

Assam Legislative Assembly Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

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

BUDGET SESSION

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th 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 9 a.m. on Friday, the 20th March, 1959.

PRESENT

Shri Dev Kanta Borooah, B.A., LL.B., Speaker in the Chair, eight Ministers, four Deputy Ministers and eighty-two Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Jeep accident between Dwarika bridge and Taimurali at Assam Trunk Road

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) asked :

- *36. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—
- Whether he is aware that on 16th August 1958, a Jeep accident took place between Dwarika bridge and Taimurali at Assam Trunk Road when two persons died ?
 - If so, what are their names and who was the driver and what is the name of the Jeep owner ?
 - Whether it is a fact that the same Jeep was carrying 5 passengers in the front seat and two in the bonnet and drove rashly and negligently ?
 - How the Jeep accident took place and what is the nature of damage of the Jeep ?
 - Whether it is a fact that the inquest of the dead body was not held by the police on the same night till 9 A.M. of the next day and only one Constable was placed on guard ?

- (f) Whether Government is aware that a sensation was created at Sibsagar as a result of this accident ?
- (g) When the case was registered at the police station and at what time the injured persons and dead bodies were first produced before the Medical Officer at Sibsagar ?
- (h) When the Inspector of Police, S. D. P. O. and S. P. supervised the case ?
- (i) Whether the driver of the Jeep was prosecuted for rash and negligent drive ?

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

36. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Shri Prince Amonge of Sibsagar town and Shri Dimbo Saikia of Betbari-Kaibartagaon died due to that accident. The name of the driver was Shri Nalini Dutta and owner was Shri Hilton Achow.

(c)—There were seven passengers in the Jeep five of them were in the front seat and nobody was reported to be in the bonnet. As regards rash and negligent driving the matter is still under investigation.

(d)—The accident took place near Dwarika bridge as the jeep collided with a truck while coming from different directions at full speed.

A certificate regarding the nature of damage sustained by the Jeep has been called for.

(e)—The investigation Officer S. I., L. C. Namasudra visited the spot on 16th August 1958 at 10-30 P.M. and drew a rough sketch of the place of occurrence and left for tracing out the truck as he thought it wise to hold inquest of the dead body early in the next morning and deputed one Constable to guard the dead body for the night.

(f)—Government have no such information; but such accident are likely to disturb the locality.

(g)—The case was registered at Sibsagar police station on 16th August 1958 at 10 P.M. The injured persons including Prince Amonge who died on 17th August 1958 at 8 A.M. were produced at Sibsagar Civil Hospital on 16th August 1958 at 8 P.M.

(h)—The Circle Inspector supervised the case on 18th August 1958 and 26th August 1958. The S. D. P. O. and the S. P. supervised the case on 31st August 1958.

(i)—Shri Nalini Dutta, the Driver of the Jeep was arrested as a *prima facie* case under section 304(A), I. P. C., was made out against him and later on released on bail.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra): গাড়ীখনৰ front seatত ৫ জন আৰু বনেটত ২ জন থকা বুলি শ্রীকতিয়া বৰা আৰু দুই এজন সাক্ষীয়ে কোৱাটো সচানে, এই বিষয়ে file call কৰা হব নে ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): I shall certainly call for the file to see whether the facts as reported to me are correct or not.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Sir, when was the driver arrested ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: The driver was arrested in the morning following the accident.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA: May I know, Sir, whether he was a driver lent by the Transport Department or the owner of the jeep was actually driving the jeep ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I have no information to that effect. If the hon. Member wants I can go through the evidence and find out whether the jeep was driven by the owner at the time.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): May I know, Sir, whether charge-sheet was submitted at the time ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I have not got that information at present.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): May I know, Sir, whether the driver of the truck which collided with the jeep was also arrested ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I have already pointed out that soon after the accident, when the matter was brought to the notice of the police, they began to search for the truck which collided with the jeep, but no one among those, who were injured, could give the number of the

truck. So the truck remains untraced so far. So, the question of arresting the driver of the truck does not arise.

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon): May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that one C. I. D. officer was appointed to investigate the case ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): The matter was investigated by the local investigating staff.

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA: May I know, Sir, when the investigation will be completed ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I have already said that the difficulty has arisen because no one among those injured could even give the number of the truck. The police were informed after the accident took place and there is no trace of the truck so far. Until the truck is traced the investigation cannot be completed.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra): May I know, Sir, whether the driver and the owner were medically examined to find out whether they were drunk ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I have not got information.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: In reply to (h), Sir, the Minister has said that the S. D. P. O. and the S. P. supervised the case on 31st August, but the accident took place on the 16th August. Why the S.D.P.O. could not make time to supervise the case earlier ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: The accident took place on the 16th August and on the 18th the Circle Inspector supervised the case. Such investigation is usually done by the officer in-charge of the local thana.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): May I know, Sir, whether the charge-sheet was submitted ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I shall make an enquiry.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA: Sir, as one of the person Prince Amonge died in the accident happened to be the Vice-Chairman of the Sibsagar Municipality and Joint Secretary

Moran Circle Chah Mazdur Sangha and he was a popular man, are the Government aware that this accident created a sensation among the people ?

Mr. SPEAKER: I want to point out that the Government is not concerned with the popularity of a man who died in the accident.

Date of functioning of Nalbari Sub-Treasury

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East) asked :

*37. Will the Minister-in-charge of Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) When the Nalbari Sub-Treasury started functioning ?
- (b) What is the volume of work of newly started Nalbari Sub-Treasury for the last six months ending on 31st December 1958 as compared to Mangaldai Sub-Treasury, Kokrajhar Sub-Treasury, North Lakhimpur Sub-Treasury and Barpeta Sub-Treasury for the same period ?
- (c) Whether Government is aware that the Mauzadars, Lessees, Mahaldars, etc., of the area under Nalbari Sub-Treasury have been deprived of their legitimate claim to deposit money at Nalbari for lack of facility for Tauzinavis ?
- (d) Whether Government has received any representation from Kamrup Mauzadars' Association to remove the above difficulty ?
- (e) When the Mauzadars, Mahaldars and Lessees, etc., will be able to deposit money at Nalbari Sub-Treasury ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance) replied:

37. (a)—From 2nd April, 1958.

(b)—A comparative statement showing the volume of work in Mangaldoi, North Lakhimpur and Barpeta Sub-Treasuries for 6 months ending 31st December 1958 is placed on the Table. The proposed Sub-Treasury at Kokrajhar has not as yet been started.

Statement referred to in reply to Starred Question No.37(b) asked by Shri Prabhat Narayan Choudhury, M. L. A., at the Budget Session, 1959

A comparative statement showing the volume of work for the last six months ending 31st December, 1958

(b) NALBARI SUB-TREASURY

		Receipt	Payment
		Rs.	Rs.
July 1958	...	2,89,929.55	2,84,344.82
August 1958	...	3,64,254.23	3,55,917.12
September 1958	...	3,22,343.64	3,23,495.85
October 1958	...	4,70,953.40	4,13,730.69
November 1958	...	4,32,761.31	4,26,682.88
December 1958	...	3,82,376.73	3,80,004.69
Total	...	22,62,618.86	21,84,176.05

MANGALDAI SUB-TREASURY

July 1958	...	7,64,547.22	5,56,229.19
August 1958	...	5,64,048.43	5,12,992.23
September 1958	...	5,81,375.05	4,11,673.23
October 1958	...	12,96,191.93	5,75,134.92
November 1958	...	5,31,844.37	4,53,329.21
December 1958	...	5,42,372.88	4,31,856.64
Total	...	42,80,379.88	29,41,215.42

KOKRAJHAR SUB-TREASURY

Not yet opened.

NORTH LAKHIMPUR SUB-TREASURY

		Receipt	Payment
		Rs.	Rs.
July 1958	...	9,69,293·19	10,88,604·04
August 1958	...	9,18,324·46	11,74,791·39
September 1958	...	12,64,022·64	13,63,667·94
October 1958	...	10,16,023·74	13,21,706·37
November 1958	...	7,64,918·72	8,24,994·21
December 1958	...	9,17,473·70	8,99,096·86
Total	..	58,50,056·45	66,72,860·81

BARPETA SUB-TREASURY

July 1958	...	9,05,125·26	10,83,918·67
August 1958	...	10,73,291·72	10,82,235·42
September 1958	...	15,32,757·29	13,74,354·50
October 1958	...	10,78,798·19	13,29,611·49
November 1958	...	12,46,179·30	9,64,895·79
December 1958	...	9,46,606·99	8,49,377·48
Total	...	67,82,758·75	66,84,393·35

(c)—Government has been aware of the difficulties experienced by Mauzadars in the Nalbari area in the matter. A Post of Lower Division Assistant to work as Tauzinavis at Nalbari Sub-Treasury has since been sanctioned and the sanction has been communicated to the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup.

(d)—No.

(e)—As soon as the Tauzinavis is entertained by the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, *vide* (c) above.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East): Do Government know that by the appointment of Tauzinavis the problem has not been solved, unless and until a Record Keeper and a Nazir for relevant portion of work are appointed ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): Sir, so far as this problem is concerned, our information is that the problem has been solved by the appointment of the Tauzinavis.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY: Will the Government enquire whether there is difficulty in the matter ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I shall enquire but I have already said that by the appointment of the Tauzinavis the problem has been solved.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj): When it is the practice with the Government that Sub-Treasury is given to a Subdivisional Town and a Treasury is given to a District Town, may I know why Nalbari is made an exception in this regard whether Government is contemplating to declare Nalbari as Subdivision.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Not at present.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY: What is the reason of not declaring Nalbari as a Subdivision ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: That question does not arise. But it is obvious that the question is under the consideration of the Government. This involves a considerable amount of money, whether money spent on this project will be productive or unproductive is being considered by the Government.

Proposal for taking up the road connecting Satpakheli with the Gauhati-Goalpara Road

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) asked :

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

(a) Whether Government propose to take up the road connecting Satpakheli with the Gauhati-Goalpara Road at 21 miles-post ?

- (b) Whether any representation in this connection has been received ?
- (c) Whether Government propose to connect the Gauhati-Goalpara Road with the Loharghat-Kulsi Road *via* Satpakheli and Dharipara ?

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

38.(a)—No.

(b)—No.

(c)—No.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Bill paid by Government to Pinewood Hotel and Morello for entertainment of V. I. Ps.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) asked :

108. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) What is the total bill paid by Government to Pinewood Hotel in 1957-58 and 1958-59 for entertainment of V. I. Ps. ?
- (b) What is the total bill paid by Government to Morello in 1957-58 and 1958-59 for entertaining V. I. Ps. for tea ?
- (c) What is the total bill for 1957-58 and 1958-59 of the Government for entertainment of guests and V. I. Ps. ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied :

108. (a)—1957-58—Rs.3,348.28 Np.

1958-59—Rs.9,232.24 Np. (upto 25th February, 1959).

(b)—1957-58 - Rs.207.56 Np.

1958-59—Nil.

(c)—1957-58—Rs.83,944.00.

1958-59—Rs.1,27,718.46 Np.

Bund from Khonamukh Post-Office (Jakaichuk Mauza, Sibsagar Division) Chintamonigarh

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri)
asked :

109. Will the Minister-in-charge, Public Works Department (Embankment and Drainage) be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government is aware that with a view to protect Charaidoba and Kenduguri paddy fields of Jakaichuk and Simaluguri Mouza of Sibsagar and Jorhat Subdivision respectively, from constant flood, a strong Bund from Khonamukh Post-Office (Jakaichuk Mouza, Sibsagar Subdivision) to Chintamonigarh via Maut village No. 1 and Na-Pam Bokajan village, is urgently necessary ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that the local people are representing to the Government for construction of this Bund at the earliest ?

(c) Whether Government is aware that in view of the present Mitong Bund, Jakaichuk Mouza, the construction of this Bund requires immediate consideration ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY [Minister, Public Works Department (Embankment and Drainage)]
replied:

109. (a)—The marginal embankment along both the banks of the Mitong River which is now under construction will mitigate the flood-problems of this area considerably by cutting off flood spills of the Brahmaputra and the Mitong from entering into this area; flood spills of the Morijhanji by itself will not likely to give any appreciable trouble to this area.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—No. On the contrary, the flood embankments along the Mitong will minimise the necessity of an embankment along the Morijhanji.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri): Whether the Government is aware of the fact that this Mitong Bund will maximise or minimise the necessity of an embankment along Morijhani ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Embankment and Drainage): I have already replied to it that it will minimise.

**Provision of a marboat at Public Works Department
Burikhamar Public Works Department ghat on
the Sorbhog-Kahitoma Road**

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog) asked :

110. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department (R.&B.) Wing be pleased to state—

(a) Whether a marboat was provided to the Burikhamar Public Works Department ghat on the Sorbhog-Kahitoma Road ?

(b) If so, when ?

(c) When the marboat was drowned ?

(d) If so, who is responsible for this ?

(e) Whether another marboat has been provided to the ghat ?

(f) If not, why not ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, Public Works Department (R. & B.) Wing] replied:

110. (a) & (b)—No, as the Burikhamarghat was sold as Single boat ferry.

(c)—Marboat taken to examine the possibility of running of marboat in Burikhamar ferry on Naljora river, was drowned due to erosion of the bank of the river by abnormal flood on 25th August 1958 at 8 A. M.

(d)—The matter is under investigation for fixing responsibility.

(e) & (f)—The plying of marboats is not possible due to strong current during rainy seasons and shallow water in dry season. The ferry was also not sold as marboat ferry, hence no marboat has been provided there.

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog): Is it a fact that that marboat was sunk for the negligence of the Public Works Department staff there?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI (Deputy Minister, Public Works Department): No, Sir.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East): What was the cost of this marboat?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: I want notice of this question.

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR: If it was known to the Government that plying of marboat is not possible there due to strong current during rainy seasons and shallow water in dry season, why a marboat was placed there?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: As an experimental measure.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY: Do Government feel the necessity of a marboat there?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: There is necessity, but the current is so strong during summer and water is so shallow during winter that it is not possible for a marboat to ply.

Bhakatpara State Dispensary

Md. MATLEBUDDIN (Dalgaon) asked:

111. Will the Minister-in-charge of Medical Department be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government are aware that the Bhakatpara State Dispensary is being run without any compounder since its very establishment?

(b) If so whether Government will be pleased to provide the said Dispensary with a compounder with immediate effect ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Medical Minister) replied:

111. (a)—Yes.

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

Md. MATLEBUDDIN (Dalgaon): May I know for how long this dispensary is running without a compounder ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: The question is, “whether Government are aware that the Bhakatpara State Dispensary is running without any compounder since its establishment” and the reply is ‘Yes’.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is now when it was established ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: I require notice of this question.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Whether there is any Doctor ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: There must be a Doctor. (Laughter).

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister should not use the ‘must’ when he is not sure of it.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Regarding question (a), will the Minister state how long or for what period there is no compounder ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: The reply means, from the inception of the dispensary.

Shri DANDIRAM DATTA (Mangaldai): তেনেকুৱা কম্পাউণ্ডাৰ নোহোৱা ডিচপেনচাৰী অকল মজলদৈতে আছেনে আন ঠাইতো আছে ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: সকলো ডিচপেনচাৰীতে কম্পাউণ্ডাৰ দিয়া নহয় যদি বোগীৰ সংখ্যাই justify নকৰে ।

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: ডাক্তৰ নোহোৱা কৈ ডাক্তৰ খানা চলেনেকি ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: মই ডাক্তৰ নোহোৱাকৈ ডাক্তৰখানা চলেবুলি কব খোজা নাই । There are dispensaries where we have not been able to provide with doctors, but these are very few now.

Shri MOHIKANTA DAS (Barchalla): এই ডিসপেনচেৰী বিলাকত কম্পাউণ্ডৰ দিবলৈ চৰকাৰৰ আৰু কিমান দিন লাগিব?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical): মই আগতেই কৈছো যে সকলো ডিসপেনচেৰীত কম্পাউণ্ডৰ দিয়া নহয় যদি বোগীৰ সংখ্যাই এইটো justify নকৰে।

Shri CHATRASINGH TERON [Mikir Hills-West (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: হস্পিটেলৰ ধৰা বিজ্ঞান কৰিলেই ডাক্তৰ বা কম্পাউণ্ডৰ নোহোৱাকৈ বোগীৰ চিকিৎসা হয় বুলি চৰকাৰে ভাবেনেকি?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: ডাক্তৰ বা কম্পাউণ্ডৰ নোহোৱা হস্পিটেল বিলাকত ডাক্তৰ বা কম্পাউণ্ডৰ দিবলৈ চেষ্টাকৰা হৈছে।

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon): অলপ আগতে মন্ত্ৰীমহোদয়ে কলে যে ডাক্তৰ। নোহোৱা ডাক্তৰ খানা আসামত কেবাখনো আছে। মই জানিব পাবোনে তেনেকুৱা ডাক্তৰ নোহোৱা ডাক্তৰ খানাৰ অনুমানিক সংখ্যা কিমান?

Mr. SPEAKER: She will have to put a separate question?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): এই ডাক্তৰ খানাৰ ভিতৰত maternity ও ধৰা হৈছে নেকি?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: Maternity centre এটা দিয়া হৈছে।

Shri PAKHIRAI DEKA [Panery (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: বেমাৰী নথকা হস্পিটেল আছেনেকি?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: বেমাৰী নথকা বুলি মই কোৱা নাই, কৈছিলো বেমাৰীৰ সংখ্যা অনুপাতে আৱশ্যক হলে কম্পাউণ্ডৰ দিয়া হয়।

Establishment of a Public Health Hospital at Kharupatia

Md. MATLEBUDDIN (Dalgaoon) asked:

112. Will the Minister-in-charge of Medical be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether he had requested the local M. L. A. to select the site for the proposed Public Health Hospital to be established at Kharupatia?
- (b) If so, why the construction work of the Kharupatia Public Health Hospital has not yet been started when the selection of the site had been made in June, 1958?

- (c) Whether the Minister-in-charge will be pleased to see that the construction of the said Hospital in the same plot of land is expedited ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) replied :

112. (a)—The Civil Surgeon, Tezpur was instructed to select the site for establishment of a Dispensary at Kharupatia in consultation with the local M.L.A. and other influential persons.

(b)—The site for Kharupatia Dispensary has not yet been finally selected due to persistent clash of interest amongst the local influential persons.

(c)—Due steps will be taken to construct a dispensary on a plot of land found suitable for the purpose.

Md. MATLEBUDDIN (Dalgaoon) : When was local M. L. A. requested to select the site ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : Sometime in the year 1957 or 1958 I think.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : Here, if both the (b) and (c) are read together, the matter does not become clear. In (b) it has been said "The site for Kharupatia Dispensary has not been finally selected due to persistent clash of interest amongst the local influential persons", and in (c) it has been said: "Due steps will be taken to construct a dispensary on a plot of land found suitable for the purpose".

Whether suitability will be on the basis of absence of clash of interest of interested persons or on the basis of convenience to the patients and other persons concerned ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : I may inform the hon. Member that in the meanwhile I had discussed the matter with the local M. L. A. of that constituency and other M. L. As. of Mangaldai and we have come to a final decision in the matter.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : My question is whether Government make it a criterion at the time of selecting the site of such an institution on the basis of convenience to the public concerned or on the basis of influential persons or their will ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical): On the basis of convenience to the public and of suitability of the plot.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi): In answer (a) it has been stated: "Civil Surgeon, Tezpur was instructed to select the site for establishment of a dispensary at Kharupatia in consultation with the local M. L. A. and other influential persons". Is it not a fact that after local enquiry and after due consultation with the local M. L. A. and other influential persons, the site was finally selected and recommendation to that effect was sent to the Government?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: There was recommendation, but the difficulty was that both the parties were so strong that it was difficult to select the site.

Mr. SPEAKER: Whether the Civil Surgeon submitted his recommendation after holding consultation with the local M. L. A. and other influential persons as instructed by Government?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: The Civil Surgeon submitted a report selecting one of the best sites, but that site was not liked by the local M. L. A., and other.

Mr. SPEAKER: It appears from the reply given by the Hon'ble Minister that the Civil Surgeon did submit such a recommendation. If it was done in accordance with the instruction of the Government then what was the point in waiting?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: Objection raised by the local people was so strong.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Regarding (b), it has been said that the site has not yet been selected due to persistent clash of interest amongst the local people. I want to know whether this interest is personal interest or public interest. Secondly, if it is public interest, how influential people come in?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical): There are two strong parties (*Laughter*).

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur): Will Government formulate a principle that in selecting such sites the recommendation of the Civil Surgeon will be final ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: Generally we accept the recommendation of the Civil Surgeon but in this case the site selected by the Civil Surgeon which was one of the best places was not accepted by the local M.L.A.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid the whole thing has been mixed up by the Hon'ble Minister. The Hon'ble Minister said the Civil Surgeon was asked to select a site in consultation with the local M. L. A. and other influential persons. He has consulted the local M. L. A. and others and submitted a report. Then why the Hon'ble Minister now says that the local M. L. A. did not accept the site ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: It came up when another site was selected by the Civil Surgeon. The latest position is.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not understand why the Hon'ble Minister does not follow the line of argument which has developed in his own reply. If the Civil Surgeon submitted a report without consulting the local M. L. A. then he must be guilty of disobeying the instruction of the Government.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: The Civil Surgeon did not submit then any report, but just after the receipt of this question we have received the report. The Civil Surgeon selected a site which was not liked by my Friend.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister in his reply said: "The Civil Surgeon, Tezpur was instructed to select the site for establishment of a dispensary at Kharupatia in consultation with the local M. L. A. and other influential persons". Did he not submit his recommendation after consulting the local M. L. A. or the local influential persons ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: We did not get any final report from the Civil Surgeon then. We have got it only recently.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : If it is the policy of the Government to consult the influential persons there, who are those influential persons ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Medical Minister) : I have told the Hon'ble House that after discussion with the hon. Member of that locality we have decided to send the Director of Health Services to the place and give his view.

Mr. SPEAKER : If the hon. Member is not satisfied he may raise a half an hour discussion about this.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : Who were treated as influential persons ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : The public of Kharupatia.

