all developmental activities Assam will produce 272 Agricultural Graduates during the Third Plan period.

These achievements are quite impressive specially in view of the limited funds spent in improving agricultural production.

**Animal Husbandry :** The expenditure during the Third Plan period in this sector will be about Rs.1.33 crores. The Department will open 12 new hospitals ; 32 new dispensaries ; 9 new key village centres ; 14 new poultry farms ; 3 new pig farms and one new cattle farm.

**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) :** Sir, on a point of clarification. The Minister has stated that the production of agricultural goods have increased due to better utilisation of fertilisers. My contention was that this increase is not due to increase in utilisation of fertilisers or for using improved methods of cultivation but it is because we are bringing more land into cultivation.

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED :** Sir, I was not only replying to his speech but also to the observations made by other hon. Members. I was just quoting the figures at the beginning and at the end of this year to indicate both increase and achievement.

During this period, the intake capacity of the Veterinary College has been 334 which means that rapid progress has been made towards making services of trained personnel available in the coming years. Similarly, progress has been made in operating the milk supply schemes in the towns of Shillong and Gauhati.



**Forests:** The total Third Plan allocation for this sector is Rs.98.7 lakhs and the physical achievement under all schemes is noteworthy. Creation of new forests has been undertaken. Khair plantation has been taken up newly in 22 acres; plywood in 3,142 acres; matchwood plantation in 3,382 acres; teak plantation in 3,051 acres and about 4,000 acres have been brought under the regeneration scheme. During the third Plan period, the seasoning plant and the timber treatment plant have been installed which will enable better utilisation of our forest wealth.

**Co-operation:** The total Third Plan allocation is Rs.1.64 crores. During the Third Plan, 1,500 Agricultural Credit Societies with 2,74,000 new members and 26 Primary Marketing Societies have been set up; 202 rural godowns have been constructed and 9 rice and oil mills have been installed. The Credit Societies have given out Rs.183 lakh as short-term loan and Rs.61 lakhs as long-term loans.

**Community Development and Panchayats:** The Third Plan allocation under this sector is Rs.7.81 crores. During this Plan period, 76 new blocks have been opened and with these, the whole State has been covered by Community Development Blocks. Besides, by the end of the Plan period, 57 Blocks will pass to State II and 29 Blocks will pass to post-stage II. With this pattern of distribution of the Blocks and with the majority of officers having become experienced in this work, the way is open for more intensive work in the Blocks in the years to come.

Since success of the Panchayati Raj institutions depends upon availability of trained personnel, 7 Panchayati Raj Training Centres and 2 Panchayat Secretaries' Training Centres have been opened. The Panchayati Raj elections have been successfully completed.

**Power:** The power sector has been given priority during the Third Plan period. At the beginning of the Third Plan, this sector was allotted 22.9 per cent of the total outlay of the Rs.120 crores Plan but by the end of the Third Plan, it will spend about 33.4 per cent of the Rs.133.3 crores plan or Rs.44.57 crores. At the end of 1965-66 the installed power capacity will be 208.4 MW; electricity generated will be 340.3 million KWH. and 83 towns and villages will be electrified.

**Flood Control:** With the estimated Third Plan expenditure of Rs.10.9 crores the additional area benefited will be 6.58 lakh acres from Flood Control Schemes.

**Technical Education.**—With the Plan expenditure amounting to Rs.2.15 crores during the Third Plan period, while additional intake in the Degree Courses will be 150, the out-turn of Engineering Graduates during this period will be 615. The corresponding figures for the Diploma Courses are 370 (intake) and 1,212 (out-turn) respectively.

**Craftsmen Training.**—Under this sector the estimated Plan expenditure by the end of 1965-66 will be Rs.24 lakhs. Four new institutions have been opened during this period with 1,932 trainees being newly taken during this period. The total out-turn will be 4,340 trained craftsmen by the end of the period.



**Health.**—The Third Plan expenditure under this sector is estimated to be Rs.9.74 crores. During this period, 2 new hospitals, 11 new dispensaries and 33 Primary Health Units will be established. The hospitals will have 820 new beds and the Primary Health Units will have 195 new beds by the end of 1965-66. The new intake in the three Medical Colleges will be 250. The out-turn of the institutes during the Third Plan will be as follows:—511 Doctors, 321 Nurses, 118 Sanitary Inspectors and 267 Auxiliary Nurses. 113 new Family Planning Clinics and 6 T. B. Clinics have been established during this period. Beds for T. B. patients in the State will be expanded by 100 by the end of the Third Plan period. Similarly, measures have been taken for controlling communicable diseases.

**Industries.**—The estimated Third Plan outlay in this sector (including major, cottage and small-scale industries) is Rs.6.29 crores. During this period under the major industries programme, 6 Public Sector Industrial Units and 15 Private Sector Industrial Units have been promoted. Under the small-scale programme, 5 Industrial Estates have been set up; 2,250 persons will be given industrial loans; and 2,009 persons will be given in-service training. The Small Scale Industries Corporation has established 4 production units. The units at the Industrial Estate at Gauhati will produce goods worth Rs.217 lakhs by the end of the Plan and the Marketing Corporation will sell goods worth Rs.133 lakhs during the same period.

**Sericulture and Weaving.**—The Third Plan expenditure in this sector will be Rs.68.9 lakhs. During this period 2.8 lakhs KG. of additional Eri cocoons, 1 lakh Kgs. of additional muga raw silk and 18,000 additional Kgs. of mulberry silk have been produced; 31 new silk co-operatives have been formed and 53 persons have received training in the Training Institutes in Assam and outside.

**Education.**—The Education Plan for the Third Plan is Rs.13.25 crores. The enrolment of new students in primary classes will be 3.8 lakhs, in Middle Schools 91,000 and in Higher Secondary Schools 72,000. 13,814 teachers of Elementary and Middle Schools will be appointed in this period and out of them 3,746 teachers will have been trained. The corresponding figures for Secondary Schools are 4,880 teachers and 652 teachers respectively.

**Roads.**—The Plan expenditure by the end of the next year will be Rs.7.98 crores and 250 miles of surfaced roads and 1,360 miles of unsurfaced roads will be completed in the same period.

**Water Supply.**—While both phases of the work of the project at Gauhati and Shillong will be completed, the schemes for Karimganj, Rangiya and Silchar are in progress. In the rural sector, the scheme at Sootia and Mirza have already been completed while the schemes for Nongthymmai, Barigaon, Raha, Bokakhat, Ramkrishnanagar, Khanamukh and Msazan are expected to be completed by the end of the next year. Similarly, spill-over schemes at Charing, Dambuk, Tangla, Jalah, Udalguri and Diphu are to be completed during the Plan period.

**Housing.**—The Plan expenditure under this item will be about Rs.64 lakhs during the Third Plan period. So far as physical achievements are concerned, 24 houses under the Subsidised Industrial Housing Schemes and 362 houses under the Slum Clearance Scheme have been completed during



this period. Both the schemes were spill-over schemes from the Second Plan. Under the Low Income Group Housing Scheme, 963 houses have already been completed during this period while work on 712 new houses will be started next year. About 410 acres of land will be acquired for development next year. During the next year construction of 130 houses under the Village Housing Programme and 208 tenements under the Plantation Labour Housing Scheme will be started.

