



OFFICIAL REPORT

BUDGET SESSION

No. 12

सत्यमेव जयते

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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 Wednesday, the 18th March, 1959.

P R E S E N T

Shri Dev Kanta Borooah, B.A., L.L.B., Speaker in the Chair, seven Ministers, four Deputy Ministers and seventy-three Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Duties and functions of the Magistrate-in-charge of Nalbari Criminal Court

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari West) asked :

*26. Will the Minister-in-charge of Judicial be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government is aware that the Magistrate-in-charge of Nalbari Criminal Court in the district of Kamrup has to perform not only the Judicial matters, but also multifarious executive works, such as, renewal of gun license, checking of Mauzadar's office, distribution and allotment of supply materials, like Rice, Cement, Iron, Corrugated Iron Sheet, etc. ?
- (b) Whether Government is aware that he is to devote extra energy and time for executive works ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that no special allowance is granted to him for his executive work ?
- (d) Whether representation has been given by the Magistrate concerned for an extra allowance ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Judicial)
replied :

26. (a)—Yes.

(b)—An officer is expected to do the work given to him by making suitable adjustment of the time at his disposal and the total volume of work. Moreover, an additional officer has been posted at Nalbari to give some relief to the Magistrate-in-charge.

(c)—No special allowance is given to any Magistrate for doing executive work, but the Magistrate-in-charge of Nalbari Court gets either free quarters or a house-rent allowance of Rs.40 per month as a special case.

(d)—Yes, as already stated, he gets either free quarters or a house-rent allowance of Rs.40 per month.

Encroachment by people of Mizo Hills District on the Southern part of Karimganj Subdivision

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

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

- (a) Whether he is aware or received reports to the effect that some people from the Mizo Hills District area have encroached a portion of the southern part of the Karimganj Subdivision extended upto Medly Charra and that they are utilising the encroached area for the purpose of "Jhum" cultivation ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the encroachers are threatening and driving away the Karimganj Forest Range Contractors and employees while they proceed up to the area for only legal operation ?
- (c) Whether Government has yet taken or propose to take any measure against such un-authorised occupation ?
- (d) Whether the State Government of Assam keep any detailed surveyed map and boundary pillars showing the boundaries of the Mizo Hills and the Cachar Hills District ?

- (e) If so, on the basis of the said map why in spite of being settled up the dispute by demarcating the boundaries by fixing pillars such an unhappy state of affairs is so long being allowed to continue ?
- (f) Will Government take any early action for settling up the dispute which is undesirable to the people of both the districts ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :

27. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No such complaints have been received.

(c)—In 1958, a few persons from Mizo Hills came down and cultivated some lands in the Forest Reserve as they apprehended a famine due to “Mautang” (flowering of bamboos) in the Mizo Hills. They were allowed to cultivate for one year. This year the Mizo Hills District Council again requested Government to extend the permission for another year in view of the threatened “Mautang” in the Hills. Government have extended the term of occupation by another year.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—As stated at (c).

(f)—There is no dispute.

Shri CHATRASING TERON [Mikir Hills-West (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Are they Mizo people ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : Yes, mostly. Some are Rihangs also.

Shri GAURISANKAR ROY (Katlicherra) : Is it a fact that such things are going on in South Hailakandi also ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : I have no information.

Maintenance of a General Register (G-R) at Barama, Nalbari and Tamulpur police stations

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) asked:

*28. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government has lately received representation from the Lawyer Association, Nalbari and from the Questioner that for the better interest of the litigant public of Barama, Nalbari and Tamulpur police station, a General Register (G-R) be maintained ?

(b) Whether Government is aware that the police of Barama and Nalbari do not produce the arrested persons before the nearest Magistrate, Nalbari and take them to Gauhati which is at a distance of about 30 to 50 miles on the ground that there is no G-R at Nalbari ?

(c) If so, whether Government are aware that the action of local police is tantamount to violation of Sections 60 and 61 of the Criminal Procedure Code ?

(d) If the reply to (c) above is in the affirmative, what steps Government propose to take to the matter ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance for Chief Minister) replied :

28. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—No.

(d)—Does not arise.

Accommodation of Sadiya Government High School in a dilapidated building

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) asked :

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Sadiya Government High School is accommodated in a dilapidated building constructed with bamboo and thatch since the erosion of the former pucca building by the river Dibang in the year 1953-54 ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the hostel of this Government High School is also accommodated in a dilapidated building ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that a student residing in the hostel died in the year 1957-58 due to the collapse of the hostel building ?
- (d) Whether Government is aware that the then Deputy Minister, Education committed in this Assembly in the Budget Session 1957 in reply to a question of the questioner that the building of the Sadiya Government High School would be constructed as soon as possible ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that no financial sanction was given for this purpose during the financial year 1957-58 or 1958-59 ?

Shri RADHIKARAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Education) replied :

29. (a)—Yes, in a temporary building.

(b)—Yes, but a sum of Rs.9,840 was sanctioned during 1957-58 for construction of hostel building.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—No. A sum of Rs.19,560 was sanctioned for repair of school and hostel buildings during 1957-58.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa):

Is it a fact that there is no other Government high school in Assam except Sadiya which is housed in a bamboo and thatch building for such a long period ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Education): So money has been sanctioned for the hostel and also for repair the school building.

Mr. SPEAKER : His question was very simple. Is there any other Government high school which is housed in a thatch building ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : No, Sir.

Shrimati LILY SENGUPTA (Lahowal) : ১৯৫০ চনৰ পৰা আজিলৈকে D. P. I. অথবা মিনিষ্টাৰ কেতিয়াবা শদিয়া স্কুলখন পৰিদৰ্শনৰ কাৰণে গৈছেনে ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : I have no information.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMA (Minister, Education): হয়, এবাৰ গৈছিল।

Shrimati LILY SENGUPTA : কোন বছৰত, মই জানিব পাৰোনে ?

Mr. SPEAKER : The hon. Member wanted to know whether anybody visited Sadiya since 1950. The Hon'ble Minister said that he once visited Sadiya and it is presumed that was in his capacity as a Minister.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : No, Sir, I was not a Minister then. (*laughter in the House*).

Shrimati LILY SENGUPTA : D. P. I. গৈছেনে নাই মই জানিব খুজিছো।

Mr. SPEAKER : He said that he had no information.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj) : With regard to (c), may I know whether Government sanctioned any compensation to the guardian of the boy who died due to collapse of hostel building.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : So far as I remember some compensation was sanctioned.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): Has any compensation been paid to the family of the deceased, i.e., the boy who died due to collapse of the thatch of building?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Education): I cannot exactly say now what amount was sanctioned or when it was sanctioned. But, as I said, so far I remember some compensation was sanctioned.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): With regard to (c), may I know why no provision has been made for construction of the Sadiya High School building in the next year's budget also in spite of the assurance given in this House in 1957?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: The plans and estimates which were previously submitted have been revised again by the Executive Engineer and the Superintending Engineer. The revised plans and estimates have not yet been sent to us.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: Is it a fact that this is the only Government high school in Assam which no officer of the Education Department inspected during a period of more than 10 years?

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Deputy Minister said he wanted notice, when question was put by Mrs Sengupta.

Shri LILA KANTA BORA (Kaliabar): May I know whether the thatch hostel building is still there and the students are living therein.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: The students are living in a temporary building because construction work has not commenced as yet.

Shri LILA KANTA BORA: My question was whether they are still living in the same house?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: No, that house was collapsed.

Shri NILMONI BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh): In view of fact that Sadiya is threatened by erosion, and the whole town is still in a unstable condition, is it advisable to construct any Government building there now?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Education): That matter is being examined whether it can be constructed there.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): Is it not a fact that a new township is growing and many Government buildings are under construction and the Government high school is also proposed to be constructed in the township?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: Yes, Sir.

Shri MOHIKANTA DAS (Barchalla): Is the present hostel building in a safe condition so that it may not collapse again causing death of any other student?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: The hostel building has been constructed as yet?

Shri MOHIKANTA DAS: Is it safe for students to remain there?

Mr. SPEAKER: He said that the house had collapsed and evidently nobody can live in a collapsed house.

High English School in Chandakuchi Village of Mauza Bahjani, Gauhati Subdivision

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari West) asked :

*30. Will the Minister, Education be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government is aware that a High English School has been started at village Chandakuchi of Mauza Bahjani under Gauhati Subdivision by the villagers themselves?
- (b) Whether Government is aware that the number of students and teachers working there is more than the required standard in a High School?
- (c) Whether it is also a fact that the percentage of Matriculation result during the period of 2 to 3 years is satisfactory?

- (d) Whether Government is aware that the University of Gauhati sent a note to the Director of Public Instructions requesting him to furnish a detailed report about the School ?
- (e) If so, when ?
- (f) Whether the report has been submitted ?
- (g) If not, why not ?
- (h) Whether it is a fact that the Inspector of Schools, Shri D. N. Gogoi, submitted a report to the Government with his opinion that the School, is not necessary at Chandakuchi ?
- (i) Whether it is also a fact that the leading people of the locality gave representation to the Government challenging this report ?
- (j) Whether Government ordered for enquiry on receipt of the said representation ?
- (k) If so, whether any enquiry has been made ?
- (l) If the reply to (k) above is in the affirmative, who enquired and when and what is the enquiry report ?
- (m) If the reply to (k) above is in the negative ; what are the reasons for not making an enquiry into the matter ?

Shri RADHIKARAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Education) replied :

30. (a)—Yes.

(b) & (c)—Up-to-date information are being collected.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—On 8th October, 1956.

(f)—Yes.

(g)—Does not arise.

(h)—Yes. Since one High School, (*viz.*, Gopalthan Polytechnic) exists in the neighbourhood, another High School was not thought necessary till such time when two schools in the same locality can thrive without unhealthy competition.

(i)—No representation has been received.

(j)—Does not arise.

(k)—Does not arise.

(l)—Does not arise.

(m)—Does not arise.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): Is it a fact that several representations have been given from that locally to the various departments? The information which has been given by the Hon'ble Minister is that no representation been given. So far as my information goes.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, Order. The purpose of asking questions in this House is to elicit information from the Government and not to give information to the Government. If the hon. Member wants to give information to the Government, there are other procedures and devices for that.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHAUDHURY (Nalbari-East): Whether it is a fact that several representations have been given from school ?

Shri RADHIKARAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Education): A petition has been submitted for taking up the school.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHAUDHURY: Two schools have been started there. Do Government propose to stop the unhealthy competition by amalgamating these two schools?

Shri RADHIKARAM DAS: Government is trying to do that.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY: May I know from Government whether this Chandakuchi school is more important than the Gopalthan school ?

Shri RADHIKARAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Education) : I cannot say that.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY : Is it a fact that Gopalthan school has been supported by one Congress member and that why it is receiving attention of the Government ?

Shri RADHIKARAM DAS : The Gopalthan school has been in existence since a long time. It came into existence long before the other school was started.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHAUDHURY (Nalbari-East) : Are Government aware that enrolment of Chandakuchi school is more than that of Gopalthan Polytechnic ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : No.

Using of a house belonging to one Dr. K. Choudhury by the State Transport Department on rental basis

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) asked :

*31. Will the Minister-in-charge of Transport be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether a house belonging to one Dr. K. Choudhury at Gauhati was taken by the Department in 1957 December ?
- (b) If so, on what terms the house was taken ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the house in question was built with loans advanced by Government under the small income group Housing Scheme ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that the owner has neither been paid any rent nor he is given vacant possession of the house for his own use in spite of reminders ?

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

31. (a)—Yes.

(b)—On a rental basis of Rs.270 per month.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—The rent was paid to the owner upto January, 1959. Vacant possession of the house will be given to the owner when an alternative house is available.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi) : Is it not a fact that such a house built with loan advanced by Government cannot be allowed on hire ?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA : Yes, Sir, but under exceptional circumstances this house was allowed to be given on hire.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA : Is it not a fact that one of the primary conditions is that a house built with loan from Government cannot be allowed to be let out ?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA : I replied already that in exceptional circumstances such a house can be rented by the loaner.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) : Is it a fact that Government acquired a plot of land for transport office at Gauhati ?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA : I want notice of this question, Sir.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : This is a separate question about this matter, I know about it because I have drafted a reply and shall have to reply to it.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Co-operative Sugar Mill at Dergaon

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) asked :

80. Will the Minister of Co-operative be pleased to state—
- (a) Who are the Officers of the Co-operative Sugar Mill at Dergaon and what is their pay scale ?
 - (b) Whether Government have any control in the management and running of the mill and if so, what is the nature of that control ?
 - (c) How much money the officers have spent on touring ?
 - (d) Whether it is a fact that some officers have been kept in Calcutta for training purpose and if so, who are these officers and what is that training ?
 - (e) How much sugar has been crushed up-till now and what is the requirement of the Mill for the year ?
 - (f) What is the price at which sugarcane is being purchased ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Co-operation) replied:

80. (a)—List of Officers is placed on the Library Table.

(Please see library register No. S 71)

(b)—Government do not exercise direct control over the management of the Mill. But indirectly the control is exercised through Government's representatives in the Board of Directors. The Mill being a Co-operative Society, its working is under scrutiny of Co-operative Department.

(c)—Rupees 5,48,9·01 nP. during 1958-59.

(d)—No.

(e)—Mill has produced thirty-two thousand eight hundred and twenty-one maunds of sugar by crushing a little over four lakh maunds of sugarcane from the date of start, *i.e.*, from 8th December, 1958 to 1st March, 1959. The Mill will require about twenty-six lakh maunds of sugarcane in its crushing season.

(f)—Sugarcane is being purchased at Rs.1.44 nP. per maund at mill gate and at Rs.1.31 nP. per maund at the field, which has been fixed by Government of India.

Shri DWIJESH CHANDRA DEB SARMA (Digboi):
আৱশ্যকীয় বাট-পথ নথকাৰ কাৰণে নিয়মিত ভাৱে কুঁহিয়াব অনা নিয়া কৰাৰ
অসুবিধা হৈছে বুলি চৰকাৰে জানেনে ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Co-operation): Out of which question does it arise ?

Mr. SPEAKER: It arises out of question (e), *viz.*, "how much sugar has been crushed up-till-now and what is the requirement of the mill for the year?" His point is there was a shortage of sugarcane.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: Government are fully aware of this and have taken necessary steps in the matter.

Shri NARENDRA NATH SARMA (Dergaon): Is it a fact that even if more sugarcane as produced in villages it cannot be taken to the mill for want of roads ?

Mr. SPEAKER: The same question was put by Shri Dwijesh Chandra Deb Sarma and the hon. Deputy Minister replied that Government was aware of these difficulties.

Shri RAMNATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]: When Government is aware of these difficulties, may I take it that Government will take speedy action for construction of those roads ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: So we have already taken action.

Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding): With regard to (f), on what basis this price is fixed ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Co-operation): This price is fixed as I have already said by Government of India taking into account the cost of transport and cost of production.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh): Will Government reduce the cost of transport ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: Yes, we are taking action.

Cases of dacoity with murders in the jurisdiction of Lakhipur Police Station

Dr. RAM PRASAD CHAUBEY (Lakhipur) asked:

81. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government aware that there have been several cases of dacoity with murders in the jurisdiction of Lakhipur Police Station in Cachar during some months past ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that the miscreants could not yet have been apprehended and their nefarious activities are still continuing ?

(c) If so, whether Government have directed the police to take vigorous measures to root out the menace and restore confidence in the area ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied:

81. (a)—No. Only one dacoity with murder was committed on 18th January 1959 within the jurisdiction of Lakhipur Police Station during last two/three years.

(b) & (c)—Twenty local criminals from the jurisdiction of Sonai Police Station were arrested on reasonable suspicion and were detained in jail. Investigation is proceeding.

There is no continuation of such activities of the criminals as vigorous efforts have been made by the police to check the activities of criminals.

Shri MATHIAS TUDU (Gossaigaon): With regard to (a), are Government aware that in most of the Police Stations...

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, Order. In an unstarred question the hon. Member will have to confine himself to the subject-matter of the question itself.

Filling up of the posts of Lower Division Assistants in different District Motor Vehicles Offices

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked:

82. Will the Minister-in-charge of Transport be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Transport Commissioner invited applications from candidates to fill up about 30 posts of Lower Division Assistants in different District Motor Vehicles Offices of the State and conduct test examination in different centres for final selection of candidates?
- (b) Whether the Minister will be pleased to ascertain as to whether the appointments were made on merit of the test examination held for the purpose?
- (c) If not, what was the use of holding the test examination?
- (d) When did the Transport Commissioner receive sanction from the Government for the posts and when the posts were filled up?
- (e) What amount of Travelling Allowance was drawn by the Transport Commissioner for holding examination of the candidates in different centres?
- (f) Whether it is a fact that this procedure of appointment of Lower Division Assistants in the said offices has not been followed in Cachar?
- (g) Whether it is a fact that the D. T. O. of Cachar has been entrusted with these appointments in that district?

(h) If so, what are the reasons for this discrimination ?

(i) Whether it is a fact that Lower Division Assistants for Garo Hills Office have been picked up from Cachar or North Lakhimpur and thus the Assistants concerned are put to great hardships ?

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

82. (a)—Yes.

(b) & (c)—The appointments were made taking into consideration the merit-cum-previous experience.

(d)—The sanction to the creation of the additional posts was received by Transport Commissioner, in May 1958 and the posts were filled up in December, 1958.

(e)—The amount of Travelling Allowance and Dearness Allowance drawn by Transport Commissioner is as under.

				Rs.	a.	p.
Travelling Allowance	...	...	...	64	0	0
Dearness Allowance	...	...	...	47	4	0
			Total	...	111	4 0

(f)—No. The same procedure of appointment was followed in Cachar also. The D. T. O. Cachar held the examination on behalf of Transport Commissioner as he could not go there owing to unavoidable circumstances.

(g)—No. The appointments were made by the State Transport Commissioner.

(h)—Does not arise.

(i)—One Assistant was selected from Cachar District as there was no applicant from Garo Hills.

Defective condition of large number of State Buses

Dr. GHANASYAM DAS [North Salmara (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] asked :

83. Will the Minister-in-charge of Transport be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government are aware that large number of State Buses which run in the plain routes are in defective condition and as a result there are frequent breakdown in the lines ?

(b) Whether the Government will be pleased to take necessary steps to have these defects removed at an early date and place good vehicles in the lines ?

(c) Whether Government are aware that the buses generally do not run at scheduled timings particularly in the routes from Gauhati to Goalpara ?

(d) Whether Government will be pleased to see that buses run regularly ?

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

83. (a)—No. However, mechanical trouble arising from the machine in the process of operation leading to breakdown, cannot be altogether avoided.

(b)—Any defect developing in the vehicles during operation is promptly attended to. Old vehicles are also replaced by new vehicles in phases from time to time.

(c)—Steps have already been taken to avoid delayed trips on this route.

(d)—Yes.

Departmental proceedings drawn against the Enforcement Inspector, Gauhati.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked:

84. Will the Minister-in-charge of Transport be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that Departmental proceedings were drawn up against the Enforcement Inspector, Gauhati on some allegations?
- (b) When such proceedings were drawn up?
- (c) Whether the investigations have been completed?
- (d) How many dates were fixed for hearing of the case?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that every time the hearing has been adjourned?
- (f) What amount of T. A. has so far been drawn by the Officer concerned till now in connection with the hearing of the proceedings of the case?
- (g) What is the cause for so much delay in disposing the departmental proceedings of the case?

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

84. (a)—Yes.

1958. (b)—The proceedings were drawn on 25th February.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Eight.

(e)—No.

(f)—Rupees 218.25 nP.

(g)—All witnesses were not available at a time. This explains the delay.

Police Out Post at Kakapathar Bazar

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) asked:

85. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the public of Kakapathar area have been moving the authorities for a Police Out Post at Kakapathar Bazar?

(b) Whether it is a fact that this place is about 12 miles from Doom Dooma to the nearest Police Station or Out Post?

(c) Whether Government propose to open a Police Out Post there with immediate effect?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied:

85. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—A proposal for establishment of a temporary Police Out Post at Kakapathar is now under consideration of Government.

Shri DEVENDRANATH HAZARIKA: Regarding answer (c), when can we expect a decision on the proposal?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): After all informations necessary for this are available.

Urban Housing Colony at Barpeta Town

Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari) asked:

86. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether there is a proposal for making a refugee colony at Barpeta Town?

(b) If so, when this work will be started?

(c) If not, whether Government propose to consider the matter?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied :

86. (a)—There is a proposal for the establishment of an Urban Housing Colony at Barpeta Town.

(b)—As soon as the land will be available and the sanction of the Government of India is received.

(c)—As stated above, the matter is under the active consideration of Government.

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog): With regard to (b), what is the exact date when the work will be started ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): It may be considered next year.

Shri RAMNATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Schedule Castes)]: May I know from the Hon'ble Minister since when this proposal is under consideration of Government ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): It is pending from September, 1958.

Artificial Insemination Centre at Tihu

Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS [Pathacharkuchi (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] asked :

87.—(a) Will the Minister-in-charge of Veterinary Department be pleased to refer to the replies given to unstarred question No.640(b)—(g) asked by Questioner on 24th April, 1958 and state whether Government propose to implement the assurance for opening of an Artificial Insemination Centre at Tihu ?

(b) If so, when ?

(c) If not, why not ?

(d) Whether top priority will be given to open Artificial Centre at Tihu.

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

87. (a)—Yes, steps have already been taken to establish one Artificial Insemination Centre at Tihu during 1959-60. For this purpose the Veterinary Assistant Surgeon, Tihu has been specially trained in Artificial Insemination works.

(b)—(c)—In view of above, do not arise.

(d)—Priority has been accorded, but it will not be possible to establish a full-fledged Artificial Insemination Centre during the Second Five Year Plan because due to foreign exchange difficulties, refrigerators and other essential equipments are not obtainable. Notwithstanding this, steps are being taken to start Artificial Insemination work during 1959-60, as stated above.

Paddy husking Machine

Shri TAJAMMUL ALI BARLASKAR (Udarband) asked :

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

- (a) What is the plan and principle to be adopted by Government regarding the installation of paddy husking machine ?
- (b) What action has been taken by Government for the husking machines already installed ?
- (c) Whether the Government is aware that many new husking machines are going to be installed in the District of Cachar ?
- (d) If so, what steps are proposed to be taken by Government regarding these newly installed husking machines ?

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

88. (a)—According to the declared Policy of Government, no new rice mill or Power-driven husking machine is allowed to be installed in the State.

(b)—The rice mills or husking machines which had already been installed during the period of decontrol are being given licenses in order to avoid legal complications.

(c)—Government have no such information.

(d)—Does not arise.