Shri MAHADEV DAS : Subdivisional Development Board ব দ্বাৰা এই ডাক্তাৰ খানাব site বিলাক নিৰ্দ্ধাৰণ কৰা হয়নে নহয় ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : Primary Health Unit বিলাকক site select কৰোঁতে Subdivisional Development Board ক consult কৰা হয় ; কিন্তু ডাক্তাৰখানাব বেলিকা সাধাৰণতে consult কৰা নহয়।

Shri DANDIRAM DUTTA (Mangaldai) : Sub-divisional Development Board ব দ্বাৰা যদি এই site বিলাক ঠিক কৰা হয় তেনেহলে এই ক্ষেত্ৰত কিয় কৰা হোৱা নাই ?

Mr. SPEAKER : মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়, মই বুজা নতে, কৈছো যে Primary health Unit ব বেলিকাহে কৰা হয় বাকী বিলাকত সাধাৰণতে কৰা নহয়।

Small Scale Industries started last year

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) asked :

113. Will the Minister-in-charge of Cottage Industries be pleased to state how many Small Scale Industries were started during the last year and what are they ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister-in-charge of Cottage Industries) replied :

113.

Names of the Industries	Number of units	Places
(1)	(2)	(3)
1 Timber Treatment and Seasoning Plants.	4	Makum, Tinsukia and Dibrugarh.
2 Caffeine Manufacture from tea-waste,	5	Tezpur, Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Silchar and Sibsagar.

Name of the Industries			Number of units	Places
(1)			(2)	(3)
3 Paper Factories	...	...	2	Location not yet finalised.
4 Flour Mills	...	...	4	Tinsukia, Sibsagar, Tezpur and Silchar.
5 Foundries and Workshops...		...	6	Gauhati (they will manufacture Railway equipments, cast iron products like pumps, flushing cisterns, pipes and fittings, railings, gates, sheet metal products, sheet metal fabrication.
6 Cold Storage Plants	...	...	3	Gauhati, Tinsukia.
7 Storage Batteries	...	...	1	Gauhati.
8 Paint and Varnish Industry		...	1	Gauhati.
9 Tea-chest Fittings	..	...	16	Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Gauhati, Tezpur and Nowgong.
10 Power Looms	..	...	6 (50 looms each.)	Silchar, Jorhat, Nowgong, Tezpur, and Gauhati.
11 Wire Nails, Rose and Patent Nails, Nuts and Bolts, Galvanised pipes and fittings, Cycle parts, Gem-clips and Pins, Wood-screws, buckets and other miscellaneous items.			10	Gauhati, Tinsukia and Nowgong.
12 Jute Twine, ropes, etc.	...	...	2	Nowgong and Gauhati.
13 Cycle and Cycle parts	...	...	1	Nowgong.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): May I know from the Minister whether those industries have already been started or only licenses have been given ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Industries): Sir, licenses have been given for these industries and they are in various stages now but I think only one, i.e., the Wire Nails Industry has gone into production.

U. JOR MANIK SYIEM [Nongpoh (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: May I know whether these are private or Government enterprises ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: These are in the private sector.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : Sir, my question was "Will the Minister-in charge of Cottage Industries be pleased to state how many small scale industries were started during the last year and what are they "and not about the licenses that were given last year. Just now the Minister stated that only one has been started. May I know what is that industry ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: I have mentioned that and I said only one has gone into production and that is the Wire Nails Industry at Gauhati. In so far other industries are concerned, that depends on what the hon. Member signifies by the word 'start'.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Start means start.

Mr. SPEAKER: It seems start here means that it has gone into production.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: If that be the case, then only one, i. e., the Wire Nails Industry, has been started because it has gone into production.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): In item No.13, it has been stated that one Cycle and Cycle parts making factory has been started in Nowgong. May I know in what part of Nowgong this factory is located ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: As I have explained, this has been started in process. It has not been started in a sense that it has gone into production.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : Do you mean to say that it has been started mentally ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Industries) : I have told you that it has started the process.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : Then in that case the Jute Mill has also been started. (*Laughter*).

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) : May I know who are the party of the industries mentioned in item 1 ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : I require a notice on that.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) : শিৰগাৰবতো আৰম্ভ কৰিছে বুলি কৈছে-তাত কাক দিছে আৰু সচায় কাম আৰম্ভ কৰিছে জানো ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : আৰম্ভ কৰা কথাটো মই যি ধৰণে কৈছো সেই ধৰণে লব লাগিব। আমি টকা দিয়া নাই।

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barcholla) : Sir, the question was how many small scale industries were started during last year and in the reply, Item No. 3 Paper factories are shown but at the same time the reply states that the location has not yet been finalised (*Laughter*). How could these be started ?

Mr. SPEAKER : Evidently, there is a difference regarding the definition of the word 'start'. Some hon. Members think that it is only when an industry goes into production that it can be rightly called to have been started. But so far as the hon. Minister is concerned, he thinks that as soon as a license is issued the process also starts.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Should we understand that a start begins even without selecting the site (*Laughter*)?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : Starting may begin with the issue of a license and calling out of capital.

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog): May I know whether any loan has been granted for this industry?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Industries): They did not ask for any loan.

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katanigaon): In Item No. 10, it has been stated that a power loom has been started in Jorhat. May I know from the Government when it has been started or whether any license has been issued?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: In so far as the Jorhat power loom is concerned, we are trying to procure a party but nobody has come forward until now. (*Laughter*).

Mr. SPEAKER: Evidently, the definition of the word 'start' has been pushed a little further back by the hon. Minister (*Laughter*).

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahowal): ডিব্ৰুগড়ত নানুহে বিচাৰা স্বত্তেও এইবোৰ শিল পাতিবলৈ কিয় দিয়া নাই?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: The policy is that we wanted to select places where heavy or medium size industries are not likely to be started. Dibrugarh and Gauhati are, naturally, places where heavy industries are going to be established and therefore small scale industries shall have to be started in some other places.

Mr. SPEAKER: But why Gauhati has been included as a place for these small scale industries?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: The reason is that Gauhati has in any case to be included due to the availability of cheap electricity.

Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West): May I know from the Government whether they think that since a power loom and a flour mill are going to be started at Silchar, there is no more chance of having heavy industries at Silchar?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: In so far as Silchar is concerned, right now the chances of having any medium scale industries are remote because of the border difficulties as well as the transport difficulties.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj): কোনো কোনো জিলাত এই শিল ৫-৬ টাকৈ হৈছে; কিন্তু গোৱালপাৰাৰ উল্লেখ নাই কিয়?
(*Voice*—Border district নহয় জানো?)

(বিপুল হৰ্ষধবনী)

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA (Gauhati) :

Just now the Minister said that one of the reasons for not starting heavy industries in Silchar is due to border difficulties. Does Government propose to abandon Silchar altogether ?

Mr. SPEAKER : That does not arise.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery) : মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে জানেন যে মঙ্গলদৈ মহকুমাত বহুত refugee আছে ? তেওঁলোকৰ মাটিও নাই অন্য সুবিধাও নাই, গতিকে মঙ্গলদৈত power loom প্রতিস্থা কৰাৰ কথা চৰকাৰে চিন্তা কৰিছেনে ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Industres) : Our whole difficulty is that it requires some centralised benefit which requires a good deal of capital investment but actually power loom are very cheap and can be started easily. Therefore, what we are doing now is asking private party to start these centralised benefits and once they are there we have planned to ring round them power loom in the co-operative sector so that they may get the benefits of the centralised functioning from the private sector and manufacturers.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamarpur) : Sir, considering the question as it is, is not the reply a misleading one ?

Mr. SPEAKER : That is a matter of opinion for which I have no opinion. (*Laughter*).

Shri RADHA KISHAN KHEMKA (Tinsukia) : যিবিলাক Private Party ক Licence দিয়া হৈছে তেওঁলোকক কিবা Time Limit দিয়া আছে নেকি ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : Effective step is to be taken I think within three months.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY : মঙ্গলদৈৰ যদি কোনো Party ওলায় চৰকাৰে তেওঁলোকক Licence দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিবনে ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : ইয়াত যিবিলাক Location আছে তাত মঙ্গলদৈ নাই। গতিকে তাত দিয়াৰ প্রশ্ন নুঠে। যিহওক এইটো Co-operative basis ত হব।

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golaganj) : গোৱালপাৰাৰ বিষয়ে চৰকাৰে কিবা ভাবিছে নে নাই ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : গোৱালপাৰাৰ বিষয়ে ইয়াত নাই, মই এইটো স্বীকাৰ কৰো।

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

**Government grant to Canning Company of Nagpur for
establishing Fruit Preservation and Cold
Storage Unit at Gauhati**

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) asked :

2. (a) Will the Minister of Major Industries be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Assam Government agreed to give the Canning Company of Nagpur a sum of over eleven lakhs of rupees for starting a Canning Factory at Gauhati and if so, what security was taken from the said Company for this loan ?

(b) Whether Government are aware that this Company has been involved in serious financial difficulties in Nagpur to an extent that they have lost control of their own factory at Nagpur ?

(c) Whether Government are aware that the said Company is in debt to the Bombay and Central Governments and that they have not been able to pay their long standing arrears ?

(d) Whether it is a fact that they cannot even pay the bills for supplies such as tin containers ?

(e) Whether the Minister will be pleased to state whether the Assam Government made investigation about the financial soundness of the said Company before they agreed to give them the said loan of overall eleven lakhs of rupees ?

(f) Whether it is a fact that the Government have already given the said Company several lakhs of rupees without any security or mortgage ?

(g) Whether it is a fact that the Assam Government have received report from some reliable person concerning the undesirable financial condition of the said Company ?

(h) If so, what action Government have been taking on these reports ?

(i) Whether it is a fact that the Government is considering the question of cancellations of the License given to said Company and if so, what will be the loss of money on that transaction ?

(j) Whether it is a fact that in spite of the undesirability of the financial position of the said Company there is a proposal to retain the said Company by making it work with the Government as partners in some kind of an arrangement ?

(k) If so, what is that proposal ?

(l) Whether there is any indigenous Canning Companies which have applied for loan from the Government ?

(m) If so, what is the Government attitude towards these concerns ?

(n) What are the reasons that the Government seems to be showing greater favours to non-Assamese concerns than the indigenous concerns ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister of Major Industries) replied :

2. (a)—Yes. Government agreed to grant a loan of Rs.11.34 lakhs to M/S. Chocs of Nagpur for establishing an integrated Fruit Preservation and Cold Storage Unit at Gauhati and an agreement has been entered into with the firm to that effect.

The loan is secured by :—

(i) First charge on all the lands including houses, factories, plants and machineries standing thereon at Gauhati.

(ii) A second charge on the floating assets, *viz.*, Stock-in-trade of the Company at Gauhati.

(iii) All other assets of the Company in Assam.

(iv) A personal guarantee from two of its Directors certified by a Schedule Bank as being worth not less than Rs. 50,00,000 (Rupees fifty lakhs) extending to the extent of the shortfall in the recovery of the loan from the Company or its assets.

(b)—Yes. The matter is under investigation.

(c)—Yes, but it has been reported that there is no default in repayment of loan due to the Government of Bombay.

(d)—Government have no information.

(e)—The Company was selected by the Government of India.

(f)—An amount of Rs. 1,01,900 has been disbursed to the Company most of which they have utilised in purchasing lands, etc., at Dishpur, near Gauhati. The amount has been disbursed through the A. F. C. who as agent of the Government made payment after taking adequate security. As per a separate agreement between the Government and the Assam Financial Corporation, the A. F. C. will keep under constant supervision the value of security offered by the Company, so that the loan money is always adequately secured.

(g)—Yes.

(h)—The matter is being investigated.

(i)—The question of cancellation of the license is under consideration. In the event of cancellation of the license loss is expected to be about Rs.50,000, two-third of which will be borne by the Government of India.

(j)—No.

(k)—Does not arise.

(l)—Yes, two firms, viz., M/S. United Fruit Company, Ltd., Shillong and Green View Products, Nowgong applied for loan.

(m)—Government have sanctioned Rs.40 000 and Rs.50,000 respectively to them.

(n)—Does not arise. There is no question of favour. The local concerns were not applicants for the loan given to Chocs, in fact the loan money was lying idle from 1956 when the amount was sanctioned by Government of India. At the time of selection the only parties competing were (1) Chocs, (2) M/S. Green View Products and James Wright, (3) New India Industrial Corporation Madras.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Sir, whether in selecting this Company, Government made any prior investigation regarding this Company?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Major Industries): So far this Company is concerned, its name was suggested by the Government of India.

Shri GAURISANKAR BATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Are we to understand that so far as the Assam Government are concerned in this case, they have not made any investigation whatsoever to find out the financial soundness or otherwise of this Company?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Sir, so far we are concerned, we accepted the suggestion of the Government of India and further investigation was made by us.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: May I know whether there is any agreement with the Government of India that, if there is any financial loss in this connection that loss will be borne by the Government of India and not by the Government of Assam?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: The agreement is that 2/3rd of the loss will be borne by the Government of India and 1/3rd by us.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): Whether Government made any attempt to form Co-operative Societies to entrust this work to them before entering into agreement with this Company?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Co-operative Societies are formed by the people and not by the Government. Government can only help them.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: In reply to the question as to what security was taken from the said Company for this loan it is stated that the loan is secured by first charge on all the lands, etc., at Gauhati—may I know what is the value of this land owned by this Company at Gauhati or elsewhere in Assam?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Sir, it is stated that the land measuring 13 bighas 18 kathas and 8 lechas was purchased by this Company at the cost of 59 thousand rupees and odd.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):

Is this price mentioned by the Minister according to the Government standard? In other words, is it Government's valuation?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Industries): This is a report from the Company that they purchased the land at that price.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Sir, in reply to (f), the Minister said that about 1 lakh 9 thousand has been given to this Company and that the Company has purchased a plot of land at Gauhati. May I know, Sir, what other assets were given as security by the Company at the time of signing the agreement?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: As this question is confined to loan, I would like to say that the money will be advanced by the Financial Corporation and the payment for the machinaries, etc., will also be made by the Assam Financial Corporation. Therefore, these machinaries and other equipments will be hypothecated as assets to the Government.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Sir, is it a fact that the Government did not take any security whatsoever from the firm at the time of giving the loan?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: This question has been answered in reply to question 2(a).

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member wants to know whether at the time of giving the loan, any kind of security was taken for the said loan.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: My question is Sir, whether at the time of giving the loan to the Company, there was any land or other security given to the Government? The company might subsequently purchase the land at Gauhati, but I am not concerned with that. My question is—like other advances, whether the Government took land as security or an exception was made for this company up granting loan without any security whatsoever?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Sir, I have already said about the arrangements. We have got assurances from two Directors of the two scheduled Banks. The Banks give guarantee for the amount of 50 lakhs which I consider to be

sufficient gurantee against an amount of Rupees one lakhs which has been advanced to the Company in instalments.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Did the Government of Assam get any instruction from the Government of India about the investment with the company?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Industries): The Government of India will also share the losses. The Government of India accepted the recommendation of Sardar Lal Singh.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Who is he?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: He is one of the experts of the fruit preservation industry of Government of India. He was deputed to Assam by the Government of India to study the food situation in Assam and to make recommendations for the establishment of the fruit preservation industry in Assam. The Government of India accepted the suggestions of Sardar Lal Sing in principle and invited some 21 firms in India including the United Fruit Company of Shillong.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): May I know whether any individual firm of Assam has submitted similar tender like that of the outside firm?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: No. This is a very competitive industry. The Government had therefore to look into the all aspects so that the industry might float. The Government of India has also 2/3 share and we have to accept the selection of the Government of India.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Whether the applications were made before the recommendation or after the recommendations?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: After the recommendations.

Shri MOHIKANTA DAS (Barchalla): What are the other security other than the machineries and the land purchased by the Company? Is there any other asset which might stand as security against the loan so granted to the company?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Industries): As I have already said Sir, there is no other asset taken as security. We have got two certificates from two scheduled banks about the financial soundness of the Company. I think this is a sufficient guarantee against an advance of 11 lakhs.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi): Do Government know that there are serious allegations against this firm? This firm has got to pay a huge amount to the Government of Bombay.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: I think, so far this allegation is concerned this firm has already paid 6 lakhs 50 thousand to the Government of Bombay and there is no default in repayment of loan due to the Government of Bombay.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Has the Government ascertained the financial soundness of the Company?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: When the Government of India selected the Company we supposed that the Government of India inquired into this question. We got the recommendation from the Government of India about this firm.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA: Is Lal Sing in some way interested with this Firm?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: No Sir.

The Assam Local Board Election (Emergency Provision) Bill, 1959

Mr. SPEAKER: The question hour is over. We have some other businesses to transact, *i. e.*, item No.4—Mr. Ahmed. There is an amendment put by Mr. Pradhani and others.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg leave to substitute the words and figures "31st March, 1960" occurring in the last line of the proviso to clause 2 of the Bill by the words and figures "30th September, 1959."

Mr. SPEAKER: The amendment moved is: Substitute the words and figures "31st March, 1960" occurring in the last line of the proviso to clause 2 of the Bill by the words and figures "30th September, 1959."

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, L.S.G.):

I have no objection in accepting this amendment, Sir. The purpose of this amendment is that instead of extending the life of the Act for one year, it is intended to extend the life of the Act for six months. I have no objection, because it is intended that after the Bill is passed by the Assembly, we shall take necessary action, so that it may not be necessary for us to continue the life of the Local Boards.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that the amendment be adopted.

(The Amendment was adopted)

The question is that clause 2, as amended do form part of the Bill.

(Clause 2, as amended was adopted).

The question is that the long title and preamble do form part of the Bill.

(This was adopted).

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Local Board Elections (Emergency Provision) Bill, 1959 be passed.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that the Assam Local Board Election (Emergency Provision) Bill, 1959 be passed.

(The Motion was adopted.)

General discussion of the Budget

Shri BISWANATH UPADHAYAYA (Patharkandi):
Sir, I want to speak.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member has already spoken for 20 minutes. I think he has spoken enough on one point.

Shri BISHWANATH UPADHYAYA (Patharkandi) : I could not make it clear. I want to make it clear.

Mr. SPEAKER : If he cannot make it clear in 20 minutes he cannot do so in 20 hours (*laughter*). Any way, I shall give him 5 minutes.

Shri BISHWANATH UPADHYAYA : अध्यक्ष महोदय, कल मैं विद्यानगर में हो रहे भ्रष्टाचार के बारे में बोल रहा था, पर अभी कुछ बातें बाकी रह गई थीं। आपने पुनः जो समय देने की कृपा की उसके लिए अनेक धन्यवाद।

Mr. SPEAKER : पर, आप ज्यादा समय मत लीजिएगा।

Shri BISHWANATH UPADHYAYA : बहुत अच्छा। हाँ, तो वहाँ जो भ्रष्टाचार चल रहा है उसके बारे में मैंने मुख्य मंत्री महोदय से गत अगस्त महीने में बातें की थी और उन्होंने जांच के लिए डिप्टी कमिशनर को आदेश भी दिया। पर, दुख की बात है कि डिप्टी कमिशनर समयभाव के कारण पूरी जांच नहीं कर सके और २/३ विषयों तक ही उन्होंने अपनी जांच सीमित रखी। अभी तक जांच बाकी है।

जैसा कि मैंने पहले ही कहा था कि आज १० वर्षों में भ्रष्टाचार के बारे में सरकार को श्रमिक तथा अन्य लोगों की तरफ से बराबर पत्र भेजे जा रहे हैं, पर सरकार ने अभी तक इस सम्बन्ध में कुछ भी नहीं किया। उस अंचल में इसकी बड़ी बुरी प्रतिक्रिया हो रही है। लोगों की ऐसी धारणा हो रही है कि सरकार चोरों की रक्षा करके भ्रष्टाचार को प्रोत्साहन दे रही है।

सुनने में आता है कि मैनेजर ऐसा कहा करता है कि कोई उसका क्या बिगाड़ सकता है। कांग्रेस की सरकार है और कैबिनेट में उसका हाथ है।

तो मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या कांग्रेस की सरकार ने उसको वहाँ चोरी करने के लिए रखा है? क्या उसको गरीबों के गले पर छुरी चलाने के लिए भेजा है। क्या गरीब मुसलमान श्रमिकों को जमीन से निकालकर उनको पाकिस्तान भेजने के लिए उसको वहाँ भेजा है? मैं इन सारी बातों का जवाब सरकार से चाहता हूँ। और अगर जवाब नहीं मिला तो यह विषय मैं असम की जनता के सामने रखूँगा और यह कहूँगा कि सरकार चोरों की रक्षा करके भ्रष्टाचार को प्रोत्साहन देती है। वस मुझे आज इतना ही कहना है।

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Education) : गानगीय गणपति कि देखें आणि एतकाटक वृद्धि प्रवा नाई।

Mr. SPEAKER : I can only allow hon. Members to speak but I cannot enable hon. Members to follow what he said. (*Laughter*).

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): Sir, I could not follow the hon. Member at all.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the best course will be, let both the hon. Minister and the hon. Member sit together and thrash out the points. The hon. Member has been working under a considerable mental strain and he spoke about these things very seriously which, of course, I could follow as he spoke in Hindi. I think there is also a Parliamentary procedure to the effect that when any hon. Member brings any problem to the hon. Minister, both of them sit together to thrash out the points.

