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Assam Legislative Assembly Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

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

BUDGET SESSION

VOLUME I

No. 4

The 3rd March, 1959



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No. 1

The March, 1955



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1955

United States

Proceedings of the Fifth Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly assembled after the Second General Election under the Sovereign Democratic Republican Constitution of India

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, the 3rd March, 1959.

PRESENT

Shri Rajendra Nath Barua, B.L., Deputy Speaker in the Chair, the nine Ministers, three Deputy Ministers and eighty Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Control over Kerosene Oil

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog): asked :

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

- (a) Why the Control over Kerosene Oil was imposed some months back ?
- (b) How much oil were there at that time in the oil depots of the State ?
- (c) How many cases of black-marketing in Kerosene were detected in the course of the last one year ?
- (d) Why Government could not check the black-marketing ?
- (e) Why the control was abolished so soon ?

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

9. (a) to (e)—The matter is under investigation of a Judicial Tribunal.

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog): May I know, Sir, when the investigation will be completed ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, it is very difficult for me to reply to this question, because this matter is under the jurisdiction of the Court of Law and on behalf of that court of law I am not in a position to say when the investigation will be completed.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): May I know Sir, whether question No.9(a) is also an issue which is under investigation of the Judicial Tribunal? Question No.9(a) is "Why the Control over Kerosene Oil was imposed some months back" ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: The cases for which this Kerosene Control Order had to be promulgated and imposed is under the investigation of the Court of Law.

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West): When the information of black-marketing in Kerosene oil was received by the Government at the time of imposing the control ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I would refer to Rule 37(9) and (10) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly where it is stated: "It shall not ask for information on a matter which is under adjudication by a Court of Law having jurisdiction in any part of India", and then, it shall not ordinarily ask about matters pending before any statutory tribunal of statutory authority performing any judicial or quasi-judicial functions or any commission or court of enquiry appointed to enquire into, or investigate, any matter....."

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: On a point of information, Sir. The question is that an issue which is under investigation by Court of Law or by a Statutory Tribunal may not be discussed on the floor of the House. But my submission is that the issue which is before the Tribunal is of a limited nature; the issue is about the scarcity of

Kerosene oil and about the alleged black-marketing. That is the issue before the Tribunal and the issue is not why there was control. That is not at all an issue before the Tribunal. It is entirely a matter of Government policy and the Tribunal has nothing to do with that policy. So, I seek your guidance, Sir, that simply because certain matters with regard to Kerosene are under the investigation of the Tribunal, it does not necessarily mean that nothing regarding Kerosene should be discussed. I am quite sure, Sir, so far as this particular question is concerned, it is not an issue before the Tribunal.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): I do not agree with Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya as to what he has stated by way of interpretation on the terms of reference made to the Tribunal. As the terms of reference is to investigate the case for Kerosene oil, it will, in my opinion, cover the whole field including any other incidental matter that will be necessary for the purpose of adjudication.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): उपाध्यक्ष महोदय ! मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि किरासिन तेलपर नियंत्रण लगाने के कारण ही इसका दाम बढ़ गया और इसका अभाव हो गया। क्या इस के लिये सरकार खुद जिम्मेवार नहीं है ? क्योंकि उनके control लगा देने के कारण ही इसकी कमी हुई ?

यह जानते हुए कि किरासिन तेल के quota में २५ प्रतिशत घटा देने से इसका दाम बढ़ जायेगा, सरकार ने यह आदेश क्यों दिया।

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUA (Amguri): I would like to know, Sir, whether this control is justified and whether that will be investigated by the Committee.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The matter is under investigation.

(At this stage Shri Jahanuddin Ahmed rose to speak something).

Order, order.

I do not think at this stage we can discuss this matter in detail. The whole matter has been referred to the Tribunal and under the Rules also, I think it will be proper, when the judgment or order of the Tribunal is made public, to discuss this matter. So no further question or answer seems necessary at this stage. Therefore I would now like to pass on to the next question.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): May I request Government to place the terms of reference regarding this matter before the House either to-day or tomorrow. I want to know whether the Minister in charge would be pleased to place it on the table of the House either to-day or tomorrow ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply): Tomorrow being a holiday, I will place it day after tomorrow, Sir,

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Members of the Advisory Board of Kaliabar N. E. S. Block in Nowgong District

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri): asked :

6. Will the Minister-in-charge of Community Development Projects be pleased to state—

- (a) Who are the members of the Advisory Board of Kaliabar National Extension Service Block in Nowgong District and what are their addresses?
- (b) Their basis of selection ?
- (c) Whether Government propose to take representatives of the political parties working in the locality to the Board ?

Shri A. THANGLURA (Chief Parliamentary Secretary) replied:

6. (a)—A list showing the names and addresses of the members of the Block Development Committee for Kaliabar National Extension Service Block in Nowgong District is placed on the Library table.

[Statement laid on the Library Table in reply to Unstarred Question No. 6(a)].

The 16th June 1958.

No. CPES.146/58/4.—The Governor of Assam is pleased to constitute the Project Advisory Committee for Kaliabar N.E.S. Block in the District of Nowgong with the following members for a period of one year with effect from the date of this Notification for speedy implementation of the N. E. S. Programme in the areas:—

Chairman—

1. Deputy Commissioner, Nowgong.

Secretary—

2. Project Executive Officer, Kaliabor N. E. S. Block.

Members—

3. Shri Liladhar Kataki, M.P.
4. Shri P. C. Sarma, M.P.
5. Shri Lila Kanta Bora, M.L.A.
6. Chairman, Local Board, Nowgong.
7. Shri Chandra Kanta Saikia, B.L.
8. Development Officer, Nowgong.
9. District Agricultural Officer, Nowgong.
10. Superintendent of Fisheries, Nowgong.
11. Civil Surgeon, Nowgong.
12. Deputy Inspector of Schools, Nowgong.
13. Divisional Forest Officer, Nowgong.
14. District Animal Husbandry Officer, Nowgong.
15. Sericulture Inspector, Nowgong.
16. Inspector of Co-operative Weaving Societies, Nowgong.
17. Executive Engineer, P. W. D., Nowgong.

18. Executive Engineer, E. and D., Nowgong.
19. Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Nowgong.
20. Superintendent of Police, Nowgong.
21. Marketing Organiser, Nowgong.
22. Sub-Deputy Collector, Kaliabor Circle.
23. Assistant Agricultural Marketing Officer, Nowgong.
24. Mauzadar, Pubthoria Mauza.
25. Mauzadar, Barbhagia Mauza.
26. Mauzadar, Chatial Mauza,
27. Mauzadar, Duarbagari Mauza.
28. Mauzadar, Duarsalona Mauza.
29. President, Pubthoria Rural Panchayat.
30. President, Barbhagia Rural Panchayat.
31. President, Pub-Kaliabor Rural Panchayat.
32. President, Duarsalona Rural Panchayat.
33. President, Duarbagari Rural Panchayat.
34. Head Master, Kaliabor High School.
35. District Transport Officer, Nowgong.
36. District Publicity Officer, Nowgong.
37. District Statistical Officer, Nowgong.
38. Superintendent of Cottage Industries, Nowgong.
39. Assistant Malaria Officer, Nowgong.
40. Chairman, Education Board, Nowgong.
41. Shri Golock Chandra Barthakur, Vill. Akruhichook,
P.O. Pubthoria.

42. Shri Badan Chandra Bordoloi, P.O. Kuwaritol.
43. Shri Ganesh Chandra Khaund, P.O. Jakhalabandha.
44. Shri Chandra Kanta Phukan, P.O. Kuthari.
45. Shrimati Guneswari Devi, P.O. Jakhalabandha.
46. Shrimati Tankeswari Bhuyan, P.O. Pubthoria.

2. The Deputy Commissioner, Nowgong, Assam will act as Chairman of the Project Advisory Committee. The Project Executive Officer, Kaliabor N. E. S. Block will act as Secretary of the Committee.

3. One-fourth of the numbers of the members of Committee will constitute the Quorum.

4. The function of the Project Advisory Committee will chiefly be to advise in the planning and implementation of the N. E. S. Programme in the area.

(b)—It is intended that the Block Development Committee should be as representative as possible of all non-official elements within the Project area. In addition to the principal officials serving in the Block area the Block Development Committee may consist of the following—

- (1) The local members of the Parliament.
- (2) The local members of the State Assembly.
- (3) The local members of the Local Board.
- (4) A specified number of representatives from the Village Panchayats in the area.
- (5) A specified number of representatives from the Multipurpose Co-operative Societies in the area.
- (6) A specified number of representatives from the Bharat Sevak Samaj Organisation.
- (7) A specified number of practical agriculturists.
- (8) A specified number of leading Social Workers.

(c)—Members of the Block Development Committees are selected on the basis of the Criteria mentioned at (b) above and not on the basis of political parties.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) : With regard to question No.6 (b), do the Government think that the political workers are also social workers ?

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) : That is not relevant, Sir.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : Who is supplying the answer, Sir ? Is the *Ex-Deputy Minister* authorised to reply on behalf of the present Chief Parliamentary Secretary ?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Order, order.

I think it is the prerogative of the Chair to allow or disallow a question. But the hon. Member is simply expressing his own personal opinion and he is quite entitled to it. So far as the question of Shri Barbaruah is concerned, I think this is a matter of opinion, and therefore it need not be replied.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH : My question was whether the political workers are also social workers ?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is what I say, this is a matter of opinion.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara) : Regarding question No. 6 (b)—(4), (5) and (6), Sir, may I know what are the specified number of the representatives of the village Panchayats.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Community Projects) : There is no specified numbers. But so far as the question is concerned, there are 46 members including officials, Members of the Assembly, Members of Parliament, President of the Rural Panchayats and representatives of those bodies.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : But some specified numbers have been mentioned in Nos. (4), (5) and (6).

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Specified number is one or two. That is the number.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Community Projects): I have stated, Sir, that generally one or two members are taken from these categories.

Shri BISWANATH UPADHYAYA (Patharkandi): Whether it is a fact that the members of N. E. S. Block are allotted to execute contract work in some of the Blocks?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: The principle is that if someone be a contractor, he should not be the Member of the N. E. S. Block. If my Friend has any information with regard to any particular Block and say that any Member is doing contract work, I shall take necessary action so far as this particular point is concerned.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri): What is the basis of selection of social workers?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I do not know what the hon. Member means, but all those workers who are engaged in the uplift of the local areas are regarded as social workers and we are trying to include such workers as far as possible on the Board on the recommendation of the local officers.

Yard-stick fixing the number of Dealing Assistants to posts of Head Assistant and Superintendent in Heads of Departments

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH asked:

7. Will the Finance Minister be pleased to state—
 - (a) Whether it is a fact that for every 12 dealing Assistants, one post of Head Assistant has been laid down for the offices of the Heads of Departments?
 - (b) If so, how the fraction thereon is to be accounted for?
 - (c) Whether it is a fact that the yard-stick laid down for a post of office Superintendent for the offices of the Heads of Departments is upto 100 Assistants?
 - (d) If so, whether any yard-stick fixing the minimum Assistants for a post of office Superintendent has been laid down and if so, what is that?
 - (e) If not, why not?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Finance Minister) replied :

7. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No formal decision has been taken, but the usual practice followed in the matter is that the number equivalent of half or less than half, after deduction of a multiple of 12, is ignored and more than half is taken as one unit.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—No definite yard-stick was laid down, but the intention was to follow the same principle as in (b) above, according to which small offices with less than 50 Assistants would not be entitled to a Superintendent.

(e)—In view of (d) above, does not arise.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri): In reply to (d) it is stated that no definite yard-stick was laid down, but the intention was to follow the same principle as in (b) above. May I know whether the intention will remain as an intention or it will materialize at an early date ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : The hon. Member may please look at his question (d). The question is: "Whether any yard-stick has been laid down and if so, what is that". The reply is: "No definite yard-stick was laid down, but the intention was to follow the same principle as in (b) above". So it refers to (b).

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA (Gauhati): Did the Government take the word 'yard-stick' literally ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : It has to be taken literally.

N. E. S. Block in Gossaigaon area

Shri MATHIAS TUDU (Gossaigaon): asked

8. Will the Minister-in-charge of Community Projects be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government have taken a decision to open N. E. S. Block in Gossaigaon area ?
 (b) If so, when ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Community Projects) replied :

8. (a)—There is no N. E. S. Block stage now. There is a pre-extension stage for one year and after that stage I and stage II periods for 5 years each. Government have not taken any decision yet regarding Gossaigaon coming to the pre-extension stage.

(b)—Does not arise.

Shri MATHIAS TUDU (Gossaigaon): Considering the backwardness of the area, will the Government open a pre-extension service block in the Gossaigaon area ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: In these matters whenever a decision is taken, we do take into consideration the backwardness of a particular area. In addition to that we also take into consideration the population of the district and subdivision which has been covered by provision of such a block. I find from the figures that block in Gossaigaon cannot be given at present because the percentage of population coverage in the subdivision is higher than in many places which have to be given consideration first.

Complaint about non-receipt of replies to questions sent long ago

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA (Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)): মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমি অনেকগুলি প্রশ্ন জুলাই আগষ্ট মাসেই দিয়েছি, একটি set প্রশ্নে প্রায় ৩০ টা প্রশ্ন আছে। সে প্রশ্নগুলি না আসাই এখন প্রশ্নের সময়ে অন্য কার্য হয়েছে। শেষের দিন একসঙ্গে আসবে তখন দেখারও সময় থাকবেনা। এতদিন পরে দেয়া প্রশ্নগুলি এখন না আসার কারণ কি ?

Mr. DUPUTY SPEAKAR : You have got the whole Session before you.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri): I also submitted about one hundred questions, but answer has not yet come to any of them. At the end of the Session they will come like Mahabharat and Ramayan.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): उपाध्यक्ष महोदय ! यह बजट अधिवेशन है। लेकिन अबतक हमें बजट नहीं मिली है। बजट मिल जानेपर उसे सारा समय लग जायेगा—तब हम अपने सवालों को पढ़ने, उनपर मनोनिवेश करने, और उनकी ओर ध्यान देने के लिये हमें कहाँ समय मिलेगा ?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It cannot be given now.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): The point is when the budget will be given we shall be busy in studying the budget. So if the questions now come in a larger number then more justice will be done to the questions.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): He is complaining that the budget copies have not been given.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): I also submitted some questions as early as November. I am not making any complaint out of it but what I want to draw the attention of this House and you too is this. When questions have been actually submitted long before, we would like to know the reason for not replying those questions which were submitted two/three months back. It is not a question that we shall have enough time.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri): Answers of some questions need not come from long distances.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): I quite appreciate the hon. Members' view about the desirability of utilizing the question hour properly. I am also not quite happy with the replies that have been given. I will try to expedite the matter and see that more questions are answered.

Shri BISWANATH UPADHYAYA (Patharkandi) : I put certain questions in the last session but I find that replies to those questions are incorrect. I want that these should be corrected.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I hope you will send to us what are the incorrect answers.

Shri BISWANATH UPADHYAYA : I request that these questions should be examined and if the replies are found incorrect then action should be taken against the persons concerned.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do these question refer to the last session ?

Shri BISWANATH UPADHYAYA (Pathar kandi) : Yes, I find that there are so many incorrect answers.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please draft a letter.

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

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Local Self Government) : Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Assam Local Board Election (Emergency Provision) Bill, 1959.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Is it the pleasure of the House to grant leave to introduce the Assam Local Board Election (Emergency Provision) Bill, 1959?

(After a Pause)

The leave is granted.

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

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Local Board Election (Emergency Provision) Bill, 1959.

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

(The question was adopted)

Debate on the Governor's Address

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Motlebuddin may now resume his speech.

Md. MOTLEBUDDIN (Dalgaoon) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as regards the land policy of the Government and in giving settlement of land to the landless people the steps taken by the Government so far are not proper and adequate. In Assam not less than 70 per cent of the population are cultivators who are the real backbone for the economy of the State. But I find that in each subdivision there are thousands and thousands of landless people. Some of them have become landless not for their own fault but due to natural calamities in the State.