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sarbhog): How many licenses for paddy husking machines have been given?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I cannot give this information without notice.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj): Are Government aware that there are many power-driven husking machines which are being installed in various places of the State without any permission from Government?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: They do require permission. If such cases are brought to the notice of Government. Government will surely take action against them.

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]: 88(a) তে বলেছেন According to the declared policy of Government, no new rice mill or power-driven husking machines is allowed to be installed in the State. কোন তারিখ সেই order issue হয়েছিল?

Mr. SPEAKER: When was this order issued?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: On 8th of January, 1958 under an Act that no new rice mill can be set up. The Act came into force on the 8th of January 1958.

Adjournment Motion for arresting Kisan Satyagrahis at Jorhat

Mr. SPEAKER: I have received notice of an adjournment motion by Shri Nilmoney Borthakur, unfortunately I am handicapped by the rules, I am not in a position to give my consent for this matter to be raised by this House. As I had mentioned in this House earlier that there are certain factors governing the admissibility of an adjournment motion, one being of recent occurrence and which is required to be discussed without delay. If, however, the matter can be discussed during the debate on the king's speech which is here the Governor's address or if the matter can be raised during the discussions on the budget estimates, it is not admissible as an adjournment motion. I do not propose to discuss whether it is a matter of urgent public importance or not but when our budget discussion is going on this matter can be raised in the course of it. Therefore, I am unable to accord my consent for admission of the motion.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi): May we know what is the adjournment motion?

Mr. SPEAKER: If I would have thought it necessary to let the House know in that case I would have allowed it to be brought before the House, but I have not done so.

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 to move that this Assembly do agree to include Shri Birendra Kumar Das, Member, Legislative Assembly as a member of the Select Committee on the Assam State Acquisition of Lands Belonging to Religious or Charitable Institution of Public Nature Bill, 1959 in place of Shri Bishwanath Upadhyaya who has declined to serve.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that Shri Birendra Kumar Das be included in place of Shri Bishwanath Upadhyaya as a member of the Select Committee on the Assam State Acquisition of Lands Belonging to Religious or Charitable Institution of Public Nature Bill, 1959.

(The Motion was put and adopted.)

The Assam Agricultural Income-Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1959

Mr. SPEAKER: There is a message from the Governor:—

“I recommend under Article 207(1) of the Constitution of India that the Assam Agricultural Income-tax (Amendment) Bill, 1959 be introduced and moved in the Assam Legislative Assembly.”

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Assam Agricultural Income-tax (Amendment) Bill, 1959.

Mr. SPEAKER: The motion moved is that the Assam Agricultural Income-tax (Amendment) Bill, 1959 be introduced.

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

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

Shri FAKHRUDIN ALI AHMED: Sir, I introduce the Assam Agricultural Income-tax (Amendment) Bill, 1959.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that the Assam Agricultural Income-tax (Amendment) Bill, 1959 be introduced.

(The Bill was introduced.)

The Assam Famine Relief and Insurance Fund (Amendment) Bill, 1959

Mr. SPEAKER: I read a message from the Governor:—

“I recommended under Article 207(1) of the Constitution of India that the Assam Famine Relief and Insurance Fund (Amendment) Bill, 1959, be introduced and moved in the Assam Legislative Assembly.”

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Assam Famine Relief and Insurance Fund (Amendment), Bill, 1959.

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved is that the Assam Famine Relief and Insurance Fund (Amendment) Bill, 1959 be introduced.

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

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): Sir, I introduce the Assam Famine Relief and Insurance Fund (Amendment) Bill, 1959.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that the Assam Famine Relief and Insurance Fund Bill, 1959 be introduced.

(The question was adopted.)

**The Assam Professions, Trades Callings and
Employment Taxations (Amendment) Bill, 1959**

Mr. SPEAKER: I read a message from the Governor:—

“ I recommend under Article 207 (1) of the Constitution of India that the Assam Professions, Trades Callings and Employment Taxations (Amendment) Bill, 1959, be introduced and moved in the Assam Legislative Assembly.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Assam Professions, Trades Callings and Employment Taxations (Amendment) Bill, 1959.

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved is that leave be granted to introduce the Assam Professions Trades Callings and Employment Taxations (Amendment) Bill, 1959.

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

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Sir, I introduce the Assam Professions, Trades Callings and Employment Taxations (Amendment) Bill, 1959.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that the Assam Professions Trades Callings and Employment Taxations (Amendment) Bill, 1959 be introduced.

(The question was adopted.)

The Assam Sales-Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1959

Mr. SPEAKER: I read a message from the Governor:—

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

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved is that leave be granted to introduce the Assam Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1959.

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

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I introduce the Assam Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1959.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that the Assam Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1959 be introduced.

(The question was adopted.)

The Assam Tea Plantation and Employees Welfare Fund Bill, 1959

Mr. SPEAKER: I read a message from the Governor:—

“I recommended under Article 207(1) of the Constitution of India that the Assam Tea Plantations Employees Welfare Fund Bill, 1959, be introduced and moved in the Assam Legislative Assembly.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Labour): Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Assam Tea Plantations Employees Welfare Fund Bill, 1959.

Mr. SPEAKER: The motion moved is that leave be granted to introduce the Assam Tea Plantations Employees Welfare Fund Bill, 1959.

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

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: Sir, I introduce the Assam Tea Plantation Employees Welfare Fund Bill, 1959.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that the Assam Tea Plantations Employees Welfare Fund Bill, 1959 be introduced.

(The question was adopted)

General discussin of the Budget

Shri TAMIJUDDIN PRODHANI (Dhubri): অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, যোৱা কালি মই অলপ কৈছিলো আজি সেই সংক্রান্ততে কবলৈ থিয় দিছো।

দেশ স্বাধীন হোৱা প্ৰায় ১১ বছৰ হল, এই কেবছৰৰ ভিতৰত বহুতো ঠাইত Industries, আলিবাট, স্কুল, কলেজ, কাছাৰী আদি নানা বকসৰ উন্নয়নমূলক কাম হাতত লৈছে কিন্তু দুখৰ বিষয় গোৱালপাৰা জিলাখনৰ কাৰণে উল্লেখযোগ্য কোনো আচনি চৰকাৰে হাতত লোৱাৰ আভাষ বিত্তমন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ৰ ৪৬ পৃষ্ঠা ব্যাপি বাজেট বক্তৃতাৰ কিতাপ খনত প্ৰকাশ পোৱা নাই। গোৱালপাৰা জিলা খন অসম চৰকাৰৰ চিৰ অবহেলিত।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, যেতিয়াই আমি চিলঙৰ পৰা নামি গোৱালপাৰা হৈ যোগীৰোপালৈ যাওঁ তেতিয়াই আমি এক ভীষণ সমস্যাৰ সন্মুখীন হব লগাত পৰো। বিশাল ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ নৈৰ পাৰ হোৱাৰ নিৰাপদজনক কোনো ব্যৱস্থা নাই। অলপ বতাহ আৰু আকাশত অলপ মেঘ হলেই নৈ পাৰ হোৱা বন্ধ হৈ যায় আৰু যাত্ৰী সকল তাতেই ৰাতি থাকিব লগীয়া হয়। কোনো তাত থকাৰো সুবন্দোবস্ত নাই। এই যোগীৰোপা পঞ্চবত্ৰ ঘাটৰ এখন ফেৰী জাহাজ দিয়াৰ কাৰণে বহুদিনৰ পৰা চৰকাৰৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰা হৈছে, কিন্তু চৰকাৰে প্ৰতি বছৰ আশা দি বঞ্চিত কৰি আহিছে। অতি সোনকালে এখন ফেৰী জাহাজ দিবৰ কাৰণে বিভাগীয় মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ৰ পুণৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিলো।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, যোগীৰোপা এৰি যেতিয়া ধুবুৰীৰ পিনে ৰাওনা দিওঁ তেতিয়া দেখিবলৈ পাওঁ কেবল নাখোন ষ্টেট ট্ৰেনচপোৰ্টৰ কেটানান অফিচ ঘৰৰ বাহিৰে আন একো হোৱা দেখা নাই। ধুবুৰীৰ কথা যেতিয়াই মনত পৰে তেতিয়াই হতাশ হৈ পৰো যে স্বাধীনতাৰ পোহৰ ধুবুৰী বাসীয়ে পোৱা নাই। ধুবুৰী কোৰ্ট ঘৰটো অতি পুৰণি আৰু সৰু, তাত Office Assistant সকলৰ বহিবলৈ ঠাই নাই, আনকি বহুত সময়ত মেজিছেফ্ট সকল বাৰান্দাত বহি কাম কৰিব লগিয়াত পৰে। আজি কেইদিনমান আগতে মোৰ বন্ধু শ্ৰীভূবন চন্দ্ৰ প্ৰধানীৰ এটা প্ৰশ্নৰ উত্তৰত চৰকাৰে যি ধৰণে উত্তৰ দিছে তাত আশাত কৈ সন্দেহৰ ভাব হৈ উৎপন্ন হয়। যদিও চৰকাৰে ৭ লাখ টকা অনুমোদন কৰিছে কিন্তু কাম নোহোৱালৈকে ইয়াক বিশ্বাস কৰিব নোৱাৰো কিয়নো এনেকুৱা আশ্বাস চৰকাৰে আমাক বহুদিনৰ পৰা দিয়েই আহিছে।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, ধুবুৰীত কোনো চৰকাৰী কোৱাৰ্টাৰ নথকাত অফিচৰ সকলে থাকিবলৈ ঠাই নাপায় আৰু যতে ততে থাকিব লগাত পৰে। বহুতেই বাধ্য হৈ বহুদিন ধৰি ডাক বাংলাত থাকিব লগাত পৰিছে। দুখৰ বিষয় ধুবুৰীত যদিও ডেপুটি ম্যাজিষ্ট্ৰেটৰ ডাক্তাৰখান আছে, স্কুল বোৰ্ড আছে, চাপ্লাই অফিচ আছে, ডেভেলপমেন্ট বোৰ্ড আছে, E & D বিভাগৰ Subdivisional officer আছে, কোনোটো বিভাগ চৰকাৰী ঘৰত নাই, লোকৰ ঘৰত ভাৰা দি যুগ যুগ ধৰি চলি আহিছে, আৰু কিমান দিন এই বাবে চলি থাকিব কৰ নোৱাৰো।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, ধুবুৰী চহৰ খন যদিও সৰু কিন্তু বৰ্ত্তমানে তাত লোক সংখ্যা ৫০ হাজাৰৰো ওপৰ। এই সদনৰ মাননীয় সদস্য সকলে জানে গোটেই ভাৰতবৰ্ষৰ ভিতৰত গোৱালপাৰা জিলাত মৰাপাট বেচি উৎপন্ন হয় আৰু তাত মৰাপাটৰ আমদানি বহুত বেচি হয়

ধুবুৰী টাউনৰ প্ৰায় ৫০৬০ খনত মৰাপাটৰ গুদাম ঘৰ আছে কিন্তু দৈব দুৰ্ভিগ্ৰাসৰ পৰা বৰ্ফা পাবৰ কাৰণে কোনো ফায়াৰ ব্ৰুগেদৰ বন্দবস্ত নাই আৰু দৰকাৰ অনুযায়ী পানী চাপুৱাৰ ব্যৱস্থা নাই। আনক পুলিচ ষ্টেচন, বিজাৰ্ড আদিৰ নিচিনা বিশেষ ঠাইতে বিজুলি চাকিৰ ব্যৱস্থা নাই। এইবিলাক অসুবিধা দূৰ কৰি যাতে আমাক অইন নাগৰিকৰ নিচিনা বাচি থকাৰ সুবিধা দিয়া হয় তাৰ কাৰণে মই চৰকাৰৰ তীক্ষ্ণ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিলো।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, ধুবুৰী মহকুমা এখন সীমান্তবৰ্তী ঠাই। তাত কবলৈ গলে ৫০৬০ মাইল বাস্তা গড় কাপ্তানী বিভাগৰ অধীনত আছে নে নাই মোৰ সন্দেহ। মই সীমান্তবৰ্তী অতি জৰুৰী কেইটামান বাস্তাৰ প্ৰতি বহুবাৰ চৰকাৰৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰি আহিছো আৰু Road Communication Board ৰ মিটিঙতো উল্লেখ কৰিছিলো—কিন্তু এতিয়ালৈকে তাৰ পৰা কোনো ফল হোৱা নাই—সেই বাস্তা কেইটাৰ কথা মই ইয়াত উল্লেখ কৰিব খুজিছো। মতিচৰৰ পৰা ধৰ্মশালা হৈ দুবাহাটী গোৰীপুৰ বেলঙৰে লাইনৰ পৰা ৰাগৰা পাৰ হৈ ধুবুৰী বেল ষ্টেচনলৈকে লোকেলবোৰ্ডৰ বাস্তা দুটা আৰু ডিমাকুৰিৰ পৰা বিক্ষাছাড়া বোৰ্ডৰ ৰেম্পলৈকে এটা বাস্তা আৰু ধুবুৰী পাটমাৰী E & D বিভাগৰ Road cum Embankment বাস্তাটো E & D ৰ পৰা transfer কৰি Public Works বিভাগত সুৱৰাই লৈ শিয়ালদহ লৈ খন বান্ধি দি পাটমাৰীবৰ্ডৰ ৰেম্পলৈকে গ্ৰেভেল বাস্তা কৰি দি তাৰ জনসাধাৰণৰ সুবিধা কৰি দিবৰ বাবে অনুৰোধ জনালো।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, ধুবুৰীৰ দক্ষিণ পাৰ সম্বন্ধে অলপ ক'ব খোজো। দক্ষিণপাৰ এলেকাটো বান বিধ্বস্ত এলেক। তদুপৰি যোৱাৰ ফকিৰগঞ্জ বালুকুটি মথাউৰি বান্ধাটো ভাঙি যোৱাত হাজাৰ হাজাৰ বিধা আবাদী মাটি বালি পৰি আবাদৰ সম্পূৰ্ণ অযোগ্য হৈ পৰিছে, তাৰ কাৰণে সেই এলেকা বিলাকত খাদ্যৰ অভাৱ দেখা দিছে। আমাৰ চৰকাৰে এই অভাৱপ্ৰস্তু মানুহ বিলাকক test relief ৰ কাম দি সাহায্য কৰিছে কিন্তু তথাপি এই মানুহ বিলাকৰ খাদ্য অভাৱ দূৰ হোৱা নাই; এই সম্পৰ্কে চৰকাৰৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিলো।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, দক্ষিণ শালমৰাৰ পৰা মানিকাবচৰলৈকে এটা বিৰাট এলেকা আৰু পিছপৰা অনুনত ঠাই। এই ঠাইখন আসাম চৰকাৰৰ গুৰুদৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিব পৰা নাই। তাত গড়কাপ্তানী বিভাগৰ পৰা এক ইঞ্চিও আলিবাটৰ ব্যৱস্থা হোৱা নাই বা কোনো প্ৰকাৰ গাওঁ উন্নয়নমূলক আঁচনি আমাৰ চৰকাৰে হাতত লোৱা নাই। বিশেষকৈ দক্ষিণ শালমৰাৰ পৰা মানিকাবচৰলৈকে এটা বাস্তা হোৱা নিতান্ত দৰকাৰ। এই বাস্তাটোৰ কাৰণে মই চৰকাৰৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিলো।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, স্বাস্থ্য বৰ্দ্ধকৰ কাৰণে এই বাজেট খনত যথেষ্ট পৰিমাণে টকা ধৰিছে কিন্তু মই অনেক ক্ষেত্ৰত দেখিবলৈ পাইছো আমাৰ চৰকাৰৰ অৱহেলাৰ কাৰণে অনেক ঠাইত মানুহৰ স্বাস্থ্য হানি হ'ব ধৰিছে। উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে মই ক'ব খোজো গোৰীপুৰ বেল লাইনৰ ওচৰত লোকেল বোৰ্ডৰ বাস্তা লগ লাগি এটা trenching ground আছে, এই trenching ground ৰ ওচৰত এটা গোশালা, দুখন শিক্ষা প্ৰতিষ্ঠান আছে আৰু জীয়ামাৰি গাওঁ বুলি এখন বস্তি আছে। অলপ বতাহ হলে লৰাছোৱালী বিলাক স্কুলত থাকিব নোৱাৰে আৰু বাস্তাদি মানুহ অহা বোৱা কৰিব নোৱাৰা হয় আৰু গাঁৱৰ মানুহ বিলাকৰ ঘৰত থকা টান হৈ পৰে। এই trench ground টো তাৰ পৰা উঠাই দিয়াৰ কাৰণে মই সদনত প্ৰশ্ন কৰিছিলো আৰু স্বাস্থ্যসম্বন্ধী মহোদয়ক বহুবাৰ মুখেৰে কৈছিলো, আৰু লিখিত ভাবেও জনাইছিলো কিন্তু আজিলৈকে তাৰ প্ৰতি কোনো গুৰুত্ব দিয়ানাই।

তাৰ ফলত আজি সেই গাঁওখনৰ বহু মানুহৰ স্বাস্থ্য হানি হব ধৰিছে, আৰু নানা বৰকমৰ বেমাৰত ভুগিছে। এই trenching ground টো অতি সোনকালে আতৰাবৰ কাৰণে মই স্বাস্থ্য মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ক আকৌ অনুৰোধ জনালো।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, গোটেই অসমৰ ভিতৰত গোৱালপাৰা জিলাত জমিদাৰ আৰু জেটিদাৰৰ সংখ্যা বেচি। জমিদাৰী উচ্ছেদ আৰু চিলিং এক্ট কৰি জেটিদাৰী বিলোপ কৰাত আৰু আধিয়াৰ সংৰক্ষণ আইনৰ হেচাত পৰি আজি গোৱালপাৰা জিলাৰ মধ্য বিধ পৰিগালৰ মানুহ বিলাকৰ অবস্থা দিনকদিনে হীন হৈ যাব ধৰিছে। তদুপৰি ভূমিহীন আৰু মজদুৰ শ্ৰেণীৰ লোক গোৱালপাৰা জিলাতেই অত্যধিক। তেওঁলোকৰ বেকাৰ সমস্যাৰ সমাধান কৰিবলৈ হলে একমাত্ৰ উপায়, তাত Major industries ৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা। গতিকে মই ভাবো গোৱালপাৰা জিলাৰ মৰাপাট উৎপন্ন অনুপাতে জুটমিলৰ ব্যৱস্থাটো গোৱালপাৰাত কৰা একান্ত বাঞ্ছনীয় আৰু মই গোৱালপাৰা সৰ্বসাধাৰণ ৰাইজৰ তৰফৰ পৰা যাতে গোৱালপাৰা জিলাত এই 'জুটমিলটো' পতা হয়—তাৰ কাৰণে দাবী জনাইছো।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই N.E.S. ব্লক সৰ্ব্বদে অলপ কৰ খোজো। অনুন্নত ঠাই বিলাকৰ উন্নতিৰ বাবে অনেক ঠাইত N. E. S. ব্লকৰ সেন্টাৰ খোলা হৈছে। মই অনেক ঠাইত দেখিবলৈ পাইছো লোক সংখ্যা আৰু area লৈ ভীষণ অসুবিধা হৈছে। কোন কোন N. E. S. ব্লকত ৩০ হেজাৰ লোক সংখ্যা আৰু সৰু area লৈ এটা সেন্টাৰ খোলা হৈছে, আৰু কোন ঠাইত শুনিবলৈ পাওঁ ৮০।৮৫ হেজাৰ লোক সংখ্যা আৰু বিৰাট এলাকা লৈ এটা কৰি সেন্টাৰ খোলা হৈছে। ইয়াৰ ফলত ৰাইজে অনেক ঠাইত নানা বৰকমৰ অসুবিধাত পৰিব লগাত হৈছে, বিশেষ কৈ মোৰ সমষ্টিত National Extension Service ব্লকৰ সেন্টাৰ, এলাকা আৰু লোক সংখ্যা লৈ যথেষ্ট বেমেজালি দেখা দিছে আৰু ৰাইজৰ মনত নানা বৰকমৰ অশান্তি সৃষ্টি হৈছে। এই অসুবিধা বিলাক আতৰাই দিবৰ কাৰণে মই কিছু দিন আগত বিভাগীয় মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিছিলো আৰু উপযুক্ত ব্যৱস্থা হাতত লোৱাৰ কাৰণে অনুৰোধ জনাইছিলো। গতিকে নতুনকৈ কৰ নোখোজো যাতে এই অসামাজ্য আৰু অসুবিধা বিলাক দূৰ কৰি সুন্দৰ আৰু শুশুঙালা ভাবে ব্লকৰ সেন্টাৰ বিলাক খোলা হয় তাৰ বাবে বিভাগীয় মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰো।

Mr. SPEAKER: আপোনাৰ সময় হৈ গল।

Shri TAMIJUDDIN PRODHANI: (Dhubri) অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় মোৰ আৰু কিছু কবলগীয়া আছিল। আৰু কিছু সময় পালে ভাল হয়।

Mr. SPEAKER: এতিয়া আৰু সময় নহব।

Shri TAMIJUDDIN PRODHANI: তেতিয়া হলে ইয়াকৈ কৈ মোৰ বক্তব্য সামৰিলো।

Mr. SPEAKER: Hon. Members must have noticed that I have been lenient in allotting time to individual Members, but I find that I have a long list of Members who are rather keen in participating in these debates; so I would request them to make their observations brief and to confine themselves to the time limit in order that as many Members as possible may have opportunity to participate in these debates and give this House the benefit of their views.

Yes, Mr. Choudhury.

Shri MOHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY(Hajo): Mr. Speaker Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to make a few observations on the Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister for the year 1959-60. The Budget discussion gives an opportunity to individual Members to ventilate their reactions as to how they feel about the administration of the country and also what is their suggestions for the development of the country. Sir, the most happy feature in this Budget is that it is a surplus one and does not have any new taxation. For these two reasons if not for anything else I am sure the hon. Finance Minister deserves congratulations from all quarters of the country. The Finance Minister has observed that this Budget is a Budget which may not be perfect in itself but it is a Budget by which he wants to achieve the ultimate picture of the State of Assam. With that end in view he has generally described the main features of the Budget and at the same time the new schemes also have been to a certain extent dealt with by him in his budget speech. Sir, the main purport of the budget is that we want to raise the standard of living and the material well being of the people. We are aiming at a socialistic pattern of society. These are the two things which are vitally concerned with the fulfilment of the conditions of a socialistic pattern of society though they may not be an end in themselves. Because in a socialistic pattern of society we not only should look for raising the standard and material well being of the people, but also we should try to raise the cultural and intellectual values of life. But unless we can raise the economic standard of the people our purpose to realise the other social values of life will always remain a distant dream. Therefore, our main emphasis, especially in a country like ours which is undeveloped in all respects and where the people have to give their all—their labour, their working hours—for their bare maintenance and where withals of life should be, that we should always be careful to see that our food production increases at the same time our standard goes higher up.