**Welfare of backward classes.**—The total expenditure under this sector during the Third Plan period will be Rs.9.67 crores by the end of the next year. During this period the scholarships given for education to Hills Tribals, Plains Tribals and Scheduled Casts will be respectively 6,900; 5,606 and 4,266 and the corresponding figures for free studentships will be 23,000; 37,000 and 26,000. Stipends given for training in different sectors for all the groups will come to 552 by the end of the Plan period. In the Hills districts, 12 Middle Schools have been provincialised and 2 new Technical Schools have been opened. During this period, 390 Co-operative Societies have been assisted. Under Cottage Industries, 7 Production Centres and several small industrial units have been started. Similarly, 9 demonstration and other agricultural farms, one Fruit Preservation Centre and 4 Leprosy Control Centres will be completed during the period. 13 Major Water supply schemes have been taken up during this period.

The description given above relates to some of the selected programmes specially taken up for welfare of Scheduled Tribes and Castes. It may be mentioned that activities generally taken up by other Departments too have components furthering the development of people of these groups.

**Labour and labour welfare:** The Third Plan estimate under this sector is estimated to be Rs.10.7 lakhs. During this period, 4 Industrial Training Institutes will have been started and the total enrolment in the Institutes during the Plan period will stand at 1,932 students at the end of next year. Expansion of two Labour Welfare Training Centres will enable intake of 547 new trainees during the Plan period. For plantation labour 25 Community Centres for urban industrial workers and one Welfare Centre and a Holiday Home for 900 workers will be completed during the Third Plan period.

It is therefore quite clear from the details given above that considerable progress in almost all sectors has been achieved in the first 4 years of the Third Plan and will be achieved during the last year of the same Plan.

The size of the next Plan has been tentatively fixed at Rs.375 crores. If a Fourth Plan of this magnitude is desired, which I consider inevitable to raise the present standard of living of the people of this State, the State Government will have to find and contribute a portion of the amount of the 4th Plan.

In this context of the inevitability of raising resources for the next Plan, it will be appreciated that this task assumes greater magnitude particularly in view of the fact that we will be beginning the Fourth Plan with a staggering overdraft of (—)Rs. 11 crores with the Reserve Bank of India.



Our aim will, therefore, have to be two-fold: Firstly to reduce the overdraft to the greatest extent possible and secondly to find out resources for the next Plan. As the per capita taxation in the State is already one of the highest in India, the new resources will have to be raised after a very careful study of the present taxation structure, etc., with a view to ensuring that the burden of fresh taxation does not fall on the people in an inequitable manner. It is for this reason that I have decided to constitute a Committee of eminent economist, administrator and non-official representatives, in order that they may advise us as to the way in which the additional resources required for the above mentioned two main purposes can be raised causing minimum inconvenience to the common man and increasing his tax burden to the least extent possible, and commensurate with the additional resources required to be raised. It is expected that this Committee will be able to give very valuable advice to us on this matter.

Sir, in this connection, I would once again like to refer to the financial position of the State which I have dealt with at length in my budget speech. The Third Five Year Plan began in the year 1961-62 and will end next year, i.e., in 1965-66. During this period, our revenue receipts have gone up from Rs. 4,036.18 lakhs in 1961-62 to an estimated amount of Rs. 7,078.28 lakhs in 1965-66. Similarly, the revenue expenditure has gone up from an amount Rs. 4,244.51 lakhs in 1961-62 to an amount of Rs. 7,039.99 lakhs in 1965-66, as estimated in the next year's budget. Thus, it is seen that the revenue receipts and expenditures have almost doubled in the Third Five Year Plan period.

This has similarly happened in respect of the capital receipts and expenditure also. Thus whereas the capital receipts in 1961-62 amounted to Rs. 2,680.21 lakhs, the capital receipts for the next year has been estimated at Rs. 4,747.09 lakhs. Again, capital expenditure which amounted to Rs. 2,369.39 lakhs in 1961-62 is estimated to be Rs. 4,723.98 lakhs in the next year. Thus, it is seen that in respect of capital receipts and expenditure also, the same have almost doubled during the Third Plan period.

It may further be mentioned in this connection that, though the opening balance in the year 1960-61, was (+) Rs. 80.59 lakhs, yet because of an overall deficit of (—) Rs. 848.94 lakhs in the year 1960-61, we closed the year 1961-62 with a closing balance of (—) Rs. 768.35 lakhs. Thus, it is clearly seen that we began the Third Five Year Plan with a colossal deficit opening balance of (—) Rs. 768.35 lakhs. Though we began the Third Plan period with such a colossal deficit opening balance as indicated above, because of sound budgetting and raising additional resources through taxation and non-tax resources, which brought us overall surpluses in each of the years 1961-62, 1962-63 and 1963-64 amounting to (+) Rs. 112.44 lakhs, (+) Rs. 510.06 lakhs, and (+) Rs. 53.96 lakhs respectively, we managed to bring down the closing balance at the end of the year 1963-64 to a sum of (—) Rs. 91.89 lakhs only as against the sum of (—) Rs. 768.35 lakhs which, as mentioned above, was the opening balance at the beginning of the Third Five Year Plan. However, during the year 1964-65 because of certain factors, instead of having an overall surplus as in the previous three years of the Plan period, we expected an overall deficit of (—) Rs. 309.72 lakhs as per the revised budget



estimate. Adding this to the opening balance for the year 1964-65 amounting to Rs. (—) 91.89 lakhs as indicated above, we would be closing the current year with a deficit closing balance of (—) Rs. 401.61 lakhs. Again, though the budget for the next year shows an overall surplus of (+) Rs. 77 lakhs there would be really an overall deficit of (—) Rs. 423 lakhs, as the budget does not take into consideration the amount of Rs. 5 crores expected to be spent on Pay Committee's recommendations as accepted by the Government. Adding this overall deficit during 1965-66 amounting to (—) Rs. 123 lakhs to the opening balance for the next year estimated as (—) Rs. 401.61 lakhs as indicated above, we would be closing the next year with a deficit closing balance of (—) Rs. 800 lakhs which does not include Rs. 2.90 crores, the normal and special Ways and Means advance from the Reserve Bank of India likely to remain unpaid at the end of the year. If this amount is also taken into consideration, we will be closing the next year with an overdraft from the Reserve Bank of India to the colossal figure of about Rs. 11 crores.

From these cold facts and figures given above, it is clear that we would be starting the Fourth Five Year Plan with more embarrassing an opening balance than the one we had at the beginning of the Third Five Year Plan as indicated above.

I am also indicating here as to how we were able to balance the budget as far as possible as indicated above during the Third Plan period, especially, during the first three years thereof i. e., from 1961-62 to 1963-64, in each of which years as indicated above, we had an overall surplus, which would have been seen in the next year's budget also (amounting in all to (+) Rs. 77 lakhs) but for the huge impact of the Pay Committee's recommendations as accepted by Government amounting in all to (—) Rs. 500 lakhs.

We were able to achieve this satisfactory state of affairs indicated above, solely owing to the sound budgetting and raising of additional resources to meet normal as well as Plan expenditure (amounting for the Third Plan period in all to more than Rs. 133 crores) through additional taxation proposals and by improving non-tax resources.