Shri HARESWAR DAS: This matter has been dealt with by the Chief Minister and the Chief Minister had several discussions with the hon. Member.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri): মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মাননীয় অর্থ মন্ত্রী ডাঃবীয়াই সদনত দাঙিধৰা এই বছৰৰ বাজেটখনৰ তাৎপৰ্য্য অর্থ মন্ত্ৰীৰ বক্তৃতাৰ পৰা সহজে বুজা যায়। বাজেট বক্তৃতাৰ প্ৰথম বা দ্বিতীয় পৃষ্ঠা অধ্যয়ন কৰিলেই ধৰা পৰে বাজেটখন কোন ধৰণৰ। নিঃসন্দেহে ক'ব পাৰি ই এখন কৃপণৰ বাজেট (মাত—কি বাজেট?)। কৃপণৰ বাজেট— Miser's budget; এই বাজেটত ৭৪ লাখ ৬৬ হাজাৰ বাহি দেখুৱা হৈছে। টকা পয়চাৰ ব্যৱহাৰ নকৰাকৈ কোনে সাঁচি থয়—কৃপণে। আমাৰ দেশৰ জাতীয় উপাৰ্জন—(National Income) বছৰি কমি আহিছে—। কেন্দ্ৰীয় বাজেট আলোচনা কৰি ১৯৫৯ চনৰ ৬ মাৰ্চৰ সংখ্যাত 'ইষ্টাৰ্ন ইকনমিষ্ট' নামৰ কাকত খনেও (Eastern Economist of 6th March 1959) মন্তব্য কৰিছে—“The budget of 1958-59 made a draaft on the Indian economy at most as great as that of the current budget for the year 1959-60 but with national income as now revealed in the Economic Survey of 2 per cent less than is likely in 1958-59”.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is depending upon capitalist publication to reinforce his arguments.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH: অৰ্থাৎ জাতীয় উপাৰ্জন ১৯৫৬-৫৭ত শতকৰা ২ ভাগ; ১৯৫৮-৫৯ চনত শতকৰা ৬ ভাগ কমিছে। চৰকাৰে অৰ্থব্যয় বা ব্যৱহাৰ নকৰিলে জাতীয় উপাৰ্জন বাঢ়িব কেনেকৈ? অর্থ ব্যয় হে অর্থ উপাৰ্জনত সহায় কৰে। গতিকে অর্থ ব্যয় নকৰাতো কৃপণৰ চিন নহয় নেকি?

বাজেট প্ৰস্তুত কৰোঁতে উৎপাদন সম্বন্ধীয় ২টা কথাটো লক্ষ্য ৰাখিব লাগে—ঘাটি আঁক ৰাহি। খাদ্য উৎপাদনত প্ৰয়োজনীয়তাকৈ নাটনি বেচি হৈছে। যি ঠাইত বা অঞ্চলত খাদ্য দ্ৰব্যৰ নাটনি হৈছে দুভিক্ষই দেখা দিছে—সেই অঞ্চল বিশেষত জনসাধাৰণৰ হাতত যাতে টকা জমা হয় বা খাদ্য নাটনিৰ গ্ৰাসৰ পৰা উদ্ধাৰ পাব পাৰে তাৰ কাৰণে স্বব্যৱস্থা কৰিবলৈ চৰকাৰে অর্থ ব্যয় কৰিব লাগে। এই বছৰ ফৰকাটিংৰ পৰা উজনি অসমত ক্ৰমে

দুভিকই দেখা দিছে—মোৰ নিজা সৰু গাঁও বা চুবুৰীত ১৩ ঘৰ গৃহস্থী আছে কিন্তু ৯ ঘৰ খাবলৈ নাই। ওচৰৰে বৰশয়ক খণ্ডৰ কৈৱৰ্ত্ত গাঁওৰ কেৱল প্ৰায় ২০ ঘৰ লোক আছে—২০ ঘৰতে খাবলৈ নাই। ম'বাবজাৰ দেওবজা মৈদাম অঞ্চলত শতকৰা ৭৫ ঘৰ মানুহৰ এতিয়াই খাদ্যৰ নাটনি—গোটেই জকাইচুক মৌজাত শতকৰা ৮০।৯০ ঘৰ দুভিকৰ মুখত। পানী-দিহিং মৌজাৰ জমিৰা গাঁৱত ৫৬ ঘৰ লোক আছে—৪৬ ঘৰৰ খাবলৈ নাই। এই বছৰ শিৱসাগৰত দুভিক আহিছে—ইয়াৰ নিৰাৰণ বা প্ৰতিৰোধৰ কাৰণে বাজেটত কোনো উল্লেখই নাই। নগাঁওৰ কলিয়ানবতো এই বছৰ খাদ্যৰ নাটনি পৰিছে। কিন্তু ইফালে বাজেটত বাহি দেখুওৱা হৈছে। দ্বিতীয় কথা হৈছে—উৎপাদনৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত কোনো কোনো বিষয়ত বাহি বা অতিৰিক্ত হ'ব পাৰে (Surplus)—যেনে কাপোৰ-সূতা-চিমেন্ট ইত্যাদি। কিন্তু এই কাপোৰ, সূতা, চিমেন্ট উৎপাদনত বেচি হ'ব পাৰে ধনতন্ত্ৰবাদী চৰকাৰৰ শাসনত। প্ৰকৃততে ই বাহি বা অতিৰিক্ত উৎপাদনত নপৰে—কাৰণ অৰ্থৰ অভাৱত, বস্ত্ৰৰ দামৰ কাৰণে জনসাধাৰণে ক্ৰয় কৰিব পৰা নাই। বাক ধৰি ললো—বাহি বা অতিৰিক্ত উৎপাদন হৈছে। তেন্তে হলেও জনসাধাৰণৰ হাতত যদি অৰ্থ বা টকা থাকে তেন্তে কিনিব পাৰে। আজি জীৱনৰ মান দণ্ড পৰি গৈছে—কাপোৰ, সূতা চিমেন্ট আদি কিনি পিন্ধিবলৈ বা পকা ঘৰ লবলৈ কাৰ ইচ্ছা নাই? কিন্তু টকাহে নাই—উক্ত বস্ত্ৰ পাবলৈ আছে। এই টকা জনসাধাৰণৰ হাতত পৰিবলৈ হলে টকা বাহি কৰি নানান দেশত শিল্প বিস্তাৰ কৰিলে—শিল্প ক্ষেত্ৰত দেশ আগবাঢ়িব আৰু লগে লগে দেশৰ যুবকেও চাকৰি বা জীৱন ধাৰণৰ পথ পাব। অসমত কাগজ, কাপোৰ, সূতা, মৰাপাট, চেনী আদিৰ অনেক সৰুৰ শিল্প গঢ়ি উঠিবৰ কাৰণে প্ৰকৃতিয়ে স্থল যোগাইছে। কিন্তু চৰকাৰৰ কৃপণালিৰ দোষতেই আজি আশাতীতৰূপে শিল্প বিস্তাৰ হোৱা নাই আৰু নিবনুৱা সমস্যা দূৰ নহৈ বৃদ্ধিয়ে হৈছে।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মোৰ নিজা সৰু চুবুৰীটোতে কেইবাজনো নিবনুৱা আছে—এজন যোৰহাটৰ ইণ্ডাষ্ট্ৰিয়েল ট্ৰেইনিং ইনষ্টিটিউটৰ (Industrial Training Institute) পাচ চাৰ্টিফিকেট লাভ কৰা যুবকো আছে। চাকৰি বিচাৰি—বাগানে বাগানে ঘূৰি ফুৰি হাবাখুৰি খাইছে—কিন্তু চাকৰি নাই। সেইদৰে অসংখ্য নিবনুৱা আছে—কিছুয়ে 'এমপ্লইমেণ্ট এক্চেঞ্জ অফিচ'ত নাম বেজিষ্টাৰ কৰিছে কিছুয়ে নাই। বেজিষ্টাৰ কৰা নিবনুৱাৰ সংখ্যা ১৯৫৮ চনত অৰ্থাত গত বছৰত কম নহয়—এই ক্ষেত্ৰত শাসনৰ গাৰ্হীত থকা দলৰ এখন 'জৰ্নেল'—'ইষ্টাৰ্ন চেণ্টিনেল' (Eastern Sentinel) ৰ ১৯৫৯ চনৰ ৪ মাৰ্চৰ সংখ্যাৰ পৰাই উদ্ধৃত কৰি জনাওঁ যে "The total number of persons registered at the Employment Exchanges in Assam during 1958, was 42,219 according to official figures. The number of vacancies notified during the year under review was 5,148, while that of successful candidates who were able to secure jobs through the Employment Exchanges was 2,163".

গত বছৰ যোৰহাটৰ বেজিষ্ট্ৰেচন অফিচত Leave Register ত নাম ভৰ্তি কৰা নিবনুৱাৰ সংখ্যা আছিল প্ৰায় ২০০০ হাজাৰ। কিন্তু প্ৰায় ৩০ জনকহে কামত বা চাকৰিত নিয়োগ কৰিব পাৰিছে। গতিকে দেখা যায় নিবনুৱাৰ সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি পাইছে ক্ৰম গতিত। এই যুবক সকলক, এই নিবনুৱা সকলক চাকৰি বা জীৱন ধাৰণৰ পথ নিদিলে আমাৰ সমাজত আৰু বিপ্লৱলাই দেখা দিব। বৰ্তমানতকৈও অধিক জটিল হ'ব—দেশৰ শিল্প বা অনুস্থান বৃদ্ধি নকৰাৰ দোষতেই—চৰকাৰৰ ঘোৰ কৃপণতাৰ দোষতেই এই নিবনুৱা সমস্যা সমাধান হোৱা নাই। বাজেটত এই বিষয়ে উল্লেখ নাই।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, কৃপণে ধন ভাঙিব নোৱাৰে— নিজৰ লবাছোৱালীকো নখুৱাই—নিপিকাই, ঘৰো ভালদৰে নাসাজে আৰু স্কুল, কলেজ, আত্মশাল, আনি, পুখুৰী আদিতো দান নিদিয়ৈ। মাত্ৰ ধন সাঁচে। এই চৰকাৰেও ভুকীয়া দুখীয়া জনসাধাৰণক নিদিয়ৈ, গিসকলৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে খৰছ নকৰে আৰু স্কুল, কলেজ, আত্মশাল, বাষ্টা, পানী যোগান ইত্যাদিৰ কাৰণে দানো নকৰে। শিৱসাগৰ মহকুমাৰ দেওবজা মৈদাম, গোৰীসাগৰ আদি হাই স্কুলে চামগুৰি, ম'ৰাবজাৰ, দোপদৰ, বেলিমুখীয়া, খড়াগড়, আৱাৰ, খনাখোকাৰা, কপইমুখ, দিখৌমুখ আদিৰ মাইনৰ স্কুল, লালিমছিগা দেওঘাই, বৰুৱাগাঁও, পুৰণিমেলীয়া গোৰীসাগৰ, ঘনাঘোকোৰা, চাৰিং, বেজগাঁও, দেওবজা, মাউত, মাদুৰী, বাজমাও, মেজাগড় আদি এম, ভি, স্কুলে অৰ্থ বিচাৰি চৰকাৰৰ ওচৰত ভাগৰি পৰিছে— কিন্তু টকা নাই। অসংখ্য এল, পি, স্কুল ভাগি পৰিছে— টকা নাই। চাৰিং ডিচপেন্সেৰিত ডাক্তাৰ নাই—জাজী হাই স্কুল Multi purpose কৰিবলৈ টকা নাই।

দিখৌমুখলৈ গোৰীসাগৰলৈ যোৱা আলিটো, চেউনী, মেহগড়, লাউগড়, নামতি, খৰাগড়-কাৰতি, মাদুৰী, ছটাই, কীৰাই আদি আলি চৰকাৰে লবলৈ কতবাৰ বাইজে আৰু স্থানীয় এম, এল, এইও চেষ্টা কৰিছে—কিন্তু চৰকাৰে কয়—টকা নাই। টকা এই বিলাকত খৰছ নকৰি বাহি কৰি থলে কৃপণ নহয় নেকি?—ঘোৰ কৃপণ।

দুৰ্বল কৃপণক কোনেও টকা নিদিয়ৈ। টকা থকা জনক টকা খৰছ কৰিব নোৱাৰা জনক কোনে টকা দিয়ে? সেই কাৰণেই দ্বিতীয় পঞ্চবাৰ্ষিক পৰিকল্পনাৰ সময়ত কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰক অসম চৰকাৰে ২৯২ কোটি টকা খোজোতে—দিবলৈ লৈছিল ৫৯ কোটি। পাঁচত মানুহৰ বিনয় কৰি ১০০ কোটি ধৰাত পৰিকল্পনাবিহীন কৃপণক পূৰ্বে দিব খোজা ৫৯ কোটিৰ ২ কোটি কমায়—৫৭ কোটি দিছে। এইবাৰ যেতিয়া বাহি পৰিছে—কেন্দ্ৰই আৰু টকা মন্ত্ৰৰ নকৰিবলৈ পথহে মুকলি কৰি দিয়া হ'ল। অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, Proceedings of the 6th meeting of the Assam Roads Communication Board held at Shillong on 11th October 1958 ৰ ৪ৰ্থ পৃষ্ঠাত মন্তব্য কৰিছে "The Government of India have since intimated that the allocation for new scheme should stand reduced by Rs.20 lakhs" কৃপণক ধন দিয়াতো কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰে বিবেচনা নকৰে।

বাজেট তৈয়াৰ কৰাৰ আগতে কৰ-কাটল লগোৱা ক্ষেত্ৰত কোন শ্ৰেণীৰ লোকৰ ওপৰত চাপ দিয়া হ'ব সেইটো থিক কৰি লব লাগে। আমাৰ সমাজত দুই শ্ৰেণীৰ লোক আছে— এক শ্ৰেণী ধনী আৰু অন্য শ্ৰেণী দৰিদ্ৰ। ধনী শ্ৰেণীৰ ভিতৰত বিদেশী পুঁজিপতি, দেশীয় সামন্ত সকল অৰ্থাৎ বজা-জমিদাৰ, মাটিৰ মহাজন, এক চেতীয়া পুঁজিপতি—দেশীয় ধনী বা বজ্জোৱাসকল, কোম্পানী, ডাক্তৰ ডাক্তৰ ব্যৱসায়ী ইত্যাদি আৰু দৰিদ্ৰ বা নিম্ন শ্ৰেণীৰ ভিতৰত পৰে মেহনতী জনতা—কৃষক-শ্ৰমিক, মধ্যবিত্ত, সৰু সৰু ব্যৱসায়ী, দোকানী, তলখাপৰ কামচাৰী ইত্যাদি। সমাজতন্ত্ৰবাদী এখন সমাজ প্ৰতিষ্ঠা কৰিবলৈ হলে ওপৰতলাৰ অৰ্থাৎ অৰ্থবান শ্ৰেণীৰ ওপৰত টেক্স, কৰকাটল লগাই নিম্ন শ্ৰেণীৰ কাৰণে, দেশৰ কাৰণে খৰছ কৰা। বিদেশী পুঁজিপতিৰ সম্পত্তি, এক চেতীয়া পুঁজিপতিৰ সম্পত্তি, ধনীৰ সম্পত্তি বাজেয়াপ্ত কৰিব লাগে। এজন লোকৰ বাৰীৰ পান-তাগোল, কল-কুঁহিয়াৰ, শাক-পাচলি অন্য এজনে ভোগ কৰিলে প্ৰথম জনৰ উন্নতি হ'ব নোৱাৰে— থিক তত্পৰ আমাৰ দেশৰ সম্পত্তি অন্য এখনে ভোগ কৰি থাকিলে আমি কেনেকৈ সম্পত্তি-শালী আৰু শক্তিবান হ'ব পাৰিম? গতিকে বিদেশী আৰু দেশীয় পুঁজিপতিৰ সম্পত্তি সামাজিকৰণ কৰিলেহে আমাৰ টকা হ'ব—দেশ সমৃদ্ধিশালী হ'ব। মই জানো এই চৰকাৰে ধনীৰ ওপৰত চাপ নিদিয়ৈ—কাৰণ শাসনৰ গাদীত থকা দলতো হৈছে ওপৰতলা, অৰ্থাত ধনীৰ স্বাৰ্থ ৰক্ষা কৰা দল। ৰাজনৈতিক দল পাৰ্টি বুলিলে সমাজৰ এক শ্ৰেণীৰ স্বাৰ্থ

শিৱসাগৰ মহকুমাৰ ভিতৰত প্ৰথমেই চাৰিওঁত পঞ্চায়ত চৰকাৰে স্থাপন কৰে। এই পঞ্চায়তক মাছ পুহিবলৈ টকা দিলে। ৫০০ শ টকাৰ বো মাছৰ পোৱালী কিনি এটা সৰু পুখুৰীত জীৰোৱালে। দৰ্গাহা দি এজন চকীদাৰ ৰাখিলে। যেতিয়া এবছৰ হ'ল তেতিয়া সৰু পুখুৰীটোৰ পৰা এটা বজাদিনীয়া পুখুৰী—মুদৌ পুখুৰীটোলৈ মাছ ধৰি নিবৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিলে। পঞ্চায়তৰ সভাপতি চেক্ৰেটাৰীক চকীদাৰে বুজালে যে সেইবিলাক ডাঙৰ মাছৰ পোৱালী খেদাখেদি কৰিলে ভাগৰ লাগি—ঘোলা পানী পেটত সোমাই পেট ওফন্দি মৰিব পাৰে—গতিকে এই পুখুৰীৰ পৰা মুদৌ পুখুৰীলৈ খাল খান্দি দিয়া হয়ক। চকীদাৰ নিৰ্দেশমতে ২৫০ টকা খৰচ কৰি মুদৌ পুখুৰীলৈ খালখান্দি দিয়া হ'ল। তিনিবছৰৰ পাচত মাছ ডাঙৰ হ'লত তাৰে গড়কাষৰীয়া কৈৱৰ্ত্তগাঁৱৰ পৰা মাছমৰীয়া মানুহ আনি আগ দিনাই সিসকলক জালৰ ফটা ফুটা মাৰিবলৈ নিৰ্দেশ দিছিল। প্ৰায় ৯ খন গাঁৱৰ বাইজ গোটখালে পুখুৰীৰ পাৰত—পানীত নাগিল মাছমৰীয়া মাছ ধৰিবলৈ—অৱশেষত গৈ গৈ মাগুৰ মাছ ২।৩ টা মান আৰু কাকুলীমাছ কেইটামান হে ধৰা পৰিল। (সদনত হাঁহি)। মাছ ধৰা নপৰাৰ কাৰণে মাছ মৰীয়াসকলকে ধমকি দিলে—'জাল পাতল মাছ জোৱান হৈছে—তলৈদি বোকা ফালি গৈছে" (সদনত হাঁহিৰ খলকনি) কিয় মাছ নাই, মাছ আছে"। পাচত জকাইটুক মৌজাৰ হাতীঘুলী অঞ্চলৰ পৰা আকৌ এদিন 'জাল পলহ' কেৰেয়া কৰি মানুহ আনিলে—পুনৰ মুদৌ পুখুৰীৰ জীৰোৱা মাছ ধৰিবলৈ—এইবাৰ জালৰ 'গোঁৰা' পুতি পুতি মাছ ধৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিলে—মাছ থাকিলেহে ওলাব। গোঁৰাপুতি জাল মাৰক বা এনেয়ে মাৰক। সেই দিনাও মাৰি নাৰি শেষত শ'লমাছ এটা ধৰা পৰিল। ই কেনে কথা—৫০০ টকাৰ বো মাছৰ পোৱালী—৩ বছৰ চকীদাৰৰ খৰচ—২।১ আটৈশ টকা খালৰ খৰচ, জালৰ কেৰেয়া, পলৰ কেৰেয়া—ধৰাপৰে শ'ল মাছ এটা (সদনত হাঁহিৰ গিবিজন)।

শিৱসাগৰৰ গভৰ্ণমেণ্ট হাই স্কুলৰটোৰ এৰছৰতে পৰা ভেটিতো ফাট মেলিলত পুনৰ repair কৰে—শিৱসাগৰ নগৰৰ পৰা দিখৌমুখলৈ যোৱা আলিটো পৰা কৰিছিল। সেই পৰা এৰছৰ নৰ'ল—যোৰহাটৰ টিয়কৰ ট্ৰেন্সপৰ্ট অফিচটোৰ কাঠ এৰছৰতে আঙুলী সোমাই যোৱা হ'ল— এইবোৰ পুনৰ মেৰামতি কৰি খৰছ কৰিছে। এই দৰে অৱ্যবহত বহু টকা ব্যয় হৈছে। এই বিলাকলৈ চকু দিব লাগে খৰছ কৰিবৰ সময়ত।

ধনীৰ ওপৰত কৰব বোজা চপাই নিদি দুখীয়াৰ ওপৰতহে হেচা দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছে চৰকাৰে। ওপৰৰ পৰা তললৈ তলে তলে নিৰ্দেশ দিছে—বাম আন্তৰীয়া মাটি দ আন্তৰীয়া লিখি, দ জলাতকক বাম জলাতক—বাম বালিচ হীয়াক বাম আন্তৰীয়া কৰি ধৰি নতুন জোখৰ পাচত খাজনা বৃদ্ধি কৰিবলৈ চাৰ্ত্তে কৰ্মচাৰী সকলক—মণ্ডল, কাননগু, চৰভেপুতি চেটোলমেণ্ট অফিচাৰক নিৰ্দেশ দিছে। টকাত 10 অনাকৈ স্থানীয় কৰ বৃদ্ধি কৰিবৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছে। পঞ্চায়ত আইনত সাধাৰণ বাইজৰ ওপৰত কৰ কাটল লগাবলৈ ক্ষমতা দিছে। এই দৰে যদি দুখীয়া শ্ৰেণীৰ ওপৰত হেঁচা দিয়া হয় তেন্তে দেশ বসন্তলৈ যাব।