There are some landless people who are settling in some grazing land, but they are being evicted by the Government every year. It is improper on the part of the Government to evict them when it cannot provide them land elsewhere. Particularly in the Mangaldai subdivision there are many landless and flood-affected people who are waiting to be settled with land from not less than 10 years before. I think Government should take immediate steps to settle those landless and flood-affected people who have been evicted from the grazing land or P. G. R. In the Panbari P. G. R. and in other P. G. Rs also many landless people are being evicted every year. I think those landless people are the deserving people to get settlement in those P. G. Rs. Besides them, there is also a large number of refugee people who are waiting to get land settlement in that area.

In the northern part of this subdivision of Mangaldai are living our tribal brethren who are awfully backward in every respect. So, our national Government should pay more attention to them for their upliftment. They have got no well-connected roads, no schools, no hospitals and nothing of the sort. Those tribal people are still in darkness and ignorance. So, their cases should be taken up with sympathy. A road from Kharupatia to Udalguri is of great demand to connect the tribal localities and other backward areas for their development. So, Sir, necessary steps should be taken by the Government in this respect to give those backward people necessary facilities for communication and in all other respects. The transport line from Dalgaon to Kopati has recently been extended, but a vast area to the eastern side of Kopati has been left unconnected. So, I appeal to the Transport Minister kindly to take immediate steps to extend the transport service line upto the lower part of the Dhansiri ghat. The people of that area covering not less than 12 sq. miles are badly suffering for want of good communication.

The border trouble, the Naga Hill problem and various other problems are today facing our Government, but our Government has not been able to do for their solution to the extent the people of the State desire them to do. It is for the Government to create a calm and pleasing atmosphere for the sake of the people. I, therefore, give my humble suggestion that our national Government should leave no stone unturned to make a calm and pleasing atmosphere by taking all possible steps for the safety and prestige of our independent State.

So far as the immigrant muslims in the State are concerned they have been living here for not less 50 to 60 years before, but to my disappointment, I like to say that they have been given step-motherly and unsympathetic treatment. I have seen that many of the immigrants are being suspected and harassed by the Government without any valid proof. But I submit Sir, that this sort of suspicion on the part of the Government is quite baseless. Those people who have been living in Assam for several decades together are not at all Pakistani minded or anti-national minded. I like to suggest to Government that if there be any such people who are anti-State minded or who do not like to mix with the people of the State of Assam should at once be driven out from this State. When it is a secular State should like to suggest that all the people of the State should be given the same treatment and given them the due honour.

With these words, Sir, I support the Amendment moved by Mr. Bhattacharyya and oppose the Motion moved by Shrimati Komol Kumari Barua.

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Hajo) :

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to associate myself in the debate we are having these days on the Governor's address. At the outset, I am expressing my sense of gratitude to the Governor for making a masterly analysis of the law and order situation of Assam. He has mentioned in clear terms and in lucid language the border situation and many of my Friends have found that the Governor in making a survey of the whole situation has not made any suggestion as to the remedy of the situation and some of them also have sounded that from the side of the Government of India also they must exercise more violence. Today, I want to remind that the Government of India in matters of international issues have pursued a different policy other than violence altogether. They have adopted the policy of Pancha Shila as the remedy of all international troubles. It is the declared policy of Government of India that whatever the international issues there might be between countries and countries they should be solved not by war but by peaceful negotiations. But at the same time, I feel that this policy can not continue for all time to come because there is a limit to endurance and the Government of India, I am sure, is not going to submit to any coercion on the part of Pakistan. Pakistan as we see is following a wrong policy and whenever there is an internal trouble and to cover their administrative failures they raise the Indian bogey in the minds of the people of Pakistan. As the internal

trouble increased the border trouble also increases. We therefore feel that the Government of India will take necessary steps so that these kind of aggressions from the side of Pakistan may not continue any more. We, at the same time, express our deep sympathy for the sufferings and hardships undergone by the border people. We wish their hardships are sufficiently mitigated and their losses are also adequately compensated.

The Naga troubles are there for the last few years and it is disquieting to hear from the speech that the trouble is still continuing unabated. We simply wish that this rebellion is suppressed with strong hand by the Government of India and the border people there are allowed to remain in peace and tranquility.

The Governor also has made a long survey of our achievements during the last 12 years of independence and also of the last year. We fully endorse what he has said in this respect. When we attained independence we thought of building our country and in course of our discussions we thought that if we can have a primary school in each village or a dispensary or a hospital in each mouza or union or a few approach roads to the villages and other amenities of life then the people would be happy. But after our 12 years of achievements, what we find today? We have seen primary school being sprung up in almost all villages of Assam and high schools and middle schools are seen within a radius of one square mile or two. We have seen dispensaries and hospitals being started in the remotest corners of the State. We have seen colleges springing up in every sub-division and even in some villages. We see filtered drinking water supply projects coming up in villages. We see electric lights shining even in rural areas. Also we see roads and buildings being constructed for public utility purposes. (Shri Nilmoney Barthakur—We are enjoying American milk and honey). There is hardly any village in our State today which is not connected by an all-weather motorable road. In the midst of all these things can we say that the people are happy and they are enjoying milk and honey as Shri Barthakur said? I say surely not. Then why it is so? We have achieved so many things. We have done so many things in the last 12 years which was beyond our comprehension two or three years before independence. But even then people are not satisfied today. Therefore, we must think anew the whole thing. There must be something wrong somewhere, unless that wrong is remedied nothing good we can achieve by physical development of the country. Rather, as we go on giving amenities to the people, the frustration of the people will grow then being mitigated. We see that wherever there is more development

the discontent is rather more because we are, as I have mentioned already, giving some amenities which are essential of course, but while giving amenities we have not considered so seriously as to how the people can avail these amenities. Our whole approach is to give amenities to the people. But we have not given proper attention so that people can have better income or more income to enjoy these amenities. Therefore, when these amenities are give to them instead of being satisfied the discontent in them is increasing because for want of money, for want of sufficient income, they cannot enjoy the amenities. Suppose we have a big and good hospital in a village, but if the villagers are without means to take advantage of a good surgeon or physician or if they cannot purchase better quality medicines, then all the amenities offered to them go in vain. Similarly, in the case of schools also. We are having a University, a Medical College, an Engineering College, a Veterinary College, an Engineering School, etc. All these institutions we have built up in course of the last 12 years. But unless the people have got the capacity to send their children to these schools and colleges, they cannot derive real benefit from institutions. Therefore, Sir, the main thing to-day is not of physical development, but of increasing the economic prosperity of the people. I have also analysed the results of the last General Election. In the last General Election, in certain places the Congress candidates were defeated and Communist and P. S. P. candidates came out victorious. But I want to remind the Communist and P. S. P. friends that the people voted down the Congress not out of any love for the Communist or P. S. P. ideologies or programmes, but they voted down the Congress because they felt frustrated, as during the last 10 or 12 years they have not been able to get what they wanted. I have extensively travelled throughout Assam and have visited the constituencies, more particularly those where the Congress candidates were defeated at the last General Election.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : The Congress won because of the machinery that it had force and not on its ideology or programme.

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY (Hajo.) I had gone to the people and asked what they had gained by voting down the Congress. In most cases they now regret and they feel they took a wrong decision. I am not making any insinuation against any Party. What I want to emphasis is that our problem is the problem of poverty and unless we can solve this problem successfully, whatever ideology we

may propagate or bring to the people, I think that will not be properly received by the people. Sir, for our plans we have borrowed a large sums of money. In the First Five Year plan we borrowed about 30 crores of rupees from the Government of India ; in the Second Five Year Plan also we have borrowed about 60 crores of rupees from them. These borrowings have been made by other States of India also. But the situation in Assam is a bit different from other States. The main idea behind lending this money by the Government of India to the States was that this money would be distributed in the shape of development works to the people which will increase the *per capita* income of the people and will bring prosperity to them. As we all know, money is not a static thing ; it goes on moving. And in the process, when people get money, they do not keep it idle. They spend it indirectly may be a large part of it comes back to the public exchequer in the shape of amusement tax, sales tax, agricultural income-tax and so on and so forth and the State by getting more revenues on these accounts could have easily repaid the loan they had taken from Government of India. But what do we find to-day in Assam ? The main bulk of the loan-money have gone outside Assam and not to the people of Assam. The whole idea behind this loan, has been defeated. Unless, therefore, we can give the benefit of this money to the people, I think the plans cannot succeed. We are on the eve of the Third Five Year Plan. Therefore, from now on we must try our best, leaving aside our political differences, to see how we can take full advantage of this money and spend it for real developmental works, so as to give full benefit to the people and mitigate their economic hardship. Our country is an agricultural one and if we are to have any economic development of the country we must think of the economic development of the agriculturists of the country. To-day, we find that the agriculturists are crying hoarse for land. We heard the Revenue Minister on the floor of the House telling that the number of landless people is increasing by 70,000 every year. At the same time, yesterday we heard the Agriculture Minister saying that in 1957-58 the land under cultivation was less by two lakh acres than it was in 1950-51. On the one hand, the number of landless people is increasing by 70,000 a year, and on the other the land under cultivation is less by two lakh acre from 1950-51. Now can these two incompatible things be correlated ? If any of my Friends feel that the problem of the landless can be solved by giving lands to the landless people I believe he is living in a fool's paradise. It is impossible for anybody on earth to-day to solve the problem of the landless by giving land to them,

Therefore, the remedy should be found elsewhere. In other countries also they are doing the same thing. Say for instance, in Japan, a century ago it was an agricultural country which faced a similar problem. They solved the problem by shifting a considerable portion of their population to industries—small-scale industries, cottage industries, major industries and all sorts of industries. But in our State we do not see a move in that direction. Rather, contrary is the case here. We see to-day that the people from industries are coming for agricultural land and they are increasing the pressure on land. The tea garden labour, working in industries, as soon as they are thrown out of the garden employment, they fall on land. There were certain artisans in our country, blacksmiths, goldsmiths, silversmiths, carpenters, weavers, etc. All these industries absorbed a certain section of our people.

But to-day what do we find? We find that these people also have left aside their industries and are rushing to the agricultural land. In this way, they are bringing more pressure on land. Then again on the side of other occupations of life also we find, say, fishermen who used to live on fishing, all these people are now giving up their old traditional professions and every one of them is now flocking on land and in this way the problem of land has become more complicated and every day we see the problem is rather going out of hands. Therefore, it is now time that we reconsider our whole approach and try to rehabilitate a considerable section of the people in industries. Again, on the side of employment also, what we find to-day is that the number of educated people are on the increase. Colleges have increased, schools have increased and yearning for higher education also is increasing. Therefore, the number of educated people is always on the increase. But what we find to-day is that the avenues for employment for these people are very limited. We find to-day only one avenue for employment, i.e., the Government. Our people in the private sector also are not giving proper attention for employment of our people. We have got the tea industry, a very flourishing industry but employment of Assamese people in the tea industry is too meagre. Government should try to impress on the tea industry that they should give more attention towards employment of the Assamese people who are now without employment. Unlike other States, our people are not so pushing; they are shy and therefore, they cannot go outside Assam for employment so the internal resources should be availed of fully. Even in the Railways, though we have got our Zonal office in Pandu, I think proper treatment in the matter of employment

has not been received by our friend. In the Assam Oil Company also our people do not get the same facilities on some ground or another along with the other people of other States. We have seen occasionally the Assam Oil Company sending young people abroad for higher training but in those lists we always miss our Assamese youths. I do not know why it is so. The reply might be of course that the scholarships are given on merit. But it is rather improper to dub the entire population of the State as inefficient or as not having the basic qualification which should be possessed to avail of this opportunity. Given the opportunity, I think the Assamese people in any sphere of life may shine and this little fact should be understood by our employers of the private sectors.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hope you are concluding.

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Hajo):
Five minutes more, Sir.

I have, Sir, many things to submit but as the time is very limited, I want to cut short. I was just telling that if we want to lessen the pressure on land we must shift a considerable portion of the population to industries. But in the field of industries we are not very much satisfied. In the last 12 years, whatever we have done we have done very little for the promotion of industries. And again, whatever industries or whatever achievement in this direction we have achieved I think the benefit of these things have not gone to the people of the State. I have seen the Industrial Estate in Gauhati. There also I find that the bulk of the industrialists there do not belong to this state. In the field of major industries, we have got the Sugar Mill recently started and the Sugar Mill, I believe, have absorbed a considerable portion of our youngmen. The licensees for starting major industries in Assam who generally come from outside the State should be given a condition to employ as far as possible the children of the soil. Such people for some reason or other, hesitate to employ our people and if they so hesitate then industrialisation won't bring contentment to our people. Rather it will create more discontentment. At the same time, Sir, what is the good of industries earning huge profits unless the benefits of the profits go to the people? We may have a beautiful building with air conditioned rooms and with beautiful gardens all around but if we are deprived from the enjoyment of the building, then what is the good of that building standing on my own land?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):
For the pleasure of seeing. *(laughter)*

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Hajo):

This is the position to-day in Assam. I am sure, Assam will be developed to the extent we desire. It will develop in the matter of transport, in the matter of industries and in all respects. But what does these developments means unless by these developments our people can feel happy and they can enjoy them. Sir, this is not a political question but a matter for the country and the State as a whole and in this respect we the people as a whole should try to solve the problem and solve the difficulties faced by the people. Our people feel that all our problems to-day are meant for the Government to solve. Our party also feel that whatever problems we face to-day, the responsibility of solving all these problems lies with the Government and not with us and Government also at times feel that whatever problems they have to face to-day, it is for the people to solve them. In this way Sir, the problem has been shifted from one shoulder to another. For that reason all the problems that were faced in the beginning of our Independence in the State remain almost outstanding; these problems can only be solved if we all irrespective of party or political considerations shoulder the responsibility squarely and evenly and try to solve the problems by united and joint efforts. Government only may act as catalytic agent. Government's function in such matters is the function of a catalytic agent. Therefore, their role is too limited compared to the role to be played by the political parties and the people in general.

Sir, here the Governor as well as the Chief Minister have called for our united effort in all these issues. We may have differences on certain issues—those differences will always be there—there is difference from man to man, there is difference from party to party and this is not only in India or here in Assam but every where in the world. But on certain national issues we must put our united effort and try to solve our national problems unitedly. Sir, I do not want to be long as you are warning me for taking more time, but I must in conclusion express that I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity and also I am thankful to Shrimati Komol Kumari Barua for giving us an opportunity to speak on these issues through her Motion.