In this connection, it might be of interest to hon. Members to know the resources we have raised during the Third Plan period through additional taxation. The amounts raised by additional taxation during the last year, as well as to the previous years, are as follows:

				Rs.
1961-62	...	...	..	20 lakhs;
1962-63	...	...	...	121.57 lakhs;
1963-64	..	...	..	315.36 lakhs;
1964-65	...	..	...	417.07 lakhs;
1965-66	...	...	...	494.72 lakhs;



So far as 1965-66 is concerned, the amount indicated is the result of additional taxation proposals of the previous years only. From this it is seen that the total amount which would be raised by us during the entire Third Plan period would amount to as much as Rs. 1,368.78 lakhs as against the target of Rs. 16 crores. This is a very creditable achievement and it is this additional resource raised through fresh taxation during the Plan period together with the non-tax resources which have enabled sound budgeting in support of which facts and figures have been given earlier by me.

It would be perhaps of interest to the hon. Members if it were indicated on what items these additional taxes were levied to raise this huge amount of nearly Rs. 14 crores. The amount was mainly raised by increasing the rates under various slabs in respect of agricultural income tax, by increasing sales tax on motor spirit, by increasing taxes on vehicles, general sales tax, stamp duty, and excise duty. Similarly, increase of land revenue has also been effected through completion of re-settlement operations. Forest revenue has also increased. Other amounts have been collected through tax on passengers and goods, urban property tax, kerosene tax and electricity duty. In this connection, I would like to mention that had the Government of India accepted our request to authorise the levy of carriage tax, we would have collected by the end of next year a sum amounting to Rs. 10.5 crores, which would, apart from enabling us to achieve our target of additional taxation for the Third Plan period, have enabled us to start the Fourth Plan with a comfortable surplus opening balance.

Sir, the hon. Members are aware that a tentative plan amounting in all to Rs. 375 crores has been submitted by the State to the Planning Commission for acceptance. This amount has not yet been finalised and it is, therefore, not possible at this stage to indicate whether the next plan would be of the order of Rs. 375 crores or not.

Whatever it is, it will definitely be much more than Rs. 133 crores of Third Plan. Remembering that during the Third Plan for a small plan of the order of Rs. 133 crores we had to agree to additional taxation to the extent of Rs. 16 crores as the target, for the Fourth Plan the target of additional taxation to be agreed upon would be considerably higher.

Sir, from the facts given above it would be quite clear that in our efforts to get as much as additional resources as possible during the Third Plan period and in our efforts to collect Rs. 14 crores additional taxation we have tapped most of the resources normally available for tapping without causing too much harassment to the general public.

As a result of the various taxation measures, etc., the per capita taxation in Assam stands at Rs. 19.0 as per the 1964-65 budget. This is much more than that the all India figure of Rs. 16.2 per capita. In this connection, it may be mentioned that figure is higher than the per capita figure obtaining in respect of all other States except Gujarat where it is Rs. 19.5 per capita; Kerala where it is Rs. 19.6 per capita; Madras where it is Rs. 19.0 per capita; Maharashtra where it is Rs. 25.4 per capita; Punjab where it is Rs. 20.6 per capita and West Bengal where it is Rs. 21.2 per capita. It is thus seen that the taxation per capita is very high in Assam. This has to be considered with the fact that the cost of living in Assam is extremely high and is not to be lost sight of.



It was under these circumstances I decided that we should not go in for any further taxation in the next year especially in view of the fact that we have almost fulfilled our target for additional taxation during the Plan Period.

Now, Sir, I have fully explained the circumstances under which the deficit was inevitable. Sir, I have been making efforts during the last two years to bring the deficit as low as possible. With continuing deficit for the last few years it will be difficult for me to avoid an embarrassing position next year even if we spend less money this year. So, the hon. Members will realise that we have to make provision within our limited resources and capacity and therefore we should make provision for such expenditure as we can bear.

Now, Sir, another important matter raised by many hon. Members in the course of the discussion, is about the price trend. Sir, I agree with the observations made by many hon. Members in this connection that the most disquieting phenomenon witnessed in the country in recent years is the rise in the prices of almost all commodities. The Third Plan itself started with a legacy of high prices which have since been further accentuated and, of late, the problem has really assumed alarming proportions.

In Assam the index of wholesale prices (base 1953-100) rose from 131.2 in 1960 to 149.1 in 1963. But in 1964 the rate of increase in prices surpassed all past records and the index shot up to 177.3 in November, the average for the year being 164.5. The steep rise in prices in 1964 was contributed by both food and non food articles. This however is not a local phenomenon confined to Assam alone. As a matter of fact, the prices all over the country revealed a similar trend during the period. The index of wholesale prices for India (base 1953-100) rose from 124.9 in 1960 to 135.3 in 1963 and shot up to 158.6 in September 1964.

The recent country-wise spurt in prices is also marked by a close resemblance in the trend of prices of essential commodities. For example, the prices of pulses (masur) which ruled between Rs.0.89 to Rs.0.96 per Kg. in various cities rose to Rs.1.06 at Gauhati and Kanpur, Rs.1.12 at Calcutta, Cuttack and Bombay and Rs.1.15 at Delhi in November 1964. Similarly, during the same period price of mustard oil per Kg, rose from Rs.2.50 to Rs.3.50 at Gauhati, from Rs.2.50 to Rs.4.08 at Calcutta, from Rs.2.75 to Rs.4.48 at Cuttack, from Rs.2.47 to Rs.4.11 at Kanpur and from Rs.2.57 to Rs.4.48 at Delhi. The movement of retail prices of some of the essential commodities can be shown in this way.

**Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN (Karimganj-North):** Sir, these are the reasons for rise in prices. What is its solution?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** As I have already suggested some solution which I shall repeat, I have now given only the reasons for rise in prices. I shall welcome such suggestions for the solution of the difficulty as can be given by any of the hon. Members.

**Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN:** Then in that case, I would not have occupied this seat.



**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** Such attitude is unfortunate. I think it is only proper that every hon. Member should give some thought in the solution of this difficulty. If they have any better solution to offer they should not keep silent and look to us only for the solution.

**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat):** Sir, last time I have made some four or five suggestions.

**Mr. CHAIRMAN (Shri MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN):** Do you want to know whether these suggestions were implemented or not?

**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA:** Sir, we have given some suggestions, but these were not considered.

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** Sir, after I have finished, the hon. Members can have an opportunity of putting such question as they like. I repeat that we would welcome suggestions from them if they have any to give in addition to what they have already given.