বাজেটৰ টকা ব্যয় কৰা ক্ষেত্ৰত চাব লাগে যাতে তলৰ শ্ৰেণীৰ উন্নতি পথ সুগম হয়। চৰকাৰে এই ক্ষেত্ৰত অৰ্থাৎ দেশ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে পঞ্চবাৰ্ষিকী পৰিকল্পনা আনিছে। এই পৰিকল্পনা দুখীয়াৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে নহয় ধনীৰ কাৰণেহে। বিদেশী পুঁজিপতিৰ আৰু দেশীয় পুঁজিপতিৰ ব্যৱসায় উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে—পঞ্চ বাৰ্ষিক পৰিকল্পনাৰ ফলত ভাৰতবৰ্ষ এখন বিদেশী ধনীসকলৰ দোকানৰ স্থল হৈছে—বস্ত্ৰৰ দাম বাঢ়িছে। বস্ত্ৰৰ দাম বাঢ়িলে ঘৰি টকা গৈ অৰ্থাত দেশ বিদেশৰ পৰা ধাৰ কৰি কৰ কাটল লগাই যি টকা ব্যয় কৰিছে—সি যাতে ধনীকৰ হাতত জমা হয়গৈ। এই পৰিকল্পনা এমেৰিকাৰ ধনীকৰ আদৰ্শক পৰা অনা হৈছে, আমেৰিকাৰ ধনী জমিদাৰ সকলে মাটিত সাব-পানী-যন্ত্ৰাদি প্ৰয়োগ কৰিছে আৰু উৎপাদনৰ বস্তু বেচি কৃষি-শ্ৰমিকক মজুৰি দি লাভ জমা কৰিছে। আমাৰ ইয়াতো চৰকাৰে খেতিয়কক সাব-পানী-ট্ৰেক্টৰ দিয়াৰ কথা কৈছে—কিন্তু দুখীয়া কৃষকে ইয়াৰ দাম দিব কেনেকৈ—ইফালে শতকৰা ২০।২৫ ভাগৰ মাটিয়েই নাই। গতিকে এই বিলাক প্ৰয়োগ কৰে ক'ত? গতিকে ভাৰতৰ কৃষকৰ সমস্যা ভাৰতীয় পথেদি সমাধান কৰিলেহে এটা ব্যৱস্থা হ'ব। মাটিহীনক মাটি দিয়া, অন্য সাহায্য দিয়া, ইত্যাদি।

পঞ্চ বাৰ্ষিক পৰিকল্পনাত হয়তো বহু বাস্তৱ হৈছে—বা হ'ব। এই বাস্তৱ ভাল কৰা নিৰ্দ্ধাৰণ কৰা অৰ্থ হৈছে—ধনীয়ে যাতে সম্ভাৱিত বস্তু কিনি চৰা দামত বিক্ৰী কৰি লাভৰ বোনা শকত কৰিব পাৰে বিশেষকৈ শাসক শ্ৰেণীৰ শাসনযন্ত্ৰ—মিলিটেৰী পুলিচ যাতে ক্ষীপ্ৰ বেগেৰে কৃষক শ্ৰমিকৰ আন্দোলন দমন কৰিবলৈ গতি কৰিব পাৰে। বাস্তৱ, দলং, স্কুল, হাস্পাতাল দেশ নহয়—দেশ মানে মানুহ বুজায়। মানুহৰ সুবিধাথে এই বিলাক প্ৰয়োজন বা অপৰিহাৰ্য্য। কিন্তু দেশৰ উন্নতি মানে মানুহৰ উন্নতি—অৰ্থাত মানুহে জীৱনত আনন্দ উপভোগ কৰাত কিমান পদক্ষেপ কৰিছে তাক বুজায়। যদি খাবলৈ নোহোৱাৰ সংখ্যা ক্ৰমে বেচি হয়—প্ৰতি নগৰে, গাঁৱে বৃদ্ধি হৈছে, বস্ত্ৰৰ দাম অতিৰিক্ত অৰ্থাত বস্তু কিনিবলৈ সামৰ্থ্য নোহোৱা হয়—যদি ক্ৰমে নিবনুৱাৰ সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি পায়—যদি চুৰি ডকাইতি অৰ্থাত সমাজচ্যুত লোকৰ সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি হয় তেন্তে বাস্তৱ আদি অতিৰিক্ত হলেও দেশ আগবঢ়া নুবুজায়।

পৰিকল্পনা কৰোঁতে অৰ্থাত টকা ব্যয়ৰ সময়ত বাইজৰ জনসাধাৰণৰ সহযোগ নথকাতে দুখৰ বিষয়। জনসাধাৰণৰ সহযোগৰ কাৰণে পৰিকল্পনা জনসাধাৰণৰ মনঃপুত বা উপকাৰত অহা হ'ব লাগিব—সেয়ে হবলৈ হলে জনসাধাৰণৰ লগত আলোচনা কৰি পৰিকল্পনা ৰচনা কৰিব লাগে। খাল, মথাউৰি, ইত্যাদিত স্থানীয় জনসাধাৰণৰ মত নলৈ ওপৰৰ পৰা পৰিকল্পনা কৰি টকা খৰচ কৰিলে সি খৰচহে হ'ব—লাভত নাহে। ওপৰৰ পৰা পৰিকল্পনা কৰাৰ কাৰণেই আজি জনসাধাৰণে বুজিব পৰা নাই এইবোৰ কি কৰিছে?

ভাৰতবৰ্ষ এখন খেতিয়কৰ দেশ। ভাৰতৰ উন্নতি আৰু ভাৰতৰ ভিতৰৰ অন্য লোকৰ উন্নতি নিৰ্ভৰ কৰে এই খেতিয়ক সকলৰ ওপৰত। গতিকে খেতিয়কৰ উন্নতি হ'বলৈ হলে মাটিহীন আৰু মাটি কম থকা খেতিয়কৰ খেতিৰ উপযুক্ত ৰিজাৰ্ট গ্ৰেজিং গ্ৰাণ্ট ইত্যাদি

খলি আৰু ৩০ বিঘাৰ ওপৰত মাটিৰ সীমা বান্ধি অতিৰিক্ত মাটি খেতিয়কক খেতিব কাৰণে দিব লাগে।

চৰকাৰে বান্ধ লী বিজাৰ্ড, বনমালী-বৰহাট গ্ৰাণ্ট আদি কৰি হেজাৰ হেজাৰ কৃষকক বিজাৰ্ড গ্ৰাণ্ট, গ্ৰেজিং আদিৰ পৰা উচ্ছেদ কৰি যোৰ কৃষক বিৰোধী নীতি চালু কৰিছে। এই উচ্ছেদৰ ভিতৰত একেবাৰেই নিঃসহায় মাটিহীন আৰু গড়াখহনীয়া-বানপানীত পৰি সৰ্বশাস্ত হোৱা কৃষকে আছে। শীঘ্ৰেই এই উচ্ছেদ নীতি এটা স্তূতদন্ত নোহোৱা পৰ্য্যন্ত বন্ধ ৰাখিব লাগে।

কৃষিজাত আৰু শিল্পজাত বস্তুৰ দামৰ এটা সমন্বয় বান্ধিব লাগে—অৰ্থাত খেতিয়কৰ উৎপাদনৰ বস্তুৰ দামে যাতে কাপোৰ, সূতা, কাগজ, চিমেন্ট, টিন, তেল আদি যন্ত্ৰ শিল্পৰ পৰা উৎপাদন হোৱা বস্তু সহজে কিনিব পাৰে।

(এনেতে টিলিঙ্গা বাজে)

সেইটো কৰিবলৈ হলে কিনা-বেচা বিষয়তো (Marketing site) চৰকাৰে হাতত লব লাগে। খেতিয়কে বা অন্য নিম্নশ্ৰেণীৰ লোকে বিক্ৰী কৰিব লগীয়া বস্তু চৰকাৰে কিনিব লাগে আৰু সেইদৰে যিসকলে কিনিব লগীয়া বস্তু চৰকাৰে যোগান ধৰিব লাগে। চীন দেশত, কপাহ, নাৰিকল আদি বস্তু চৰকাৰে কিনে আৰু চাউল পৰ্য্যন্ত চৰকাৰে যোগান ধৰে—অৰ্থাত বিক্ৰী কৰে। তেতিয়া হলে সদনে চৰকাৰক এই বিষয়ত পৰামৰ্শ যোগাব পাৰিব; কিন্তু বৰ্তমান কিনা-বেচা ভাৱতো কোনোবা ব্যৱসায়ী বা কোম্পানীয়ে লৈছে। জনসাধাৰণৰ ভাগ্য বা উন্নতিৰ ভাৱ ব্যক্তিগত বা কেইজনমান লাভপোৰ শোষণকৰ হাতত এৰি দি চৰকাৰ বহি আছে।

(টিলিঙ্গা বাজে)

শোষণকৰ হাতৰ পৰা, ব্যৱসায়ীৰ কবলৰ পৰা দেশক উদ্ধাৰ কৰি জনসাধাৰণৰ উন্নতি আৰু অগ্ৰগতিৰ পথ স্বৰূপ কৰি এখন সাম্যৰ শোষণহীন পঞ্চায়তী সমাজ গঠন কৰিবলৈ চৰকাৰে বাজেটত ইচ্ছিতকৈ দিয়া নাই।

Shri MAHADEB DAS [Barpeta (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]: মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমাৰ বিত্ত মন্ত্ৰী ভাঙ্গৰীয়াই প্ৰাকৃতিক বিপৰ্য্যয়ত বাৰে বাৰে পাড়িত হোৱা, নানা বিপদ আহকালৰ মাজত থকা অসম মাতৃক পৰিচালনা কৰাৰ কাৰণে ১৯৫৯-৬০ চনৰ বাবে যি খন বাছি Budget এই সদনত আলোচনাৰ কাৰণে দাঙি ধৰিছে সচাঁকৈ মই প্ৰশংসা নকৰি নোৱাৰিলো। মহোদয়, এই সদনত আজি Budget সম্পৰ্কে বহু সভাই বহু যুক্তি দি গৈছে গতিকে মইয়ো সেই সম্পৰ্কে কিছু যুক্তি আগ বঢ়াম। আশা কৰো তাক কৃতকাৰ্য্য কৰাৰ কাৰণে যেন কিছু কৃপা দৃষ্টি কৰে।

মোৰ কথা হল যি খন দেশত জঙ্ঘল নাই, সেই দেশত মঙ্ঘলও নাই। আজি আমি বহু বছৰৰ পৰা দেখিব পাইছো যে আমাৰ দেশত জঙ্ঘল নোহোৱাৰ কাৰণে সময় মতে বৰষুণ নহয় তাৰ পৰা খেতি বাতি আদিত আমাৰ কৃষক ভাই সকলে সদায় দুখত জীৱত যাপন কৰিব লগাত পৰিছে। আমি শুনিব পাওঁ যে জাপান দেশত শতকৰা ৪০ ভাগ হাবি বননি আছে সেই কাৰণে আজি জাপানে কৃষি আৰু শিল্পত আগ বঢ়া বুলি সকলোৱে জানে। আমাৰ ভাৰত বৰ্ষত হাবি বননিৰ সংখ্যা শতকৰা মাত্ৰ ৩৩ ভাগ, তাৰ ভিতৰত অসমত মাত্ৰ ১৩ ভাগ যদি আমি সৰ্ব ভাৰতীয় হাবি বনানিৰ লগত সমান হব লগা হওঁ তথাপি ২০ ভাগ গছ গছনি আমি নতুনকৈ পুতিব লাগিব। পণ্ডিত সকলৰ মতে

হাৰি বননিব সেউজীয়া বংটোৱে মেৰ আকৰ্ষণ কৰাৰ বাবে দেশত বৰষুণ হয়। গতিকে যদি আমাৰ দেশত বৰষুণৰ দৰ্কাৰ বুলি ভাৱে তেন্তে নিশ্চয় গছ পুতা আঁচনি অতি সোনকালে গ্ৰহণ কৰিব লাগিব। এই গছ বোৰ পোতাৰ কাৰণে আমাৰ ঠাইৰ অভাৱ নাই যেনে কিছুমান Forest area আছে, খৰিৰ কাৰণে বিজাৰ্ত আছে আৰু বহু ঠাই ওখ অঞ্চল খেতিৰ উপযোগী নহয় তেনে বোৰ ঠাই সোনকালে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ পৰা তদন্ত কৰি অধিক পৰিমাণে গছ পোতাৰ ব্যৱস্থা হাতত লোৱাৰ কাৰণে অনুৰোধ জনালো।

জনসাধাৰণৰ ব্যৱসায় আদিত আজি কেই বছৰৰ পৰা দেশত খেতি বাতি নষ্ট হোৱাৰ কাৰণে আগতকৈ বাউতি বেছিকৈ বাঢ়িছে। লগতে জনসংখ্যাও বঢ়াত গাই গুটীয়াকৈ কাম আদি দিয়াৰ কাৰণে কিছুমান ক্ষেত্ৰত গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে বেমেজালীত ভুগিব লগাত পৰিছে। সেই বাবে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে সমবায় পদ্ধতিত সকলো কামৰ বেছি নজৰ দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছে। তাকে দেখি কিছুমান মানুহে তেওঁলোকৰ ভিতৰত বন্ধু বান্ধবৰে সৈতে অথচ অদৰ্কাৰী মানুহ গোট খোৱাই টকা পয়চা পোৱাৰ হেপাহত সমবায় চছাইটি বেজিষ্টাৰ কৰি টকা নোপোৱাৰ কাৰণে কাম কাজ নকৰি বৈ আছে। আজি ২১১ দিনৰ কথা আমি এই সদনতে আমাৰ কোপাবেটিত বিভাগৰ উপমন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ৰ পৰা এটি সংখ্যা পাইছো যে অসম দেশত প্ৰায় ৭০০০ সমবায় আছে। মই সেই কথাটো বুজিব পৰা নাই এই ৭ সাত হেজাৰ চছাইটিয়ে যদি থিক ভাৱে কাম কৰে তেন্তে ইয়াৰ ওপৰত আমাক নতুনকৈ আৰু কিয় চছাইটি লাগে, আমি আমাৰ পঞ্চায়তৰ যি নতুন আইন বচনা কৰিছো তাৰ পিনে চালে দেখিব পাওঁ যে ২৥ হেজাৰ জনসংখ্যাৰ একোটা গোট কৰি সমবায় কৰাৰ সুবিধা আছে, যদি সেই আইন মতে আমি সমবায় কৰোঁ তেন্তে অসমৰ জন সংখ্যা অনুযায়ী আমাৰ দেশত ৪০০০ হেজাৰ সমবায় হব। গতিকে মই এই প্ৰসঙ্গত কব খোজো যে আমাৰ দেশত তদন্ত কৰিব লাগে যাতে ২৥ হেজাৰ লোকৰ মাজত যি সমবায় আছে আৰু কাম কাজ কৰি আছে এনে বোৰ সমবায় ৰাখি বাকী বোৰ সমবায় ভাঙি দি নতুন মতে পঞ্চায়ত আইন খনে দিয়া নিৰ্দেশ মতে তৈয়াৰ কৰি লব লাগে। যদি পঞ্চায়ত আইনৰ মতে সমবায় বোৰ গঠন কৰা হয় তেন্তে মোৰ বোধে এই সমবায় বোৰৰ মঙ্গল হব লগতে দেশৰো মঙ্গল হব বুলি মোৰ বিশ্বাস। যিহেতু দেশ গঢ়াত সমবায় পদ্ধতিয়ে এক মাত্ৰ উত্তম পথ।

এতিয়া মই মাটি নীতিৰ বিষয়ে কিছু কথা কম। আজি আমাৰ দেশত ভূমি সংস্কাৰ কৰাৰ কাৰণে বহুত আইন তৈয়াৰ হৈছে যদিও ৰাইজে তাৰ পৰা উপকাৰ পোৱা নাই। কাৰণ ফাইল তৈয়াৰ হৈছে সাঁচা আইন প্ৰযোজ্য কৰাৰ কাৰণে কৰ্মচাৰী সকলে বিশেষ চকু দিয়া নাই। তাৰ কাৰণ আমি গাঁওৰে ভূঞা শূনিৰ পাওঁ যে নতুনকৈ প্ৰয়োগ কৰা অধিবাৰী আইনৰ কথা তাত-ৰাইজে কয় গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ আইন থিক হৈছে কিন্তু কাজিয়া আদি মাৰাৰ কাৰণে আমি কৰ্মচাৰী বিচাৰ কৰি নেপাওঁ গাঁৱে ভূঞা আমাৰ সেই বিষয়ে উপদেশ দিয়া বাজ কৰ্মচাৰী নাই যদিও ওপৰ মহলত আইনৰ লক্ষ্য দিয়া বহু কৰ্মচাৰী আছে। এই ক্ষেত্ৰত গাঁও ভূহিত আহি বিচাৰ কৰি কাজিয়া আদি ওৰ খকাত ৰাইজ দুখিত। সেই কাৰণে জ্ঞানী লোকে কৈছে যে আগে আলি বান্ধিবা তাৰ পিচতহে শালি পুতিবা। গতিকে টানি অনুৰোধ লাগতিয়াল কৰ্মচাৰীৰ দৰ্কাৰ মতে বঢ়াই ৰাইজৰ মাজত যি ভূমি নীতিৰ আইন প্ৰয়োগ কৰাৰ ব্যাঘাত হৈছে তাক সমাধান কৰাৰ কাৰণে বান্ধহ মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াক মই অনুৰোধ জনালো।

সদনস্থ সভ্য সকলৰ অবিদিত নহয় যে মদ নিৰাৰণী আইন কামৰূপত প্ৰয়োগ কৰিবৰ আজি প্ৰায় ৩৪ বছৰ হ'ল মদ নিৰাৰণী আইন কৰাত ভাল হৈছে আন সমৰ্থন জনাইছো আনপিনে যদি চাওঁ সেই মদ তৈয়াৰ কৰা অৰ্থাৎ হাৰী তৈয়াৰ

কৰা। এক জাতিৰ লোক আমাৰ ইয়াত আছে তেওঁ সকলে অতীতৰ পৰা হীৰা মাটিৰ হাবী আদি তৈয়াৰ কৰি জনজাতি ভাই সকলৰ মাজত হাবীৰ সলনি কৰি ধান আদি জীৱিকা চলাই আহিছে। মই কব খোজো এই হাবী তৈয়াৰ কৰাৰ কাৰণে হাবী জাতি হৈছে হাবী বন্ধ কৰাত তেওঁ সকলৰ নিশ্চয় জীৱিকাৰ পথত কিছু বন্ধক জন্মিছে। গতিকে এই সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ লোক সকলক মাটি বিতৰণ কৰাৰ সময়ত সুবিধা ব্যৱস্থা নৰখাত মই দুখ পাইছো। গতিকে অনুৰোধ মাটি বিতৰণ নীতিত এই সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ লোকে যাতে বিশেষ সুবিধা পায় তাৰ কাৰণে অনুৰোধ অকল এই সম্প্ৰদায়টোৰ নহয় মোৰ বন্ধু শ্ৰীৰাম নাথ দাস ডাঙ্গৰীয়াই এই সদনত কৈ গৈছে যে মাটিৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত অনসূচীত জাতিৰ প্ৰায় ভাগ মানুহৰে নাই বুলিলে ভুল কৰা নহব। আনহাতে মাটি বিতৰণ ক্ষেত্ৰত সুকীয়া সুবিধা এই অনসূচীত জাতিৰ ওপৰত বখা নাই। এইটো থিক কথা মই তেওঁৰ কথাত সমৰ্থন দিছো। আৰু লগতে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টক টানি অনুৰোধ কৰো যাতে আমাৰ যি ১৬ জন Scheduled Castes Organiser ৰ অনসূচীত জাতিৰ মঙ্গলৰ কাৰণে অসম গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে নিয়োগ কৰিছে তেওঁসকলৰ দ্বাৰা কিমান মাটি এই অনসূচীত জাতিৰ লোকৰ আছে আৰু কিমানৰ নাই এনে তদন্ত কৰি অতি সোনকালে মাটি বিতৰণ ক্ষেত্ৰত আচুতীয়া ব্যৱস্থা ৰাখি অতি পিচপৰা অনসূচীত ভাই সকলৰ মঙ্গল কৰাৰ কাৰণে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টক টানি অনুৰোধ জনোৱা হল।

আজি আমি দেখিব পাওঁ যে অসম দেশত কুটিৰ শিল্পৰ বাপ থকা বহু মানুহ আছে। দুখৰ কথা তেওঁ সকলৰ অৰ্থৰ অভাৱত কামত আগ বাঢ়ি যাব পৰা নাই। যদিও গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ পৰা বিনা সম্পত্তি জামিনে ১০০০ টকালৈ ধৰে দিয়া নিয়ম আছে তাৰ ভিতৰত কৰ্ম চাৰীৰ বেমেজালীত আৰু বিভাগীয় আইন আদিৰ মেৰ পাকত পৰি দুখীয়া শিল্পী সকলে মনৰ দুখত আশাৰ পৰা বঞ্চিত হোৱা বহু ঘটনা আমি দেখি আহিছোঁ। সেই কাৰণে মই এটি যুক্তি গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ ওচৰত দাখিল কৰিব খোজো সেইটো নহয় প্ৰত্যেক মহকুমাতে এখন কুটিৰ শিল্প বিতৰণ কৰা উপদেষ্টা সমিতি গঠন কৰিব লাগে তেওঁসকলে মনোনীত কৰা কাৰিকৰ সকলক অতি সোনকালে ঋণ দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিলে ভাল হব বুলি মোৰ বিশ্বাস।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই চমুকৈ শিক্ষাৰ বিষয়ে কওঁ সকলোৱে জানে শিক্ষা মানৱ জীৱনৰ মেৰুদণ্ড স্বৰূপ। আজি স্বাধীনতা পোৱাৰ প্ৰায় ১২ বছৰ হল দুখৰ কথা প্ৰাইমেৰী শিক্ষাৰ বেমেজালী ওৰ নপৰিল। অসমত প্ৰায় ২৫ হেজাৰ গাওঁ আছে; আমাৰ অসম গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ হেটকৈ ১৩ হেজাৰ প্ৰাইমাৰী স্কুল আছে। শিক্ষকৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত প্ৰায় ২১ হেজাৰ হব। এতেকে বুকু চাওক গাই প্ৰতি যদি এটাকৈ স্কুল দিয়া হয় তেন্তে আকৌ ১২ হাজাৰ বঢ়াব লাগিব। শিক্ষকৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত যদি প্ৰত্যেক স্কুলত ২ জনকৈ গড়ে ধৰা হয় তেন্তে কিমান শিক্ষকৰ দৰ্কাৰ ভাবি চাওঁক। আনহাতে শিক্ষা শিতানত প্ৰায় ৫ কোটি টকা আছে। তাৰ দ্বাৰা প্ৰাইমাৰী স্কুলৰ পৰা University লৈ খৰচ পাতি বহন কৰিব লাগিব। সেই ক্ষেত্ৰত মই কব খোজো এই টকাটো কম হৈছে। গতিকে বিত্ত মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙ্গৰীয়াক অনুৰোধ যাতে শিক্ষা শিতানৰ ধনৰ টোপোলাটো ডাঙৰকৈ দি এই অতি পিচপৰা গাঁৱলীয়া বাইজৰ প্ৰাণৰ স্বৰূপ প্ৰাইমাৰী স্কুলৰ শিক্ষাৰ মান দণ্ড বঢ়াই দহৰ আৰু বাইজৰ মঙ্গল অতি সোনকালে গঠন কৰে।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মোৰ আৰু কবৰ কাৰণে হেৰ্পাই আছিল। কি কৰিব সময়ৰ অভাৱত মনৰ কথা মনতে বন্ধ ৰাখি বহু চেষ্টা কৰাৰ ফলত অনুগ্ৰহ কৰি যি ফেৰা সময় আপুনি মোক এই সদনত কোৱাৰ কাৰণে আজি সুবিধা দিলে তাৰ কাৰণে মোৰ তবফৰ পৰা আপোনাক ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন কৰি সামৰণি মাৰিলোঁ।

জয় হিন্দু।

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Education, etc.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, after to-day's Question hour I was having a feeling that we should try to make speeches in our own mother tongue because we have a difficulty in expressing ourselves in a foreign tongue although we studied it for many years. Sir, I was almost having a notion that we were establishing a convention in eliminating the difference of the words 'must' and 'may'. But Sir, your indication during the Question Hour to-day gave a mild, though not a rude shock, that we have to be careful about 'may' and 'must'. So our convention for the last about 18 or 20 years on the floor of this House is almost gone. Then again Sir, there was another Question in connection with Industries and Shri Tripathiji wanted to give a broad connotation to a certain work and then, up came a Professor of the College, saying that the answers were misleading. That frightens me, Sir, I am a humble student. However, I will not dilate on this subject because we have our Hill friends who are inconvenienced in understanding us in Assamese. Therefore, we have to make a heroic effort as of necessity to express ourselves in a foreign tongue—English.

