



Assam Legislative Assembly Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIFTH SESSION OF THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY ASSEMBLED AFTER THE SECOND
GENERAL ELECTION UNDER THE SOVEREIGN
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN CONSTITUTION
OF INDIA

BUDGET SESSION

VOLUME I

No.8

The 10th March, 1959



सत्यमेव जयते

1961

PRINTED AT THE ASSAM GOVERNMENT PRESS
SHILLONG

Price 10 annas.

(19th Session)

Vol. I, Part I

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Proceedings of the Fifth Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly assembled after the Second 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 10th March, 1959.

PRESENT

Shri Ram Nath Das, B.L., the Chairman in the Chair
eight Ministers, the four Deputy Ministers and sixty-nine Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Pagladiya Public Works Department Bridge

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East) asked :

*14. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings) be pleased to state—

- (a) How long Pagladiya Public Works Department bridge on 103rd mile of North Trunk Road is continuing as a toll bridge ?
- (b) Whether Government are aware that poor peasants residing on one side of the bank of the river have got cultivable lands on the other side and are required to cross the river frequently ?
- (c) What is the length of Chaulkhowa bridge on road from Barpeta Road to Barpeta, Puthimari and Pagladiya bridges on North Trunk Road ?

- (d) How long Chaulkhowa and Puthimari bridge continued as toll bridges ?
- (e) Whether Government will be pleased to discontinue toll collection on Pagladiya bridge forthwith particularly in view of economic distress of the peasants ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings)] replied :

14. (a)—The Pagladiya bridge is continuing as a toll bridge since 15th October 1955, the date from which it has been opened to traffic.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The length of the Chaulkhowa bridge on the road from Barpeta Road to Barpeta is—534'-6", Puthimari bridge on North Trunk Road is 264' and Pagladiya bridge on North Trunk Road is 289'.

(d)—The Chaulkhowa and Puthimari bridges for 16 (sixteen) years from 1931-32 and 5 (five) years from 1951-52, respectively.

(e)—Government decided in 1955 to declare any and every bridge as a toll bridge the cost of construction of which is Rs. $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs or more and to declare the same as toll free after realisation of the cost of construction, cost of repairs, approaches, etc., incurred year after year.

†**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY** (Nalbari-East) : Sir, I want to know what is the cost of construction of the Pagladiya bridge : my question is relevant because the Deputy Minister said that bridges costing more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakh of rupees are subject to collection of tolls—so, what is the cost of construction of these bridges, the Pagladiya and Puthimari bridges ?

†**Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI** : Cost of construction of the Pagladiya bridge is Rs. 3,50,000 and that of Puthimari bridge is Rs. 80 thousand.

†**Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West)** : Sir, the reply to Question (b) is "Yes", so it is evident that Government know that the peasants who are residing near the bridge will have to pay tolls to the lessee of the bridge ; whether Government know that these peasants are to suffer huge loss and undergo great disadvantages ?

†**Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI (Deputy Minister, Public Works Department)** : There are also other toll bridges in the State of Assam and on these bridges there are peasants residing on both sides of the bridge and these peasants used to pay rupee one per year which comes to about 1 naya paisa per day. I do not consider this to be too much.

†**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East)** : Sir, both the Pagladia bridge and the Puthimari bridge were taken almost together for construction, then why this difference in the cost of construction ? It is said that Pagladia costs rupees 3 lakhs 50 thousand while Puthimari bridge costs only rupees 80 thousand—why this difference ?

†**Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI** : Because of the nature of structure and estimate.

†**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY** : What was the original estimate of the Pagladia bridge ?

†**Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI** : I want notice of that information, Sir.

†**Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi)** : May I know what is the policy of Government regarding realisation of tolls on these bridges ?

†**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Public Works Department)** : Sir, is it permissible to raise the question of policy in Supplementary Questions ?

(No reply).

†**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY** : I want to know under which section of which act this toll is levied ?

†**Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI** (Deputy Minister, P. W. D.): There is an All India Act in this connection and I would refer the hon. Member to read that Act.

†**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY** (Nalbari-East): Yes, but which Act and under what section?

†**Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI**: I am sorry Sir, I cannot give the section.

†**Shri TARUN SEN DEKA** (Nalbari-West): Whether Government have received representation from the people regarding removal of tolls from the Pagladia bridge?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: I have no information, Sir.

†**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY**: Are Government aware that the construction cost of the Pagladia bridge has become very high due to laches on the part of Government—it was originally planned to build this bridge in one year but it took Government six years to build it?

†**Mr. CHAIRMAN**: No, no, I think that question does not arise.

†**Dr. SRIHARI DAS** (Barpeta): What is the total amount of tolls collected from the Puthimari bridge?

†**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH** (Minister, P. W. D.): It is Rs.1,05,734, Sir.

†**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY**: What was the collection from the Pagladia bridge?

†**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH**: It is Rs.29,825.

†**Shri TARUN SEN DEKA**: How long will it continue?

†**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH**: It will continue till all expenses on the bridge and repairs, etc., are realized.

†**Shri TARUN SEN DEKA**: In which year the realisation will be over?

†**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P.W.D.):** I am not a fortune-teller (*Laughter*).

†**Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, when I ask a particular question through you to the Minister in-charge, I think, it is too improper to say "I am not a fortune-teller". I am not thinking that he is a fortune-teller. I think that he is responsible for certain port folio. So may I ask him again whether he can clarify the point ?

†**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH:** The hon. Member asked the question when the total cost of the bridge and repairs will be realized and when the bridge will be made toll free. I said I am not a fortune-teller. That was a brief reply and for the simple reason that how many vehicles and cars will cross and what damage it will sustain by natural calamities, etc., and what will be the repair cost, it is beyond anybody's capacity to forecast. Therefore if a question was asked which is not proper by his own standard then an answer of that sort only is expected.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister is expected to give a proper answer. The hon. Minister could have said that it cannot be said.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: I submit to the ruling of the Chair. But different people have different standard and I will certainly say that it is difficult to guess now.

†**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East):** Do the Government know that majority of users of the bridge are poor peasants ?

†**Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI (Deputy Minister, P. W. D.):** It is a matter of opinion.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY: How can this be a matter of opinion, Sir ?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: That is known to the hon. Member also.

†**Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi)**: I think the Minister may be in a position to enlighten the House how long it might take to collect the toll.

†**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P. W. D.)**: It is not possible. It involves the cost of repairs, etc.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Inclusion of Old Nitai Ali of Sibsagar Division in the Second Five Year Plan from Tribal grant

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) asked:

24. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department (Road and Building) be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Old Nitai Ali of Sibsagar Division was included in the Second Five Year Plan from Tribal grant?

(b) If so, whether the said road will be improved this year?

(c) If not, why not?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, P. W. D. (R. and B.)] replied:

24. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes. It is expected that the work will be taken up this year.

(c)—Does not arise.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra): যোৱা কেই বছৰত এক ইঞ্চিও নতুন আলি লোৱা নাই, যি খিনি আলি আঁচনিত আছে সেই খিনি আলিৰ কামত ইমান পলম হোৱাৰ কাৰণ কি? এই বছৰ হবনে নহয় খাটাং উত্তৰ লাগে।

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI (Deputy Minister, P. W. D.): এই বছৰত হবনে-নহয় সঠিককৈ কোৱা টান, কাৰণ এই পৰণি নিতাইআলিৰ কাম প্ৰথমতে ৭ মাইল আছিল আৰু পিচত ৫ ফাৰ্লং বচাই দিলে এই ৫ ফাৰ্লং খৰছ সংবিধানৰ ২৭৫ বাৰা মতে টাইবেল থাণ্টৰ পৰা হব। গতিকে P. W. D. Department ৰ পৰা, Finance Department আৰু T.A.D. লৈ লিখিব লগা লৈছে। T. A. D. ৰ পৰা sanction পালেই আৰু finance এ approve কৰিলেই কাম আৰম্ভ কৰিব পৰা হব।

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA: ৭ মাইল বাস্তৱ বাবে Finance Department ৰ sanction লাগে আৰু ৫ ফাৰ্লং বাবে T. A. D. ৰ sanction লাগে। এইদৰে ঘূৰাঘূৰি কৰি থাকিলে এই সময়ৰ ভিতৰত কাম আৰম্ভ কৰাটো সম্ভৱ হব জানো?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : এই সময়ৰ ভিতৰতে কৰিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰা হব। অবশ্যে এটা বিভাগৰ পৰা আন এটা বিভাগলৈ লিখালিখি কৰোতে আৰু plan and estimate কৰোতে কিমান সময় লাগে সেইটো মাননীয় সদস্যই জানেই।

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA: মঞ্জুৰী হোৱাত ইমান দিম পলম কিয়? এনেদৰে কামবোৰত পলম হলে ৰাইজৰ মনত ভাল লাগিবনে?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: ৰাইজৰ মনত ভাল নেলাগিলেও উপায় নাই।

Shri DEVENDRANATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): Whether it is a fact that the major part of the year is taken in preparing the paper work such as making plans and estimates and getting administrative approval, etc., than in the execution of the actual work? As for example, 9 to 10 months are required for paper work and only 1 to 2 months for physical work.

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: Naturally it takes time. One part of the work is to obtain administrative approval.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Tribal Areas): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in this connection I may enlighten the hon. Member. Previously for all these schemes which were executed under Article 275, plans and estimates had to be sent to the Government of India for sanction and

administrative approval. But at present at the pressure of the State Government the Government of India have agreed that the State Government can accord approval to such schemes the costs of which do not exceed Rs.25 lakhs. Therefore I hope in future it will be speeded up.

Iron-materials for Sibsagar Subdivision

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri)
asked :

25. Will the Minister of Supply be pleased to state—

(a) The quota of Iron-materials for Sibsagar Subdivision for each of the years 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958 ?

(b) Who was the dealer ?

(c) Who were the consumers to get Iron-materials from the dealer, during those years and who issued permit to them ?

(d) Whether it is a fact that public had to purchase Iron-materials specially rods, at Rs.50 to Rs.55 per maund during those years ?

(e) If so, why the price was so exhorbitant ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply) replied :

25. (a)—1954-55	...	...	...	...	230 tons.
1955-56	...	...	...	...	540 tons.
1956-57	...	...	...	...	340 tons.
1957-58	...	...	...	...	220 tons.
1958-59	...	...	...	...	103 tons (up- to period III/ 1958-1959).

-(b)—(1) M/s. Motiram Ratanchand.

(2) M/s. Amolakchand Murlidhar.

M/s. Amolakchand Murlidhar tendered their resignation in 1957.

(c)—(1) Public institutions.

(2) Educational institutions.

(3) Loanees of Low-income Group Housing Scheme.

(4) General Consumers.

(5) Government Departments. Permits were issued by the Director of Consumer Goods, Shillong and the Subdivisional Officer, Sibsagar.

(d)—Government have no information.

(e)—Does not arise.

Number of Dispensaries in the Forest Reserves of the State.

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] asked :

26. Will the Minister-in-charge of Forests Department be pleased to state the total number of Dispensaries in the Forest Reserves of the State ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Forests) replied :

26.—The total number of Dispensaries in the Reserve Forests of the State is 6.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj): What is the number of such type of dispensaries in Goalpara district ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : Three—Goalpara West 1 and Goalpara East 2.

Shri DEVENDRANATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): Will the Minister be pleased to state the number of such dispensaries in the district of Lakhimpur ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : There is no such dispensary in Lakhimpur.

Shri GAURISANKAR ROY (Katlicherra): Do the Government propose to take more care in extending medical facilities in forest villages ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Forests): Wherever necessary Government will try to provide the facilities.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): মঙলদৈ মহকুমাতো এনেকুৱা Forest Dispensary খুলিবলৈ চৰকাৰে ইচা কৰিছেনে ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: এতিয়া ইচ্ছা কৰা নাই।

Shri DWIJESH CHANDRA DEV SARMA (Digboi): এই Dispensary ক'ত ক'ত আছে ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS:

Kamrup 1—The dispensary is located at Kulsi inside the Forest Reserve.

Goalpara East 2—The dispensaries are located at Haltugaon and Deosiri.

Goalpara West 1—The dispensary is known as Bosgaon Forest dispensary and is located at Kachugaon Reserve.

Sibsagar 1—The dispensary is located at Goraimari Forest Village in Dayang Reserve.

Cachar 1—The dispensary is located at Longai in the Longai Reserve.

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]: Whether those are State dispensaries or Local Board dispensaries or Subsidised dispensaries?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: Forest dispensaries.

Total quantity of C. I. Sheets allotted to the State of Assam in 1958-59.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked:

27. Will the Minister-in-charge of Supply be pleased to state—

(a) What is the total quantity of C. I. Sheets allotted to the State of Assam in the year 1958-59 ?

- (b) What is the total quantity of C.I. Sheets lifted by the Government of Assam through different agencies up to 1st of February, 1959 ?
- (c) What quantity of C. I. Sheets has been allotted to different Subdivisions for distribution to consumers in the year 1958-59 ?
- (d) Whether the Minister-in-charge is aware that for want of C. I. Sheets public institutions and individual consumers have sustained heavy damages as the wooden frame works have deteriorated requiring replacement ?
- (e) Whether the Minister-in-charge is aware that individuals and even public institutions have been compelled to have recourse to black market to purchase C.I. Sheets for the inability of the Government to supply the same ?
- (f) In view of the inability of Government to procure C.I. Sheets and in view of its availability in sufficient quantities at high price in black market whether Government propose to de-control and remove restrictions of movement of C.I. Sheets in the State ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply) replied:

27. (a)—4,028 tons (upto period III/58-59 only) for general consumers and Government Departments.

(b)—1,644 tons lifted on account of general consumers. 1,479 tons were issued to Government Departments on quota certificates.

(c)—2,549 tons.

(d)—Some such cases were reported.

(e)—Government have no information.

(f)—Owing to scarcity of C. I. Sheets throughout India, quarterly allocation made to this State are quite inadequate. Steps are being regularly taken for despatch of C. I. Sheets on Government account according to allocations made by the Government of India. It is not within the competence of the State Government to remove control. As long as general supply position does not improve, control cannot be done away with.

Shri MAHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur): In answer to 27(a) it is stated that 4,028 tons were allotted for general consumers and Government departments. Then in reply (b) it is stated that 1,644 tons were lifted on account of general consumers and 1,479 tons for Government Departments. Both the figures come to 3,123 tons. So what is the cause of the discrepancy ?

There is a discrepancy with regard to answer (a) and (b), Sir, with regard to the total quantity of C. I. sheets.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister Supply): There is no discrepancy, Sir. 4028 tons of C. I. sheets were allotted by the Government of India under different Heads during the first, second and third period of 1958-59. With regard to the 4th period, we have not received the quota as yet. Out of this 4,028 tons, 1,644 tons were issued to the general consumers and 1,479 tons were issued to the Government Departments for developmental schemes.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi): May I know whether there is a separate quota for educational institutions ? If so, on what basis the quota was distributed ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: There is a quota for educational institutions. Distribution of that quota is determined on the basis of demand and urgency of the requirements.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): In reply to question (d) it is stated that some such cases were reported. May I know what action Government propose to take to save the educational institutions from such deterioration ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: We are doing our utmost to improve the situation, but the supply is not in our hand.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: Is there any specific proposal to save these educational institutions ?

M. MOINL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply) : The only specific proposal can be, Sir, if the House agrees, then the whole of Assam should forego the quota in favour of the educational institutions.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) : Was the entire quota allotted to Assam brought to Assam ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Yes, Sir.

U JORMANIK SIEM [Nongpoh (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Was the full quota of 1958-59 lifted ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Yes, Sir.

U JORMANIK SIEM : Is it a fact that Government of India's full quota could not be lifted because the Bills could not be paid in time ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : No, Sir. I have no such information.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI : What steps are being taken to increase our quota ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : We have been repeatedly requesting the Government of India both at the Ministers level and as well as Officers level to increase our quota. On some occasions our requests were responded to and additional quotas were given to us ; as for example, when some people were affected by fire, we moved the Government of India and they granted some special quota.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) : Is it a fact that C. I. Sheets could be purchased free at Calcutta ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : We have some information that it is available in Calcutta. There is a rule that if during 90 days allottees do not lift their quotas from the businessmen appointed by the Government or the dealer, they can sell the lapsed quotas in open market, but at controlled rates.

Shri RAM NATH SARMA (Lumding) : When it is admitted that there is scarcity of C. I. Sheets in Assam, may I know if the Government of Assam tried so long to purchase such quota which was released in open market in Calcutta ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply): When Government intend to purchase such quota, they may not get it at controlled rate, Sir.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): 27 (f) প্রশ্ন উত্তর প্রসঙ্গত মই চৰকাৰৰ পৰা জাৰিৰ খুজিছে। C. I. Sheet যোগান ব্যৱস্থা কেতিয়া ভাল হ'ব আৰু বিশেষ কৈ এই মন্ত্ৰীসভাৰ আন্দোলত কেতিয়া ভাল অৱস্থা আশীৰ্বা যাব ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: C.I. Sheets যোগান ব্যৱস্থা ভাল হোৱাৰ লগত মন্ত্ৰীসভাৰ প্ৰশ্ন নুঠে। আমাৰ ৰাজ্যত বিশ্ব সমস্ত দেশতে টিংপাতৰ অৱস্থা বেয়া। ভিলাই আৰু দুৰ্গাপুৰত টিংপাতৰ উৎপাদন হলে ইয়াৰ অৱস্থা ভাল হোৱাৰ আশা আছে।

(Shri Ram Nath Sarma wanted to put further supplementary questions which were not allowed by the Chairman).

Barak Bridge

Shri TAJAMMUL ALI BARLASKAR (Udharband) asked :

28. Will the Minister, Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings) be pleased to state—

(a) Why the works of the Barak Bridge is now stopped?

(b) When the work of the bridge will again start?

(c) How long will it take to complete the bridge?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings Wing)] replied:

28. (a)—The work on Barak Bridge has been stopped due to non-receipt of additional amount of foreign exchange to the tune of Rs.4 lakhs.

(b)—After a decision on the question of foreign exchange is made,

(c)—Completion of the work will take at least three years more.

Extension of Industries (Development and Regulation) Act to Plantations

Dr. RAM PRASAD CHAUBEY (Lakhipur) asked:

29. Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it was decided in the 8th Session of the Industrial Committee held at Shillong that measures should be taken for extension of Industries (Development and Regulation) Act to Plantations and that all technical difficulties to give effect in this direction be met with requisite legislation?
- (b) If so, how far Assam Government have proceeded in the matter and what measures for expediting the requisite legislation have been taken?
- (c) Whether Government are aware that by enactment of legislation for extension of Industries (Development and Regulation) Act to Plantations the State Government will be in a position to take necessary steps for taking over or otherwise manage to run the closed gardens?
- (d) If so, whether Government propose to take immediate measures for enacting such legislation in view of the grave situation in Tea Industry in Cachar?
- (e) Whether Government are aware that some tea gardens in Cachar have recently been closed and there is threat for imminent closure of some more major gardens there?
- (f) If so, what measures Government have taken to meet the situation?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister Labour) replied:

29. (a)—Yes.

(b)(c) & (d)—Government of Assam prepared a Bill on the model of the Industries (Development and Regulation)

Act for this purpose. Concurrence of the Government of India was sought for. The Government of India however has informed this Government that it will not be possible for the State Government to enact such a legislation. Government of India has therefore been requested to take necessary action in the matter.

(e) & (f)—(i) Government received an information that the four tea gardens namely—(1) Durganagar, (2) Appin, (3) Robbania and (4) Maniknagar were closed down recently. Of these the Maniknagar and Durganagar Tea Estates have not yet opened. The rest have re-opened.

(ii) Government are aware that some gardens in the Cachar District under the Managing Agency of M/S. Macneill and Barry have resorted to lay off. The matter has been referred to Tribunal for adjudication. The question of giving relief to Cachar Tea gardens is under consideration of Government. The case for financial accommodation for the weaker sections of Tea Industry has been taken with the Government of India.

Dr. RAM PRASAD CHAUBEY (Lakhipur): With regard to reply to question 29 (b), (c) & (d), it is stated in the last portion of the answer that the Government of India has been requested to take necessary action. I would like to know whether any reply from the Government of India has been received as yet in this respect.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour): Day before yesterday I received a communication from the Ministry concerned of the Government of India to the effect that the matter was receiving their consideration. They have not said that they agreed to our proposal.

Dr. RAM PRASAD CHAUBEY: With regard to reply to question (e) & (f) second part, it is stated that the question of giving relief to the Cachar Tea gardens is under consideration of Government. I would like to know how long will it take to finalise that consideration?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: It is very difficult to give a date line, Sir. But we hope that the Government of India is moving in the matter and as a matter of fact at the instance of the Government of India the Reserve Bank Governor came to Calcutta and discussed with

the bankers, Tea Board Chairman, about two months back. I think they have tentatively finalised what they are going to do in the matter. The matter is under consideration of the Finance Department of the Government of India and unless they O. K. it further action is withheld.

Dr. RAM PRASAD CHAUBEY (Lakhipur): Sir, it is stated in the reply that the case for financial accommodation for the weaker sections of Tea Industry has been taken up with the Government of India. I would like to know what is the progress towards that end ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : (Minister, Labour) : The proposal is that the Reserve Banks would place a sum at the disposal of the State Financial Corporation and the Financial Corporation would undertake to finance the tea gardens with block loans for developmental purposes. Now this is again tied up with the peculiar system of financing the tea gardens as unless the tea gardens which are usually mortgaged on hypothecation of crops are free from such encumbrance the money cannot be advanced by the Financial Corporation. So both these questions are to be decided. Once it is decided by the Government of India, the road will be open and the tea gardens will be able to obtain finance.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) : May we take it that the Government of India has rejected the recommendation of the 8th Session of the Industrial Committee ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : I am sorry, Sir, I think I have to correct the answer given like this : it says, "Yes". The Committee was informed by the Central Minister that there was technical difficulty for extension of Industries (Development and Regulation) Act to the tea industry. But the Committee recognized the necessity of bringing tea under control, similar to the provisions of the said Act. So, the reply "Yes" should be understood in that way. Now the question is how long it will take for the Government of India to take action in the matter. As I have already stated, the matter is under consideration according to the Central Minister. I myself have taken this matter up with the Government of India at least a dozen times, and there must be weighty reasons for this delay in taking the decision. But I have no doubt that the Government of India will ultimately agree to our proposal to

bring some measure of control if not by extending this Act then by amending the Tea Act.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabor): In view of the fact that during the last two years, Sir, while we have been insisting on the necessity of inclusion of the tea industry under this Industrial (Development and Regulation) Act and now the Bill brought in by the Assam Government has also been rejected by the Government of India which had just recently stated that they are not going to enact any such provision, will the Government allow the tea industry to suffer like this indefinitely?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: (Minister, Labour): They have not categorically stated like that. I have no doubt that it is a very emergent necessity and we hope that the Government of India will find it possible to amend the Tea Act incorporating in it the relevant provisions of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, so that necessary control may be exercised by Government under the new Act.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra): চৰকাৰে নতুন শিল্প গঢ়িবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিছে তেনেস্থলত চাহ বাগিছাবোৰ এনেদৰে বন্ধ হোৱাটো কোনো তীব্ৰ আৰু ক্ষাপ্ৰ ব্যবস্থা নোলোৱাটো বেজাৰৰ কথা হোৱা নাই নে? নতুন এনেদৰে কৈ থাকিলেই গাজু বাবনে?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: I will convey the anxiety of the House as expressed so that proper and urgent consideration of the Government of India may be available.

Amount of share received by the State from Central Government in 1958-59 from Central Excise duties

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked:

30. Will the Finance Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) What amount has been received by the State as share from the Central Government in the year 1958-59 from Central Excise duties under the heads (i) tobacco, (ii) tea, (iii) jutes, (iv) petrol and kerosene, (v) match?

(b) Whether it is a fact that under the Central Excise duty on tobacco realised as 50 nP. per pound, 3 nP. per pound is additional Excise duty to be paid directly to the State and 47 nP. to the Central Government ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that in some subdivisions the entire Excise duty of 50 nP. is credited to the Central Government and thus the State is deprived of its revenue—amounting to several lakhs a year ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance)
replied—

30. (a)—There is no Central Excise duty on jute. The Central Excise duty on petrol and kerosene is not shared between the Central and State Governments. 25 per cent of the net Central Excise duty collected on the remaining items mentioned in the question as well as those on vegetable products, coffee, sugar, paper, and vegetable non-essential oils is formed into a divisible pool and 3.46 per cent of this pool is allotted to Assam according to the recommendation of the Second Finance Commission. It is not therefore possible to give item-wise break-up of the share of Central Excise duty received by the State Government. The total amount received by the State Government as share of Central Excise duty during current year is Rs.76,59,000 upto February, 1959. One more instalment is yet due.

(b)—No. Central Excise duty and Additional Excise duty are levied at the rate of 47 nP. and 3 nP. respectively only on certain types of tobacco. On other types of tobacco these duties are levied at varying rates as laid down in the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944 and the additional duties of Excise (Goods of Special importance) Act, 1957. Both these duties are realised by and credited to the Central Government. The State Government get a share of the Central Excise duty according to the principle mentioned in reply to question (a) above. The net collection of Additional Excise duty, which is levied on sugar and mill made textiles besides tobacco, is distributed to the States according to a formula recommended by the Second Finance Commission after deduction of $2\frac{1}{4}$ per cent for Union territories and Jammu and Kashmir. According to this formula Assam gets 2.73 per cent subject to a guaranteed amount of Rs.85 lakhs.

(c)—Does not arise in view of reply to question (b).

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur):

As regards my question No. 30(b), the reply given is "No", but practically my question has been admitted. I wanted to know whether 3 nP. of this duty has been credited to the State Government. Is it a fact that in certain subdivisions the entire amount of the excise duty is credited to the Central Government and thereby this State incur a heavy loss ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Finance Minister):

As has been explained in the reply to the question, Central Excise duty and Additional Excise duty are levied at the rate of 47 nP. and 3 nP. respectively only on certain types of tobacco and all these are credited under the Sales Account in the same way as on the other varieties of tobacco and the additional duty levied are credited under the Central Account. The system is that the entire amount realised is credited as Excise Duty to the Central Government and 25 per cent of this distributed to all the States and Assam gets 4.46 per cent of this.

Shri BISHWANATH UPADHYAYA (Patharkandi): Will the Minister be pleased to give an idea of the duty on tea received by Assam every year ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I can give the correct figure later on but it comes to something like two crores of rupees.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): Is it a fact, Sir, that we are getting much less of its share of the Central Excise Duty as most of the head offices of the tea companies are located outside Assam ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: That has nothing to do so far as share of the Excise Duty is concerned. I have already explained to the hon. Members that all proceeds of the Excise duty is taken into one account and 25 per cent of that proceeds is distributed to all the States, and as I have already stated, Assam gets 3.46 per cent out of it.