**Shri SANTI RANJAN DAS-GUPTA (Lumding):** Sir, on a point of information.

**Mr. CHAIRMAN (Shri MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN):** That question cannot be reopened now.

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** The rise in price of food-stuffs is an all-India phenomenon and not confined to Assam State alone. The main reason for this is that, during the decade from 1951 to 1961, the population has grown by 2.2 per cent per annum. The huge growth of population has given rise to an excess of demand over the supply of essential food articles, which imbalance has been taken advantage of by anti-social elements in trade and commerce. Apart from the demand being in excess of the supply, another contributory cause for the rise in prices of food-stuff was the increase in money supply with the public, which was not commensurate with the rise in agricultural production, and also the operation of a considerable amount of unaccounted money. Actually, during the period from 1951 to 1961, the annual increase in agricultural production index was 3.6 per cent whereas the average annual increase of money supply with the public during the same period was 4.5 per cent. Thus it is seen that even during the period from 1951 to 1961 the money supply with the public increased at a faster rate than the increase in agricultural production. After 1961 the position further worsened because, though thereafter the agricultural production index remained stagnant around 14 $\frac{3}{4}$  (base 1949-50=100), the money supply with the public increased at a steeper rate as shown below—

Years	Index of Assam production Base 1949-50=100	National income at constant price (Rs. in crores)	Money supply with the public (Rs. in crores)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1960-61	139.7	12,730	2,869
1961-62	141.4	13,060	3,640
1962-63	137.2	13,370	3,310
1963-64	140.5	13,940	3,752



From the above table, it is seen that, while the money supply increased by 31 per cent, the national income at constant prices rose by 9 per cent only during the period from 1960-61 to 1963-64. The impact of these unequal growth rates in respect of money supply and national income was immediately reflected in the general price rise, amounting to 19 per cent during the period from 1960 to 1964 as can be seen from the wholesale price indices during this period as per the table given below—

#### Index number of wholesale prices

1960	...	...	...	...	...	122.9
1961	...	...	...	...	...	125.8
1962	...	...	...	...	...	127.2
1963	...	...	...	...	...	132.5
1964	...	...	...	...	...	146.6

To solve this problem, the long-term measures, which can be taken up, should be directed towards increase in production for which the Government have already taken up or initiated programmes in the various Five Year Plans. I have already given the review of our achievements during the Third Year Plan period.

Apart from long-term measures taken up through the plan schemes, short-term measures have also to be taken up. Government have already taken up such short-term measures.

Under the short-term measures taken up, the State and the Central Government are to regulate forward trade, introduce selective credit control by putting emphasis on securing greater distribution of food grain through fair price shops, particularly in deficit areas. Apart from these steps, other steps have also been taken, such as fixing the wholesale and retail prices of food grains and procurement of food grains by Government on an intensified scale. Import of food grains and issues from Government stock have also been stepped up. A Food Corporation of India has already been set up to look after imports, procurement and smooth distribution of food grains. The Budget proposals of 1965-66 of the State and Central Governments, by avoiding deficit financing to the maximum extent possible, are quite definitely major steps towards curbing inflationary trend. In addition to these general measures, Assam Government have also set up Vigilance Committees at the Subdivisional level and the Secretarial Committee at the State level to keep track of price movement and to suggest measures to arrest any abnormal rise in prices.

In the meantime, the Government of India have enacted the Anti-profiteering and Hoarding Act, the effect of which is likely to be seen in due course.

All these measures together with the increased rice production during these years have arrested the rise of prices of rice in this State. Similar arrest of rise in prices of other essential commodities is expected in due course when the various measures taken as indicated above will begin to take effect. In order, however, to check the price spiral, full co-operation from consumers and traders is necessary with which anti-social elements can be easily tackled and brought to book in order to prevent further rise in prices.



I entirely agree with the hon. Members that, so far as the traders are concerned, we should take full advantage of the measures indicated and see that they are not allowed to derive benefit at the expense of the poor people. In this connection I would like the hon. Members to consider very seriously the only thing which can ultimately help us in tackling this problem and my humble opinion is that it is absolutely essential for us. In the next Fourth Plan period there will be further supply of money and there will be further increase of population. We must therefore make an all out effort to increase production, particularly of the commodities which are essential for the existence of the people of this country. Now, for that purpose not only investment will be necessary, but what is more necessary is that a proper atmosphere in the country should be created whereby who can increase production may be able to do so and help us in that direction. Now, Sir recently I paid visit to two countries where increase in agricultural production in their own country has been achieved by following two different lines. One of these countries is the United States and the other is Japan. I was interested to see that it was possible in the U. S. A. to achieve increased production because of the big holding of the farmers which made huge investment possible such as purchase of mechanised tractors, fertilisers and improved implements resulting in better results and yields. In Japan the increased production was achieved by using maximum quantity of fertilisers and other modern techniques in their production programme notwithstanding the fact that holdings of the farmers were small. In order to overcome the difficulty of making investment possible on small holdings, they were not encouraging community cultivation among the people without anyone giving up the right to hold what land he owns. They were thus increasing their production through the community farming and through co-operatives.

So I would ask hon. Members to consider whether it is not worthwhile in our country and in our State to induce and encourage people to go for community farming so that they may take full advantage of the tractors necessary for improved farming as well as fertilisers improved seeds and improved implements. It is not possible for a farmer, having about 1 or 2 acres of land, to invest big amounts in the purchase of fertiliser, a tractor, improved implements and seeds. If we can divide the Panchayat area into several field management committees having 200 or 300 bighas of land to look after and provide all the requirements for proper and modern cultivation to such a committee through a co-operative machinery in Panchayat areas, we can increase production without difficulty. By keeping an account of investment on any field we can work out the cost per bigha or per acre and this can enable the committee to show against the person as loan proportionate to his holding in the field which at the time of harvest can be collected in cash or kind by the co-operative from the produce of his harvest before allowing him to remove the crop from his holding to his house. I have no doubt that in this way it will be possible for the farmer to increase production and derive maximum benefit for himself.

Such a programme or scheme of work cannot be undertaken simply by appointing an Agricultural Officer or a Technical Officer. This can be possible only if a suitable atmosphere in the locality is created which will have to be done with the help, efforts and co-operation of the non-officials particularly the Members of Assembly. So I would humbly request the hon. Members to consider this approach seriously. Let us make



a humble beginning by each Member taking up work in our field within a Panchayat area and let him try there to organise community cultivation by procuring funds for making investment through Co-operative Society. He should guide the activities of the field management committees from time to time. Sir, without investment and financial assistance the cultivators cannot bring about increase in production, it is also not possible for him get funds for such investment unless these are provided through a Co-operative Society. In this connection I would like to suggest that each Member should select a village or a Gaon Panchayat having a population of about 3000 people, for organising a Co-operative Society. This will mean that there will be about 500 families in such a Gaon Panchayat. If even half of these families take a share of Rs. 10 each, which I am sure they can afford, I see no difficulty in such a Co-operative Society having Rs. 2,500 as share money to entitle it to an advance or loan ten times its share contribution, viz., Rs. 25,000 with which fund the Panchayat can easily finance the production programme of a field management committee.

**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA:** For the information of the hon. Minister I want to point out, Sir, that I personally started to organise such a Co-operative Society in my area but I am sorry to say that due to negligence and bungling of the Co-operative Department we could not make our society successful—they have so many formalities that it is not possible to complete in one or two years. Therefore, I would suggest that the best thing for the Minister to do in this regard is first of all to put the Co-operative machinery in order and then only his offer can be successful.

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** Sir, I would ask my friend, not to go to the Co-operative Department but first to collect sufficient persons in an area who are willing to take shares in a co-operative in this area and let him inform me. I shall then see that the offer I have made is implemented ....(Applause from the Opposition Benches).