With these words Sir, I support the Motion moved by Shrimati Komol Kumari Barua.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH NATH (Goalpara) :

মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, ৰাজ্যপালৰ ভাষণত তেখেতে দেশৰ নানা সমস্যা সম্বন্ধে আলোচনা কৰি গৈছে আৰু চৰকাৰে বহু সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিছে বুলি ও উল্লেখ কৰিছে । যি-খিনি তেখেতে উল্লেখ কৰিছে তাৰ বাহিৰেও আৰু কিছুমান সমস্যা আছে

যিবিলাক ৰাজ্যপালৰ ভাষণত প্ৰকাশ পোৱা নাই। তেখেতৰ ভাষণত সীমান্ত অঞ্চলৰ সঙ্কটৰ কথা উল্লেখ আছে আৰু এই কথা সঁচা যে পাকিস্থান সীমান্তত আজি যি অৱস্থা হৈছে সেই অৱস্থাই ভাৰত তথা অসমৰ অধিবাসী সকলৰ প্ৰাণত গুৰুতৰ প্ৰতিক্ৰিয়া কৰিছে। যোৱা ৯ ফেব্ৰুৱাৰীৰ পৰা ১২ ফেব্ৰুৱাৰীলৈকে মই শিক্ষা বিভাগৰ ডেপুটী মিনিষ্টাৰৰ লগত গাৰো পাহাৰৰ বাঘমৰা অঞ্চল ভ্ৰমণ কৰি মানকাচাৰ অঞ্চললৈ গৈছিলো। সেই অঞ্চলত পাকিস্থানে গুলি চালনা কৰি আছে আৰু তাৰ স্থানীয় মানুহৰ মন আতঙ্কিত। মানকাচাৰ সীমান্তত প্ৰত্যেক ২৫ ফুট অন্তৰে অন্তৰে পাকিস্থানে ট্ৰেন্স' থানি থৈছে আৰু আমাৰ সেই সীমান্তৰ মানুহ বিলাকে ভাবিছে পাকিস্থানে কোন দিনা কোন সময়ত কি কৰে। সেই অঞ্চলৰ আন এখন ঠাই—সম্বলপুৰত এটা কৃষি প্ৰদৰ্শনী পতা হৈছিল। সেই ঠাইৰ ওপৰত পাকিস্থানৰ গুলি বৰ্ষণৰ ফলত সেই প্ৰদৰ্শনী হৈ উঠিব নোৱাৰিলে। এই বিলাক ঘটনাই সীমান্তবাসী সমূহ বাইজক আৰু আতঙ্কিত কৰি তুলিছে আৰু চৰকাৰৰ পৰা এনে ব্যৱস্থা অৱলম্বন কৰা হোৱা নাই যাৰ দ্বাৰা এই আতঙ্ক দূৰ হ'ব। এই ঠাই এনে আচল যে ইয়াত কেনেবাকৈ কিবা হলে মানুহ পলাবলৈ ঠাই নাই। মান কাচাৰৰ পিছতেই কাননৈ ঘাট পাৰ হোৱা বৰ মস্কিল। এই ঘাটটোৰ উন্নত কৰাৰ ভাৰ P. W. D. ৰ E. & D. ত আছিল। এই ঘাটটো অকল জনসাধাৰণৰেই কামত নহয় মিলিটেৰীৰ কাৰণেও প্ৰয়োজন। আশা কৰো এই ঘাটটোৰ কাম হাতত লোৱাৰ ব্যৱস্থা অতি সোনকালে চৰকাৰে ল'ব।

ইয়াৰ পিচত নগা সমস্যা সম্পৰ্কে দুটামান কথা কওঁ। এই নগা সমস্যা আজি কেইবা বছৰ ধৰি চলি আছে। কি কাৰণে এনে হবলৈ পাইছে বুজিবলৈ টান হৈছে। সদায়ে এনে গণ্ডগোল চলি থকাটো ঠিক নহয়। নগা উপদ্ৰৱৰ বিষয়ে শ্ৰীযুত সৰ্বেশ্বৰ বৰদলৈ ডাঙৰীয়াই যি উক্তি এই সদনত দাঙি ধৰিলে সেইটো বাস্তৱিকতে মনস্পৰ্শী। গাৰ নোম শিয়ৰি উঠে। আজিও এই বিদ্ৰাহী নগা সকলে ভৈয়াম অঞ্চলত আহি লুটপাট কৰিছেহি। হিম্পিতেলত থকা বোগী ছোৱালী পৰ্য্যন্ত হত্যা কৰিছে। এই কাম কিমান বৰ্বৰতাৰ পৰিচায়ক আৰু কিমান নৃশংস তাক সদনৰ সদস্য সকলে নিশ্চয় উপলব্ধি কৰিছে। ইয়াৰ উপৰিও নগা সকলে ভৈয়াম অঞ্চলত খাজনা আদায় কৰি অত্যাচাৰ কৰিছে। নাগিনীজান আৰু নগাজ্জাত চাহ বাগিচাত নগাৰ অত্যাচাৰ যদি আদি সম্পৰ্কে ৰাজ্যপাল ডাঙৰীয়াৰ ভাষণত কিছু কথা উল্লেখ কৰিছে যদিও বিতংভাৱে নগা সমস্যা সমাধানৰ ব্যৱস্থাৰ কথা কোৱা নাই। আজি এই নগা সমস্যা আমাৰ ৰাজ্যত ডাঙৰ হৈ উঠিছে। কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰে নগা পাহাৰ প্ৰশাসনৰ ভাৰ লৈছে যদিও তেওঁলোকৰ প্ৰশাসনে আমাৰ ৰাজ্যৰ লোকসকলৰ সম্পত্তি আৰু প্ৰাণ বক্ষাৰ বিহিত ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব পৰা নাই। সিদিনা অসমীয়া কাকতৰ সম্পাদকীয় স্তম্ভত দেখিলো যে নগা সকলে আকৌ দুবাৰ নেকা অঞ্চলত আক্ৰমণ চলাইছে।

নগাসকলে অসমৰ শিৱসাগৰ জিলা আৰু মণিপুৰ ৰাজ্যত আক্ৰমণ চলাই নিৰীহ আৰু শান্তিপ্ৰিয় লোকসকলক অত্যাচাৰ উৎপীড়ণ কৰিছে। তেওঁলোকক লুটপাট কৰি আনকি মানুহৰ প্ৰাণ পৰ্য্যন্ত লৈ পলাই সাৰিছে। অথচ আমাৰ চৰকাৰে নগাৰ এই অত্যাচাৰ উৎপীড়ণ আজিকোপতি বন্ধ কৰিব পৰা নাই। আমাৰ চৰকাৰে কি নীতিৰে এই নগা সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিব খুজিছে তাকো আজিলৈকে স্পষ্টভাৱে ফুট দেখুৱা নাই। নে আমাৰ চৰকাৰে বৈষ্ণৱ নীতিৰে সমাধান কৰিব খুজিছে—“মেৱেছ মেৱেছ বেষ্ট কৰেছ তাই বলে কি প্ৰেম দিব নৱ?” ১৯৪২ চনত যেতিয়া ৰেল লাইন নষ্ট কৰি যোগাযোগ বন্ধ কৰাৰ প্ৰচেষ্টা চলিছিল তেতিয়া ইংৰাজ চৰকাৰে গোটেই ৰেল লাইন পহৰা দি বক্ষা কৰিছিল। ঠিক সেইদৰে আজি নগা পাহাৰৰ সীমাতো নগা সকলৰ দ্বাৰা পহৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা উচিত। এই নগাৰ অত্যাচাৰত যিবিলাক লোকৰ ক্ষতি হৈছে সেই সকলক ক্ষতিপৰণ দিয়াৰ বাবে চৰকাৰে ব্যৱস্থা কৰা উচিত।

নগাপাহাৰ জিলাৰ ডিমাপুৰ অঞ্চলটো অতীজৰে পৰা শিৱসাগৰ জিলাৰ অন্তৰ্ভুক্ত আছিল। কিন্তু পিচত এই অঞ্চলটো শিৱসাগৰ জিলাৰ পৰা কাটি নি নগাপাহাৰ জিলাৰ লগত লগ লগোৱা হৈছে। আমাৰ চৰকাৰে এই অঞ্চলটো ঘূৰাই অনাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে। আৰু এটা কথা কওঁ যে নগাপাহাৰৰ শাসনভাৰ বৰ্তমান কেন্দ্ৰৰ হাতত থকাটো তাৰ বিষয়ে উন্নতি দেখা পোৱা নেযায়। মাজে মাজে লুটপাট আৰু অত্যাচাৰ উৎপীড়ণ চলিয়েই আছে। সেই কাৰণে এই নগা পাহাৰৰ শাসনভাৰ নেফাৰ হাতলৈ লৈ আহিব লাগে।

আজি গোটেই পৃথিৱীতে এটা সমস্যাই দেখা দিছে আৰু আমাৰ ভাৰতবৰ্ষ তথা অসমো তাত জড়িত আছে। সেইটো হৈছে জনসংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি। আমাৰ প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী শ্ৰীনেহৰুৱে গুৰুত্ব দিছে। এবাৰ কৈছিল যে আমি যদি জন্ম নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰিব নোৱাৰো তেনেহলে আমাৰ সকলো পৰিকল্পনা খানবান হৈ যাব। প্ৰতিবছৰ কিমান জনসংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি হব লাগিছে কিন্তু বৰ দুখৰ বিষয় যে ৰাজ্যপালৰ ভাষণত ইয়াৰ কোনো উল্লেখ নাই।

(A voice—এই বিষয়ে আপুনি কেনেকৈ জানিব।)

মোৰ অভিজ্ঞতা আছে নে নাই কব নোৱাৰো কিন্তু মই এই সমস্যাৰ বিষয়ে উপলব্ধি কৰিব পাৰিছো। এজন বৈজ্ঞানিকে কৈছিল যে এইদৰে যদি জনসংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি হৈ থাকে তেনেহলে পৃথিৱীত মানুহ তিয় হবলৈকে ঠাই নাইকীয়া হব। ভাৰতৰ জনসংখ্যা আজি আন সকলো দেশতকৈ বেচি। গতিকে জন্ম নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰিব নোৱাৰিলে কেনেকৈ আজি ভূমি সমস্যা অৰ্থনৈতিক সমস্যা আৰু খাদ্য-সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিব পৰা যাব।

আমাৰ যোগান বিভাগে ধান সংগ্ৰহৰ কাম হাতত লৈছে হয় কিন্তু সেই কামত বৰ বেচি কৃতকাৰ্য্য হব পৰা নাই। বৰ্তমান গুৱাহাটীতে চাউলৰ দাম মোণে ২৫ টকাৰ পৰা ২৭.৫০ হৈছে। খবালি কাল আৰু ধানৰ দিনতে যদি এইদৰে দাম বাঢ়ি যায় তেনেহলে বাৰিষা কি অৱস্থা হব কোৱা টান। সেই কাৰণে যোগান আৰু সৰবৰাহ বিভাগ এতিয়াৰে পৰা বৰ সাৱধান হব লাগে যাত ভৱিষ্যতে মিল মালিক আৰু মহাজন সকলৰ অনুগ্ৰহ বিচাৰিব লগা নহয়। মই এই বিষয়ত যোগান বিভাগক সতৰ্ক কৰি দিছো।

ইয়াকে কৈ মই শ্ৰীমতী কমলকুমাৰী বৰুৱাৰ প্ৰস্তাৱটো সমৰ্থন কৰিছো।

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY (Minister, Food Agriculture etc): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am extremely grateful to the hon. Members of this House for the constructive attitude they have taken in discussing the problems of agriculture. Sir, I am also very much grateful to the House for the welcome they have given to the decisions of the Government to implement most of the recommendations of the Nalagarh Committee and to organise the Field Management Committees throughout the State. The suggestions given by Mr. Jormanik Siem regarding the steps to be taken for the protection of crop will receive the very earnest attention of the Government. Sir, my Friend, Shri Mohidhar Pegoo said that very often they found that the seeds distributed by the Department of Agriculture did not germinate properly. In this connections, I brought it to the notice of the House then

and there at the time of his speech that I issued a personal letter to every Member of the House requesting them to bring any such case to the notice of the Government and if necessary to my notice, so that I could examine the same and take steps. I am very sorry to inform you that none including my Friend Shri Pegoo had brought any such incident to my notice. I requested him on the floor of the House at that time to give me the details of that case so that I could enquire into the matter but he had not given it to me as yet.

I would now refer to the criticism made by my Friend, Shri Ghanashyam Talukdar. I entirely agree with the House that in order to improve agriculture we must give a lot of stress on irrigation. But unfortunately what happened during the formulation of the Second Five Year Plan that we did not think much in terms of irrigation in this State. Therefore, most of the schemes accepted were of the nature of embankment and drainage. Now that we realised after the drought that we would have to switch on to irrigation, we are preparing some schemes on irrigation and some are under investigation. Preparation of an irrigation scheme requires time. It needs contour survey of the land itself. We must have sufficient data about the water discharge and the capacity of the individual rivers or the water resources to irrigate a particular area. We are investigating several such schemes which I hope, we will be able to take up sometime or at least during the Third Five Year Plan.

My Friend, Shri Talukdar has referred to the problem of the Beki river. I would like to give some details in this connection. Sir, a resolution was brought by my Friend, Shri Talukdar in the last Budget Session. He also asked certain questions in this connection on the floor of the House. In reply to all these we tried to clarify the position. But it seems he is still under some mis-apprehension. The Beki river bifurcates from the Manas river near the foot-hills at Mathanguri. In olden days the major portion of the discharge used to flow through the Manas river. But since several years now the bulk of the discharge had diverted through the Beki with resultant erosion on either banks of the Beki and also over-topping of banks in floods. Temporary protection works at the affected places for arresting erosion are not likely to be of any use and may ultimately turn in o more waste. Permanent protection works will be highly costly and absolutely dis-proportionate to the value of the properties sought to be protected and therefore cannot be taken up. As

for arresting the flood spills from entering into the country-side flood embankments may be useful. We have dyke on the left bank of the Beki from Mathanguri to Basubari for a length of 9.7 miles. This dyke was constructed in the year 1956 and its cost was shared by the Railway Department on 50:50 basis. There is, however, no scope for taking up any embankment work on the right bank during the Second Plan period for paucity of funds. The position of funds under the flood control programme is extremely gloomy. The plan allocation under this programme has been successively cut down as a result of which some schemes which were originally included in the programme had to be dropped even.

I agree, one method of bringing the river under control is to provide a Dam in the hilly catchment thus creating a flood retention reservoir. Such projects has also scope for generating Hydro-electric power. As a matter of fact, about 11 years back investigations were taken up by the Central Water and Power Commission on behalf of the State Government for a possible multi-purpose project above the confluence of Beki and Manas river in the foot-hills within the Bhutan territory. The reasons for dropping the proposal for construction of a dam on the Manas river near Mathanguri are due to the facts that the reservoir area falls in Bhutan territory and that such projects are not only very costly but also requires very careful observation and investigation for a number of years before the project can be finalised. Sir, in order to construct a dam certain areas have got to be submerged. Now, in this case, a large tract of land in the Bhutanese territory will be submerged if the dam is constructed. If the people of Bhutan do not agree to the construction of a dam by submerging their land which will benefit the people of Assam, there is no means in the hands of this Government or the Government of India to compel the Government of Bhutan to agree to our proposal except through negotiations. In fact, negotiations had failed in this respect. We are trying to explore means as to how we shall be in a position to help the people by other methods and the investigations are now in progress. I have already stated that we have constructed an embankment on one side of the river and construction of another on the other side of the river is under consideration for taking up in the Third Plan.

Shri GAURISHANKAR BHATTACHARYA (Gauhati): Is the Minister aware that the Government of Bhutan has since withdrawn its objection?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Food, Agriculturē, etc.): Well, Sir, it is a news to me.

My Friend, Shri Talukdar stated that this Government was not taking any steps for the purpose of saving Silchar town from erosion. Sir, this is not correct. An estimate amounting to Rs.3,20,000 was approved on 15th February 1955 for the protection of Silchar town and the work is under progress. Out of this estimated amount a sum of rupees 1 lakh 29 thousands has been already spent and we have now asked the Executive Engineer to close this estimate and to prepare a fresh one for the remaining works to be done.

I am really very grateful to my Friend Shri Ram Nath Sarma for bringing before the House the question of taking up the Kopilli Dam Project. I think I should be failing in my duty if I do not give some information about it. The detailed investigations of the Kopilli Dam Project have been undertaken by the Assam Investigation Circle of the Central Water and Power Commission since October, 1956. The details of the scheme are as follows: A 265 ft. high dam across the Kopilli gorge about five miles up-stream of Garampani is proposed to be built to create a storage reservoir. Water from the reservoir is proposed to be led through a four mile long tunnel and a two mile long steel pipe to the power house located in the adjacent Diyong valley 1500 ft. below the reservoir. The power potential of the project is estimated at 3,88,000 K. W. at 50 per cent loan factor. The contribution of the storage towards flood moderation will, however be only nominal as the capacity of the reservoir compared to the total catchment and flood run-off are small. All topographical surveys of the reservoir area, dam sites, long section of the entire Kopilli river for 243 miles, and survey of the dykes have been completed. Hydrological survey with regard to rainfall, gauge, discharge, silt and other data have also been completed. Geological investigation involving about 4000 rft. of drilling in difficult terrain has also been almost completed.