Shri DWIJESH CHANDRA DEV SARMAH (Digboi):

অসমে চাহ আৰু অন্যান্য উৎপাদনৰ ওপৰত পোৱা Tax আদিৰ কাৰণে কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰৰ পৰা যি অংশ পায়, অন্যান্য ষ্টেটে সেই Taxৰ পৰা পোৱা টাৰিপত অংশ কি হিচাবে পায় ? যদি অন্যান্য ৰাজ্যই আমাৰ ৰাজ্যতকৈ বেচি পৰিমাণ অংশ পায়, কিয় পায় ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance):

লোকসংখ্যাৰ পৰিমাণ অনুসাবে কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰে তথা Finance Commission এ সেই ট্যাক্স ৰাজ্য সমূহৰ মাজত ভগাই দিয়ে, এই হিচাবে দিলে আমাৰ অসমত কৈ ডাঙৰ ৰাজ্যই বেচি পোৱা স্বভাৱিক। অবশ্যে আনি কেৰাচিন আৰু পেট্ৰলৰ কাৰণে Taxৰ কোনো ভাগ নাপাও—সেইটো কিয় আনাক দিয়া নাই কব নোৱাৰো।

Shri DWIJESH CHANDRA DEV SARMAH (Digboi):

প্ৰশ্নোত্তৰৰ পৰা দেখা যায় যে, অসমে শতকৰা ৩৪৬ ভাগ পায়। মোৰ কথা হল অন্যান্য ৰাজ্যই কিয় বেচি পায়?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: মই ইতিমধ্যেই কৈছো যে এই ট্যাক্সবিলাক Population Basisত দিয়া হয়, সেই হিচাবে অসমৰ ভাগত শতকৰা ৩৪৬ ভাগ পৰে।

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): Whether Government propose to move the Central Government to allot more Excise Duty to Assam in respect of tea, petrol, etc., which are products of Assam in view of the fact that Assam is an under-developed State?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: As I have already said the matter was placed before the Finance Commission and the Finance Commission in its award has determined the basis on which the Excise Duty is to be distributed to all the States. I entirely agree with the anxiety of the hon. Member that the share of Excise Duty on petrol and petroleum products given to Assam is rather very small and we placed, therefore, this matter before the Finance Commission, but the Commission, however, did not take that matter into consideration. I may, however, inform the hon. Member that on the basis of 25 per cent of share we might get Rs.3 lakhs more as Excise duty collected from petrol and petroleum products. I myself met the Finance Commissioner and the Assam Government and the Assam's representatives also placed this matter before the Commission, but unfortunately the Commission had given no reason for allocation of the share at such a low rate and rejected our request. We shall pursue this matter when an opportunity arises.

Retirement of Shri Sashidhar Phukan from service as Mandal

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) asked:

31. Will the Minister, Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) The reasons of compulsory retirement of Shri Sashidhar Phukan by Government order on 12th August, 1954?

(b) Whether it is a fact that Shri Phukan worked as 'Mondal' Lot No.I, Morabazar Mouza, Nazira Circle, Sibsagar Subdivision and served more than 20 years ?

(c) Why he was arrested on 13th October, 1950 and later released on 13th January, 1951 unconditionally, after being detained for 3 months ?

(d) Whether a C. I. D. or Police report is enough for dismissal of an officer from service ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :

31. (a)—The Committee of advisers set up under Assam Civil Services (safeguarding of National security) Rules, 1949, having recommended that it would be against the security of the State to retain the Mandal in service, he was compulsorily retired.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—He was arrested under P. D. Act. He was under suspension with effect from 14th October, 1950, till compulsory retirement was ordered by Government.

(d)—No.

Shri DEVENDRANATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): Sir, may I know whether this Mandal is getting pension now?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: No, Sir.

Total Number of Vehicles and Employees of the State Transport Department

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) asked :

32. Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state—

(a) What is the total number of vehicles (category-wise) under the State Transport Department and what is the total value of those Vehicles ?

(b) How many new vehicles (category-wise) were purchased in 1957-58 and 1958-59 and what is their total value ?

- (c) How many workshops the Department possesses all over Assam and what places ?
- (d) What is the total amount spent for repair of State Transport Department vehicle outside the Government Workshops during each of the years 1957-58 and 1958-59 ?
- (e) What is the total amount of employees (category-wise) and how many of them have made permanent ?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Transport) replied :

32. (a)—Number of vehicles—545 excluding 18 more buses on order, but not yet received.

Service Car	...	...	...	...	21
Ambulance Van	...	...	...	...	1
Staff Car	...	...	...	...	1
Jeep (Staff) Car	...	...	...	...	4
Vanett	...	...	...	...	2
Station Wagon (2nd class)	...	...	...	...	8
Luggage Van	...	...	...	...	18
Trucks	...	...	...	...	151
Buses	...	...	...	...	339
Total					545
					Numbers.

Total value of these Vehicles—Rs.1,36,90,400.

(b)—Purchased in 1956-57 ... 165

Diesel Buses	131	Value Rs.55,94,000
Diesel Trucks	...	...	23
Car	...	...	4
Jeep	...	...	4
Station Wagon	...	...	3
Total				165

1957-58 110

Diesel Buses 79

Trucks 27 (15—7½ ton
and 12—5 ton)

Car 4 Value
Rs.40,80,000

Total ... 110

1958-59 10

Diesel trucks 10 Value
Rs.4,15,000

(c)—Twelve numbers—

Central Workshop at ... 1. Gauhati

Divisional Workshop at ... 2. Shillong

3. Tezpur

4. Dhubri

5. Jorhat

6. Silchar

Maintenance Workshops 7. Gauhati

8. Nowgong

9. Sibsagar

10. Dibrugarh

11. Mangaldai

12. N. Lakhimpur

(d)—Nil.

Non-Gazetted					Total	Permanent
Grade IV Staff	...	..	...	...	543	213
Traffic Labour	...	...	...	...	95	80
Labour Sardar	...	...	...	...	3	3
Head Chowkidars	...	...	...	...	2	2
Foreman Mechanics	...	...	...	...	12	6
1st Grade Mechanics	...	...	...	...	50	24
2nd Grade Mechanics	...	...	...	...	96	40
3rd Grade Mechanic (Senior)	...	...	...	...	176	100
3rd Grade Mechanic (Junior)	...	...	...	...	73	26
Driver (Senior)	...	...	...	...	167	106
Driver (Junior)	...	...	...	...	270	98
Line Checker	...	...	...	...	79	...
Conductor	...	...	...	...	283	94
Handyman	...	...	...	...	70	90
Car Examiner	...	...	...	..	7	2
Total					2,516	1,099
Grand total					2,545	1,108

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Sir, in reply to (c) the Minister states that out of 2,545 employees 1,108 have been made permanent, that is more than half of them are yet to be made permanent. Why is it so?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Transport): In this respect the decision of the Government is to make permanent those employees who have completed the service of 5 years. On that basis 1,108 employees were made permanent. In the meantime another group of employees numbering about 159 have also completed 5 years of service and accordingly these employees will also be made permanent.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): Sir, the Minister has given the figure about the value of the vehicles. May I know whether it is the purchase value or the present value *minus* the depreciation value?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: It is the purchase value.

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS [North Salmara (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]: May I know from the Minister whether there is any proposal for establishing a Divisional workshop or maintenance workshop at Chalakapara in the Goalpara Subdivision where a site was selected and a sign-board is now seen?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Transport): If there is any signboard that shows that there is a proposal.

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS: I want to know about it definitely.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: I will have to collect the information.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Sir why two workshops at Gauhati, viz., one Central Workshop and another maintenance workshop, are necessary?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: The reply is very clear. Central workshop is meant for doing major works and the maintenance workshop is for doing maintenance works only.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Does the Minister consider it necessary to have Divisional workshops at Dibrugarh and North Lakhimpur?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: The matter is under consideration. At this stage we have no proposals.

Laying out copies of the Amendment to the Assam Motor Vehicles Rules 1940, under Section 133(3) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1940.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: Sir, I beg to lay out copies of the Amendment of the Assam Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, under Section 138(3) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939.

Copies have already been placed on table of hon. Members.

Laying out copies of the suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls (Assam) Rules, 1959 under Section 23(4) of the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and girls Act, 1956.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance for the Chief Minister): Sir, I beg to lay out copies of the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls (Assam) Rules, 1959 under Section 23(4) of the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956.

In this connection I should like to inform the House that the Act was enacted by the Parliament in the year 1956 and Section 1 of this Act came into force on that very day and the remaining provisions of the Act were brought into force since 1958. Under the provisions of this Act the State Government are required to frame the necessary rules and accordingly Government of India sent us certain model rules on the basis of which these rules have been made which are now laid. According to these rules we are to establish certain protective homes in the State. I hope the purpose for which this Bill has been enacted and rules framed will be achieved in a very short time.

Extension of time for submission of the Report of the Select Committee on the Assam Agricultural Produce Markets Bill, 1958.

Shri CHATRASING TERON (Chairman): Sir, I beg to move for extension of time till the 15th May, 1959 for submission of the final Report of the Select Committee on the Assam Agricultural Produce Markets Bill, 1958, as recommended by the Select Committee.

The Minister-in-charge of the Assam Agricultural Produce Markets Bill, 1958 pointed out to the Select Committee at its last sitting on 30th September, 1959 that the provisions of the Assam Panchayat Bill had a definite bearing and relevance on the subject matter of this Bill. He also said unfit that Bill was finalised some of the decisions of the Committee might be infructuous.

Consideration of the Bill was, therefore, kept pending till the Panchayat Bill was finalised and the Chairman of the Select Committee was authorised to move in the next Session of the Assembly for extension of the last date for the submission of the report till 15th May, 1959. I, therefore, beg to move that the last date for submission of the final Report of the Select Committee on the Assam Agricultural Produce Markets Bill, 1958 be extended to 15th May, 1959.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved.

(*After a pause*): The question is that the motion for extension of time till the 15th May, 1959 for submission of the final Report of the Select Committee on the Assam Agricultural Produce Markets Bill, 1958, be approved.

(The motion was adopted).

**Extension of time for submission of the Report of the
Select Committee on the Assam Agricultural
Produce Markets Registration Bill, 1958**

Shri KAMALA PRASAD AGARWALA (Tezpur):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg, to move that extension of time till the 15th May, 1959, be granted for submission of the final Report of the Select Committee on the Assam Agricultural Produce Markets Registration Bill, 1958.

In moving this motion I would like to submit that the Minister-in-charge of the Assam Agricultural Produce Market Registration Bill, 1958, pointed out to the Select Committee at its last sitting on the 30th September, 1958 that the provisions of the Assam Panchayat Bill had a definite bearing and relevance on the subject matter of this Bill. He also said that until the Panchayat Bill was finalised some of the decisions regarding this Bill might be infructuous. The Chairman was authorised to move a motion in the next Session of the Assembly for extension of the last date for submission of the Final Report on the Assam Agricultural Produce Market Registration Bill, 1958 till 15th May, 1959. Hence this motion.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved.

(*After a pause*): The question is that extension of time till 15th May, 1959, be granted for submission of the Final Report of the Select Committee on the Assam Agricultural Produce Markets Registration Bill, 1958.

(The motion was adopted).

**Presentation of the report of the Select Committee on
the Assam Panchayat Bill, 1958**

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Hajo):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Assam Panchayat Bill, 1958. In presenting the report I beg to make one submission.

The Select Committee on the Assam Panchayat Bill was to submit its Report on the 21st October, 1958. But in view of the great importance of the Bill and the interest taken by the public in general and to discuss certain fundamental points with Shri Balwantrai Mehta, M. P. and Shri S. K. Dey, Union Minister for Community Development, the Committee adopted a resolution extending the date of submission of the Report till 31st January, 1959. But in spite of all efforts it was not, however, possible to submit the Report by the 31st January, 1959 and as such the Committee adopted another resolution on 10th February 1959, authorising the Chairman to take the approval of the House for extension of the date for submission of the Report till 28th February, 1959. I, therefore, beg to move that the last date for submission of the Report of the Select Committee on the Assam Panchayat Bill, 1958, be extended till 28th February, 1959.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved.

(*After a pause*): The question is that extension be granted for submission of the Report of the Select Committee on the Assam Panchayat Bill, 1958, till the 28th February, 1959.

(The motion was adopted).

The Assam Local Board Elections (Emergency Provisions) Bill, 1958

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Local Board Elections (Emergency Provisions) Bill, 1959, be taken into consideration.

Sir, in placing this motion before the House, I should like to add a few words. As the hon. Members are aware, under Section 18 of the Assam Local Self-Government Act, 1953, 'All elected and appointed members shall hold office for a term of four years commencing on the 1st April following the quadrennial election and ending on the 31st March. Elections shall be held every four years. According to this provision, the life of the Local Boards will terminate on 31st March 1959 and it is necessary to hold elections to constitute new Boards. There is no provision in the Act under which these elections can be postponed. Just now my Friend Shri Mahendra Mohon Chaudhury has placed before the House the Report of the Select Committee on the Assam Panchayat Bill, under which it is proposed to repeal the Local Self-Government Act and abolish the Local Boards. Therefore, it is not necessary that for a period of a few days or few months elections to the Local Boards should be held. Now, we are seeking to pass a legislation under which the life of the Local Boards may be extended for a short period so that necessary action, if the Panchayat Bill is passed, may be taken for abolishing the Local Boards in which case these elections will become infructuous. For that purpose this Bill has been placed before the House. I hope, in view of what has been said by me, it will be supported by the hon. Members.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved.

(After a pause): The question is that the Assam Local Board Elections (Emergency provisions) Bill, 1959, be taken into consideration.

(The motion was adopted).

THE ASSAM TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING BILL,
1959 AND THE ASSAM SLUM AREAS (IMPROVE-
MENT AND CLEARANCE) BILL, 1959

Mr. Chairman: We now come to item No. 8.

There is a message from the Governor to the following effect:—

“I recommend, under Article 207 (3) of the Constitution of India, that the Assam Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Bill, 1959, be taken into consideration by the Assam Legislative Assembly.”

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Planning and Development) : Sir, there are two Bills and I propose to refer them to the same Select Committee. They are essentially one with only one point of difference, viz., calculation of compensation. Therefore, I would hope one discussion would be enough for this purpose.

Sir, I move that the Assam Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Bill, 1959, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of.....

Mr. Chairman : Are you proposing to move both the Bills in one motion ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : No, Sir. The Select Committee may be the same and the discussion may be the same.

Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Bill, 1959, be referred to a Select Committee, consisting of the following Members:—

1. The Minister-in-charge,
2. The Minister, L.S.-G.
3. Dr. Ghanshyam Das,
4. Shri Siddhinath Sarma,
5. Shri Mohendra Mohan Choudhury,
6. Shri Kamala Prasad Agarwala,
7. Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika,
8. Dr. Ram Prasad Chaubey,
9. Shri Dandeswar Hazarika,
10. Shrimati Komol Kumari Barua,
11. Shri Bhuban Chandra Pradhani,
12. Maulavi Mahammad Idris,
13. Shri Hareswar Goswami,
14. Shri Nilmoney Barthakur,
15. Shri Hiralal Patwary,
16. Shri Tarun Sen Deka,
17. Shri Prabhat Narayan Choudhury.

The quorum will be of 6 members and the last date of submission of the report is 1st April, 1959.

Mr. Chairman: The Motion is moved : I think, the Assam Town and Country Planning Bill, 1959, can also be moved and this bill can be discussed with the Assam Slum Area (Improvement and Clearance) Bill, 1959.

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BILL, 1959 AND THE ASSAM SLUM
AREAS (IMPROVEMENT AND
CLEARANCE BILL, 1959

For this purpose, I read the Governor's message:—

“I recommend under Article 207 (3) of the Constitution of India that the Assam Town and Country Planning Bill, 1959, be taken into consideration by the Assam Legislative Assembly.”

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Planning and Development): Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Town and Country Planning Bill, 1959, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following Members:—

1. The Minister-in-charge,
2. Minister, L.S.-G.
3. Dr. Ghanshyam Das,
4. Shri Siddhinath Sarma,
5. Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury,
6. Shri Kamala Prasad Agarwala,
7. Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika,
8. Dr. Ram Prasad Chaubey,
9. Shri Dandeswar Hazarika,
10. Shrimati Komol Kumari Barua,
11. Shri Bhuban Chandra Pradhani,
12. Maulavi Mahammad Idris,
13. Shri Hareswar Goswami,
14. Shri Nilmoney Borthakur,
15. Shri Hiralal Patwary,
16. Shri Tarun Sen Deka,
17. Shri Prabhat Narayan Choudhury.

The quorum will be of 6 members and the last date for submission of the Report is 1st April, 1959.

The Chairman : The Motion is moved.

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Bill, 1959, be circulated for eliciting public opinion by the 31st July, 1959.

I also beg to move that the Assam Town and Country Planning Bill, 1959, be circulated for eliciting public opinion by the 31st July, 1959.

In moving the motions, I have to make a few observations regarding elicitation of public opinion for these Bills. In the statement of objects and reasons on both these Bills it is stated that after the war almost all the towns of the State become congested. There are heavy inflow of population both from outside and also from inside the State. The sanitary condition of the towns, the water supply, the habitations, all are very much congested and improperly made, for which human life in the towns have become insecure.

Sir, no doubt the anxiety of good planning of the towns in scientific manner is there. All the hon. Members of the House will agree with me that not only the other towns of Assam but the major towns, like Gauhati, Dibrugarh, Dhubri and the capital of Assam, Shillong, are very much congested now and it is also a fact that now-a-days it is very much difficult to live on in the present housing conditions of the towns in some areas.

But when we see some improvements of housing, sanitation and other requirements, we should look into the fact that the major population of the town be not severely and seriously affected. We have known that in most of the towns, poor classes of people who are generally the poor clerks, petty shop-keepers, peons, chowkidars and poor persons employed in different branches of the Government and also of the private farms and companies are also constituting a greater bulk of the population of the towns and their salary is so meagre that with that they cannot have good housing system or good sanitation, etc. So what do we see in most of the areas of the towns where poor persons of this nature live? They live in very small houses, and in a very unhygienic and insanitary condition. It is not that they like to live in such places but it is because that their

economic condition is such that they are compelled to live in such a state of affairs. We know that a Lower Division Assistant who draws from Rs. 75 to 105 or a little more, cannot have the facility of a good house by spending 40 or 50 rupees in a month because with this amount of money he is to look after his children, his mother and father and other family members. So also in the case of poor peons who draw only 60 or 70 rupees a month it is difficult to get good houses either on rental basis or by having good construction at his own cost. So most of the poor people are just living in small houses which are in many cases half broken and half damaged. Of course, the aims and objects of these Acts stated that it is to have improvement of housing system, for better sanitation, etc. But these Acts do not give any adequate protection to these persons when their houses are going to be demolished or re-developed as stated in the relevant sections of these Bills. There are slum areas no doubt, but regarding the definition of slum areas which should be clearly stated is not clearly stated in this Bill. There are some references of course which can be said as slum areas and we want that the slum areas should be improved. But at the time of improvement, there should be due protection to the poor persons who are generally living in these areas. A few years before, if a poor clerk or a petty peon somehow or other possesses a small plot of land in the outskirts of the town and just along with the advance of time if the town extends, his area also, fortunately or unfortunately is included in that town area and as he has no means for the improvement of his housing even though he is in the town area, his house or his area may be treated as a slum area and while developing the area as slum area, if his house is broken as provided by the relevant section of the Bill, then it will be very difficult for him to live in if other provision is not made for his residence during that period. Also regarding taking over and acquisition and requisition of land as has been stated here, if the acquisition and requisition proceedings be drawn as stated in this Bill, no doubt it will take a longer time but along with it, it will not give the proper compensation to the poor persons whose land is going to be acquired by these Acts. So there should be a clear provision that these persons who have only one or two houses and which are going to be demolished should be given such residential houses for that period, which period is required

for reconstruction or improvement of their houses and also there should be a provision that when a plot of land of a poor man is requisitioned or acquired, only giving some amount of money is not enough because as we know the scale of compensation as has been referred in this Bill is not or may not be according to the proper valuation of the land. And if some plot of land is acquired from a poor man and if the actual value of the land is more than the compensation he receives then it will be improper and unjust. So there should be a protection so that the person whose land is acquired can get another plot of land of an equal value. Sir, furthermore, I like to submit that here in the Town and Country Planning Bill it is stated that the Minister-in-charge of Town and Country Planning, the Director and the Secretary, Town and Country Planning Department, the Chief Engineer, P.W.D., the Public Health Engineer, the Secretary, Local Self-Government, 4 other non-official members nominated by the State Government, and such members and representatives of Local Boards, etc., will constitute the Board. Regarding the constitution of the Board, my impression is this; that if the Board be constituted according to clause 3 of this Bill then I think it will be a Board of some of the bureaucrats *plus* the non-bureaucrats whose number will be less. Of course, I do admit that for the execution of this development scheme, etc., engineers and other officials are necessary in the Board for advice and help. But to chalk out the fundamental principles of a particular plan or scheme the opinion of the local people and the persons who know the area is much more necessary. So I suggest one thing that along with these members—I do not object to these members remaining in the Board—there should be other members also from the public and if my suggestion is acceptable, I must say that at least 2 members from the recognised political parties of the State may be taken in so that they can speak out the voice of the people of the locality in question. Sir, the other day we heard criticisms from this side and also from the other side of the House that some of the high ranking officers have no work or that they work not in time and not properly and the reply to that was that they are heavily over-burdened and to relieve them some new posts were created. So it is evident that now-a-days work has been increasing in the different departments of Government. So if these officers are given more and more responsibilities to

shoulder they will be more over-burdened and on the plea of their being over-burdened in this way the functioning of this Board will be hampered. So to relieve them also there should be representatives from amongst the public in this Board.

Further, Sir, this Board being the supreme authority to implement the planning and to finalise the plans this Board has tremendous responsibility and I think Government also will not hesitate to give some share of these responsibilities to the responsible representatives of recognised political parties in the State and I think that will also be more democratic. Then, another thing that strikes me most, Sir, is that, 4 other non-official members will be nominated by the Government. In spite of having taken so many members from the Heads of the respective Departments, I do not think that there is any necessity to nominate other members by the Government so my contention is that these 4 members should not be allowed to be nominated by the Government. Sir, we have been in some cases, it is also my personal experience that these nominated members do not usually give due consideration to the work. I fear that in this case also such a thing might happen and if it happens so in future then the aim and object of this Bill will be frustrated. So in my opinion nomination of these 4 members should not be allowed in this Board.

One thing also strikes me most that the power of this Board is not only executive but also to some extent judicial because appeals and complaints will be finally decided by this Board. So I think the Chairman of this Board should be a man of the status of a High Court Judge who will not only look to matters from the legal point of view but also from the point of view of fairness and justice. If the Minister in charge be the Chairman of this Board he will also be over-burdened since he has already so many portfolios under him.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Planning and Development): Will the hon. Member please refer to clause 54 ?

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West): Yes, I shall speak about it also.

Now, Sir, I feel that if a High Court Judge be appointed to the post of Chairman of this Board it will be proper and at the same time it will lessen the burden of the Minister in charge.

Then again, in chapter IV there is much spoken of about the master plan. Of course, long before also we have heard about this master plan, we have read in the papers about it, that such a master plan would be embarked somewhere in Gauhati. So it would have been proper on the part of Government to give us a clear definition about this master plan.

Now going through from the first page to the last of this Bill I do not find anything about this plan. There is no definition or explanation as to what is this plan. So I suggest that there should be a clear definition about this master plan. Then again, another word "development-scheme" has been used along with it, but so far my impression goes, development scheme is quite a separate thing from a master plan. Now, what is a master plan and what is development scheme? There is neither clear differentiation nor explanation. So I feel that this part of the Bill is also not properly written. It will be very difficult to understand if we do not know what is what and without knowing this plan how can we implement it. So it should be clarified and also in clause 12 at page 6 the wording has been used such as 'land use' and others but no explanation has been given there so as to enable the people to understand it clearly. It seems as if some obscure wordings have been used deliberately.

Mr. Chairman : This can be clarified in the Select Committee?

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) : What I mean to say is that the Bill has been drafted badly. I would like to bring it to the notice of the House that these things are also there. Regarding the Betterment Levy, there is one provision about the Betterment Levy. But in the Betterment Levy there is no differentiation in the matter of payment between a well-to-do man and a poor man. It seems the Levy will be collected at the same rate from the rich and the poor alike. Sir, there may be poor people—like low-paid clerks, Rickshaw Pullers, IV Grade, etc., whose income is too meagre. Somehow they are pulling on. They should not be subjected to this Betterment Levy. I suggest that at the time of proposing the Betterment Levy proper consideration should be given to these poor classes of people, so that they are not harassed. What we find is that almost in all Municipalities,

although the taxes are collected from the poor people, generally the rich people are exempted. So, careful thought should be given to this fact so that the poor classes of people are not harassed. Another thing that strikes me is regarding the disposal of complaint petition against the public of some areas within some Plan as stated in the Bill. I feel that though there is a provision, still the poor persons will not be able to have a proper justice from their distant places to come to Shillong to have the decision in the Board. So I demand that the disposal of the complaint of a person should be made at the Board which should sit in the area concerned locally or the court may dispose of which has been proposed under clauses 43 and 44 as referred to in the Bill. It should sit locally so that the poor people may get real justice. The power in this respect has been given to the local authorities which generally means the Municipal Boards and according to me it is too high in some respects and too low in some places. So there should be one equilibrium so that this can have a proper balance. The power given to the Municipal Boards should be given properly and not improperly. Also I think when an area is declared either as slum area under the Slum Clearance Bill or under the Master Plan or Development Scheme, the notice which is issued generally should be as stated in the Bill, so that every household get a copy of the notice. Only giving the notice in some daily papers or in the Official Gazette will not do, because we know many things are in the Official Gazettes or in the Newspapers but the poor illiterate people do not have the opportunity to know these things. So adequate steps should be taken so that the public may get the notice and the details.

Sir, the Minister-in-charge has stated that the Bill may go to the Select Committee. I do not think, at this stage it should go to the Select Committee. It should be circulated for eliciting public opinion, as this Bill is very important. This will enable us to improve our hygienic and sanitary condition in the slum areas of our towns, and if we simply send it to the Select Committee we shall lose that opportunity of getting the views and opinions of the public and

Mr. Chairman : The Select Committee can also have the views from the public.

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West): The scope will be narrow, Sir. If it is circulated, the public opinion will come from all corners of the State. It will be more

democratic and after that when it will be sent to the Select Committee the Select Committee will have more data and in that case the Bill will be a good one. If it is passed, haphazardly by sending it to the Select Committee then the scope for wrong estimation of things may be there. Some provisions may remain as it is which is actually detrimental to the interest of the people. So I propose that this Bill be sent to the public for eliciting their opinion and I hope that the Minister-in-charge who claims to be representative of the people will be agreeable to circulate the same for eliciting the public opinion by the 31st of July, 1959.

Mr. Chairman: The motion moved is that the Assam Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Bill, 1959 and the Assam Town and Country Planning Bill, 1959 be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon by the 31st July, 1959.

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA (Gauhati):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I raise to support the amendment moved by my Friend, Shri Deka. I shall try to confine myself to the points as to why it should be circulated for eliciting public opinion instead of being left to the Select Committee for necessary improvement as might be considered necessary by the Committee. The Select Committee as proposed by the Minister-in-charge of the Bills says that, that will be a Committee composed of very able colleagues of ours of this House and it will, no doubt, be able to give very valuable suggestions and bring improvement to the Bills, and yet I have thought that at this stage this Bill should go for elicitation of public opinion.