Sir, when we think about raising the standard of our people, naturally our mind goes to agriculture because in Assam 85 per cent of the people live in the villages and they depend on agriculture. But when we talk about agriculture we always find the people depending on nature. It would be wrong to say that our people do not work hard. They work really very hard and sometime they work at the cost of their health and at the cost of their life to get a morsel of rice for their bare maintenance or for feeding their children. It has been so because in most cases the people have to depend on nature. When the nature is merciful they get something but very often opposite is the case. Therefore unless we control nature it is impossible to think of a planned economy. Sir, as you know in a country like Assam, flood has been a highly menacing factor. Every year flood visits our country the cultivators do not get the full benefit of their labour. To give protection against flood our Government is doing something in the meanwhile. They have raised embankments along the Brahmaputra and also along its many tributaries. But while having bunds alongside all these rivers other problems are being created and we have not been able to solve this problem of flood to the extent desired. Therefore I would request Government that instead of going for more embankments indiscriminately we should consider some other means of flood control. Our hill streams are very ferocious and and turbulent and they always bring only worries to the people. If these hill streams can be harnessed properly they can be of immense help to the people and we can get something to add to the prosperity of the country. What I mean is this. That there are some hill streams which can be controlled very easily at the source. Instead of having embankments along both sides of these stream lower down we can control them at the source. I do not mean to say that this can be done in case of big rivers but this can be done in case of the smaller rivers or hill streamlets which are ferocious during floods but innocuous during the winter. They can be very well harnessed for our benefit. I have seen some measures taken in this regard in some other States of India, if not outside. I would like to mention that the rivers Dudnoi and Krishnai are the two rivers which can be very well harnessed at their sources and people can be protected against the floods of these two rivers. But whenever we think of such kind of projects we think of bigger projects, we think in the line of multi-purpose projects and the result is that we are not having any during the last 12 years. The other day I have read in the newspapers that the Chief Minister of West Bengal has laid the foundation stone of a flood control project for controlling the floods of the river Kangasabati. Kangasabati and is not a very big river and it will not cost

much to control it. We have got such kinds of rivers in our State and we can try such projects. The Finance Minister has been kind enough to refer in his budget speech that a big project in the shape of Kopili Valley is coming up. Figures are being collected and also all necessary data are almost ready. That is a good news for us. We are waiting for that happy day when the Kopili Valley Project comes to fulfilment. But I believe that will take a longer time. Even if it is started, it will not be completed within 10 years. But for these ten years should we sit idle? The Industries Minister the other day was kind enough to inform the House that our electricity production and consumption is the lowest in India. He had at the same time emphasised that the cost of generating electricity by thermal plant is rather costly. Therefore for the industrial development of the State, specially in the development of small scale industries the thermal projects may not be of much use. Therefore what I emphasise is that if we look for some big projects for generation of hydro-electricity, as I stated before it will take a longer time. The Barapani project about which some mention has been made also may not come into production before five years. Therefore, Sir, for all these reasons I request Government and specially the Finance Minister to see if some small hydro-electric projects in the smaller rivers can be taken up. This will solve the problem of floods and at the same time the requirement of electricity for the development of our industries.

Sir, for the proper development of agriculture, the cattle wealth is very essential. Although the country is going for industrialisation and mechanised cultivation is gradually being introduced still I feel that the cattle will remain the motive power in the development of agriculture in our country for some decades to come. But what we find? The plight of the cattle is very bad. Our cattle wealth is gradually decaying and I feel that we have not been able to do much for improvement of the cattle in our State, and for that reason the condition of the agriculturists is gradually going from bad to worse. Whenever we talk of improvement of our cattle, we think in term of establishing some veterinary dispensaries and appointing some veterinary doctors, but can the cattle wealth be improved by such dispensaries and doctors? I believe, Sir, it is far from the truth. Our cattle is now getting degenerated because of want of sufficient fodder. We talk about the preservation of our P.G.Rs. Our Government has adopted a policy of protecting the P. G. Rs and also to keep them free from encroachment. That policy has been endorsed by

everyone of us and every one else in the country. Will that solve the problem of fodder in the country? On the 6th March, last I visited a P.G.R. I found the reserve lying barren and I asked the graziers where could they feed their buffaloes? The reply was shocking to me. The reply was that they used to purchase water hyacinths from the fields of the neighbouring patta holders' lands. They feed their cattle with these water hyacinths with the result that 60 per cent of the buffaloes died in course of a year. If this death rate continues, I believe Sir, the cattle wealth will be exhausted very soon. Now-a-days we are importing milk powder. Wherever we go even if we go to the remotest corner of the country we are served with tea prepared with milk powder imported from America. In olden days, especially in the constituency from which I come we use to get good quality of milk in abundance. I think milk is available in bigger quantity than water. That was the place from where we come. But what we find now there today? Even to perform some religious rite including marriage it is difficult to get milk. We cannot say that it is so because the area of reserve has been lessened, I feel, Sir, the remedy does not lie in extending the area of reserve. The remedy lies I believe elsewhere. To me it occurs that unless we can enthruse the people for better rearing up of our cattle, our cattle wealth cannot be improved and to do it it will require some amount of expenditure, some amount of publicity and some amount of tightening up of the administration also. I have received a resolution passed by the Tezpur District Congress Committee. I find there that they have expressed their resentment that the Government have failed in that part of the country to preserve the Professional Grazing Reserves from encroachments. Every year the Reserves are being encroached upon and every year the encroachers are evicted. But even inspite of that we see that the encroachers go on merrily encroaching one Reserve after another and this has almost become a normal affair throughout the State. Therefore, Sir, this unpleasant duty of evicting the encroachers has to be put an end by the Government. Therefore, to put all these things together-to improve the Reserves, to grow better fodder there and to protect the Reserves from encroachment-some devices should be adopted. If I am to suggest any such device, I may be permitted to say that we may raise fencing around the Reserves so that the encroachers cannot get in. We may also post some Reserve Guards to guard against encroachment and at the same time we should adopt some means to grow fodder

inside the Reserves. That can be done safely by the Government or by the Graziers Co-operative Societies. This will, I believe, solve the problem of fodder and also save the lives of many a cattle and at the same time will save the Government from performing a very unpleasant job of evicting encroachers every time. Then about the use of insecticide. Last year there was a havoc caused to Ahu paddy by rice bugs. This year I have seen people in the villages hesitate to grow Ahu paddy, because they are apprehending the visit of rice bugs again this year. Of course, I do not feel that the people are justified in apprehending any such danger and desist from cultivating Ahu paddy therefore. But whatever the feeling may be, such a feeling amongst the people is there. This is so, because the people are not fully aware or convinced about the use and efficacy of the use of insecticide. Insecticide is the only remedy for rice bugs but if the people fail to appreciate this fact or they do not know how to use them, then it is quite natural that people can not be persuaded to use insecticides. Therefore some machinery should be set up to go about in the country-side and teach our people and convince them about the efficacy of insecticides. Sir, prevention is always better than cure and therefore we should see and exercise ourselves to our utmost so that we can prevent the disaster before it comes.

In this connection, Sir, the question of land reforms also automatically crops up. Many of our Friends were discussing this subject during the course of their speeches on the floor of House. Therefore I shall be very brief in my observations. We have got so many land reform legislations and every one of them in its own sphere is revolutionary and wholesome. But in the matter of implementation we have not been able to advance much. While discussing about these land reform measures, Sir, the Adhiars Act always comes to my mind. This Act was passed by the Assam Legislative Assembly some ten years back. But during these ten years very little was done for its implementation. This year some start has been made in certain places. But the result so far achieved is on the whole very unsatisfactory. The main purpose of the Adhiar Act was to create more incentive in the people for growing more; the idea was that if the cultivators are guaranteed more shares in the crop, then they will grow more for more profits and at the same time it was believed that the landlords, to increase the share of the crop, will not sit idle in their homes. They will also help with intelligence and resources experiences and without the adhiars for growing more with a view to get more yield from a small plot of land. That

would have solved the problems of both the adhiars and adhidars. But unfortunately the adhidars have not taken this piece of legislation in the right spirit. Some of the adhidars of course have fallen in line with the spirit of the Act but many of them are still trying to frustrate the very purpose of this Act and they are trying to eject the adhiars from their lands although the Act guarantees that the adhiars cannot be ejected at least from ten bighas of land in their possession. In spite of that it has been so done by force by the Adhidars and the Adhiars have not to run to the Tribunal and the procedure adopted by the Tribunal being a very lengthy and elaborate one, adhiars have been in the meantime dispossessed from their lands. As a result in certain places the Adhiars are now without any land or without any occupation. Therefore, Sir, when the purpose of the Act was to give protection to the adhiars and to create incentive to grow more food and thereby to help solving the food crisis in the country, the result has been found to be otherwise. I have no remedy to suggest. But I request our Finance Minister and also Revenue Minister who are astute lawyers to find out some means so that the poor Adhiars who are ejected from their lawful possession of land can be restored to land and can be saved.

Then, Sir, the fragmentation of holdings has gone to such an extent that now-a-days our people are left with almost no economic holdings. I do not like to suggest at this moment that something should be done for consolidation of holdings because I feel that instead of having more land reform laws passed we must consolidate those which are already been enacted and are in existence. Therefore, though I do not suggest that some measures should be taken for consolidation of holdings yet I feel that the surplus population having no economic holding should be shifted to industries. By industries I do not mean big industries because I do not think big industries can absorb more persons now-a-days, for they are so mechanised that they require less of human labour. So, the main employment potentiality lies in the cottage industries and small scale industries. But those workers in the cottage industries and small scale industries are not getting proper facilities up till now. The workers in those industries suffer from lack of access to raw materials of right quality at cheap rate. They also suffer from satisfactory equipment for lack of finance. Over and above that they also suffer from inadequate marketing arrangement and the lack of new technique for production. I do not find in the budget

speech of the Finance Minister how Government is going to obviate these difficulties. Unless these difficulties are obviated it is no good talking of cottage industries and such other industries, and there is no good talking of shifting the surplus population from agriculture to cottage industries. I lay special emphasis on this. Everybody knows our Chief Minister is a great votary of cottage industries and small scale industries. I know definitely that he is putting great emphasis for the development of these industries in our State. But in spite of his efforts nothing much has come out. Therefore, we must say something is there that stands in the way in the development of these industries. Our Cottage Industries Minister is also a good constructive worker and I have full faith in him. I hope he will take necessary steps to obviate these difficulties and will try his utmost so that the artisans who are now crying hoarse for help receive proper attention. Yesterday the Industry Minister was kind enough to emphasise on the floor of this House that we should gear up our maximum efficiency. I agree with him fully but I add to his appeal one more word that is, our Government also should gear up themselves so that they can offer maximum facilities to the artisan. The artisans do not get loan for want of proper security from Government for resolving their difficulties. Who are the artisans? If we go to analyse their antecedents we find that he is completely have not, nothing practically to fall back upon no land, no property except his skill. His skill is his only capital. But as the rules stand today a man of his category cannot get loan. If he is to get a loan he is to mortgage his landed property. Besides, out of the total value of the landed property formerly 50 per cent was advanced, now 75 per cent is advanced. Then how a artisan whose capital is his skill only can start cottage industries from loan. I also at the same time cannot say that the Government should lend money at random. There must be some security against lending money, because after all the Government is dealing with public money and whatever money they get they get it from the coffer of the poor people. I request the Finance Minister more particularly that he should see how these difficulties can be got over and how an artisan who has nothing to mortgage to the the Government in lieu of his loan can be helped by advancing loan for development of his skill and for his livelihood also.

Yesterday, Sir, our Industry Minister was kind enough to inform the House that the Employment Exchange has reported to him that there is dearth of tractor drivers and operators

and also Scheduled Caste matriculates. I do not know how the Employment Exchange could give him this information with which I at least can not agree. Recently I came to know that about 60 tractor drivers and operators were threatened with discharge with effect from 28th February last from the Agriculture Department, but after a representation and a good deal of persuasion they have been retained for time being. When people say that about 60 tractors operators now working in the Agriculture Department are being threatened with discharge how can I advise my son or my nephew or my cousin to go to learn this trade. That is the difficulty. On one side we hear from the Government that there is dearth of such personnel and on the other side we say that those personnel are in surplus. Therefore, we are moving in a vicious circle. About Scheduled Caste matriculates also I have got at my disposal about 10 to 20 matriculates from the Scheduled Caste community from my constituency who are running after me for jobs—not a big job ; but say conductor, say P. W. D. muharrir, Embankment khalasi, or something like that, but not getting them. On the other hand our Minister is saying here that there is dearth of Matriculate Scheduled Caste people. I cannot reconcile these two things. It is beyond my comprehension. Sir, I simply refer the matter to our Hon'ble Minister.

Then, Sir, we are talking about capital formation ; we are also talking about formation of co-operatives in different spheres of industry and trade. Some mention has also been made, by Opposition members as well, about the Nagpur resolution of the Congress. The Nagpur resolution of the Congress has put a target regarding co-operatives. As far as my memory goes, the resolution gives a direction to start service co-operatives in all the villages of India in courses of the next three years. Out of these 3 years, 3 months have already passed. In Assam we have got 25,000 villages and we have got at our disposal only 1,000 days. Therefore, if we want to fulfil this target we must register 25 service co-operatives every day ceaselessly for the next 3 years. Only then we can fulfil the target. But when the task is so heavy, when the task is so enormous, we see no move on the part of the Co-operative Department, no effort on their part to make this programme a success. It will require a volume of organisation and a great deal of tightening up of the Department itself. At the same time, with the psychology which is now prevailing in the countryside regarding co-operatives, if we go and

tell them to organise service co-operatives, the whole thing will be taken amiss. Therefore, we should first of all make people co-operative-minded by our propaganda and publicity and by our sincere and honest efforts. Unless the ground is rightly prepared no seed can germinate there. Therefore, I would request our Co-operative Minister, who is an energetic young Minister, who has got the zeal, the conviction and the necessary training also that he should do his best to see that this target is fulfilled. Attempts should be made from right now to fulfil the target. At the same time, I would request my Friends also to extend their co-operation. At the present moment many of us do not hold a very rosy picture of co-operatives. We feel that co-operatives are meant only for getting some advantage offered by Government. Nowadays credit societies are being organised and registered every day in the villages and people are coming for loans. But as soon as they get the loan they give up thinking about the co-operatives. The whole wood is lost in the trees and the co-operatives remain where they were. Nowadays Government have declared that they will settle waste land for co-operative farming. Some people, some may be people with lands and some landless, form a co-operative and try to take land from Government. As soon as they get the land the whole idea of co-operative is thrown to the background. So long as these things continue co-operatives cannot thrive. Therefore, I feel that some such means should be devised so that the idea of co-operatives can be planted in the hearts of the people.

Sir, whenever we talk about some new scheme, we see a lot of new offices being created and some of us are now feeling that our Government is going in for centralisation to a great extent. Nowadays the Secretariat is being expanded to a great extent. I think the number of Secretaries there is now five times more than what it was two years before. When so many people at the top have been appointed, naturally some work should be given to them. And if we are to give some to them, which means centralisation of power at the top. When there is centralisation, there is delay in administration. It is not necessary to re-emphasise here that our people sometimes get tired of delay in the administration. When there is delay in the administration, the people below get frustrated, they move about for redress and justice. Therefore, Sir, I request the Hon'ble Finance Minister to see that this kind of top heaviness in the administration is done away with.

Sir, one very good thing has been done by our Education Minister. Unfortunately he is away from his seat now. I was waiting to congratulate him; but he has left the House. He deserves congratulation. Though there are many things to talk about his Department, he has done one good thing. He has made an attempt to remove the disparity between the Government high school teachers and the Aided high school teachers. It was a long lingering hope of the Aided school teachers. I am glad Government have fulfilled their hope. But after reading these whole scheme I find the lacuna there. That lacuna is that our experienced under-graduate teachers have not got proper consideration at the hands of Government in the scheme. The under-graduate teachers remain where they were before. I feel personally that in the matter of education, academic qualification has something to do but at the same time, teaching experience also has a great role to play. Therefore, teaching experience of under-graduate teachers may also be taken into consideration and they should be given the same pay as the graduate Headmasters are given when they put on numerous service for a long period of time. Many of them are acting as Assistant Headmasters and Headmasters of High Schools. They start with Rs.75 and ends with Rs.125 per month and they are to retire at Rs.125 even if they retire after working for 30 years of meritorious service. I personally feel that a teacher who is an under-graduate and have served 15 years in a High School is as good as a graduate teacher if not better. Therefore, I hope, our Education Minister who is a reasonable gentleman and who tries to do justice to the down-trodden people will try to remove the grievance; i.e., lacuna in the scheme.

Sir, I am sure I have strained your nerves by taking more time of the House..... (Laughter).

Mr. SPEAKER: You have put some strain on some of your colleagues in the House who are awaiting to take their chance and their time.

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Hajo): I am grateful to you that at the cost of others you have shown me this favour and I shall be grateful to you for all time to come for this favour. (Laughter).

With these words, I resume my seat.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Labour, etc.): Mr. Speaker Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak a few words in this debate. I am grateful

also to Shri Mohendra Mohan Chaudhury who has spoken at length about the Co-operative Movement in the State. I have not seen anywhere in the world where co-operative movement is successful by schemes made for it by the Government unless it is started by the leaders of the society and people in general. Now we have been hearing that there is a feeling of frustration in the minds of the people that the capital formation in the rural sector is nil and that unemployment in rural sector is highest. The remedy so far I gather lies on this co-operative movement.

Sir, Shri Prabhat Narayan Chaudhury wanted to have a clear idea about this Co-operative movement. Sir, I need not go very far about this, the Finance Minister in his Budget speech clearly indicated at page 9 of his speech thus,—“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”. Sir, this clearly shows the pattern of the movement that we are following in our State. I propose firstly to take the credit structure of this movement. Credit being the primary necessity of the agriculturists—The Five Year Plan of the Co-operative movement therefore, attaches utmost priority for rehabilitation of the Co-operative Credit Movement. A comprehensive scheme for the supply of agricultural credit, with loan assistance of the Reserve Bank of India was put into effect from 1954. The Assam Co-operative Apex Bank took the responsibility of obtaining finance from the Reserve Bank of India and issuing, the same to the agriculturists through central banks and its own branches. During the first of this scheme, a short term loan over 12½ lakhs was issued against an amount hardly over one lakh issued in the year prior to the taking up of this scheme. In this subsequent years the loan issued amounted to Rs.12.50 lakhs, and then 21 lakhs and 71 lakhs respectively. The Assam Co-operative Bank which had made only a start since its organisation in 1948, got an impetus to expand its activities along with the initiation of the loan programmed from 1954 and its share capital, membership and business began to record an inspiring progress. To-day the Bank has 2,559 membership of societies and individuals taken together with a subscribed share capital of Rs.43,21,000. The Bank sanctioned for seasonal agricultural operation and marketing of crops, a short term loan of Rs.1,36,60,000 and a medium-term loan of Rs.4,32,000 upto 30th June, 1958. Since then it has issued Rs.1.45 crores of short-term loan against the programme of 1.50 crores during the current year. Along with the financing of the agriculturists, the Bank is financing tea gardens side by side. During 1957-58 the Bank advanced

Rs.136 lakhs to many Tea gardens of the State and helped the Tea Industry to develop. We are all aware and it is needless for me to repeat what a great crisis the Tea Industry had to face in the years of slump in 1951-52. There was a general depression in the tea market all over the world and all the Commercial Banks in the country refused to finance the small tea gardens of the State owned by our own people. It was then that the Apex Bank came to the rescue of these small gardens by offering finance. But for such help many of these gardens would not perhaps have been in existence now. This shows the difference between a commercial concern guided by profit motive and a Co-operative Institution guided by a spirit of help and co-operation. In spite of heavy odds the bank is now running at a profit and its profit in the current year would be Rs.7.52 lakhs. The percentage of dividend so far declared by the Bank has gone upto 4½ per cent. The participation of the Government in the share capital of the bank to the tune of Rs.22 lakhs has helped much to gather strength.

Next to the Apex Bank, the Central Co-operative Banks numbering 15, in the State have also played a very important role in the credit structure. The number of these banks has however been reduced to 7— with a view to make each of them an economic unit. This idea of increasing the size of the Banks by reducing the number is an outcome of the recommendation of the Rural Credit Survey Committee, in the line of which the Second Five Year Plan Schemes for Co-operative Development were drawn up in the whole country. In this context, the uneconomic units of a Central Banks have to be amalgamated or liquidated, allowing however, the opening of branches according to the convenience of the members. Integration of some of the Central Banks have already been made. The Central Banks have also been strengthened with State participation in their share capital besides subsidising the banks for maintenance of trained and experienced staff, cost of opening branches, etc.

The Institutions in the lowest level of the credit structure, are the village Banks or the Village Credit Societies. Prior to the taking up of the credit rehabilitation scheme, i.e., 1953, there were only 639 Co-operative Credit Societies in the State with membership of 15,434 issuing a very negligible amount of loan. With availability of fresh finances under the rehabilitation scheme, there appeared a keen enthusiasm among the people for formation of such societies whose number came upto 2798 on 30th June, 1958 with a membership

of 77,920. There has been a further increase of such societies and the number now exceeds 3,700 inclusive of 200 large sized credit co-operatives.

The Rural Credit Survey Committee clearly pointed out the various disadvantages of small sized village co-operative and recommended the formation of large sized co-operatives. The Second Five Year Plan of the Co-operative Department following this recommendations, proposed for the organisation of 300 large sized societies in the State during the Second Plan period with State participation in the share capital. Besides subsidising the cost of maintenance of staff, provision was made for construction of 100 godowns for these societies by providing loans and subsidies. Up till now over 200 large sized credit societies have been organised in the State of which 200 have been granted share capital contribution subsidy for staff and also loans and subsidies for construction of 60 godowns. In the meantime, the Co-operative Policy has been reviewed and the trend now is to organise Village Multipurpose Societies. Till a final decision is arrived at, the organisation of large sized society has been given a go-slow. The Village Banks along with the large sized societies have a target of issuing Rs. 750 lakhs short term and Rs. 337 lakhs medium term loans during the Second Plan period. All efforts have been directed to expand the movement with a view to cover at least 40 per cent of the rural indebted families of Assam by the end of Second Five Year Plan. Sir, this clearly shows the tremendous test ahead of us into the Third Five Year Plan.

In addition to the small sized and the large sized credit societies for giving short-term and medium-term loans, a Central Land Mortgage Bank has been organised in the State for long-term finance. Prior to this, there were only two Primary Land Mortgage Banks one in Nowgong and the other in Kamrup, doing very little work. With the establishment of the Central Land Mortgage Bank—these two Banks have been vitalised and a regular issue of loans to their members has commenced. In the other districts, issue of long-term loans to agriculturists has also been taken up by opening branches of the Central Land Mortgage Bank in the existing Central Banks. The Central Land Mortgage Bank has enrolled 1200 members upto date. It has issued Rs. 9.78 lakhs of loan to 555 members.