It is expected that the detailed project report for the scheme well be prepared by the Central Water and Power Commission by the middle of 1959. The project report on the irrigation aspect of the scheme which is now planned from the Jamuna river estimated at Rs. 168 lakhs has since been prepared by the Superintending Engineer, Assam Investigation Circle, C. W. & P. C. and submitted to Delhi with a copy forwarded to our E & D Department. The

report is under study. If the scheme is accepted and sanctioned by the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Irrigation and Power, Government of India and funds can be obtained, a start can be given to the irrigation part of the scheme during the 2nd Plan period itself. But the difficulty is this that the scheme is not included in the Second Five Year Plan. Therefore, we are trying to make a beginning at least in the 2nd Plan period itself of the irrigation portion of the scheme. With regard to the power portion of this scheme, I am afraid, it may not be taken up in the 2nd Five Year Plan period, particularly, in view of the fact that the Government of India has agreed to the Garampani Hydel Scheme to be undertaken right now.

Sir, some of my Friends also raised the question of construction of a dam in the Barak river. I gave details about it in the earlier meetings of this House. I therefore need not repeat them. Suffice it to say that the Government is quite alive to the need of this scheme. This Government has referred the whole matter to the C.W. & P.C. and have requested them to re-examine the matter, even if necessary, by associating a foreign expert.

Now, Sir, I would refer to the several speeches delivered by some of my Friends regarding the supply position in the State. Sir, my Friend, Shri Hiralal Patwary had stated that the whole scheme of procurement was taken up without taking either the cultivators or the Food Procurement Advisory Board into confidence. I am very sorry for his mis-representation. My Friend himself was present in the meeting of the Food Advisory Board held at Gauhati in which the whole matter was discussed before Government had announced its policy. It was decided in that meeting in which the Leader of the Opposition was also present that the price of paddy should be fixed between Rs.10.50 to Rs.11 per maund.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): Sir, it is not to my knowledge that the price should be fixed at Rs. 11.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Food, Agriculture, etc.): I do not know what he remembers now but he was present when the decision fixing the price of paddy was arrived at. Some time after that Shri Patwary came to me and represented several times many matters about the procurement in Mangaldoi and I asked him to give the same in writing but he did not. Later on, he again came to me and made certain complaints on behalf of his Farm—S. S. Patwary & Co., against the Supply Department

as his Farm being a rice dealer had some connection with the Supply Department. (At this stage some disturbance followed) I am not giving way. I am told that a Farm connected with Shri Hiralal Patwary is a supplier of rice in tea gardens in the Mangaldoi subdivision. That is one of the difficulties. Another difficulty is this that he comes of that section of the business community which is largely responsible for such a bungling (further disturbance followed from the opposition side)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Hiralal Patwary says that he is not a rice dealer and when he says so in the House, we have to take it.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: (Minister, Food, Agriculture, etc.): I do not know, Sir, whether there was any other Patwary in the Mangaldoi Subdivision who is a supplier of rice in the tea gardens.

Shri GAURISHANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Sir, the Minister must accept it when Shri Hiralal Patwary says that he is not a supplier of rice.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I do not know then who is the owner of the farm S. S. Patwary of Mangaldoi. It is in records that S. S. Patwary of Mangaldoi is a dealer in rice and in fact Shri Hiralal Patwary saw me on behalf of this Farm. Who is to say now as to how many Patwaries are there in Mangaldoi?

Shri GAURISANKER BHATTACHARYYA: It is not for us to say who is this Hiralal Patwary or how many Hiralal Patwaries are there.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: But I must say it is clear from record that Hiralal Patwary is connected with a rice dealing farm.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): Sir he should withdraw the statement.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, I am not withdrawing. In that meeting of the Board it was decided that the price of paddy should be fixed at between Rs.10.50 to Rs.11. Many Members of this House including Shri Hiralal Patwary and the Leader of the Opposition were present in that meeting and were party to that decision. The Government has not turned down its recommendations altogether

Government has fixed the price at Rs.10.25 to Rs.10.75 naya paise. In fact, we have not gone against the decision of the Board. In that very Board, it was also decided that paddy being full of moisture in the months of December, January and February there should be proportionate cut for the same. But my Friend, Shri Hiralal Patwary forgetting the proceedings of that meeting accuses me just to play to the gallery. Sir, whatever have been done by the Supply Department in deciding their procurement policy, rather I say and reiterate that in deciding the procurement policy the Government associated not only the Food Advisory Council which represents various interests but also took into consideration the public opinion. In that Board the agriculturists were represented; some Members of the Opposition including the Leader of the Opposition Shri Hareswar Goswami and also many Members of this side of the House were represented there. In that meeting, it was decided that monopoly should be given at least in two districts to the co-operatives, and the Supply Department had accepted that proposition. Sir, when we have associated the cooperatives in the work of procurement under the direction of the Board, I am surprised to hear the statement made by Shri Tarunsen Deka that we did so with the motives to help the members of particular political party in the State i. e., the Congress. When the price of rice is high in the State my Friend and the Communists say that rice must be supplied to the people at Rs.18 per maund and at the same time they say that we must pay Rs.12 for each maund of paddy to the agriculturists. I do not know, Sir, how rice can be distributed at Rs.18 per maund after purchasing the paddy at Rs.12 per maund. This is a contradiction. His is a party which wants to please every interest and as such they speak different things at the same times. The cooperative which is engaged in monopoly procurement in Nowgong is not a cooperative of few individuals only. It is a cooperative of the marketing societies of the State. Government itself purchased shares worth several lakhs of rupees in this cooperative. Such a cooperative has been given monopoly in procurement. But now they come and say that in this cooperative only the Congressmen are associated. How can I help the Communists who did not join any cooperatives? This cooperative is doing good work in the Mikir Hills District and Nowgong District. So far as the procurement price is concerned this Government has fixed it; there is of course, some variations by a few annas only from zone to zone. The procurement price in the Kamrup District, north of the Brahmaputra, Darrang District, Nowgong District, Hailakandi, Silchar, Kokrajhar and north Lakhimpur sub-divisions

which are in zone I has been fixed at Rs.10.25 np. per maund of paddy. In all these areas, the procurement price is the same. In zone II it is Rs.10.50 naya paise. In zone III it is Rs.10.75 naya paise.

Zone III consists of areas which are not self-sufficient.

Shri TARUNSEN DEKA (Nalbari-West): I want a clarification, whether producers get this price?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Food, Agriculture, etc.): We have fixed Rs.10.25 np. per maund as the price of procurement and producers are to get not less than Rs.9 per maund of paddy.

Shri TARUNSEN DEKA: Why this difference?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: The difference is because the man who procures has got to meet other incidental expenses, such as, interest, management, transport, godown, wastage, etc.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): For clarification, who are those persons who procures?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I will come to that. Sir, it was agreed by the Food Advisory Board to hand-over the whole of procurement work to the cooperatives in two districts only as an experimental measure as they felt that at the present moment, we had not cooperatives in all areas. They recommended that in other areas the previous procedure of procurement should be followed Shri Hiralal Patwary

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY: Sir, why should the Minister refer only to Hiralal Patwary? *(laughter and noises)*.

Shri GAURISANKER BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): He should not be angry as there is love for my Friend Shri Patwary.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hope, the Minister will not refer him *(laughter)*.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Now, Sir, the hon. Member from Panery in Mangaldoi *(laughter)* said that in some of the check posts people have got to pay Rs.50 per maund of paddy for passing the same. I have no such information. I think he has information to prove this.

While he was saying this, I requested him to furnish me with the names of the traders who paid this money for passing their paddy but I am sorry to say that uptill now he has not done so although he promised to do so. As he has not furnished me with the names so as to enable me to make proper enquiry and take drastic steps, if need be, I am to presume that the hon. Member was only playing to the gallery. (Shri Hiralal Patwary took his stand and there were noises). Then Sir, the same hon. Member said in the House that a circular letter was issued by the Government to the districts and subdivisions supply staff not to issue C. I. sheets to rural areas.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): Not C. I. sheets but iron rods.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Food, Agriculture, etc.): At the time of his speech, I requested him to give me a copy of that circular order but unfortunately he has not given me the same till to-day, although he promised to do so in the House. It thus appears that in this case also he was playing to the gallery. Sir, the same hon. Member went to my residence along with the Leader of the Opposition and brought to my notice some allegations against supply staff. I requested him to give the same in writing in the present of the Leader of the Opposition but uptill now he has not done so.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY: It has been given.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I am sorry, I have not got it as yet (Shri Hiralal Patwary takes stand).

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, Order, the hon'ble Minister has not given way.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Now, Sir, coming to the question of ratio of prices between rice and paddy certain hon. Members of this House have said that this ratio is too much in favour of the millers. In fact the milling charge used to be paid at Re.1 per maund, has been reduced by me to annas twelve per maund. Mr. Deka said that out of a maund of paddy 30 seers of rice can be milled. But our report is that 24 or 25 seers of rice per maund can be milled. We arrived at this basis after obtaining reports from the Deputy Commissioners. If the hon. Member says that this calculation on the basis of the reports of the Deputy Commissioners is not correct, on which we fixed the price of rice, we shall certainly, review this matter again.

Shri TARUNSEN DEKA (Nalbari-West): I did not say about ordinary rice but I said about jaha rice.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Food, Agriculture, etc.): I see! Sir, there is no question of fixing price of jaha rice, as it is not controlled at all. Then Sir, some of my hon. Friends referred to high prices of rice in some areas of the State. This may be true in some out of the way places or for some local difficulties, as in the case of Cachar. For transport bottleneck and border difficulties in that district prices shot up high recently. I myself, went there and took certain steps. We decided that we should supply rice from other parts of the State to Cachar in order to meet the situation. In fact, the Supply Department has already taken steps to send 20,000 maunds of rice to Cachar District. Besides we have suspended all licenses of millers and traders in Silchar Subdivision. I am told that the situation has eased to some extent there. The price level has also gone down. But, it is not correct that the prices are higher everywhere than procurement prices. Rather our experience of procurement is this that we are getting supply of paddy at the price fixed by us. Recently, we called for tenders at Government price for arranging supply to places like Shillong. Traders submitted tenders and were ready to supply at procurement price fixed by Government. Therefore, I have no reason to believe that prices are higher everywhere than the procurement price.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): ভেবেচিঁত গৌহাটীত শ্রীঅজিত প্রসাদ.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order talk regarding outside matters are not in order.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, Shri Ajit Prasad Jain visited this State twice. On the second occasion, I was in South India.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY: I am speaking of the first visit.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: During the time of the first visit I was there at Gauhati and the hon. Member was also there?

(Laughter)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are you not concluding?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I have got to touch some more points raised by hon. Members.

Sir, I really welcome the speeches delivered by Messrs. Sarbeswar Bordoloi, Naren Sarma and Mahi Kanta Das regarding the co-operative sugar mill. In this connection, I can't but deprecate the remarks made by Shri Nilmoney Bor-thakur that we are producing 'Assamese sugar.' What is wrong in producing Assamese sugar? It is not 'red sugar', it is white sugar. So, what is wrong in producing 'Assamese sugar.' We are trying to set up industries in Assam in order to produce things there. If industries are not set up we will be criticised that Government have not been able to do anything in that direc-tion. (A voice) we were referring to high cost). I am coming to it, Sir. The project for the mill was estimated originally to cost 90 lakhs of rupees and we proposed to collect from public Rs. ten lakhs out of it by way of share capital. My Friend was finding fault that we had not been able to raise sufficient share capital from the public. But I can tell him that we have been able to raise more than ten lakhs from the public as decided. Now we have decided to raise another seven lakhs from public. Sir, the trial crushing of the mill had started. My Friend will appreciate that even during the trial period the cost of production has been found ultimately to be not more than forty rupees per maund. The main reason for this was that the sugarcane which was supplied to the mill at that period contained very low sucrose content; it was 6 per cent but now the percentage of recovery has come upto 9.94 per cent I am told. As we are now getting better sugar-cane and we are also bringing more land under sugarcane cultivation by organising more co-operative societies, I am sure, things will improve. There is no reason to be panicky about it.

Sir, my Friend, Shri Mohadeb Das and Shri Dwijesh Ch. Dev Sarma referred to the difficulties of handlooms. Since there is very little time at my disposal, I will not refer to it. But I can assure my Friends that this matter is receiving attention of the Government.

Shri Ramnath Sarma from Nowgong spoke about the proposed Nowgong sugar mill. I explained in the earlier meeting of this House the position regarding the proposed sugar mill at Nowgong. The people there could not collect the share capital within the time stipulated. In the meantime, as a result of foreign exchange difficulties, the Government of India asked us to go slow. As the position stands now, there is very little chance for us to have that sugar mill in the Second Five Year Plan period. If it comes at all it may come in the Third Plan period. It will have to take its chance.

Sir, before concluding my speech, I would like to refer to border firings. Sir, it has been said in the speech of the Governor that we do not want war, and in fact it has been stated on more than one occasions that we do not want war with Pakistan. We have tried to settle our border affairs with Pakistan by peaceful means. That does not mean that we are weak and we should be afraid of Pakistan. Certainly, we are in a position to defend our selves. But as I have said, in keeping with our foreign policy, we are trying to settle up this matter in a peaceful manner. I find, Sir, whenever this question of border comes up, some political parties particularly, some hon'ble Members of this House belonging to a particular political party try to create a situation of mutual distrust and confusion. They make observations in order to create a sense of distrust amongst the communities. Sir, I reiterate what the Chief Minister said, while we discussed this matter on 23rd August, 1958 that "Government is not afraid of Pakistanis or the Pakistani spies ; they can be dealt with. But the Government is afraid of those people who try to create confusion and distrust amongst the members of different communities." I was really pained to hear the speech delivered by my Friend Shri Gaurishankar Bhattacharyya. There was an attempt to give a communal colour to the whole thing. The Member who in his last speech on 23rd August 1958 hinted at exchange of population between the two dominions and asked the Mustim M. L. A.s to go to the border.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): I did never say that there should be exchange of population. Let it be compared with the official record of the proceedings. I said that exchange of population was not a practical proposition. This Minister's insinuation is untrue and most undignified. This is breach of privilege of the House. (Shri Hiralal Patwary rose in excitement and tried to say something but the Deputy Speaker called him to order).

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Food, Agriculture, etc.): It is becoming increasingly dangerous to quote from newspaper reports.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Why don't you refer to Official report ?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, the Minister may refer to the Official report.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Yes, Sir, I am referring to the Official report. After hinting at exchange of population he said, we may have to transfer some people whose

loyalty is doubtful and it was spoken in the context of the Muslim community as a whole as would be evident from the reading of the speech itself.

.....(angry shouts from the Opposition).

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): (In great excitement). It is a blatant lie that it was spoken in the context of the Muslim community as a whole. It is most undignified utterance on the part of a Minister.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. Will the hon'ble Member withdraw the expression 'blatant lie'?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Yes Sir, this is a blatant un-truth. Let the official record be compared. I never said that the Muslim M. L. As of both sides should go to Pakistan. This is a monstrous untruth. (More shouting from Opposition and Shri Hiralal Patwary again rose and Mr. Deputy Speaker again called him to order).

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Food, Agriculture, etc.): He asked the Muslim M. L. A. of both sides to go to the border as if it is only their duty to go to the border and nobody elses.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Yes, I asked them to go to the border areas in order to pacify the people. I did not say that they should cross the border. I suggested that they should pacify the border people, I shall even now say that. I did not advise anybody to go to Pakistan. Why should they go? Of course, the Minister may go to Pakistan if he likes.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I was saying Sir, that he hinted at exchange of population and asked the Muslim M. L. A. of both sides to go to the border. What does this mean? He has all along been trying to create confusion.

(Shri Hiralal Patwary again rose and the Deputy Speaker asked him to resume his seat but not before some more shouting was done).

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: My request to you Sir, is when he refers to the official report, you should verify what I said. So far as I remember what I said then was that large scale transfer of population was not a practical proposition. It might be necessary to transfer some persons of doubtful loyalty. I said that exchange of population could not be made a general policy.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order, I have asked the Minister to refer to the Official report.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Food, Agriculture etc.): Then he misquoted me in that speech saying that I claimed to be the leader of the Muslims but when the hon'ble Speaker asked him to substantiate, he could not.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): When the Minister speaks about official reports from memory he is apt to confuse and commit certain mistakes and that may be the case with me also. My point is that if a reference is made to an official report it is better to read the official report itself. So let him read the whole thing and the whole thing will come out.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, I have reasons to believe that members of a certain political party in order to create distrust amongst the communities and also amongst the members of the Congress itself is pursuing a systematic policy of spreading venoms against some individuals members of the minority community. I was surprised to find the other day a copy of the photostat letter in the hands of the hon. Member here.....