Sir, as my time is limited—I think would be given half an hour only in all, and as you, Sir, have indicated to us that pressure of time is rather heavy, we have to confine ourselves to the time limit, I shall try to be brief. At the same, I am grateful to you for the opportunity you have given me.

Now, Sir I will deal first with the subject which is a difficult one and which cannot be developed in the short time at my disposal. I am referring to the statement made by my Friend Shriman Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya—of course, he is not in his seat which is not a new experience to us. He said among other things—

“But Sir, may I not say again that in the past few years also our Budgets were shown as deficit Budgets and, if I may say so, that these deficit Budgets were made purposefully deficit as though Government showed them as deficit either due to cunningness or due to supposed cunningness whereby to persuade the Central Government to give more grants, aids and assistance. Perhaps the framers of these Budgets thought that they were more cunning than those who are sitting at Delhi. But in the long run we found that these Budgets turned out to be surplus and the trick did not turn out to be successful”.

Now Sir, I must say that if only I were attacked personally about the past Budgets I would not have bothered myself to take the time of the House to controvert; but since it raises a very important question of economics and public finance for the State, I am constrained to request you Sir, to allow me to take my stand to make a statement as to which policy is best...

Mr. SPEAKER: If it is the policy of the Government the Minister is bound to discuss whatever problems are arising here. But in this particular discussion, I mean the Budget discussion, the Finance Minister is there and he might reply to those points because after all they arose from the financial policy enunciated in the Budget. Also it would be convenient to hon. Members if the Minister gives his reply to the points raised by hon. Members in respect of those Departments he is in-charge, particularly Education and P. W. D.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Education, etc.): Sir, I appreciate your ruling and I bow down to it. Now, since Shriman Bhattacharyya is not here, regarding his language I would not make any comment, but I think on his second thought he will regret it.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri): The Minister need not worry about the absence of our Friend Shri Bhattacharyya, we shall convey to him what the Minister likes to say.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: Thanks. I have full confidence in my Friend Shri Barbaruah's ability to convey it.

However, to start with, if we take a look at the figures which are given in the Budget speech, namely, for 1956-57 the opening balance was Rs.5,34,45,000 and the closing balance is Rs.2,22,35,000 withdrawal from cash balance for financing the plan is Rs.3,13,10,000—these figures are given at page 41 of the Budget speech Sir. Therefore, taking the overall picture when we have a budget every year, it must be remembered that our opening balance includes our deposit accounts, public accounts, provident fund and so on and so forth. Similarly, for 1957-58 the opening balance was Rs.2,22,35,000; closing balance Rs.73,43,000 and withdrawal from cash balance to finance the plans is Rs.1,48,92,000—these can be found at page 42 of the Budget speech. Again for 1958-59 the withdrawal from cash balance to finance the plan amounted to Rs.15,90,000. Altogether we find that the opening balance has dwindled from Rupees 5 crores 35 lakhs

45 thousand to Rupees 57 lakhs 53 thousand, it will be seen that the budget every year has been deficit. So if we just consider the budget from year to year—it may be recalled that in certain parts of the world, for example in America and the Scandinavian countries, budgets are framed for two years and in some cases 3, but in India it is every year—it will be seen that our budgets are just normal.

Now I would like to say a few words about the budget and the efforts of the Finance Minister to fight with the Central Government for financial grant. Of course, the Central Government uptil now had not given further help to the State Government and the matter is pending with them. Sir, no public finance cannot suffer in budgeting the estimate especially when the country advances for a change as in India. Therefore, to start with, I would not like to go into the details of the budget estimates, because the time allowed to me in this debate is limited. Sir, I would like to quote a few sentences of Professor Colin Clark a famous Professor of the Oxford University—he says—“The Economist is not entitled to treat his science as an isolated body of knowledge, whose conclusions have validity in themselves. Economics only becomes significant after the ethical and political objectives of society are clearly understood.” Now let us try to understand what is our ethical and political objects of this country. Here again Sir, I would particularly quote only a few sentences from this book. It is very difficult now to find out the pages of the book and since I am in hurry I shall not quote the sentences as I desired. Now, Sir, what is the theory of Public Finance and what is the political object such as ours? Sir, in this connection, I am again quoting a few sentences from the book of R. N. Bhargava, Head of the Department of the Economics, Allahabad University—he says—

“The classical economists failed to appreciate fully the advantages of public expenditure and, therefore, advocated the minimum amount of taxation. ‘Taxes were regarded as a sort of hail that destroys part of crop. Therefore the use to which the tax was put after its payment, was not studied at all. The consequence was that taxes were regarded, without further ado, as being accompanied by a contraction in the supply of available goods, with all the mistaken consequences of this mistaken premise’. Richardo stated that, ‘If you want peaceful Government, you must reduce budget’. He supported the golden maxim of J. B. Say that, ‘The very best

of all plans of finance is to spend little and the best of all taxes is that which is least in amount'. Even Gladstone wanted to tax little so that the money may 'fructify in the pockets of the people'. The old view is fully expressed in a statement of Sir Henry Parnell that 'Every particle of expenditure beyond what necessity absolutely requires, for the preservation of order and for protection against the foreign attack is waste and an unjust and oppressive imposition on the public.'

Sir, I will not trouble the House with any further introduction and shall not thereby take valuable time to discuss about the budget for balancing the budget. All the theories of Public Finance tell us that the State spends money for the welfare of the people. Sir, here again I would like to quote a few sentences from this book of Bhargava. Here he says at page 16:

"We know that the State only taxes to spend money for the welfare of the people. Against the evils of taxation we have to balance the benefits of public expenditure. Knowing fully well that taxation will deprive the people of a part of their income the State yet prefers to tax, because it knows that these people will benefit when the revenue is spent. The volume of taxation and expenditure are interdependent. The State can spend only as much as it raises in revenue. And it raises only that amount of revenue which it can profitably spend. The State has to compare the sacrifice imposed in raising revenue with the benefit that accrues from public expenditure. So long as the difference between benefit and sacrifice is positive there is a net gain and the nation benefits to that extent".

The budget of the 1st Five Year Plan of our country was estimated at Rs.269 crores and out of that amount over 200 crores to be raised by deficit financing. Now the question is how we have to meet this huge expenditure apart from the question of shortage of foreign exchange and a question naturally arises as to what are we going to do? We are certainly going to increase the production of our country and our State. Sir, social service also seems to decline to a certain extent. The Finance Minister of India said as early as 1941 that we were launching upon the country to increase the wealth.

Now Sir, what is the fundamental difficulty that we have had to encounter in budgeting our estimates? We do not accept the fundamental principles as have been accepted by the Government of India. The utmost criterion of raising revenue should be the unity of revenue.

The Leader of the Opposition yesterday rightly said that we have not spent adequately of public utility works. I entirely agree with him. We have not adequate number of schools, We have not adequate number of hospitals and we have not adequate facilities of water supply. That some people are to be expropriated and others to be given benefit of it. I regret I cannot agree with this. Deficit financing is resorted for accelerating the economic development of backward countries. Government of India is taking largely to deficit financing. Of course there is rising cost of living and it is to be off-set. Government of India in the Ministry of Finance are making heroic efforts to check this rising cost.

Sir, my Friend Shri Ram Nath Das the other day raised a very pertinent question as to why the Primary Education, according to the Budget, instead of increasing is getting less. Sir, we all must put our head together and see how best we can improve this. Many hon. Members and particularly my Friends from Mizo Hills District have said the same thing. They have said that more Primary schools should be established in the Hills. Now we have got 13,000 Primary Schools and 21,000 teachers. I admit the quality of the teachers and the standard of the schools including the Basic school are not satisfactory. There has been criticism about the basic and non-basic schools. There is justification for this criticism. I do admit as Education Minister that the standard is not satisfactory. But what are we going to do? There are 13,000 Primary schools and if we are going to provide education to all children upto 11 years of age we require 20 to 21 thousand schools. At present 56 per cent of the children of the age group of 11 years are going to the schools, if 80 per cent comes to the schools, only Providence help us; Now look at the condition of our existing schools. Some school buildings have got the roofs, but not the walls. Some have got walls and not the roofs; some have walls and roofs, but not seating accommodation; some have seating accommodation but not the equipment. As regards training in the Basic school, I have

visited some Basic schools when I went to the interior. Some of them are Basic schools in name only. There are only some dwindling creepers and flower plants in the compound; there are two or three Charkas which are hardly used in the schools. Now what are we going to do? Should we sit down with our hands folded? Sir, we have to make an heroic effort to give at least the reasonable standard of schools. Education is a responsibility of the State. Luckily from some time past, not long ago, just from one year, attention of the leaders of India are focused towards Education. Education has a bearing and determining effect both in itself as well as on all other Developmental projects. If there is no proper and suitable education, it is needless to stress on the point that our Developmental projects cannot yield the desired results.

As regards the Inspecting staff about which Shri Dandekar Hazarika spoke—he said something about the Basic schools that they are not upto the mark and that they are not inspected regularly. Only some nominal visits are made to the schools. Sir, although the number of our schools have increased the Inspecting staff has not increased. The Inspector is tied up in his Office. The Deputy Inspector is busy with the affairs of the School Board. Two poor Sub-Inspectors are to look after them. I would have been only happy if we could allot one Sub-Inspector for every 40 schools. I heard some hon. Members remarked that the number of Inspecting staff has increased, but I can tell that the number of Officers which is contemplated is not even adequate. There are Primary schools, Basic Schools, Technical Education, General Education, Middle English, Middle Vernacular and other schools to look after. There are High English schools, they are not properly inspected. Therefore the quality of education is getting bad. As regards Colleges, to the best of my knowledge, there is no inspection. The University take heed of the standard of the colleges. Government only just give the aid. We do not know much about it. I hope, in course of a few years, we shall be able to devise ways and means after discussion with the University, how best we can arrange for the inspection of the colleges. My Friend Shri Mohananda Bora gave very good suggestions. He said that we should give agricultural bias to education, so that we may be able to train up our boys with that bias. That will enable them, when they go out of the schools or college, to stand on their own legs, without running after Government Services. They may take to some profitable cultivation, or take to some small industries which arise out of this agricultural matters.

Sir, I have to explain about one thing. Sreejukta Chanda raised a question that some high ranking officer of the Department went to a girls' hostel without permission. He went to the bath room and there he did something. I can only tell her that she is completely misinformed. What happened is this that the Additional Director of Public Instructions, accompanied by the Inspector of Schools went to the girls' school in question. He obtained the permission of the Superintendent to go to the Hostel. The Superintendent showed round every place including the bath room. The Additional Director of Public Instructions found that the bath room was not clean and that it was not only a place of abode but also a place of education. He said something like that.

Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West) : No, no. I am not misinformed. It is a fact, Sir.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Education etc.) : At any rate, I beg your pardon, the pardon of the hon. Member, but I can assure that such things never happen. The permission is always taken to visit the Girls' Hostel. I resent such remarks very much. The other day I went to visit a Girls' Hostel, I took the permission and took the lady Superintendent with me. I went there in connection with the proposal for construction of a building.

Sir, some points have been raised with regard to the Public Works Department. I have taken note of them. I will, with your permission, get the notes cyclostyled and circulate them to the hon. Members.

Mr. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister does not require my permission to circulate the note ; the only permission required is to speak in this House (*laughter*).

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH : I will send the notes regarding the points which have been raised by the hon. Members. I am grateful to the hon. Members for taking keen interest. Without discrimination, if I may be permitted I may refer to the observations in respect of Education coming from not only experienced leader of the country like Shri M. M. Chaudhury, but also the suggestions and criticism coming from other hon. Members which are very helpful. I on behalf of the Party as well as the Government am grateful to them for their very healthy and constructive suggestions. I need hardly assure that all these suggestions will be borne in mind.

We will try to act upto them within the only limitation—the limitation of the resources of the State and that also with the co-operation of everyone. We should make heroic efforts to overcome the difficulties. After all unless we give our due attention to Education, all other things will simmer up. Thank you, Sir.

Adjournment

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

After lunch

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as many as 50 or 51 hon. Members have taken part in the general discussion on the budget.

Shri DWIJESH CHANDRA DEB SARMA (Digboi):

মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই এটা কথাৰ প্ৰতি আপোনাৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিব গুজিছে। যে— বাজেটৰ সম্পৰ্কত, বহুতো সদস্যই তেখেতসকলৰ ভাষণ দিবলৈ সময়ৰ অভাৱত অক্ষম হয়। যোৱা বছৰৰ অধিবেশনতো একেই অৱস্থা হৈছিল আৰু এই বিষয়ে Business Advisory বৰ্ডৰো দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰা হৈছিল। এনে কৰা স্বত্বেও এইবাৰো আৱশ্যকতকৈ সময় কম দিয়া হ'ল আৰু সময়ৰ অভাৱত আমাৰ আৱশ্যকীয় বহুতো কথা ক'ব পৰা নহ'ল। সেই কাৰণে মই মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰি অনুৰোধ কৰো যেন ভবিষ্যতে সকলো সদস্যই বাজেট সমালোচনা কৰি নিজৰ ভাষণ দিবলৈ সুবিধা পায় তাৰ উপযুক্ত ব্যৱস্থা কৰে। তাৰ পিচত, মোৰ দ্বিতীয় অনুৰোধ হ'ল যে সময়ৰ অভাৱত, মিলিলাক সদস্যই সদনত তেখেত সকলৰ কবলগীয়া কথা ব্যক্ত কৰিব নোৱাৰিলে তেওঁলোকে তেওঁলোকৰ লিখিত ভাষণ বিধান সভা চেক্ৰেটৰীয়েটত দাখিল কৰিবলৈ আৰু বিধান সভাৰ কাৰ্য্য বিৱৰণীত সন্নিৱিষ্ট কৰিবলৈ যেন অনুমতি দিয়ে।

Mr. SPEAKER: I am grateful to the hon. Member for raising this point to-day. In fact I raised it yesterday and explained the circumstances on account of which it was not possible for us to give more time for the budget discussion as well as for discussion on the Demands. I also explained that unless we worked for longer hours it would not be possible for us to do justice to our duty. I am obliged to the hon. Member for that he has said for extending the time for the budget discussion and I quite realise that we should devote more time and should work hereafter for longer hours. We will try to do whatever we can from the next time. I hope hon. Members will co-operate with me in arranging the programme in such a manner that as many hon. Members as possible can participate in the debate.

So far as the second suggestion is concerned, the Parliamentary democracy as well as the rules of procedure which govern the conduct of business in this House do not provide for manuscript eloquence. If it was ever done then

it was not in accordance with the parliamentary practice and rules of procedure which govern the conduct of business of the Assembly. Hon. Members of course may submit whatever suggestions they may have to the Members in charge of respective Departments and I have no doubt that being the servants and representatives of the people they will do whatever is possible in that behalf. I would like to bring it to the notice of the hon. Members that in the budget discussion in this Assembly more than 50 hon. Members have participated. Not only that, I say, of course subject to correction, the overwhelming majority of them spoke both on the debate on the Governor's Address and on the budget discussion and I do not find that in their discussion on both these occasions there was any distinction in the subject matters. Apart from that, hon. Members also spoke for longer time than I fixed which is 15 minutes for each hon. Member which is the usual time given both in the Lok Sabha and in other Assemblies. On an average I found that they spoke more than 20 minutes. Any way, we will do what we can and I am sure Government will take into account the feelings of the hon. Members of this House and see that the budget is placed before the House at such a time so that sufficient time may be made available to the hon. Members to study and debate it. As I explained yesterday, the budget was placed before the House on the 10th March, and the discussions could be started on the 14th only. The budget will have to be passed before the 31st March, otherwise the work of the Government will come to a standstill as unless the Assembly passes the budget and the Appropriation Bill the Government will not be in a position to draw the money from the Consolidated Fund. I hope the hon. Finance Minister will please do the needful.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I started by saying that more than 50 hon. Members have taken part in the general discussion of the budget and, as you were pleased to say the other day, the average time taken by hon. Members in making their observations came to about 25 minutes. As you may have also noticed, Sir, that throughout this discussion, where observations have been made I made it a point to remain in the House and hear myself what the hon. Members had to say. At the outset I thank the hon. Members for the very valuable contributions they have made. So far as I am concerned, Sir, I have no hesitation in saying that I have derived benefit from the observations made by the hon. Members.

It is true that, on occasions, a few of the hon. Members gave more emphasis and importance to local grievances, but, Sir, I am proud of the fact that the level of the debate throughout the discussion was high. The trend of discussion was also different from that were made on previous occasions and also from that made during the debate on the Governor's Address. I am sure, Sir, that the whole House must have derived satisfaction from the observations, which at any rate will help us in discharging the responsibility of difficult task we have undertaken.

Dealing with as many as 50 critics each of whom on an average took more than 25 minutes, is really a gigantic task. It is not possible for me to reply to each and every matter particularly those relating to local questions. I, therefore, propose to deal, first with those matters which are of vital interest and importance to us. After dealing with those points, if time permits, I shall deal with some of the local grievances in respect of which our attention has been drawn during the discussion. Therefore, Sir, to begin with I shall deal with the observation which has been made by my Friend from Gauhati, Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya and many others to the effect that the speech delivered by me is entirely different from the provision made in the budget. Sir, this was the general trend of criticism and many Members have so expressed their views. My Friend from Dibrugarh, tried to import in some humour by saying that it was not an old wine in a new bottle but it was an old wine in an old bottle with a new label. My Friends are entitled to have such views of my speech as they like but to say that, if those Friends had really given their serious thought to what I stated and if they had carefully gone into the provision made in the budget ; these remarks would not have been made.

Sir, my hon. Friend, Shri Ramnath Das, in the course of his speech referred to expenditures on two or three items, such as, primary education, agriculture and Police and gave indication that he actually looked into these figures. He criticised that the expenditure on some of these items as provided for the next year will be less than what was provided in the last years' budget.

Shri RAM NATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] : That is not my point. With regard to Jail, I said that the provision made for next year appears to be so that revenue receipt for it was shown as the same in the current year.

Secondly, in Police revenue was shown for Police force as loan. My point is how Government will be benefited if for Police force a loan is taken from other spheres.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): I will only ask the hon. Members to jot down the questions they would like to put to me and these should be put at the end and not to interrupt me now as interference will stand in the way of my giving reply in a suitable manner.

Shri RAMNATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]: On a point of information, if I have been wrongly heard by the Minister I think, I am justified in making it clear.

Mr. SPEAKER: I allowed the hon. Member to express his view.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Mr. Speaker, I was not referring to all the items he had mentioned. I was speaking about his reference to Primary Education, Agriculture and Police. My hon. Friend had said that the expenditures on Primary Education and Agriculture were less than what were provided in the past year. I was trying to show that it appears that my Friend, Shri Ramnath Das, had gone into these figures. After going into the figures he cited instances to show that he was not satisfied with the trend of expenditure on Primary Education and Agriculture. I shall deal with the specific points later on.

I want to say once again that if hon. Members had really given serious thought to the serious problems I had posed before the hon. Members and also to the provisions made in the budget, I am sure, they would have hesitated twice before making such sweeping remarks that my speech was entirely different from the budget placed before this House.

In this connection, I may add that during the course of my speech, I made an effort to place as frankly and as clearly as possible the economic and financial condition of our State. I also placed before the House my views on the different aspects of the problems and how those problems should be solved by us not only immediately but also in the future. Particularly, when we are to prepare the Third Five Year Plan the consideration of the various difficulties and problems become inevitable. Therefore, for anyone to jump to the conclusion that my speech did not reflect the provisions in the budget is not correct.

Then, Sir, in considering the development of our State we have to take into consideration the question of priority.