The rate of interest charged on the loans from the agriculturists has been kept as low as possible and efforts will be there to lower it further as soon as the financial position of the institutions permit them to do so. The interest of 8 per cent on short-term loans granted to agriculturists has been recently lowered to $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The procedure of issuing loans needs simplification and this has engaged the attention of the department. The Report of the Committee appointed by Government of India on the laws on co-operation is now under consideration.

The object of the credit programme aims at increased production which alone can raise the level of living of our vast agricultural population. Credit is, however, one aspect only and unless the advantages of co-operative forms of activities can be harnessed in the field of marketing and processing, co-operative credit alone is not likely to benefit the agriculturists substantially. The Second Five Year Plan has, therefore, provided for the organisation of 60 primary Marketing Co-operatives in the State along with an Apex Marketing Society at the top. Uptill now 66 Primary Marketing Societies have been organised, out of which 45 have been granted share capital contribution, subsidy for staff, loans and subsidy for construction of godowns. These primary societies are required to work in close co-operation with the credit societies. The credit societies are to issue loans to agriculturists for increasing their production and to collect the produces at the time of harvest, in lieu of the loans, and store them temporarily in their own godowns and finally dispose them of through the Marketing Co-operatives. To carry on business smoothly, with storage and other facilities, each of the marketing societies has been financed for the construction of maintenance of godowns. The Marketing Societies which have so far started business did transactions on different commodities worth Rs. 20 to 25 lakhs excluding the paddy purchased by the Apex Marketing Society at Nowgong.

The Apex Marketing Society which is a federation of the Primary Marketing and other societies took up distribution of fertilisers in the last year and distributed chemical fertilisers worth more than Rs. 10 lakhs. During the current year, besides other usual business activities, it has taken up procurement of paddy in the district of Nowgong. The society has been given the monopoly of procuring paddy in that district. The society is to supply 4 lakhs mds. of paddy to the State Government and $8\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs mds. to the different rice mills. The society commenced work only from the later half of January

1959 and within this short period has collected 5.50 lakh mds. of paddy worth half a crore through the primary marketing co-operatives, the large sized co-operative credit societies, etc., by establishing about 25 main collection centres and about 130 sub-centres. This Apex Marketing Society has been strengthened with a share capital contribution of Rs. 4 lakhs besides a subsidy of Rs.24,800 for the maintenance of staff and loans and subsidies for godown, etc.

In the field of processing, the most notable venture in the State is the establishment of the Assam Co-operative Sugar Mill at Dergaon which has gone into production from December last. I mean Assamese Sugar.

Mr. SPEAKER : So in Assam we should take Assamese sugar now.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Labour): I have purposely mentioned this because the other day the hon. Member Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya made a taunting remark about Assamese Sugar because of the high cost of production. I feel proud that our people made the first attempts in this line. Shri Bhattacharyya may not get inspirations because his source of inspirations is elsewhere. Our State can be proud of the fact that out of a large number of sugar mills sanctioned by the Government of India in the Co-operative sector, ours is the first to go into production inspite of heavy odds and transport bottleneck. The difficulties which we had to face and overcome can be easily imagined if it is mentioned that some of the machineries were so heavy in weight and large in size that at the time of transshipment from the broad to the metre gauge rail they had to be cut to two or more pieces to be welded again. Steamers had to be engaged to take delivery of some of the machineries in the midstream of the Hoogly from ships carrying them from abroad. Of the capital requirement of about 2 crores for this project, the State Government has contributed Rs.27 lakhs so far towards the share capital of the mill—the balance being collected by way of share subscription from agriculturists, co-operatives, etc., and loans from the Industrial Finance Corporations. The amount of share capital contribution by the public now exceeds Rs. 10 lakhs. The Mill has a crushing capacity of 800 tons a day but it has not been able to work to its full capacity due to short-supply of cane. This short supply in the initial year was of

course not unusual or unforeseen. The keen interest now shown by the sugarcane growers of the Mill area assures a bright future. It is expected that from the next crushing season the Mill will get more cane for crushing. Even now the cane available in the neighbourhood of the mill is sufficient to run it economically but transport is so difficult due to bad roads that the available cane could not be tapped. The Mill, since December last, has produced more than 30,000 mds of sugar. It is a matter of great pleasure that Assam Sugar is being made available to the Assam consumers.

Of the other processing co-operatives one is the Garo Hills Cotton Ginning Mill established at Phulbari which started work in 1956. The factory was established at a cost of Rs. 2.50 lakhs granted by the State Government on following accounts: Rs. 2.02 lakhs for factory building and Rs. 50,000 for working capital.

Work for the establishment of a similar Mill at Diphu is also progressing. A Milk pasteurisation Plant has been established at Gauhati with loans and subsidies from the State Government. A similar plant at Jorhat is being established and works are progressing. A Jute Baling and Marketing Co-operative has been organised at Nowgong. The activities of the Co-operative Movement by linking credit with marketing and processing have thus contributed much for the benefit of the agriculturists.

Next to agriculture are our Cottage Industries—primarily the handloom weaving. Development of this industry has all along been tried mainly on the co-operative lines. Concentrated efforts have however been made only from the year 1953 with the assistance from the All India Handloom Board. There are more than 5 lakhs handlooms in Assam and more than 12 lakhs people are engaged in this Industry. We have so far been able to organise about 1100 Weaving Co-operatives in the State and about 30,506 weavers have been brought to the fold of co-operation. These Weaving Co-operatives have been given all sorts of assistance such as loans for share and working capital, supply of improved looms and accessories, etc. All these have considerably helped the weaving industry to develop on a sound line. Besides the Weaving Co-operatives, there are other types of industrial societies such as Japi making, backsmithy, Brass and bel-metal worker co-operatives, etc. which have also been encouraged with all sorts of assistance. Though most of the consumers and Trading Co-operatives had to close down their business after decontrol, some of them are still working satisfactorily. The Barpeta Consumers Stores which has implemented its scheme of electrification of Barpeta Town is one of a type, rare in India.

Similarly the A.O.C. co-operative society which is successfully working for the last 25 years is also worth mentioning. It has contributed Rs.25,000 towards to share capital of the Assam Sugar Mill.

With all these activities the co-operative movement in the State is fostering its growth. The co-operative movement is, however, basically a movement of the people and its true character has not been lost sight of. Conscious efforts are always there to deofficialise the movement and with this end in view, the Assam State Co-operative Union was organised in 1955 as a representative non-official organisation of the co-operative societies of the State. The Union has taken up a scheme of educating non-official personnel since last year and it is conducting six weekly, weekly and three days courses of co-operative education in the Kamrup and Darrang Districts. Education and training of official as well as non-official is essentially necessary for the healthy growth of the co-operative movement. Realising this, a co-operative training institute has been arranged in the State in 1953 at Joysagar and another at Tezpur in the last year. The Joysagar institute has been imparting training to the officers of the Department as well as office-bearers of the Co-operative Societies. The Tezpur institute was meant for office-bearers of the Co-operative Societies only. The training of honorary office-bearers has since been entrusted to the State Co-operative Union. Besides these arrangements inside the State, the officers of the Department are regularly sent for training outside the State in places such as Poona, Madras and Ranchi. The Assam State Co-operative Union is also expanding its training programme and in the next year and the Union is likely to cover 5 districts. Efforts have been made to strengthen and reorganise the Union, so that in the long run the non-officials may play their due role in the matter.

The Co-operative movement in the light of Co-operative policy recently enunciated by the National Development Council, if and when implemented, will take altogether a different shape covering all the rural population by the end of the Third Five Year Plan. There will be one multipurpose Co-operative for every village depending on size and population, which will represent every family and serve almost all their requirements to increase agricultural production. There will be a close link between the village Co-operative and Panchayats which will serve the identical areas: the former performing economic and the latter civic activities and functions. The importance

of service Co-operatives and the joint farming Co-operatives is now getting prominence since the last meeting of the Nagpur session of All India Congress. While this matter is yet to take a definite shape we have already organised about 200 farming Co-operatives of different types some of which are organised on Government land and some are pooling lands of the members. Some of the farming Co-operatives, particularly of the cane growers in the Dergaon area are really doing commendable work. Sir, the other day my Friend Shri Probhat Narayan Choudhury was asking as to what is the fate of these 200 farming Co-operatives in the State the answer is that they are functioning well. They are supplying a substantial portion of the requirement of the Sugar Mill.

Co-operation has a great potentiality in offering employment facilities to the people. Co-operation offers an opportunity to the people, particularly these who are unable to employ themselves in any occupation individually due to their pecuniary condition and lack of adequate capital. As for instance, the landless labourers due to absence of required capital would have remained unemployed, had not the Co-operative offer them credit on the basis of their marketable surplus. Similarly handloom weavers would have remained unemployed had not they joined the Co-operatives and obtained finance on the joint responsibility of their fellow workers. Not only that, the Co-operative societies have directly or indirectly given a gainful occupation to lakhs of people. On the basis of the present working of the Co-operative movement in Assam—it may be stated that the 7,000 co-operative societies have given full time and part time employment to over 50,000 people. The basis of working of this figure is as follows.—7,000 Secretaries for 7,000 Societies part time or full time getting honorarium or pay. Handloom societies numbering 1,100 giving gainful employment to at least 30,500 handloom weavers. 300 to 400 other industrial societies giving employment to 6,000 members on the basis of 20 members in each society. 200 large size societies employing full time Secretaries, Managers, etc., have engaged more than 500 persons. The Apex Bank, the Central Bank, the Land Mortgage Bank, etc., giving employment to at least 600 persons. The Assam Co-operative Sugar Mill is employing 1,000 persons. The Marketing societies numbering over 60 are affording a livelihood to about 300 persons and the Paddy Procurement Scheme in Nowgong particularly is giving employment to about 300 to 400 “Katadars” or weighmen. Besides giving employment to other staff of the societies steps have taken to organise 250 Paddy Husking (hand pounding) societies which

will provide employment to more than 50,000 men, women and poor widows. The All India Khadi and Village Industries Board has already released rupees 10 lakhs for this purpose and the State Government is considering the question of participating in the share capital of these societies.

Another unique experiment has been made in organising a co-operative society to manage some tea gardens in Cachar under bye-laws of which the labourers are entitled to participate in the share capital and management.

Sir, if we want to achieve a socialistic pattern of society, co-operation seems to be the only solution.

Sir, I am grateful to many hon. Members of this House who have offered valuable suggestions regarding the co-operative movement in the State and I am sure Sir, Government will give due consideration to those suggestions. The other day Shrimati Padma Kumari Gohain referred to employment of women personnel in the co-operative societies. But Sir, in such institution there is no bar to appointment of women or young ladies in this Department. Anyway, Government will consider this aspect of the matter.

Then again Sir, Shrimati Lily Sen Gupta also referred to a very important item of the co-operative movement. That is, that there is big possibility of this movement in the tea gardens. Sir, while I was in the Trade Union Field I tried my best to organise such movement and I can say from personal experience that this movement is possible only by a non-official organisation. Government help will be there, but social workers in the State would be better suited to man such movement. I am sure Government will look into this matter also. In support of my contention I can only speak about the A. O. C. Co-operative Society. This Government which started from a very small unit has raised itself to a powerful Government and they have raised about 17 lakhs capital up till now. So Sir, this possibility is there in the tea gardens and I can only hope that hon. Members will give more interest in this also.

Sir, I think I have said all what I have got to say and I hope Sir, with co-operation from the people I am sure this movement will go a long way in solving many problems of the State. Thank you, Sir.

Shri LILA KANTA BORA (Kaliabar) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I offer my hearty thanks to the Finance Minister for his long and lucid speech on the Budget wherein he has dealt with almost all the salient features of administration of this State. He has given a clear picture of the financial position of our State since 1956-57. Though Sir, this is a surplus Budget, the overall financial position of the State can hardly be said to be a happy one. Sir, that no proposal for fresh taxation has been made by him it shows that the Finance Minister has appreciated that the taxable capacity of the people of Assam has been exhausted. The cost of living in Assam is the highest throughout India and that is mainly due to the fact that there is transport bottleneck. Though Assam is a frontier State and though it is a strategic State, it is really unfortunate that effective steps for removing this transport bottleneck has not been taken by the Central Government and for this reason the cost of living, I think, is highest in India. Sir, we are glad that though no fresh taxation has been made by the Finance Minister, he has made provision to the extent of 88.1 lakhs of rupees for some new projects.

This is really a happy thing for which the Finance Minister deserves congratulation. But Sir, mere paper provision will not do. What is necessary is to see that the money so provided is properly utilised that is there is no wastage. Another important thing is that whenever we take up certain projects we are to see that it is really implemented so that it does not remain as a paper provision and to do this a follow up is absolutely necessary, but what we find is the lack of this follow up. I can cite one instance. Government had decided to establish a Poly-technic School at Nowgong. The Additional Director, Technical Branch, went to Nowgong. He took the Deputy Commissioner and some of the local Members, Legislative Assembly and a certain plot of land was selected. The Deputy Commissioner had already submitted a proposal for requisitioning the land and although it is about 2 years, nothing has been done as yet. On enquiry we have come to learn that the money is going to lapse. Whose fault is this. Sir ? The Education Department told that they had already submitted the plan to the Revenue Department. The Revenue Department says it is not with them. Then with whom it is ? For whose fault is the money going to lapse ? So we find that there no follow up. Had there been such method of follow up such unfortunate things would not have happened. There are other projects and although they were

taken up 2 or 3 years back, uptill now nothing has happened. For instance, I can mention about the case of Veterinary Dispensary at Lailuki in Lawkhoa mouza and also, I can mention about the dispensary at Panigaon. I can mention a number of such cases in this way. We find uptill now nothing has been done although the people have agreed to part with their land voluntarily, before 2 or 3 years yet no steps have been taken in this direction. So there is lack of follow up. Unfortunately Government have not taken effective steps to check all these things. What is the use of starting such projects if they are not executed in time?

Next Sir, the Finance Minister has made a reference regarding the gloomy food situation prevailing in the State last year. He has also expressed the view that the food situation in the current year has improved. No doubt the food position in the current year has improved to some extent, but that should not make our Government complacent. I do not know what is the position prevailing in other parts of the State, but so far as the district of Nowgong is concerned, I can assert that the food position there is not so happy as expected it to be. In some parts of the district, for example Koliabar and Kaki, the food position is worse than the last year. In other parts although it is a bit better we cannot say that the economic lot of the people has improved. There are certain reasons for that. In the first place, we find that the people in the last year, when they were facing acute starvation, when there was severe drought, they had to take loan from the money lenders at high rate of interest. They had to take loan on the promise that they would part with their paddy at Rs.5 or Rs.6 a maund, jute at the rate of Rs.10 or 12 per maund. Moreover, they had to sell their land, cattle and other valuable belongings to save their lives. Along with the harvest, we find these money lenders have fallen upon them. They have to buy cattle, they have to buy land and other valuable belongings which they had to part with earlier. Secondly, Sir, as the year 1957 was a difficult year for them due to drought, the people had no paying capacity and so Government was pleased to direct the local Mouzadars not use any coercive method for realisation of the land revenue. But along with the harvest, we find the Mauzadars have fallen upon them to realise the land revenue. It is a known fact that almost whole of Nowgong was affected by drought and Government being convinced about the difficulties of the people were pleased to pass orders not to adopt any coercive

measures to realise the land revenue for the year 1957. People submitted petitions to Government for remission of the land revenue for the year 1957, but we find that coercive measures have been adopted for realisation of the land revenue on account of both this year, *viz.*, 1957 and 1958. We do not know whether it is due to the fault of the administrative machinery or due to the apathy on the part of those at the helm of the affairs that such things are being done. I would suggest to the Government to see that the people are not harassed at least for the land revenue for 1957 till final orders have been passed on the petition of the people praying such permission, Government should see that the people are not harassed for payment of land revenue.

Sir, coming to the question of procurement of paddy we find it has been entrusted to the Co-operative Apex Marketing Society. We are really in favour of Co-operatives. In fact I suggested in A. P. C. C. meeting at Pathsala that either Government should procure the paddy themselves or through the Co-operatives. We do not like that the monopoly of the procurement should be given to certain individuals, to certain big businessmen. But for that matter we do not want that the growers should be made loser in the name of Co-operatives. The people of Nowgong is not getting the same price for their paddy as the people of the adjoining districts are getting. The maximum price of paddy has been fixed at Rs.9 only in Nowgong district. But the growers in Nowgong is not getting price also. In the interior they are getting Rs.7 or Rs.7-8 per maund of paddy. This is what is happening in our district at least. Of course, Sir, the Marketing Society was given little time to organise it properly and whatever time was at their disposal that also they did not utilise properly. As the President of the District Congress Committee, I wrote to them to let us know as to what help we could render them. But they did not respond to our offer. They moved instead in the other way round. They have appointed certain individuals who are carrying on the business as agents of the Marketing Society. We do not want that in the name of co-operatives individuals should be encouraged in this way. I am constrained to say here in this connection that the Chairman of the Apex Marketing Society is himself not a genuine co-operationist. I do not think that he has sufficient knowledge as to how a co-operative should be run. But unfortunately we find that in spite of our opposition and opposition from the local officer individuals have been appointed as agents. This is certainly

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not the way to help the co-operative movement. So I urge upon the Government that this sort of anomaly and favouritism in the name of co-operative should not be allowed to continue. Sir, we want that the co-operative should thrive, we want that whenever any wrong is detected in the process of development of the co-operatives, it should be remedied and the co-operative movement should be encouraged in proper line. But this sort of bungling in the name of co-operative should not be allowed to go on unchecked. Sir, from the facts placed before you, you will realise that the economic lot of the growers cannot be improved if this State of things continue. So, Sir, I say even though there is some improvement in the food situation of the district this year, the economic lot of the people on the whole, has not shown any sign of appreciable improvement.

Sir, I find the Finance Minister had made some observations regarding the establishment of the Oil Refinery in Assam. He has stated, "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". Sir, we have heard much about the establishment of this Oil Refinery in Assam. Quite a number of news appeared on the news papers regarding the selection of the site for the Refinery, one day giving out that this site is selected and on the next day contradicting the news and stating that some other site is selected. But till now, Sir, it is most unfortunate that no site has been finally selected. I wonder, Sir, whether there is any parallel in history that mere selection of the site for a Refinery taking such long time. This shows that the Central Ministry concerned is not at all serious about the Refinery here. We came to know that the Rumanian Experts as well as the Oil Co-operation—these two high bodies recommended Silghat as the most suitable site for the establishment of the Oil Refinery. We do not know what has happened to those recommendations. In spite of these recommendations, one fine morning we read in the news papers the Central Ministry announcing in the Lok Sabha that the Refinery will be located somewhere near

about Gauhati. Only recently the Experts and some Officials had visited Gauhati and now it is reported that they have again gone to Kokrajhar. One of the Rumanian Experts even now is said to have expressed the view that Silghat is the suitable site for the Refinery from all aspects. Are they (the Central Ministry) going to flout the Expert opinion like this? We wonder what is really going behind. We know, Sir, that the Central Ministry is bent upon establishing a Refinery at Barauni. We do not grudge if a Refinery is established there also but so far as the Refinery for Assam is concerned, what we want is wherever it is established, it should be established in a place where there is sufficient scope for its expansion in future. We know Sir, Assam has an unlimited potentiality of oil resource and although the Central Government is now not willing to establish a big Refinery in Assam. I have not an iota of doubt, in my mind, that having in view of Assam's unlimited potential reserve of oil, the Refinery, however small it may be now, will have to be expanded in future, if not today. But it appears that the Central Government is not going to have the Refinery in a place where it will have enough scope for future expansion. I am also sorry to observe that our Government is also not bold on this point. I doubt very much whether they have made this point sufficiently clear to the Central Government. I find that our Government is rather shy to speak boldly about the site of the Refinery. But I think we should have no hesitation to say that we want the Refinery in such a site when there is greater scope for future development and expansion. I would therefore suggest that our Government should take up this matter with the Central Government and urge upon them the necessity of locating the refinery in such a place where there is sufficient scope for expansion in the future.

Sir, I am sorry that we have been told year in and year out that the Geological Survey of the Kopilly Valley Project has been going on. We were given to understand that the Kopilly River Valley Project will be taken up by the end of the Second Five-Year Plan. But now, unfortunately, the speech of the Finance Minister does not give any indication as to whether we are going to have the Kopilly River Valley Project by the end of the Second Five-Year Plan.

Sir, many of the hon. Members have spoken at length about the unemployment problem in our State. The Finance Minister has also stated that the trend of unemployment in our

State is gradually on the increase. What is more distressing is that even in the tea garden area also the ugly head of unemployment is raising its head. Now, how to solve this problem? We have seen that other States have one or more Multi-purpose River Valley Projects. But we do not have even one although it is now 12 years since attainment of independence. We have also seen that in order to solve the unemployment problem in the country establishment of small-scale and cottage industries is one way out before the country. But establishment of cottage and small scale industries is dependent on power and power cannot be produced in any appreciable quantity without a River Valley Project. Of course, our Government is proposing to take up the Barapani Hydel Project. That is, of course, a step in the right direction but the Barapani Project alone cannot go to solve the problem. If we want to solve this problem effectively, then to my mind, a big Multi-purpose River Valley Project is the only solution. Such a project will produce enough power so as to feed the industries and thus help in solving the problem of unemployment to an appreciable extent. We find the Central Government had promised to give Rs.8 crores for the purpose of taking up some irrigation project in Assam. But now we see that the amount originally promised has been reduced to rupees four crores, Assam have a number of turbulent rivers which must be controlled. This is a highly flood effected State and economically hard hit. Under the circumstances, Sir, unless Assam has got some Multi-purpose River Valley Project, progress of irrigation work which is so vital for growing more food cannot be expected. And without power, no State can expect to solve her economic problem, I therefore request our Government to impress upon the Central Government to take up a Multi-purpose River Valley Project at the earliest possible moment.

Now, Sir, regarding the fire havoc in the district of Nowgong, there was fire havoc at in Doboka Bazar, at Rupahi Bazar and in the Town itself where about 150 families were rendered homeless. Therefore, I urge upon the Government last year to place a fire brigade at the disposal of Nowgong Police or the Municipal authority there. This time also a big fire occurred at Haiborgaon Bazar and a fire brigade had to be requisitioned from Shillong in order to put down the fire. The Governor mentioned in his address that some fire brigade stations would be opened in some areas this year. I hope the case of Nowgong will receive prior consideration.

Thank you Sir.