(Shri Hiralal Patwary again rose to speak something).

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Patwary, more than once I have said that you must know the decorum of the House and the House will suffer if such irrelevant disturbances occur.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, my point is that we should not mis-use the privilege of this House to cast unjustified flings on anyone. But I find that this is being done here. During the last Session of the Assembly, the Leader of the Opposition made a statement against certain Minister but he could not substantiate his statement. Similarly in the same manner flings have been thrown on a Congress Minister by Shri Bhattacharyya. I do not know is the Minister who helped an alleged Pakistani to get a passport. Why did he not mention the name of the Minister or the year of the issue of the passport? These are not done only with the intention to create suspicion against some people by abusing the privilege of the House. I am very happy, Sir, that this House had taken a very

serious view to such mis-use of the privilege of this House by a Member in the debate on Governor's address and had referred the same to the Privilege Committee. We must not mis-use the privilege of the House. It has become the habit of some people to question the loyalty of others.....

(disturbance—many members shouted)

Sir, this may give satisfaction to the people who are in the habit of always washing dirty linens in public in questioning the loyalty of others but it does dis-service to the country. Sir, people belonging to a party in 1942 when the people of India (there was a loud and disturbing noise).

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not refer to personal matters. Confine to the speech. Order, Order.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Food, Agriculture, etc.): I was referring to a Party.

(Shri Hiralal Patwary rose excitedly).

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hope I shall have to take drastic action against you. I have said this twice.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Education, Jails etc.): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to explain a few points raised by the hon. Members and I will deal mainly with matters which approach the questions of policy. Sir, while I take my stand here, the first thing that comes to my mind is what the late lamented Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad, our revered leader, said in the Lok Sabha. While he took his stand in the Lok Sabha in the first Session he said that his pockets were empty. This was in connection with various demands in respect of improvements and development of education in various wings.

Sir, the criticisms from various Members of this House in respect of education, I must gratefully acknowledge, were constructive and suggestive save and except one single line from Shri Das to which I shall refer later on. Other suggestions I welcome and Government will examine those carefully.

Sir, the first point that was raised by Shri Tankeswar Chetia and my Friend Shri Hiralal Patwary was of supreme importance, I mean, free and compulsory primary education for the age group of 6 to 11. While Shri Tankeswar Chetia sought to

appreciate the enormity of the problem itself, my Friend Shri Patwary expressed a slight regret in Government's inability to implement this programme. Sir, if I remember aright, as early as 1949 this Government took up a policy of compulsory and free primary education in the State. But after a few years—I suppose after about four years of operation, the policy of taking more areas under this scheme had to be slowed down or, more correctly abandoned. What were the reasons? It is not that the State Government is not willing to expand compulsory and free primary education. The difficulties are—(1) in respect of funds and (2) in respect of trained teachers. As we all know the resources of the State are strictly limited. Even so this Government made heroic efforts to expand compulsory and free primary education. When we found that the number of trained teachers to cope with education cannot be brought to anything approaching the level of our requirements both for reasons of shortfall of finance as well as for want of trained teachers, we had to abandon that scheme. Sir, now the Central Government are contemplating to cover the entire country with the Scheme of compulsory and free primary education and it is contemplated that by the end of the Third Plan this might be achieved. For this purpose in a phased programme we require about 13 thousand trained teachers and 10 crore of rupees—I mean during the period when that programme will be completed. It is an enormous amount and even if the same is available with the help of the Central Government, it will be difficult for us, if not impossible, to have 13 thousand trained teachers more. For this Government has drawn up a scheme which has been forwarded to the Central Government for approval to cover the entire State as envisaged by the Third Five Year Plan.

Other important points which were raised by Shri Chetia and some other Members like Shri Prabhat Narayan Choudhury, Shri Radha Charan Choudhury and a few others regarding introduction of English in the Middle Vernacular Schools. In certain Middle Vernacular Schools English has been introduced. Now a question is posed as to whether in those Middle Vernacular Schools where English has been introduced, fees would be levied or not, what would be the course and what would be the repercussion by introduction of English in the Middle Vernacular Schools vis-a-vis Middle English Schools. Sir, let us recollect that since the passing of the Basic Education Act in 1954, Middle Vernacular Schools as such do not exist of course technically—they are all now senior basic schools. Now, the policy that has been adopted in respect of senior and junior basic schools, or in other words, primary schools, has been a

uniform one, the course of training is also a uniform one in these senior basic schools (interruptions from Shri Jahanuddin Ahmed) I would very much request my Friend Shri Jahanuddin Ahmed who is a fairly senior Member of this House to extend his hearty co-operation for the development of education in the State and not jeering at me—I will not suffer by his jeering but the State will suffer. Anyway, as I said just now, the course of training and the curricula in these senior basic schools are uniform according to the Government of India policy. Herein the idea is that we should have of education which should be made available for all and which should be adequate for good citizenship. It is not a preliminary school for entrance to a high school, but it is intended to give complete education in itself so that we can have good citizens. But a question may be asked whether it is a blind alley, and whether it will not give chance to M. V. School students to go to a high school? No, Sir, it should not constitute a blind alley and it is not one. Herein the only impediment is that if English is introduced in the M. V. Schools or senior basic schools, what will be the repurcussion to M. E. schools? But Sir, so far that question is concerned, the policy has not yet been finalised. This matter was also discussed in the Central Advisory Board of Education. In the senior basic schools the emphasis is laid on mathematics and advanced mother tongue. Now if English is introduced in the M. V. schools, are we distinguishing between the senior basic schools or M. V. schools and M. E. schools because in the same village at a distance of say three or four miles there is one M. V. school and one M. E. school. As I said earlier, in the M. V. schools emphasis is laid on Mathematics and vernacular and in the M. E. schools emphasis is laid on English, it will mean a discrimination. Now Government is examining this question how to eliminate this discrimination and at the same time to give suitable education in both these schools. It may be that M. E. schools may at one stage be abolished. But we have not envisaged that stage at present. That is as regards fees and the repurcussion that introduction of English in M. V. schools will have on M. E. schools. It is true that with introduction of English in the M. V. schools, M. E. schools will naturally dwindle. This is the matter which is exercising the mind of the Government at the present moment and I welcome any suggestion from all hon. Members of this House.

Now Sir, the next point which has been raised by my Friend Shri Prabhat Narayan Choudhury that there is no co-ordination between the joinior basic schools and senior basic

schools and between secondary schools and colleges, I have not been able to follow what he means by complete lack of co-ordination. It does not occur to my mind that there is complete lack of co-ordination. Since education has expanded itself into various wings there is surely a lot of decentralisation. If my Friend means that this decentralisation is lack of co-ordination, then it is bound to happen with the expansion of education. But if he does not mean so, I would request him to send his suggestions to us as to how to get better co-ordination and such suggestions will receive our earnest attention. Then another point he mentioned, that is he wanted us to lay more emphasis on science in our schools and colleges. We all agree that we should be able to introduce instruction on science in all our schools and colleges. But as hon. Members know, that is a big job. Here again, lack of teachers, lack of accommodation and lack of equipments, etc., is our problem. We just lack the facilities, but it is an accepted policy of the Central as well as the State Government to give as much scope for studies in science as it is possible, because we have to make our people a little science minded, so that there may be repaid progress in the development of our country. However, with our limited resources, it will have to be done gradually. Shri Hiralal Patwari has mentioned few very important points in his discussion with regard to Education. I must say all his suggestions are quite reasonable and Government is also thinking in similar lines. He mentioned that Government is not showing that much of interest to the education of the tea plantation labourers which their children deserve. This problem is engaging the attention of the Government for a long time. It is a delicate problem because most of these schools are run by the Plantation Managements. However, we are trying to draw up a scheme in consultation with the Plantation authorities so that gradually we might take over all these institutions. For the information of the House I may submit that we are trying to improve the system of inspection and supervision of the institutions and for that purpose we are greatly handicapped at present due to shortage of Officers and also due to the rapid expansion of the schools. Even our schools, I mean the perly inspected. We are trying to remove that defect. We are trying to appoint more Inspectors, Deputy Inspectors etc., for the purpose. My Friend Shri Patwary also referred to the problem of unemployment and underemployment of the Matric failed youngmen of the State. That is a problem of the welfare State and as a matter of fact it is facing all welfare States. Sir, for the purpose of their-employment, we are trying to have technical and vocational institutions, to start with in all

district headquarters and we are also considering the question of opening such institutions in all subdivisional headquarters also. We have also thrown open some avenues of employment to these young men. For instance previously only Matriculates were taken in as Road Muharrers. Now we have decided to appoint Matric failed people and also people who have passed class IX and read up to Class X. We have also thrown open the posts of teachers of L.P. Schools to these people. Here all that we are to do is to create an awareness in the minds of the people of the State so that the guardians take more interest in the studies of their wards and the teachers are more adroit. Another important point is with regard to women education. I am thankful to him for raising this question. Sir, we all know that the Durgabai Committee was instituted with a view to give encouragement to women education. It has submitted its report which is under consideration of the Government. I may inform the House that Government is trying its best to encourage women education because half of the population cannot be left in ignorance. Where there is a male and a female candidate our leaning would be towards giving employment to the female candidate. Particularly so in the teaching profession. So the Durgabai Committee is under examination and we are trying to encourage and give help in greater quantities towards the Girls' institutions-Schools and Colleges and in respect of employments. The other point raised was with regard to the emoluments of the L. P. school teachers. My Friend may be satisfied that that Government is doing all that is possible in this regard. We hope to do better in better time. This Government is entirely sympathetic towards an enhancement of the emoluments of the Lower Primary School Teachers which they richly deserve and also towards the teaching profession as a whole. Government with the limited resources is determined to ameliorate the condition of the teachers. Shri Tankeswar Chetia raised the question that as the Government has raised the pay scale of the High School teachers what about the other qualified teachers. Sir, this is a vexed question no doubt. We take the yardstick as B.A., B.Sc., etc., and at the lower level we take the Intermediates and others and we adjust their pay scale within the limited finances of the Government. I am contemplating to have this matter examined further also. Shri Chetia also mentioned another very important point with regard to checking unplanned growth of High Schools and we have accepted a principle that except in very exceptional circumstances, we shall not have more than a High school with a radius of 5 miles. We are also not going to have a High School where number of

students is less than 300. The exception will be made in case of girls' school and also in respect of starting schools in backward areas.

My Friend Shri Jahanuddin raised a question as to why there should be provision for nomination to these institutions and why in the matter of nomination, members belonging to only one party should get the preference. I would submit Sir, this is not so. When I was the Supply Minister, I took members from all parties in the Supply Advisory Board.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara): I said that the nomination system should be abolished.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Education, Jails, etc.): I quite appreciate this, Sir, but I may say that if there is nomination the best persons available in any party may be nominated. I may point out in this connection that we decided to take in Shri T. Cajee in an Advisory Board, Shri Hem Barua to the publication Board, Shri Hareswar Goswami in another set-up *viz.* Gandhi Memorial Committee, Shri B. M. Roy in the State Library. These are very outstanding names I remember and when we shall have any occasion for nominating anybody I will in all humility remember the name of Shri Jahanuddin Ahmed (laughter). Shri Thuamluia complained about overcrowding in Mizo Hills schools. Sir, we shall look into this matter. As a matter of fact we are giving more attention to improvement of education in the hill districts. Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami has raised a very pertinent and complicated question with regard to the question of training allowance of untrained Lower Primary School teacher, benefit of Rs. 5 at flat rate as allowance to the Government School teachers drawing below Rs. 100 per month which is not extended to Middle Vernacular School teachers and about not paying adequate attention to the improvement of the buildings of Lower Primary Schools and also he has mentioned that we should stop the anomaly in the matter of administration of the Middle Vernacular Schools. Sir, these are all quite correct. We have many anomalies and many shortcomings. I hope with the co-operation of all friends here we will be able to remove them gradually. I am keen to remove the anomaly in the pay scale of the Middle Vernacular school teachers which has somehow crept into our system.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is now 12-30. P. M.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH: Sir, I shall finish within 5 minutes. Now regarding the policy of giving grants-in-aid to aided institutions. I welcome the suggestions of my Friend

Shri Goswami. That is a matter which we have to think seriously in the interest of the Government itself. Because towards the close of the year so many friends come to us and ask for help to this school and that school and when we fail to accommodate our friends, no body is more sorry than the Education Minister himself, for lack of funds. Therefore our intention is to place these aided institutions, more or less, on their own feet by giving a little help in the shape of grants-in-aid or recurring grant as suggested by Shri Goswami.

I think I have come to the journey's end. Shri Biren Das has stated that even in Education corruption has crept in. If personal opinion is permissible, I consider these temples of education as so many holy places of religion, places of worship. Therefore I cannot think for a moment that there is impurity or corruption in educational institutions. I shall be very happy if he tells, if necessary privately also, where he detected such corruption in educational institutions, I shall be very happy and I place my services at his disposal to eradicate corruption.

Shri Pakhi Rai Deka stated about School Boards, that these School Boards are not functioning properly. Sir, these School Boards are manned by non-officials, and it is true that some of these School Boards function in a manner not entirely to our satisfaction. But the remedy lies more on the co-operation of the Chairmen of these Boards and also on the co-operation of the Members of this House. We hope this co-operation will be extended to Government so that those School Boards which function in a manner not in keeping with the objective with which they are brought into being, we will be able to bring them to a satisfactory level.

Shri B. Das spoke about relaxation of rules for Tribal areas. It is difficult to relax the existing rules. Even though this difficulty is overcome and the rules are relaxed, I am afraid, ultimately it will not be to the advantage of the Tribal students. Rather than trying to relax the existing rules, in my opinion, we should try, our friends from the Tribal areas should try, how best they can afford to stand on their own feet.

Now, a few words regarding the Public Works Department. Regarding this department there were two principal criticisms. One is regarding the Bhaluka Daba Bridge. I am not myself happy about this. I had been to this side last month and I personally saw it and I am causing an enquiry to be made into the causes as to why the Bridges cost so much, why should it collapse and what steps were taken to make it negotiable.

The other is about the Aijal Road. We are all anxious that this road be maintained in proper trim and made an all weather road. When the Prime Minister came to Shillong last time, he was pleased to make mention about this road to us and wanted that it to be completed as soon as possible. The difficulty about this road is about the terrain and gradient. Now a sum of Rs.14 lakhs has been recently sanctioned by the Government of India under Art. 275, and I think with it we shall be able to do a lot to improve the road. But there are two bridges to be constructed over two rivers for which girders and other materials were not available in India and have to be imported. This took us little time. I hope and trust that in course of the next twelve months or so, it will be opened even for the purpose of playing motor cars also.

These are the two points referred to in respect of the Public Works Department. I do not say that the hon. Members have no more grievances but perhaps, that the proceeding of the last meeting of the Assam Road Communication Board was sent to them, they have now come to realise that the department is seriously handicapped. I am satisfied that the hon. Members have taken keen interest in educational matters. After all, no democracy can develop without proper education to our people, and unless we can develop education in proper line, democracy itself will be in jeopardy.

I thank the hon. Members once again. Thank you, Sir.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned for lunch till 2-05 P.M.

After lunch

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy may now speak.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Governor for his address giving us information about the activities of the Government. As I represent the Cherra Constituency which includes most of the border area of the Shillong subdivision in the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills, and as the problem of this border area adjoining Pakistan is an acute one and a very important problem also, I feel it my duty to speak on matters relating to this border area. The Governor's speech has referred to this. I make a few observations in this connection.