Sir, I have no doubt that effort in this direction will be successful because I have heard one or two instances in Cachar, Dibrugarh and Sibsagar where cultivation has increased production 5 to 6 times only by using fertiliser. Sir, by this improved method of cultivation we should try to increase production not only in our State but in the whole country. This we can do by giving our farmer not only guidance but also such financial assistance as he needs to make investment as essential for increasing production. It is only in this way that we can succeed. But if we cannot increase agricultural production it would be difficult for us to develop our State. This time we have Rs. 120 crores plan outlay, in the next plan period we may have a plan of above 300 crores. For this purpose more funds will have to be found and substantial resources contributed by Assam. Normal economic force must prevail the greater the supply of a commodity the cheaper will be its cost—we cannot ignore such economic trends and it is therefore my suggestion that we should all make and all out effort for increased production. This only can save our State this only can save our people and in this direction I seek the co-operation of all of my friends here. To begin with each of us should take control of one Panchayat area and guide the implementation of the programme there. Once it succeeds in one area others will take to it too. To this task I invite the hon. Members opposite also to devote their energy. If they will only send a note either to me or to the



Chief Minister we shall see that actions will be taken to help them in overcoming such difficulties as they may come across. I am sorry to note that there is an impression that Government does not give any consideration to whatever is suggested from the opposite side. That is not so. I should like to remove this sort of wrong impression from the minds of the hon. Members. Therefore, Sir.....

**Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN:** Without this side you lose some weight, so there must be both sides.....(laughter).

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** Every one has weight. Many hon. Members of this side also have weight. I do not say that any one has no weight!

Now, Sir, these were most of the points raised so far as the financial aspect of the budget is concerned. I would in this connection also like to refer to the point raised by my friend, Shri Devendra Nath Sarma. He wanted to know how the gap in the budget is proposed to be covered. Sir, in this connection I would like to point out the concluding portion of para 56 of my speech broadly indicating how the budgetary gap for the next year is proposed to be covered by the Government. This House, during the mid-year session of the next financial year, will be apprised of the progress made in the matter and the extent of the result so far achieved. Then, Sir, Shri Lila Kanta Borah suggested that our special need on account of geographical and other considerations should be emphasised before the Finance Commission so as to get more allocation of Central revenue.

In this connection I may inform the hon. Members about a memorandum submitted to the Fourth Finance Commission wherein a strong demand for meeting the State's needs, other than the need for development plan, and all other relevant points regarding allocation of share of Central Taxes etc., have been elaborately dealt with. The special needs of Assam on account of geographical and other considerations have also been emphatically brought out in the Memorandum. I shall also place my views before the Commission early next month and I hope it will be possible for me to convince the Finance Commission with the views shared by this House so that we may get a good award from the Finance Commission.

Sir, hon. Member Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami suggested that Centre should be requested to bear the entire expenditure for protecting the borders. In this connection I may remind the House of the very serious efforts made by me for the past few years which have now yielded substantial relief to us. I am glad to inform the house that the Government of India have now agreed to bear the cost of expenditure on State Border Security Forces maintained on the Indo-Pak Border with effect from 1962-63 and also a part of expenditure on Police etc., in connection with the operations against the Naga Hostiles on the Assam-Nagaland Border. Sir, although I have succeeded now in this matter partially, I have not given up this pursuit. Whenever I go to Delhi I meet the Union Finance Minister and discuss with him this issue and keep on requesting him to give us sufficient assistance in our expenditure on Indo-Pak and Nagaland Borders. I hope in near future I shall be able to obtain a substantial amount from the Centre.



Then, Sir, Shri Santi Ranjan Das Gupta criticised me for inaccurate budgetting because of great variation between Budget—revised and actual. He anticipates that the deficit shown for next year will be much more than Rs. 11 crores. Sir, budgetting is an approximation for assessing the financial needs of a State in a financial year. In a developing economy, where schemes of large-scale integrated developments are being undertaken, there is always a possibility for quick change of the previous data assumed and difference of the actual with the estimates. Every effort is made to make the forecasts as near to the likely actual possible. The wide variations between the original estimates and the revised in the current year are mainly due to revision of accounting procedure, which I have already explained.

**Shri SANTI RANJAN DAS GUPTA:** Will the hon. Finance Minister kindly explain it again?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** It will take another half an hour. I am afraid I have no time to explain it again. I have many other points to reply. Sir, Shri Sriman Prafulla Goswami criticised the Government's policy of deficit financing for non-development schemes. The expansion of administrative need is an inevitable concomitant following in the wake of the developmental activity of the State Government. It is not possible to keep the administrative machineries at the existing levels and carry out even bigger developmental projects. Some degree of deficit budgetting is therefore unavoidable, for the present, under the existing circumstances in Assam.

Shri Omeo Kumar Das opposed the re-levy of Roads tax as it will adversely affect the tea gardens. Sir, that an additional levy will impose an additional burden on the tea industry goes without saying. But what the Government of Assam has suggested is that an additional Central excise duty should be levied by the Central Government in lieu of the carriage tax in Assam and the Entry tax in West Bengal and that proceeds from such additional excise duty should be distributed between Assam and West Bengal on the basis of collection from the two States. If this is done, the tea industry will rather be relieved of some tax burden. But if the Central Government does not take this step, Assam will have to press for re-introduction of the Carriage Act and then the question of granting relief will have to be viewed in a wider context.

Shri Rothindra Nath Sen stated that the procedure of deposit of the Urban Property Tax should be reorganised. Sir, when the Assam Urban Immovable Property Tax was enforced in 1963 the assesses were to deposit the tax amount in the Treasuries or Sub-Treasuries. As this was highly inconvenient to the tax payers the rules have been amended. Now the tax amount can be paid at the Treasuries or Sub-Treasuries, or it may be remitted to Superintendent of Taxes by Money Order or it may be deposited in cash at the office of the Superintendent of Taxes.

Shri Lakshmi Prasad Goswami stated that the Government have introduced many taxes, but realisation has been very slow. This is not true since that amount collected has been increasing over the years. While Rs. 6.6 crores of total taxes was collected in 1961-62, the amount rose to Rs. 8.3 crores in 1962-63 and to Rs. 10.5 crores during 1963-64. A look at



the budget documents will show that increase has been registered under all heads of taxes in three years and that the revised estimates for the current year and budget estimates for the next year show further improvement in collections. He also complained that the city buses were not issuing tickets. Necessary steps have already been taken to check city buses by the inspecting staff of the Department. During this year 78 cases against city bus owners and conductors have been instituted in the court for non-issue of ticket. Four such cases were compounded by realisation of composition money. I may inform the house that since I myself was not satisfied with the progress of collection I have instructed my officers to improve the collection.

Sir, Shri Dulal Chandra Barua alleged that there were many loopholes in unnecessary tax collection and as an instance he cited the sale of advance tickets without affixing tax stamps. Sir, the cinema halls are regularly checked by Inspectors of the Tax Department to stop evasion. In cases of advance booking, no ticket is issued but vouchers are issued without affixing any tax stamp. These vouchers are to be exchanged with tickets for admission to the halls. No holder of the voucher is entitled to enter the hall. The Government however has already created a separate Enforcement Branch for detecting evasion under different Tax Acts.

Shri Tarapada Bhattacharjee said that incidence of tax is the highest in Assam. Sir, if the hon. Member wants I can give the figure of other States of India. I have already explained this point. If a comparison is made it will appear that though the burden is comparatively high, it is not the highest among all the States.