Maulavi SAHADAT ALI (South Salmara): মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, বাজেটৰ বিষয়ে বহুতো আলোচনা ইতিমধ্যেই হৈ গৈছে। মই সেই বিষয় বিশেষ কিছু কব ইচ্ছা নকৰো।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই এটা অভিশপ্ত সমষ্টিৰ পৰা নিৰ্বাচিত হৈ আহিছো। গতিকে মই মোৰ সমষ্টিৰ দুৰ্ভাগ্যৰ বিষয়ে কে'ম্বাৰ মান কথা ক'ব বুলি থিয় দিছো। মোৰ সমষ্টিটো দীৰ্ঘলৈ প্ৰায় ৩০।৩৫ মাইল আৰু বহলৈ ৩।৪ মাইলমান হ'ব। উত্তৰ ফালে ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ নৈ আৰু দক্ষিণ ফালে জিজিৰাম নৈ। আলি বুলিবলৈ এটাও নাই। ১৯৫৪ চনতে এটা মাথাউৰি ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ নৈৰ পাৰেদি হৈছে মাথাউৰিটো হোৱাৰ ফলত গোটেই এলেকাটোত এনেকুৱা অবস্থা হৈছে যে মানুহ চলা চল কৰা একেবাৰে অসাধ্য হৈছে। যেতিয়া মাথাউৰিটো হোৱা নাছিল তেতিয়া মানুহে বান পানীৰ সময়ত অন্ততঃ নাৱেৰে যত তত অহা যোৱা কৰিব পাৰিছিল।

মহাশয়, ব্ৰিটিশ আমোলত লক্ষীপুৰৰ পৰা জনেশ্বৰ, জামাদাৰহাট, আৰু ফকিৰগঞ্জ হৈ মানিকাচৰ অৰ্থাৎ বৰ্তমান পাকিস্তানৰ সীমালৈকে এটা আলি আছিল। উপৰ্যুপৰি কেইবা বছৰ বানপানী আৰু ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ নৈৰ গড়া খহনীয়াত আলিটো নষ্ট হৈছে। আজিলৈকে আলিটো কৰাৰ বাবে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে কোন ব্যৱস্থা লোৱা নাই। মই গভৰ্ণমেণ্টক Challenge কৰি ক'ব পাৰো আজি প্ৰথম পাচ বছৰীয়া পৰিকল্পনাত এটাও বাস্তৱ লোৱা নাই, কুল লোৱা নাই, কোনো চিকিৎসাব ব্যৱস্থা নাই। গোৱালপাৰাৰ পৰা আৰম্ভ কৰি ফকিৰগঞ্জলৈকে ৪০।৫০ মাইলৰ ভিতৰত কোনো ভেটেৰিনেৰী চিকিৎসালয় নাই। আজি ফকিৰগঞ্জ শালমাৰাৰ অঞ্চলৰ মানহ গোৱালপাৰালৈ আহিবলৈ হলে এবাতি বুৰুৰীত ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ নৈ পাৰ হৈ থাকিব লগিয়া হয়। পিচদিনা মটৰেৰে যোগীঘোপা হৈ গোৱালপাৰালৈ আহিব লগিয়া হয়। মাথাউৰিটো উপৰ্যুপৰি দুবাৰ ভাঙি যায়। ফলত বহুত মানুহৰ ঘৰ মাটিবাবী নষ্ট হয়, কিন্তু এনেকুৱা Neglected এলেকা যে সেই বিষয়ে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে কোনো মনেই নিদিয়। যোৱা বাৰ Government ৰ পৰা কি Census হৈছে ক'ব নোৱাৰে কিন্তু মই জনাত প্ৰায় এহাজাৰ মানহৰ ঘৰবাৰী ধ্বংস হৈছে; কিন্তু Relief আৰু Rehabilitationৰ কোনো ব্যৱস্থা হোৱা নাই, তাত মানুহ কি অৱস্থাত আছে ইয়াৰ পৰা একো ভাবিব নোৱাৰি। মোৰ সমষ্টিৰ মানুহৰ মজী সকলক দেখাৰ ভাগ্য নহয়।

(Voice—বাস্তৱ নহলে যাৰ কেনেকৈ)

মহাশয়, কথা বাস্তৱ নাই—বাস্তৱ নোহোৱাৰ কাৰণেই তেখেত সকল যাৰ পৰা নাই বুলি কলে মই সন্তোষ পাম। আমাৰ কৃষি বিভাগৰ মজী মহোদয়ক মই যোৱা বাৰ বাজেট অধিবেশনৰ সময়ত অনুৰোধ কৰিছিলো; তেখেত গৈছিল সঁচা কিন্তু ২।১ ঘণ্টাৰ ভিতৰত ওচি আছিল। খৰমুজাৰ পৰা পূবে পশ্চিমে মানিকাচৰলৈকে প্ৰায় ১০০ মাইল বাস্তৱ নাই। মাথাউৰিটোৰ ওপৰেদি যাবলৈ হলে Permission লাগে। তাৰ ওপৰেদি বিনা অনুমতিত গাৰী, ঘোৰা, গৰু একো যাৰ নোৱাৰে। এনেকুৱা অৱস্থাত কিমান দিন থাকিব লাগিব ক'ব নোৱাৰে।

মহাশয়, আপোনালোক সকলোৱে জানে যে গোৱালপাৰা জিলাখন প্ৰায় সম্পূৰ্ণ জমিদাৰী এলেকা আছিল, এতিয়া যদিও জমিদাৰী উচ্ছেদ হৈছে, Land Settlementৰ বহুতো বেমেজালি চলি আছে। কিছুমান Grazing reserve আছিল সেই বিলাক এতিয়া নাই। ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ গৰখহনীয়াত নিৰাশ্ৰয় মানুহক মাটি দিয়াৰ উদ্দেশ্যত খুলি দিয়ে। তাৰ ভিতৰত মেচপাৰা acquired ইষ্টেটৰ অধীনত টাকীমাৰী আৰু মৰিচবাড়ী বিজাৰ্ড উল্লেখযোগ্য।

Adjournment

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

(After lunch)

Maulavi SHAHADAT ALI (South Salmara): মহোদয়, মেচপাৰা জমিদাৰী Acquisition কৰাৰ সময়ত নদীৰ গৰা খহনীয়াত বিধ্বস্ত হোৱা লোক সকলৰ পুনৰ সংস্থাপনৰ উদ্দেশ্যে টাকিমৰী আৰু মৰিচবাৰী ৰিজাৰ্ভ দুটা খুলি দিয়া হৈছিল। সেই মৰ্ণে মেচপাৰাৰ ইষ্টেটৰ মেনেজাৰে কিছুমান মানুহৰ নাম লিষ্টিভুক্ত কৰে আৰু ফলত দেখা গল যে সেই গৰাখহনীয়াত বিধ্বস্ত হোৱা লোকসকলৰ নাম প্ৰায় বাদ দিছে। আনফালে সেই লোক সকলে (বান পানীত বিধ্বস্ত হোৱা) মাটি পাৰ বুলি আশা কৰি আজি ৪১৫ বছৰৰ পৰা সেই ঠাইত বসবাস কৰি খেতি বাতি কৰি আছে। বৰ্ত্তমানে কংগ্ৰেছ চৰকাৰৰ উচ্ছেদনীতি কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰাৰ উদ্দেশ্যে সেই লোকসকলক উঠি যাবলৈ নোটিছ দিছে, এই বিষয়ে ময়ো আমাৰ মাননীয় ৰাজহ মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ক অবস্থাটো জনালো। এইখিনিতে মই মাননীয় ৰাজহ মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ক অশেষ ধন্যবাদ জনাইছো; কাৰণ তেখেতে নিৰাশ্ৰয় সেই লোকসকলক এটা Alternative site দিবলৈ মেনেজাৰক হুকুম দিছে। কিন্তু দেখা গল যে মেচপাৰাৰ মেনেজাৰে মাটিহীন লোকসকলক গৰা নদী শুকাই যোৱা খাল এটা দেখুৱাই দিছে, আৰু তাকে Alternative site বুলি লোকসকলক বহিবলৈ আদেশ দিছে। এই মৰ্ণে মই সেই লোকসকলৰ পৰা এখন Telegram ও আজি পালো। তাত লিখিছে যে উচ্ছেদ চলি আছে—আৰু খাল এটা দেখুৱাই দিছে। মহাশয়, যেতিয়া বৰষুণ দিব পানী উঠিব তেতিয়া এই মানুহ বিলাকৰ অৱস্থা কি হব আপোনালোকে ভাবি চাওক। আনফালে সেই লিষ্টি ভুক্ত সেই মানুহ বিলাকে আকৌ ৰিজাৰ্ভত মাটি পোৱাৰ কোন চক্ৰি আছে নে? মহাশয়, তেওঁ-গুচি গৈছে। এই লিষ্টিখন তৈয়াৰ হৈছিল স্থানীয় কংগ্ৰেছী আৰু আৰু কংগ্ৰেছী এম, এল, এ, মহোদয়ৰ নিৰ্দেশ অনুযায়ী। গৰাখহনীয়া মানুহৰ নাম বাদ দি পাহাৰী, ৰাজবংশী দাস আৰু নাথ সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ মানুহৰ নামহে লিষ্টিভুক্ত কৰি থৈছে। মই এই কথাটো চৰকাৰৰ দৃষ্টিগোচৰ কৰিলো।

ইয়াৰ উপৰিও চৰ এলাকাৰ মাটি সম্বন্ধে মই কও যে গোৱালপাৰা জমিদাৰী প্ৰধান এলাকা আছিল। তাত প্ৰজাস্বত্ব আইন বাহাল আছে বুলি চৰকাৰে মানি লৈছে। যেতিয়া এটা চৰ নৈয়ে ভাঙি নিয়ে তেতিয়া State ক জনাই থোৱা হয় আৰু তাৰ খাজনা মূলতৰি থাকে। এয়ে নিয়ম, আৰু যেতিয়া চৰটো ওলায় তেতিয়া সেই লোকসকলেই আকৌ পায়। কিন্তু জমিদাৰী উচ্ছেদ হোৱাৰ পিচত নৈত ভাঙি যোৱা মাটিৰ খাজনা জোৰ কৰি আদায় কৰাৰ ব্যবস্থা কৰিছে। আৰু খাজনা নিদিলে অস্থাবৰ সম্পত্তি ক্ৰোক কৰাবলৈ ধৰিছে। মই চৰকাৰক জনাও যে এইটো যাতে অনতিপমলে বন্ধ হয়।

মহোদয়, মোৰ বন্ধু মৌলবী তামিজুদ্দিন চাহেবে ইতিপূৰ্বেই Test Relief সম্বন্ধে কৈ গৈছে। প্ৰায় সকলো ঠাইতে দেখা যায় যে এই Test Relief নামত স্থানীয় কিছুমান মুখীয়াল কংগ্ৰেছী লোকক টিকা দিয়া হয়। এই কংগ্ৰেছী বন্ধু সকল প্ৰত্যেকেই ধনী ক্ষমতাপন মানুহ। (Voice—কংগ্ৰেছ চাৰিও ফালেই active

হয়, আমি কংগ্রেছ নহলে কেনেকৈ থাকিম—গতিকেই সকলো ঠিকাবিলাক আমাৰ কংগ্রেছী ভায়সকলক দিয়া উচিত। মহাশয়, বিশেষকৈ Test Relief বোলা প্ৰথাটো গাঁৱৰ গৰীবসকলক উদ্দেশ্য কৰি কৰা হৈছে। ধনী কংগ্রেছী সকলে সেই টকা আত্মসাৎ কৰিবলৈ কৰা হোৱা নাই।

উদাহৰণস্বৰূপে মই কওঁ যে আমাৰ গোৱালপাৰাৰ Embankment and Drainage Department repairing works ৰ কাৰণে প্ৰথমতে টেণ্ডাৰ call কৰে; যেতিয়া টেণ্ডাৰ খুলি দেখে যে ২২ টকাই Lowest Tender তেতিয়া এজন কংগ্রেছী আহি বিনা টেণ্ডাৰে সেই কাম ২৫ টকা হিচাবে Test relief basis ত কৰিব বুলি লৈ যায় আৰু দুখীয়া মজদুৰৰ ১৫ টকা হিচাবে দি বাকিখিনি আত্মসাৎ কৰে। ই কোন নীতিৰ কথা আপোনালোকে ভাবি চাওক—এইবিলাকত আমাৰ কংগ্রেছী ভাইসকলক ধন্যবাদ দিব লাগে।

মহোদয়, এই Test Relief work আমাৰ নিঃসহায় দুখীয়াৰ সহায় হ'ব বুলি কৈছিল। কিন্তু দেখা যায় সেই উদ্দেশ্য সিদ্ধি হোৱা নাই। ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰা কিছুমান কংগ্রেছী লোকক কনট্ৰাক্টৰী দিয়াত সহায় হৈছে। মই চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰোঁ যাতে এই Test Relief ৰ কাম Party basis ত নহৈ আন পদ্ধতিৰে হয়।

মই ইয়াকে কৈ মোৰ বক্তব্যৰ সামৰনী মাৰিলো।

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Transport, T. A. D., Etc.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak and to throw some light on the various points raised by the hon. Members during general discussion of the Budget as well as during the debate on Governor's address. Sir, it will not be possible for me within the limited time at my disposal to touch on all the points raised by the various speakers. I, therefore, intend to touch only those points which I consider important. I would request the hon. Members not to misunderstand me that I am not giving any importance to certain other points which had been raised by various speakers pertaining to the various Departments under my charge.

First of all, I would like to deal with the comments made by the various District Councils on the District Budget. As you know, under paragraph 13 of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India, the estimated receipts and expenditure pertaining to the autonomous districts should be shown separately in the annual financial statement. In pursuance of this provision, the estimated receipts and expenditure pertaining to different autonomous districts have been prepared and sent to the different District Councils for their comments and observations. The copy of the comments and observations made by

the different District Councils have been printed and placed on the table of the hon. Members. I hope the hon. Members have gone through the various comments and observations made by the different District Councils and the budget pertaining to respective districts. Sir, it will not be possible for me to touch all the points raised by different District Councils; but after study I found that the points raised by them can be summarised as follows:—

1. Complaint has been made for the delay in sending the budget copies to the respective District Councils. Their complaint is that as the budget copies have been received very late, it was not possible for the members to go through the various budget provisions and to make a proper and correct observation, because it is through this budget that the Government policy and programme of work are reflected. Regarding this particular point I am not going to give a reply on the floor of this House because I have been promised by the Hon'ble Finance Minister that he is going to state reasons for the delay in the course of his reply to the budget debate.

(2) It has been further complained that comments, suggestions or recommendations made by the District Councils in the previous year have not been incorporated in the budget of the current year.

Sir, as you know the budget comprises two parts namely receipts and expenditure. It appears to me that there can be no scope for any comment or suggestion as far as the budget pertaining to receipt side is concerned. Because the receipt budget is compiled from figures submitted by the Accountant General of Assam and by various departments. Now the expenditure side of the budget comprises three main items: (i) Normal and committed Expenditure. Under Normal and Committed Expenditure is included Expenditure on normal administrative charges. It also includes Expenditure in respect of continuing schemes. In this particular item of expenditure also I feel, Sir, there can be no scope for a District Council to suggest any variations or alterations because we cannot stop any scheme which has been taken in hand and the execution of which is in progress. It will not also be possible to make any change in the administrative Expenditure. Therefore I do not see any scope on the part of the District Councils to suggest to the Government any alteration or modification in respect of expenditure under this particular head.

Sir, the second item of expenditure pertained to development schemes. As far as development programme under Art. 275 is concerned the proposals are placed before the Advisory Council. Not only proposals of development schemes in respect of hill areas but in respect of development schemes of plains tribal areas also. All the proposals for development schemes of the various departments under this particular grant are placed in the respective Advisory Council. In the course of the discussion of the proposals brought forward by different departments, the members made their observations and suggested certain changes and we have accepted their suggestions as far as practicable. Therefore in this particular matter also I do not see if there is any room for the District Councils to suggest further changes because in the Advisory Council for hills areas the Chief Executive Members are also members and they also express their views. The schemes under this particular grant are finalised as per their recommendations.

The third item of expenditure pertains to the proposals for new schemes. In this particular matter also, as it has already been stated in the last budget session by the Hon'ble Finance Minister, we have taken action to take into consideration the suggestions and recommendations of different District Councils. In fact during the preparation of the budget the Chief Executive Members of different District Councils have been sent for and they have been connected with regard to, such schemes. These new schemes are initially proposed by the departments concerned but their inclusion in the budget has been done only with approval of the Chief Executive members on behalf of their respective District Councils. Of course it is not possible to accommodate all the proposals coming from different departments and some additional proposals from the Chief Executive Members in view of the limited fund at our disposal. However, as stated earlier we send these proposals to the District Councils for their comments and observations and after consultation with them only these new schemes are included in the budget. It is of course a fact that certain proposals and suggestions are made by the District Council authorities in addition to the proposals already made by the departments concerned. You will appreciate, Sir, that taking into consideration our limited fund, it is not possible for us to meet all our requirements at a time. This is why today we have to get a proper planning. We need many things, our wants are unlimited. Therefore it is very important that we should be able to draw up our development plan and programme taking into consideration the various needs of ours

and that according to priority. If it were possible on the part of the Government not only on the part of the State Government but also on the part of the Government of India to accommodate all our proposals in respect of development schemes there would have been no necessity for creating the Planning Commission which is entrusted to draw up development proposals in a planned way both for the State and for the entire country. And while we are trying our best to see that all round development is brought in the country as a whole, we realise that it is not possible for us to take up all the schemes at a time or to meet all requirements at a time. Therefore there is a necessity to take up development programmes in a planned way and to give priority to various programmes which need immediate attention. However, Sir, though it might have not been possible for the State Government to include the additional suggestions and recommendations for the development of different autonomous districts in the development programme of the next annual plan it would be a mistake on the part of the District Councils to come to the conclusion that Government have not paid any attention to their suggestions. I am sure the additional suggestions for the development in a particular field will be taken into consideration by the Government. If we are convinced that a particular programme which has been put forward by a particular District Council needs immediate attention and immediate implementation, surely such schemes can be taken up and necessary fund made available by supplementary demand.

Mr. SPEAKER : I have no intention to interrupt the speech of the hon. Minister but the question that was raised by Shri Jor Manik Siem is about a Constitutional problem on which I as the custodian of the rights of the hon. Members of this House, I would like to read, paragraph 13 of the Sixth Schedule, to which the hon. Minister was pleased to refer :—

“The estimates receipts and expenditures pertaining to an autonomous district which are to be credited to, or is to be made from, the Consolidated Fund of the State of Assam shall be first placed before the District Council for discussion and then if there is such discussion be shown separately in the annual financial statement of the State to be laid before the Legislature of the State under Article 202.”

No doubt, the budgets were sent to the district councils for discussion, but it appears from what Shri Jor Manik Siem said from the comments of the District Councils, particularly of the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills District Council that the budget

was sent to the District Council only one day before the Session. I would like to bring the notice of the House the fact that for sending this to district council is meant to enable the members of the district council to discuss it in details but if delay is made in sending it and the delay is converted into a formality then both the spirit and letter of paragraph 13 is violated.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Transport, T. A. D., Etc.): Sir, in course of the discussion of the District Budgets some hon. Members pointed out the fact that there was delay in sending the copies of budgets to respective district councils. It is deeply regretted that there has been delay in the despatched of the copies of the budget but as I have already said the hon. Finance Minister has promised to explain the reason for the delay so I proposed not to supply to this particular point.

Mr. SPEAKER: I hope, the hon. Minister will appreciate that I am not so much concerned with the reasons for the delay but I am concerned with the fact that the budgets were sent in a manner which did not conform to the spirit and letter of Article 202 of the Constitution of India.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: Sir, in future we shall see that the budget copies are sent in advance to the district councils so that the members of the district councils get time to study it and then make their observations and comments. I fully agree with you Sir, that in sending the budgets to the district councils we should conform with the spirit and the letter of Article 202 of the Constitution. While assuring the House that every attempt will be made in future that copies of the district budgets will be made available to the respective district councils in time. I am to throw some light in this connection for the information of the hon. members. I hope, you will appreciate that we cannot undertake any programme unless we consult the Planning Commission and get their approval. For this purpose some negotiations are required to be made with Delhi, so that some arrangement can be made for early finalisation of the annual plan. Government however, will make an earnest attempt to finalise the district budget pertaining to Autonomous districts and to send the copies to District Councils in time.

Sir, I was trying to explain to the House why it was not possible for Government to accommodate various suggestions for development by the various autonomous district council. Government would like to accommodate the various suggestions of the district councils in respect of development scheme in a particular year, but, Sir, as I have said before, funds at our disposal are limited and technical personnel for execution of the

schemes are also limited. However, earnest attempt will be made in future by Government to take up those proposals, which require immediate execution by grants made available through supplementary demands.