First I speak on the uncertainty of the life of the people living in the border area. The unfriendly and inimical attitude of the Pakistanis which amounts to a warlike attitude is causing the lives of our border people immense misery. The trade relationship has altogether been closed. The Pakistanis do not come any more to purchase our produce. The people of the border produce betel-leaves all the year round. When that trade is stopped it means they get no money to buy food articles. The orange season is gone. On account of this stoppage of trade with Pakistan, the once well-to-do people of the border have been reduced to practically miserable abject poverty. Many villages even this year could not bring their oranges to any market. These are left to drop on the ground. Petitions from such villages were sent to the Deputy Commissioner, United Khasi-Jaintia Hills but no practical help was rendered to such villages.

Some of the border villages again who have paddy land on the border area are not able to do cultivation work on their land on account of the fear of firing of the Pakistanis. On the 28th February I received a letter from a leading man of Nongtyngur, a border village near Dowki who told me that on account of the fear of the firing of Pakistanis they could not cultivate their paddy land in Borhill area near Pyrdiwah where the Pakistanis have made bunkers and gathered their army on their side. They petitioned to the Deputy Commissioner, United Khasi-Jaintia Hills, that they should be given relief, but no relief has as yet been given to them.

The only people of the border area who get some income from their produce are those who have areca-nut or betel nut plantation, but this plantation is not carried on a large scale by all the border people. Only a few people in a few villages have this cultivation. To begin planting now it means that after 7 or 8 years only they will get produce. It is no doubt a great problem difficult to solve on account of the warlike attitude of our Pakistani friends. I, for one, say, war is not desirable. We seek peace. We can only pray to God to change the hearts of the authorities in Pakistan. It is not possible for us to understand their mentality. What do they gain by this attitude? Their people also suffer a great deal, we know. We pray that better sense would come to their heads. But, Sir, the great problem is how long shall our people suffer from the aggressive attitude of the Pakistanis. They also come and take the

plough cattle from our side and our border people are thus continually harassed by them. Have we reached the limit of suffering and allowing the aggressors to do as they do now or are we to follow the principle that he that taketh the sword should perish by the sword.

The Assam Government are greatly concerned with the continuous trouble on the border and they say that they have taken necessary measures for the defence of Indian territory. At this time for the sake keeping the border people in a peaceful attitude, I would ask the Government to instruct the order guards and to deal with the cultivation of the border people in a gentle-manly manner. Some of the force, when they enter the gardens, take the fruits—e.g., pineapples and cut down trees and destroy them. Their actions bring fear to the villagers. When India's leaders have taken a peaceful and reasonable attitude it is very important that the actions of the forces should bring a comforting sense to the people who have already been suffering a great deal on account of the existing conditions. The leaders of the border forces need to remind them of the need of humanitarian, friendly and neighbourly attitude towards our own people. There should be no fear of the forces by the people. This will depend on the attitudes of the forces towards them. The friendly attitude of the forces towards our people will mean a great deal to ameliorate the suffering of the people.

The next point I want to speak about is the financial assistance to be rendered to the border area. This is found at pages 12 and 13 of the Governor's address.

The Assam Government appointed a border area Enquiry Committee to make recommendation for dealing with the difficulties accentuated by the sealing of the border by the Pakistan authorities against all border trade. The United Khasi and Jaintia Hills border Enquiry Committee reported in May 1958. The Garo Hills and the Mizo districts also reported to the Government later. It is stated that the Government of India and the Assam Government have sanctioned for the present a sum of Rs.30 lakhs for the current year for financial assistance for the regeneration of orange groves, and other cash crops, for development of agriculture, for test relief work, for the supply of subsidised rice and for development of subsidiary occupation, etc. Subsidy for transport of produce, to enable marketing at economic prices has also been provided for.

These 30 lakhs of rupees sound like a very big amount for these 3 hill districts for this current year ending 31st March 1959.

I am indeed grateful to the Government of Assam and to the Central Government for accepting the responsibility to help the border people to bring them out of these present distressing conditions which have been caused by the partition of India. It is acknowledged by all that it is the sacred duty of the Government of Assam and Central Government to come to their rescue. However I must point out that these 30 lakhs of rupees for the 3 districts is a drop in a bucket. With this amount only a few can be helped, but others who are equally distressed and are deserving cannot get help. It brings more dissatisfaction and great disappointment to those who do not get help.

I speak only of my district. Only a sum of Rs. 2,50,000 was given to our district to the cultivators to be given Rs.225 per family of cash crop cultivators. Printed forms of applications were issued to some villages to be filled up. A few people of some villages received these forms and submitted to the authorities concerned.

I was invited to a Committee held at Cherrapunji on the 20th February, 1959. I was told that the Secretariat of the T. A. D. wrote to the Assistant Project Officer of the N. E. S. Block at Laitkynsew to call the meeting on the 20th February to make preparation to distribute the sum of Rs.75,000 to the villages of the Balat-Bholaganj sector. The whole district of United Khasi and Jaintia Hills has been divided into 4 sectors. The officers of these different sectors were also asked to meet on the 20th February to make preparation to distribute the amount allotted for each sector. The Secretariat of the T. A. D. also gave order that the report should be submitted to the District Agricultural Officer on the 22nd February. At Cherrapunji we had to deal with above 71 villages. Many of these villages did not get the printed application forms. Everything had to be done in a hurry. Some representatives from many villages came. Some other villages were not represented at all. But this amount meant for that sector had to be apportioned to those villages who had sent their applications, and we were, in that Committee, told that each family should be given Rs.225 during the current year, which would be augmented in the next year if the cultivators utilize it well.

The applications which came there were over 4,000. There was no time to check these applications. The representatives of the villages were asked to select a few persons from each village. Every one who was present in that meeting was disappointed. They thought that all the deserving applications would get a share from the grant. The representatives found it difficult to select. The amount was only Rs.75,000 and each family should get Rs.225 during this current year. Only about 338 families could get, out of the 4,000 applicants. As it was not possible to change the amount to be given according to the order of the Government, it is a tremendous task to decide in such a hurry who should get and who should be refused. The representatives of the villages did not want to take the responsibility, however they were asked to select about 10 percent from each village. They did this with great reluctance and in a very dissatisfied manner. If there had been time, the officers could have gone to each village and select in a village durbar the most deserving cases. From a village of 200 families, if only 20 applicants are selected, then only 20 applicants would get out of 200 families. The remaining 180 applicants would naturally feel disappointed and feel greater dissatisfaction at the action of the Government. At one time when the Government gave only Rs.30,000 to distribute as agricultural loan to the people at Rs.100 per family; a large number of people did not want to take the money because they said "why should we take, only about 20 of us out of 200, while other friends of ours who are suffering in the same way would not get anything to mitigate their distress. So some said "we do not want to take the money" while some others who took the money distributed the same among their fellow sufferers, giving each one about Rs.5 or more. Thus the whole object of the agricultural loan was frustrated.

In this good action of the Government owing to small amounts distributed, the people feel dissatisfied and their distress is not actually ameliorated. The Government in giving grant-in-aid should give to all deserving cases. Then only they will bring blessings upon themselves from the people. In this manner of giving small amounts a great deal of dissatisfaction is caused.

The object of all actions of the Government is to create satisfaction and give effective help to the people.

Out of these Rs.30 lakhs there will be money given for Test Relief works, for subsidy for transport, etc. I have not yet found out how much will come to my district and how much for a special purpose.

The Government in giving these amounts should define clearly the amounts for each purpose and leave it to a committee to see how these should be distributed. This present method is very unsatisfactory. Anyway this year is not the only year in which the Government will give these grants-in-aid to the border area people. Therefore my speech is for the sake of proper planning for the coming year as the scheme is for at least 3 years.

In the Governor's speech, it is stated at page 13 in the first para.—“a bigger programme is under preparation for 1959-60 and will be submitted to the Government of India for approval and sanction.” I, as the representative of the suffering people of the border area, am really grateful to the Government, and I advise the Government to do things in time. No use giving grant for agriculture when sowing and planting season is over. It is no good to the people and Government to be partial. All deserving cases should be attended to.

I would urge the Government not to do things at the fag end of the season as it is done now in this year bringing officers and the people into great difficulties and inconveniences. There is lack of alertness and push in the Government and there is delay. In the calendar year 1958 the Government was requested to arrange Air lift of oranges from the Shella Airstrip in the month of November, but the arrangement was made in the later part of December after 90 per cent. of the oranges in that area had dropped from the trees. The result was instead of getting about 100 loads for air lifting, there were only about 11 loads. This delay caused unnecessary misery and loss to the poor cultivators. I hope, better arrangements will be made in future and save the people from frustration, disappointment, misery and hardship. In future, I hope, Government will arrange air lifting when the fruits are in the trees and ready for despatch.

Another matter I want to bring before the Government is a feeling of grievance by the land owners of the people of Shella and Mustoh villages whose lands have been taken by the Government, in making the Mawsmat-Shella road at miles, 20, 21, 22, and 23 without paying any compensation for their land. Public Works Department paid only for the trees destroyed in the construction of the road in the said miles of road. The owners of these pieces of land taken by the road

petitioned to the Deputy Commissioner, United Khasi and Jaintia Hills individually in September 1956 for compensation for their land but the Deputy Commissioner gave no reply to the people at that time. Silence was the only reply.

In October 1958 again these land owners in a body submitted a petition to the Deputy Commissioner and to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Shillong. In that petition they mentioned the location of the said road and the measurement of their land taken. The reply from the Deputy Commissioner came that it was too late to ask compensation when they did not press for compensation of their land when compensation was given for trees destroyed. This is rather a strange reply.

The road was somewhat completed in 1955. Compensation for destroyed trees was given but no compensation for the land at that time. These persons individually petitioned to the Deputy Commissioner for this compensation for the land in September 1956. After getting no reply from the Deputy Commissioner they collectively petitioned the Deputy Commissioner again in October, 1958, and they also sent their petition to the Chief Engineer in charge of this road. When the reply came that it was too late, these persons were very much disappointed. They consider that the Government should at least make some consideration of the suffering people of the border area.

Now, the question is : is there any time limit for demanding compensation for the land taken by Public Works Department in making any road ? Is there any law made for this ? Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would request the Minister for Tribal Areas Department to consult the Minister, Public Works Department (Roads) whether there is actually any law setting the limit for demanding compensation of the land—the garden land taken by the Public Works Department at the time of constructing the road ; and also whether the Government can make any special consideration for these suffering people of border area for their land ? This concerns about 142 persons. I hope proper attention will be given by the Government in this respect and compensation will be paid to them to redress their hardships and long standing demand. I would request the Minister concerned to look into this and call for the records from the Chief Engineer's office and from the Deputy Commissioner and also call for the petitions submitted by the said people to the Deputy Commissioner in September, 1956. I hope, I have with me a copy of the said petitions. If necessary I shall supply them to the Minister concerned.

There are other matters which I would like to speak about, but I shall reserve them until the budget discussion.

Sir, I am disappointed at the Governor's address as it has no reference at all about the policy of Prohibition. Have this Government given up the policy of Prohibition? I would like a clear statement from the Minister in-charge. While I was Minister in-charge of Excise, a policy on prohibition was adopted by which it was proposed to bring all the districts of the State under prohibition gradually within 5 years time. But from the present state of affairs, it appears to me, the Government is not anxious to extend the prohibition programme to all the districts of Assam. I hope, the Minister will state in details about the programme of this prohibition in the State.

Sir, I sent to the Excise Minister a copy of my Bill, which I sent to the Secretary, Legislative Assembly, for its introduction in this session. This bill seeks for bringing in gradual prohibition in the district of Khasi and Jaintia Hills. In my discussion with him he told me that he would have to discuss with the Minister of Tribal Areas as this district is under the administration of the District Council. In any case, it is desirable that in the best interest of the people I should be allowed to move this bill.

Then, Sir, there is another important point about which I would like to speak a few words and that is regarding the policy of Industry. In India private sectors are allowed but it does not seem to be much encouraged by Government to keep them alive and to make improvement. In the State of Assam the private sectors are not much encouraged although private sector industries are not very few. It is essential and in the interest of the people and State that Government should come forward with subsidies, grants-in-aid, etc. for carrying these industries, which will give livelihood to many people in the State. Now a days, it is seen that our Government makes too much scrutiny and checkings before even given a loan, not to speak of subsidy, to such an industry. I think, at the present time the Government should change its attitude towards these industries and provide them with sufficient encouragement in the shape of loan, subsidy, etc.

In America and United Kingdom the Governments are out to help these industries in private sectors. In United States of America private industries have been running even telegraph lines, post offices, etc. Even railways are run by private industries. In the world of today India is taking the

middle course between totalitarian countries and capitalist countries. I do not know how far that can be adjusted in this respect but it is very important that this should be adjusted in such a way that it will not discourage or discard the private industries. There are two kinds of developments, one is development in a totalitarian country and the other is development in countries like United States of America and United Kingdom. The difference between the two is this.

First, the people in the private-industry countries are satisfied. They feel encouraged to work ; the Labour goes on happily. Mr. Macmillan, the Prime Minister of England said that in that country the object was to make Labour feel satisfied and happy and to make people feel happy". That is the object of the democratic Government. Development should mean some good for them. If development does not come with the idea of bringing happiness to the people then this development is no good. The people must be made happy and not mere means of helping the Government or those in authority. Otherwise, that development will not last very long. A time will come when it will fail. It is the people who must be satisfied. Therefore, we must aim at making the people satisfied. The country that has made its citizens happy and contented are those who encourage private Industries as in the United States of America and the United Kingdom. The United State of America is the richest country in the world. In that country almost every Industry is in the hands of Private Companies. I was very much interested in the speech delivered by Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury, President of the Assam Provincial Congress Committee, when he said that the object of the Government was to make people feel satisfied. If you have to drive the poor people like cattle here and there and leave them to the winds, that development is no good to the people. Without aiming at the welfare of all the people all the development schemes of roads, buildings, electricity will not mean much. These will only benefit the big people. The object of the Congress and the Government is to help the common man, to help the poor to rise and make them happy. If they pursue that object they will be blessed and they will bring happiness to the country. I believe this Government is guided by such principles. They are now new and I trust they will be able in course of time to adjust the defects and difficulties and give a good account of themselves in the way of helping the common people. Therefore, I request that private industries should be encouraged and helped, especially indigenous industries. That is all I will speak now.