Now, the hon. Member from Gauhati gave details of about 15 or 16 items which, according to him, were essential for the development of our State. Well, so far as the items are concerned there can be no dispute. It may be that to some of those items we may give more importance and others may give such importance to some other items. For instance we may consider No. 1 or 2 as more essential and my Friend may consider No. 3 or 4 more essential. There is however, a consensus of opinion in this House that unless and until immediate action in respect of three or four things out of those mentioned are taken in our State, we cannot make much headway, we cannot make any progress. What, therefore, I would ask the hon. Members to remember and to put a question to themselves which of the items enunciated by my Friend should under the existing circumstances and with the existing resources of our State be given priority. Sir, I find there are several and variety of demands from different quarters and even from all members. Some of us want to give more importance to Education, other want to give more importance to Agriculture, then there are others who think that Housing is of greater importance. There are many who would even like to give more importance to libraries in rural areas. The other day I came across a news item that some one in New Delhi had expressed the view that expenditure for libraries should be made a charge on the State revenue. This shows that some people think that expenditure on libraries is of more importance than expenditure on Agriculture and other developmental activities. When this is so, I would like the hon. Members to be frank regarding priority because such opinion will guide and help the Government to take decision as to what particular items should receive more attention so far as the expenditure is concerned. This I think, is of great importance because if we proceed on the basis of giving all items equal importance if we insist that expenditure should be provided equally for all the items, I don't know how it will be possible for us to make a speedy development about which my Friend the Leader of the Opposition has spoken. From the experience I have of the few countries outside India and particularly Soviet Russia, I feel that in order to make planning effective and in the interest of speedy development, we have to give priority to certain items for a number of years. When I visited Soviet Russia in 1957, which was after quite a number of years after the revolution, I found that with all the planning and mobilisation of all available labour the adequate supply of consumer goods had not till then been tackled by Soviet Russia. During my tour I found there was tremendous

shortage of shoes and of other consumer goods and in spite of the hard labour given by the people in the villages and in towns and the Government's anxiety and efforts. It has become necessary, for us on the Central level as well as on the State level, to give priority to certain of these items which are of importance to us and which are likely to speed up the development of the State. But when we think about these matters we also cannot ignore the various activities we have undertaken in the matter of Education and other Social Services. It is not for me to say as every Member knows the condition of our State. We are backward in many respects, educationally we are backward, economically we are backward, we have no roads. In our rural areas no medical relief is provided, when people fall sick they cannot get suitable medical aid, there is dearth of suitable facilities for drinking water. Under these circumstances, with our slender resources of 27 or 28 crores of rupees, what wonders can be achieved? As a Finance Minister I wish to acquaint the House that the provisions made in a budget though may help in the development of the State but are not adequate to bring about speedy development.

Secondly, I venture to submit that whatever programme for development or whatever other activities are proposed to be undertaken, we cannot achieve much success without the co-operation of the people. So far as co-operation is concerned, is it not only necessary that people should be much interested in those programme and activities but we should also make people participate in those activities and programmes. Sir, it will be unfortunate if we fail to create such public opinion as will enable our people to participate in the activities and in building our State from year to year or say from our Five-Year Plan to other Five-Year Plans. The other day I came across something which has been recently written by Shri Asok Mehta. He said that the salvation of our country, the development of our country depends on training of about 10 lakhs people and entrusting them with the use of going all over the country for the purpose of creating interest and making people participate in our development programme. This is the observation which has come from one of the leaders of my Friend the Leader of the Opposition. I hear that in China not 10 lakhs people but 70 lakhs people are mobilised for the purpose of making people interested and participate in all these activities. Of course our way of life is entirely different from what prevails in Soviet Russia or China. We cannot use compulsion for the mobilisation of the people as is possible for China or for Soviet

Russia, but we have to devise ways and means by which in our own way, we have bring about participation of our people to. Let us not forget how our people participated during the non-co-operation days, let us not forget what Mahatma Gandhi taught us in securing this participation. Did he not create such interestedness among the people which of their witness will brought full participation from our people in our movement and in our struggle for freedom against the British people? Is it not possible for us to create a similar psychology and atmosphere and make our people participate in all activities and fight against ignorance and corruption? This cannot be done through Government machinery. So far as our Government officers are concerned they have their own training and their mind work in a different way. It may be possible to get technical advice from them but we should expect to get from them such help as will create interestedness among our people and evoke their participation. I, therefore, submit that even if it had been possible for me as the Finance Minister to provide a bigger amount for the development of our State, that would not have taken us very far, that would have failed without the participation of the people. I submit with all humility and I heartily welcome the assurance of co-operation given by my Friends in the Opposition that it is essential that we should all strive to get the participation of our people in order to solve the problems with which we are confronted. I hope that my Friends will not rest merely by giving assurance of the co-operation in this House but that will extend this co-operation also outside. Do the facts as exist give such a hope? The other day some representatives from the Kishan Sabha came to see me, and my hon. colleague, Shri Das. and submitted a number of demands. We gave them hearing and provided to look into those demands. I further told them that after the Nagpur resolution and after the various land reform measures that have been undertaken by us there was practically no difference between their approach and our approach and therefore we should unite and dedicate ourselves to the task of overcoming many difficulties with which we were confronted. Sir, I was simply surprised to hear that only two days after our meeting instead of co-operation, these friends advised their supporters to offer the Satyagraha and.....

(Voice from the opposition bench—Not two days after).

Any way, soon after they had come and met me, they advised to offer Satyagraha and thus added to our difficulty. What

we want from the hon. Members of the Opposition is whole-hearted and sincere co-operation. We are prepared to discuss things with them but this should not be done to exploit the situation for the purpose of party propaganda and for the purpose of misguiding the people. I feel, Sir, that a time has come when all parties, Congress, Socialist and the Communist, should co-operate in solving the problems before us. (Shri Hiralal Patwari—Independents also, Sir). (Laughter).

Mr. SPEAKER : Hon'ble Minister was referring to parties only.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Finance Minister) : Now it is essential that we should get the participation from the people if we really intend to develop our country. This participation can only be achieved if we approach the people with or unity of purpose with united determination. This is all I wish to say at the moment regarding co-operation and participation.

I was really amazed to hear the charges levelled against the Government by the opposition Members to the effect that we had done nothing to provide for Agricultural development, for improvement of education and communication or for the expansion of industries—both major industries and cottage industries and so forth and so on in the State. When these charges were made against I wish the hon. Members had supported these charges by quoting figures. It, therefore, becomes necessary for me to place certain figures before the hon. Members to show that, with our limited resources, with no escape but to follow an integrated programme of development and with our committed expenditure in social services, all that was possible at present has been provided through our normal and the Plan Budget. I would now trouble the hon. Members with some figures. So far as the normal Budget is concerned, the expenditure on Agriculture for 1958-59 was provided at 80 lakhs 30 thousands Rs.62 lakhs. Now the hon. Members may well say that it shows that there is less provision for the coming year than what was provided for the year 1958-59. But if the hon. Members will please note that a provision made in the Budget of 1958-59 to the extent of Rs.40 lakhs in respect of fertiliser scheme has not been repeated in the next year's Budget and in place of Rs.40 lakhs only 10 lakhs have been provided, they will realise that more expenditure for next year under Agriculture is provided than in the current year. The provision for fertiliser

scheme has been reduced from 40 to 10 lakhs because there is a stock of sufficient fertiliser, about which an enquiry is going on because now cash purchase system by agents have been introduced. Under this circumstances there was no necessity of providing more or an equivalent amount.

That shows next year there is an increase in the provision for agriculture. With regard to expenditure on Veterinary, the figures show an increase from Rs.30 lakhs 81 thousands in 1958-59 to Rs 33 lakhs 12 thousands in 1959-60. On Co-operation also similarly there is an increase from Rs.12 lakhs to 13 lakhs, on Education the increase is from 3 crores, 16 lakhs to Rs. 3 crores, 30 lakhs. Similarly, on Communication there is an increase from Rs.89 lakhs to 113 lakhs. Similarly, there is also increase in next year provision in respect of Sericulture, Cottage Industries, etc. Now if we look at the expenditure under Plan Budget of Rs. 12 crores, 25 lakhs for the next year, the hon. Members will see that out of the total expenditure of 12 crores 25 lakhs, one crore and 26 lakhs have been provided for Agriculture, i.e., nearly 10 per cent of the entire available amount has been provided for Agriculture. Similarly, the provision for Animal Husbandry is Rs.23 lakhs, for Community Projects Rs.93 lakhs, for Co-operative Rs.40 lakhs in addition to Rs. 30 lakhs provided in the normal budget.

Similarly, there is a provision for general education along to the tune of Rs. 1,41,79,000 in the Plan budget that is to say, we have provided expenditure for expansion by 30 per cent of normal provision in the State budget. There is provision for Housing of Rs.24 lakhs, and of course, we have provided a very good substantial amount for the welfare of backward classes. I hope from these facts, my hon. Friends will be able to see that we have been spending increasingly our activities which are likely to bring about development of our State. It is incorrect to say that no increasing provisions has been made on Agriculture, Education etc. in the next year's budget. I shall also here deal with the points raised by my hon. friend, Shri Ramnath Das. It is not correct to say that there is less provision in next year's budget on Primary Education. If my hon. Friend will please look at page 134 of the Budget, he will find (I will just give him these figures) that the expenditure on Government Primary Schools as provided in the budget of 1958-59 was : General Rs.1,43,00,000 and for Sixth Schedule Rs.8,70,000 ; but in the budget for the next year this amount of Rs.1,43,00,000 on the General Education has been increased to Rs.1,51,00,500. So it is not correct for him

to say that we have provided less expenditure for Primary Education. Similarly, under the Sixth Schedule, a provision of Rs.8,70,000 has been increased to Rs.9,06,800. Similarly, direct grant to non-Government Primary Schools, the expenditure under General Head has been increased from Rs.3,20,000 to Rs.3,23,00,000 and under the Sixth Schedule from Rs.1,10,000 to Rs.1,60,000 and similarly grant to Basic Education Board has been increased from Rs.1,18,00,000 to Rs.1,19,00,000. Altogether the figures for Basic Education have been increased from Rs.46,00,000 to Rs.60 lakhs. Under this head, it will be found that the increase has been provided that from Rs.1,70,00,000 to Rs.1,95,00,000.

I believe the hon. Member was confused because he took the figure from the Memorandum at page 29. If the hon. Member had also looked into the main provisions he would have found there is no reduction of expenditure on Primary Education. I shall explain the position shown at page 29 of the Memorandum certain amounts, which were spent out of the Contingency Fund in the previous year, were shown as expenditure during 1958-59 there was a shortfall of about Rs.14 lakhs that is the amount spent from the Contingency Fund on account of additional Dearnes Allowance to Primary Schools Teachers, and Middle Vernaculars School teachers. The amount was regularised during 1958-59, by debiting to the Consolidated Fund. If these figures are kept in mind, the hon. Member will see that the expenditure shown for Primary Education in the year 1958-59, also include such expenditure incurred which ought to have been incurred in the pervious year.

Similarly, my hon. Friend complained about the expenditure on Agriculture. At page 37 of the Memo. the expenditure shown for next year its less by Rs.11 lakhs against the current year's provision. This is due to the facts made. As against the provision of Rs.40 lakhs in the current year's budget only Rs.10 lakhs have been provided for next year. There is a balance stock of fertiliser matter of which is being enquired into and the system of cash payment by agents has been introduced. For these reasons only Rs.10 lakhs have been provided. This explains the position and I realise that the hon. Member may have found it difficult to understand without this explanation. The hon. Member will be pleased to see whether it is an expenditure on Agriculture or on any other head necessary or essential

for the development of our State, increased provisions under the next year's budget, have been made. In this connection, I may also inform the House that my colleague, the Minister-in-charge of Industries and I do recognise and have been emphasizing that the most essential thing for Assam, is to develop the power (electricity). To increase and develop power in our State, concrete actions have been taken. We propose to develop the power by taking a scheme at Barapani. The Project Report for this scheme is under preparation and will be completed very soon. We have already contacted the Planning Commission and obtained their promise for the necessary financial assistance to enable us to give a start to this project within the Second Five Year Plan. Actually, under our own budget, we have provided an amount of Rs.1,20,00,000 for the Electricity Board, out of which nearly half the amount will be spent on this Barapani Project. I may further assure the hon. Members that if it becomes necessary to provide more amount for this project or any other project which will help the development of our State. I shall not grudge such an expenditure. So far as expenditure on the project is concerned, I hope the hon. Members will not withhold their consent if it becomes necessary for the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge to spend more and then come to the House with the supplementary demand.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Provided it does not increase the rates.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Electricity, etc.): Mere production, less rate and less production, more rate.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): Sir, by placing these points I have been trying to show that it is not correct for the hon. Members to say that while, I am in favour of the development of my State, no provisions for increasing power and for developing this State has been made in the Budget. My submission is that within our resources and within our limit, and recognising the necessity of maintaining expenditure on the social services, it has been my current effort to find ways of spending more money on such which are likely to increase power and help the development of the State.

Now Sir, serious arguments have been advanced for and against whether a surplus or a deficit budget is the interest of the State. So far as I am concerned, I should like

to make it clear that such a controversy hardly takes us anywhere. I personally do not feel that a surplus budget can be the panacea of our difficulties. I would be the last person to produce a surplus budget usually for the sake of a surplus. If such a budget does not provide expenditure for improvement, and development of the State because a surplus has to be shown, it is hardly done which can evoke any approve satisfaction. Therefore I am not the least frightened for giving a deficit budget provided it includes expenditure on items which are likely to increase the income of the State or which is likely to prove beneficial to the State. If there is something on which we can lay our hands and which will help in the development of our State I shall not for the mere fact of keeping the budget surplus grudge such an expenditure and I shall never hesitate to come before this House with a supplementary demand for such an expenditure if it benefits the State. It is very kind for hon. Members to congratulate me for producing a surplus budget but that fact by itself does not deserve congratulation. I could provide in this budget expenditure on certain items which are likely to develop our State. I would not have hesitated to provide for such an expenditure and there to place a deficit budget. But to day with all kinds of restrictions such as foreign exchange on account of power and transport facilities and on account of the unwillingness on the part of the industrialists to invest in industries as are likely to help the development of the State, it has not been possible for me to make a provision for such expenditure in this budget. Some hon. Members may differ but I very strongly feel that it is necessary for us to find ways and means to bring about industrialisation of the State as early as possible. This may necessarily entail economy and saving on other activities but this can alone ensure our future. It is for this reason that I hesitate to-day to increase an expenditure which is not likely to be productive and which is not likely to develop the State. It is for this reason that controlling of expenditure on unproductive items has become necessary. But, as I have already explained, if tomorrow my Friend, Shri Tripathy can produce a scheme for establishment of a big tance of the Central Government, the foreign exchange is made available, I shall not hesitate to incur such expenditure as will help the establishment of the industry because I feel that any amount spent in that direction will be in an investment for the future and in the interest of our posterity. It is for us to think and to make an effort how to bring about the industrialisation of the State. To day we are confronted with

the problem of unemployment. The unemployment is increasing in our tea gardens, in our urban areas and also in our rural areas. How that problem is to be solved? We do not have sufficient land in our State and the use of scientific methods alone will not help us to solve the rural unemployment problem in the State. We shall have to provide some employment other than cultivation to our rural people. We shall have to go for industrialisation. Whatever industry we may be able to establish we shall have to work it day and night so that through shift system, we may employ more workers in an industry. How Soviet Russia and China are trying to solve their unemployment problem? They are solving this problem by diverting rural population to industries and by working heavy industry day and night to the utmost. They work these industries through a shift system night and day, by employing more than one set of workers. For the same industry 2 or 3 sets of workers are employed. It works more necessary for us with limited number of industries so that our surplus unemployed population not required in agriculture can be absorbed in the industry. We have to plan and give importance to these matters. Unless and until these difficulties are solved we cannot improve the condition of our State. My Friend, the hon. Leader of the Opposition, has given a very pessimistic note of warning. He feels that so far industrialisation of State is concerned we have missed the bus. Well, I may or may not agree with him but there is no reason for us to be so pessimistic. He even suggested that we should not go for loans. I am not one of these persons who think that loans if taken on our own conditions can be harmful to our State and country. Now, if we have to provide for the development, where are we to get resources from? The resources can be had either from within the State, and the country by taxation, by saving or by borrowing from outside. The other day, my Friend Shri Tripathy, gave a comprehension statement to the House with regard to capital formation and saving so far as this State is concerned. Without any industry in our State, with our people having no more cash than is necessary for subsistence and some people even starving, is such capital formation possible as would provide us with necessary expenditure for these industries? Can we get that money by increasing or imposing fresh taxes? I have already said in my budget speech that we have reached such a stage that there is little for us to expect much from this source. Therefore, what are the sources left to us? One of these is the assistance by way of loan or otherwise from the Government of India which in future

will have to get loan from outside. I feel we should not hesitate to ask for loan from the Central Government if grant is not forthcoming for the purpose of developing our State. My Friend the Leader of the Opposition was alarmed because we already had to pay 3 crores and a few lakhs of rupees by way of instalment and interest towards loan which we have so far taken from the Centre. He went to the extent of saying that this expenditure was unproductive. I was really amazed to hear such exposition of economic theory from him. I take pride in the fact that we went to the same University where we had opportunity of learning my economic in the same way as he did.

Mr. SPEAKER : There are people who went to other Universities think that both of you went to the wrong University (*laughter*).

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance) : Anyhow, but both of us whether right or wrong, went to the same University. What I wish to emphasise is that the economic I have learnt does not tell me that the expenditure in respect of payment of instalment and loan taken for development of our State is unproductive and uneconomic. It is true that if we had taken this loan for the purpose of spending for some items which are not productive my Friend would have been justified in making that remark. But unless and until he can specifically say that any loan taken was unproductive in the sense it was not utilised for development, it will be wrong for us to say that payment of the instalment of the loan to the Central Government is unproductive. I would, if necessary, go further and instead of three crores I even borrow 100 crores if it is required for developing the State and if it can increase the resources and income of the State. It has therefore been difficult for me to appreciate his observation that the expenditure for payment of the instalment and the interest for the loan was unproductive.

I am obliged for these general observations made by many of my Friends from the Opposition because such serious thoughts about these matters as they have given will help me in controlling expenditure and in going only for such expenditures as will help development of our State. Now in the course of this debate I have also received very valuable suggestions from hon. Members from my Party, particularly from Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika and Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami who spoke fillingly regarding our getting no

share from excise duty on petroleum and petroleum products of West Bengal entry tax imposed on Assam Tea and on a few other matters. I am glad that sincerely keen interest has been worried by other hon. Members and very valuable suggestions have been put forward particularly with regard to two aforesaid matters. Now I would like to place my views and deal with these specific matters as I feel they are of vital importance to our State.

Now Sir, so far as excise duty on petroleum and petroleum products is concerned I would first like to state that under Article 272 of the Constitution all Union excise duties other than those on medicinal and toilet preparation as are mentioned in the Union list, are levied and collected by the Government of India. There is however provision therein for paying a share to the States out of the Consolidated Fund of India on account of any such of excise duty if Parliament by law so provides. Petroleum and Petroleum products occur in the Union List under item 53 of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India and such excise duties are levied and collected by the Union Government. Prior to April 1952 no excise duty was shared between the Union and the States. According to the recommendation of the first Finance Commission, for the first time Union excise duty on matches tobacco (including manufactured tobacco) and vegetable products were arranged to be shared between the Union and the States with effect from 1952-53 under the Union Duties of Excise (Distribution) Act, 1953, 40 per cent of the net proceeds going to the States. There was no provision for sharing of excise duties on petroleum and petroleum products in the said Act of 1953. The same matter of distribution of the full of the Union excise duties was again considered by the second Finance Commission under Article 280, sub-clause 3(a) of the Constitution and they recommended that excise duties on sugar, tea, coffee vegetable non-essential oils should also be shared between Union and the States in addition to matches, tobacco and vegetable products. The sharing principal was however changed. It was recommended that 25 per cent of the net Central excise duties collected on all these shareable items should be constituted into a divisible pool. From this pool Assam get 3.46 per cent on population basis. The above recommendation of the Finance Commission were accepted by the Government of India and Assam has been getting a share of these Union excise duties accordingly. The second Finance Commission did not recommend sharing of Union excise duty on petroleum and kerosene notwithstanding our efforts to claim a

share out of it. No reason for rejecting our claim was given by the Commission in their report. We have to pursue the matter to get our share. The average collection of Excise duty from petrol and kerosene during the years 1955-56, 1956-57 and 1957-58 was estimated at Rs.2.97 crores per year. The Finance Commission had not recommended a share out of this Excise duty and perhaps rejected our claim because it was not put up and pressed by other States. There does not appear to be any legal bar to revive the claim even now and we shall approach Central Government particularly when the hon. Members have rightly expressed resentments at the inequity of allocation and we are faced with the difficulty of finding out necessary resources to go on with our developmental programme. Under these circumstances it will not be desirable to await the appointment of the next Finance Commission for pressing our claim to a share of the proceed. Now that oil is being found in some other States as well, they may be interested to line up with Assam in pressing the claim.

In our Memorandum before the Commission it appears that we had pressed for sharing of the Excise duty on petrol and kerosene between the Union Government and all the States. I think Sir, we have a case to press for a certain percentage of sharing between the Union Government and us. In my opinion there is considerable difference between levy of excise duties on petroleum or petroleum products and other products such as sugar, matches, tea, etc., and the principle of distribution cannot be and should not be the same. Sugar, tea, etc., appertain to a category of provincial supply as long as there is a machinery to supply. Oil on the other hand constitutes nature's deposits which will be exhausted after a number of years and in spite of a machinery to produce, there will be no production when the source is used up. The State where such deposits occur should get a share out of Excise yield on production to compensate for the gradual depletion of the treasure and the question of sharing the Union Excise duty with other States on a percentage basis does not and should not arise. Further the establishment of a major oil industry in the State naturally increases the cost of State administration in many ways to meet which the State concerned is entitled to have a larger share of this yield. On this ground I alone feel we should get a share out of this Excise duty. The hon. Members have rightly expressed their resentment at our not getting a due share of this Excise duty from the Central Government. We shall have to bring this matter to the notice of the Central Government.