Next, I want to come to the various observations made by some hon. Members in course of their discussion of the budget and during the debate on the Governor's speech. It will not be possible on my part to touch all the points, but I shall try to touch the important points as far as possible. Some hon. Members complained that facilities and concessions given to other backward classes are not adequate. I admit that uptill now it has not been possible for the Government to draw up a special programme for the welfare of other backward classes. I had occasion to throw some light on this matter in this House earlier for the information of Members about the difficulty in this. All hon. Members know that the Backward Classes Commission was appointed by the Government of India. The Commission submitted a report to the Government but Government could accept the report as it was, therefore, a Committee was set up for a pilot survey in three States, namely, Bombay, Madras and Bengal. This survey has been completed and they have submitted their report. In order to finalise this recommendation a conference was to be held on 20th March but to-day I have received an intimation that the meeting has been postponed till 7th April. I hope, Sir, when this Conference will meet the list of other backward classes will be finalised and then it will be possible for us to make a list of different people of the State who should form part of other backward classes. Article 340(1) of the Constitution of India reads like this— "The President may by order appoint a Commission consisting of such persons as he thinks fit to investigate the condition of socially and educationally backward classes within the territory of India and the difficulties under which they labour and to make recommendations as to the steps that should be taken by the Union or any State to remove such difficulties and to improve their condition and as to the grants that should be made for the purpose by the Union or any State and the conditions subject to which such grants should be made," Therefore, Sir, I believe once the recommendation of the Backward Classes Commission is finalised both the Central Government and the State Government would be in a position to take up special programmes of development for the welfare of the Backward classes as is being done in the case of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, and for this purpose according to this particular Article of the Constitution of India, I hope special financial grants will be available. At present,

Sir, though no specific programme could be drawn up for the benefit of the communities belonging to other backward classes, this particular Government have been pleased to increase the special scholarships to be granted in respect of the students belonging to other backward classes. These scholarships have been recently increased by 100 per cent. Of course I do not mean to say that by granting them the special scholarships we are in a position to look after the welfare of the people belonging to other communities adequately. I admit, Sir, that more attention should be given to this. That is why Government have considered the desirability of constituting an Advisory Board comprising of the elected representatives belonging to the other backward communities. Government fully realise that we should be able to know the problems and difficulties and the social and economic handicaps of the people of the different communities through their own representatives. It will be possible for us to realise in what way socially or economically the people belonging to different communities are handicapped from their representatives. We must know from them as to what are their difficulties and their handicaps and with that end in view Government have decided to constitute the various Advisory Councils and Boards. It is for this purpose that we have the Advisory Councils for the hill tribals and for the plains tribals and for the scheduled castes and we are having such Advisory Boards for the members belonging to other backward community. I personally feel that in the past in spite of the fact that crores and crores of rupees have been spent for the development and upliftment of the Tribal and Scheduled caste peoples not only in this States but throughout the whole country. The achievement in the field has not been in proportion to the amount be spent so we find to-day that inspite of the fact that crores of rupees have been spent to improve the condition of the people whether belonging to the scheduled tribes or Scheduled castes or belonging to other backward communities, their social and economic conditions remain almost the same. Can we blame Government for that? Can we blame the communities themselves for that? I believe Sir, in this respect, the responsibility lies both in the people themselves and to some extent in the agency which is responsible for drawing up the development programmes. Sometimes I am inclined to think that the various programmes of development that have been drawn up in the past did not have actual bearing on the needs of the people. It will not be possible, if we simply try to draw up programmes at random and spend money for the implementation of those programmes, to raise the standard of the people. Therefore, personally I believe that unless and

untill we are in a position to-day to create a proper agency both for the assessment of the social and economic handicaps of the people of the different communities and also create an agency for drawing up the programmes which will have actual bearings on the needs of the people and their social and economic handicaps and an agency for the implementation of these various programmes, the amount that we are going to spend will not help in raising the standard of the people who are backward uptil to-day. It is with this object in view as I have started earlier that we have constituted these various Advisory Boards and I am confident that with the advice of these Boards, it will be possible for us to be more realistic in our approach to the problem and we shall be able to draw up the development programmes which will have a relation to the actual needs and handicaps of the people belonging to different communities. Yes Sir, as has rightly been pointed out by my friend Shri Mohi Kanta Das, people may ask why to-day so many Boards and Councils have been constituted and what is the good of having them, and can the economic standard of the people belonging to the backward communities be raised because we have constituted a number of Councils and Boards ? If that is the feeling and opinion of certain sections of the people. I think that is entirely wrong.

In fact why we are not in a position to get the full co-operation of the people in the execution of the various development schemes. Because we have not been able to take them into full confidence at the time of assessment of their social and economic handicaps and in formulating various schemes for their social, economic and educational advancement. In order to get their full co-operation in the execution and implementation of the various development programmes we should be able to take them into confidence both at the time of assessment of their social and economic handicaps and in drawing up various development programmes ; in other words we must be able to make them feel that whatever development programmes are taken in hand are their own programmes.

They must realise fully that the schemes are their own and that it is their own responsibility to give full co-operation in the implementation of these schemes. Sir, we need a Body with which we can consult and know the various social and economic handicaps of the people in the different parts of the country and different lands. Sir, it may be so that every community be it other backward classes, or scheduled

tribes or scheduled castes may have certain common problem and handicaps and may be backward equally in various aspects but if we properly scrutinise their backwardness, we will find that their social and economic handicaps differ from community to community and from place to place. Therefore, it is very essential, as I said earlier, that we must have an agency through which it will be possible for us to make the correct assessment of the requirements and handicaps of the people. We also need an agency for drawing up development programmes taking into consideration the social and economic conditions of the people. Thirdly we need an agency through which these various schemes can be properly implemented and if these schemes can be properly implemented and the amount properly spent we shall see in the actual field that there is a progress and the social and economic standards of the people are raised. I also share with the views of my friend Shri Mohi Kanta Das, when he said that to day we should be able to create a condition in the State by which we shall be in a positions to get full co-operation of the people in the implementation of the various schemes. Yes, we must be able to create an atmosphere where every section of the people whether belonging to the scheduled castes or schedule tribes or any other community may feel that they are equal partners in their attempt to build a prosperous State. We must create that condition. Unless and untill we are in a position to create that condition, our attempts will be handicapped and our programmes will also be handicapped.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid the hon. Minister will have to conclude his speech.

Capt. WILLIAMSON SANGMA (Minister, Transport, T.A.D., etc.): I am sorry Sir, it is not possible for me to touch all the points raised by my friends on the floor of this House. However, I shall try to be brief. Now Sir, I was referring to inadequate facilities and concessions allowed to backward people. Sir, it has been stated by certain members about the apathy of the district officers in implementing the Government policy or extending certain concessions in respect of backward people: if specific instances are given, certainly the Government will look into the matter.

Now Sir, it has also been stated by my friend Mr. Thanglura and Mr. Jormanick about the food situation in the Mizo district and the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills district. Sir, as we all know, Mizo district used to be self-sufficient as far as food is concerned ; but recently due to flowering of bamboo it has been apprehended by the people that famine will follow. Sir, Government is fully alive to this apprehension of the people

and adequate measures are being taken to meet the emergency if and when it arises. Now, so far Khasi Hills is concerned, food situation in this district has also improved. Therefore, Government have decided not to have fair price shops throughout whole district but only in the border areas. However, if there is an emergency and if the price of rice throughout the district again rises, it will be Government's earnest effort that such rise is checked.

Then Sir, regarding the points raised by my friends Rev. Roy and Mr. Jormonick about untimely implementation of the scheme for relief and rehabilitation of the border people, I can tell the House through you Sir, that every effort is being made by Government to implement the various schemes for the relief and rehabilitation of the border people in the three districts of United Khasi and Jaintia Hills, Garo Hills and Mizo Hills. In this connection we have drawn up comprehensive programme for rehabilitation of the border people of these districts involving an expenditure of about 10 crores of rupees. As has been mentioned by the Finance Minister in his speech during the current year Government was good enough to sanction 25 lakhs and I can assure hon. members of this House through you Sir, that this amount will be spent to the last pie in the implementation of the various schemes as per recommendation of the Border Committee. But Sir, I have to admit that even after having spent this amount to the fullest extent the condition of the border people will not be improved much. Personally I am not happy in such hasty implementation of the schemes and in hasty drawing up of schemes for relief and rehabilitation of the border people. I can give an instance Sir, in Khasi Hills before this Border Committee was set up we have spent already about 47 lakhs of rupees for relief and rehabilitation of the border people of United Khasi and Jaintia Hills but even then the condition of these people has not improved. That is so because of hasty drawing up of the programme. To be successful in this we should be able to draw up programme for permanent economic rehabilitation of these people. So I would request hon. members not to be impatient, we are trying our best and we expect Government of India also will be able to give us more grant in future for this particular purpose.

Again Sir, it has been stated that relief given to the people in the border areas of United Khasi and Jaintia Hills affected by repeated firing of Pakistanis is not sufficient. I do not know how such a question can be raised here in view of the fact that whenever there is any firing by Pakistan relief is always rushed to the affected people who have to leave their hearths and homes and settle temporarily elsewhere. Another point was

raised by some hon. members that we should taken over the Cherra-Chharak Ropeway. Sir, I have already replied on the floor of this House regarding this particular point and I do not want to repeat it. But since a question has been raised, I can only say that it will not be an economical proposition to take over this Ropeway because the rope used will not last even for one year more. But efforts are being made to connect these border areas by a number of jeepable roads and I believe the transport problem in these areas will not remain as at present as soon as these various road projects are completed. Further Sir, Government are determined that since we have become independent, we will remain independent in all respects and will not depend on others, and we shall not make our borders people dependable on the mercy of Pakistan for marketing their produces. We have taken steps to provide marketing facilities for the people of border area so that they need not depend on the mercy of Pakistan.

Another point was raised by Dr. Das that the name of the Tribal Areas Department should be charged to that of Social Welfare Department. This matter is under consideration of the Government.

Regarding the point raised about delay in sanctioning of grant on fee income unfortunately we have not been able to do much in this connection because this particular matter is the concern of both the Central and the State Governments. So we could not make any provision in our Budget, this could be done only through Supplementary Grants. The delay is not due to the failure of the State Government but due to non receipt of clear indication from the Central Government who have also to bear a portion of the cost of this scheme. But I am glad to inform the House through you that we have since got intimation from the Government of India that they will continue this scheme and hon. members must have seen a provision of rupees 10 lakhs under this head in an current year's budget. So I believe in future the delay on this score will be avoided.

Now Sir, I want to make a few observations regarding Transport Department. Sir, I do not want to take much time of the House in this particular matter. There has been a number of references that a number of new roads should be taken up under the Second Five Year plan. But Government have decided not to take up any new road project during the Second Five Year plan period. Hon. members also have made various complaints both on the floor of this House and outside regarding insufficiency of the State Transport service. Sir, I admit there is enough scope for improvement of the transport service throughout the State.

It is our anxiety to improve the existing State Road Transport service and with that end in view we have decided not to nationalise any new route. In the past in response to the demand of the Public for nationalisation of number of routes the Government had to nationalise number of routes without taking into consideration of the efficiency of the existing service. Government had to nationalise the number of routes due to heavy pressure from the public and with a view to rendering more economic road transport service. However, we find today that it will not be possible for the State Road Transport Organisation to render more economic as well as reliable transport service unless and until it is in a possible to strengthen its repair workshop and maintenance set-up and to acquire adequate number of vehicles. Sir, I am, therefore to admit that we have not been able to make our transport service as reliable as it should have been. You will therefore agree with me, Sir that it is high time for the Government to stop for the time being, nationalisation of new routes but to allow the State Road Transport Organisation to strengthen its existing service.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar): Whether it was decided to take up the North Gauhati-Barpeta Road ?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Transport, T. A. D., etc.): It was, of course included in the Plan. However in view of the circumstances stated earlier it would not be possible to take up that route for nationalisation during the Second Plan Period.

Sir, for the information of the hon. Members I may briefly state the present position of the State Road Transport Service.

At present the State Transport Service covers 1,116 miles. Our present strength of vehicle is 545. Out of this total number of buses is 349 and the total number of luggage vans and trucks is 159. Our daily scheduled service is 602 ; the mileage covered per day as per scheduled service is 21,335 miles. Our daily average number of passengers is about 18,200. Our daily requirement of vehicles for performing 602 scheduled services is 214 and the sitting capacity per day is about 22,470. In addition to this we need about 24 vehicles per day in order to run special services in connection with religious festivals, political conferences and marriage ceremonies, etc. It will therefore be found that our daily requirement of serviceable vehicles is 238. It will therefore be found that our daily requirement of vehicles is about 238 whereas out of total number of

buses of 349 as many as 29 vehicles are to be disposed of as they become very old. So it will be seen that total number of vehicles available at present is only 320. Out of this about 48 vehicles are shut down for repair and about 45 vehicles are required to be off from road for complete check-up and maintenance. Our approximate shortage of vehicles at present therefore is about 28.

It will therefore be appreciated that it will not be possible for us to ensure reliable service unless and until we are in a position to acquire adequate number of vehicles in order to meet the shortage. Accordingly we have already placed orders for 27 vehicles.

I admit Sir, that people will naturally expect more reliable and comfortable service from the State Transport Organisation. Government have also taken up this particular undertaking with a view to rendering economic, reliable and more comfortable road transport service and every effort will be made to render such service in future. It is for this reason it will not be possible for the Government, to take up any new route during the second Plan Period.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): Are Government thinking to give some relief in the matter of fare? In Punjab the fare is less.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Transport, T. A. D., etc.): This can be done through R.T.A. if it relates to fares charged by private operators.

Sir, I have been trying to place before this House the actual position of our State Transport Road Service. As I have already appointed out at present our immediate shortage of vehicle is about 28 and such it is not possible for us to look after proper maintenance of the service vehicles. In order to have proper maintenance of the vehicles we should be able to allow every vehicle to be off completely from the line once a week. I hope it will be possible to take up regular maintenance of the vehicles as soon as we receive new vehicles for which we have already placed orders. I can, however,

inform the hon. Members that even at present the break-down incidence in our transport organisation is not very bad compared to other similar State Organisation. Let me quote the figure :

Bombay (Per 10,000 miles)	...	...	1.19
West Bengal (City service)	...	...	16.70
U. P.	...	...	0.69
Kerala	...	...	2.50
Andhra	...	...	1.66
Mysore	...	...	3.12
Madras (City service)	...	...	16.90
Jammu and Kashmir of course it is very good	...	...	0.37
Assam	...	...	1.40

Thereby I do not mean to say that we are rendering a very efficient service. As I have already stated, there is need and scope for improvement and our earnest attempt should be to establish and strengthen the existing service.

Sir, regarding the point raised by my friend Shri Talukdar about tickets for less than 100 miles not being available on the Link Express, I may inform the House that this is a practice prevailing on all the Railways over the Trunk Routes. The main object is to prevent concentration of passengers in one train and to help their distribution. There are five passenger trains running between Amingaon and Fakiragram (113 miles away). The time-table provides for passengers between Amingaon and Fakiragram at least two convenient down trains apart from Link Express and two convenient Up trains. Between Amingaon and Sorbhog there are three convenient down trains and two convenient Up trains. Regarding stoppage of Link Express trains at Sorbhog, Nalbari and Tihu, while introducing changes in the Time-table, the Railways consults the users through the Users' Committees on which wide representations are given. The object with which certain stoppages have been eliminated is to shorten the time of journey for long distance passengers. Such curtailment of stoppages does not necessarily inconvenience short distance passengers as alternative convenient trains are generally available for them.

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta): Why no tickets are available in Railway Station where the Mail train stops ?

Mr. SPEAKER: After all it is a Central subject. You cannot ask for the details here. Only you can ventilate some of your grievances here.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Transport and T.A.D., etc.): Sir, I would like to touch upon a few points which have been raised by some of the hon. Members of the House regarding River Transport. Sir, the Government of Assam is fully alive to the necessity and importance of this important branch of communication and therefore it has been decided to set up an Inland Water Transport Wing with effect from 1st of April, 1959. As an immediate start and pending the coming into existence of a full establishment of trained and experienced technical personnel, this Wing will undertake surveys of potentially navigable rivers and waterways in some of the remote districts in Assam, as well as such tributaries and feeder rivers of the Brahmaputra and the Barak. Side by side this Wing will plan out the future organisation and administration of the proposed port at Pandu in addition to getting a project study made for the future slipway, repair-yard *cum* power-craft building-yard. The Wing will also prepare various schemes to be taken up in the Third Five Year Plan with particular reference to the restoration of the defunct Inland Water Transport Services.

Therefore, it will be admitted that the Government has fully realised the need for improving the River Water Transport.

Some references were also made regarding the conditions of the Airports in Assam. Sir, for the information of the hon. Members of the House I would, therefore, like to place certain facts regarding this important means of Communication. Sir, we have been intimated by the Director General of Civil Aviation that the runway at Borjhar has been extended up to 6,000 ft. making it suitable for occasional landing of Viscount and Skymaster. Sanction of Rs.47,277 has also been made for providing ground lighting equipment for extending the portion of the runway at Borjhar Airport.

So far as Sorbhog Airport is concerned, this airport is not maintained by the Director of Civil Aviation. It is maintained by the Army people and at present M/s. Skyplayers and M/s. Air Assam have been operating on this air-field.

Sir, it will not be possible to touch upon all the points raised within the time at my disposal. I can, however, assure the hon. Members that the various points raised by them will receive the serious attention of the Government. As a matter of fact, it is by such observation by such criticism that the

Government can be put on the alert and the Government activities can be strengthened. Therefore it should not be misunderstood that because the various other points which have been raised on the floor of the House have not been touched upon, these points will be neglected or that no action will be taken on them by the Government. Sir, it is through the various observations of the hon. Members of the House that we have been able to know the problems, the difficulties and the needs of the people in different parts of the country. It will be the earnest attempt of the Government to see that all these suggestions, recommendations and observations of the hon. Members are given due attention and consideration and, in fact, they will immensely help Government in its endeavour to meet the needs of the people of the State as a whole.

With these few words I must again thank you for the opportunity that you have given to me to take part in the debate and I hope I have been able to throw some light on the various observations made here so far as they relate to the welfare of the Backward people and the Transport matters are concerned.

Shri BISHNULAL UPADHAYA (Gohpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for his illuminating Budget speech which was delivered to the House mentioning therein almost all the important matters regarding administration, Education, Development and similar important problems confronting to our State. He called on us to work hard, sacrifice for the present in the interest of the State and the people. Really, Sir, it is now time for us to work so that we can make our country richer and stronger. If we work in harmony with each other on constructive line, I am sure, the progress and prosperity of our State is assured.

It is most gratifying to know that the Government has at last decided to give equal pay scale to the teachers of Government and Aided High Schools. This was also the demand of the All-Assam Aided High English School Teachers' Association. Certain other recommendations of the Association regarding management, teaching, examination, etc., are also accepted by our Government. I congratulate the hon'ble Education Minister for his honest efforts which have at last borne fruit. I endorse the view of the Congress Chief, Shri Mohendra Mohon Chaudhury and request Government to relax the educational qualifications of under-graduate teachers who have served for more than 15 years in High English Schools of those who have

already attained 40 years of age. Sir, Matriculate, Normal passed, and Matric Normal passed teachers are not benefited by the new pay scale. Their cases should also be considered favourably in due course.

Sir, I propose to mention the names of some other institutions which have not received due consideration of the Government. Sanskrit Education is not given due consideration. Here I would like to mention that there are many Sanskrit Tols in the countryside which have no buildings. Even in some cases there may be some buildings, they are also in wretched condition. Adhyapaks of these tols draw a salary varying from Rs. 25 to Rs. 40 per mensem. This is most ridiculous. If I may be permitted to say so, this is a direct insult to the intelligence of these Adhyapaks of the tols. Not a single tol was given cyclone damage grant last year although many of them sustained heavy loss. We are proud of our culture, tradition, literature and civilisation. We are proud of the masterpieces of Viyasa, Balmiki, Kalidasa and host of other erudite Sanskrit Scholars of great eminence. The treasure of knowledge stored in the Sanskrit literature as inspiring generations of our countrymen in different direction. We can afford to ignore the importance of such a language at the cost of other less valuable things only at our own peril. Therefore these tols should be reorganized and made more useful and attractive to our students. Government had set up a Commission with a view to expand Sanskrit Education but unfortunately the recommendations of the said Commission have not yet implemented. So I request the Government to make available sufficient funds for the expansion of Sanskrit Education. One of my friends have referred to about the condition of tea garden schools are utterly neglected. They need supervision, inspection and improvement. The labour class people form the bulk of our population. They work in the tea industry which earns foreign exchange. I have some practical experience of some of the labour class students for their merit who topped the list in the examinations. This shows that if proper facilities are given they may prove very well in all directions. Justice is not given to them and they are left neglected. So, it is high time that Government should come forward and take the responsibility of educating the children of the labour class people without further delay.

I should like to say a word in regard to cattle population. It is an admitted fact that India possesses the greatest number of cattle in the world, but we are getting the least quantity of

milk for our daily consumption. Why is it so? It is simply because our cattle are not improved, we are not paying special attention for their better breed and better fodder. We leave them early in the morning and expect them welshed and return in the evening. On the other hand Government have no such definite programme for improvement of cattle. Of course they have set up a high power committee to enquire into the causes of large cattle mortality in the State and to recommend some measures to cope with it. They have appointed a good number of field assistants and veterinary doctors here and there. But still things have not improved. So, Sir, I would like to suggest some points for the consideration of the Government. They are: (1) Co-operative cattle *cum* milk production centres should be organised and patronised, (2) Improved bulls should be supplied for good breeding, (3) People should be encouraged to take to fodder cultivation, (4) P. G. R's and V.G.R's should be preserved and improved. Encroachment should not be allowed in P.G.R's which are naturally fit for luxurious growth of grass. The boundaries of the P.G.R's are constantly changing at the whims of the Mandals. The boundary should be demarcated permanently by means of concrete pillars and P.G.R's guards should be appointed to look after them wherever necessary. These measurers will go a long way to improve our cattle and to produce more milk and to supply healthy and strong bullocks for cultivation. In our country cultivation cannot be thought of without bullocks. So, it is interdependent with cultivation and production of food. I, therefore, request the Government to give special attention to this aspect which remains neglected so long.

I offer hearty thanks to the Chief Minister who during his last visit to Tezpur subdivision frankly expressed that this subdivision had three bad pockets which need special attention of the Government. He named them as Helem, Dubia and Charduar. Some other pockets of this subdivision are also backward in all respects. The Chief Minister was pleased to direct the Deputy Commissioner of Darrang to inquire into all these and discussed the matter with the President of the Tezpur District Congress Committee for their development. I hope that the other Hon'ble Ministers, Deputy Ministers and the high ranking officers will appreciate the views expressed by the Chief Minister and to see the things themselves in the interior of this subdivision.

As regards other demands, the public of Helem of Brahman have been moving the Government through the District Congress Committee, Local Board and the Subdivisional

Development Board for establishment of a public health dispensary near about Kauripathar which is predominantly inhabited by the plains tribal people, *ex-tea* garden labourers and other backward people. The Hon'ble Minister of Public Health was pleased to receive a representation presented to him by a deputation during the last year's budget session. He was convinced of the necessity of a dispensary of this nature. One year has elapsed, still I think this demand remained unfulfilled. I hope in the next year this demand will be fulfilled in any case.

Some small rivers named, Mornoi, Dubia, Solengy, Chatrang, etc., are damaging the crops every year and some times they also change their course to different directions. The course of these rivers should be changed at all cost.

Sir, the Tezpur Subdivisional Irrigation Committee submitted a proposal for construction of Kulaguri bund in the Tezpur Subdivision. It is pending here for technical and financial approval. If it is completed then it will be able to irrigate about 6,000 acres of arable land. So, Sir, I request the Minister of Embankment and Drainage to help the people in order to take to intensive cultivation, by according necessary approval.

A good number of plains tribal people and other backward people are living on the foot of the Daffa hills from where there is no means of communication to link up with the North Trunk Road. A road may kindly be constructed from the fund under Article 275 to remove the difficulties which have been experienced by those people from a long time.

With these words, Sir, I conclude my speech.