(1) Because so far as the result of the Select Committee is concerned, it is confined itself to the main structure of the Bills. Whatever improvement it suggests is to be within the scope of the Bill as presented before the House. It cannot so materially change the provisions of the Bills which will necessarily change the very character thereto or any important part of the Bill. Now when I shall show by analysis, I am sure you will appreciate, that there are certain provisions in the Bill which will require not only drastic but basic changes. Not only that he has brought both the Bills together but also made them one consolidated

Bill and that will to a very great extent make its actual operation complicated. There is developing tendency in our country now-a-days for having too many legislative measures. Instead of having too many legislative measures if there would have been smaller measures and if these measures had been more comprehensive and more carefully gone through at the time of their passage, then we would have been saved of many an amendment which this House has to face almost in every session. I need not go to repeat to show how amendments are brought in almost in every session of this House. So that such difficulty may not arise in future it is necessary that there should be a thorough examination of the matter. We have seen that even the proposed legislation like the Panchayat Bill we had to take much longer a time than originally suggested by the Government side. We may in the same way or other take public opinion also but the public opinion was in very confined sphere. No doubt that opinion was guided and concentrated and collected, no doubt that opinion has improved the Bill to a very great extent as we shall see. But in spite of all these good things it may not be said that the public opinion which the Select Committee took on the Panchayat Bill had to confine itself to the sphere set by the original Bill itself. I want to submit that so far as these two Bills are concerned, they should not be so restricted in the matter of elicitation of public opinion or in the matter of other important measures. I should at the very outset express my thanks and gratitude to the Minister for bringing in these Bills before the House. I fully agree with him that a time has come when we must take bold and comprehensive measures for better planning of the urban areas and for clearing and improving the places which are known as sub-urban slums. Not only sub-urban slums, also in the matter of different towns we find some slums in some of the healthy areas. I quite appreciate the anxiety of the hon. Members for bringing in these measures. But in going to improve and beautify our urban areas, we cannot direct the people who will be directly and indirectly affected by our measures. When we bring in certain legislative proposals in these matters we must keep that always in mind. I find in both the Bills that slums are not getting proper prominence which it deserves. Now, as I have already submitted, so far as the Statements of Object

and Reasons are concerned, both the Bills virtually have the same object. Both the Bills open with the line, "Since the last year the pressure of the population in the urban areas have increased tremendously" and therefore it is stated that "In view of the increase in the population, in view of the congestion of the places," in view of also—it is not stated here—but perhaps universally low income that there is a tendency in our country towards the towns in spite of our exhortations, in spite of the slogan 'Back to the village', the tendency in our country is towards the towns and so not only due to the influx of the refugees but also due to the development of the idea of the urban life, there has been a rush, so to say, towards the towns and if a census be made of the last few years we shall see that this rush is increasing. Now, therefore, we cannot allow the slum areas of our towns to grow in a haphazard manner, to grow in a manner which will create unhealthy situation not only for the people who will be there but also for the neighbouring people. We have seen almost in every town, and in greater towns this phenomenon is all the more prominent, that there is an influx of population when there is pressure on the towns, the towns expand to the paddy fields, to natural water reservoir, to fallow lands, even to small hillocks, tiller, are refilled and the people squat there. Sometimes we also see that Government also encourage in this haphazard expansion of the towns, in the development of slum areas. But the best example is Gauhati, and perhaps, Shillong will be the very close competitor. We have seen, for example, at Gauhati that before the war also there was not much improvement of drainage system, but nature had provided some amount of drainage and some amount of storage also of the surplus water. There were some low-lying areas and some tanks and ponds and whenever there was any heavy rain the water from different parts of the town came to these reservoirs of low-lying areas and tanks and ponds and thereafter through different channels of water came to the Brahmaputra. The Government in its eagerness to rehabilitate some people not necessarily refugees, as no refugee was really rehabilitated in those places, and also in order to rehabilitate some of the Ministers themselves, thought it necessary to allot those low-lying areas, the natural water reservoirs for the surplus water of the town. What was happened afterwards? These areas have been filled up by earth carried from distance and so the natural drains like the Solabeel have been blocked and

the result is that as soon as there is heavy shower almost every part of the town more or less gets submerged. There are places with water which are very good breeding grounds for mosquitoes. When these things were brought before the House once the Minister-in-charge was pleased enough to say that those were not malaria mosquitoes but were anopheles. I do not know how the Minister could examine them to know whether they were anopheles or not. He said this perhaps because the incidence of malaria has been less than it was before in spite of the fact that there has been a greater number of mosquitoes than before. Be that as it may, the fact remains that these dirty places containing water or slum areas are the breeding places not only for mosquitoes or anopheles but also for other breeds. As soon as there is heavy shower of rain those dirty places become full of water and then the germs spread throughout the town and contaminate almost every house of the people and the result is that, though there has been some amount of control over malaria due to the mosquito control campaign of the Government, there has been incidence of dysentery, diarrhoea and many other diseases and such incidence is now on the increase. Also due to the harmful water and those rotten places the entire atmosphere of the town has become vitiated and the town has become almost unfit for human habitation and yet people have been coming forward to live there. One may say that the town is becoming more beautiful, more healthy or more attractive, otherwise why more and more people are coming there. That may be said. But here I hope it would not be impertinent if I bring an example. In Gauhati if you compare Uzanbazar with Fancybazar you will find that Fancybazar is more congested than Uzanbazar. Is it because Fancybazar is more beautiful, more healthy or more attractive? Not because of that but because Fancybazar happens to be a business area where people come for business purposes for making money and spending money. So it is a fact that when more people are coming to the town that does not necessarily mean that the town has become a better place for human habitation. Now the point is that if we all agree that, whether we like it or not whether more and more people should come to the town, when this town is the nerve centre of our national life whether or not there should be some legislative provision for a planned development of the town and also for clearing the slum areas of this town, my answer will be in the affirmative. I do agree that there must be a

planned development of the town and there must be steps for clearance of the town. But that must be done in a planned manner. Some body having seen the dirty places of the town may say in his anger, "I cannot stand the society of such a slum and dirty place." It is very easy to express such sentiments. One may also say that instead of allowing people to live like animals in such congested areas let all these old huts be demolished. That is also a good sentiment. But to solve the problem can we very easily demolish those huts? But to do that will you give those people the shelter which every citizen of this very country deserves? Have you got any provision for either of these? We have seen, for example, that during the Congress Session at Pragjyotishpur there was frantic effort on the part of the Government and also the Municipal authority of Gauhati to beautify the town. Those open air places used for various purposes by the unlooked-after people of the town, I mean the 'Balu-char' of the Brahmaputra, where the people not only used to ease themselves but also to live, were cleaned after driving away those people. The new field which was originally meant as play ground for the students and which once developed into a permanent abode of those Bedawins, has also been cleared. Even the small encroachments on the roadside were also cleared. But if you go to Gauhati to-day, what will you find? "পুনঃ মুখিক ভব" Old things have again come back because of one thing I should say that very bluntly. Let me not be misunderstood; I am not encouraging lawlessness; I am not encouraging squatting but one thing I should like to say very frankly and bluntly and it is this: there is no greater law than the struggle for existence. Unless and until a man is sure of the provision for his existence he will fight against whatever may come in his way. We have seen during the Bengal Famine of 1940 to what extent this human necessity goes. There is no greater love in this world than the love of a mother for her baby. Yet we have seen how during the Bengal Famine for a morsel of food mothers sold away or deserted their babies. We have seen even now how having lost their dwelling place, their hearth and home in East Pakistan, many people otherwise highly cultured, have become a problem to our social life almost in every town and sub-urban areas of the town and how these things are vitiating our very social life. So, this point must be considered. You may bring 101 legislations, you may keep a Police force 10 times bigger than what we have to-day, you may give

extraordinary powers to these Boards and Committees and you may temporarily drive out the people from the so-called slums or slum areas, but unless and until you can accommodate them, you can rehabilitate them, you can provide them with a shelter, they will come back again and with double velocity because that is the law of existence. So, the most important thing that is missing in both these Bills is the provision for these things and I don't think the Select Committee can make such drastic changes in the Bill as to bring in those very vital provisions without which this Bill will be oppressive rather than helpful to the people. You can demolish houses very easily, but is it equally easy to build one? You can burn a house to ashes, but you have not the power to build again a mansion out of the ashes. So, while you demolish the houses, while you clear the people from those areas, you must also at the same time make provision for accommodating these people. But neither the Town and Country Planning Bill, nor the Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Bill make any provision for that.

Then, there are certain other things. Let me take the Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Bill first. In clause 3 there is a proposal for constitution of the Slum Board. Now, I do not mind the Minister-in-charge or the Director or so many Secretaries being in the Board, provided they have got the time and leisure to serve in this Board. This is a very big and acute problem and simply attending certain committees for a little while will not do. They will have to give their serious consideration and considerable time to this matter. But we know that our Ministers and our Secretaries are fairly busy people. They have not got sufficient time to spare for other duties. Already they are overburdened. Supposing even, as the Finance Minister assured us yesterday, that 10 per cent of the tours of the Ministers would be curtailed, and supposing that they would be giving a little more attention to these things instead of cutting ribbons in some girls hostels, yet can we expect that they will have sufficient time to examine all the pros and cons of the matter? Then, I find that there is a provision for the Public Health Engineer or his nominee being one of the members of the Board. But is it sufficient? Is the Medical and Public Health side properly represented only by this officer? He has got many other things also to do. Why can't we take the help of some non-official organisations, who are taking interest in the

matter and who are also experts, and give them an opportunity to serve in the Committee? For example, I may mention the Assam Branch of the Indian Medical Association, who can very well be associated with our labours. I think my Friend, Shri Deha, did not properly explain himself when he said that there should be representation of the political parties. So far as this Board is concerned, it is not very material whether a gentleman or a lady or a particular party is there or not. There is some unnecessary tendency for all these committees being represented by political ladies and gentlemen. But here is a matter which requires consideration from the planning point of view and from the public health and sanitation point of view. So, I think that so far as the Slum Areas Clearance Bill at least is concerned, the predominance in the Committee ought to be of the Medical and Public Health side. I feel that the very composition of the Board shows that the very purpose for which this Bill is sought to be passed is underplayed in the actual provisions of this Bill. We have also seen, so far as this Board is concerned, they have been given certain powers and functions, which also are not quite in consonance with the avowed objects and reasons of the Bill. For example, let me point out Clause 9 in Chapter III of the Bill, where it is stated,—

“The Board shall have the following powers and functions:—

- (1) To recommend to the State Government to declare an area to be “Slum area” or a “Slum clearance area”,
- (2) To ask the authority to prepare a scheme in respect of a slum area or a slum clearance area and to submit it to the Board.
- (3) To approve, reject or modify the scheme submitted under sub-section (2) and to forward the approved scheme to the State Government for sanction.
- (4) To exercise such other powers and such functions as may be assigned to it under the provisions of this Act and the rules made thereunder.”

Now, from this we find that so far as functions of the Board are concerned more or less they are those of one Trinity. According to Hindu Mythology, God has three forms, namely, Brahma, Bishnu and Maheswar or Rudra. It is Maheswar who demolished and destroyed but as Brahma He created and as Bishnu He also protected. Now, so far as this is concerned I give all responsibilities to this Rudra Sanghara Murti, who may be Tripathy. Herein, in this Bill he does not manifest all

the three aspects of creation. While you demolish or remove the evil you must also build or create the good and you must also protect the good and then only you prove worthy of the task to which you have assigned yourself.

Now, so far as the power and functions are concerned, I know that there is not even this advisory power of the Board to suggest rehabilitation of the people who will be affected as a result of this sweeping by the big groom and there is also no provision in this clause for rebuilding for the purpose of their habitation. We have seen many things within the last few years, by this or that provision, many slums have been created. For example, in Paltan Bazar some slums have been cleared. How? There were certain Government lands, some poor people carrying earth or garbaze filled up the land and built huts and gradually the number of people there multiplied. This became a colony of some people, which came to be known as Paltan Bazar Labour Colony. At the time when the allotment scheme of the Government was in full force, these people were forcibly removed from that place and their houses were demolished. These people were not there for a few years but many many years, but these very lands were not made Sarkari, these were allotted to people who would perhaps purchase lands with their money elsewhere. Instead of allotting these lands to other people, if these lands were allotted to those poor people residing there for many years with a condition that they were to rebuild their houses in a better way, that would have been understandable. Now, I must confess, I have not gone through the Bill so very minutely as minutely as the importance of the Bill deserves, yet, even with the cursory reading that I have given of the Bill, I do not find that provision, the provision of rehabilitation. The slum clearance will be meaningless. It will be worse than useless, if the people affected are not saved. What should be our outlook? Whether we should improve slum areas primarily or whether we should improve the lot of the people in slum areas? What is the majority composition of the people even in town areas? What will be the percentage of the people who can build big houses, who can build planned buildings, unless and until, Government come to their help?

There are Trusts in many towns and cities of India. For example, in Calcutta there is the Calcutta Improvement Trust. Though this is not a Government organisation they take the task of allocation of land in some underdeveloped areas and there they help people not only with land but with finance

and materials to build houses according to specification and according to modern hygiene and sanitation and if Government also with its own initiative take such measures, where the primary purpose would be not clearance but also construction. I do not want the Government to be Jharudars to sweep people off from their habitations, but I want Government to help these poor people, who are suffering from poverty to help in building their houses. Otherwise, I am afraid, majority of the people living in town areas have not funds enough to build houses according to the modern standard, sanitation, hygiene and specification of the Government. If that be the position and if there is no provision side by side that the clearance provision does not give them the necessities what will be the consequence? What will be the result? The result will be that these people will be driven away from those places. Where they will go? Either they will extend the slum areas or they will create enclaves, because we human beings are primarily the creator of circumstances and contributor of circumstances. I sincerely think that my Friend, Shri Tripathy, is honest in his efforts he has made in bringing this Bill. He wants to play the roles of creator of circumstances and a contributor of circumstances. But we know in spite of my respect for him, in spite of his being a good student of philosophy but he has forgotten this very important thing. That important thing is that man is primarily a creator of circumstances and unless and until these circumstances are fully appreciated, and unless and until measures are taken in hand for the qualitative change of these circumstances, these measures will have at least no good effect at all. As I said, what will happen to these people? Let us take, as an example, Ulubari in my own area. Let us take that as a slum area and houses are not according to the standard. Now we clear them according to the provision of this Bill. They will then come to Biribari—a place where the other day there was a cattle show and along with that cattle show there were songs and dances for public appreciation. So to this place they will go and there they will create a still more unhygienic and insanitary slums. Not only that, Sir. They will, as I said, also create enclaves. Probably there is a very good measure taken by Government in this regard. That measure is about those unfortunate women that had certain lines near about the Railway lines and one day it struck the conscience of the Government and thought that that was very bad and it should be demolished and the persons driven away. Now enclaves have been created nearabout the

Paradise Boarding and some Satras, etc., and these places are now surrounded by enclaves where you will find certain scene which I better not describe on the floor of this House. So the problem has not been solved excepting that instead of having only one enclave, the enclave has been dispersed. something will happen if there are a few slum areas, then the slum areas will be scattered and will be just like the sky with so many stars. The whole town will be a sky with so many slum stars. The other day I have read and probably the Minister has gone through, about the lot of the Calcutta city and in the State-ment there appeared an Article that in the city of Calcutta thousands of unauthorised houses have been built and these have become a headache for the Corporation Authorities there, for the Improvement Trust and also for the Government as to how to tackle with the spread of unauthorised and unhygienic houses in Calcutta. Calcutta may be a big city having houses in thousands and the houses in Gauhati, Tezpur, Dibrugarh, etc., might be less in number. But at any rate I submit that there may be hundred of such cases and the penal provision in this Bill will bring in difficulties for those people because they will be dragged to the Court and they might also have Appeal Authorities. My Friend, Shri Tripathy, said there is also a pro- vision for a Sessions Judge and that the party may not appear themselves but may be represented by authorised agents. All these provisions are there. But whether it is an Appeal Autho- rity, whether it is a representation by agents, whatever it may be, there will be an increase in the number of litigations. That might give some amount of money to a few people in the city but hundreds of people will suffer due to that. That conse- quence also is to be considered very carefully in this matter. Now it might be suggested to me that while you are looking only to Clause 9 or Clause 10 which gives the power to declare slum areas, you should also look to the provision of Clause 18. That might be suggested to me. Yes I find that. But one thing I should like to suggest and draw the Minister's attention. Here in Clause 10, it is stated that, "Where the State Govern- ment upon report from the Board or other information in its possession, is satisfied in respect of any area that the buildings in that area, etc." Now why this 'other information'? If there be a Board and if that Board is duly manned by adequate representation of local and public side and also other engineers, etc., why that should not be suffice? And if anything is to be done why should not that be done through the Board? That is to say, even a step may be taken only when it comes to the

Board instead of extra power being left to the Government on the information in its possession. Moreover, we find that when we go to sub-clause (1) we find that declaration of slum areas may be by reason of dilapidation, over-crowding, faulty arrangement and faulty design of these buildings. We all know that so far as common people are concerned, they do not use architects or engineers in making designs of their houses and poor as they are, sometimes they have to be clumped together and have to be living in overcrowded houses also. If I am poor and if I cannot build a spacious house and a spacious compound in a Katha of land and I am to accommodate a big family, then the club of the law will fall on my head. One thing I like to stress on this point and that is that the question of overcrowding and improper design is a matter of opinion and a matter of convenience. For example, even Government while allotting land (I am sorry the Revenue Minister is not present and perhaps my point might go overboard). At any rate, let us take Gauhati. At the time of allotment of land the allotment was made ranging from 1 bigha upto 10 Lachas. In certain places Government even allotted 10 to 12 Lachas to certain individuals for building houses and living there. Government also have given 5 Kathas in some cases. If they find that 5 Kathas is too big and 10 Lachas too small so that compound may be a compound of one Katha or two Kathas, then what will happen to the man who was allotted less than one Katha? He will fall within the mischief of overcrowding, he will fall also within the mischief of wrong design. And so we find that even in certain matters which Government does the people have to suffer.

Adjournment

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

After lunch

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA (Gauhati):**
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was submitting that clause 10 of the Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Bill, 1959 provides

so many omnibus provisions that the Select Committee will find itself in front of two horns of a dilemma because if they reconstruct the omnibus provision then the very character of the Bill will be changed and if they retain these provisions then the Bill will be oppressive, because as I suggested here in this clause there has been two sides, one with regard to the area and the other with regard to the buildings and particularly in clause 10 (1) (b) overcrowding, dilapidation, faulty designs of buildings, narrowness or faulty arrangements of streets, etc., all these have been made reasonable for an area to be declared a slum area. Now, up till now so long as this Bill is not passed, the people have no warning whatsoever, there are many rules particularly of the Municipality or any other statute either of the Central or State Government whereby narrowness of the road and so many other things are made reasonable for non-occupation of a particular area. The area should be impassable, the place should be unfit for habitation—so when this Bill comes into force those people who are in the area they will suffer for no fault of theirs. There is no provision for adequate compensation to those people. Now, in the Constitution we have got a principle whereby a man's property is to be respected, but at the same time we have in that Constitution also certain reasonable restrictions in the greater interest of the nation, these may be considered reasonable restrictions. If the Select Committee go to agree with this then the community will suffer a great deal. Without elaborating these points under clause 10, I may rush to clause 18. Here after an area has been declared as a slum area, the provision has been made for the clearance of the slum and redevelopment of the area but in this case also we find that there is no provision that the development will be for those people who will be affected. That provision, we do not find. We find that it will be sub-section (7) of Section 17 whereby the slum clearance will be put into effect, but when slum clearance will be put into effect—when Slum Clearance Bill has become operative, no land to which the orders apply will re-develop except in accordance with the scheme approved by the State Government, except in accordance with the condition contained in the scheme. Now, suppose there is an area belonging to me and that area has been declared a slum area, after that declaration I shall have no right to develop or improve that area except in accordance with the plan, except also subject to the restrictions which are imposed by the authorities. Now the point is that if this Act is to come, if certain plan is to be

followed, design to be followed, they should actually find a place in a separate Act under the Slum-Clearance Act, under the Town and Country Planning Act. So this also leads to strengthen my first contention. These pieces of Bills instead of coming in two pieces, should come in a consolidated way. If we take the Slum Areas Bill independently then it becomes incomplete. Its provision may also become oppressive. So instead of making two Bills, if we want to plan our towns why it is necessary to have two Bills, instead of putting them together and bringing in a more comprehensive legislation. That is point about which I still to be convinced. If we go through the Objects and Reasons of the Bill we find it is stated that due to the influx of refugees, etc., it has become necessary to enact a Separate Act. This is one of the factors for the development of slum areas. Again in the Town and Country Planning Bill, there are almost the same Objects and Reasons. So why these two separate Bills? I do not find why it is necessary to have two Bills? Suppose for the sake of argument, we have decided to pass the Slum Areas Clearance Bill and suppose at the same time the Town and Country Planning Bill is not considered appropriate just at this time, then this Bill will be quite infructuous. So, from the point of view of practicability also there is no reason why these two Bills should be put apart and the very fact that the Minister-in-charge has considered it necessary to refer both the Bills to the same Select Committee, perhaps as a result of second thought at the eleventh hour, perhaps the Government is feeling that these Bills are inter-related and dependent on each other. So I feel that after the Select Committee consider it advisable to bring the two Bills together, it will be better. Now, if this is open for public opinion and criticism, if the hon. Members of the House take a lead in time to examine the Bills with a constructive outlook, it will be possible to make changes, if necessary even drastic changes. Now we have seen in sub-clause (1) of clause 18 it is stated that when the land has been cleared of in accordance with a slum clearance order, the Authority may, at any time after the expiry of twelve months from the date on which the order becomes operative, acquire and re-develop any land which on the date of making of the order has not been, or is not in the process of being re-developed by the owner thereof in accordance with the scheme approved by the State Government and any restrictions and conditions imposed under sub-section (7) of Section 17.

Now, those belonging to the poorer section of the society for them it may not be possible to develop an area according to the plan and specification. Of course for those who are rich it may not be a problem to them, but for those who have not got sufficient money at their disposal it will not be possible. If the improvement is not done in that line within one year, then he ceases to have any right over the land and the authority may take it over for re-developing it in terms of the order. Now there is no provision in the Bill that after development this land will be re-allotted to the man from whom it was taken. So this will be a great hardship for the people.

Then in sub-clause (2) of clause 18 it will be found that it imposes still more difficulty. Here "the Authority may also decide to acquire land within adjoining or surrounding clearance area which in its opinion is necessary for the purpose of improvement and re-development of a clearance area". Here not only that which is considered to be clearance area of a slum area but also the adjoining or surrounding area may be taken by the authority for development. That is too wide a power because here it is said "which, in its opinion is necessary". So no criterion is placed in this Bill. Sir, this is a very important right which should not be left by the Legislature for the opinion of such authority.

Then we come to clause 22, leaving aside the intervening clauses. Here we find that even proper compensation also is not guaranteed in this Bill. There is no doubt that under clause 21 there is right to receive compensation, but this right is almost like the right of a beggar to receive alms because "the amount payable as compensation in respect of any land acquired under this Act shall be an amount equal to sixty times the net average monthly income actually derived from such land during the period of five consecutive years immediately preceding the date of publication of the notice referred to in section 16". But ordinarily what is considered to be the proper valuation? When certain lands are to be acquired under the Ceiling Act then 20 times the annual rent is paid. Now here in this case only five times the annual income will be paid. When it is sixty times the average monthly income it comes to five times the annual income. So a poor man who has got a plot of land will get only five times of that annual rent as compensation. "The net average monthly income referred to in sub-section (1) shall be calculated on the following basis:—

- (i) The Authority shall first determine the gross rent actually

derived by the owner of the land acquired including any building on such land during the period of five consecutive years referred to sub-section (1) of Section 22.

(ii) For such determination the authority may hold any local inquiry and obtain, if necessary, certified copies of extracts from the property tax assessment books of Municipal or other local authority concerned showing the rental value of such land." But the point is that a small and dilapidated house situated on a small plot of land in a slum area may not fetch a monthly income of more than Rs.50. For instance, there is a Katha of land in an undeveloped area and there is a small house on it which is not up to the standard of our Master Planners who have taken Rs.2,000 monthly for five years, that will fetch only Rs.50 a month. If it is without any house and if it is given on lease the lessor will get only Rs.50 per year for that Katha of land. That may be said to be a quite fair rent for this land, but now if this land is taken over, the owner gets five times of that Rs.50, *i. e.*, Rs.250 only. But, Sir, is there any land in Gauhati or its suburb now which is available at less than Rs.2,500 per Katha? So far as the poorer sections of people are concerned they would get only Rs.250 per Bigha but if it is given to a richer man he may get up to Rs.5,000 or more from that land. This is "robbing Peter to pay Paul". This I say is a monstrous provision in this Bill. If the Select Committee is going to change it they will have to change the very character of the Bill, but according to the terms of the Bill they cannot do it. If this is changed, then the very character of the Bill will be changed which they cannot possibly do.

Next I come to the Town and Country Planning Bill. The provisions of that Bill are still worse so far as the poor section is concerned.

In sub-clause (iii) of clause 22 (2) of the Slum Areas Bill it has been said like this: "The net average monthly income referred to in sub-section (1) of Section 22 shall be sixty per cent of the average monthly gross rent which shall be one-sixtieth of the gross rent during the five consecutive years as determined by the authority under paragraph (i)". Again in sub-clause (iv) it is shown like this: "Forty per cent of the gross monthly rental referred to above shall not be taken into consideration in determining the net average monthly income but shall be deducted in lieu of the expenditure which the owner of the land would normally incur for payment of any property tax to the Municipal or other local authority, for collection charges, income-tax or bad debts as

well as for works of repair and maintenance of the buildings." So even from that gross calculation forty per cent has been deducted on account of these things.

Again in next sub-clause (v) it is said: "Where the land or any portion thereof has been unoccupied or the owner has not been in receipt of any rent for the occupation of the land during the whole or any part of the said period of five years, the gross rent shall be taken to be the income which the owner would, in fact, have derived if the land had been leased out for rent during the said period, and for this purpose the rent actually derived from the land during a period prior or subsequent to the period during which it remained vacant or from similar land in the vicinity shall be taken into account. Now, we know, in the Assam Non-Agricultural Urban Areas Tenancy Act also when it has been left undecided as to what should the permanent structure, it has created a lot of difficulty in the Law Courts and from the experience gained therefrom, this House had to amend that provision in the Act. We now again see that in spite of our sad experience due to the non-existence of a clear definition about the permanent structure, in this Bill also the very same thing has been left undefined and it has been left to be calculated according to the standard of similar land in the vicinity. This only keeps the road clear for endless litigations and poorer the man is the less opportunity he gets in the law court because though theoretically before the eye of law all are equal, yet we know in practice that the law courts are accessible to those only who can pay. So, we find here that wide scope has been left here for unnecessary litigations, expenses for which poor men shall not be able to meet. Leaving aside similar other clauses, if we go to Sub-Clause (6), we find, "Where there is any building on the land in respect of which the net average monthly income has been determined no separate compensation shall be paid in respect of such building". Of course, there are two provisos, and one proviso says, "Provided further that the compensation in respect of the building shall not in any case exceed fifty per cent of the total amount of compensation which has been determined in accordance with the provisions of this section". So even after a year or so if there be a sudden spurt on the value of the land, by the 2nd proviso of the Sub-clause (6), that has been brought down to 50 per cent. So, here we find that in the name of clarity we are going to ignore certain not slight but basical change. So what purpose this Bill seeks to serve as it is?

The effect of this will be that none but the rich will be able to live in the towns. This is not the only one aspect of the Bill which can be practically and basically changed by the Select Committee if it does not propose to attack the very root of the Bill.