Shri Khogendra Nath Barbaruah stated that the Government is not taking step to stop the increasing unemployment. Sir, there is no doubt that unemployment is increasing in Assam and I have already mentioned this in my budget speech. The hon. Member is aware that the only solution to the problem lies in expansion and growth of the economy as a whole and that one of the objectives of our Plans is to reduce unemployment. Specifically we are expanding facilities for technical training since lack of technical skill is one of the causes of unemployment of our youths. As promotion of co-operatives, expansion of village industries and private transport etc., help to reduce unemployment, the Government are taking steps to encourage such developments in the private sector.

Then, Sir, Shri Mohi Kanta Das said that Government should see that recommendations of the Tea Plantation Enquiry Committee are fully implemented. Recently a Parliamentary Committee has submitted a Report on implementation of the Labour Act and following the recommendations of the Committee the Government are taking several steps to make implementation of the Act more effective. To enforce stricter vigilance, the Inspectorate of the Labour Department has been considerably strengthened; action has been taken against recalcitrant tea estates, garden hospitals in Cachar are going to be run under a Government agency, and garden schools are going to be taken over by the State Government.

Sir, Shri Biswadev Sarma requested the Government to reduce the population pressure by stopping the maternity benefit in the tea estates after the third issue. Sir, in view of the immensity of the problem, the hon. Member's anxiety for taking some drastic steps is both understandable and laudable. But the hon. Member will also agree with me that this



statutory obligation about providing maternity benefit cannot be stopped without amending the Act. Besides, any attempt to amend the Act without first educating the labour about family planning will not only invite endless labour disputes but also be self-defeating. I feel that the problem will have to be solved gradually and without putting discriminatory pressure on only one group of the total population. If it is to be done it shall have to be done for the whole population of the State.

Shri Biswadev Sarma also wanted that the employment policy in the tea gardens should be so oriented as to provide more employment to children of the soil. Sir, the general policy of the Government in this regard is embodied in the Government resolution published in October, 1959 wherein it has been expressed that it is the primary duty of all concerned to reduce unemployment in the State. The employers are also requested to take help of employment service organisations in the State with which the employment seekers of the State register themselves. All this applies to the tea estates also. The Government has taken certain specific measures regarding employment of local people in the tea gardens. So far vacancies in the managerial cadre is concerned, the Government has set up a Screening Committee mainly to promote employment of residents of Assam in this cadre. Recruitment of staff through employment exchanges is not obligatory and till now very few vacancies in this cadre have been notified to the employment exchanges. So far supervisory and technical posts are concerned, the services of the employment exchanges are seldom utilised and there has been complaints about employment of outsiders by the tea estates. In view of growing unemployment among tea-labour, the Government is disavouring importation of outside labour while a portion of existing labour force remains unemployed. To increase mobility of labour, a special employment exchange for plantation labour has been established in 1962 and this organisation is doing very good work though there has been complaints of surreptitious imports of labour by some estates. The Government is contemplating further organisational improvements to make the Government policy in this regard more effective.

Shri Omeo Kumar Das wanted the Government to solve the problem of 66,000 unemployed labour in the tea gardens. As I have already said, the unemployment problem is acute in the tea gardens. The issue has been discussed in detail among representatives of the tea estates labour, the State and the Union Governments. It has been decided to stop import of outside labour and a special employment exchange for plantation labour, has been established to increase the mobility of the unemployed. This exchange has so far found jobs for 3040 unemployed labour in the tea gardens and, besides, has placed many of them on road construction work, etc. The Government has also advised various undertakings to employ the unemployed labourers on unskilled jobs. The Government has also introduced vocational training in appropriate trades so that their employment opportunities may increase.

Dr. Ram Prasad Choubey wanted the Government to formulate a scheme for 10,000 unemployed tea labour in Cachar. The problem in Cachar is in no way dissimilar to that in Assam as a whole and the steps taken by the Government in Cachar are also similar to those mentioned earlier. Then Shri Omeo Kumar Das stated that the Assembly should be supplied with a copy of the Evaluation Report on the Five Year Plan Schemes. Sir, till now there has been no Evaluation



Organisation in the State and therefore no Evaluation Report has been prepared. However, an Evaluation Unit is being set up in the Planning and Development Department which will function from the next financial year. The report thereafter will be placed before the House. Shri Mohi Kanta Das stated that Government should nationalise rice and oil mills. The Government is aware that nationalisation of rice and oil mills will greatly help to mitigate the distress caused by the anti-social elements among the owners of rice and oil mills. But there are more than 400 mills in Assam and at this juncture it will not be possible to nationalise all the mills at once. It is however, the policy of the Government to encourage the co-operative societies to enter this sector and the Government is presently considering the ways of implementing the policy.

Shri Nanda Kishore Singha complained that sugar and C. I. sheets are smuggled out of the State by the black-marketeers. This is the first time that such a complaint has been made to the Government. The local officers of the Supply Department are being alerted and all steps will be taken to stop such smugglings. Sir, about agriculture many points were raised by hon. Members which have been replied by my colleague, Shri Moinul Haque Choudhury. I think all the points have been covered by him. Shri Siba Prasad Sarma stated that the trading on essential foodstuff by co-operatives should be encouraged. Sir, distribution of essential consumer goods like rice, sugar, mustard oil, pulses, atta, flour, etc., are increasingly taken over by the co-operatives. Distribution of rice in Shillong, Gauhati, Silchar, Nowgong, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia has been given to Assam Apex Marketing Society as wholeseller. Consumer co-operatives have been formed in several towns which are taking business of all essential commodities. At present three wholesale stores are functioning at Shillong, Gauhati and Tezpur with a network of over 50 consumer stores for each of them. At the same time branches of the Apex Marketing Society are functioning as wholesale stores. Under a State scheme financial assistance has been given to 22 consumer stores in different towns. In the rural areas too, a scheme has been implemented to encourage consumer stores and at present 50 primary marketing societies are doing retail business. Another scheme has been taken up to encourage consumers co-operative societies in industrial undertaking. Thus, in spite of many handicaps, the consumers co-operative movement in Assam is gaining ground.

Shri Sarbeswar Bordoloi stated that steps should be taken to increase the capacity of the Gauhati Refinery. Through the efforts of the State Government the Board of Directors of the Indian Oil Corporation have agreed to expand the capacity from 0.75 millions to 1.1 million subject to the approval of the Central Government. The State Government is repeatedly pressing the Central Government to review the whole position about refining petroleum in Assam in view of the technical possibilities of the product pipeline and has urged the centre to get the issue examined by competent consultants.

Shri Khogendra Nath Nath complained about Government's inactivity for extracting mineral wealth of the State particularly of Garo Hills. As mentioned in my budget speech, the Government has set up the Assam State Mineral Development Corporation to exploit mineral resources of the State. The first project is being implemented in Garo Hills in two phases. In the first phase 2,500 tons of coal will be mined annually and this will be raised to 2.5 lakh tons in the second phase.



Sir, in this connection a reference was also made by Mr. Nichols-Roy, while he wants these steps to continue in Garo Hills, where also limestone, clay, etc., are the property of the people, he wants these to be taken up in Khasi and Jaintia Hills. Sir, my information is that survey and prospecting of the minerals like coal, limestone, clay, etc., are being carried out by the State Directorate of Geology and Mining in the District of K. & J. Hills as has been done in other Districts of the State. Necessary permissions from the local Sirdarship and Doloiship of the Tribal Districts are taken from time to time through the Deputy Commissioner and the District Councils. While carrying out surveys no damage is done to the land.