MAULAVI KOBAD HUSSAIN AHMED (Mankachar):

Mr Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I congratulate the Finance Minister for his very ably presenting the surplus budget for 1959-60 without any proposal for fresh taxation. While presenting the budget he delivered an illuminating speech giving us a clear picture of our economic position of the various undertakings in the past for all round development of our State and also of the schemes and programmes to be pursued in the course of the remaining three years of the Second Plan. The timely implementation of these schemes and programmes I am sure, will lead us a step forward towards realisation of our cherished goal, a socialistic pattern of society. Money though inadequate,

has been allotted to different heads to ensure the progress and prosperity. But, Sir, provision of money by itself does not mean much. It is the useful transformation of money that counts. If that is done in a right way keeping in view our ultimate object then we are sure to be on our way to progress and prosperity for which we all are anxious.

Now, I shall speak a few words about food and agriculture. Our State is predominated by rural economy based on agriculture. If we are to help in the development of Assam our aim, always, must be to advance effectively on the food and agricultural fronts. But, Sir, agriculture to a majority of our cultivators is a deficit economy. The basic, physical as well as environmental defects, such as fragmentation of holdings, erosion of soil, outmoded cultivation processes, vagaries of Nature, etc., have all combined to make agriculture uneconomic and unprofitable and to keep the tillers of the soil below the live of subsistence. I am glad to say that Government are quite conscious of the defects and are taking all possible steps to combat them. Of course, it is a difficult task and it will take some time to solve the problem, but, Sir, whatever defects might stand on the way, they must go if we want to have increased food production and self-sufficiency in food. Government should take effective steps to protect the flood-affected areas by construction of embankments and make all practicable arrangements for regular and timely supply of water to the drought-affected areas. Flood and drought are the worst enemies of cultivation. The former destroys a large amount of crops every year in low-lying areas all along the river banks and the latter brings in partial or total failure of crops. These two evils must be fought successfully if we want to attain self-sufficiency in food. Regular and timely supply of water is bound to result in higher yield. So, greater emphasis should be laid on water supply in whatever ways possible, whether by irrigation, power pump or deep tube-wells. The insects are still a menace to our crops. We all know what damage was caused by them to Ahu crop last year. The Agriculture Department should remain alert and fully equipped to prevent recurrence of this alarming phenomenon. As regards the food position, I would like to say we must always be vigilant and there should not be any relaxation in our food production drive, nor should we be, complacent. We should bear in mind that our food position is likely to be uncertain and unstable when agriculture in our State is still a matter of gambling in rains and subject to so many factors beyond our control.

The abnormal growth of population without corresponding increase in acreage of cultivable land is also a matter that should receive serious consideration. In this connection, the possible solutions that occur to my mind are family planning, intensive cultivation by use of compost and green manure, double cropping, rotation of crops and the transfer of surplus agricultural population to some other avocations of life. I am glad to say that Government have taken a decision to strengthen and revitalise the Agriculture Department and also to raise the pay-scales of all categories of Agricultural officers, in order to attract better men to the Department. We can only hope that the officers of the Agriculture Department will show their efficiency and prove their worth by their activities in rural areas. The areas which they scarcely visited before should now be their principal field of activity.

I would now touch upon two other allied subjects, veterinary and co-operation. Cattle constitute an important item of wealth to our cultivators. Bullocks and male buffaloes supply all the motive power of ploughing; the cows and female buffaloes supply milk and dairy products which add to the income of our farmers. It is essential, therefore, that cattle should be given better veterinary facilities. There was a heavy cattle mortality last year, as a result our cultivation received a serious set-back. Government should take preventive measures so that such cattle mortality may not recur again. It is a matter of relief to know that Government are considering a proposal to have one mobile veterinary dispensary in each of the plains districts for service in the areas where veterinary dispensaries do not exist. The Government's decision to raise the pay-scales of Veterinary Department officers, to ensure better service is also appreciated.

The officers of the Co-operative Department are rendering useful service in rural areas. In future they are to play a very important role in various programmes of our national reconstruction.

I would, therefore, suggest to Government to consider whether, in view of the valuable services they are rendering to the public their pay scales can be raised.

I would, now, mention some of the urgent problems of my constituency, Mankachar, which is on the East Pakistan border in Dhubri Subdivision. It is no exaggeration to say that this is the most backward and neglected part of Assam.

The communication of this area is hopelessly bad. There is, of course, a fair-weather road, I mean, the Fakirganj-Mankachar Road, but the condition of the road is so deplorable that not to speak of vehicular traffic it is not even fit for pedestrians. During rainy season if one has to go from Mankachar to Dhubri, the District headquarters of the Goalpara district, he is to go *via* Garo Hills and Goalpara town at an exorbitant expenditure, which our poor people cannot afford to pay.

Sir, this Mankachar area is a flood stricken area. Every year about three-fourths of the whole area go under flood. In case of high flood, which generally occurs 3 or 4 years after, the whole area goes under water. The result is that the crops are wholly damaged and a large number of people have to desert their homes and have got to take shelter in the neighbouring district of Garo Hills with their cattle. The distress and suffering of these people cannot be described. Their problem is not to live human lives but to live at all and not to die. To add to their miseries, the erosion of Brahmaputra is causing terrible havoc and as a result a large number of people have been made homeless and landless. In spite of repeated public representations to protect this area from the ravages of flood by construction of embankments, to improve the Fakirganj-Mankachar Road by raising it above the flood level. It is unfortunate that and to rehabilitate the river eroded people are nothing is being done, I fail to understand, why our Government so unsympathetic to the sufferings of these people. However, I would now request the Government to give their best consideration for redressing the grievances, I have mentioned.

With these few words, I conclude my speech.

Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have heard that most of the hon. Members of this House, who have taken part in this debate, congratulated and praised our Finance Minister for presenting a surplus budget, but, Sir, I cannot associate in this with them. In the past also we have seen that Finance Ministers were not sincere to their saying. They show surplus budget so that we may feel happy for a few days and this happiness is a psychological and temporary one, because in the next Session of the Assembly, we see that they come with deficit budgets of huge amounts with the result that the surplus they show in the budget session does not hold good in the subsequent session and ultimately it becomes a deficit budget.

Moreover, Sir, the budget is a happy one when there is no new burden of tax upon the poor peasantry of the State. As the last straw is placed on the camel's back, so also the burden of taxation to last limit has fallen on the poor people's back. I have said on other occasions that we have to see whether the sanctioned money is properly used or not. I say that it was never properly used. There was huge loss and wastage of money provided in the budget. There is none to see whether money sanctioned by this House was spent properly. From our experience we have seen that sometimes demand for some construction of building is passed, money is paid to the contractor but construction is not there. Sometime construction is completed, bills passed for it but after a few days construction collapse. In this way and in various other ways huge sums of money are wasted by the Primary Education Board. They do not maintain proper account for the money spent.

This budget is not for common man but for privileged few. Under this Government or under this budget people who are poor will become more poor with burden of taxes mostly falling on their shoulders directly or indirectly. It appears, by this budget the rich will become richer and poor will become poorer. This budget is meant to go to the benefit of the richer section of the people.

Sir, there are so many officers there in the top, drawing big salaries, making the administration top-heavy, but in fact they cannot say where certain file is or what work they are entrusted to do, but on the other hand, at the bottom low-paid officers have to work more and more but they have to get less and lesser pay with this small pay they cannot adequate food, sufficient clothing, medical facilities for their wife and children. The same case is with the peasantry of the State. They are taxed from all sides and their bluffed and corrupted everywhere. Under this Government, Sir, there is large scale corruption in all spheres with the result that poor peasants cannot move a single step without paying illegal gratifications, whether to police, in law courts, or any Government office. Where ever they go they are harassed and without money nothing is done. I am giving instances. If one goes to Sub-Deputy Collector's office to have a settlement of a piece of land, he cannot move a step forward in this regard unless he pays something in the Sub-Deputy Collector's Office. When a man wants to put up a petition for an order or hearing, unless he pays something to the office assistant no order or hearing date

will be given. If a petitioner wants to get a certified copy of the petition he will never get it unless the party pay something to the clerk concerned. This is known to everybody, to every pleader, and every officer and even Government know this but Government is not taking any step. Why they have given these chances I don't know the reason. Sir, at present there are so many officers in the State which cannot be accounted. The result is that we are getting less work. This is the time of redtapism, so many officers and offices but we are getting less work. Sometimes we are not getting the work which we are to get from them. In his speech at the conclusion, the Finance Minister has stated "our problem in the main is one of orderly development". I think, I hope and I suppose Sir, that he has stated it sincerely but in actual field, this is not so, Sir. There is no plan and system to work in the State. In certain areas there are roads and better communication and in certain places there is not a single road for communication. Same is the case with regard to medical facilities. In certain places there are hospitals and dispensaries nearer to each other and in certain places, there is no hospital and no dispensary and the people cannot have any medical facility when they suffer. So I say, Sir, there is no plan, no programme and no system by which Government can improve the State in a better way.

Sir, I shall now say a few words only about the Community Projects, Land Reforms, Communication and Relief and Rehabilitation. At present, the Community Projects are a total failure of the Government. Nothing has been done by these projects. Only some buildings have been constructed with huge amount of public money. Some jeeps have been purchased for the Project Executive Officers for their holiday touring only but nothing has been done to the State or to the people. Let us hope Sir when the Panchayat Bill is passed these community projects will serve the people and the State in a better way. Regarding Land Reforms I shall say a few words only. We are happy to learn that a Bill for acquisition of land belonging to the religious and charitable institutions of a public nature is being introduced but Sir whenever we pass any Bill we are also to see whether somebody is affected or not. If some body is affected then we must give a full and sincere protection. The Adhiar Protection Bill was passed and by this Bill we have the intention to help the poor adhiars. But what do we see in the Bill. It has very much affected the adhiars and they have been evicted by the

landlords and they could not be given the protection. They are very much facing difficulties due to this Adhiar Protection Bill. So, I am saying that Government whenever they pass a Bill and if by that Bill somebody is affected, then we must give the sincere help to these people. Now I want to say a few words about communication and transport of the State. This Government has utterly failed in its communication and transport policy. We had the hope that due to the allocation of a Railway Headquarter at Pandu, we shall get more facilities in railway journeys. But the condition has gone down from bad to worse. We had the hope that we shall get railway lines to Garo Hills, North-East Frontier Agency to Tarabari and such other important places of the State. But not even an inch of new line we have got as yet. Our Government could not convince the Centre. We had also the hope that the Motor Transport of the State will be nationalised but that also remains as a hope. Now what we have seen every day. The difficulty of the people is the over-loading in all the lines. Drivers are fined upto Rs.1,200 at a time for over-loading but still there is an over-loading. There remains no place to place the foot inside the bus but still people are trying hard to enter in the Bus. So there is an over-loading and sometimes even at the risk of the life of the people use to go on the body of the Bus. So Sir, I say there is an over-loading everywhere. Why Government do not see to it and what is the reason of such overloading. The reason is that the number of buses is less. The bus will ply over the road. The private owner will purchase the bus and the passengers will pay to the owner. Why Government do not give more permits. By giving more permits, Government will earn more money as token money, line permit and insurance altogether near about 1,000 rupees per bus. Then why Government is not willing to give more permits in the line. There must be some intention behind but I do not know what it is. But Government is to see to that. Sir, on the Barpeta. North Gauhati Road *via* Hajo there was no bus permit though some buses were allowed to ply temporarily. Now for 6 permits tender has been called and for these, 398 tenders have been filed. Why more permits cannot be given. Formerly there were 19 buses in the Barpeta-Barpeta Road Basbari line. These buses are also allowed to ply in the line Barpeta-Tarabari. Barpeta-Sarthebari and Barpeta-Chengadaulasal. But why more new permits could not be given. I think there are some bunglings in it. When Government is earning money of about 1,000 per bus then why Government did not want to give permit to the buses. In this connection,

Sir, I like to read one news from the newspaper which was published on 3rd April 1958 in the *Natun Asamiya*".

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not necessary for the hon. Member to quote newspapers in support of his views.

Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari): I like to mention this Sir, because it was the hope of the people and also it was ventilated in the papers to have more buses.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is here and he is ventilating the grievances of the people. I suppose it needs no confirmation from anybody else.

Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED: I am leaving that line Sir, now only one permit has been proposed to be given in the line Barpeta-Barpeta Road to Patbausi extended to Daulasal via Bhella-Tarabari-Chenga, my good God! Those persons who know the topography of the places will be astonished to hear it. If this is true then how the people between Bhella Nogen and Batgaon area will come to Barpeta. Why new permits cannot be given for these places. Is there any corruption inside it? Increasing the permits in the lines should also not be done whimsically. But we have seen it to be so. There are three routes to North Gauhati from Barpeta-(1) via Pathsala, (2) via Sarthebari and (3) via Hajo. At present via Pathsala there are 9 permits and this will be increased by one. So there will be 10 permits in all. via Hajo 6 permits will be given to Barpeta and 4 to Tarabari and so it will be 10 in number. But via Sarthebari with 6 existing permits 10 have been proposed to be added. This will make it 16 permits. Why equal number of permits should not be given in all the 3 routes and why 10 permits in one line, 10 in another and 16 in another one. I think there is a corruption inside it and I hope Government will see to it. Lastly, I come to the relief and rehabilitation. Sir, I am astonished to learn that even up to this time, 23,000 families of the displaced persons have not received any rehabilitation benefit. We have a full sympathy with these helpless and homeless refugees and they should get the benefit immediately. But Sir, in this connection I would request the Government that not a single local family should be evicted in order to give land

to those displaced persons if they are also eligible to get settlement. By evicting such families another problem will arise and there is bound to be enmity between both these two groups of people, I mean the local people and the refugees. So, I request Government not to evict a single family of the local people if they are entitled to get settlement of land.

Then Sir, river eroded people of the State are also a problem to the Government. They should be treated as displaced persons. I see no reason why they should not be rehabilitated. This problem of erosion affected people is also a major problem of the State. These people also should not be evicted from one place to another. After all they are also human beings, they are also citizens, as such they should get land and shelter. So I would request Government to see that some definite plan is made to rehabilitate the erosion affected people also.

Lastly Sir, I only suggest one thing and I shall conclude my speech. Now, both Education and Public Works Department, Roads and Buildings Wing are the heaviest portfolios in this Budget, so these portfolios should not be entrusted to only one Minister. As far as my knowledge and information goes there will be a huge surrender of money by the Public Works Department Roads and Buildings side. Sir, I have seen that no work planned or unplanned has been done both in the plains and the hill areas. Particularly I have seen personally in this Barpeta-Tarabari road *via* Palhari money sanctioned for this Department could not be spent and I think the whole amount will have to be surrendered. In the hill areas the position is rather worse and miserable. I shall not explain the reason why. My only suggestion is that, as I have already said, these two major portfolios should not be entrusted on one man. The Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings) side should be entrusted to one Minister so that he can personally visit the hills and plains areas and see by himself how works are going on there. If this is not done, I am afraid there will be misunderstanding between the plains people and the hill people because Sir, the money that has been sanctioned for the hills people for roads, etc., will be surrendered. So if we are not doing these work sincerely then there will be misunderstanding between the peoples of the plains and the hills. So I request Government to see that this heavy portfolio of Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings) is given to one Minister.

With these words Sir, I resume my seat.

Shri HAMDHON MOHAN HAPLANGBAR [North Cachar Hills (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Finance Minister for presenting a surplus budget without any fresh taxation before us. It is for the first time within these few years that we see a surplus budget. But Sir, it appears the surplus is the outcome mainly of the curtailment of expenditure under certain important heads which it is felt cannot but retard the prospect of development.

In the District budget of the North Cachar Hills I find, Sir, that the estimated expenditure has been ruthlessly reduced by about 6 lakhs over the previous years' revised estimate. I cannot understand Sir, the reasons why the expenditure has been cut down in case of the most backward district like ours. I feel Sir, that this cut in the budgetary allotment will be much discouragement and not at all a helpful trend: and this will definitely hamper the progress specially in respect of the implementation of arrears development programmes. On the other hand, Sir, I beg to mention that the expenditure for districts like Garo Hills and Mizo Hills, etc., have been increased and all that definitely deserves appreciation. Whereas the reduction in expenditure in respect of my district is perhaps the highest in comparison with the others reduction by about 6 lakhs over the last years' estimate. Sir, may it, from the unjust and comparatively lower financial allotment for the district made in the budget, not be assumed that this is because of the peace loving people not taking part in the "Eastern Hill State Agitation."

In my district Sir, Government is taking very little interest for the development of road communication. The progress of works done by the Public Works Department is going very slowly. I agree that road construction is comparatively difficult in hilly areas. But it pains me to mention that those who are put in charge for these works are not at all anxious to expedite them. So Sir, the Government should take steps so that the officers there be sincere, sympathetic and seek co-operation from the people. The former plea to explain the delay in the execution of works financed by the Government of India that on majority cases financial and technical sanction were delayed by the Government of India does not exist now as I am glad to learn from the speech of the Finance Minister that now the Government of India has authorised the State Government to give financial and Technical sanction in respect of the approved road programmes. I hope, Sir, henceforward no delay will occur for some procedural matters.

My district is an area which is constantly troubled by the Naga hostiles. It is Sir, also known to the Government that due to several raids committed by them caused serious damage to the life and property of the people. It so happens Sir, that sometimes police even with full informations about the whereabouts of the hostiles cannot move quickly to meet the situation. As a result the hostiles is in escape causing damage to the people. This exactly happened during the last Maibong and Laisong Raid. Had there been good communication arrangements probably the life and property of the people could have easily been saved and the entire gang of hostiles could have also been captured.

Moreover Sir, for want of motorable road Government is to incur a huge amount of expenditure as porter charges to supply rations to the army personnels, etc., stationed in different places of the district in connection with the operation against the hostiles. At present the Government is spending about at Rs.22,500 per month, *i.e.*, Rs.2,70,000 a year. I hope, the Government will take necessary steps in developing the road communication in North-Cacher Hills both in the interest of law and order as well as in the interest of giving better communication facilities to the people there.

I am very much worried over the unhelpful attitude of the Government towards the development of agriculture in my district in this years budget also I do not see any ray of hope to remove the difficulties of cultivators in my district. In my area Sir, the principal means of subsistence is agriculture carried mainly on shifting cultivation with all its inherent drawbacks. But Sir, I am glad to mention that people are eager and are also gradually trying to give up the age long practice of shifting cultivation taking as an alternative to wet rice cultivation. But Sir, unfortunately to encourage people in this direction Government is doing very little. In our areas there are valleys suitable for wet cultivation provided necessary irrigation facilities and help for the reclamation of the areas are made available by the Government to the cultivators. If all such areas are brought under cultivation under plough then in matters of rice own district, I am sure Sir, will not only be self-sufficient but will be in a position to have a surplus for meeting the requirements in other parts of the State. But I must say Sir, that in this direction Government's attitude is not very encouraging. In this connection I would like to refer to some activities of the embankment and Drainage Department in my area. The embankment of Jatiaga river

has been taken up since 1953. But due to untimely and defective construction it has become ever unstable. Flood damage repair works are required every now and then, but that too, it appears is not taken up in time. Similar is the case with Mahur river irrigation scheme. Irrigation schemes were proposed and selected for the rivers like Langting, etc., at Nablaidisha, Haza Disa, Darang Bara, Mailu, etc. Collection of datas and survey works in respect of Namlai Disa and Haza Disa have been completed. But unfortunately there is no sign for the execution of the works. I am very much in doubt Sir, whether the works will be taken up at all. If the irrigation scheme, I beg permission to mention, from Nablai-Disa, Haza Disa, and Darang-Bara are completed, it is likely to irrigate an area more than 5 sq. miles which is now lying barren. The reclamation of this area will go a long way in increasing food production and will be a great helpful there. I am really worried over the half-hearted attitude of the Government in implementing this scheme. I hope the Government will take up the matter with right earnest and execute the work as early as possible. I, Sir, am pained to find that the departments concerned specially the Embankment and Drainage and Agriculture have become over-burden with officials but without the necessary output from them. It appears Sir, the works wherever they are, are only in papers in the files without anything tangible. They should go in the interior to carry on real survey works operate the schemes sincerely with the active co-operation of the people and thereby enthuse the people.

Sir, I draw the pointed attention of the Government to the fact that there has been recurrent failures of Jhums for the last 3 years due to draught. People for the first two years somehow maintained a semistarved lives by taking roots, barks etc. But Sir, this year their condition has reached a very precarious stage. The conditions are has further been aggravated due to the sudden withdrawal of the supply of subsidised food grains to the people. Now Sir, the misery of the majority of the people beggers al descriptions. I earnestly request the Government to take a realistic view of the situation and re-introduced immediately the scheme of subsidised supply of foodgrains in an extensive scale as a preliminary step to check further deterioration of the condition of the people. The Test Relief works under taken is quite inadequate and this requires to be immediately made on a far more extensive scale. But for immediate and earnest steps, I am afraid Sir, the situation may lead to starvation deaths in some quarters.

Next I want to speak something about education particularly in my area. I am glad Sir, that in this year's budget provision has been made for the creation of a new educational sub-division for North Cachar Hills with Head Quarters at Haflong. This had had been long overdue. But, Sir, I am very sorry to say that standard of education in my place is very low. It requires a great deal of efforts to improve education there. We, Sir, have at present only one High School at Haflong. One High School has been started at Maibong and Sir, it deserves immediate Government assistance. This educationally backward area, I hope the Education Minister himself will also kindly feel equally with me, require at least 3 more Middle English Schools at Harangajao- Ganjung and Khunglung, I hope, Sir, the area will receive the sympathetic consideration of the Education Minister.

Sir, the town of Haflong, a beautiful Hill Station. is unfortunately deprived of the essential modern amenities of life like electricity and good water supply. I earnestly draw the attention of the Government in these regards and request them to take immediate effective steps.

Sir, it is regrettable thing that it is for the Hills Station the life line of the North Cachar Hills, perhaps, all the old and rotten compartments with the least amenities are provided by the Railway authorities. Again it is an accident that the trains run in time. It appears Sir, trains in this section know no timings Sir, it is further a very painful fact, that almost all the stations in the Hill section are without any provision of waiting room facilities for the passengers who are exposed to rains and sun at the Railway platforms. Haranggajao, Lower Haflong, Mahur, Maibong and Langting Railway stations require the immediate provision of waiting room facilities. Sir, Maibong is one of the most growing business centre of the North Cachar Hills. But Sir, unfortunately there is no Railway godowns which are essential both for the interest of the public and the National Railways. I earnestly request the State Government to move the Railway authorities for the immediate removal of all these difficulties.

Lastly, Sir, I request the Government to see that the funds provided in the budget move in time and the works executed timely and properly. Now, Sir, it has almost become a regular practice that the money move in the latter part of the year, *i. e.*, February and March thereby leaving very little time

for proper implementation of the works. And this Sir, I beg to be premitted to say, very often offers ample scope for wastage corruption, etc. The works being carried through in a hurry.

With these few words Sir, I beg permission to take my seat.