Then we find, in the matter of apportionment of compensation, in Clause 23 at the end of it, even though there is the provision for an Appellate Authority, there is no provision for second appeal. So the Appellate Authority has been enjoined to follow the Land Acquisition Act, 1894. We know very well, Sir, that this Act does not provide for just compensation for people in these areas, and we know how lengthy the procedure is under this Land Acquisition Act. I think the Minister-in-charge of this Bill, and he also, perhaps, being the Minister-in-charge of the Industrial Estate, knows quite well that although the land for the Industrial Estate had been cleared since several years, these people have not been given compensation till now. So these poor people, because they are poor, because they could not improve the land, they were cleared out of the land, but their compensation has not yet been paid. Similar will be the case in respect of other lands and these poor people will have to wait for years for a poultry amount which the Appellate Authority will be ultimately pleased to sanction. In some rare cases it may not be so late, as for instance, the Hon'ble Minister said that Government had cleared the plot of land near the Railway over-bridge at Takaubari, Gauhati, very expeditiously. He stated, "Well, we paid them thousands of rupees without caring to see the land," although the land-owner is one, the land was actually in possession of somebody else and for this there was a long-drawn acquisition proceedings which had to be ultimately dropped. But the money which Government paid overnight, we have not got that money. Any way, these are exceptions and these exceptions only help some 'Upri Powna' to some 'Upriwalla' people. But the really poor people are not helped by such exceptions.

I then come to the next Chapter, Chapter VIII of this Bill. Here, as I have already said, there is provision for one appeal and for that too, the opportunity given is very limited. Now, taking into consideration all these, as I have already submitted to you, that so far as this Slum Areas Bill is concerned, this compensation is very small. So far as the other Bill is concerned, I mean the Assam Town and Country Planning Bill, 1959, it is still worse. Now here we find, for example, in Chapter IV, a Master Plan has been referred to

We know that, perhaps, as early as 1952 a Master Planner was appointed with his headquarters at Gauhati. Now, will the Minister be pleased to enlighten us as to what Master Plan we have got from him except a few picture in the Assam Tribune, and what is the amount that is being paid to this Master Planner every month?

***Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Town and Country Planning):** These things are irrelevant, Sir.

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** The relevancy is here, Sir, that by the time, “
” by the time that the Master Planner as visualised under Chapter IV is concerned the time limit of this master-plan.

***Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI :** If he has any objection to the retention of the Town Planner then he would get sufficient time to speak about it during the budget discussion.

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** I have nothing of the sort. I have no objection to the Minister keeping the Town Planner. Let him also keep a town planner for his own bungalow ; I have no objection.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bhattacharyya has referred to the retention of the Town Planner in order to explain certain points. I hope a reference can be made, but repetition of the same thing is not permissible.

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** I shall not repeat. Only I beg to submit that here under Chapter IV of this Bill—I mean the Assam Town and Country Planning Bill—under clause 10 there is a provision for preparation of a Master Plan and in clause 11 there is a provision for publication of the Master-Plan and that the preparation of this Master-Plan will take a long time and then the publication and taking the people's opinion and objection, etc., after publication in the official gazette will also take still further time. In the meantime those people who are holding land in the town areas or in the suburban areas or those who are coming to live there, will not wait. When there is such a rush in building houses that inspite of the failure of the Government to supply controlled commodities like iron rods, C. I. sheets, people have to purchase those commodities at very high prices in the black market. Let the Minister go there and have a round in the suburban areas of Gauhati to find out what I am submitting

is at all exaggeration or not. There has been a lot of constructional work going on. By the time those plans are prepared and published the construction work will go on still further and that will defeat the very purpose if we do not make some simple measures. So, I want to make one suggestion. The Minister may not agree to my suggestion. My suggestion is that let there be a comprehensive legislation and in the meantime let there be a measure like an Ordinance so that there may not be any construction of houses in the suburban areas or in the town areas. Let there be provision that when any area is going to be developed either as residential area or business area or as official area there must be provided some roads, some drainage facilities, etc., and that there must be no construction or filling up of land by damaging the drainage system that is already there. There may be such provision so that there cannot be any construction of houses within 6 feet of the road. In this way there may be certain restrictions which may go ultimately to help the future planning, a more comprehensive planning. I say all this because though the Minister has suggested that the Select Committee should finish its work within the 1st of April, I am afraid it will not be possible, because the members who have been proposed for the Select Committee will be busy in the budget discussion and in other legislative measure. Also they will not, I am sure, pass the Bill without carefully going through it, I am of course subject to correction. There may be a proposal coming before the House that the time for submission of the report may be extended, as the Select Committee will not perhaps be able to finish its work by the 1st of April. After that this House will not be able to pass the Bill within this session though I wish it is possible. So, Sir, if you cannot pass the Bill in this session then should we wait till the next session? So, instead of waiting till the next session my suggestion is let the Government think of bringing some appropriate measure to do something immediately.

With regard to clause 14 certain provisions have been made which I think should be considered carefully. It runs as: "The Plan as adopted by the Board shall be published as prescribed in sub-section (1) of section 11, and after such publication no person shall use any land, sub-divide any land or set up any new structure on any land covered by the Plan or change the existing structure of any building or use of any building or land within the area except with the permission of the authority on a written application submitted for that purpose". Why there

has been imposed such restrictions on the use of property. There is no promise in the Section that within such and such time the authority will give their permission. Nor is there any provision that within such a time if there is no permission forthcoming then it should be taken that the permission has been given, according to the provision in the Municipal Act. If not such provision is inserted then the effect will be that the entire thing will be frustrated. So, I think that this provision which is one sided as I have submitted is going to put certain restrictions on the liberty of the people in the enjoyment of their property. We must be very careful to see that the restriction is reasonable. If we do not do our part of the business, that is to say, if we do not discharge our responsibility, we have got no right to place a burden on others in the enjoyment of their property. Here, this provision falls within the mischief of that Article of the Constitution of India. I beg to submit that this restriction is not a reasonable restriction as it does not envisage performance or discharge of duties.

***Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Planning and Development) :** On a point of order, Sir, I am obliged to intervene again. The point is being argued at such length now as if we are passing through the last stage of the Bill. The reason why the point is being discussed is not with a view to establishing whether this provision is right or wrong but with a view to justify circulation to the public. And for this purpose, I submit it is not fully essential to go into so much details. It is quite enough if the hon. member says that here is a provision, which is very drastic, but if it is changed by the Select Committee the very character of the Bill is changed, which they cannot do. And if it is not changed we cannot support this Bill and that is why the Bill should go to the public instead of to the Select Committee. But detailed discussions of the provisions of the Bill seems to be beyond our scope at this stage.

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA (Gauhati) :** I am sorry, Sir, if I have not been quite clear to the Hon'ble Minister. I was trying to be as clear as possible. Of course, I admit my power of expression is quite limited. The point is this: as per this clause certain restriction is going to be imposed on the community or a part thereof without the dis-

charge of concomitant responsibility on the part of that authority and that falls within the mischief of the Constitution of India. If anything is added to this, as in the Municipal Act, that permission will be taken for granted if no communication is received within 45 days or so, then the very purpose of the Bill will be defeated. So, the Select Committee becomes helpless. The Select Committee cannot defeat the very purpose of the Bill and by adding that provision the very purpose of the Bill is defeated. But if it does not do that the Bill falls within the mischief of the Constitution of India. That is what I was submitting. I was not elaborating every one of the clauses. That is why I say it will not do if the Bill goes to the Select Committee because the very structure and basic principle of the Bill shall have to be changed on this point. I hope I am now clear to the Minister. Of course, whether he accepts my reasoning or not is a different matter.

***Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Planning and Development):** The hon. Member's arguments are all right. I am only saying that they are out of place at this stage.

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** I know, Sir, the time is limited and we have got many other items of business to-day. I do not want to drag things on unnecessarily. Let me come to another very glaring thing. For example, take clause 35.

Mr. CHAIRMAN : Although the Speaker has got no right to fix any time limit to discussion of any Bill, yet I feel that Mr. Bhattacharyya has sufficiently dealt with the points in support of the motion for circulation of the Bill for eliciting public opinion. At the same time, the Honble' Minister has raised one point that at this stage no Member can deal in detail with the clauses. But what are details and what are not, it is very difficult to say at this stage. The hon. Member Mr. Bhattacharyya is trying to elaborate his own point by touching certain provisions of the Bill. Yet, I bring to the notice of the hon. Member that as he has taken a sufficiently long time and as he has dealt with most of the provisions of the Bill, which are important in support of his contention, I hope he will try to shorten his speech.

***GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** I am very grateful to you, Sir. As a matter of fact, out of 54 clauses in the Slum Areas Clearance Bill I have by way of illustration touched only 6 clauses. And I think the Hon'ble Minister will excuse me if I say I have done it with the utmost care, so that not a single minute of the valuable time of this House is wasted. Though I could have illustrated from all the 54 clauses, I have illustrated only from 6. Now, in the other Bill we have got as many as 72 clauses. I have touched up till now only one clause as illustration. If the Hon'ble Minister becomes impatient now I do not know what it would be if I touched all the 72 clauses or even 50 per cent of them. Any way, I can assure him that I am not going to touch even 10 per cent of the clauses. I shall only touch the glaring ones as illustration. After all, what is my point? I am trying to show how it will be better if the Bill goes for eliciting public opinion instead of to the Select Committee, why the Select Committee cannot rectify the defects and in support of my contention I am citing certain clauses as illustration. For example, leaving aside the Sixth Chapter, if we come to Chapter VII, in clause 35 there is a provision like this: "The provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, shall be applicable for acquisition of land under this Act and the compensation shall be computed under the provisions of the same Act". As I submitted, Sir, here the compensation that the holder of the land will get will be even less than what he would get under the Slum Areas Clearance Act.

Then, there is another feature, *viz.*, betterment fee, in clause 42. This also is an objectionable feature. If the Select Committee deletes it the Bill shall have to be drastically changed. And if it is retained then it will be an unjust provision. For whom this town and country planning going to be? Is it only for those people who will be uprooted? Is it only for those who are living in the vicinity? I am afraid, not. It is in national interest, in the interest of planned development of towns and the countryside. But what about the fee? It is laid down, "Every property which has increased in value due to its inclusion within an area under a plan or a scheme or due to the execution of such schemes shall be charged with a betterment fee: Provided that no such fee shall be

levied on such public land or building as are used for charitable, religious and educational purposes or for places of non-professional entertainment and recreation.

The betterment fee shall be an amount equal to one-half of the increase in the value of the land."

Now this is not in consonance with the realities in our society today. The place where I am living is a suburban area. Last year a Katha of land in that area fetched a price of only Rs.1,000, this year the price has gone up to Rs.2,600. Because in the meantime, there has been development there ; so the price has gone up from Rs.1,000 to Rs.2,600 per Katha. Now, after this bill is passed, it will be said that because of this Bill and because some improvements have been made the price has gone up and, as a matter of fact, the fees will be levied on those people. Natural increase of price is always there but the people will be deprived of that opportunity. In that way it is true that so far as land speculators are concerned, there are some people who are making speculation in suburban areas.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Education etc.):** Sir, we are hearing Mr. Bhattacharyya arguing his point of view for a time. It is just like we lawyers who try to argue long so that the jurors may forget the evidence. (*Laughter*).

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** I am sorry to say that the Minister has not been hearing my full argument as he has come to the House just a minute before, if he would have heard my other part of the argument, I don't know what he would say (*Laughter*).

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH:** Although I was not in the House, I was hearing him from my room where there is a loudspeaker.

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** But the only difference is the jurors hear the argument remaining within the Court, but here our Minister listened the speech from his chamber. (*Laughter*).

My submissions is that there will be a good feature no doubt, in as much as that so far land speculators are concerned they will be aggrieved to certain extent but the benefit from

that angle will be more than upset by the overlooking of the point. That there has been some increase in the price in spite of the fact that there is no planning as such, so, I think, this provision is one which will require a drastic change and I am afraid that the Select Committee will not be competent to make such a drastic change in this.

Now, another change in the rate of betterment fee should be $1\frac{1}{2}$ times of the value of land; this betrays the very purpose, the purpose is to get some money from your unearned income. So far as this unearned income is concerned the Bill seeks to take it off. Why one section of the people should pay for unearned income while another section do not? So there is this discrimination and this discrimination falls under the fundamental mischief laid down in our Constitution. From that point of view also this Bill requires further discussion and for that purpose elucidation of public opinion is necessary.

Then, Sir, so far as the miscellaneous provisions are concerned, particularly, with regard to the power of the State Government to make rules, I submit that these powers are too wide. These should not be given to Government because after all though in a modern State subordinate legislation is not only necessary, but there is a limit to which it should be allowed to go and not beyond that.

It has been said towards the end of the first paragraph of the Statement of Objects and Reasons, thus—

“and to provide for the clearance and re-development of the affected areas with the general object securing proper sanitary conditions and to conserve and promote the public health, safety and general welfare of the people living in such areas of towns so as to conform to the general development of State on sound planning basis on modern lines.”

From this it is clear that many problems have arisen which demand immediate attention. Sir, I fully agree with this but in my opinion it is necessary to enact a separate legislation for certain areas of towns on a sound planning principle with the general object of securing proper sanitary, conditions, to conserve and promote the public health, safety and general welfare of the people living in those areas. Now, not only certain areas but all should come under it and for this purpose not a separate legislation alone but one comprehensive legislation is necessary. In the meantime, so long as

it is not completed, certain ordinance or some other procedure may be taken whereby these may be done. (*Voice*—This has been discussed for a long time).

I need not be remained; I know that it has been discussed by me long. At any rate, I could not help it.

I am thankful to you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity of placing my point of view. With these few words, I submit that the reference of these Bills to a Select Committee will not serve its proper purpose. So both these Bills should be circulated for eliciting public opinion. I support the amendment moved by my Friend, Shri Tarun Sen Deka.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: I want to speak a few words on this.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: I hope, you will finish in a few minutes.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS ROY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in going through the Bill, I find that all of Assam including Autonomous districts have been brought under the purview of this Bill. I am strongly of opinion that this should not be and the Autonomous districts should be excluded.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMA (Minister, Education, etc.): May I know why the Autonomous districts should be excluded from the operation of clearance of slums ?

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS ROY : Well, Sir, there is a constitutional objection because this Bill involves administration. The administration of the Autonomous Districts is under the District Councils. This Legislation cannot be constitutionally applied to the Autonomous Districts. This Assam Legislature cannot make any legislation on subjects which are under the power of the District Council to make laws. Moreover, Sir, I myself am afraid of the Schemes of this Master Plan as obtained in this Bill. The Khasi Hills may be eaten up under the Master Plan. The Master Plan will make a scheme, and it is not stated in this Bill what kind of schemes can be made. There is no definition or limitation of schemes. Such a scheme may include a large area for any purpose. And thus these Khasi Hills may be taken under the master plan for any purpose which may be in the mind of the Planner who

may be advised by those in authority. There are also some provision that may be oppressive to the people. If the master plan is for the municipality, this will affect the areas outside the municipality also. About 2 miles outside the municipality no owner of land can make any subdivision of his land. Everything in that area of 2 miles outside will be blocked. There is an element of oppression which will affect the people by some provisions of this Bill. I am afraid of this Bill. Mr. Bhattacharyya has state some of those provisions. There are principles which cannot be altered by the Select Committee. Once the Bill has been referred to the Select Committee, this House is committed to the principles which cannot be changed by the Select Committee. Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya stated a few provisions that are not within the competency of the Select Committee to change. We want planning, but this Bill has an element of oppression to the people. That is the reason why I want the Bill to be circulated for eliciting public opinion so that we the Members of this House and the public may have more time to study the provisions of this Town and Country Planning Bill. That is the reason why I support the motion for circulating the Bill to elicit public opinion.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Borthakur, are you going to move this Amendment?

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh): No Sir.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Planning and Development): Sir, unexpectedly, a very great deal of controversy arose on this Bill which I had not expected. I had expected that since all my Friends are for town planning and slum clearance, it will have an easy passage. But unfortunately, this has not been so. Possibly, the Opposition has been labouring under the difficulties arising out of the provisions of the Slum Clearance Bill. I quite appreciate the difficulty under which they have been labouring but I feel that if they have sufficient time to study both the Bills, which apparently and admittedly has not been so, then some of the misconceptions might have been avoided and arguments based on misconceptions might not have been there. I am one with the Opposition in this that I do not want this measure to be an oppressive measure. I am against oppression of the people in any shape or form and if in the operation of this Bill which

will be passed into an Act, oppression occurs, I will be the saddest man. I have no doubt, Sir, that I, the House and the country intend not an oppressive measure of the type which is said to be, but a measure which will correctly lead to a real town planning in the country and removal of slums. From this point of view, I have no doubt that the provisions of this Bill will be examined by the Select Committee and if there are provisions which may be intended or interpreted in a way which may create oppression, then I have no doubt that the Committee will remove that. But to say that there will have to be drastic changes and which will put the whole Bill out of shape, and therefore the Bill should be sent to elicit public opinion, to my mind is not correct. So far as public opinion is concerned, Sir, it can be sounded not on the small detailed measures of the different clauses of the Bill but the public opinion, is sounded mainly on the general principles of the Bill on which the people may make representation. I took this matter into consideration and before this Bill was brought, Sir, we drew up a Master Plan of Gauhati and Tinsukia and the Gauhati Plan was largely publicised both in the papers as well as in meetings. That was done with a view to eliciting public opinion.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East): On a point of information, Sir, can a Master Plan be drawn before the enactment of the Act?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Planning and Development): Master Plan can be drawn by anybody if the country is free and there is no limitation to freedom. The only difficulty is that we cannot implement it and we have not implemented it. Therefore, there is no risk or fear that the hon. Member will lose his house because of the Master Plan. The position is that we draw up a Master Plan, publicised and discussed it with a view to elicit public opinion. No letter has come to us asking us not to go ahead with the Master Plan. So, Sir, as far as the point of eliciting public opinion is concerned, it has been met in the sense that there has been a universal support to this and I am glad to find that Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya himself has proclaimed this idea of a Master Plan and went on even to say that we are too late. Gauhati has been expanding and industries are developing but we have no Master Plan. He even went on to say why not apply an Ordinance and go ahead so that the development of Gauhati might be regulated? That merely supports my theory,

that instead of trying to circulate the Bill it would be better for us to send it to the Select Committee. The reason that we cannot have an Ordinance now is because the Session is on. Therefore, instead of promulgating an ordinance we can have a legislation. Instead of circulating the Bill for public opinion according to the hidden advice of my Friend—of course it is not an open guidance, so I call it hidden guidance—it would be wiser for us to rush it on to the Select Committee, get it passed, apply it and develop Gauhati. That is what my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, desires and I fully agree with him. Therefore, Sir, we have not come with this Bill a day too soon and I have no doubt that the Opposition will support me in this matter. As you have seen, Sir, nearly one third the Members from the Opposition are included in the Select Committee—I have been generous in this regard because I feel that after they have understood the intention of this Bill properly instead of opposing me in passing this Bill they will ultimately support it. Now, the fear is that if this Bill is passed it will become oppressive in character. That fear emanates from the misconception that in this Slum Clearance Bill it is interpreted that it may be used for oppressing the poorer section of the people who are dwellers of slums. I think there is some misconception here. Now, let us see how slums develop? Slums develop in this way. Taking advantage of the fast expanding of towns and cities due to industrialisation or other causes which are everywhere in society today, some unscrupulous individuals who have got lands have leased out small plots of lands for the purpose of constructing buildings without roads, without any sanitary arrangements, without any drains, etc., so that people can live there on rent. Rent is the prime consideration, not the welfare of the people. People may live there like cats and dogs, these unscrupulous land owners fleece the poorer people to earn something out of the people who live and work and die there. Then there is another type of slum, Sir. Some richer people build shacks and these shacks they let out to daily labourers or some other poor people to live there, who crowd themselves and pay rent to the land-lords or land owners. It is in this way that slums develop. And this is what we are trying to prevent. We are not trying to oust smaller owners of land or houses, but we are trying to prevent this traffic with human poverty want and misery for the purpose of earning rent and rent alone.

Now, if this Bill is viewed from this point of view this misconception goes. A great argument was made as to how inadequate compensation is given. If compensation is given to

the individual slum dweller that argument becomes very correct, but if compensation is to be given to the owners of these shacks or to the richer people who own land then this argument falls to the ground. In that case my Friends will jump up and will say, "Do not pay so much money to the capitalist, take the slums away, nationalise, expropriate, etc., etc." Expropriation is the only cry with communists. Here, Sir, is a case of properly appreciating what is intended by this Bill. Sir, we intended to stop this trafficking with human beings. For this purpose we have said that with minimum money spent by the Government to take over these slums satisfying the Constitutional provisions it may be possible for Government to take over these slum areas, demolish them and rebuild them according to approved pattern. Of course the first priority for rebuilding will be given to the owners of those lands and shacks. We will ask them to rebuild the houses according to pattern so that people can live there decently. If they do not, we take them over and rebuild ourselves and expropriate them by paying compensation. But, it is not intended, Sir, to oust the people who are living there, but it is intended to give the people better housing facilities. As a matter of fact the Government of India has taken up a very enlightened policy in this matter. They have said that slum dwellers should not be ousted until in the first instance alternative arrangement for their accommodation is made. Alternative arrangement for accommodation of the slum dwellers will first be made and when the slums are rebuilt, they will be sent back there. This is what the Government of India has decided and that is what my Friend desires. Therefore, Sir, if we view this Bill from that angle then we will see what is really intended here is what the Opposition also wants. If you provide higher rate of compensation, you can do that; there is no end to your fixing the rate of compensation, but then you will not be able to embark on this slum clearance scheme because of limited resources at our disposal. In trying to give rich people enough money in the shape of compensation, our resources are limited and we will not be able to do what is intended by the Government.

Therefore, Sir, if this basic mis-conception disappears from the mind of the Opposition then they will see that the difficulties which they have seen in various clauses of this Bill are not difficulties at all. Sir, I am sorry I am told that I have not much time today because the hon. Finance Minister is waiting anxiously to deliver his Budget speech; therefore, I have to complete in a very short time. Now, Sir, the master plan has been slightly misunderstood. The master plan has two functions. One function is regulatory in character and

the other function is positive in character namely, the development schemes. In the development schemes the Government or the town planner or whatever authority is asked to execute this, they will have to acquire land, redistribute it after providing roads, drainage, parks and may be, schools and these when distributed would be smaller *per capita* than what was pooled. If a man does not want compensation, he need not be paid compensation, he merely pools his land and gets back his land after demarcation. This Bill is not intended to drive the poorer section of the people, but under this Bill it is intended to regulate their settlement in such a way that they may become better citizens. But if there are any contrary provisions which the Opposition said there are, they can be pointed out and naturally these can be revised by Select Committee. But I am glad to say that in this Bill we have provided betterment fee. The Betterment Levies which have been objected to are found therein. My Friend has said, How can you charge Betterment Levy? Now, if we spend public money for the purpose of development of an area we shall have to charge for it. After all, this money is coming from the poor people of the villages. What justification is there to utilise their money for the improved living of the town people? Then it is quite fair that those people who are benefited by such improvement should pay for the cost of improvement. Of course you may say that the rate of Betterment Levy should not be so much. But if you say that the principle of Betterment Levy is wrong, I think it will be incorrect. Therefore I take it that the Opposition have no material objection even to the Betterment Levy.

Again, it has been said that we have discriminatory provision which is against the Constitution. I have not found any provision which is discriminatory in character which may invite the Constitution itself. As a matter of fact this Bill was sent to the Government of India. We have got it back with their approval. When it is passed in this House it will again be sent to obtain the assent of the President. The President is very chary to give his assent if he finds that the people's property rights are not protected according to the Constitution. So I have no doubt that there will not be any discrimination as feared by Friends.

Sir, it has been said that the tribal areas should not be included because somehow the great sovereignty of Tribal Council's will be infringed. As a matter of fact I had a discussion with my tribal friends. They are very keen to have

the provision of this Bill extended to tribal areas and particularly to Shillong. After all we are not going to take away the land of the people. The aim is for regulated development and for this reason there is a demand from the tribal areas that it should be applied there. If there is any serious objection to this then it will not be applied to the tribal areas. The opinion will be taken and with the recommendations of the Select Committee it will again come to this House for consideration. If there is any serious objection it will be considered then. I have no time to go into the details here, Sir. I think after I have made the points clear, it is wise to pass this Bill in this Session. The sooner the better—the words used by Shri Bhattacharyya. I therefore request my Friend not to press for the circulatory motion but to permit the Bill to go to the Select Committee where we may sit down and thrash out the points and bring forward the Bill which may be acceptable to all.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: After hearing the statement made by the hon'ble Minister as against the points raised in support of the amending motion, is the hon'ble Member prepared to withdraw his amendment?

(The Opposition pressed for a Division and the House divided.)

THE HOUSE DIVIDED

AYES—11

1. Shri Birendra Kumar Das.
2. Shri Bishwanath Upadhyaya.
3. Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya.
4. Shri Gopesh Namasudra.
5. Shri Hareswar Goswami.
6. Shri Hiralal Patwary.
7. Shri Mathias Tudu.
8. Shri Nilmoney Barthakur.
9. Shri Prabhatnarayan Choudhury.
10. Kumar Prokritish Chandra Barua.
11. Shri Tarun Sen Deka.

NOES—56

1. Capt. Williamson A. Sangma.
2. Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.
3. Shri Rup Nath Brahma.
4. Shri Debeswar Sarmah.
5. Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tripathi.
6. Shri Hareswar Das.
7. M. Moinul Haque Choudhury.
8. Shri Mahendra Nath Hazarika.
9. Shri Biswadev Sarma.
10. Shri Radhika Ram Das.
11. Shri Larsingh Khyriem.
12. Shri Girindra Nath Gogoi.
13. Pu Lalmawia.
14. Shri Lalit Kumar Doley.
15. Shri Sai Sai Terang.
16. Shri Chatrasingh Teron.
17. Maulvi Abdul Matlib Mazumder.
18. Shri Baikuntha Nath Das.
19. Shri Bhuban Chandra Pradhani.
20. Shri Bishnu Lal Upadhyaya.
21. Shri Dandeswar Hazarika.
22. Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika.

23. Shri Durgeswar Saikia.
24. Shri Dwijesh Chandra Deb Sarma.
25. Shri Emerson Momin.
26. Dr. Ghanashyam Das.
27. Shri Gauri Shankar Roy.
28. Shri Hakim Chandra Rabha.
29. Shri Henry Cotton.
30. Shri Kamala Prasad Agarwalla.
31. Shri Karka Chandra Doley.
32. Shri Khagendra Nath Nath.
33. Prof. Shrimati Komol Kumari Barua.
34. Swami Krishnananda Brahmachari.
35. Shri Lila Kanta Borah.
36. Shri Mahadev Das.
37. Shri Mahendra Mohan Chaudhury.
38. Maulavi Mahammad Idris.
39. Shri Mohananda Bora.
40. Shri Moti Ram Bora.
41. Shri Nanda Kishore Sinha.
42. Shri Nallindra Sangma.
43. Shri Narendra Nath Sarma.
44. Maulavi Nurul Islam.

45. Shri Omeo Kumar Das.
46. Shrimati Padma Kumari Gohain.
47. Shri Radha Charan Choudhury.
48. Shri Radha Kishan Khemka.
49. Shri Ramnath Sarma.
50. Dr. Ram Prasad Chaubey.
51. Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami.
52. Shri Sarbeswar Bardoloi.
53. Shri Siddhi Nath Sarma.
54. Shri Surendra Nath Das.
55. Shri Tamijuddin Prodhani.
56. Shri Tankeswar Chetia.

(The Motion was negatived)

Mr CHAIRMAN: Now I put the original Motion. The question is:

That the Assam Slum Areas (Improvement and Clearance) Bill, 1959 and the Assam Town and Country Planning Bill, 1959 be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following Members:—

- (1) The Minister in-charge of Bills.
- (2) The Minister in-charge of the L.S.-G.
- (3) Dr. Ganashyam Das.
- (4) Shri Siddhinath Sarma.
- (5) Shri Mohendra Mohan Choudhury.
- (6) Shri Kamala Prasad Agarwalla.