**Shri STANLEY D. D. NICHOLS-ROY (Cherrapunji, Reserved for Scheduled Tribes):** Sir, the reference was not to the survey but the actual working of the mines by the Government.

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED :** Sir, the Government cannot take it up because the corporation has nowhere taken possession of any land which is in the ownership of the Khasis. They are at present making the survey.

Sir, Shri Khogendra Nath Nath wanted more industries to be taken up in the public sector. Sir, this is the Government's policy and whatever is possible will be done and we propose to take up as many industries as possible in the public sector.

Sir, Shri Prabin Kumar Choudhury suggested that, with a view to reduce arrears Government should make collection of revenue the exclusive responsibility of the Additional District Magistrates. Sir, it is not possible to make the Additional District Magistrates exclusively responsible but the Deputy Commissioners generally take all necessary assistance from him.

Shri Mohananda Bora suggested the toning up of the administrative machinery for better collection of arrears of revenue. Sir, I entirely agree with him and I will ask my colleague, the Minister in-charge of Revenue, to see that effective steps are taken so that revenue is collected in time and all the arrears are realised as early as possible.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua also referred to the weak Governmental machinery for collection of revenue. Sir, I agree that this is a matter in which there is scope of improvement and the Department will have to see that this matter is taken up in right earnest.

Dr. Ram Prasad Choubey wanted effective steps to be taken for improvement of transport facilities in Cachar. Sir, in Cachar, apart from the State Transport services from Silchar to Karimganj and Silchar to Hailakandi, there are several private bus routes also. By virtue of inter-State agreement with Tripura, transport facilities between Cachar and Tripura have been improved considerably by introducing bus service. There is also the Cachar Feeder service of the RSN Co. carrying cargo from Calcutta to Cachar region. By virtue of inter-State Service, carrying of goods trucks between Cachar and the rest of the country is being maintained.



Sir, Shri Devendra Nath Sarma wanted construction of two more over-bridges at Gauhati. The Government are considering how funds for the two over-bridges could be provided. Dr. Homeswar Deb Choudhury suggested one more bridge over the Brahmaputra in the Sibsagar district. Government have no objection to bring this to the notice of the Government of India.

Shri Khogendra Nath Nath asked the Government to take steps to evolve a machinery to bring down transport cost of imported articles by road. He has stated that the present freight rate is exorbitant. Sir, freight charges from Calcutta to Gauhati varies from 22 paise to 25 paise per kilogram. This may not be called exorbitant as most of the vehicles have to return empty for want of back-load. The ferry charge at Khejuriaghat is Rs.75 per vehicle for each crossing. No freight rates are fixed for inter-State routes.

Shri Prabin Kumar Choudhury has urged the Government to place more vehicles for carrying goods on the Gauhati-Shillong route. The State Transport Organisation has 144 goods trucks on the Gauhati-Shillong road at present. By the end of March the fleet will increase to 169 and by the end of April to 184.

Shri Tilok Gogoi has asked the Government to take steps for checking private cars being used as taxis. Sir, it is difficult to detect such illegal cases.

Moulana Abdul Jalil Chowdhury has urged for changing the pattern of education for females by introducing some useful trades and crafts. Sir, in a progressive society where the individual is given the fullest scope and freedom to develop and enrich his or her personalities, the education curriculum should not be based on sex considerations. Results of scientific investigations do not support the view that there is fundamental difference in ability and aptitude between man and woman. In the face of such scientific evidence it would be risky to divide the curriculum on the basis of sex. There should not, therefore, be any imposition of subjects, trade or vocational, on girls.

Dr. Ghanashyam Das suggested that Government servants joining night colleges should be discouraged as this hampers with their official duties. Sir, a Government servant joining night college is required to obtain permission from his appointing authority to do so. Such permission is and ought to be accorded to a very limited number so that the office work does not suffer especially when such Office Assistants have to prepare for and appear at the examination. Such permission with reasonable limits also has also the advantage of having a greater number of better educated youths in Government jobs.

Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami was of opinion that the educational system in the Higher Madrassa did not fit into the present day need and he suggested that education imparted in secondary schools and higher Madrassas should be integrated. Sir, I entirely agree with this view. I personally feel that all the Madrassas should be converted into High Schools and where necessary, provisions for teaching Arabic and Persian should be made. The question of getting the Madrassas affiliated to the Secondary Education Board is under consideration. This will require some amendment of the Secondary Education Act. I am glad



that the State Madrassa Board also has now gone to the control of the Inspectors of Schools. At present the academic affairs of the High Madrassa are regulated by the Director of Public Instruction on the advice of the State Madrassa Board and the High Madrassas take the Madrassa Board's Examination. My personal view is that the State Education Department should take early steps to remove this anomaly and where students want to learn Arabic or Persian there should be provision for teaching these subjects.

Shri Tankeswar Chetia was complaining about Government's inaction to frame rules to control unhealthy competition in matters of establishment of secondary schools. Sir, at the time of giving departmental recognition for Classes VII and VIII to schools, justification for establishment of new schools is invariably examined and schools likely to affect the existing schools adversely are not encouraged. For recognition of the two top classes and recognition by the Board of Secondary Education, the rules are fairly stringent and are strictly adhered to. The conditions to be fulfilled by a school seeking recognition as high school have been prescribed by the Education Department. Sir, he also criticised the present system of sanction of grants in-aid once in three months and suggested that it should be substituted by monthly sanction. Sir, the duty of renewal of recurring grant to secondary schools has been delegated to the Inspectors of Schools in 1963-64. At the beginning of the year, allotment for three months is made to the Inspectors on the basis of the last year's expenditure. The actual requirement for the whole year is then calculated by the Inspectors from the particulars furnished by the individual schools and the balances of funds are allotted on that basis. In the current year after the initial allotment for three months, a second allotment for another three months had to be made as the calculation for the whole year was not complete. This procedure will be revised next year in the light of the experience gained and only two half-yearly instalments will be allotted with instructions to Inspectors of Schools to pass bills regularly. Shri Tankeswar Chetia also complained about step-motherly treatment to girls' education in the State. Sir, Government have been giving all facilities to all round development of education for girls. Government have appointed one Special Officer for Women's Education; five Inspectresses and two Physical Inspectresses specially for girls' schools. Grants have been sanctioned in the last three years for construction of 81 girls' hostels and common rooms. Free and half-free studentships have been granted to girl students of middle stage covering 15,760 girls costing Rs.4.19 lakhs up till now. Provisions have also been made to award scholarships to girls at every stage, namely, Secondary—51, Junior—39, Senior—15, Post-graduate—10, Fine Arts—4 and Home Science—6 ranging from Rs.7 to Rs.80 each. Relaxation of Rules in respect of recognition, enrolment, building and qualified teachers, etc., has been made. Out of the 6 schools proposed for provincialisation, two have already been provincialised, the other four are in the process of being done.