Mr. SPEAKER: Now it is 4 O'Clock. Usually the House rises at 4 O'Clock. We find the number of hon. Members who are keen to participate in the Budget discussions is still fairly large, and I would like to know the opinion of the House if we can utilise some more time for discussions. Two things cannot be reconciled, keenness to speak also disinclination to work harder. May I therefore suggest that the discussion may go on till 4-30 p.m. After that we have an half-an-hour discussion. That might take half-an-hour. So the House may adjourn at 5 O'Clock to-day.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): So far as we are concerned, we have no desire to shut out the discussions. If more hon. Members are anxious to take part in this debate, I suggest that they should be given an opportunity. But, as you have seen, Sir, our agenda is very tight, it may be difficult for us to find time. I would, therefore, suggest that to-day we may sit upto 5 O'Clock and tomorrow we may sit from 9 O'Clock, one hour earlier and also sit upto 5 p.m. This will give another $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours for hon. Members to take part in the debate.

Mr. SPEAKER: So far as I am concerned, I am prepared to sit as long as it is necessary, because I have always held that if we want to function effectively and maintain a high standard in discussions, it is only meet and proper that the hon. Members get an opportunity to discuss the Budget fairly and squarely. If I may be permitted, I may strike a personal note here. I tried to get the number of days allotted for these discussions extended which would not be done due to the delay in submission of the budget. Further if I may be allowed to submit a *obita dictum* that we must be prepared to work not only for a large number of days, but also be prepared to sit longer hours every day, because it is only hard and detailed work that will enable us to function with the seriousness and effectiveness. Our work deserves.

Shri GAURISANKAR ROY (Katlichera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, our Finance Minister deserves congratulations and Public commendations for presenting a surplus Budget. He deserves

further congratulation for estimating the Budget provisions on the existing rates of taxation and without imposing any new taxation measures. The allocations of money made in the Budget on different heads of expenditure such as agriculture, Cottage Industries, Education and Public Works, etc., are really praise-worthy. I hope that if the funds allotted under different heads are timely and properly utilised, and active co-operation from all quarters is availed our State will surely make distinct advancement on the path of progress.

Sir, I have come from the district of Cachar which can practically be termed as a tea district. Tea gardens, in Cachar alone employ about 80 thousand workers having about 2½ lakhs of population. So there are a large number of unemployed labourers. Ways and means must be found out to provide employment to these workers who are now unemployed under this Industry. I, therefore, suggest that some cottage industry schemes should be introduced in tea gardens areas so that these people can get employment and earn their livelihood. Sir, I would also like to suggest here that the unemployed labourers of tea gardens in Cachar should be settled with land. But, Sir, in my opinion the land requisition policy and also the policy of land distribution in the district is far from satisfactory rather it is very defective. Lands are requisitioned without prior enquiry of its position. As a result several disputes arise and continue for years. I cite the example of recent land requisition at Dayapore Tea Estates where labourers occupied land has been requisitioned. In the matter of distribution also, these unemployed labourers do not get their legitimate shares. I, therefore, appeal to Government to adopt a fix policy so that they can get their legitimate share in requisitioned land. Sir, here I would like to cite another example to show how the things are going on. In 1953 two tea gardens namely Hattichura and Derby Tea Estates closed. Two of their Divisions, namely Dudpatil and Panibhara Tea Estates, respectively and thus retrenched their workers. By agreement with the labourers they settled the available land with them along with the lands possessed for long. This was done with the approval and knowledge of the district authority. Subsequently all the lands were surrendered to the Government and thus became Khas lands. Now prosecution cases have been started against the workers with a view to eject them from the lands and to distribute to other landless people because the lands are now Government Khas lands, though it was under possession of labourers for decades. Notices have been served and they are being compelled to give up their lands. If they are now to give up

their lands, enjoyed for decades and now only source of limit how they will be turned to street beggars. Therefore, Sir, when the Revenue Minister visited Cachar, last time, these things were brought to his notice but, unfortunately, without any result so far. I request the Government to look into this matter very seriously so that justice may be done to these re-trenched people, Sir, the workers of Cachar tea gardens are permanent settler. After retirement they have no place to stand as they are to vacate the garden quarters also. This problem is also growing seriously and I suggest to make separate a portion of garden land at least for homestead for the future of these people. Sir, it is known to many that two tea estates in Cachar, *i.e.* Sonhalia and Chincorrie were closed due to mis-management of the employer. The workers there submitted repeatedly many representations to provide them with work and to mitigate their sufferings but Government could do little for them. Ultimately at the initiation of the workers organisation a co-operative society was registered to purchase and run these gardens. By an interim arrangement, these tea gardens are now being managed and run and soon going to be transferred to the co-operative formed by the workers. But Sir, how such a co-operative can grow and thrive if funds are not made available by Government? I, therefore, suggest that the Government must allot some reasonable funds for such emergency and also with a view to help and encourage such co-operative movement so that such endeavours may thrive and prosper fighting against the malicious propaganda of the unsocial political elements. Sir, two other gardens in Cachar are closed still now. They are Manik Nagar and Durga Nagar Tea Estates. Nothing has been done by Government to help the workers, so far, in their sufferings.

If funds could be made available these two gardens also could have been taken over and run by a co-operative. I, therefore draw the serious attention of the Government to create a special fund to meet such emergency.

Sir, it is known to many that Madanpur and Rampur tea estates the out gardens of Jalalnagar Tea Estate are situated in the Karimganj Subdivision and just on the border of the East Pakistan. The labourers there have been subjected to great suffering due to repeated firings by Pakistan. The smooth running of these two estates have been greatly hampered as a result of which the labourers have been losing

wages very often. I request Government to extend some financial help as relief and also otherwise to these labourers in such miserable condition. They have been panicky and all possible steps should be taken to remove such situation. Sir, the Macneil Barry group of tea gardens in Cachar has resorted to lay off, to save money from the 18th of February, 1958. The workers there numbering about 16/17 thousand have been put to great sufferings. I do not like to say much in this matter because the Government has referred the case to the Tribunal for adjudication. I hope the real cause of the alleged loss pleaded by the employers will come to light. Sir, to-day I have received a telegram to the effect that even medical facilities and educational facilities have been withdrawn by the employer. This is really very painful, Sir, but I hope Government will immediately take up this matter very seriously and do the needful.

Mr. SPEAKER : Hon'ble, The Deputy Minister has requested the hon. Member to forward this telegram to him.

Shri GAURISANKAR ROY (Katlicherra) : Thank you, Sir, I shall do that. The telegram has been received an hour before and I have a mind to do so, by personal contact with Deputy Minister. Sir, I, now like to discuss something about the food position in the district of Cachar. It is said that Cachar is surplus in rice but after the influx of large member of displaced persons from East Pakistan I don't think it so. The flood that visited the district in September last destroyed the crops in a considerable portion on the Southern part of Silchar and Hailakandi subdivisions of the district. This was, Sir, an unprecedented flood both in suddenness and magnitude. As a result of this heavy flood, even the landlords who used to sell a considerable quantity of paddy have now no rice at home to eat. The insects also destroyed the crop to the extensive areas. All these things have combined to make the district a deficit one. The tea gardens there consume a large quantity of rice. Some employers approached the local authority for supply of rice for the labourers but could not avail. Cachar Tea Industry will be hard hit if the Government cannot supply adequate quantity of rice to the gardens at control-price. So I request Government to look into this matter.

Sir, Government should maintain sufficient stock to supply rice even to rural areas at reasonable price because the rural areas specially the flood affected areas in the district are facing scarcity now. If timely action is not taken by Government, I am afraid, the law and order situation may take an unfavourable turn.

So I would request the Government, before it is too late, to keep sufficient stock of food-stuff for the district. The price of rice in town has gone up to Rs.25/26 per maund and that is also not available in sufficient quantity. This is really alarming. Coming to the question of forest villages, I would like to say that these forest villages are situated in forest areas and are very unhealthy. There are no medical facilities at all. If any body is ill, he does not know where to go and get treatment. So special care should be taken to extend medical facilities to these forest villages.

There is one important thing which I would like to bring to the notice of the Government. This is about the right on land in the forest villages.

So let me bring to the notice of the House the question of right of the people over the land reclaimed, cultivated, and possessed for long. These people are evicted at any time by departmental officers. No Court orders are necessary, no legal proceedings are necessary as those of other people outside the forest villages. I have seen, Sir, people who have been enjoying land for the last 40 years or so and holding receipts for rent paid to department have been evicted as encroacher. My point is Sir, if these people are evicted as encroachers and if they are guilty there the officer who gave them land and granted receipts is also guilty and should be equally punished. I hope Government would take adequate measures to check corruption in forest villages. Sir, Cachar and Mizo districts produce a huge quantity of bamboo and I hope the Government would give due consideration for the establishment of a Paper Pulp Mill to a suitable place in the district of Cachar. As far I understand, the experts have also given opinion that the bamboos of the above places are ideal for Rayon Industry. Sir, all the students desirous to take up Medical line are not getting seats for admission into the Medical College at Dibrugarh due to its limitation of seats. So, Sir, I fervently hope that the Government, for all round development, would consider the establishment of the Second Medical College in the district of Cachar so that facilities may be availed of by the people of this State and the increasing demand may be met.

Sir, introduction of English in M. E. Schools has created a great difficulty, because the student are gradually withdrawing from the M. E. Schools and are joining in the M. V. Schools to avail education free of fees and the M. E. Schools situated side by side with M. V. Schools are dying out. I hope Sir,

the Government will consider this question seriously and take steps to maintain the same facility to M. E. Schools and upto class VI of High Schools also, so that these may not be affected as stated above. Sir, I appreciate the Scheme of the Government and request at the same line, to save the M. E. Schools also allowing same facility to the students as that of M. V. Schools in the matter of fees.

Sir, as regards the Co-operative credit facilities, I would like to point out that the short-term loan is not beneficial to the poor peasants, because in the matter of re-payment and best utilisation this is not very much helpful under the conditions. I would, therefore, suggest that the Government would consider this matter and extend the medium-term loan to the poor peasants to more extent as this demand exists every where. In flood affected areas time should be granted to repay such loan or other revenues and remission should be granted to where possible in deserving cases. Seeds should also be supplied to these areas.

Mr. SPEAKER : Hon. member will please conclude his speech in a minute.

Shri GAURISANKAR ROY (Katlicherra) : I shall now try to conclude my speech Sir, on several occasions I have brought to the notice of the Government the various demands of the people of my cachar district in the past and I don't like to repeat the same. I shall bring forward only few points which concern the district of Cachar most. The Shillong-Jowai-Badarpur Road is very essential for the district of Cachar to connect other parts of the State and therefore the completion of the work should be done as early as possible. Steps should be taken to complete the Barak Bridge also without much delay.

Apart from these I like to confine myself to may constituency, now.

Mr. SPEAKER : I don't think you can now confine to anything.

Shri GAURISANKAR ROY : One minute more Sir, and I will finish. The Hailakandi College is facing financial difficulty and as such a lump sum grant should be given to the College along with grant in aid for B. A. Section. The Koyah-Latakadi Road, Black topping of Hailakadi-Karichana Road, and a dispensary at Allaicherra all in Hailakandi Subdivision should be taken up to meet the needs of the areas.

With these few words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Half-an-hour discussion under Assembly Rule 49 on matter arising out of answers to Unstarred question Nos. 55 and 58 asked by Shri Biswanath Upadhyaya on the 14th March, 1959 regarding Bidyanagar Tea Estate.

Mr. SPEAKER: Now we have half an hour discussion for which notice was given by Mr. Biswanath Upadhyaya. I hope the hon. Member who has given the notice is acquainted with the procedure so far as half an hour discussion is concerned. "The Member who has given notice may make a short statement and the Minister concerned shall reply shortly". Therefore, Mr. Upadhyaya will speak for ten minutes and the Hon'ble Minister will reply for ten minutes and if any clarification is asked for, since it is only Mr. Upadhyaya who can ask for clarification, five minutes will be utilised for clarification of any doubt that may arise in the statement of the Hon'ble Minister.

Shri BISWANATH UPAHDYAYA (Patharkandi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I want to thank you for giving me this opportunity to discuss this matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: Not only me you have to think the hon. Members also.

Shri BISWANATH UPADHYAYA: As I have read the questions I find that majority of the answers are incorrect. I find that in No. 55 my question was "whether it is a fact that more than 35 servants had been employed in the bungalow of the Manager of the Bidyanagar Tea Estate before 25th September, 1958". Another question was "what is the number of workers employed in the houses of the members of the staff". I find that all these questions are replied as no, does not arise. I find that an attempt has been made to give wrong information to the House. I can quote documents to prove that all these answers are incorrect. First of all, I want to read out a letter addressed to the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar. Although I tried my best to persuade him to visit the garden, although I telephoned to him three times and also sent telegrams, I could not take him to the garden. At last with great difficulty I persuaded him to come to the spot and he found that there was unauthorised employment of labourers. I wrote to him on the 22nd September, 1958. This is a copy of that letter: "Please refer to my talk I have had just now over the phone. As I have told you I came here to contact you over the phone as the line between

Dullabcherra and Hailakandi was out of order. I was expecting you last week as I had explained to you during my last visit to Silchar on the 13th instant that a good number of workers were being employed by some of the members of the staff for their paddy cultivation. Now the paddy cultivation is over and you will have to depend upon evidences only.

In this connection I have got in my possession direct proof of that and if the Hon'ble Minister agrees with me I can take him to the garden and he can see with his own eyes that employment of labourers in this way is going on there. Through Sardars labourers are being employed under them and they are working in the paddy field outside the garden and they are being paid out of the garden fund. One day three labourers were employed by Ram Charan Kum in building his house. I can quote the letter signed by these labourers before three witnesses.

Again my question No.55(c) was: "What is the area of the vegetable garden of the bungalow and what was the area before the year 1953". The answer is: "About one bigha and it was the same as before 1953". This is far from the truth. In fact several bighas have been brought under vegetable cultivation and this is with the labour of the garden workers. Again at (g) I asked: "Whether it is a fact that labour force does not get medicines from the garden hospital and they have to purchase the same from the market for their treatment"? The answer to this is: "No. The labourers get medicine from the garden hospital regularly". In this connection I have got the copy of a letter sent to the General Secretary, Cachar Cha Sramik Union which was written by the garden Panchayat. It is this."

This is a representation to the Union and a copy has been sent to me. Here the reply is given that they are getting regular medicine from the garden hospital. Then I asked at (h) "what is the number of the Sirdars in the said garden". The answer given here is: "16 (sixteen)". Sir, if an enquiry is made I have no doubt the actual number will be found. Next my question at (i) was: Whether Government are aware or have received reports to the effect that the payment has been shown in the books against the names of those workers who were absent". The reply given is "No". But we find that in fact many labourers who are

employed either by the garden Manager or the garden staff in their private work are being paid from garden fund. Even the absentees get their wages and the money actually goes to the pocket of the Hazari Mohari and there is a rumour that the Manager also is getting a share of that money.

I have got one document, which I can give afterwards, to show that one labourer was absent from the garden but he was paid regularly. I also know that more than 10 labourers are regular absentees, they are working in some other garden. But they are being paid here also. My question was whether some absentees are also getting wages regularly from the garden. The answer is "No". But I have got documents to prove that these absentees are paid regularly by the garden.

Then, Sir, in question No. 58, I asked "what is the number of the labourers and their dependent who have neither land nor any other sources of income other than their wages?" The answer is "there are 372 labourers with 346 dependents who have no Khet land. It is not known whether or their dependents have any other sources of income, besides wages." Here the Government is quite ignorant whether these labourers have got any other occupation or not. But I put a question "whether Government are aware that because of the failure of the management either to pay their wages or to supply food-stuff to them there was discontent among the labour force"? The reply was "some discontent prevail among a section of the labourers who have no extra source of earning." Here Government categorically implies that there are some labourers with extra source of earning, whereas in reply to question 58, they say. It is not known whether they or their dependents have any other source of income, besides wages. These are quite contradictory statements.

Now, it is a practice with the garden management to harass some labourers by filing cases against them. Some outsiders are coming to the garden and are getting contracts and cutting trees. These outsiders are asked by the Management to file cases against labourers in order to harass them. My question was "whether it is a fact that some outsiders have also filed cases against the garden labourers?". The reply is "No". Then asked "If so, who are the persons and what are the complaints against the labourers?". The reply was. "Does not arise". The next question was "whether these outsiders are in anyway connected or benefited by management ?" The reply

was "Does not rise". The point is now that Government says no case has been filed against labourers by outsiders. But I have got copies of summons from the Court issued to some labourers.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : When was this question put ?

Shri BISWANATH UPADHYAYA: (Patharkandi) : This was put in the last August Session.

MR. SPEAKER: But the hon. Member can raise a discussion only in respect of these two questions.

Shri BISWANATH UPADHYAYA: I put a series of questions and these are all inter-connected.

MR. SPEAKER: May be, but the rules of procedure provide the discussion can be raised only in respect of questions put in this Session and not in a previous Session. If the hon. Member had mentioned that he would like to refer to questions put in the previous Session also, I would have considered about the admissibility of such a discussion. But he mentioned only these two questions. So, we have to confine ourselves to these questions so far as this discussion is concerned.

Shri BISWANATH UPADHYAYA: In that case I would seek your permission to refer to those questions also.

MR. SPEAKER: Not to-day. The hon. Member has to give previous notice. The rules of procedure are there and he should have taken advantage of them, I am always ready to help the hon. Members, but I cannot help them if they do not help themselves.

Moreover, the hon. Member's time is up.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister Revenue) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was somewhat surprised by the speech of Shri Upadhyaya. He did not mention any points in his notice, but in the Agenda two points are mentioned, viz., (1) the number of servants employed in the Bungalow of the Manager of the Bidyanagar Tea Estate and (2) wages of the labourers of the Bidyanagar Tea Estate. These are the two points which I find in the list of business. But the hon. Member is totally silent in his notice as to what point he wants to discuss.

Mr. SPEAKER : In the notice he said what he wanted to raise a discussion in respect of questions Nos. 55 and 58. Therefore, when he did not supply the details our office helped him.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : I have no objection to that. I am prepared to reply to these two points, but in his speech he mentioned many other things.

Mr. SPEAKER : He must confine to questions Nos. 55 and 58. He cannot raise other matters in course of this half an hour discussion.

Shri HARESWAR DAS : Very well, Sir, regarding these two points, I also find that some more clarification should have been given in the replies. The question was whether 35 servants were employed in the Bungalow. The reply was "No". I also feel that the reply should have been more clear and stated the number of servants employed in the Bungalow. I now supply that figure. In the Bungalow eight persons are employed not 35.

(Shri Upadhyaya, again rose to intervene).

Mr. SPEAKER : The hon. Members, before participating in any discussion should have a working knowledge of the rules of procedure. The rules of procedure regarding half an hour discussion is very precise. The discussion is to be limited to half an hour, not a minute or a second more. Then hon. Member has made a statement and the Hon'ble Minister is replying to it. He should first listen to the reply and then if any further clarification is sought he may ask for it provided the time-limit of half an hour is not exceeded.

Shri HARESWAR DAS : Now, as I said, Sir, in the Bungalow there are eight servants.

About the wages of labourers, my friend has not touched this point. But if you want I may give the information.

Mr. SPEAKER : Yes.

Shri HARESWAR DAS : These are the wages, which have been fixed under the Minimum Wages Act.

Male labourer—Basic wage 10 annas ; dearness allowance 7 annas and conversion allowance 5 annas. That means all told Rs.1-6 per day.

Female labourer—Basic wage 9 annas, dearness allowance 7 annas and conversion allowance 5 annas. That is in all Rs.1-5 per day and working minors. Total—12 annas. That is the wage. That is the exact amount we have paid. So these are the two points raised.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is another point, I suppose regarding non-payment of the wages of the labourers.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): That we admitted in our reply also. In certain periods there was non-payment. The Labour Officer went there and made an enquiry and from the Labour Officer I got the figure that on 3 dates, i.e., the amount which fell due on 18th July, on 25th July and then on 1st August, the wages could not be paid. On another occasion, the wages which fell due on 26th June, on 2nd July, and on 9th July could not be paid. But then we gave the reasons in the Answer as to why this could not be paid and the Labour Commissioner made enquiries on 12th January, 1959 and also on 9th July 1958 and he said that since these dates the payments were regular.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is one more point and that is about the 272 labourers with 346 dependents who have no khet land and it is not known whether they or their dependents have any other source of income.

Shri HARESWAR DAS: There is some difficulty in regard to that, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: But the question is whether Government have any information about that.

Shri HARESWAR DAS: In this garden there are 450 labourers in excess of requirement. They are paid regularly but actually they have no work. That is the position. We wanted to discharge some of the labourers but the Union took objection and they demanded a very big sum as compensation. That is the difficulty with this garden. It is not known if the dependents have any other source of income.

Mr. SPEAKER: But Government may have the information as to whether they have any other source of income or not. Any authority which runs this garden should know whether the labourers have any additional income or not.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): That is not with me, figure Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: But that is the main point of Shri Upadhyaya—whether the dependents have any other income.

Shri HARESWAR DAS: Sir, during discussion that was not pointed out. Even these figures I supply were obtained by phone and by telegram. The other day the figures of how many servants were in the bungalow were not with me. After we got the notice, we brought the figures. This point was not in the notice. Enquiry will have to be made.

Shri BISWANATH UPADHYAYA (Patharkandi): Sir, I find that Government is encouraging corruption.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is a procedure by which the hon. Members can function and if has anything in mind to say that should be relevant for this half and hour discussion.

Dr. RAM PRASAD CHAUBEY (Lakhipur): I would suggest something, Sir, that as the Bidyanagar Tea Estate is the only garden being managed by the Government but unfortunately there are so many complaints about various kinds of corruption, I would suggest that a Committee consisting of officials and non-officials may be formed to go into the matter very thoroughly in order to clear the position. We are urging upon the Government to take over management of the mismanaged gardens, but if it be the case that Government is unable to manage one garden—how we are to believe in Government's management.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. I would request you to help me in conducting the proceedings of this House in accordance with the procedure of the House. This is a matter which can be raised while the Budget discussion is going on. The hon. Members who are interested in the labour movement have spoken and I think the last speaker was himself a man who was a labour leader. So this could have been done in the Budget discussion. This cannot be done in this half an hour

discussion on the subject because for this half an hour discussion the rules are very specific and they have to be specific because we have to complete our discussion within this half an hour and that can be done only in terms of the rules of procedure of this House. Now that disposes off this business.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 9 A. M. on Thursday, the 19th March, 1959.

Shillong :

The 21st September, 1960.

R. N. BARUA,

Secretary,
Assam Legislative Assembly.

LIST OF AGENTS

1. Mr. J. C. ...
2. Mr. J. C. ...
3. Mr. J. C. ...
4. Mr. J. C. ...
5. Mr. J. C. ...
6. Mr. J. C. ...
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