- (7) Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika.
- (8) Shri Dandeswar Hazarika.
- (9) Dr. Ram Prasad Choubey
- (10) Shri Hareswar Goswami.
- (11) Shri Nilmoney Barthakur.
- (12) Shri Hiralal Patwari
- (13) Shri Tarun Sen Deka.
- (14) Shri Prabhat Narayan Chaudhury.
- (15) Shrimati Komol Kumari Barua.
- (16) Shri Bhuban Chandra Pradhani.
- (17) Maulavi Mahmmad Idris.

The Select Committee will submit its report on the 1st of April next.

(The question was adopted).

The Assam Finance (Sales Tax) (Amendment) Bill, 1959

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Here is a Message from the Governor.

"I recommend under Article 207(1) of the Constitution of India that the Assam Finance (Sales Tax) (Amendment) Bill, 1959 be introduced and moved in the Assam Legislative Assembly."

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Finance Minister): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Finance (Sales Tax) (Amendment) Bill, 1959 be introduced.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House that the Assam Finance (Sales Tax) (Amendment) Bill, 1959 be introduced ?

(After a pause)

(The leave was granted)

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Finance (Sales Tax) (Amendment) Bill, 1959 be introduced.

(The Secretary, Legislative Assembly read out the title of the Bill).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Motion moved is that the Assam Finance (Sales Tax) (Amendment) Bill, 1959 be introduced.

(After a pause)

(The Motion was adopted)

The Assam Taxation (on goods carried by Roads or Inland Waterways) (Amendment) Bill, 1959.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Finance Minister): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg leave of the House to introduce the Assam Taxation (on goods carried by Roads or Inland Waterways) (Amendment) Bill, 1959.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House that the leave be granted to introduce the Assam Taxation or (on goods carried by Roads or Inland Waterways) (Amendment) Bill, 1959 ?

(The leave was granted).

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Taxes (on goods carried by Roads or Inland Waterways) (Amendment) Bill, 1959 be introduced.

(The Secretary, Legislative Assembly read out the title of the Bill).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Motion is moved that the Assam Taxes (on goods carried by Roads or Inland Waterways) (Amendment) Bill, 1959 be introduced.

(After a pause)

(The Motion was adopted).

The Assam Ancient Monuments and Records Bill, 1959

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Education): Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Assam Ancient Monuments and Records Bill, 1959.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House that leave be granted to introduce the Assam Ancient Monument and Records Bill, 1959 ?

(Several voices : Yes)

(Leave was granted).

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Ancient Monuments and Records Bill, 1959.

(The Secretary, Legislative Assembly, read out the title of the Bill).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Motion moved is that the Assam Ancient Monuments and Records Bill, 1959 be introduced.
(The Motion was adopted).

The Assa Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1959

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Judicial): Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Assam Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1959.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House that leave be granted to introduce the Assam Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1959 ?

(Several voices : Yes).

(Leave was granted).

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1959.

(The Secretary, Legislative Assembly, read out the title of the Bill).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Motion moved is that the Assam Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1959 be introduced.
(The Motion was adopted).

The Assam State Acquisition of Lands belonging to Religious or Charitable Institution of Public Nature Bill, 1959

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Assam State Acquisition of Lands belonging to Religious or Charitable Institution of Public Nature Bill, 1959.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House that leave be granted to introduce the Assam State Acquisition of Lands belonging to Religious or Charitable Institution of Public Nature Bill, 1959 ?

(Voices—Yes, yes.)

(Leave was granted).

Shri HARESWAR DAS: Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam State Acquisition of Lands belonging to Religious or Charitable Institution of Public Nature Bill, 1959.

(The Secretary, Legislative Assembly, read out the title of the Bill).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Motion moved is that the Assam State Acquisition of Lands belonging to Religious or Charitable Institution of Public Nature Bill, 1959 be introduced.

(The Motion was adopted)

Shri HARESWAR DAS: Sir, I beg to move that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee with the following Members—

1. Shri Omeo Kumar Das.
2. „ Mahendra Mohan Choudhury.
3. „ Ramnath Sharma.
4. „ Dandeswar Hazarika.
5. „ Hemchandra Chakravarty.
6. Maulavi Md. Idris.
7. Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami.
8. „ Joga Kanta Barua.
9. „ Hareswar Das, Minister-in-charge of Revenue, etc.
10. „ Gauri Sankar Bhattacharyya.
11. Dr. Srihari Das.
12. Shri Biswanath Upadhaya.

Five Members will form the quorum. The report will be submitted on or before 25th March, 1959.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Motion moved is that the Assam State Acquisition of Lands belonging to Religious or Charitable Institution of Public Nature Bill, 1959 be referred to a Select Committee with the following Members and submit the report on or before the 25th March, 1959—

1. Shri Omeo Kumar Das.
2. „ Mahendra Mohan Choudhury.
3. „ Ram Nath Sarma.
4. „ Dandeswar Hazarika.
5. „ Hem Chandra Chakravarty.
6. Maulavi Md. Idris.
7. Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami.
8. „ Joga Kanta Barua.
9. „ Hareswar Das, Minister-in-charge of Revenue Department.
10. „ Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya.
11. Dr. Srihari Das.
12. Shri Biswanath Upadhyaya.

Five Members will form the quorum.

There is another Message from the Government:

“I recommend under Article 207 of the Constitution of India that the Assam State Acquisition of Lands belonging to Religious or Charitable Institution of Public Nature Bill, 1959 be taken into consideration by the Assam Legislative Assembly.”

I put the question that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee with the Members mentioned therein.

(The Motion was put before the House as a question and adopted).

The Assam Acquisition of Lands for Flood Control and Prevention of Erosion (Amendment) Bill, 1959

Mr. CHAIRMAN: There is a message from the Governor:

“I recommend under Article 207(1) of the Constitution of India that the Assam Acquisition of Land for Flood Control

and Prevention of Erosion (Amendment) Bill, 1959 be introduced in the Assam Legislative Assembly.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Assam Acquisition of Land for Flood Control and Prevention of Erosion (Amendment) Bill, 1959.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House that leave be granted to introduce the Bill ?

(Several voices: Yes)

Shri HARESWAR DAS: Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Acquisition of Lands for Flood Control and Prevention of Erosion (Amendment) Bill, 1959.

(The Secretary, Legislative Assembly read out the title of the Bill).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that the Assam Acquisition of Lands for Flood Control and Prevention of Erosion (Amendment) Bill, 1959 be introduced.

(The question was adopted).

The Assam Elephants' Preservation (Assam Amendment) Bill, 1959

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister Forests): Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Elephants' Preservation (Assam Amendment) Bill, 1959.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House that the leave be granted to introduce the Assam Elephants' Preservation (Assam Amendment) Bill, 1959 ?

(Several voices: Yes)

(Leave was granted)

Shri HARESWAR DAS: Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Elephants' Preservation (Assam Amendment) Bill, 1959.

(The Secretary, Legislative Assembly read out the title of the Bill ?

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Motion moved is that the Assam Elephants' Preservation (Assam Amendment) Bill, 1959 be introduced.

(The Motion was adopted).

Government Resolution re: approval of an expenditure of Rs.7,95,800 under the head "18-B and 68-A—Construction of Irrigation N.E.D. Works"

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, P.W.D. (E&D.)): Sir, I beg to move a Resolution for approval of an expenditure of Rs.7,95,800 under the head "18-B and 68-A—Construction of Irrigation N. E. D. Works".

The amount is in the sanction Grant.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Motion moved is that the Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.7,95,800 under the head "18-B and 68-A—Construction of Irrigation N. E. D. Works."

(The Motion was put before the House as a question and adopted).

Government Resolution re: approval of an expenditure of Rs.52,700 under the head—"50.—Civil Works—State (excluding Establishment and Tools and Plants)"

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P.W.D. (Roads and Buildings)): Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.25,62,976 under the head—"50--Civil Works—State—(excluding Establishment and Tools and Plant)" for the items below. The amount involved will be met from the sanctioned grant.

"50—Civil Works—State—(excluding Establishment and Tools and Plant)"—

	General Rs.	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas Rs.	Total Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly.	4,94,33,200	2,27,82,000	7,22,15,200
II.—Supplementary Grant voted by the Assembly during the year.	71,000	25,000	96,000
III.—Sub-head under which the appropriation will be accounted for—			
NORMAL—			
A.—Original Works—			
(a) Buildings—Voted.			
Public Health ... ..	...	10,300	10,300
Civil Works	38,000	...	38,000
Total—(a) Buildings	38,000	10,300	48,300

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
(b) Communications.			
Ordinary Roads ...	9,91,800	4,00,000	13,91,800
Restoration of Flood Damages	76,710	..	76,710
Boats, Bridges and Ferries...	80,406	30,000	1,10,406
Petrol Tax Projects—Ordinary.	3,40,000	1,10,000	4,50,000
Construction of Roads of Economic or Inter-State Importance.	25,000	...	25,000
Total—(b) Communications	15,13,916	5,40,000	20,53,916
D.—Grants-in-aid for Communications, etc.—Voted.	3,70,760	...	3,70,760
Total D.—Grants in-aid, etc.	3,70,760	..	3,70,760
Development Scheme (2nd Five Year Plan—Article 275)—A—5—Original Works—			
(a)—Buildings—			
Education ...	..	5,000	5,000
Veterinary ...	50,000	35,000	85,000
Total—Development Schemes, etc.	50,000	40,000	90,000
GRAND TOTAL ...	19,72,676	5,90,300	25,62,976

Mr. Chairman: The motion moved is that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.25,62,976 under the head—"50—Civil Works—State—(excluding Establishment and Tools and Plant" for the items mentioned above. The amount involved will be met from the sanctioned grant.

(The resolution was adopted).

Government Resolution *re*: for approval of an expenditure of Rs.9,26,400 under the head "81.—Capital Account of Civil Works Outside the Revenue Account, etc."

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH Minister, P.W.D. (Roads and Buildings)]: Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do approve of and expenditure of Rs. 9,26,400 under the head "81.—Capital Account of Civil Works Outside the Revenue Account, etc.", for items below. The amount will be met from the sanctioned grants—

"81.—Capital Accounts of Civil Works Outside the Revenue Account, etc."

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly ..	3,16,96,300	27,12,100	3,44,08,400
II.—Supplementary Grant voted by the Assembly during the year. ..	..	..	..
III.—Sub-head under which the appropriation will be accounted for :— ..	..	..	..
A.—Original Works—			
(a) Buildings—			
Land Revenue	25,700	..	25,700
Other Taxes and Duties	1,60,000	..	1,60,000
General Administration	10,000	..	10,000
Jails and Convict Settlement	92,600	..	92,600
Police	1,03,500	18,500	1,22,000
Education	50,000	..	50,000
Public Health	5,000	..	5,000
Miscellaneous Departments	15,000	..	15,000
Total—(a) Buildings	4,61,800	18,500	4,80,300

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
(b) Communications—			
Ordinary Roads	2,96,300	..	2,96,300
Ordinary Roads—Expenditure in connection with Operation against Naga Hostiles.	..	3,000	3,000
Total—(b) Communications—Ordinary Roads	2,96,300	3,000	2,99,300

(c) Miscellaneous	86,400	..	86,400
Total—(c) Miscellaneous ..	86,400	..	86,400

Development Schemes—(2nd Five-Year Plan)—

A-6.—Original Works—

(a) Buildings—

Medical .. .. .	..	32,900	32,900
Total—(a) Buildings	32,900	32,900

(b) Communications—

Ordinary Roads	27,500	..	27,500
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Total—(b) Communications ..	27,500	..	27,500
GRAND TOTAL ..	8,72,000	84,400	9,26,400

Mr. Chairman: The Motion moved is that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.9,26,400 under the head "81.—Capital Account of Civil Works Outside the Revenue Account, etc.", for items mentioned above. The amount will be met from the sanctioned grants.

(The Resolution was adopted.)

**Government Resolution for approved of an
expenditure of Rs.6,71,358 under the
head "29.—Police".**

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance for the Chief Minister): Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do approve an expenditure of Rs.6,71,358 (Rupees six lakhs, seventy one thousand, three hundred and fifty eight) only under the head "29.—Police" for the items noted below. The amount involved will be met from the sanctioned grants.

	General	Sixth Schedule	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly.	2,03,26,200	35,69,900	2,38,96,100
II.—Supplementary grant voted by the Assembly during the year.	18,60,000	8,20,000	26,80,000
III.—Supplementary grant voted by the Assembly during the current Session.	..	..	..
IV.—Sub-head under which the appropriation will be accounted for—	...	...	..
(1) A—Superintendence—			
2. Pay of Establishment	5,000	..	5,000
4. Contingencies	26,230	—	26,230
(2) B—D. E. F.—(a) District Police—			
1. Pay of officers .. ..	...	6,800	6,800
4. Contingencies	5,000	..	5,000
(3) B—D. E. F.—(a) District Police—			
Expenditure in connection with operations against Naga Hostiles in the Plains Sector and Hills Sector.	3,03,300	88,500	3,91,800

Minor and Sub-head	General	Sixth Schedule	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
(4) B—D. E. F.—(b) River Police—			
Steam Launch Establishment ..	5,600	..	5,000
(5) F—Railway Police—			
(a) Supervising staff	7,000	...	7,000
(6) H—Village Defence Organisation ..	1,02,310	..	1,02,310
(7) J—Works—(a) Original Works—			
1. Police	42,791	21,881	64,672
2. B. S. F.	25,546	..	25,546
(b) Repairs—			
1. Police	10,000	12,000	22,000
2. B. S. F.	10,000	..	10,000
Total ..	5,42,177	1,29,181	6,71,358

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The total amount of Rs.6,71,358 comprising of the amounts shown under the minor and sub-heads indicated about is proposed to be met by re-appropriation of savings out of funds provided through Schedule of New Schemes. Such re-appropriation requires the vote of the Assembly. Hence the Resolutions.

The purpose for and the heads from which the re-appropriation are proposed to be met are stated below :—

(1) 2. The sum of Rs.5,000 is required to meet the expenditure due to creation of some temporary posts and more officiating arrangements. Funds for the purpose will be found from the savings out of the provision of Rs.1,49,332 under the head "29.—Police B—D. E. F.—(a) District Police—5.—Hospital charges", as posts of Directors in the Police Hospitals could not be filled up due to want of doctors.

4. The sum of Rs.26,230 is required to meet the cost of purchase and insurance charges of a staff car for the Inspector General of Police, Assam. Funds for the purpose will be found from the savings out of the provisions of (i) Rs.1,43,439 under the head "29—Police—(C) Forensic Science Laboratory" and (ii) Rs.7,29,608 under the head "29—Police—E—Special Police—Organisation of Fire Service", which includes a sum of Rs.5,79,608 provided through Schedule of a New Schemes. The provision in respect of (i) will not be utilised as the original scheme has to be thoroughly revised due to non-availability of the buildings in which the laboratory was originally proposed to be accommodate. The provision in respect of (ii) is also not likely to be fully spent as the scheme involves construction work and recruitment of trained staff.

(2) 1. The sum of Rs.6,800 is required to meet the expenditure due to creation of the post of Superintendent of Police, United Mikir and North Cachar Hills District and posting of a Senior Deputy Superintendent of Police in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills District. Funds for the purpose will be found from the savings out of the provision under the head "29—Police—B-D. E. F.—(a) District Police—Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas", at the whole provision is not likely to be fully utilised to absorption of 4 Armed Platoons of the Mizo District Executive Force into the 3rd Bn. Border Security Force.

2. The sum of Rs.5,000 is required to meet expenditure in connection with All Assam Police Duty-cum-Athletics and Sports meet and will be met from savings under "29—Police—E—Special Police—Organisation of Fire Service" for the reasons stated above.

(3) The amount of Rs.3,03,300 under "General" comprises of (i) Rs.2,93,700 for meeting the expenditure in respect of the Special Superintendent of Police, Plains Sector, and the 14 Platoons of the Naga Hills District Executive Force till their merger with the 3rd Bn. Border Security Force and (ii) Rs.9,600 for purchase of rubber-sole boots for the Police personnel deployed in the Plains Sector. There is no budget provision for the above purposes. The expenditure is debitable to the newly created detailed head as indicated above.

The amount of Rs.88,500 under "Sixth Schedule" comprises of (i) Rs.20,400 for supply of Rubber-sole boots to the police personnel deployed in the North Cachar Hills, (ii)

Rs.10,000 for portorage to transport supplies to the police personnel in the Border Outposts in the North Cachar Hills, (iii) Rs.58,100 for other expenditure connected with operations against Naga Hostiles in the North Cachar Hills.

The total amount of Rs.3,91,800 is proposed to be met from the heads indicated below :—

- (a) Rs.2.93,700 and Rs.58,100 from the head “29—Police B. D. E. F.—(a)—District Police—Sixth Schedule (Part-A) Areas—Pay of Establishment and Contingencies”, as the provision thereunder is not likely to be fully utilised due to absorption of 4 Armed Platoons of the Mizo District Executive Force into the 3rd Bn. Border Security Force as stated above.
- (b) Rs.9,600, Rs.20,400 and Rs.10,000 from the head “29—Police—E—Special Police—Organisation of Fire Service” under which savings are anticipated for the reasons stated above.

The sum of Rs.5000 is required to meet the cost of Marine Stores and repairs of Motor Launches and is proposed to be met from savings under “29—Police—B.D.E.F.—(a) District Police—5. Hospital charges” under which savings are anticipated for the reason already stated.

5. The sum of Rs.7,000 is required to meet the additional expenditure due to drawal of arrear pay in revised scale of pay, 1956, and is proposed to be provided from savings under the head indicated in (4) above.

6. The sum of Rs.1,02,310 is required to meet the cost of replacement of equipment of existing Village Defence Parties and supply of standard equipments to newly created parties and also for payment of “OUT OF POCKET MONEY” to the newly created Village Defence Parties. The amount is proposed to be provided from savings, under the head “29—Police—C.—Forensic Science Laboratory”, which are anticipated for the reasons already stated.

7. (a) 1. The sum of Rs.42,791 proposed under “General” comprises of Rs.19,169 required to meet the cost of acquisition of land for the River Police Station at Goalpara and Rs.23,622 required to meet cost of essential construction of departmental buildings. The total amount is proposed to be re-appropriated

from the savings under the head "29—Police—E.—Special Police Organisation of Fire Service" savings under which are anticipated for the reasons already stated and also expenditure on special equipment not being incurred fully due to import restrictions.

The sum of Rs.21,881 proposed under "Six Schedule" comprises of Rs. 17.129 required to meet expenditure on construction of temporary buildings for the police personnel deployed in North Cachar Hills and Rs. 4,752 for other essential departmental construction. Funds are proposed to be provided from savings under the head "29—police—C—Forensic Science Laboratory and "29—police—E—Special Police—Organisation of Fire Service". Savings under these heads are anticipated for the reasons already stated.

(a) 2. The sum of Rs. 25,546 proposed under "General" is required to meet the cost of essential departmental construction of Border Security Force buildings and funds are proposed to be provided from "29—Police—E—Special Police—Organisation of Fire Service", savings under which are anticipated for the reasons already stated.

(b) 1. The sum of Rs.10,000 under "General" is required to meet the cost of repairs of certain departmental buildings and Border Outposts and is proposed to be met from the savings under the head mentioned under (a) 2 above.

The sum of Rs.12,000 under "Sixth Schedule" is required to meet the cost of repairs certain department buildings and is proposed to be met from the saving under the aforesaid head.

(b) 2. The sum of Rs.10,000 under "General" is required to meet the cost of repairs of Border Security Force buildings and is proposed to be met from the savings under the aforesaid head.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The resolution moved is that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.6,71,358 only under the head "29.—Police" for the items mentioned above. The amount involved will be met from the sanctioned grant.

(The resolution was adopted).

Government Resolution re: for approval of an expenditure of Rs.75,747 under the head "81.—Capital Account of C.W. outside the Revenue Account, etc."

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.75,747

under the head "81.—Capital Account of C. W. outside the Revenue Account, etc." for the item below.

The amount involved will be met from the sanctioned grant.

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I. Grant originally voted by the Assembly ..	3,16,96,300	27,12,100	3,44,08,400
II. Supplementary Grant voted by the Assembly during the year.	..	..	..
III. Sub-head under which the appropriation will be accounted for.	..	..	..
Normal			
A.—Original Works—(a) Buildings G. A. Voted	75,747	..	75,747
Total	75,747	..	75,747

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The motion moved is that the Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.75,747 under the head "81.—Capital Account of C. W. outside the Revenue Account, etc." for the item mentioned above. The amount involved will be met from the sanctioned grant.

(The Resolution was adopted).

Government Resolution re: for approval of an expenditure of Rs.5,000 under the head 57.—"Miscellaneous [II.—Donations, etc.]"

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister-in-charge of Finance): Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.5,000 under the head "57.—Miscellaneous [II.—Donations, etc.] H.—Contributions (iii) Miscellaneous—Contribution in connection with Lokamanya Tilak Memorial in London by re-appropriation from Savings from the sanctioned grant as indicated below:—

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly ..	12,15,300	3,70,300	15,85,600
II.—Sub-head under which the appropriation will be accounted for.	..	..	..
H.—Contributions (iii) Miscellaneous—Detailed head—Contribution in connection with Lokamanya Tilak Memorial in London.	5,000	..	5,000
III.—Sub-head which the amount is to be reappropriated.—H.—Contributions (iii) Miscellaneous—Detailed head—Grants for construction of Children's Open Air Theatre and Parks.	10,000	..	10,000

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The Motion moved is that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.5,000 under the head "57.—Miscellaneous [11.—Donations, etc.]"—H.—Contributions (iii) Miscellaneous—Contribution in connection with Lokamanya Tilak Memorial in London by re-appropriation from Savings from the sanctioned grant.

(The Resolution was adopted).

Government Resolutions re: for approval of an expenditure of Rs.8,000 under the head "40-Agriculture".

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister-in-charge of Agriculture) to move:

Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.8,000 (Rupees eight thousand) under the head "40-Agriculture" for the items below. Amount will be met from the sanctioned grant "40.—Agriculture".

				Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted ...	...	...	...	1,69,33,400
by the Assembly.				

II.—Supplementary grant ...	...	...	Nil
voted by the Assembly			
during the year.			

III.—Sub-head under which the appropriation will be accounted for—

"40.—Agriculture—(General)—

(Second Five Year Plan)—

E-6.—Agricultural Demonstration and Propaganda—

(e)—Scheme for the organisation of Farmer's Forum in Assam.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The motion moved is that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.8,000 (Rupees eight thousand) under the head—"40—Agriculture" for the items mentioned above. The amount will be met from the Sanctioned Grant—"40—Agriculture".

(The Resolution was adopted).

Presentation of the Budget for the year 1959-60 and the Budget Speech of the Finance Minister

Mr. CHAIRMAN: We come to item No.24. I think copies of Finance Minister's speech should be first circulated.

(Copies were then circulated to the Members).

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed will now present the Budget.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance):

IR,

I rise to present the statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of Assam for the year 1959-60.

2. After almost 20 years, I have once again the honour and privilege of presenting the annual budget of the Assam Government. During these years vast changes, constitutional, political, economic, social and others, have taken place. Above all the Constitution, under which we now function as a unit of the great Republic of India, has brought about a complete transformation in the stature and status of this august House. I do not desire to take the Hon. Members' time by dilating on these changes. I only wish to say that the honour and privilege are greater than 20 years ago.

Review of Economic conditions

3. The presentation of the annual Budget provides an opportunity for a review of the economic conditions of the year which form the background against which proposals contained in the Budget for the next year are to be considered. I therefore propose to give, at the outset, a brief survey of our economy in the year now drawing to a close.

4. In giving a review of the economic conditions of the State, I hope Hon. Members will bear with me, if I traverse, for a while, the grounds which are beyond our domain but which are relevant and important because what developments take place in the country have their impact on us and because major movement in the economy of our State conforms to the pattern set by India. Hon'ble Members are aware that, since the beginning of Second Five-Year Plan, the economic

situation in the country has been of growing strain which has by no means lessened during the last year. In addition to this, signs of slackening of economic activities were in evidence in certain sectors. Prices, particularly of food grains, moved up as a result of a variety of factors operating but mainly due to reduction in output. The cost of living reached an all-time peak in the period of August-September. It is, however, a matter of relief that the prices of foodgrains have now been showing a downward trend and, under its influence, the cost of living is also declining. The drain of foreign exchange resources was one of much concern and continued to worsen during the first-half of the year partly because of the fall in export earning. At the commencement of the Second Five-Year Plan sterling reserve stood at Rs. 748 crores but it has since been rapidly declining. At the end of the financial year 1957-58 it declined to Rs. 280 crores and in August 1958 it stood at Rs. 187 crores. Towards the end of the year the position of foreign balance, however, appears to have improved mainly because of the various measures taken by Government of India resulting in restriction of imports and also because of the generous external assistance made available. Though our total trade was lower the adverse trade balance in the first 11 months of 1958 was reduced to Rs. 166.1 crores from Rs. 370.98 crores in the corresponding period of 1957. Our exports were lowered by Rs. 57 crores and imports were drastically cut to Rs. 1,228 crores from Rs. 1,548 crores in the first 11 months of 1957. Agricultural production which recorded a rise of 6 per cent in 1956-57 over 1955-56 slowed down to 3.5 per cent in 1957-58 leading to a tight food position in the country for a major part of the year. Reports of good bumper harvest, specially of foodgrains, have been received from all over the country during the 1958-59 season. The rising trend in industrial production seems to have been arrested in 1957. According to available figures production in 1958 was lower than in 1957. Recently the two Steel Plants at Bhilai and Rourkela have partially gone into operation and it is hoped they will help in bringing about increased industrial production throughout the country. The year also marked acute shortage of internal resources for carrying out the various development programmes under the Plan. The outlay for the public sector of the Plan was scaled down from Rs. 4,800 crores to Rs. 4,500 crores.