The table below will show the number of girls' schools taken over under the deficit system and *ad-hoc* grant system—

	High Schools		M E. School	
	Deficit	Ad-hoc	Deficit	Ad-hoc
1961-62	51	2	50	7
1962-63	54	16	62	15
1963-64	54	31	75	27



Sir, Shri Dulal Chandra Barua mentioned about lack of co-ordination between Department and Department in matters of evolving well set out policy for imparting technical education. The hon. Member also suggested that the Department should consult the Labour and Industries Departments before sending out students for higher studies in technical lines. Sir, the subject for higher studies are selected after consulting the needs of all Departments. In the selection of candidates also, the views of the Departments concerned are taken into consideration by the Selection Committee which contains representatives from Industries and Labour Departments.

**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat):** On point of personal clarification, Sir, I have mentioned about training in the technical institutes and not higher training.

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** Shri Upendra Nath Sanatan recommended as effective steps for spreading education amongst Tea Garden labour, the grant of more scholarships and other facilities to them. A Committee with the Deputy Minister, Education as Chairman and Joint Director of Public Instruction as Secretary was set up to enquire about education of Tea Garden labour. The Committee's report is not yet out. Special consideration is given in sanctioning recurring grants to the schools in backward areas inhabited by such people. There are provisions for reserved scholarships to the tea and ex-Tea Garden labour students on the results of the Middle and Primary scholarship examinations. They are also eligible for special scholarships and free studentships in schools to the "Other Backward Classes" children. All eligible Tea and ex-Tea Garden labour students are awarded post-matric scholarships. There is no "Division" bar in their cases.

Sir, complaints of defective construction of bridges was brought by Shri Tilok Gogoi. We have not received any complaints so far about defective construction of bridges by P. W. D. Some bridges collapsed during construction and the reasons thereof are being investigated.

Shri Mohananda Bora complained of Government inactivity in repairing the Brahmaputra dykes in North Lakhimpur Subdivision. In this Subdivision all the works of closures of breaches in the Brahmaputra dykes have been taken up but progress has been slow in some cases owing to public obstruction. However, the works are expected to be completed by the end of this month.

Dr. Ghanashyam Das complained that the P. W. D. funds for new construction and repairs are not properly distributed throughout the State. The allocation for the Third Plan period has been according to the recommendation of the Assam Road Communication Board constituency-wise on the basis of "Grid and Star" and "Area-cum-population" formula. So there is no discrepancy between allocation to different areas. So far actual expenditure in any year is concerned, funds are distributed according to demands made by the Chief Engineers and since progress of work in all areas is not uniform, such actual allocations cannot be uniform.

So far repair expenditure work is concerned, the allocation is first made division-wise and the Executive Engineers make allocations on the basis of urgency and necessity of each case.



Sir, Shri Tarapada Bhattacharjee complained about slow action so far as loan and grant assistance by Government of India for rehabilitation of Goldsmiths is concerned. Sir, this matter is under consideration of the Government and I shall see that this is expedited.

Shri Lila Kanta Bora criticised Government's inactivity to finalise the Kopili Valley Project. Sir, action on the Kopili Valley Project cannot be said to have been delayed unduly as technical investigation is not yet complete. Government have not been inactive and the Assam State Electricity Board is engaged in the necessary technical investigations with the Central Water and Power Commission and foreign technical authorities.

Shri Durgeswar Saikia wanted Government to examine whether some proprietors of Tea Gardens, granted loan for purchase of machinery through a scheme sponsored by Government, have not diverted such funds for purchase of new gardens. No cases of diversion of funds for the purchase of gardens from the purchase of machinery have come to the notice of the Government. This matter will be reported to the Tea Board and such action as is necessary will be taken.

**Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra):** Tea garden ব মালিক সকলে ন্যায়সঙ্গত কথাই মানি চলিব নোৱাৰে টকাৰ অভাৱত। যেদিন আদি কিনিবলৈ টকা হ'লে পায় আৰু নতুন নতুন বাগান কিনিবলৈকে টকা পায়। এই টকা তেওঁলোকে ক'ব পৰা পায়?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** We will make an enquiry.

**Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA:** বহুতো বাগানে নতুনদৰে বোনাচ বা অন্যান্য সুবিধাবোৰ দিব পৰা নাই। নতুন নতুন বাগান কিনিবলৈ ক'ব পৰা টকা পায়? সেইটোহে নই শুধিছো।

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** Then, Sir, Shri Siba Prasad Sarma suggested conversion of the Brahmaputra dykes in the Mangaldoi Subdivision to a road-cum-embankment with a view to shorten the distance by about 15 miles from Gauhati. The existing Brahmaputra dyke from Rangamati to Kuria 33 K. M. in length may be converted to a road-cum-bund after certain necessary improvement in specification and required metalling and surfacing is carried out before traffic is allowed on the same.

Shri Mahadev Das wanted Government to make a thorough survey of rivers like Manas and Beki and to control them to the best advantage of the cultivators after collecting data. Some preliminary investigations were carried out by C. W. P. C. on the Manas river but the work had to be abandoned due to imposition of unworkable terms by the Bhutan Government towards carrying out such works in their territory. Later the matter was discussed with the Prime Minister of Bhutan when the latter responded favourably towards carrying out investigations within the territory of Bhutan. But owing to dearth of funds under Flood Control and Irrigation programme and as the project would be a multipurpose one with emphasis on power, the investigation work was entrusted to the State Department of Power, Mines and Minerals, which ultimately decided that due to shortage of experienced technical personnel, and, as the only Major river valley project likely to find a place in the Fourth and Fifth Five Year



Plans is the Kopili Project, it would not be expedient to start the investigations on the Manas forthwith but that it would be taken up after detailed investigations of the Kopili Project have been completed. However, in the Fourth Plan, provisions have tentatively been made for construction of Subansiri and Manas storage reservoirs amounting to Rs.419.75 lakhs and for collection of hydrological data for the rivers in the State amounting to Rs.72 lakhs which include those of Manas and Beki also.

Sir, I feel that I have practically covered all the points raised by the hon. Members, but if there is any left over, I shall pass it on to the Department concerned to examine it.

Sir, this morning Shri Nichols-Roy, while referring to the Agriculture Department, referred to the disease in the orange gardens. I shall bring this matter to the notice of the Minister-in-charge of Agriculture so that he may personally look into it.

**Shri STANELY D. D. NICHOLS-ROY:** On a point of clarification, Sir, in my speech I referred to betel-nut disease that has been affecting the areas in this district and about the report of the District Agricultural Officer concerned with his various recommendations including establishment of a research station for the purpose of investigation of the disease and to suggest remedies.

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** I shall speak about it to the Agriculture Minister and ask him to look into this matter and see what can be done.

Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Members for giving me a patient hearing and an opportunity of placing before them facts and figures, which I hope will be helpful in removing their doubts and fears. I hope, all the hon. Members of this House, whatever parties they may belong to, will join hands to face the future with courage and determination. When our country is faced with all kinds of dangers both from outside and inside, it is essential that we should all work hand in hand so that the country and this State can make progress in every direction and thus become strong enough to meet the challenge from any quarter. It is in this spirit the honour and prestige which have been given to me for serving as the Finance Minister, I have been trying to discharge my duties and I shall keep this all the time in my mind. I hope, I shall not fail to get the necessary support and help from hon. Members of this House. (Applause).

### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A. M. on Thursday, the 18th March, 1965.

Shillong, }  
The 26th Nov. 1965 }

R. C. CHAUDHURI,  
Secretary,  
Assam Legislative Assembly.

AGP (LA) 286/65-90 -30-11-1965

R-2879