Now Sir, concerning to the criticism against imposition of the West Bengal Entry tax on Assam Tea, I entirely agree that there is no justification for the West Bengal Government to realise any tax of octroi from Assam Tea which is sent to Calcutta not for consumption but for auction to be despatched outside. The West Bengal Government have no right to realise tax from the tea produced in Assam. Sir, the Assam tea is a big foreign exchange earner yet its utility and importance is not recognised by others. The Articles 301 and 304 of the Constitution of India lay down the guiding principles for imposing tax on goods. Article 301 lays down that, subject to other provisions, trade, commerce and intercourse throughout the country, territory of India shall be free. The State may impose such reasonable restrictions on the freedom of trade, commerce or intercourse with or within that State as may be required in the public interest. The State of West Bengal is not really justified in imposing entry tax on the Assam Tea despatched to Calcutta for onward despatch to the foreign destinations. Though entry 52 in List II authorises State Governments to levy tax on goods entering a local area for sale, the word is used there in the context of "consumption" and "use" and on the principle of pseudom generis can be interpreted to signify sale for consumption in the local areas. I need not trouble the hon. Members with several decisions concerning the matter. It is however sufficient for me to say for the present that I strongly support the resentment expressed by the hon. Members against the imposition of West Bengal Entry Tax on Assam Tea. The levy of this tax by West Bengal Government on our tea, which has perforce to go to Calcutta, even though it is meant for export for consumption elsewhere, has adversely affected the State Tea Industry particularly the tea gardens of Cachar and Goalpara which produce common tea. Assam produced nearly 370 million lbs. in 1956 and 354.5 million lbs. in 1957 respectively, out of total North India production of 548 million lbs. and 531 million lbs. respectively giving a percentage of 67.5 and 66.6. As against this, the contribution of West Bengal to total North India production was 30.5 per cent and 31.4 per cent for those two years leaving about 2 per cent for other North Indian States, namely, U. P., Tripura, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh and the Punjab. Assam export nearly 90 per cent of her produce, out of which nearly 65 per cent goes to Calcutta auctions and is liable to pay the West Bengal Entry Tax. For the years 1956-57 and 1957-58, the tax paid by Assam tea is roughly estimated respectively at Rs.1.37 crores and Rs.1.29 crores as against Rs.0.61 crores and 0.61 crores by West Bengal Tea.

Of all the commodities hit by this Entry Tax the worst affected is tea not only because the rate of tax is high, that is to say, one anna per lb as against annas 2 to Rs.1-8 per maund for different varieties of fruit but also due to its peculiar marketing organisation. I need not trouble the hon. Members with further details about this matter but I should like to say only this much that we have a *prima facie* case constitutionally morally, legally and on equity that our tea sent to Calcutta for auction should be exempted from the West Bengal Entry Tax. The question of securing the exemption largely depend on the attitude of West Bengal and I hope the West Bengal Government will extend her helpful hand to us. Dr. B.C. Roy and myself have exchanged letters in this connection and I wish to pursue this matter further with him. Let us hope that a decision equitable and satisfactory both to West Bengal and ourselves and helpful for the maintenance of export of tea will be arrived at.

Now, Sir, some hon. Members have strongly pressed for exempting books, periodicals and school equipments from Sales-tax. Books published and issued by the Publication Department of Government of India, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting are already exempted from Sales-tax. Similarly, mathematical instruments for students, Slates, Slate pencils, Exercise books are also exempted from the Sales-tax. I have ascertained that the total yield on account of Sales-tax on books, periodicals other than those issued by the Publication Department comes to Rs.50,000 per year. Exact figures about the yield from Sales-tax on school equipment is not available. The Taxation Enquiry Committee was not in favour of the grant of further exemption from Sales-tax. According to the Commission generally the exemption under the single point system should be confined to commodities which figure substantially in the cost of living of the poorer section. They further observed that while the efforts to grant exemption are laudable, the extension of exemption may necessarily increase in the rate of taxation on other goods and may also widen the scope of evasion. There was, therefore, good reasons to confine it to a few items. That was the observation made by the Taxation Enquiry Commission. Now, some of the hon. Members seem to be very keen about this matter. I shall examine to what extent relief can be provided and taxation on knowledge can be removed, by exempting books and periodicals from taxation.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) :
Is it not a fact that the West Bengal Government have abolished the Sales-tax on books ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): I said, I am also in favour of such exemption. The hon Members know that in such matters decision cannot be taken without reference to the Cabinet. When I promised to examine the matter, I thought that was sufficient to satisfy the hon. Members.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongy): What about the establishment of a Tea Market in Assam?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I have kept that question in view. I feel the time is not appropriate now when we should examine this possibility, but, if necessary, we shall have to examine this possibility also.

With regard to the question of exemption of Sales-tax on Ink, Ink-pots, Pencils, etc., purchase for use of students I shall consider the matter. But there is the necessity to ensure that the privilege is not misused and evasion does not take place without corresponding benefit to the school going children. I hope this will satisfy the hon. Members. When strong desire has been expressed by this House I cannot but bow down to their wishes and necessary steps in this direction will be taken.

Now, Sir, I could not follow what some hon. Members complained about harassment in realisation of Sales-tax. I was not really able to understand what they meant by saying—'harassment to the dealers or to the consumers by the Officers'.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Harassment on the dealers by the Officers of the Sales-tax Department and by the dealers on the consumers (*Laughter*).

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: So far as the Sales-tax is concerned it is a single point Sales-tax in our State, and it is actually realised not from the whole sale dealers but from the retail dealers. It is also not realised from the petty retail dealers. Only those dealers who are registered and whose sales go beyond a certain amount—Rs.12,000 per year, they are registered and are required to pay this tax. Formerly the amount was fixed at Rs.10,000 per year. Then it was reduced to Rs.75,000 and now it is 12,000 per year. Such dealers whose sales go to Rs.12,000 or more per year, they are registered and Sales-tax is realised from them. Now, so far as the question of petty dealers is concerned, if their sales are low, no tax is realised from them. So far as taxes from the other dealers are

concerned, we have got them registered. My hon. Friends may know that the rate at which the Sales-tax is assessed, is provided through schedules. The dealers who pay this tax, actually realise it at rates provided in the schedule from the consumers. At the time of payment of the amount by the consumers, if it is a question of harassment, if the consumers feel that the more is realised from them than what is fixed by the Government, they can insist on paying the schedule rate.

Mr. SPEAKER: Sales-tax is a consumer' tax. It is a misnomer. It is a Purchase-tax.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): The impact is on the consumers. But we do not realise it from the consumers. We realise it through the retail dealers. Every consumer can therefore insist upon a receipt from the retail dealers. They also know the rate at which they have to pay the tax. So the question of harassment to the consumers by Sales-tax Officers cannot arise. If the consumers think that dealers, who are entrusted with realisation of the taxes do so at a higher rate, they can represent the matter to the authorities concerned. Only these action can be taken against those retail dealers. So far as the retail dealers are concerned, how can they complain about the harassment because they are not to pay more than what is actually realised by them.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): These people do not come from the land of Pegu, but from Morigaon (*Laughter*).

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I am not able to appreciate the observation made by my hon. Friend because, on the one hand, ours is a single point tax and on the other hand, we have provided necessary safeguards to protect both the consumers and the retail dealers. Several appellate authorities, e.g., Assistant Commissioner, Commissioner of Taxes and the Board have also been provided. So if there is any grievance it may be taken to the authorities concerned.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North): The cost of appeal is higher when compared with income-tax and again when the appeal is allowed refund is not given.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I have received representations about it from several persons and the matter is being examined by the Government. I cannot however,

support the habit of some of our businessmen to complain in season and out of season and say that the Government and the officers are harassing them. If any specific instance is brought to my notice about such harassment I shall certainly take action according to the provision of law. I am satisfied that if procedure and rules are understood and followed there can be no ground for any harassment so far as the retail dealers and consumers are concerned.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে জানেন যে Sales Tax এটা Section ব পৰা প্রেচাব দি আদায় কৰা হয় general হিচাবে কৰা নহয়। এটা Business Community ব পৰা volume of business ব ওপৰত আদায় কৰা হয়।

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): কোন section ব পৰা আদায় কৰা হয় ?

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY: মাননীয় মন্ত্রীয়ে সেইটো ভান কৈ জানেন।

Mr. SPEAKER: It must be specifically mentioned.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY: Generally the Marwari section (*laughter*).

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I am very sorry to say that this is absolutely incorrect.

I think, Sir, all these references were made so far as sales-tax is concerned.....

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): On apoint of information, Sir, whether it is a fact that the promotion of sales-tax officers is dependent on the volume of realisation they make from the shopkeepers and that too either by forcing or otherwise ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: That is incorrect, Sir. I may inform this House that since I have taken over charge of this work I have not promoted any officer without reference to the Public Service Commission and before the Public Service Commission make recommendations they go into the individual merit and seniority of all the officers concerned. I can say without any hesitation that so far I have not come across any case where and the Public Service Commission has taken into consideration any other factors except merit and seniority and I

have not promoted any officer without reference to the Public Service Commission. I hope, Sir, so far as observation regarding sales-tax is concerned there is nothing left to be replied.

Rev. Nichols Roy, in the course of the budget discussion, complained about transferring a large number of areas of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills District to East Pakistan as a result of demarcation of the boundary between Sylhet and United Khasi and Jaintia Districts. I may inform the hon. Members that final demarcation of this particular boundary is still in progress and a joint survey is continuing. I may also be permitted to say that the then Chief Minister Shri Medhi, after holding a discussion on the subject with Rev. Nichols-Roy and other leading gentlemen on 29th June, 1957, had not only explained the whole position but I am told, also sent a letter dealing with this particular point. Subsequently also the Deputy Commissioner of United Khasi and Jaintia Hills held a meeting in his office on the 16th December, 1958 which was attended by Rev. Nichols-Roy and another representative. In this meeting the Director of Land Records and Deputy Director of Survey discussed the point for implementation of the two Prime Ministers' decision on the Indo-Pakistan boundary demarcation of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills and Sylhet sector of the Poin river area extending over 100 miles. When a joint survey for demarcation is being conducted it is too early to say what portion of our area will go to East Pakistan or what portion of East Pakistan will come to Assam. So far as Poin river is concerned the State Government are aware that at some portion the course of the river has changed, but the international boundary is to be determined as recorded in the survey map. I hope this will satisfy Rev. Nichols-Roy.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [**Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)**] : Then I take it that there is no dispute in that map ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (**Minister, Finance**) : So far as the map is concerned, I do not think there is any dispute. If my Friend has any information in this connection, he may place that information at my disposal and I shall make an enquiry.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : Do I understand that when the survey is going on within the boundary of East Pakistan and Khasi and Jaintia Hills any pillars are being put along with the survey work ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance):

As the work is progressing they may be putting some kind of signs, but the final boundary will be decided upon after the reports are submitted and considered at the higher level.

My Friend Mr. Thanglura spoke about Pakistanis from Chittagong Hill Tracts infiltrating into Mizo District backed by their police officers and Forest Beat Officers. So far as we are concerned we have no such information of infiltration of Pakistani nationals from Chittagong Hill Tracts at the instance of the Pakistan police and forest officers to Mizo District. The border between Mizo District and Chittagong Hill Tracts is about 190 miles. There is only one B. O. P. at Demagiri manned by 1 platoon of the B. S. F. In addition to this platoon we have other police force also. This staff is employed in checking passports, etc., of the people crossing the border. As there was no information of border trouble at this border no step was taken to increase the number of B.O.P's. On the Pakistan side we have been informed that there has been increased activities and they have increased the number of their personnel. It is further said that most of these B.O.P's. were opened to check smuggling, crimes, etc. Since this matter has been brought to my notice by the Chief Parliamentary Secretary, we shall do the needful. I need not give the House details of steps proposed to be taken.

Then, Sir, my Friend, Mr. Jormanik Siem, referring to the comments of Pu. C. Chhunbura and Pu. Hrangai, Members of the Mizo District Council, as recorded on the first page of the printed comments circulated along with other budgets papers to all Members of this House and to the comments of Mr. B. M. Pugh and Mr Hadem on page 23 and 24 respectively of the same copy, said that the Finance Minister wanted them to lend their support to make the Government's plans a success but the Government's behaviour was not in keeping with their request for such support. His main allegations are that the district budgets were sent to the district councils for comments so late that reasonable time for study was not provided and that the district budgets were finalised before the comments of the District Councils were available. As regards the first allegation, the facts are placed before the House for information and its own judgement. This year on 23rd January Chairmen of all District Councils were informed by express telegrams that the budget estimates for 1959-60 would be sent to them by special messengers by the 21st February and they were requested to send synopsis of

discussion to reach the budget department not later than 2nd March 1959. The district budget was sent to the Chairman, United Khasi Jaintia Hills District Council on 23rd February which was received on the same date but as it could not be sent on 21st, two more days were allowed for the district council to return the budget, i. e., on 4th March and the synopsis of discussion was sent to Government on 4th March. It is not known on what date the Council sat for discussion. The Mizo District Budget was sent on 16th February and it was received on 19th February. The Council sat on 26th and 27th February for discussion. If the Members were not supplied copies in time by the Council authorities, the Government cannot be blamed for that, as the copies reached them 7 days before the date for the meeting. The other district councils received the copies of their budgets the —Mikir Hills District Council on 18th February, the North Cachar Hills on 17th February, 1959 and the Garo Hills District Council on 18th February 1959.

Regarding the second allegation the attention of the House is drawn to para 13 of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India. The District Councils and the Regional Councils constituted under the Sixth Schedule are expressly declared by paragraph 2(3) to be corporate bodies, each having perpetual succession, a name and a common seal. They have legislative and executive powers with respect to certain matters, including the power to levy and collect certain taxes. These powers are exercisable by them in their discretion. The moneys received by them in course of the administration are to be credited to the District Fund or, as the case may be, to the Regional Fund, the management whereof (including the application thereof for the purposes of the exercise of the powers and functions to the Council) is to be regulated by rules made under paragraph 7(2). The District Councils and the Regional Councils, therefore, are statutory bodies possessing a legal entity distinct from that of the Government of the State. Their position is analogous to that of municipalities and other corporations. The moneys received by the Councils are not to be credited to the Consolidated Fund of Assam and they are not to be credited to the Consolidated Fund of Assam. And the expenditure from these moneys or from the Funds comprising them does not involve the appropriation of any moneys from the Consolidated Fund of Assam. Article 202 and 266 and para 13 of the Sixth Schedule do not apply in relation to these moneys and to the District Funds and Regional Funds.

Paragraph 13 applies in relation only to those moneys which the Government of Assam will necessarily collect as revenue within the autonomous district in the course of their administration thereof and which must be credited to the Consolidated Fund of Assam under Article 266, and to the expenditure which it would necessarily incur from the Consolidated Fund of Assam for the purpose of the administration in relation to which articles 202 applies. The effect of that paragraph is to require that the estimates of such receipts and expenditure pertaining to each autonomous district should be placed before the District Council for discussion so as to enable that Council to submit its views to the Government of the State and that they should be shown separately in the Annual Financial Statement of the State to be laid before the State Legislature under Article 202 and that has been done.

Mr. Sangma, Minister, Tribal Affairs Department explained on 18th March 1959, on the floor of the House how the District Councils have been associated in the preparatory stage of the Budget. If after that stage any District Councils has anything more to offer, it is not possible to alter Budget estimates at once as a time schedule is to be followed in preparation and printing of Budget estimates. Such additional comments can get consideration in the next Budget or if found urgent and unforeseen in the Supplementary Demands for grants.

Mr. SPEAKER: I want clarification on the following portion of the Article the Minister read:—

“The effect of that paragraph is to require that the estimates of such receipts and expenditure pertaining to each autonomous district should be placed before the District Council for discussion so as to enable that Council to submit its views to the Government of the State and that they should be shown separately in the Annual Financial Statement of the State to be laid before the State Legislature under Article 202”.

Now, it appears from this that the district council must be given adequate time but from what Mr. Jormanik Siem has said the Chief Executive Officer of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills District Council the budget for this District Council was received by him one day before the Session so it was not possible even for him to study the budget, not to speak of bringing it for the discussion of the Council and there must be some rules of that District Council for giving notice of a certain period in order

to regulate a normal procedure. So, may I suggest that the Budgets pertaining to the District Council may be sent well ahead so that they may conform to the usages and practices of the District Councils. This point was raised by Mr. Jer-manik and I have got to satisfy myself on this point because it is obligatory on the part of the Government and also for me to see that the provision of paragraph 13 of the Sixth Schedule is observed not only in letter but also in spirit.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Finance Minister): So far as this aspect of the matter is concerned, I shall make an enquiry with regard to the Rules.

Mr. SPEAKER: The practice of the House here, as the hon. Members will remember, is to place the Budget proposals before the House as was done during the last Budget Session without even the comments from the District Council and I had to ask the Government to get the copies in order that they might be circulated to the Members when it was found out that not even enough copies were printed. So it is imperative that this paragraph 13 is observed both in letter and spirit.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, T. A. D.): May I intervene, Sir, the difficulty is that we cannot finalise the Budget proposals until and unless they receive prior approval of the Planning Commission which has resulted in considerable delay in finalizing the District Budget proposals as I have already explained to the House on a previous occasion. We will, however, make an earnest endeavour in future to send the Budget proposals to the various District Councils as soon as received by Government duly approved by the Planning Commission so that the District Councils also in their turn may conform to their rules and regulations. Although this time the Budget proposals were sent to the Chairmen of the District Councils, they failed to get them passed in time and send them to Government immediately.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is why I say that the Budget proposals should be sent well ahead so that the Members of the District Council may get sufficient time to discuss them. Because in this case it is not the Chairman but District Councils which are to be consulted and the District Councils can meet only when they are properly summoned with due notices.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Sir, I am also a member of the

District Council and I found it very difficult to study the Budget proposals as only two days' time was allowed to the Members some of whom live very far away in the interior in places where there are even no Post Offices. So I say Sir, the Budget proposals should be sent to the District Councils with sufficient time at their disposal so that these proposals may be sent to the Members living in remote places and thus enabling them to study them carefully and leisurely so that they may be in a position to discuss them thoroughly and also intelligently.

Mr. SPEAKER: Both the hon. Ministers have made it quite clear one of the point raised during the debate that the cause of delay in sending the Budget proposals to the District Councils was due to the delay in getting them vetoed by the Planning Commission. I feel notice of the Planning Commission should be drawn to this obligatory provision in para 13 of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution so that the Planning Commission might at least expedite that part of the Budget which concerns the District Councils.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Finance Minister): Sir, actually we wanted to submit the Budget before the House earlier than 10th of March, but we could not do so because of this difficulties.

Mr. SPEAKER: Our business is not to succumb to difficulties but to overcome them.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Yes, Sir, there are certain difficulties which can be overcome, but there are others which, even in spite of our best efforts, are not possible to overcome, because they are outside the domain of our control.

So far as the amount under Article 275 is concerned, it has got to be voted by the Planning Commission, and unless and until the approval to it is obtained from the Planning Commission we cannot draw up our Plan.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is it included in the Consolidated Fund? Is it necessary that amount in terms of paragraph 13 has got to be sent to the District Council for consolidation?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Yes, Sir, that is necessary.

Mr. SPEAKER: So, as the hon. Members will appreciate, I am concerned with nothing else except the observance of the provision under paragraph 13 in the matter of presenting the Budget proposals. That is the only point so far as I am concerned. So far as the other points are concerned, it is for the Government to look after them.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Finance Minister): Sir, regarding this matter I have stated that we shall look into it and enquire from the District Councils as to number of days necessary for notice to enable the Members of the District Councils to take part in the discussions we shall then try to supply to the Members the copies of the Budget proposals within the prescribed period.

I should also like to say something about another point raised by the Siem and that is with regard to the loan to the District Council. Sir, I am sorry that to inform the House that in spite of our desire to help the people in Barabazaar for whom a loan was sanctioned long ago, it has not been drawn till now by the District Council. Under the provision of the Act we cannot give loan to a body of this nature, which as I have stated is a corporate body having the status of a Municipality, unless and until a resolution is adopted by District Council, for obtaining the loan. It is not possible for the Government to release the amount of loan, although Government have sanctioned it long ago until the resolution is received. We have been asking them all this time to send us the necessary resolution so that action may be taken and the Accountant General may be approached to issue the authority slip. I do not know why first this resolution was not adopted for a very long time, and when it was adopted, why it only asked the loan free of interest. Our difficulty is that we have to provide this amount of loan by borrowing from the Central Government, and therefore under the rules we cannot advance loan without realising interest which we ourselves have to pay. Therefore we informed the District Council that this conditional resolution has to be modified before the loan can be released. As soon as the modified resolution is received by us, the loan shall be released. It is true that the Chief Executive Officer asked us to release the loan on his assurance that the resolution would be changed.

Now, I should like the hon. Members to realise our difficulty. In the face of a specific resolution by an Autonomous Body, can we ignore it even though Chief Executive Member is pleased to say that the resolution will be modifying later on ?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, T.A.D.): For information of the hon. House I would like to say that only yesterday I have received a letter from the Chief Executive Member that on this particular matter they have passed a resolution and the matter is now being referred to a Select Committee.

U JOR MANIK SIEM [Nongpoh (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: May I know from the hon. Tribal Minister whether when replying to my question he stated that the loan was refused because Government do not want to give loan free of interest? Was that not his reply to my question?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: I will explain that Government want to give loan free of interest. It is a question of delay-non-receipt of the Resolution. I have already informed the House the other day that I have received a letter from the Chief Executive Member that this matter has been referred to the Select Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER: You mean the Select Committee of the Garo Hills District Council. The District Council is also learning the dilatory tactics of parliamentary democracy.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): Sir, Government cannot release loan on a letter assurance from the Chief Executive Member as long as the resolution exists. The District Council met only recently to consider the matter. As soon as we hear that the resolution has been modified and that the District Council want loan on usual terms of interest, we shall immediately instruct the Accountant General to release the loan. Till now we have been told that this matter has been referred by the District Council to their Select Committee. I wish to repeat that so far as the Government is concerned, we are prepared to give the loan and for the delay in obtaining release of the loan the District Council is to think itself. The Garo Hills District Council also approached us for loan. This has been sanctioned and they have also drawn it and are utilising it for the construction of market. If they need further help, they will be given further instalment during the next financial year. But unless the Khasi and Jaintia Hills District Council like the Garo Hills District Council are prepared to approach us for loan in a regular form I cannot do anything. I reiterate the assurance to the House that the loan will be given to them, but it is for them to regularise their resolution and then approach us for the release of the amount.

Mr. Jor Manik said something about my reference to separatism in the budget speech. It has been slightly misunderstood by the Siem of Myllem. I am very glad to know from him that those who wanted to have a separate Hill State.