5. As I have said these developments in the national economy have their impact on the economy of our State. The

high price of essential commodities, the decrease in export of tea, the necessitated restriction on import, the decline in sterling balances and the scaling down of outlay on Second Five-Year Plan for the public sector have not only interfered with the meagre developmental programme of the State but have also put a heavier strain on the economy of Assam. In our State the production of rice and pulses received a serious set-back in 1957-58 due to persistent drought in major rice producing districts, heavy damage of Ahu crop by insects and high cattle mortality. The production of rice in 1957-58 sharply declined to 15.7 lakh tons from 16.7 lakh tons in the preceding year. We need 15.84 lakh tons of rice for food requirement of our general, tea gardens and floating population and .99 lakh tons for seed purpose. If wastage at 4 per cent of the produce is added, our total requirement of rice per year comes to 17.46 lakh tons. The decline in the production of rice in 1957-58 led to a tight food situation in 1958 making it imperative to step up imports and to adopt procurement to build up buffer stock of food grain to deal with the food situation. At our request the Government of India allotted 36,000 tons of rice and 67,000 tons of wheat for fair price shops and the tea industry during 1958. A quantity of 8,48,000 maunds of paddy was procured at the maximum wholesale price varying from Rs.10.25 nP. to Rs.10.75 nP. per maund fixed by Government of India for different zones in Assam. In spite of these efforts, the price of rice continued to move up. The average wholesale price of medium quality rice in three centres rose from Rs.23.48 nP. per maund in March 1958 to a peak figure of Rs.27.17 nP. in September. The wholesale price index (base 1953 = 100) rose from 118.6 in February 1958 to 130.7 in September, 1958. The major factors responsible for this phenomenal rise were the decline in the production of rice and the growth of the demand for rice. Apart from the growth in population the demand of rice is also to be attributed to a rise of 14 per cent in adult *per capita* consumption of cereals between 1950-1957 according to the Food-Grains Enquiry Committee. Production of other major crops in 1957-58 recorded a slight improvement as compared to last year. Jute production improved from 10.5 lakh bales in 1956-57 to 10.9 lakhs in 1957-58. Price of rice and paddy formed an epicentre of price movement but price of sugar and kerosene oil also behaved abnormally during some parts of the year. The rise in the price of these two commodities was, however, not due to any short-fall in production but on account of irregularity in supply. The high prices which were in evidence in 1956-57 were further projected in

1958 leading to a high cost of living for all sections of the people. The disposable income of the people was more than compensated by the loss of the purchasing power of the rupee sustained during the year. As was natural, the consumers' resistance to buy commodities other than the basic necessities has persisted throughout the year except on rare occasions. Consequent on the high prices of some product the economic well-being of the farmers as revealed by the parity ratio between "price secured" from sale of the produce and "price paid" to meet consumption needs and cost of cultivation appeared to have been maintained during the year. It is however a matter of relief to note that since the year 1958-59 has witnessed a better yield both of food and non-food crops resulting in the decline of prices, the cost of living which registered a peak rise till September 1958 in the urban as well as in the rural areas has started to decline. Production of crude oil and refinery products registered a slight rise but coal production declined by 3 per cent. Production of tea which fell from 366 million lbs. in 1956 to 354 million lbs. in 1957, rose to 380 million lbs. in 1958. There is another important matter to which attention of the Hon'ble Members of the House is drawn. Though no up-to-date quantitative estimates of rural unemployment are available, the series of rural economic survey revealed that the problem has already assumed a great importance also in our State. The recently conducted survey on unemployment in tea gardens has revealed that number of unemployed persons in tea gardens is about 66.4 thousand of which 11.6 thousand are in Cachar alone. The percentage of the unemployed to the total labour forces in tea gardens is as high as 9 per cent in Assam Valley and 14.6 per cent in Cachar. The incidence of unemployment is higher in case of females. The employment situation in tea gardens is continually deteriorating in view of the growth of labour population without a corresponding increase in tea acreage. The problem has further to be viewed against the existence of many marginal and/or uneconomic gardens whose survival depends on the whims of foreign consumers. One way to solution is to bring mobility amongst labour, the others are to close down the uneconomic gardens and to transfer land and labour for other more useful and profitable cultivation and to improve the quality of tea, while increasing production, by opening out new areas and making fresh investments. Probably there may be others. I shall be grateful if the Hon. Members will give their thoughts and most serious consideration to solution of the problem and suggest ways and means. Although the problem of urban

unemployment is not as serious as that in the rural areas, nevertheless, employment exchange statistics reveal that it is gathering strength. The number of unemployed rose from 15,707 in January 1958 to 21,278 in July and stood at 20,215 in December 1958. The number of placements rose from 148 in February 1958 to 298 in April only to show a decreasing trend subsequently. Although placement figures generally exhibited an upward trend in the 6 months of 1958 they do not, however, compare favourably with their 1957 counter parts. Shortage was widespread in respect of technical and skilled personnel while widespread surplus was reported in clerks and other similar type of workers. The excess supply as usual comes from freshers from schools and colleges. Labour management and relationship so far seem to be generally harmonious and congenial. The few cases of disputes were amicably settled. During the year 1958 there were only 17 cases of disputes resulting in 40,966 man-days loss as against 25 cases of disputes and 1,09,000 man-days in the year 1957. As compared to 1957, there was a decline in border trade by more than half in 1958. For some months the flow of trade was more or less suspended. Despite the serious set-back in border trade dislocating the economy of our border areas, the tempo of domestic trade and business has generally been maintained during the year. The overall supply position of essential commodities, for which the State has to depend on outside source, was not very satisfactory on account of the existing transport bottle-neck. During the year about 2.9 lakh maunds of C. I. Sheets, 5.8 lakh maunds of iron materials, 12.5 lakh maunds of cement and 1.4 lakh maunds of vegetable oil were imported. The national income, which can be regarded as most comprehensive single indicator of the basic trend in the economy, reflected only a slight progress of State's economy. The State national income rose from 212.8 crore in 1950-51 to 240.7 crore in 1956-57 and to 244.7 crore in 1957-58 representing a rise of about 2 per cent over 1956-57. While *per capita* income shows a rise from Rs. 237.2 in 1950-51 to 252.1 in 1956-57 and only a negligible rise to 253 in 1957-58. From the trend displayed by major constituents of State's national income in 1957-58 the rate of increase does not appear to be encouraging.

6. A correct appraisal of current economic trend and situation is difficult. These depend not only on conditions prevailing within the State and the rest of the country but also on the course of events in the world which is not easy to forecast. I have, however, made an attempt at such

appraisal of the situation within the State with a view to indicate that the year reveals many weak spots in certain sectors and that it is not possible, apart from other handicaps, to embark upon big development projects without a stable food and price policy, stepping up the tempo of investments, a better timing of outlays and securing an adequate flow of essential materials. Our policy must be guided by such dominant objective as will make our resources more resilient and self-feeding. If we are to help in the development of Assam and India our aim always must be to advance effectively on food and agricultural front, to ensure necessary supply of consumer goods to our people by strengthening and expanding our small and cottage industries and by undertaking systematic programme for establishing light industries and to play our part consistent with our resources in the establishment of heavy industries. Our aim, I feel, must always be steady expansion of activities on these fronts if we intend to provide to our people increasing benefits in education, medical facilities and other social services.

Accounts of 1957-58

7. I shall now deal with the actuals of 1957-58 and the revised estimates for the current year. In the original Budget Estimates for the year 1957-58 the receipts on revenue account were placed at Rs. 24.29 crores and expenditure at Rs. 28.9 crores, leaving a revenue deficit of Rs. 4.61 crores. The year however closed with a revenue surplus of Rs. 99.67 lakhs or Rs. one crore in round figure. This was mainly due to the award of the Second Finance Commission, improved collection of certain State Taxes and the transfer of the Naga Hills territory to the Union Government.

1957-58

				In lakhs of rupees	
				Budget	Actuals
Revenue Receipts ...	...	...	2,429	2,942	
Revenue Expenditure ...	...	...	2,890	2,842	
Surplus (+)					
or					
Deficit (—)	...	...	(—) 461	(+) 100	

It will be seen that compared with the Budget Estimates the actuals receipts during 1957-58 were higher by Rs. 513 lakhs and actual expenditure was lower by Rs. 48 lakhs. The

improvement in the collection of State Taxes was confined mainly to the heads, Agricultural Income Tax and other Taxes and Duties. The decrease in expenditure was mainly due to transfer of Naga Hills to the Union Government.

On the capital side the actual receipts came upto Rs. 1,411 lakhs against the original estimate of Rs. 2,009 lakhs recording a short-fall of Rs. 598 lakhs. Capital Expenditure came down from Rs. 1,792 lakhs to Rs. 1,600 lakhs showing a short-fall of Rs. 192 lakhs compared with the estimates. The bulk of the variations on the receipt side was due to the short-fall under the head Loan from Central Government (Rs. 837 lakhs). As regards expenditure the shortfall was due to short-fall of expenditure on Capital Works. Out of total expenditure on Revenue and Capital Accounts of Rs. 4,442 lakhs, Rs. 970 lakhs represent expenditure incurred on the State Plan in the year.

Financial year 1958-59

8. The Budget for the current year, as finally approved by the House, placed revenue at Rs. 29.26 crores and expenditure from Revenue at Rs. 28.39 crores leaving a surplus on revenue account of Rs. 87 lakhs. According to estimates framed on the basis of actuals of the first eight months, the revenue receipts came to Rs. 31.62 crores and the revenue expenditure to Rs. 29.70 crores indicating a revenue surplus of Rs. one crore and 92 lakhs. The improvement is the result of an increase in revenue of Rs. 236 lakhs and an excess in expenditure of Rs. 131 lakhs. The increase in revenue is accounted for mainly by the improved receipts under Union Excise Duties, Taxes on Agricultural Income and Sales Taxes.

The variations under different heads of expenditure during the year 1958-59 as shown by the revised estimates have been explained in the Budget Memorandum. Higher expenditure is anticipated under Education, Police, General Administration, Debt Services, Famine Relief, Land Revenue, Forest and Pensions. These will be partly off-set by minor short-fall under some other Heads. There will also be an increase of expenditure from Revenue owing to appropriation made for transfer to the Contingency Fund of Rs. 85 lakhs under the recent Ordinance temporarily for increasing the corpus of the Fund.

On the Capital side the revised receipts come upto Rs. 834 lakhs against the original estimate of Rs. 920 lakhs showing a short-fall of Rs. 86 lakhs which is mainly due to the fact that no treasury bills were floated and no ways and means advances were taken from the Reserve Bank of India this year. Capital Expenditure is expected to come down from Rs. 1,279 lakhs to Rs. 1,009 lakhs showing a short-fall of Rs. 270 lakhs. This is due

to the same reason namely that no treasury bills were floated and no ways and means advance was necessary. Out of the total expenditure under the Revenue and Capital Heads of Rs.3,980 lakhs, Rs.10.7 crores represent the anticipated expenditure on State Plan Schemes.

9. Before turning to the estimates for the next year, I hope the Hon'ble Members will forgive me if I take the time of the House in referring to a few important and relevant matters and to the activities of the Government.

Second Five-Year Plan

10. One of the purposes of the Plan is to provide a programme of expenditure to be incurred by Government through the use of defined resources and defined stages. Such expenditure, in a planned manner, is intended to lay a solid foundation for building up the country's economy. Judged in this perspective the Second Five-Year Plan, though a bold step forward in the direction of developing the economy, has, I regret to say, failed to make use of natural resources and raw materials in Assam. In the Plan no serious steps appear to have been taken to remove the bottle-neck of transport even for the purpose of utilising the vast oil resources. Apart from this lacuna, the Plan outlay for Assam, as Hon'ble Members are aware, was approved by the Planning Commission initially at a relatively low figure of Rs.57.9 crores. I quote below the figures of Plan allocation and expenditure since the beginning of the Second Five-Year Plan.

			Provision in crores	Actual Expenditure in crores	Excess(+) Less(-) in crores
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1956-57	{	1. State's share	2.1	3.5	+1.4
		2. Central share	...	5.7	(-)2.5
		Total	10.3	9.2	(-)1.1
1957-58	{	1. State's share	3.1	3.4	+0.3
		2. Central share	8.0	6.1	(-)1.9
		Total	11.1	9.5	-1.6
1958-59	{	1. State's share	5.5	6.2	+0.7
		2. Central share	5.2	4.5	(-)0.7
		Total	10.7	10.7	
1959-60	{	1. State's share	5.5	.....	.....
		2. Central share	6.75	.....	.....
		Total	12.25		

11. Out of the approved provision of Rs.57.9 crores for the entire Plan period, expenditure of Rs.9.2 crores out of annual provision of Rs.10.3 crores was incurred during the first year (1956-57) and of Rs.9.5 crores out of annual provision of Rs.11.1 crores was incurred during the second year (1957-58). We expect to utilise the entire annual plan allotment of Rs.10.7 crores for this year (1958-59). Thus an expenditure of the order of Rs.29.4 crores will have been incurred by the end of 1958-59 leaving an amount of Rs.28.5 crores to be spent during 1959-60 and 1960-61. It will be seen that during 1956-57 the State spent Rs.1.4 crores more and the Centre gave Rs.2.5 crores less than the Plan allocation for the year, total less expenditure was Rs.1.1 crores. In the year 1957-58, the State spent Rs.0.3 crores more and expenditure from Centre's share was less to the extent of Rs.1.9 crores than provided in the Plan Budget of the year. The total of less expenditure for the year came to Rs.1.6 crores. In the current year also though it is expected to spend the entire provision of Rs.10.7 crores, it is unfortunate that the Centre's contribution has been reduced by Rs.0.7 crores making it obligatory for the State to increase its provision to that extent. It will thus appear that the Central assistance during these three years was Rs.5.1 crores less than what was originally provided for. The 11th meeting of the National Development Council decided that the over-all Plan outlay of Rs.4,800 crores on the Second Five-Year Plan for the country should be reduced to Rs.4,500 crores, the balance of Rs.300 crores being incurred only if additional resources were available. In so far as Assam was concerned, the State Government was committed to contribute Rs.17.5 crores out of the State Plan of Rs.57.9 crores. From the figures given, the Hon'ble Members will realise that we shall have contributed by the end of the financial year Rs.13.1 crores out of our commitment and our contribution for the entire Plan period is likely to be over Rs.22 crores including a figure of Rs.5 crores which was the target fixed for the State in respect of additional taxation. For 1959-60 the Planning Commission had originally allocated only Rs.11 crores.

12. The State Government felt that this allocation of Rs.11 crores by the Planning Commission was quite inadequate to meet the great and pressing needs and problems of the State which have been aggravated by the virtual isolation on account of partition of the country and by constant firing by Pakistan on our borders. In absence of any programme

to utilise Assam's vast industrial potential and of a multi-purpose river valley project, it is unfortunate that in the matter of allocation of expenditure for the year the Planning Commission failed to consider the necessity of Assam's undertaking such programme as will help her in providing more power and to enable her to set up medium or light industries. Assam's case was adequately placed by the Chief Minister, the Planning Minister and myself at the Annual Plan discussion called by the Planning Commission. After we had satisfied that Assam had fulfilled its target of financial contribution for the State Plan including the target prescribed for additional taxation, that Assam's performance in respect of expenditure implementation was as satisfactory as most of other States' and the amount originally allotted was inadequate to meet the pressing need of the State, the Planning Commission accepted our position and agreed to increase the allocation for 1959-60 from the original figure of Rs.11 crores to Rs.12.25 crores. Of this amount the Government of India would make available, by way of Central assistance, Rs.6.75 crores and the State Government will be required to contribute Rs.5.5 crores from its own resources. This represents a substantial improvement over previous year in respect of Plan expenditure provision in the State. Developmental head-wise allocations in the State plan for the next financial year are shown at Appendix 'B'.

13. While Rs.12.25 crores now approved by the Planning Commission for a State Plan expenditure during the next financial year shows a distinct improvement over previous years, it is felt that unless further assistance is given in the course of next financial year and thereafter it will be difficult for the State Government to undertake Plans which will at least lay a foundation for work in the Third Five-Year Plan. It is necessary that for Industrial Projects in future a large scale power development programme should be undertaken. In this connection it is necessary to remember that Assam's *per capita* figure will be only 5 Kw. as against the All-India average of 50 Kw. at the close of the Second Five-Year Plan. The failure to provide for a Multi-purpose River Valley Project in the State Plan has not only led to great lack of power but has also resulted in the complete absence of any large or medium size Irrigation Project in the State during the Plan period. The formation of Oil India Private Ltd., for extraction of Crude Oil from the Assam field with the collaboration of the Government of India and Burmah Oil Company and Assam Oil Company and the decision of the Government of India to locate an Indian Oil Refinery Private Ltd., in Assam for processing

the Crude Oil can be described as the beginning of an attempt at the industrial development of Assam. It is, however, unfortunate and regrettable that, notwithstanding the decision to locate the Refinery in Assam and the repeated visits of experts to survey various areas in the State for the purpose of selecting a site, little has been done till now to implement the decision and to avail of the huge quantity of crude oil awaiting to be processed. I will only say this much that everyday's delay in completing this task not only means a loss to the country as a whole but it also stands in the way of our getting the much-needed resources essential for the development of our economy. I reiterate Government and Hon'ble Members' great anxiety and concern not only in this respect but also in respect of other development sectors because we have continued to remain at the same low level of development even though we have become free. Transport and communication continue to be as unreliable and unsatisfactory as ever resulting in Assam having a very high cost of living together with high cost of raw materials ; such as cement, steel, etc., which have to be brought from outside the State. I have carefully gone through the Railway Budget submitted by the Central Government for the ensuing year. I cannot help expressing our regret that, notwithstanding the setting up of the North-Eastern Frontier Railway headquarters at Pandu, the survey of an alternative alignment from Siliguri to Alipurduar, the starting of construction of the Brahmaputra Bridge and the professed desire of the Central Government to help us in other ways by removing the transport bottle-neck, no proposal has been included for extending either the Railway communication to our Coal Fields in Garo Hills through Goalpara and to North Lakhimpur or further strengthening the Assam Link in order to make it more reliable and speedy. Having considerable potential in respect of additional agricultural production Assam's plan allocation for agriculture and allied subjects has been meagre and this together with absence of the large and medium size Irrigation Project has resulted in the State not being able to contribute what it might have been able to do in respect of agricultural production. Even in respect of all social services considerable lee-way has still to be made before Assam can reach the level already achieved in the more advanced and developed States of the country. The problem of the all-round development of the Hill Districts and the Plains' Tribal Areas and of backward classes is particularly acute and needs greater emphasis and intensification. Three of the Hill Districts being Border Districts have been very hard-hit economically by

partition, its aftermath and recent continuous firing by Pakistan on Khasi Hills and Garo Hills borders. The economic rehabilitation of these areas is one of the most urgent problem facing the State today. In other sectors of development also the allocation made to the State in the last few years has tended to be extremely meagre and quite inadequate in proportion to the crying needs of this problem State.

Approach to Third Five-Year Plan

14. I have purposely taken so much time of the House in referring at length to the State Provision in the Second Five-Year Plan. Though the Third Plan is still two years distant, I feel, we should from now approach the task of preparing our proposals with perspective Planning lest we should again be lost in wilderness. The Planning Commission, some Members of the Parliament and of Legislature of other States appear to have been discussing informally the approach to Third Five-Year Plan. We do not yet know what will be the size of this Plan and what will be the resources available for investment in implementing the work to be carried over from Second Five-Year Plan and in work of Third Five-Year Plan. Notwithstanding this limitation, we have taken some steps in this direction and want the fullest discussion of the subject in our State before finalising our proposals. As a right approach has to be made from now we shall be grateful for such observation as Hon'ble Members may make both with regard to our approach and how to get the benefit of all available suggestion and views in the State. The facts stated by me with reference to Second Five-Year Plan and in respect of our needs and problems may prove helpful to Hon'ble Members in offering their suggestions. The Planning, if I may be permitted to point out, should not consist merely of a list of schemes or of some priorities. It should, in my opinion, attempt much more. It ceases to be a planning if we do not take note of some basic facts and inherent compulsions. Apart from the task of finding internal resources for investment in our undertaking, we have to take into consideration such factors as growing population in the State, strengthening the base of our economy and the general direction of our planning. Strengthening the base of our economy necessarily implies our planning for adequate agricultural production, an industrial base including heavy, medium, small and Cottage Industries, Transport and Education. So far as the general direction of planning is concerned, the Hon'ble Members may take into consideration the lead and

guidance given in this respect by the Nagpur Congress Resolution. I have commended for Hon'ble Members' consideration the Nagpur Congress Resolution, which appears to have taken a correct approach, not because I have the honour to belong to All-India Congress Organisation but because it seeks to clarify our advance towards socialism, an objective to which we are all committed, it represents a public urge and it gives a correct push forward in regard to basic policies. The resolution on Agriculture, as the Hon'ble Members are aware, deals with various aspects of the problem. It envisages joint farming by first building services co-operatives in every village in India and emphasises the need of giving greater power and authority to the Panchayats. It will be observed that the resolution clearly lays down that Panchayats and the village co-operatives should become the foundation as well as the strong pillars of our democratic structure both in the administration and in economic matters. It is for us now to take advantage of the lead given by the Nagpur Congress and to keep the guidance in mind at the time of formulating our proposals for the Third Five-Year Plan and also for making necessary effort to implement these directions throughout the State. Such approach and effort, I submit, should not be confined to a party but should be made on All-India, All-Assam basis irrespective of party affiliation and consideration.

Firing and Raids on Border

15. I need not trouble the Hon'ble Members with the details of unprecedented violence and aggression by Pakistan in several areas on Assam-East Pakistan Border and of raids by Naga Hostile in the bordering areas of Sibsagar District, and United Mikir and North-Cachar Hills. Some of these have been placed by the Governor in his address to the House on the 24th February 1959 and the Hon'ble Members have also had the opportunity of expressing their views on them. I only wish to add that the repeated uncalled for acts of violence and aggression by Pakistanis in our areas and frequent raids by Naga Hostiles have caused disturbance to peace and tranquility of our people particularly of those living in the border areas, have brought about a dislocation in the trade, business and cultivation and have put a tremendous strain on our administration. We had to take steps and incur expenditure to provide for the security of our people and for the relief of those who have been subjected to untold miseries and sufferings. Our appeals and peaceful negotiations for restoring peace

in these areas have so far produced no result. Consistent with our national policy of settlement of all disputes through peaceful negotiation, we shall continue to make efforts for the settlement of all our disputes with Pakistan; but the manner in which Pakistan has, in the past reacted to our approach, and has repeatedly broken the agreements give us little hope for relief from our anxiety and concern in this behalf. We are left with no alternative but to take effective measures for providing the necessary security to our people and to take steps as and when required to give relief to such of our people as need our help. I need not enumerate the various steps taken by the Government to ensure security and safety to our State. Nor the Hon'ble Members would in the interest of security require me to do so. I only wish to say that the steps taken by the Government are adequate to meet the situation. These necessarily mean incurring of additional expenditure and consequent strain on our economy. It is difficult for the State to bear the burden of this additional expenditure. Initially sanction of necessary expenditure in this behalf has been given by me and I shall continue to follow this principle even though it may sometimes involve postponement and even curtailment of expenditure on our plans and schemes. As for some of such expenditure Government of India is liable, we have taken up the question of re-imbursement.

Agriculture

16. Importance of food in the economy of the State has been mentioned before at length by me. Our aim is not only self-sufficiency but surplus food production. The total area of our State, excluding areas covered by N. E. F. A. and the Autonomous Hills Districts, is about 23,000 sq. miles. Out of this approximately 5,000 sq. miles are covered by rivers, hills, marshy lands, etc., which are not fit for cultivation. Of the remaining 18,000 sq. miles more than 5,800 sq. miles constitute forest and grazing reserves. The area of agricultural land is indeed small and hardly adequate to maintain our increasing population. Steps, therefore, have to be taken for intensive cultivation and for reclamation of such land as may be available by means of irrigation, drainage and embankment. We have taken an additional food target production of 3.82 lakh tons during the Second Five-Year Plan period. Out of this 0.9 lakh tons has been achieved during the years 1956-1958 against the target of 1,04,820 tons. The Third year's target was 1,61,560 tons, including cumulative programme from the first year, for

the attainment of which there is a plan provision of Rs.108.22 lakhs in 1958-59 Budget. As the season for implementation of most schemes starts at the advent of the winter months, it is too early to forecast the actual result achieved. The campaign that was launched in 1957-58 to bring more areas under Ahu crop and Boro crop proved to a great extent successful and during the current year it is expected that Boro cultivation would be extended over 50,000 acres. The co-operation of tea estates has been sought in increasing food production by utilising their surplus land in the production of foodgrains. With activities concentrated on popularising the use of compost manure, Japanese method of cultivation and double cropping it has been proposed to create a production potential of 2.30 lakh tons foodgrain through various schemes in 1959-60. The food problem of the State cannot be solved merely by going for intensive cultivation or reclamation of land by means of irrigation, etc. It is also necessary to undertake agrarian reorganisation and improvement of land management practices. The resolution of the Government on settlement of agricultural land and on agrarian reorganisation has already been published. The policy pursued by Government in regard to food production has been clearly laid down in that resolution. It was stated, *inter-alia*, that steps should be taken to organise the cultivation field-wise by forming Field Management Committees in collaboration with the Panchayats and that these should be assisted by agriculture and co-operative experts because Government feel that actual tillers have to be brought into the picture in the matter of discussing agricultural development on scientific line and because the existing machineries and arrangements have not produced satisfactory result. The resolution further provides that at the State level there should be one State Land Advisory Board to guide and give necessary advice to the Field Management Committees. With this end in view Government have taken steps to sponsor Field Management Committees immediately all over the State. The object and constitution of these Committees have already been published and the Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers have already been directed to form these Field Management Committees and get them registered. I hope such help as is necessary in making this programme successful will be forthcoming from the Hon'ble Members. Apart from this a stream-lined agricultural administration is an urgent necessity if the food situation of the State is to be appreciably eased. The Agriculture Department, which was established by the British to impose their own type of administration in the country, needs now to be thoroughly re-oriented on a vigorous and broad scale for

higher production of food. The Estimates Committee, composed of the Hon'ble Members of this House with Shri H. Goswami as Chairman, has published a very valuable report and has made valuable recommendations. While this report of the Committee was under examination the Government of India appointed another Committee, *viz.*,—"Nalagarh" Committee to suggest a model of agricultural organisation in the States. It is a matter of pride for me to congratulate the Members of our Estimates Committee for their fine work which has received corroboration from the "Nalagarh Committee" as some of its recommendations are similar to those made by our Estimates Committee. A Cabinet Sub-Committee has been formed with the Chief Minister as the Chairman to examine the problem of the Agriculture Department and also the recommendation of the Estimates and "Nalagarh" Committees. Most of the important recommendations made by the two Committees have been accepted. Accordingly, decision has been taken to appoint three Regional Joint Directors in addition to the Director and the Additional Director at Headquarters and to increase the pay scales of all categories of Agricultural Officers in order to attract qualified persons to this Department. The steps taken, I hope, will go a long way in attracting qualified persons to the Agriculture Department and in bringing about more production of foodgrains and other crops.

Food

17. The food situation in 1959 is expected to be better than in 1958. There has been favourable harvest this year and the market price of rice has considerably come down with the arrival of new rice into the market. The State Government have decided to procure 22 lakhs maunds of paddy this year for building up a buffer stock at the procurement price fixed for different zones by the Government of India with a view to further stabilising the market price and also meeting any emergency. In procurement it is expected Co-operatives shall play a big role. In fact monopoly has been given to Co-operatives as a pilot measure in the district of Nowgong. The minimum price to be given to a grower in the village has been statutorily fixed at Rs.9 per maund of paddy subject to certain reduction for moisture in the months of December, January and February. Besides the buffer stock, the Government intends to exercise indirect control over 1.5 lakh tons of rice lying with the licensed millers and wholesalers by means of movement control, price control and allocation to industries and other institutions.