Swami KRISHNANANDA BRAHMACHARI (Kokra-jhar) : মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় বাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ৰ ভাষণ প্ৰসঙ্গত যি সকল সদস্যই অংশ গ্ৰহণ কৰি তাৰ বিশদ আলোচনা কৰিছে তাৰ লগতে ময়ো দুৰ্ভাগ্যবশত ক'ব খুজিছো। দিশুবৰ ইচ্ছাত হিন্দুস্থান আৰু পাকিস্থানৰ সৃষ্টি হ'ল। দুয়োখন ৰাষ্ট্ৰৰ মূলতঃ ৰাজনীতি বৈষম্য থাকিলেও আজি ভাৰতবৰ্ষই মিত্ৰতাৰে আৱদ্ধ হৈ থাকিবলৈ বিচাৰিছে। সেই কাৰণেই আজি ভাৰতৰ ৰাজনীতি গোটেই পৃথিৱীত উচ্চ প্ৰশংসিত। তথাপিহে ভাৰতৰ সীমান্ত অঞ্চল তথা অসমৰ পশ্চিম আৰু দক্ষিণ প্ৰান্তৰ লোক সকলে সদায় আটকত জীৱন যাপন কৰিব লগাত পৰিছে। কাৰণ পাকিস্থানে জানে যে ভাৰতবৰ্ষই যুঁজ নকৰে আৰু সদায় বৰ সহিষ্ণু আৰু মিলাপ্ৰীতিৰে থাকিবলৈ বিচাৰে। সেইবাবে তেওঁলোকে সেই সুযোগকে লৈ দিনৰ পিচত দিন আৰু মাহৰ পিচত মাহ সীমান্তত আটকৰ সৃষ্টি কৰিব লাগিছে আৰু কৰিব।

বহু দিনৰে পৰা নগাসকল অসমত আছিল। যেতিয়া তেওঁলোক বিদ্ৰোহী হৈ উঠিল তেতিয়া তেওঁলোকৰ ইচ্চামতেই অসমৰ অন্ধচেছদ কৰি কেন্দ্ৰীয় শাসনৰ অধীনলৈ নিয়া হ'ল শান্তি প্ৰতিষ্ঠাৰ বাবে। কিন্তু আজি তাতো শান্তি প্ৰতিষ্ঠা হোৱা নাই। সপ্তাহৰ পিচত সপ্তাহ নগা পাহাৰত বিদ্ৰোহৰ অগ্নি জ্বলিব লাগিছে। অকল সেয়ে নহয় হত্যাকাণ্ড পৰ্য্যন্ত নগা সকলে কৰিছে। এই বিষয়ত আমাৰ ভিতৰত মতান্তৰ থাকিব পাৰে কিন্তু মনান্তৰ নাই। আজি অসমৰ চৰকাৰে অশেষ চেষ্টা কৰিও এই সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিব পৰা নাই। ইয়াৰ কাৰণে আজি পৃথিৱীয়ে ধৰি নলয় যেন এই সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিবলৈ ভাৰতৰ ক্ষমতা নাই। সমস্ত পৃথিৱীয়ে আজি ভাৰতৰ যি মহান আদৰ্শ সেই আদৰ্শ প্ৰশংসা কৰিছে। কিন্তু এই আদৰ্শ ৰক্ষা কৰিবলৈ গৈ আজি ভাৰতবৰ্ষ বিপদৰ সন্মুখীন হ'ব লগাত পৰিছে। ৰাজ্যপালৰ ভাষণত এই কথাৰ বিশদ আলোচনা কৰা হৈছে হয় কিন্তু প্ৰতিকাৰৰ ব্যৱস্থাৰ ইঙ্গিত নোপোৱাৰ কাৰণে জনসাধাৰণ হতাশ হৈ পৰিছে। আৰু নিৰাশাৰ ভাৱ আহি পৰিছে। এই দৰে যদি উৎপীড়ণ চলি থাকে তেন্তে আমাৰ ভৱিষ্যৎ বিপদবৰ্ষাই হ'ব বুলি মোৰ ধাৰণা হৈছে।

আজি আমাৰ চৰকাৰে যিবোৰ আঁচনি লৈছে তাৰ বাবে ধন্যবাদ দিছো। এই ১১১২ বছৰ চৰকাৰে যথেষ্ট কৰিছে আৰু কৰিবলৈকো চিন্তা কৰিছে। তথাপি আজি জনসাধাৰণৰ মনত শান্তি অহা নাই। ইয়াৰ একমাত্ৰ কাৰণ হৈছে অনু সমস্যা। প্ৰতি বছৰেই ভবা যায় যে শান্তি হ'ব; কিন্তু কিছুমান উপক্ৰম দৈৱিক সমস্যাই বিপৰ্য্যয়ৰ সৃষ্টি কৰে।

ভাৰতবৰ্ষ স্বাধীন হ'ল আৰু স্বতন্ত্ৰ পাকিস্থান ৰাষ্ট্ৰ হ'ল। ভাৰতবৰ্ষই পাকিস্থানক বলিদান দি পাকিস্থানৰ সৃষ্টি কৰাৰ এই কাৰণেই ৰিফিউজি সমস্যাৰ সৃষ্টি হ'ল। এই সমস্যাই দিনক দিনে জটিলৰ পৰা জটিলতৰ আকাৰ ধাৰণ কৰিছেহি। এই সমস্যাৰ লগতে আকৌ আহি পৰিছে গৰাখহনীয়াৰ সমস্যা। ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ দুয়োপাৰে আৰু গোৱালপাৰা জিলাৰ আই নদীৰ দুয়ো ফালে গৰাখহনীয়াই প্ৰায় ৬০ হাজাৰ বিঘা মাটি ধ্বংস কৰিছে। মই যি ঠাইত থাকো তাৰ পৰা প্ৰায় ৩ মাইল দূৰত শ্ৰীদাস ডাঙৰীয়াৰ আৰু আৰু ৰেভিনিউ মিনিষ্টাৰ ডাঙৰীয়াৰ সমষ্টিত প্ৰায় অদালগুৰি আৰু আওলা গুৰিৰ দক্ষিণে প্ৰায় ২০ হাজাৰ বিঘা মাটি নাশ হৈছে। আমি ৰিফিউজিকে মাটি দিব পৰা নাই— তাতো আকৌ গৰাখহনীয়াই খেতিয়কৰ মাটি খহাই নি থাকিলে আমাৰ সমস্যা আৰু বাঢ়িহে যাব আৰু গৈছে। গতিকে আমি যদি নদীবিলাক নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰিবলৈ যত্নপৰ নহওঁ তেনেহলে আমাৰ সমস্যা বিলাকৰ সমাধান হোৱাৰ সম্ভৱনা নাই। বিশেষকৈ মাটিৰ সমস্যাই আৰু ভীষণ আকাৰ ধাৰণ কৰিব। এই কাৰণে মই বহু বাৰ এই সদনত আই নদী নিয়ন্ত্ৰণৰ বাবে কৈ আহিছো কিন্তু আজিলৈকে তাত কোনো আঁচনি চৰকাৰে নললে আনকি আই নদীৰ সৰ্বনাশীৰ কথা এই সদনত শুনা নাযায়। আই নদীৰ গৰাখহনীয়া

আৰু প্ৰবল প্ৰত্যাহ্বানে অসমত পৰা বিজনী বৰনগৰ বিচ্ছিন্ন হৈ পৰিছে—বিশেষকৈ আই-নদী, মানাহ আৰু নেৰী নদীৰ দ্বাৰী দলং নথকাৰ কাৰণে। আমাৰ P.W.D. মিনিষ্টাৰে নিজেই এই অৱস্থাতো দেখি আহিছে। যদি আই নদী নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰা যায় তেনেহলে ৬০ হাজাৰ শিকা মাটি বৰা পৰিব পাৰে। E. ও D. ৰ ইঞ্জিনিয়াৰ সকলো তালৈ গৈছিল। গতিকে আচল অৱস্থাতো চৰকাৰৰ অবিদিত নহয়। কিন্তু দুখৰ বিষয় যে চৰকাৰে এই নদী নিয়ন্ত্ৰণৰ বাবে আজিলৈকে একো কৰা নাই। তাৰ পিচত আমি চৰকাৰৰ বহুবিলাক পৰিকল্পনাৰ কথা শুনাওঁ; কিন্তু চৰকাৰৰ পৰিকল্পনা পৰিকল্পনাতে থাকে। দুই এটা নদীৰ প্ৰচেষ্টা যদি চৰকাৰে হাতত লৈ দেখুৱালেহেতেন তেনেহলে মানুহে বুজিলেহেতেন যে চৰকাৰে কেৱল পৰিকল্পনাই নকৰে প্ৰকৃত কামো কৰে।

শিল্প ক্ষেত্ৰত অসমত যে বিশেষ কাম হোৱা নাই সেই কথা অকল সদনৰ সদস্য সকলেই নহয় সমস্ত জনসাধাৰণে দেখিবলৈ পাইছে যে পৰিকল্পনা পৰিকল্পনাতে থাকিল। কত শুনা গ'ল—শুনিবলৈ পোৱা গৈছিল তেল শোধনাগাৰ হব বঙাইগাৱঁত এটা ডাঙৰ ৱৰ্কচপ হব; কিন্তু কামত একো নাই। বেলঙৰে জ'ন গুৱাহাটীত কৰিলে আমাৰ মানুহে তাৰ দ্বাৰা কি সুবিধা পাইছে? আজিলৈকে আলিপুৰৰ পৰা একো যোগাযোগ নহল। সেইল ট্ৰেনত ১০০ মাইলৰ কমত টিকেট নিদিয়, জনসাধাৰণে যাতায়াত কৰাত বিস্মান কষ্ট হৈছে। তেল শোধনাগাৰ যদি অসমত হয়ো তেনেহলে আমাৰ মানুহে কি সুবিধা পাব সেইটো সহজে বুজিব পাৰি। গতিকে মই চৰকাৰৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিব খোজো যে সকলোবোৰ পৰিকল্পনাৰ ভিতৰত নদী-নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ পৰিকল্পনা সকলোতকৈ আগতে কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰিব লাগে। কাৰণ ইয়াৰ লগত কৃষিৰ ঘনিষ্ঠ সম্পৰ্ক আছে—মানুহৰ যদি পেটেই নভবে তেনেহলে পৰিকল্পনাৰ দ্বাৰাইবা কি হব? ইয়াকে যদি কৰিব নোৱাৰে তেনেহলে “বাইজেই বজা” কথাষাৰ কোনো মূল্য নাথাকে।

ইয়াকে কৈ মই ৰাজ্যপাল ডাঙৰীয়াৰ তেখেতৰ ভাষণৰ বাবে আৰু বৰুৱানী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ তেখেতৰ প্ৰস্তাৱৰ বাবে ধন্যবাদ জনাই সামৰণি মাৰিলোঁ।

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour, Industries etc.): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity of intervening at this stage of the House. There has been considerable anxiety during the last few days' debate with regard to the situation prevailing in Cachar as a result of closure of gardens and lay-off. So far as closure is concerned, luckily 2 gardens which had been closed have been re-opened. 2 gardens still remain closed. So far as lay-off is concerned, nearly over 6,000 workers belonging to about 11 gardens have been laid off for 45 days at the rate of 3 days in the week. They belong to the Macneil Barry Co. It was from the 18th of this month that the lay-off occurred and on the 20th last we referred the dispute to a Tribunal. Since it is a matter pending with the Tribunal it would be difficult for me to launch upon a discussion on merits of the question. Yesterday in the course of discussions both from the Opposition as well as from the Congress benches certain remarks were made with regard to heavy cost structure, particularly overhead charges in these gardens. I have no doubt that these are matters which will be taken into consideration by the

Tribunal. So far as the Government is concerned it was informed of the seriousness of the situation in December last. Their Director flew from London, contacted us and told us that they had been suffering continuous loss, their only solution was that Government should take off their taxes and the workers suffer lay-off, etc., etc. We requested this company not to resort to lay-off and we said that with regard to other things it would be our high endeavour to try to solve them. The House will remember that in the meantime, the Chief Minister, the Finance Minister and myself when we went to Calcutta we had discussions with Dr. Roy on the question of duties in Cachar. As a result thereof it was decided that a Committee would be set up which would go into the cost structure of Cachar district and the burden which the two State taxes have put on them with a view to assessing the situation before which any decision can be arrived at. Our Government agreed to setting up of this Committee and in setting up this Committee we are trying to bring to this Committee the Chairman of the Tea Board also, if possible, so that a fair assessment of the situation might be possible. I have no doubt that all reasonable steps which are deemed necessary under the circumstances to rehabilitate the tea gardens in Cachar will be taken both by our Government as well as the Bengal Government. We have gone further with regard to Assam tea as such. We have taken up the matter both with Dr. Roy as well as with the Government of India because our tea as it happens, is suffering from a discriminative duty in point of quantum. Normally for every pound of tea that goes out of Assam, 2 annas State tax have to be paid when it enters Calcutta, whereas tea coming out of Bengal suffers only one anna tax per pound. Such taxes are not there so far as South Indian tea is concerned. It will be appreciated that our tea has long distance to travel and in this way it is facing double disadvantages. I have no doubt that the State Government as well as the Central Government will consider the matter and try to find out a solution which may make our tea as competitive as Bengal tea or any other tea. I would have liked that this Company instead of laying-off workers would have waited for the results because at the instance of this Company we moved. But unfortunately the Company instead of waiting for finalisation of the decision at our end, went forward and made this lay-off. I hope the Directors of this Company both in India and in London will reconsider the matter so far as future continuance of this lay off is concerned.

Sir, with regard to the debates there has been considerable focus, I am glad to say, on the rapid industrialisation of this State. But I regret to say that not many constructive suggestions

have been put forward. Even from the Opposition benches Shri Nilmoney Borthakur who is usually sweet in his nature, this time made sweeping remarks which are quite outside fact and his nature. He said "What this Industry Department is doing ? It is merely convening conferences instead of setting up industries. If for every conference that is held an industry grows in the State, then the State might prosper". Quite true, words do not create industries. But generally speaking, the Leader of the Opposition as well as the Leader of the Communist Party in this House have taken very constructive attitude not merely in these debates but in the last Budget session also. I still believe that their stand on this matter particularly is what they took in the last session. It was very surprising indeed that the same attack was made from this side of the House also, from our Congress benches by Shri Ramnath Sarma. He, apart from personal attack made on me which is quite beside the point, also said the same thing, that conferences are being held instead of industrialisation. It is queer that my Friend Shri Ramnath Sarma should fall in the same axis with Shri Borthakur. It is difficult to know what is this axis, where it will lead to and what is the purpose ? Whatever the purpose may be, I hope that in spite of what the 'doubting Thomases' in this House say, our State will go forward in industrialisation. Sir, people think that industrialisation is like starting a pan and biri shop. Suddenly you put your hand in your pocket, take out one hundred rupee note and start a shop. It is not like that with industry, specially with modern industries. It is very difficult to compete in the modern world, the modern world has become so knit that you have to face competition. Therefore, industrialisation does not come quickly. But I have no doubt that the steps that we have taken will lead us forward to industrialisation of the State. Sir, conferences which we have held were the Industry Conference and the Industrial Development Council which was the outcome of the conference held with a view to assessing the industrial potentialities of the State, with a view to set up industries in private and public sections. Now, the result of these conferences, in other words, the results of the work of the Development Council would not come to the State even in the Second Plan period at all. It would take a great deal of time for the results to come. As a matter of fact it would be a great assistance to the State when this Development Council functions. In the Second Plan period itself results are not likely to come out. But our new Director of Industry has taken certain steps in this matter and he has already finalised a list of some 50 to 60 industries which are going to come up soon.