Mr. SPEAKER: They are running the entire State.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): Better wisdom and sense is gradually prevailing upon them. We must realise that our path to progress and development does not lie in working separately but in working together as one citizen belonging to Assam and India as a whole. I am very glad to hear from him and I have no doubt that wise people like the Siem of Myllem would try to remove that misunderstanding that might have existed in the past and advise the people of Khasi Hills to work in unity with their brothers in the plains to make Assam a really prosperous State.

U JOR MANIK SIEM [Nongpoh (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): Sir, I was expecting to hear about the stock of rice but it appears that the Minister has not caught my ears. I said that if there is rice for other areas, the border areas also should be supplied with rice. I want to know whether there is sufficient quantity of rice to cater to the people in the border who have lost their lands for cultivation.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: So far as the security of border areas are concerned, reference has been made by him and also by Rev. Nichols-Roy. In that connection, it will not be proper for me to disclose the details of action taken by us. So far as construction of roads in these areas is concerned, I may say.....

U JOR MANIK SIEM: I want to know about the rice position.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I now refer to the criticism made by some hon. Members above our incurring expenditure on such matters as are entirely the concern of the Central Government. This criticism was particularly made by my Friend, Shri Barbaruah when he spoke on the Governors' Address. Many other hon. Members have also raised this matter during this discussion. They said that all expenditure incurred in connection with border trouble, whether it be on account of Naga raid or Pakistan firing, should be fully borne by the Government of India. I do not know

wherefrom did these Members get the idea that the responsibility for such expenditure is of Assam. One thing, which I should like the hon. Members to realise, is that we cannot sit tight, while all these atrocities are going on, and wait for the sanction from the Central Government. We have been taking action at the initial stage and incurring such expenditure as is called for. We do not wait for a sanction to this extent from the Central Government when we incur an expenditure and this has to be shown in our budget. Both the Chief Minister and I have taken up the question of reimbursing this expenditure incurred by us with the Prime Minister and the Home Minister. They have generally agreed that the responsibility for such expenditure is of the Central Government. As hon. Members may have seen from the budget provision, in fact we have received some amount from the Central Government out of the expenditure initially incurred by us we have submitted other proposals for reimbursement and when we go to Delhi we shall again press the Central Government to expedite action in those matters. I want to assure the House is that whenever we take steps and incur expenditure we send that information to the Central Government and ask them to reimburse the same. We have already received some payment and I hope the entire amount spent or is to be spent by us on this account will be forthcoming from the Central Government. So, I submit it is not proper for some of the hon. Members to accuse the Central or the State Governments for imaginary grievances. I would have liked to take hon. Members into confidence regarding the expenditure we have spent and we propose to spend for the construction of roads in border areas. I think it will be sufficient if I inform the hon. Members that such construction has been undertaken in Cachar, Khasi Hills and Garo Hills. The work is in progress and a certain number of projects have been completed and we propose to push forward with the remaining work. So far as relief to border people is concerned, I think my Friend, Capt. Sangma, has dealt with that aspect of the criticism. I have also, in my budget speech, given the figures and suggested steps we propose to take to supply rice and subsidy to all the suffering people. The problem is really a gigantic one, and we have to pursue to overcome all the difficulties with which we are confronted with. In fact, the Central Government have already assisted us by giving a contribution of Rs.25,00,000 during the current year and they have promised us further aid in further. We have also, out of our normal Budget, in order to provide relief to the border people immediately, giving 5 lakhs of rupees and if further amount is necessary, that will also be given. I have no doubt whatsoever

that my Friend, Mr. Sangma, who is incharge of this work is quite alive to the difficulties and the problems we are confronted within this particular area, whatever action is necessary and possible will be taken by us to relieve distress of the unfortunate people in these areas.

Then I come to the criticisms levelled by the hon. Members regarding the increased expenditure on the Police Administration. In this connection, I should like to refer to two aspects, first is the increased expenditure necessitated for providing more Border Security Force. I would not like to give the details of such increased force and expenditure. Suffice it for me to say that whatever is considered necessary for providing to protection to our people from the frequent provocative activities of Pakistan or the Nagas, we shall have to do so and we are compelled to increase our Security Border Force. The steps taken by us either by raising our force or by taking on loan armed police from the other States are essential and called for in the interest of security of our State. The expenses have to be incurred initially by us and provided through our Budget but as I have explained, such expenditure, being for the purpose of defence, will be reimbursed by the Central Government. When we shall receive the amount that will be shown separately. The hon. Members need not feel alarmed to see the big increase in the Police expenditure. The second reason for rise in this expenditure that it has become necessary for the members of our Police and the Border Security forces to remain more and often continuously on the border. In order to help their and overcome these difficulties and hardships, we have increased their daily allowances and made it more uniform. Formerly, different rates of allowances were allowed to the different categories of forces serving in these areas. Now we have decided to give the allowances of uniform basis. I hope the hon. Members will not grudge this increase in allowances and amenities for those of our people who have to spend months and months outside their Station and have to subject themselves to difficult and hard life in the interest of the country. Yesterday, my Friend, Shri Ranendra Mohan Das, who had an opportunity of seeing some of these officers at work, gave a vivid account of how these men are risking their lives in rendering help to our people in border areas. I hope the hon. Members will not only grudge the increase in their daily allowance but also accord them appreciation of the difficult and the hard lives they have been facing in these areas. Now Sir, as regards the criticism about the top-heaviness of the Governmental machinery and the inefficiency in some of the Departments, I will only say this

much that there is a considerable room for improvement in all the Departments and we have started to organise them by cutting out delays. Apart from this, to expedite action in some emergent cases, special efforts have been made so that the work may be disposed of quicker and earlier. But all the same, this requires going into the very roots of administration which is governed by rules and regulations of an earlier period when the functions of the Government were not only limited but also of a static nature. Since Government has to ensure impartiality, propriety and consistency, any changes that are made should be made after the fullest consideration. For this purpose, we have set up an Organisation and Method Division which is making an assessment of the existing structures and procedures in the different Departments. A mere change of rules is not enough as set habits and aptitudes of people who have spent long years in following particular routines have to be changed. This takes times and is being brought about through periodical meetings, conferences, study groups and seminars, etc. The work relating to revision of rules is in itself a colossal one which has necessitated the appointment of a retired Divisional Commissioner. I hope, if the hon. Members show an interest in this part of the work with their observations and with our anxiety to improve these matters, it will be possible for us to increase the efficiency and to improve the present state of affairs.

Sir, this criticism has been offered in respect of the manner in which the grants are given to the Aided Schools and that their accounts are not for long audited. I have looked into these matters and I find from the reports that during the year 1955-56, there were over 4,000 accounts due to be audited but only 512 accounts were audited and in the year 1956-57, there were in all 3,761 accounts to be audited and only 803 accounts were audited. These figures show that this matter needs looking into and we shall see what can be done to improve the present state of affairs. I should however like to point out a few things which stand in the way of speedy auditing of accounts. We have found from the report that most of the accounts of these institutions are not properly prepared and placed before the Managing Committee at its meeting for approval. It was also noticed that the Committee meetings were not held at regular intervals. Now these are matters about which I think we can get a good deal of help from the hon. Members. I seek their co-operation. When they go back to their respective constituencies they should create an atmosphere so that the meetings of the institutions are regularly held and records properly kept. The second reason is that sanctions for expenditure

were not obtained by most of the institutions and even when in some cases they were obtained the provisions made there-in were exceeded without any authority. This appears from the report. Then the vouchers were not preserved serially in guard files thus offering easy checking of the same at the time of audit. The cash books in some cases were also not properly maintained.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is all the more necessary for auditing.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): I am only giving the reasons for the delay.

I was saying that the Cash Books were not properly maintained, entries were not made correctly and the pages of the Cash Book were full of overwritings, erasures, etc. The vouchers exceeding Rs.20 were not usually affixed with the necessary stamps, stationery and furnitures were even purchased without calling for quotation and comparing the rates offered by the dealers ; necessary stock registers were not opened in many institutions ; leave of teachers were not without obtaining prior sanction of competent authorities and whatever objections are taken by audit they were allowed to continue unattended for many years thus defeating the very purpose for which audit is meant. Now, in this connection I may say that we have appointed internal auditors in the office of the Director of Public Instruction. In order to have all concerned to meet audit objections, we have a proposal for the creation of posts of auditors and assistant auditors for the the Inspectors of Schools from the Education Department and we are considering the matter. I feel Sir, that having regard to the fact that such hopeless state of affairs exists in these institutions, we shall see what can be done to improve matters and see how these accounts can be audited effectively and as early as possible.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to draw the attention of the House to this problem because the House is very intimately concerned with it. Now, the House is called upon to vote certain amounts so it is the responsibility of the House to see that these amounts are properly utilised because in the ultimate analysis we are the custodians of public finance in our State. Unfortunately, as the hon. Minister has said just now large amounts which have been voted by this House are spent in

a manner in which this House is entirely in the dark, therefore the House cannot discharge its responsibility to the people with regard to public funds which are allotted to it for safe custody. In this connection a conference of the Chairmen of Public Accounts Committees was convened presided over by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. There they passed a resolution. That resolution reads like this: The Conference are in favour of test audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General of the accounts of non-governmental bodies and organisations, which receive grants in aid, etc., from the Government." Now, as soon as test audit is made by the Comptroller and Auditor General, the accounts come under the purview of the Public Accounts Committee or of this House. Therefore, the Public Accounts Committee on behalf of this House has to scrutinise these accounts and place them before the House for consideration. This is the procedure that I want to follow and which is conformity with the traditional decision of the Chairmen of Public Accounts Committees in India.

Yes, Mr. Ahmed.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance):

Sir, I now refer to certain criticism offered for the failure to implement land reforms. In this connection I should like to tell the House that I am entirely at one with hon. Members that today the most important problems before us are of settlement of lands and field management. We have also seen that as Congressmen we are committed to strive for establishment of Co-operatives and ultimately joint farming. It will be difficult for us to proceed with these objectives unless and until we go for speedy and expeditious settlement of land with cultivators. I feel that settlement of land, field management and various land reforms should go together. We cannot ignore any one of these activities because by ignoring one we shall not be able to achieve the object we have set before us. Government have adopted a resolution of land. So far as I can see none of the Members had anything to say against the policy enunciated in this resolution. Some of course have complained that the policy contained in this resolution has not been implemented. I can understand the anxiety of hon. Members that even after the policy has been enunciated steps have not been taken to implement what has been promised or enunciated in the resolution. We shall have to give serious thought to the implementation of the policy if we really mean to better the conditions of the people specially in the rural areas.

Now, so far as the Adhiar Protection Act is concerned this was amended in 1952, 1955 and also in 1957. Under this Act Adhiar Conciliation Boards have been constituted in the Sub-Deputy Collector circles and the circle officer is the chairman with one non-official member from amongst the adhiars and one representative of the landlords. It has been stated that these Boards have too big a jurisdiction to cover and that adhiars do not get the benefit they ought to get. It is therefore, proposed to establish one Board in the National Extension Service Block and one in each circle as soon as the Panchayat Bill is passed. We hope this system will serve the purpose.

Now so far as management of zamindari lands is concerned, as hon. Members know, the zamindaries in Goalpara district have been acquired but there is some difficulty in Karimganj subdivision, as there are no records of rights which are now under preparation. As soon as these are completed these zamindaries in those areas also will be acquired. Hon. Members also know that the Assam Non-Agricultural Urban Tenancy Act has also been amended. The Planning Commission have advised to constitute Sub-Deputy Collector circles in each National Extension Service Block, one Sub-Deputy Collector will be in-charge of revenue and other in-charge of National Extension Service Block. In the absence of one of these the other will be able to carry on with the work. I hope this arrangement when put in operation will be able to remove many of the difficulties and the S.D.Cs will be able to function effectively in their Circles. So far as the Ceiling Act is concerned, preliminary steps have already been taken. Last date of submission of the report is 15th of November. The reports are now being received and verified. One Revenue Assistant in each District has been appointed to look after the revenue matters. In the matter of land reform, one Land Reform Officer has been appointed. A Land Reform Board with 3 Members, Legislative Assembly, Revenue Secretary and others has been set up. Necessary staff at the district and Subdivisional levels has been augmented along with the implementation of the Act. There has been a large number of land acquisition cases particularly in respect of construction of embankments. People are not receiving their compensation for a long time and in order to expedite these matters, one Officer in each district is now appointed as a whole-time Land Acquisition Officer. It is hoped that the matter will be expedited and cases will be disposed of speedily. I hope, Sir, these steps taken will help to remove many of the complaints which have been made by the hon. Members of the House,

but as I have said, the main task before us is that if we really want to make the Field Management a success, it is necessary to expedite land settlement. I hope action in this behalf will be taken by the Revenue Minister.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): What about making the eviction on waste lands, V.G.Rs, P.G.Rs and Forest lands, more effective ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): So far as eviction is concerned, I think the hon. Member is aware that very strict action has been taken recently, I mean in the last few months. It will be continued, but I must say the success of these steps entirely depends on the co-operation we get from the people and the hon. Members, because there is a tendency that after eviction the encroachers come back and fresh encroachments take place. So this task, as I said, can only be under-taken successfully by the Government with the co-operation of the people and the parties. We should tell our people that this kind of illegal activities should be stopped as early as possible, because it will not help them, and it will prevent Government from proceeding with orderly settlement of areas which are proposed for such settlement.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): May we have an idea—what will be the number of families that are required to be evicted from Government lands ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Those figures are not available now, Sir.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar): While Government of Assam is making honest efforts to relieve the Assam tea from West Bengal Entry Tax, may I know if the Government of Assam is considering the question of relieving the Assam tea from the Road Tax imposed on the tea in the State ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I have already explained the position. I hope the hon. Member will not further press me so far as this question is concerned. We have imposed the Road Tax because we need funds for many developmental works. The Act was passed by this legislature and the tax has been imposed and realised with the approval of this House. It will indeed be a serious matter if we forego the entire amount. To what extent the Tea Estates will derive benefits, if this tax is abolished, is difficult to say.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar): Is it a fact that the West Bengal Government imposed this Entry Tax, after the Assam Government introduced this Road Tax ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): May be but not because Assam had levied the tax.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): Has Government given any thought over question of rehabilitation of the erosion affected people ?

Mr. SPEAKER: You can discuss these things on a cut motion. The hon. Finance Minister can give only replies to general points in respect of his Departments. I think the Revenue Minister will be the right person to reply to those debates and the hon. Member will at least get some time to raise these points.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: There are only one or two other important matters about which I would like to refer. Shri Lila Kanta Bora said something about a Polytechnic Institution at Nowgong. For his information I would like to place the following few facts.

Sir, the Eastern Zonal Committee of the All-India Council of Technical Education approved of a scheme for a Polytechnic Institution with basic engineering course at Nowgong on the 25th April, 1957 and recommended to the All-India Council of Technical Education, Government of India for providing the following Grants and loans as a centrally sponsored scheme :

Buildings ...	...	Rs. 9 lakhs and 60 thousands.
Equipment...	...	Rs. 11 lakhs.
Hostel ...	...	Rs. 6 lakhs and 35 thousand.
Recurring ...	...	Rs. 4 lakhs and 70 thousand.

The Planning Commission at its deliberations in New Delhi on the 6th January, 1958 included this as a State Scheme in the annual Plan of 1958-59. After the decision of the Government of India to establish this Centrally sponsored Institution was arrived at it was included in the Budget for the year 1958-59. 4 Members, Legislative Assembly of

Nowgong with the Executive Engineer visited a place at Panigaon on the 28th November, 1958 and selected a site. On account of the Deputy Commissioner not being present there with them it took some time in taking action for acquiring this land and since then a lot of correspondence passed. There was some difficulty in acquiring this land and that is why this programme has not been undertaken. I may inform the House that a Budget provision in the current Financial year for buildings has been made for building Rs. 6 lakhs and 50 thousands ; Equipment—2 lakhs 40 thousand ; Recurring—10 lakhs. Of this only Rs. 1 lakh and 8 thousands for purchase of equipment is likely to be utilised. The rest will have to be surrendered, because the land has not been made available for construction of the buildings. I think the party, whose land is to be acquired, is creating some trouble and the proceedings which were drawn up had to be dropped and fresh proceedings have been started.

Shri RAM NATH SARMA (Lumding) : Is it a fact that the hon. Minister for Education himself passed an order to the effect that the Deputy Director for Technical Education should go to the spot and consult Mr. Bora and the local Members Legislative Assembly about this with a view to expedite the matter ?

Is it a fact the Officer concerned did not care to obey the order of the Education Minister ?

Mr. SPEAKER : What Mr. Sarma means to say that the red tape should be cut and the Institution should be opened as early as possible.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance) : I have taken note of this and I hope the Revenue Minister will see how these proceedings can be terminated early.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) : May I draw the attention of the Finance Minister to the fact that a few years ago, in 1956 perhaps, four persons were kidnapped from the Public Works Department—Amguri-Mokokchang road because of not giving adequate protection to them by the Government, by some Naga hostiles ? When the Central Government is providing money for construction of this road, will the Government see their way to give sufficient compensation to these families of these four men by way of relief ?

Mr. SPEAKER: The proper procedure for the hon. Member would have been to refer to this matter during his Budget speech so that the hon. Minister could have covered this point also during his reply by making necessary enquiries.

Now at the spar of the moment if such questions are raised, it is not possible for the hon. Minister to give him any specific reply. As the hon. Member has himself said, this occurrence took place in 1956.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Finance Minister), I wish I could have obliged the hon. Member for giving the required information. When I am about to conclude my speech it is difficult for me to collect the information and reply. I think the hon. Member may try to elicit this information through a cut motion or by some other means.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri): My submission is Sir, that some assistance should be given to the affected families when the Central Government incurred the expenditure solely for the purpose of a matter which relates to defence of the country.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: My Friend, Minister in-charge of Industries replied to many of the points concerning his department. Minister in-charge of Medical also dealt with family planning and with several other points concerning his department. My colleague the Minister in-charge of Education and Public Works Department also made a very valuable contribution by his illuminating speech and he has promised to send to the hon. Members a Memorandum dealing with the actions proposed to be taken by him in respect of matters regarding departments of Education and Public Works Department referred to by hon. Members. So I need not therefore reply specifically to all those points. During these periods of nearly two hours and 45 minutes I have covered practically all the other general points raised by the hon. Members and I hope in this effort I have been able to satisfy the hon. Members. As I have already stated that it was really a matter of great privilege and pleasure for me to hear very valuable observations from the hon. Members, I wish to reiterate that I have been greatly benefited from their suggestions. I hope, Sir, the standard of the debate displayed during this year's discussions will be maintained in future and that we shall continue to get the co-operation and help from all the hon. Members of this House.

Shri BISWANATH UPADHYAYA (Patharkandi): Sir, during the course of the Budget discussions I raised certain points about the harassment of labourers by tea garden authorities of the Bidyanagar T. E. and the false replies given to my questions by the Revenue Minister. I have not seen any attempt being made by the Finance Minister to meet my points.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Finance Minister): Sir, I felt it was not necessary for me to say anything regarding the matter referred by Shri Biswanath Upadhyaya because I had personally spoken to him to give me a specific instances of harassment to labourers of Bidyanagar Tea Estate in writing. I shall take necessary action in the matter on receipt of this information. Hon. Members might have noticed that he was so much excited over this matter that he could not express clearly his grievances.

**Speaker's announcement regarding working hours of the
Assembly during the days on Voting on Demands
for Grants**

Mr. SPEAKER: Now I have an announcement to make.

In view of the great interest evinced by the hon. Members to participate in the discussions of the Grants, the Business Advisory Committee has recommended that for the days allotted for Voting on Demands, the House might sit from 9-30 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. and again from 2 p.m. to 4-30 p.m. This will give us one hour everyday and in 7 days, altogether seven hours more—one and a half working days. This will enable more hon. Members to participate in the discussions on the Voting on Demands on the one hand and at the same time eliminate the necessity of having to change the Time Table which the Business Advisory Committee prepared. But in view of the fact that the Time Table could not prepare this afternoon as the Business Advisory Committee decided this programme only this noon. It will, however, be made available to the hon. Members by to-night or, at the latest, tomorrow morning. Now I would like to know whether the House has the pleasure of agreeing to the proposal of the Business Advisory Committee.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Education Minister): Might I suggest, Sir, if the hon. Members agree, we can sit from 9 o'clock in the morning.

Mr. SPEAKER: Our difficulty is that the time table in that case has again to be changed. Yesterday I mentioned this matter in the House and a kind of consensus of opinion in the light of which we discussed this matter in the Business Advisory Committee and the Committee decided the programme as I have already placed before the House. In any case, I go by the pleasure of the House. If the House now approves of the arrangement made by the Business Advisory Committee, any hon. Member can move it in the proper form.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Education Minister): Sir, may I know what the hon. Member Shri Barbarua has said?

Mr. SPEAKER: He has agreed to the arrangement made by the Business Advisory Committee.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: Then in that case I wish, Sir, it might be immediately announced because at least for once in the life of this House, he has agreed with us.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member has said that he is not agreeing with anybody else except to the suggestion from the Chair. (*Laughter*).

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: If the hon. Member agrees with the suggestion from the Chair then he will not take very long to agree with the Members on this side of the House also.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North): The fact remains that the Business Advisory Committee wanted to increase the time for the interest taken by the hon. Members. Will it solve the problem of one Member? Even the Business Advisory Committee extended the time limit for general discussion on the Budget. We are not given sufficient time; we do not get sufficient time of the House. Will our problem be solved? If it is solved, then we have no objection.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not know what he means. All I can say is that, this is the view of Business Advisory Committee and an hon. Member has proposed that it should be confirmed. The Business Advisory Committee as the hon. Member know, consist of Leader of both the Opposition and Government Benches. Therefore, shall I put the Motion to vote?

(The Motion was put to vote and carried).

ADJOURNMENT

The Assembly was then adjourned till 9-30 A. M. on Saturday, the 21st March, 1959.

Shillong :

R. N. BARUA,

The 28th October, 1960.

Secretary,
Assam Legislative Assembly.

LIST OF AGENTS