18., Central Government have opened depots in Assam for storage of wheat which is being released regularly by them to flour mills in Assam at Rs.14 per maund for production of atta. The monthly quota of atta has been raised from 2,000 to 5,000 tons per month from September 1958, at the request of the State Government. Besides, the monthly quota of 900 tons of wheat is being released to Assam flour millers for production of flour and suji. Government of India have also allotted 15,000 tons of flour to Assam from Calcutta flour mills. The State Government have appointed a sugar stockist at Gauhati and Tinsukia to maintain a buffer stock. They are required to import a minimum of 12,000 maunds of sugar per month. The stockist has also been asked to maintain stock at Silchar in future if the situation so demands. In addition sugar is moving to various destination in Assam both from sponsored and non-sponsored traffic. As there is scarcity of iron and steel throughout India, the quota allotted to this State is far below the requirement. The supply position of cement has improved, and consequent on the abolition of permit system, it will now be available in the open market from the licensed dealers at the price fixed. During the year 1958-59 Rs.3.5 lakhs were fixed for maintaining the transport cost of essential commodities to be supplied in different centres of Lungleh Subdivision in order to make these commodities available to consumers in that part of the Mizo District at reasonable price. These commodities include salt, sugar, flour and kerosene oil. The total quantity to be subsidised every month was increased from 910 maunds in 1957-58 to 999 maunds in 1958-59. For the next financial year (1959-60), a provision of Rs. 4 lakhs for providing similar facility to the people of the district under the Lungleh Subsidy Scheme has been provided. Similarly rice was made available during 1958-59 in the rural areas of United Khasi and Jaintia Hills District at the subsidised rate of Rs.18 per maund. Generally rice was available to the rural retailers at Rs.16 per maund and they were required to sell it to the consumers by adding the transport cost and a profit margin of 50 Naye paise per maund. During the period from April 1958 to January 1959, a total quantity of 1,58,828 maunds of Central Government rice was issued to the rural areas of the district at the subsidised rate. As the Central Government have decided not to issue any rice from their stock for the time being and suggested that the rice requirement of the border areas should be met from the locally procured stock, it has been decided that rice will be issued to all rural retailers at a pool price of Rs.21.6 nP. per maund. The selling price of rice, therefore, in distant areas will be much reduced and the transport subsidy

which will be borne by the State Government will come to about Rs. 12 lakhs during the ensuing year (1959-60). A provision of Rs.20,000 has also been made for transport subsidy in respect of rice to be supplied to the different areas of Mikir Hills during the coming year. The Rice Subsidy Scheme for supply of locally procured rice is proposed to be extended to the scarcity areas of the Subdivision. The Central Government rice was also issued to the Garo Hills during 1958-59 at Rs.16 per maund. The price fixed for Tura was Rs.19.50 nP. per maund by adding the transport cost. The transport cost for rice despatched to the areas from Tura were subsidised by the State Government for which there was a total provision of Rs. one lakh and fifty thousand during the year 1958-59. A provision of Rs.3.20 lakhs on account of transport subsidy for Garo Hills has been made for the coming year (1959-60). As in the case of United Khasi and Jaintia Hills District, locally procured rice from surplus areas of Plains districts will have to be issued for Garo Hills for the time being and thus the transport subsidy to be borne by the State Government will be much higher. It has been decided that rice in all areas of the Garo Hills will be issued to consumers at a pool price of Rs.21.60 nP. per maund.

Animal Husbandry, Veterinary and Fishery

19. The Animal Husbandry and Veterinary has an important role in the rural life of our country. As Hon'ble Members are aware, there was a heavy cattle mortality during last year. Government tried to relieve the distress of the people by issuing cattle loan to the extent of Rs.12 lakhs which is more than what was issued in any previous year and by requiring the Veterinary Department to intensify the campaign of inoculation. A proposal to have one mobile dispensary for each of the Plains Districts is under consideration of the Government for services in areas where no veterinary dispensary exists. It is expected that construction of 17 dispensaries and 5 hospitals, out of which 3 dispensaries are in Plains Tribal Areas and 4 in Autonomous Hills Districts, will be completed during the current year. Besides these steps, action has been taken to have more trained Field Assistants so that timely help may be extended to any area during any epidemic period. The Veterinary Department is also proposed to be reorganised so that better type of people are attracted to serve in this Department. The Milk Supply Scheme for the urban areas is to be extended to some other towns like Nowgong, Jorhat and Ghungur. In pursuance of a resolution adopted in

the last Session of the Assembly, a High Power Committee has been set up, with Shri Satish Das-Gupta of Sodepur Khadi Pratisthan as Chairman, to examine the causes of large scale cattle mortality in the State and to recommend measures to cope with the situation and also to improve the working of the Department.

20. The Fishery Department is continuing its activity through pisciculture and reclamation of natural fishery and development of hill fishery. During the current year about 27.13 lakhs seed locally and another 13.85 lakhs of fish seed from Calcutta were obtained against 24 lakhs during 1957-58. The target for 1959-60 is 45 lakhs. Old and ancient tanks, numbering 37, have so far been reclaimed and another 10 tanks have been selected for reclamation.

Co-operation

21. The integrated system of rural credit which envisages the linking of credit, marketing and processing is a basis of a State plan on co-operation. Up till now 3,702 Village Co-operative Credit Societies including 200 large size Credit Societies have come into existence along with Co-operative Central Bank at several places to meet the increased demand for fund a for Primary Societies. The Assam Co-operative Bank Ltd., which is to provide fund for Co-operative Central Bank by borrowing money from the Reserve Bank of India at concessional rate against the guarantee of State Government, has also been started with State's participation in share capital to the extent of Rs.22 lakhs. During 1958-59 the Bank has also issued Rs.135 lakhs short-term loan with possibility of more issues. Much relaxation has been made in the terms of the loan issued by the Co-operative and from the current year the rate of interest to be paid by the ultimate borrower has been lowered to $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent from 8 per cent. The Central Land Mortgage Bank, which issues long term loans, has now 12 members on its rolls and issued Rs.9,78,225 to 555 members. The State Government subscribed Rs.9,00,000 towards its share capital, provided with temporary loan of Rs.5 lakhs and a subsidy of Rs.29,000 to meet the initial expenditure. 66 Marketing Co-operatives, out of which State Government have subscribed share capital of 30 deserving societies, have come into existence. These Societies shall ensure better rate to the agriculturists out of their increased production. The deserving societies have been granted loan and subsidy for construction of godowns and for co-ordination of other activities.

An Apex Marketing Co-operative Society with Government participation in share capital and subsidy for maintenance of staff has been organised. This society is also supplying chemical fertiliser to the agriculturists in six districts. The Co-operative Sugar Mill at Dergaon has gone into production so also the Cotton Ginning Mill at Phulbari. It is expected that the Jute Baling Society at Nowgong shall start functioning soon. The Milk Pasteurisation Plant at Gauhati is working since March 1958 and the installation of the Plant at Jorhat is making progress. In the field of small industries, like various trades and weaving, the Co-operative Department is making progress. A State Ware House Corporation has been established from the current year. The Corporation shall have 15 ware houses in the State.

Community Projects

22. The Community Projects Department has brought 40.6 per cent of the total areas of the State, 39.8 per cent of the population and 48.6 per cent of the total number of villages under the Community Development Programme. The new Panchayats, with more democratic set up, greater authority and more funds at their disposal, which will be organised soon after the Panchayat Bill now before the House is passed, will, it is hoped, play an important role in transforming the face of rural areas. The Government of India have introduced recently some important changes in the pattern of the schematic budget of the Block and has also done away with the distinction between the National Extension Service, intensive development and post-intensive stage. In future all the Blocks will be under two stages, *viz.*, Stage I for 5 years with a total budget of Rs.12 lakhs and Stage II for another 5 years with a total budget of Rs.5 lakhs. There are in all 64 Blocks in the State, 30 of which are in Stage I, 20 in Stage II and 7 Multi-purpose Blocks in the Tribal Areas and 7 Community Development Blocks which will pass on to Stage II on 1st April 1959. During the next two years 22 more Blocks, 10 in 1959-60 and 12 in the following year will be started. Pre-extension work has already been started in 5 of the 10 Blocks to be inaugurated in 1959-60. Important measures have been taken for ensuring expeditious implementation of the programme by reorganisation of the Department and by delegation of wide financial powers to the Deputy Commissioners for sanction of comprehensive schemes under the different developmental heads and expenditure thereunder. A State Level Seminar was held in July 1958 to discuss matters in connection with the implementation of the programme and the decision arrived at has also been followed

up. A two days' Seminar of the non-official members of the Block Development Committee, P. E. O./A. P. O. and Heads of Departments of the State was held at the Ramkrishnanagar Community Development Block in Cachar in the month of January in which important matters relating to the Community Development Programme and problems arising thereunder have been exhaustively discussed. The main purpose of the Seminar was to seek exchange of views between officials and non-officials. It was also a first step for bringing in non-officials, particularly Block Development Members, in close co-operation with the officials and workers entrusted with the work and for acquainting all with the philosophy and the programme of the Community Development. The Union Minister of Community Development inaugurated the Seminar and gave valuable instructions to the participants. The Department has been concentrating its activities on popularisation and the use of compost manure, cultivation of vegetables and fruits, double cropping and Japanese method of cultivation. About 67.6 maunds of seeds and 1.32 lakhs maunds of fertilisers have so far been distributed. About 61,000 acres have been brought under fruit and vegetables. Green manure has been introduced over an area of 29.3 acres. For the first time a Bharat Darshan tour of about 300 participants, including farmers and village leaders all over the State, was sponsored and organised during this financial year. This tour, I hope, has afforded an opportunity to the participants not only to visit many national projects and historical sites but has also helped them to acquire personal knowledge of the various development programmes and enabled them to exchange views and share knowledge with people living in other parts of the country. I hope it has further helped them to realise the fundamental unity of India.

Panchayats and Local Bodies

23. I have already referred to the need of giving greater power and authority to the Panchayats and helping them to become the foundation and the strong pillars of our democratic structure both in the administration and in economic matters. Moreover the experience of Community Development work, during the last 6 years has shown that the ultimate success of the Development Schemes will be better attained with decentralisation, investing the rural public with the entire responsibility for formulation and implementation of different schemes and with Government only rendering necessary technical advice and limited financial assistance to such bodies. In consonance with

this objective and with a view to enable the rural public to play their dominant part in the development of the country and improving their lot in all walks of life, the Assam Panchayat Bill has been placed before this House. As the Hon'ble Members are aware, this Bill was referred to the Select Committee and is now before the house for consideration of the report submitted by the Committee. I need not refer to its provision in details. It will be sufficient for me to say that the Bill, as it has emerged out of the Select Committee, provides for significant changes including transfer of greater power and authority to the Panchayats. A share of the land revenue as well as the entire local rate are also proposed to be allotted to the Panchayats to enable them to function as effective units of Self-Government. The allotment of 25 per cent of land revenue to the Panchayats has been provided in the next year's budget. The local rate, which is proposed to be enhanced to Rs.0.25 nP., will entirely be allocated to the Gaon Panchayats. The Bill also proposes to abolish Local Boards and the Government have decided to absorb the Local Boards and the Rural Panchayat employees in the new set up of Panchayats as far as practicable soon after the Panchayat Act comes into force. The Local Board dispensaries will be taken over by the Government from the next financial year and a phased programme of provincialisation will be taken up. One Town Committee has been established at Dhekiajuli and proposals of such Committees for other places are under examination of Government. The Scheme "Aid to Local Bodies" under the Second Five-Year Plan is to develop areas through the agencies of the Local Bodies. Under this Scheme many playgrounds, children parks, and clubs have come into existence and many markets have been improved. During this year the Garo Hills District Council has been given a loan for improvement of two markets. For reconstruction of fire devastated Barrabazar at Shillong, Government have sanctioned a loan to the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills District Council.

Flood Control and Irrigation

24. Upto the year 1956-57 emphasis was laid on the construction of Flood Embankment in view of the serious situation caused by floods after the great Earthquake in 1950. Since then, owing to drought condition in several parts of the State, emphasis has been shifted to the problem of irrigation. The Drainage and Embankment Project Reviewing Committee, under the Chairmanship of Shri B. C. Bhagawati, M.P., is now carrying out a study of problem arising out of setting up of flood irrigation and consequent deprivation of silt. There is a

programme of 75 miles of dykes during the current year. A programme has been taken up to provide sluice opening in the embankment in order to facilitate flood irrigation in a controlled manner and a start has been given during this year. There is some erosion in the upstream of Dibrugarh Town proper near Nagaghuli and in the downstream at Palasbari near Dharapar. Necessary model experiment of this erosion is under study in the Poona Research Laboratory and Malkapur Research Laboratory respectively. An expert of Government of India is coming soon to study the erosion of cultivable and habitable land by the Brahmaputra and Barak with a view to evolving a solution. The Jamuna Irrigation Programme in Nowgong is under investigation and a project report is expected soon. The position of funds for Flood Control Schemes under the Plan for Assam has been progressively deteriorating. Originally, out of total allocation of Rs.60 crores for India Rs.8 crores were earmarked for Assam. This was later reduced to Rs.7 crores. As the allocation for Flood Control from Rs.60 crores was reduced to Rs.51 crores we were informed that Assam's share would also be reduced and be of the order of Rs.5.91 crores. Even though this sum would not have been sufficient to meet the cost of Flood Control schemes for the State, the position appears to have worsened, as, in its meeting held on 25th December 1958, the Central Flood Control Board indicated that Assam's share was further likely to be reduced to Rs. 3.27 crores. On the Chief Minister's strong representation to the Board that the proposed allocation was not only utterly inadequate but also very disproportionately small in case of Assam, the Board agreed to approach the Planning Commission to restore the cut in the matter of Flood Control allocation so that final allocation for the States may be reviewed and increased. We have now been informed that Assam's share of Flood Control allocation will be Rs.4.42 crores, on the basis of the Second Plan provision of Rs. 52.21 crores for India allocated by the Planning Commission. This final allocation not only falls far short of our requirement but is also disproportionately low for Assam and will hardly help the State which, among other States, is worst affected by floods. We are, however, again moving the Government of India to reconsider this allocation and to increase the figure to the previously indicated sum of Rs. 5.91 crores. The Hon'ble Members may be pleased to note that unless the Plan allocation is increased substantially beyond the present agreed amount of Rs. 4.42 crores, there will be no scope for undertaking any schemes under the Flood Control Programme during the remaining two years of the Plan period.

Education

25. From the development-wise head allocation in the State Plan for the next financial year, as shown at Appendix 'B', the Hon'ble Members will be pleased to see that out of the total Plan provision expenditure of Rs. 1,225 lakhs for next year, an amount of Rs. 174.54 lakhs have been provided for expenditure on Education. Similarly under the new Schemes of State Budget it will be observed that out of total provision of Rs. 88.1 lakhs for new schemes incorporated in the Budget an amount of Rs. 30.42 lakhs has been provided for new schemes on Education.

In the field of Basic Education, Training of teachers is engaging more attention, as, without trained teachers such education is a mere name only. During the current year a batch of 80 trainees has been sent for training in Senior Basic and 1000 trainees for Junior Basic. Construction of school buildings is also making progress. Recommendations of the Secondary Education Commission are being followed in the schemes for reorganisation of Secondary Education. During this year 3 schools are being converted into multi-purpose schools and five into higher secondary schools. More High Schools and Middle English Schools have been brought under the scheme for improvement of school libraries and teaching of general science of crafts. Hostels with a total capacity of 300 pupils have been constructed for these high schools where the reorganised course of education has been introduced and grants-in-aid have been given to Aided Girls' High Schools for construction of Hostels. It is known to the Hon'ble Members that model scales of pay have been introduced in most of the non-Government High and Middle English Schools involving enhanced rate of grant-in-aid. Government have decided to raise the scale of pay of aided school teachers to those of their counter parts in Government schools subject to their agreeing to accept rules of conduct and discipline applicable to teachers in Government schools for which an additional amount of Rs. 26 lakhs a year will have to be found. With the limited resources of the State and the annual provision out of our Second Plan depending on our capacity to sustain it after meeting the normal expenditure of administration and the committed expenditure for maintenance of the schemes completed during the First Five-Year Plan period, attempts will have to be made to find fund from the Plan resources to cost the bill of this additional expenditure of Rs. 26 lakhs a year. During this year Rs. 2 lakhs have been given as grant-in-aid

for the introduction of Science in the intermediate course of three colleges and degree course of two colleges beside, grant-in-aid for construction of Hostels for 8 colleges. Rs. 5 lakhs have been sanctioned to the Gauhati University to enable them to avail of the University Grant Commission's grants. To enable the aided colleges to introduce higher scales of pay recommended by the university grant commission provision has been made in next budget for grant-in-aid and also for increase of dearness allowance.

In the sphere of technical education, with a view to achieve rapid development, a separate Directorate of Technical Education has been created in the current year. Construction works for the second Engineering College at Jorhat has started and more equipment for all the technical institutions have been purchased. There has also been considerable progress in the building programme of the Assam Engineering College at Gauhati.

Major Industries and Power

26. We have abundant natural resources that yet remain to be exploited in a systematic manner. Today we are sending our raw-materials out of the State and we are dependent on supply from outside for all our requirement including essential consumer goods of daily use. For utilising the raw-materials of the State, medium and large industries can be set up. We can and should undertake production of almost all the articles we are today importing to the State. There is thus great scope for several major, medium and small scale industries and need for reviving and revitalising the traditional cottage industries as well as handicrafts of the State. Industrial development on all these sectors, if it is to be organised rapidly and in concrete practical manner, should be taken up both in the private and public sectors. In the private sector necessary industrial climate has to be created. For this purpose an Industrial/Industries Development Conference was held early in July last year which was attended by industrialists from all over India. The Conference succeeded in large measure in creating the necessary industrial climate. A Techno-Economic Survey of Assam through the National Council of Applied Economic Research will soon be taken up. It will be of great assistance to industrialists wishing to set up industries in Assam. A Development Council has also been constituted. Recently a meeting of the Development Council

was held and the work of Techno-Economic Survey was inaugurated at Shillong which many Members from this House had the occasion to attend. The Department of Industries is also being organised for guiding and assisting those who are interested in setting up the industries in the State. With a view to ensure co-ordination and proper attention to all sectors of industries, Cottage Small-Scale, Medium and Major, the Cottage Industries Department also, which was a separate Department, has been placed under the Director of Major Industries and a full-fledged Directorate is being organised for the first time in the State. It will be the task of the new Directorate to concentrate on (1) organising production of articles which are now being imported from outside and which can be undertaken here with a small capital, simple machine, tools and technics; (2) the implementation of schemes and licenses issued in the past for certain medium and major industries which unfortunately have not come up so far; (3) the drawing up of a blue print for all round industrial development for the remaining years of the Second Plan and the spill over to be carried into the Third Five-Year Plan. Under (1) about 50 new industries are already coming up. A wire nail factory has already gone into production and the nail for the first time are made in Assam. The installation of one Timber Treatment and Seasoning Plant is nearing completion and is expected to go into production in a month or two. Two caffeine factories from tea-waste are also under installation, two flour mills at Sibsagar and Tezpur are under construction, some $3/4$ foundries are also expected to go on stream in the next $2/3$ months. In addition to these some 14 industrial units are coming up in the Industrial Estate at Gauhati about 24 sheds are already constructed and they have all been allotted to these industries. Licenses for a re-rolling mill and a bicycle factory have been granted and an agreement for a pulp mill is nearing completion and is about to be registered. Under (2), namely, implementation of schemes and licenses issued, the State Government have decided to participate in the share capital of M/S. Assam Cements Ltd., who have been given a license to set up a cement factory at Cherrapunji to the extent of Rs. 15 lakhs and to stand guarantee for the last instalment of the price of machines to be imported for this project. Hon'ble. Members are aware that some old proposals for Jute, Spun Silk, Fruit Canning and Cotton, etc., Mills, have been with us for several years on papers and we have not yet been able to see them in concrete shape. We are trying to cancel the licenses issued to the parties who have made no progress with the schemes like jute, cotton mills, etc., and we are

considering alternative arrangement by which these can be set up without any further delay. We are also taking action to step up the spun silk mill in the public sector. Till now we had only a few isolated schemes like jute mill, a cotton mill, a pulp project and a scheme for fruit preservation and canning. Unfortunately these were not thought of and integrated with the needs for power, transport and communication, suitable location and such other ancillary facilities and factors. If we are to make lee-way and make up for the past deficiency we have to think in terms of an integrated Plan for industrial development not only covering such factors as power, transport and communication but also all the sectors of industries, major, medium and small-scale and cottage.

The total capital expenditure on power during the Second Five-Year Plan till 30th November 1958 is Rs. 185.22 lakhs against the plan outlay of Rs. 380 lakhs. At present there are 22 Power stations operating having a total installed capacity of 14,267 K.W. The Assam State Electricity Board has been constituted from 1st January 1958 according to the provision of Indian Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948. The Board dropped the Umtyngar Thermal Power Station Project in favour of the Barapani Hydro-Electric Project of which the project report is under preparation. The Planning Commission has agreed to allot fund for implementation. Investigation of the larger power stations like the Nahorkatiya Thermal Project and the Kopili Valley Multipurpose Project, are in progress with a view to consolidate the isolated power schemes, as pilot electrification scheme in a grid connected to larger Central Power Stations. The work, on some high tension lines, has been started and investigation for establishment of large central power stations has been undertaken.

Cottage Industries

27. Cottage industries, including sericulture and weaving, have not only great possibilities in Assam but their importance is being increasingly felt with the rise of un-employment and under-employment in rural areas. Twenty-three schemes, including schemes for industrial estates and industrial blocks and training-cum-production centres, are under implementation in the Cottage Industries Department. The Sericulture and Weaving Department has 44 schemes out of which 20 concerning handloom development are under the control of the Co-operative Department. Production of eri, muga and pat has maintained the level attained

during the previous year. A Village Industries Survey Committee was appointed by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission at the request of this Government to advise on the scope for development of village industries in this State. The Committee has submitted its report which is under active consideration of the Government. In the meantime, through the State Khadi and Village Industries Board, centres for hand-pounding of paddy, village are and khadi are being opened and continued and the Government have opened one sale depot and one sale bhandar at Shillong. One bee-keeping centre has also been started at Cherrapunji. About 33,000 square yards of cloth and 13,000 lbs. of yarn have been produced in the centres and 284 charkas have been produced by the Saranjam Karjalaya. The Hon'ble Members may be interested to know that, during the last drought, 35 test relief centres were opened in the affected areas of Nowgong and Goalpara districts to give relief to the distressed people through paddy husking, by paying them wages and allowing them to keep the bye-products. About 40,000 maunds of paddy was de-husked and Rs.80,000 distributed as wages. As this new method of test relief was found helpful by the sufferers and proved a success, the centres are being re-organised on co-operative basis.

Forests

28. Various programmes and development of forest resources of the State are making steady progress. Encroachment into the Reserve Forests is being removed and action has been taken to prevent recurrences. Soil Conservation work, which was initiated in Assam as a result of the request made by Tribal leaders, particularly from Garo Hills and Mizo Hills District Union to the Prime Minister of India, has been taken up in right earnest. For this purpose a Soil Conservation Directorate under the direct supervision of the Chief Conservator of Forests has been set up. In order to demonstrate the economic and soil conservation benefit of greater adoption of cash crop economy, representatives of the C. E. M. of each District and Regional Council and Tribal cultivators were taken on tour of South India in December 1958. They visited the coffee and cardamon growing areas of Mysore, the pepper, cashewnut, tapioca, lemon-grass, rubber and cloves growing areas of Kerala and cloves, hut-meg and mangosteen growing Government Farms of Madras Government and the Soil Conservation Training Centre at Ootacamond of the

Government of India. I hope they will profit by this visit and the prospect of growing some of the crops in the Hill areas, not only necessary for their well-being and prosperity but also for the economy of the State will be brightened. Further, to remove the absence of terracing for paddy growing in Garo Hills and Khasi Hills, a scheme has been submitted to take up 200 acres of terracing before the end of this financial year and to provide irrigation to these terraces for growing wet paddy. Similarly for the purpose of afforestation about 200 acres of barren hills are proposed to be de-forested in the Khasi Hills near Umsaw and Mawsynram by 31st March 1959 but actual pine sowing will be taken up in April 1959. In 1959-60 the number of crop nurseries for distribution is proposed to be stepped up to about 200, the afforestation stepped up to about 5 square miles and terracing and irrigation similarly to about 5 square miles. Land is being offered in practically all the Siemships of the Khasi Hills for terracing and nurseries. The necessity for legislation to protect the forests from fire and grazing has been appreciated by the District Council and the necessary legislation promised. The Mizo District Council has offered land for as many nurseries as the Department wants. It is proposed to take up terracing for paddy growing in the Thanjaul plain of the Mizo District. In 1959-60 there is a proposal of purchasing 2 tractors with bulldozers and terracing blades. The total budget provision under the Plan for 1959-60 is Rs. 12 lakhs. The maintenance of the centres that existed upto the end of 1957-58, the new addition of work proposed to be undertaken during 1958-59 and the salaries of the staff upto the end of 1958-59 would cost about Rs.7,50,000. Thus 4½ lakhs of rupees will last for undertaking new work in 1959-60. The principal expansion involved is creation of 1,000 acres of terraces at Rs.200 per acre using the tractor equipment. The work is proposed to be accomplished through 2 Soil Conservation Divisional Officers one for the Garo Hills and Mikir Hills combined and one for the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills and North Cachar Hills combined and one Assistant Conservator working under the supervision of the Deputy Commissioner for the Mizo District.

Health

29. One hospital and 2 dispensaries have been added during the current financial year bringing the total number to 467 of which 94 have indoor accommodation and the total bed strength is 2,848. Besides, 136 subsidised dispensaries are functioning in addition to 10 Ayurvedic subsidised dispensaries.

The number of T. B. hospitals, including Government T. B. wards and private hospitals in the State, is 12 with bed strength of 546. Rules under the Assam Homeopathic Medicine Act, 1955 have already been framed. Rupees 5,000 was sanctioned during the current year as lump sum grant to the Board of Homeopathic System, Assam. The employees' State Insurance Scheme has been implemented in Assam in September 1958. Four areas have been brought under it; these are Gauhati, Dhubri, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia-cum-Makum. One mobile dispensary with propaganda equipment has been established at Mangaldai for the benefit of the Plains tribal areas. During the year 1958-59, seven Public Health dispensaries and three Kala-Azar wards with a provision of 46 beds have been opened. Seven more such dispensaries are expected to be opened very soon. Five dispensaries and 5 Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in Plains Tribal Welfare Centres in Plains Tribal Areas and 6 dispensaries and 4 Maternity and Child Welfare Centres in Autonomous Hills Districts are expected to function from 1959-60. Every year the Government are giving substantial amounts for augmentation of rural water supply. Seven schemes under the National Water Supply and Sanitation Programme are nearing completion and some new schemes have been taken in hand. Progress has not been upto expectation owing to shortage of staff and non-availability of materials. In addition to the Rural Water Supply Schemes, two Urban Water Supply Schemes for Gauhati and Shillong have been taken up. Work on the Shillong Scheme has commenced and that of Gauhati is under consideration of the Government of India.

It is known to the Hon'ble Members that Indian population is engaging the attention of not only all the State Governments and the Government of India but also of all thinking persons. In our State 43 Family Planning Clinics have been established and 14 more will come into existence very soon.

Housing

30. To check haphazard growth of towns in Assam and to help development on planned basis, two Bills—The Assam Slum Areas Improvement and Clearance Bill and the Assam Town and Country Planning Bill will be introduced in the Assembly. The Master Plans for Gauhati and Tinsukia are completed and those for other places including Shillong will be taken up without delay. Other Housing Schemes like the Low Income Group Housing, Subsidised Industrial Housing, Plantation Labour Housing, Slum Clearance and Rural Housing are making progress according to the Plan. Likely

progressive expenditure upto the end of the current financial year under the Low Income Group Housing is Rs. 53.83 lakhs against the Plan allocation of Rs. 74.50 lakhs and 634 houses will be completed against the Plan target of 1,380 houses. Against the Plan targets of 303 houses under Subsidised Industrial Housing, and 362 houses under Slum Clearance, it is expected that 174 houses and 48 houses respectively will be completed by the end of this financial year. A Rural Housing Cell has been set up for implementation of the Rural Housing Scheme and Socio-Economic Survey of some villages out of 15 selected for the purpose has been carried.

Land Reforms

31. The Hindu Religious Endowments Bill which was introduced last year has been withdrawn. A new Bill entitled "A Bill for acquisition of lands belonging to Religious and Charitable Institutions of a public nature" is being introduced with a view to remove intermediaries. A Bill for consolidation of land holdings is under consideration of Government. The main task now is to implement the legislations which have already been passed. A number of cases has already been filed in the High Court—challenging the validity of the Ceiling Act.

Resettlement operations are in progress in Kamrup, Sibsagar and 2 Mauzas of Dibrugarh Subdivision. Government are thinking to realise the premium of Rs.5 per bigha for conversion of annual land into periodic in 5 annual equal instalments. Government after due consideration have raised the rate of Mauzadar's commission.