Now, the industries which have been finalised for being taken up during the remaining two years of the Second Five-Year Plan are:

	Number of unit			
1. Timber Treatment	4
2. Caffeine Manufacture from tea-waste	5
3. Paper Factories	2
4. Flour Mills	4
5. Foundries and Workshops	6
6. Cold storage Plants	3
7. Sorage Batteries	1
8. Paint and Varnish Industry	1
9. Tea-chest Fittings	16
10. Power Looms	6
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
12. Jute Twine, ropes, etc.	2
13. Cycle and Cycle parts	1

Besides these, some 14 industrial units are coming up in the Industrial Estate which has been set up at Gauhati. Some 24 sheds are already made. Now, it will be seen how difficult industrialisation is from the very fact that we have set up an Industrial Estate at Gauhati but many of the houses are empty. What do we require in industry? Electricity, *i.e.*, power, we require factory houses, we require machinery, we require raw materials, we require technical know-how. Now, we have given them factory, the electricity is available there; machinery may be available on hire purchase system. Technical know-how has to be somehow created. Yet those houses

are lying empty. That shows that industrialisation is a difficult process. We require entrepreneurs who can bring forward all the five elements of industrial development into one and this is lacking not only in our State but throughout the country. There is dearth of entrepreneurs in our country as a whole. These are the difficulties in our State, though we are trying our best to industrialise our State as quickly as possible. Therefore I hope and wish that every leader in the country, particularly the leaders present in this House, would give a correct lead to the country, so that our people begin to think in terms of industrialisation, begin to pool their technical resources, and money for the purpose of development of industries. One Co-operative Sugar Mill has been set up in our State. Persons who have set up this Mill, may hat off to them. The difficulties in establishing a major industry in the State in the Co-operative sector were considerable. Somehow they tided over them and they succeeded. Similarly there has been a Committee set up in Gauhati which, I am told, wants to develop industries on the basis of Co-operatives. I am very glad at it. I hope the effort will continue and industries will be promoted in the Co-operative sector. When we assess the situation we come to the inevitable conclusion that in our State the capital formation is too meagre. In the Second Plan Assam Government provided 3.2 crores out of 57.9 crores of the State plan. In the State in the First Plan a total provision of Rs.10 lakhs was made. How meagre is the capital formation for industrial development in our State? What is the capital formation in our State? It is very interesting to note that in the public sector the capital formation is only 10.6 crores. As somebody has already said it is mostly spent in buildings, roads and bridges. Agriculture in rural sector, it is 1.1 crore. Urban housing in building construction sector—1 crore; tea industry 3.8 crores. Other industries, it is 30 lakhs. Total Rs.16.8 crores. If we add to this the stock in trade it comes to Rs.20 crores. The total capital formation comes to Rs.20 crores. Our State national income is Rs.270 crores and therefore the capital formation is only 7 per cent. Most of the fixed capital formation occurred in non-productive sector. Therefore if we think that the State can be industrialised by the capital available in the State then I must say that one is completely wrong. There was a census carried out in Tezpur some time back. The result is revealing. 58 per cent of the people were indebted. In 1929, 80 per cent of people in the villages were indebted. After 1948 the amenities have grown. As the President of the Congress Committee Shri Chaudhury said this morning, as a result of this, most of the families are experiencing great

difficulties. I have no doubt that the percentage of the families living beyond their means has gone up further. If that be so, then obviously the capital formation has become less than what was possible even in 1948. Then where is the capital available in the State for industrialisation? It is from this point of view I think Shri Borthakur said that what is the use of getting the Sugar Mill in the Co-operative sector when Government supplied capital to the tune of 2.1 crores and private capital contributed was only to the tune of Rs.10 lakhs. He is correct from this point of view. Unless capital comes forward chances of industrialisation of the State is meagre. Sir, again there is the question of increase of population. I am speaking of the people of employable age and it is 70,000 in our State calculated at the rate of 1.25 per cent. I think it is more because the population increase has gone up from 1.2 per cent post-war to 1.9 according to some latest estimation. If we take 1.9 per cent., it is much more than 70,000. Even if we take 70,000 and if we invest Rs.16 crores not in building, road, bridges and mortar but in industries and machinery alone, it will be able to create employment for only about 13 to 14 thousand people in major industries. Therefore, here is a situation in which the problem is on a point of getting out of hand. This is happening not merely in Assam, but throughout the country, nay throughout the whole south-east Asia and Africa where the capital formation and investment is meagre. It is for this reason that all important thinkers of all the countries have combined in saying that wherever there is a surplus capital, let it flow quickly to such deficit areas so that industrial development is stimulated and employment promoted. In Assam, if we think that we do not want any capital from outside, we will be cutting at the root of industrialisation. If anybody says so let him take the responsibility of non-development of the State. I personally believe that it is absolutely necessary that capital must flow from outside.

After all it is our capital which accumulates at Calcutta. What justification is there that our capital should develop only in Calcutta and not in Assam? That is why I and our *Ex-Chief Minister*, Shri Medhi went to Calcutta, met the industrialists there and appealed to them to come over to Assam and help us in our efforts to develop some industries in this State. That appeal still stands. Sir, the capital which will be required for developing Assam is colossal. One pulp factory for paper we are going to set up in Assam will require six crores of rupees. It will require three lakh tons of bamboo. We produce 12 lakh tons of bamboo and with this not one factory but four such

factories can be set up. But for this money is not forthcoming. If this is the condition, what shall happen to us? We require hundreds of crores of rupees for developing industries in this State which has potential raw materials. Therefore, Sir, I say that the future of this state is very bright indeed. During the last session of the Assembly, our leader of the Opposition, Shri Goswami, said that licences should not be given to such parties who are incapable of setting up industries. I fully agree with him. Three of the parties to whom we gave license to set up industries failed to do so. Therefore we are now becoming more cautious. Without industries our problem of increasing unemployment cannot be solved. Now employment in factories and employment in trades are two different things. If an industry develops with workers from among the people living in that area then only an industry can become economic. If people have to be imported from outside for employment in an industry, then in these democratic days, such an industry cannot be economic. I am giving you an example. An industrialist set up a glass factory at Gauhati and brought some workers from Bihar. When they came, they demanded double the wages usually payable to such categories of workers. Of course our Trade Union is there to back up their demands. As a result to such exorbitant demands, the poor industrialist had to close down his factory.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA (Gauhati):

Government gave not only a lot of money to this gentleman but several thousand bighas of land by selling which he minted a lot of money.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour, Industries, etc.): I am here concerned with the industrial side of things. So far as that side is concerned, my Friend, the Revenue Minister is there to give you the answer. Oh! he is also missing.

Any way, I was saying about the difference between trade and industries. For the purpose of setting up industries, you require labour and the labour should be competitive. And therefore, you have to train up local labour so that industries set up may grow. So far as trade is concerned, you can bring workers from anywhere in the world. Therefore we should take a more liberal view which is necessary before industries can grow. I fully agree, Sir, that one of the main aims of industries is employment and that is what we are aiming at. And to achieve the purpose we aim at more and more personnel have to be trained up. In this respect we are very backward. We have one Engineering College and one Overseer College.

Students trained up in these institutions are not adequate to meet our requirements. Therefore we are going to expand the the existing Poly-Technical and Industrial Institutes that we have now in the state. But the expansion is tardy. For, all over the world the training of artisans and mechanical workers had come limping behind industries. You can set up factories in one or two years but you cannot train up men within one or two years. Even in America I found that industrialists employ young men as soon as they have passed their first year class. They give them salaries enough to pull them through. Such is the tremendous shortage of industrial potential there. That is also growing in India to-day. As a matter of fact in the last Small Scale Industries Conference a resolution was passed to the effect that some sort of legislation should be brought into being to compel industries to train up people with a view to filling up the vacuum that is growing in the industrial world to-day. Therefore I say, so far as industries are concerned there should be opening for local employment. So far as the question of employment in the managerial staff is concerned, we cannot lay down rules. Now a days industrialists are not so much interested in industries because they are paying very high income-tax. Therefore in all underdeveloped States such as Orissa, Assam, Andhra and Kerala, Ministers' are approaching the industrialists with folded hands with the request to industrialise their respective States. What about Kerala? Kerala is the first State to invite an industrialist like Birla. As a matter of fact he was going to set a Rayon Factory in Assam. But Shri Namboodripad, Chief Minister of Kerala, prevailed upon him to set up an industry in his State. After return from U.S.S.R. he has renewed the appeal. He is a wise man. He feels certain that without the co-operation of the big industrialists, his state cannot be industrialised to any appreciable extent. Industries will surely grow up in Kerala when sufficient number of people are trained up there. Similar is the case with Assam. The other day I laid the foundation stone of a Cycle Factory at Gauhati and the industrialist there told us that he wanted workers to start his factory. I looked to the Chairman of the Municipal Board there who was sitting beside me, and he merely looked at me. We looked this way and that way to find an answer to the request for workers. This is the situation we are facing to-day in our State. If we want to get rid of this peculiar situation, we all must exert our best to create an atmosphere in the country so that our unemployed and underemployed people, specially the undermatriculates, come forward in larger numbers to join some technical training institutes. This is high time for us to teach our boys that labour is a good and dignified thing and

we should try to get our young boys trained in channels in which prospect of employment exists. I have asked my employment officers to give wide publicity in the newspapers regarding the shortages which are growing in the employment market of Assam. For instance, shortage of stenographers in Assam is the biggest and this has been felt in an ever increasing degree for the last two years and yet I do not find any attempts to make-up the shortage. Shortage of stenographers is such not only in Assam but all over India. Yet our boys have not come forward to train themselves up in this line of avocation in any appreciable number. Therefore we have been asking our Vocational Expert to go from district to district, subdivision to subdivision to let our young boys know in which particular lines, employment prospects exist and are existing.

Sir, I have no doubt that we mean the same thing. The difference in emphasis arises from our different experiences. But industrialisation is a very hard task master. The whole world of industry is a hard task master. Howsoever, we may desire, industrialisation is bound to lead a society which is going to be a cosmopolitan character as it happened in other parts of the world. Industrialisation forces people of different areas, of different surroundings and of different thoughts to come together and live and work; that is the industrialised future of the world and towards that Assam is also moving. There is resistance to the evolution of a society which is of cosmopolitan character. We must be able to shed our past leaning. We must be able to give a correct lead in the matter of industrialisation for the future. For the development of Industries in Assam we have invited Dr. Lokonathan to undertake the Techno-Economic Survey of Assam. Dr. Lokonathan, a famous person who held the Secretaryship of South-East International Organisation, himself admitted that since he came here is a different atmosphere in Assam. This is not only here. The impact is occurring outside Assam also. When I went to some places outside Assam the people there questioned about Assam, what raw materials Assam had, and so on. I have noticed there a new interest in Assam. It is because they are perhaps realising that new scopes for industries will occur in Assam. In Assam it is emphasized that only local people should be employed. Therefore the local people should learn to respect work and should take to technical education as quickly as possible. The industrialisation will grow in such a way that it will not be possible to get the technical know-how in Assam. Another difficulty in Assam is that we have a difficult line of transport. Therefore our cost of production and transportation is likely to be

heavy. If we really want to make things which may get market in India and even the world then it will be necessary to produce them as cheap as possible and that can be done only by asking our youngmen to become good and efficient workers, technical workers. If our youngmen become technically skilled than it will be a service to Assam, an additional service to Assam. What we now find here is that every young man that passes out tries to become a clerk. It is a disservice to himself and it is a disservice to Assam also, because employment market cannot absorb as many as are produced today.....

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri): Sir, on a point of information, many of our youths having received some technical training, for instance, from the Jorhat technical institute have now become unemployed. They are moving from place to place seeking for employment. What about those students?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour, Industries, etc.): When the Tinsukia and Makum region developed, without any Government assistance, within the last 10 years into a technical area a large number of those technically trained persons have found employment in that area. Now with the completion of the Umtru Project the change of development of Gauhati region from technical point of view is coming. Another point to be considered is that the area which is growing has limited industrial possibilities. All the students passing out from the Jorhat institute want employment in that area ; it would be difficult. Every year about 70,000 youngmen and women of employable age to be given jobs. The total capital formation is 16 crores, but the employment potentiality out of it is about 14,000 only. So, there is imbalance. What is necessary is further development, much more speedier development.

My Friend Mr. Bhattacharyya referred to electricity. The total electricity produced is about 4,000 KW in Gauhati area and is now consumed by private consumers and the existing industries. When Gauhati develops into a full-fledged industrial estate and the refinery is going to be installed there then the entire production will not be sufficient. Therefore we are trying to hurry up with regard to the Barapani project. We had to undergo certain difficulties in this regard. We have no jurisdiction in the tribal areas, and so

a great deal of correspondence arises. Regarding pulp mill itself an agreement has been finalised yesterday, but because we had to make some correspondence with the tribal council in Mikir Hills it took a long time. I am glad to say that only yesterday the agreement has been finalised. It will be finally signed just after our Secretary returns from Calcutta. That will be one major industry which is going to take shape. The Barapani scheme is estimated to produce 36,000 KW. in the initial stage but it is likely to take about 4 years to be completed. As soon as the boring through the hills will be complete for making tunnel to bring water then we can push up production of electricity in Umtru. The second and other stages of the Barapani project will be to produce a total of about 1 lakh KW. We have also the Kapili project and when it is developed it will produce about 5 lakhs KW. (A voice from the Opposition: What about Subansiri?) There it is very dangerous to have a dam there. If we are to have project in every big river then why should we not have a Brahmaputra project which can produce electricity for the whole State? The point is that you require 20 to 30 years of data before you can build a dam. Now, the data available for Kapili is not ready and according to our calculation the Kapili can be taken up in the Fourth Plan period.

Then, data about Subansiri is not ready. It will take a long time to collect its data so it is too early to think of a dam on Subansiri now.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri): Does the Minister want to say that survey work has not been done as yet?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour, Industries, etc.): The survey report is already there. If we do not take appropriate data and make a lower dam there is every likelihood of it bursting.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY: Sir, I am sorry to note that the name of Mangaldoi never comes to the House.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: No, Sir, we remember of Mangaldoi. So far as electricity is concerned Mangaldoi is already electrified.

I ask for the co-operation of the whole House in the matter of industrialisation. It is a very very difficult process. When the psychology of the people changes and people

become industrial minded then alone progress in industrialisation happens. So, I hope, the whole effort of the Opposition and our benches will be so conducted that we may ultimately be proud of the development of our State.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): May I suggest that the Minister-in-charge of Industries sit with the Minister-in-charge of Co-operative to discuss about betterment of the Sugar Co-operative Mill at Dergaon ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour, Industries, etc.): There was no misunderstanding between the two. What I was referring to was about Shri Bhattacharyya's lieutenant, Shri Barthakur about his logic ; there was a logic in his statement but it was not necessarily correct.

Maulvi NURUL ISLAM (Dhing): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to the Governor for his speech and I also support the motion moved by Shrimati Komol Kumari Barua.

The Governor in his address touched almost all the important aspects of the State. He very clearly stated about the progress achieved in our State during the last few years and particularly of the last year. In his speech he dealt with the border problem first. Assam is very much in anxiety about the happenings in her borders. If these incidents go on we fear that our State Government will not be able to focus its attention to important problems for development of the State.

Now, regarding the border, various Members mentioned about what is happening in the border and some blames were thrown upon some Members of the minority community. There may be some members of the minority community who might have done something against the State. Of course such elements must be detected and adequately punished. But my sorrow is that some blame has been thrown upon some members of the minority community who are as innocent as anybody else. Now the other day in this House I heard some members throwing blame on some members that they did this and that, that they informed Pakistan about the position in India, about the movement of Police in India. But I came to know that these were concoctions. After I went out of the House I happened to see a letter ; there something is mentioned about a responsible Minister of this House. It was written there that he had informed the Pakistan Government about the position in Assam. From the very reading of the letter I doubted its contents very much. This was a copy of a letter,

the original being with the Police. I know one gentleman filed a complaint against the Minister that he did this and that and I also know that the Police after enquiry found that the allegation was as false as anything and a case under Section 211 was started against the complainant. I do not know what happened afterwards. If things go on like this the members of the minority community will get despondent. I hope Government will see to this. I also request the Members of this House to see that these things are not done, even for the sake of their party. The feeling of the minority community should not be wounded like this.

Sir, the Governor's address touched on many subjects and I will say a few words on land reforms only. It is a big question. Our Government are taking adequate measures to protect the tenants and to provide land to the landless, so that more food is grown. It is true, Sir, that people are increasing in number, but land does not increase; rather it decreases. Our Government have put a ceiling on land holdings, but I doubt whether by this means they will get adequate land in Assam. The ceiling has been fixed at 150 bighas per family. But I know that in my own district of Nowgong, there will be very few families having more than 60 bighas of land. So, I do not know how far Government will be successful by this measure. There must be other avenues for the amelioration of the cultivating class. It is incumbent upon Government to make one bigha yield more, to make the soil more fertile. Some steps have of course been taken in that direction, but they are not sufficient. All kinds of trial should be made so that people can have good crops by improved means. We have heard so much about the Japanese method of cultivation, but we find it has not yet been tried throughout the length and breadth of our State. The people must be educated and encouraged to take to this method. Government have taken various measures for the amelioration of the condition of the people, but I think the most important should be to develop the soil of the country.

I now come to Education. Sir, the present education is not so much beneficial to the people in as much as it does not impart moral education to the students. Often and often I stated before the House that some education should be given to the students so that their character can be built from the beginning of their life. But I am very sorry that nothing has been done towards that uptill now. Without morality, and without the formation of character a country cannot rise. A country cannot achieve that end without the formation of character,

A man may get a Degree but that Degree would have no value and would be of no avail if he cannot form his character. Now-a-days what do we find due to lack of character. The country is suffering from various difficulties. Now-a-days it so happens that trust is vanishing from this world. Nobody can trust anybody. People deceive the people like anything. Officers deceive the people and the people deceive the officers. If true education is to be imparted to the students, there must be some education by which the morality of the students from the beginning of their life can be formed. Sir, I have nothing to say more now and whatever more I have to say I will say while discussing the Budget. With these words, I support the Motion moved by Shrimati Komol Kumari Barua.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Thursday, the 5th March, 1959.

Shillong
The 22nd July, 1960.

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