Prohibition

32. There is total prohibition of liquor in the district of Kamrup and prohibition will be extended to other places gradually. According to the decision of the Government of India, there will be complete stoppage of opium passes and prohibition of Ganja consumption from 1st April, 1959.

Welfare of Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes

33. The Hon'ble Members, in the past, expressed the desire of placing budget provisions for the Tribal Areas Department separately in order that the House may get an opportunity to discuss the working of that Department. I have given my utmost consideration to the suggestion and I submit that, apart from the desirability of avoiding all such tendencies as are likely to create separatism, it is also not possible, administratively, to indicate budget provision made for the various Autonomous Districts as the expenditures are inseparably incurred under

different departments. Such separation of budget provision by indicating various expenditure under different departments will mean duplication and additional expenditures not commensurate with the advantage which the Hon'ble Members are likely to get. All expenditures are provided under different heads in the detailed estimates and demands for grants and the Hon'ble Members can raise discussion regarding the working of the department by moving Cut Motion. When such discussions involve any reference to expenditure in Tribal Areas, the Minister-in-charge of the Tribal Areas Department may reply on behalf of the Minister-in-charge of the Department or in addition to him. It is, however, possible to provide separately an appendix indicating budget provision made for the various districts in the Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas in respect of the State Second Five-Year Plan Schemes (including Article 275 Schemes) and Schemes sponsored by the Central Government. Various Schemes for the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes of the Sixth Schedule Districts under Article 275 and the State General Plan have therefore been printed separately in Appendix 'A' circulated along with the budget papers. In addition to this, it is possible and also proper to enlighten the House as to the amount spent by the Tribal Areas Department from the State exchequer under the normal expenditure. I give below a statement showing the excess of non-plan expenditure from Revenue over normal receipts from Revenue heads of the Districts specified under Para. 20 (Part A) of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India.

In lakhs of Rupees

Districts	Actuals, 1957-58			Revised, 1958-59			Budget, 1959-60		
	Receipts	Expenditure	Difference (Excess)	Receipts	Expenditure	Difference (Excess)	Receipts	Expenditure	Difference (Excess)
Mizo Hills ..	1.77	77.35	75.58	18.83	70.82	51.99	10.03	75.95	65.92
North Cachar Hills.	1.12	14.81	13.69	8.41	17.00	8.59	5.36	19.73	14.37
Khasi-Jaintia Hills.	47.10	98.03	50.93	33.11	54.50	21.39	19.27	63.50	44.23
Mikir Hills ..	6.65	26.96	20.31	16.29	38.18	21.89	12.26	32.52	20.26
Garo Hills ..	3.27	37.52	34.25	25.46	44.93	19.47	15.58	53.06	37.48
Total ..	59.91	254.67	194.76	102.10	225.43	123.33	62.59	244.76	182.26

It will be seen from the above statement that on an average we spend every year over Rupees 167 lakhs for the

Autonomous districts out of Revenue from other parts of the State, out of which the Government of India contribute only Rs.40 lakhs as grant-in-aid of the revenues of the State under item (a) of the Second proviso to Article 275 of the Constitution.

I have already referred to various other expenditures proposed to be incurred out of the State Budget during next year. From the list of Schedules of new schemes it will also be seen that Government propose to give a grant of Rs.50,000 to Welsh Mission Hospital at Shillong, Rs.10,000 to Serkawn Christian Hospital at Lungleh, Rs.5,000 for Durtlang Hospital at Aijal in Mizo District and Rs.10,000 for Tura Christian Hospital. Out of the State Revenue, Grants-in-aid to Mizo District Council amounting to Rs.1,40,000, to North Cachar Hills District Council amounting to Rs.32,000 and to Pawi-Lakher Regional Council amounting to Rs.35,000 during 1958-59 have been given. Further a loan of Rs.10,48,753 has been given up-to-date to all the District Councils out of which Rs.2,73,247 have been recovered leaving an outstanding balance of Rs.7,75,506.

The Development Programme taken up during the Second Plan period for welfare of Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes is progressing satisfactorily. Anticipated expenditure upto 31st March, 1959 against Plan outlay of Rs. 9.50 crores is Rs. 4.32 crores. It will be seen from Appendix 'A' circulated along with the Budget papers that the total amount provided for welfare of the Scheduled Tribes of the Sixth Schedule Districts is as follows—

Under Article 275—Rs. 1.34 crores.

Under other Schemes—Rs. 0.71 crores.

The entire amount for the Article 275 schemes will be provided by the Central Government as a grant-in-aid. The latter amount of Rs. 71 lakhs will be shared between the Central and the State Governments according to the assistance pattern of individual schemes. But generally such contribution of the Centre and the State will be in the ratio of 6.75 : 5.5. According to this, State's contribution towards development schemes for the Sixth Schedule Districts outside Article 275 will be Rs. 32 lakhs. In the past progress on expenditure on road work in the Autonomous Districts was rather slow due to the fact that all the road projects in the hills required financial and technical sanction from the Transport Ministry of the Government of India. The procedure has been liberalised and the

State Government has been authorised to accord sanction in respect of all road projects involving a total outlay not exceeding Rs. 25 lakhs and an annual expenditure not exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs. There is still shortage of imported steel materials for which reason, progress on bridge programme is slow.

Probably the Hon'ble Members remember that, in August 1958, the Union Home Minister inaugurated the Advisory Council for Hills and Plains Tribals and the Advisory Board for Scheduled Castes. Since then the Councils and the Board had two sittings. The Government have appreciated the advice of the Councils and the Board on the various development schemes and are considering the question of associating the District and Regional Councils more and more in implementation of various development schemes. On the floor of this House many a time it has been narrated how the economy of the border people of Garo Hills, United Khasi and Jaintia Hills and Mizo Hills has been shattered owing to the policy of Pakistan Government regarding the border trade. This aspect has also been particularly brought to my notice and that of the Government often by the father of the House, Rev. Nichols-Roy, who deserves gratitude of the people concerned for his constant interest in these unfortunate people. We have always appreciated his approach and looked to him for guidance and suggestion. Instead of leaving the economy to an uncertain policy the State Government had constituted three border Enquiry Committees to review the situation and to suggest practical remedies. The Committees for Garo Hills and United Khasi and Jaintia Hills have submitted report and the Third Committee's report is expected soon. On the basis of their recommendations, a relief and development programme for the rehabilitation of border people, involving a total expenditure of Rs. 10 crores over three years, was submitted to the Government of India who, after sympathetically considering the proposals, advised the State Government to scale down the programme to the financial resources of the Centre. A modified programme of Rs. 69 lakhs was submitted for the current year against which the Government of India have sanctioned Rs. 25 lakhs with almost similar provision for the next year. The State Government have also contributed additional Rs. 5 lakhs in this behalf. The programme includes financial assistance for regeneration of orange gardens and other cash crops, test relief works, supply of rice at subsidised rate, assistance for development of poultry, piggery, etc., and subsidies to meet transport charges for marketing border

produce. The Government have decided to maintain a fleet of trucks for supplying essential commodities to the border people and for providing transport facilities at economic freight to *bona fide* marketing organisations. This year also Government arranged air lifting of Shella oranges and marketing them in Calcutta and subsidised the freight by 3 nP. per lb. A more comprehensive programme for the next year is under preparation. Apart from this expenditure under this programme the State Government out of its own resources granted Rs. 6,40,000 for agricultural loan, Rs. 1,11,385 for gratuitous relief and Rs. 9 lakhs for Test Relief Works in the Autonomous Districts. Additional provision of Rs. 13 lakhs has been made in the next year's budget for agricultural loan to meet any emergency. The scheme for starting a Technical School at Diphu at an estimated cost of Rs. 3,79,400 has been taken up and grants have been sanctioned for construction of Tura and Aijal College Hostels. A sum of Rs. 99,776 has been sanctioned to different District Councils for improvement of rural water supply.

Various schemes totalling Rs. 45 lakhs have also been included in the next year's budget for welfare of the Plains Tribals. Fifty per cent of this amount will be contributed by the Government of India under Article 275 and the balance will be met from the State resources.

For welfare of the Scheduled Castes a sum of Rs. 8 lakhs has been provided under various schemes. In addition provision has been made for Rs. 18.05 lakhs for welfare of Tribals of the Plains and Scheduled Castes and Rs. 27.65 lakhs for welfare of the Scheduled Tribes of the Hills under various Centrally sponsored schemes. Out of this total provision of Rs. 45.70 lakhs, Rs. 4 lakhs is to be contributed by the State and the balance by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Besides the above schemes included in the Plan there are other provisions for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and other Backward classes under the various heads of the State normal budget. It will not be possible to exhibit these provisions separately. It may be mentioned however for the information of the Hon'ble Members that all schemes under Article 275 or the State General Plan completed during the First Five-Year Plan period are now being continued as a part of the normal expenditure of the State. The expenditure on these schemes for next year appears as a part of the normal demands for various departments. I should also like to mention particularly the scholarships reserved for students of

other backward classes which are provided under the normal State Budget. So long there were provisions for 115 such scholarships from the primary to collegiate standard. Representatives of the backward classes complained that the number of scholarships was not adequate and an assurance was given by the Chief Minister that the number of these scholarships would be increased. In pursuance of this assurance Government have recently decided to increase the number of scholarships by 115 with immediate effect.

Communications

34. I have already referred to construction of roads in Autonomous Hill districts. It is expected that a total mileage of 700 miles of road and 350 miles of Survey work will be completed by the end of the current Plan period. A scheme for construction of certain roads in the border districts is also to be taken up. During this year, efforts have been made to improve the conditions of National Highways. 126·87 miles of some important roads, estimated to cost Rs. 77·34 lakhs have been taken up under the programme. State Roads of Economic or inter-State importance are expected to be completed by the end of 1959. Under the same programme a bridge over the Jia-Bharali is being taken up in this year. Works on Garubasha-Hatisor Road, taken up under Petrol Tax Projects, are in progress. By the end of this financial year it is expected that Rs. 362 lakhs will be spent out of the Plan outlay of Rs. 665 lakhs. Against the Plan target of 650 miles of new roads, formation work on 560 miles is likely to be completed by the end of 1958-59. Out of 10 major bridges that were carried over from the First Plan, 3 bridges have already been completed and 3 more are likely to be completed in 1958-59. All preliminaries like collection of hydraulic data and other details relating to the construction of new major bridges are expected to be completed this year.

Road Transport and Water Transport

35. The Hon'ble Members are probably aware that the programme of nationalisation of motor transport had to be slowed down due to Planning Commission's refusal to allot funds within the Plan, as the State Government have not been able to agree to form a corporation for running the motor transport with participation of Railways. During the current year Kamargaon-Golaghat-Jorhat route with 52 miles, Shillong-Tamabil with 55 miles and Silchar-Hailakandi with 40 miles have been nationalised.

A separate Inland Water Transport Wing with a Director is going to be set up to tackle the inland water transport problem of the State.

Relief and Rehabilitation

36. *Relief Measures.*—The State suffered from floods this year also but fortunately extent of damage was not alarming. Total loan and relief sanctioned upto 7th January 1959 are—

	Rs.
Cattle Loan	12,00,000
Rehabilitation Loan	7,67,182
Test Relief	6,21,176
Gratuitious relief	4,24,631
Other Agricultural Loan	4,21,700

A statistical survey carried out shows the total number of displaced families in Assam to be 1,28,457. Of these 46,500 have been fully rehabilitated, 54,000 partially rehabilitated and 23,000 have not received any rehabilitation benefit from the Government. The Government of India have decided that rehabilitation of the displaced persons must be completed within 1960-61 and the Department wound up. Accordingly schemes are being formulated and implemented. Government's Land Settlement resolution in September last placed the displaced persons in the category of landless persons. Government are also pursuing the policy of removing all encroachment from Reserves and no discrimination has been made in the matter of eviction. The displaced persons and the local people including Tribals are all being evicted from the Reserves which they have been encroaching. About 3,000 bighas alternative lands have been provided to the evictees from the Subankhata areas. The problem of eviction of displaced persons from their unauthorised occupation of land from Mikir Hills is still continuing. Government have decided to allot economic units of Agricultural land whenever land is allotted to the displaced persons. For this purpose an area of 8-12 bighas has been considered to be the economic holding according to the fertility of the soil. About 465 families are now proposed to be settled in the areas allotted by the District Councils and arrangements have been made to provide alternative land

in the Subdivision of Nowgong and in the Subdivision of Golaghat, to the remaining, approximately 500 families, who are being evicted from Mikir Hills. A State Advisory Board for advising the rehabilitation of the displaced persons has been formed. Scheme for a number of small factories to be set up for the displaced persons has already been sanctioned and a number of proposals for such industries are under examination. Nearly 85,300 displaced families have so far been given the rehabilitation loan to the extent of Rs.6,12,37,883 upto March 1958. Financial assistance in the shape of grant to the tune of Rs.10,00,630 has been sanctioned to the Educational Institutions; 100 Lower Primary Schools have been sanctioned and a proposal for 150 Lower Primary Schools is under consideration. Financial assistance to the extent of Rs.37,35,874 has been granted to the displaced students upto March 1958. Umpling Urban Colony at Shillong has been taken up and the work of construction of roads and water supply is in progress. Allotment has already been made to the displaced persons. The development of Urban Colony at Gauhati is also in progress. With the co-operation of all it is hoped that the rehabilitation work of the displaced persons will be completed within the target laid down by the Government of India.

Reorganisation of the Secretariat and Financial Procedures

37. The work of re-organising the Secretariat has already been started. The list of subjects has been reviewed and new departments have been constituted, each dealing with an allied group of subject as far as practicable. Some rationalisation of the distribution of work load has already been effected and the situation is being constantly reviewed and further improvements are under consideration. The training school of All-India Services Officers posted to Assam and Members of the Assam Civil Services could not be started for want of suitable accommodation. In the meantime, for new recruits to the State Civil Service, an induction course for 6 weeks was arranged at Shillong with a view to give them the basic ideas of administration.

The review of the organisational and procedural aspects relating to sanction of expenditure in the Finance Department is still continuing. As a result of the work so far done, the Finance Department has given some wide delegations to the Administrative Departments that are provided with Financial

Advisers whose numbers are to be increased with availability of trained officers.

It will not be out of place to mention here that all the completed schemes of the Second Five-Year Plan will become our committed expenditure and will have to be continued out of the State's normal resources during the Third Plan. In addition the loan taken for the First Plan and some loans taken for the Second Plan will also be due for payment during the Third Plan period. After providing for all these as well as normal trend increase we are not likely to be left with sufficient resources for any sizeable Third Plan. It will therefore be necessary to raise in future additional resources by fresh taxation and also to go into the market for public loans. In addition, every effort will be made to exercise the utmost economy in expenditure, to realise arrear taxes and loans and to tap to the full the small savings of the people. I am sure it will need a good deal of tightening of our belt if we mean to have a sizeable Third Plan. I hope I shall have in this behalf full support and guidance of the Members of this House.

Budget Estimates, 1959-60

I shall now turn to the Budget estimates for the next year. For the year 1959-60, the receipts on Revenue Account have been estimated at Rs.3,395 lakhs against the revised estimate of Rs.3,162 lakhs for the current year and expenditure on Revenue Account at Rs.3,054 lakhs against the revised estimate of Rs.2,970 lakhs. No new taxation has been proposed and the estimate of receipts have been framed on the basis of current rates of taxation and realisation of accumulated arrears.

An increase of Rs.28 lakhs is estimated under the principal heads of Revenues as compared with the revised estimate for the current year. Increased Central grant to the extent of Rs.88 lakhs is also anticipated for implementation of State Plan Schemes and Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

As against the above improvements, the estimates anticipate decrease under Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax (Rs.17 lakhs). The receipts under this head include State's share of Central Income Tax and Revenue from the Tax on Agricultural Income. During the last few years the receipts from Agricultural Income Tax improved as a result of arrear

collections. A provision of Rs.75 lakhs has been made in anticipation of additional grant from the Government of India to the State Government for expenditure incurred by the State Government for operation in the Naga Hills during the disturbances. The Government of India made a grant-in-aid of Rs.155 lakhs in 1957-58 on this account. Among the heads of receipt under which major variations are anticipated the most important is XLVI—Miscellaneous. The improvement under this head is the result of the refund of Rs.85 lakhs appropriated during the current year for increasing the corpus of the Contingency Fund. Other minor variations have been explained in the Budget Memorandum under the respective heads.

The Revenue Expenditure during 1959-60 as stated earlier is estimated at Rs. 3,054 lakhs and the capital expenditure at Rs. 1,158 lakhs, total Rs. 4,212 lakhs. This amount includes a provision of Rs. 1,225 lakhs for the State Annual Plan, and Rs. 380 lakhs for Central share of Centrally sponsored development schemes. The Revenue and Capital contents of the State Plan as provided for in the Budget stand at Rs. 759 lakhs and Rs. 466 lakhs respectively. In addition there are new schemes outside the Plan involving an outlay of Rs. 88 lakhs. The list of new schemes included in the Budget will be found in Appendix 'A' of the Budget Memorandum. Before the list was finalised the representatives of District Councils were invited to Shillong for consultation about the schemes relating to the Autonomous Hills Districts. The schemes included in the list, as finally approved by the Cabinet, were provisionally approved by the representatives. They recommended the inclusion of a few additional schemes which, however, could not be included for want of adequate details at that stage.

The Budget provides for a total Capital Expenditure of Rs. 1,158 lakhs during 1959-60. Of this amount Rs. 329 lakhs represent provision for repayment of loans taken by the State Government, Rs. 346 lakhs provision for new loans and advances by the State Government and balance of Rs. 483 lakhs Capital Expenditure on schemes taken under the Plan and outside. The total debt of the State Government to the Centre outstanding on 31st December, 1958, was Rs. 33.76 crores.

Of the total Capital Expenditure, the expenditure proposed under the Plan is Rs. 612 lakhs including Central sector schemes. For financing the Plan Schemes it is expected that

Central loans will be available according to the existing pattern of assistance. On this assumption a sum of Rs. 547 lakhs has been estimated as Central loan assistance under the Five-Year Plan Schemes and Central Sector Schemes. In the Budget the receipts from the State's share of Small Saving collections have been estimated at Rs.180 lakhs. It will be necessary for us to make special efforts to intensify the Small Savings campaign so that the savings in the rural sector may be tapped for covering the deficit in the Capital Budget.

Ways and Means

2. The year 1957-58 closed with a balance of Rs. 73 lakhs. During the current year there is an anticipated surplus on Revenue Account of Rs. 192 lakhs. Outside the Revenue Account a deficit of Rs. 208 lakhs is expected. The year is therefore likely to close with an overall deficit of Rs. 16 lakhs. This will decrease the balance from Rs. 73 lakhs as at the end of the previous year to Rs. 57 lakhs at the close of the current year. The year 1959-60 is therefore expected to begin with an opening balance of Rs. 57 lakhs. The Budget estimate for next year reveals an overall surplus of Rs. 75 lakhs (as shown in Appendix 'A'). There will be a Revenue surplus of Rs.341 lakhs which will be offset by the deficit outside the Revenue Account, amounting to Rs. 266 lakhs.

The year 1956-57, first year of the Second Plan, opened with a Cash Balance of Rs.5,35,45,000. Starting from this point, the overall accounts of the State are given below from balance to balance :—

					Figure in thousand of Rupees
1956-57					
Opening balance	...	...	...	...	5,35,45
Closing balance	...	...	...	...	2,22,35
Withdrawal from the cash balance for financing the Plan,					3,13,10

1957-58

					Figure in thousand of Rupees
Opening balance	...	...	...	...	2,22,35
Closing balance	...	...	...	...	<u>73,43</u>
Withdrawal from cash balance for financing the Plan.	...	...	...	...	1,48,92

1958-59

Opening balance	...	...	...	...	73,43
Closing balance	...	...	...	...	<u>57,53</u>
Withdrawal from cash balance to finance the Plan.	...	...	...	...	15,90

1959-60

Opening balance	...	...	...	...	57,53
Closing balance	...	...	...	...	<u>1,32,19</u>
Increase of cash balance	...	...	...	...	74,66

The increase is mainly due to better receipts and collection of arrears and net favourable transaction under the deposit and Remittance heads anticipated.

The anticipated revenue surplus of Trs.3,41,04 in the next year's budget includes a sum of Rs.85 lakhs transferred from the Contingency Fund. As this is a transfer from one Fund to another it should not be taken into account in determining the real surplus. The real revenue surplus on current transactions will therefore be only Trs.2,56,04. This will be more than offset by the deficit of Trs.2,94,59 under the Capital Head. The net result of the next year's Budget will, therefore, be a deficit of Trs.38,55 in the Consolidated Fund. The budget however provides for a

surplus of Trs.1,13,21 under Public Account. Thus there will be an overall surplus of Trs.74,66 taking all the accounts—(Consolidated Fund, Contingency Fund and Public Accounts) together.

It will be seen from the above that our cash balances which were Rs. 5.35 crores on 1st April 1956 will dwindle to Rs. 57.53 lakhs at the end of current year. This is however expected to improve to Rs. 1.32 crores at the end of the next year. This cash balance is not free as General Provident Fund and other Fund accounts are merged in it.

Conclusion

I have approached the end of my statement. The review of Assam's problems, her activities and her responsibilities show that the State is vitally concerned with her future and that of the whole country. Our problem in the main is one of orderly development. Apart from special consideration and help from the Centre this requires a big effort on our part. There may be difference of opinion regarding the approach to such an effort, but the objective we have set for ourselves is to dedicate ourselves through democratic means to the task of raising the low standard of living and of opening out to the younger generation avenues of growth and advancement that will bring out the best in them and to create a process of progress based on economic and social order. For this we have many years of solid work before us which will entail sacrifice for the present in the interest of the future. Sacrifice can be made either by reducing consumption or by harder work without corresponding increase in income in the short run. Assam cannot afford any significant reduction in consumption as it is already too low. We must, therefore, depend on direct investment of labour and other unutilised resources in the State. Minor irrigation, construction of village roads and smaller bridges and various other works in rural areas could be undertaken on this basis. I have seen these works being done in other countries by youth organisations and volunteer brigades. I feel this effort in our stage of development is necessary and will prove of great value. In this context the need for stinting, for austerity and for hard work is inescapable. As servant of the House it will be my task to give my utmost consideration to the suggestions that Hon'ble Members may have to offer in this behalf. As servant of the people it will be my unpleasant duty to exercise strict and firm control over expenditure to create an atmosphere for the first of

these two requisites. But our success to mobilise all these avenues towards an orderly and speedy development will entail co-operation of the people, political organisations and the Hon'ble Members of this House, which I hope will be forthcoming. In this task we will also have to depend on the timely help from the Government of India. In the past we have received an important measure of assistance from the Central Government for which we are grateful and which only spur us on to more sustained efforts and determination to become self-reliant as early and as much as possible.

JAI HIND

APPENDIX 'A'

Assam's Budget 1959-60

(In thousands of Rupees)

RECEIPTS				Actuals 1957-58	Budget 1958-59	Revised 1958-59	Budget 1959-60
Opening Balance	..	..	..	2,22,35	2,70,80	73,43	57,53
Revenue Receipts	..	..	..	29,42,29	29,26,58	31,62,58	33,95,05
Receipts from Debt Raised in India	..	..	..	13,85,67	8,52,25	7,60,73	7,82,00
Recoveries of Loans and Advances by the State Government.				26,10	68,07	73,60	81,05
Receipts from Contingency Fund and Public Account.				1,07,85,14	36,12,88	51,07,13	51,80,98
Total	..	..	..	1,53,61,55	77,30,60	91,77,47	94,96,61

EXPENDITURE							
Revenue Expenditure	..	..	..	28,42,62	28,39,18	29,70,47	30,54,01
Capital Expenditure	..	..	..	6,47,48	6,41,94	6,59,98	4,82,73
Expenditure on Re-payment of Debt raised in India.				6,72,80	3,08,37	97,73	3,28,79
Loans and Advances by the State Government.				2,79,62	3,29,11	2,51,33	3,46,12
Expenditure on Contingency Fund and Public Account.				1,08,45,60	34,37,76	51,40,43	51,52,77
Closing Balance	..	..	..	73,43	1,74,24	57,53	1,32,19
Total	..	..	..	1,53,61,55	77,30,60	91,77,47	94,96,61

Net Results -

Surplus (+)

Deficit (-)

(a) On Revenue Account	..	(+) 99,67	(+) 87,40	(+) 1,92,11	(+) 3,41,04
(b) Outside Revenue Account	..	(-) 2,48,59	(-) 1,83,98	(-) 2,08,01	(-) 2,66,38
(c) Net excluding opening balance	..	(-) 1,48,92	(-) 96,58	(-) 15,90	(+) 74,66

APPENDIX 'B'

Showing the developmental head-wise allocation in the State Plan out of approved expenditure of Rs. 1,225 lakhs for the next financial year (1959-60)

The provision of Rs. 1,225 lakhs under Revenue and Capital Heads for next year's State Plan includes the following provisions for various Departments—

Lakhs of Rupees

Agriculture	...	...	...	...	126.18
Animal Husbandry	...	...	...	...	23.00
Forest including Soil Conservation	...	...	...	...	20.62
Fisheries	...	...	...	...	9.00
Co-operation and ware-housing	...	...	...	...	34.00
National Extension and Community Projects	...	...	...	...	95.00
Panchayats	...	...	...	...	16.00
Irrigation and Power	...	...	...	...	132.50
Industry	...	...	...	...	98.00
Transport and Communications	...	...	...	...	135.00

Social Services

Education	...	...	...	...	174.54
Health	...	...	...	...	96.00
Housing	...	...	...	...	26.16
Welfare of Backward Classes	}	...	...	...	187.00
(Scheduled Tribes and Castes)		...	...	...	11.00
Social Welfare	...	...	...	...	11.00
Labour and Labour Welfare	...	...	...	...	11.00

Total (Social Services) ... 505.70

Miscellaneous ... 30.00

Grand total ... 1,225.00

The Assam Finance Bill, 1959

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Before I take up item No.25, I will read a message from the Governor—"I recommend under article 207(1) of the Constitution of India that the Assam Finance Bill, 1959, be introduced and moved in the Assam Legislative Assembly".

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg leave of the House to introduce the Assam Finance Bill, 1959.

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Has the hon. Member leave of the House to introduce the Assam Finance Bill, 1959 ?

(Voices Yes, Yes.)

(Leave was granted).

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Finance Bill, 1959.

(Secretary, Legislative Assembly, read the title of the Bill.)

Mr. CHAIRMAN: The question is that the Assam Finance Bill, 1959 be introduced.

(The question was adopted).

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 a.m. on Thursday the 12th March, 1959.

Shillong

R. N. BARUA,

The 20th August, 1960.

Secretary,
Assam Legislative Assembly.

Assembly
Debate

LIST OF AGENTS

1. Messrs. Charles & Co.
2. Messrs. J. & W. G. Smith
3. Messrs. J. & W. G. Smith
4. Messrs. J. & W. G. Smith
5. Messrs. J. & W. G. Smith
6. Messrs. J. & W. G. Smith
7. Messrs. J. & W. G. Smith
8. Messrs. J. & W. G. Smith
9. Messrs. J. & W. G. Smith
10. Messrs. J. & W. G. Smith
11. Messrs. J. & W. G. Smith
12. Messrs. J. & W. G. Smith
13. Messrs. J. & W. G. Smith
14. Messrs. J. & W. G. Smith
15. Messrs. J. & W. G. Smith
16. Messrs. J. & W. G. Smith
17. Messrs. J. & W. G. Smith
18. Messrs. J. & W. G. Smith
19. Messrs. J. & W. G. Smith
20. Messrs. J. & W. G. Smith