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NOTICE

No. 3

The Assam Government, 1931



ASSAM

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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong at 10 A. M., on Thursday, the 28th October, 1954.

**P R E S E N T**

Shri Kuladhar Chaliha, B. L., Speaker, in the Chair, the ten Ministers, the two Deputy Ministers, three Parliamentary Secretaries and seventy-two Members.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**

(To which oral Answers were given).

**Number of Community Projects, Development Blocks  
and N. E. S. Blocks in the Autonomous Districts**

**Shri A. ALLEY** asked :

1. (a) Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state district-wise the number of Community Projects, Development Blocks and N. E. S. Blocks in the Autonomous Districts ?

(b) Is it a fact that there is only one N. E. S. Block in the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills District ?

(c) Is it a fact that on a direction from the Tribal Areas Department the district board recommended two N.E.S. Blocks in this District ?

(d) Is it a fact that in January next, some of the N.E.S. Blocks will be upgraded into a Community Project ?

(e) Is it a fact that the N.E.S. Blocks in the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills District cover an area of more than 400 sq. miles ?

(f) Do Government propose to consider upgrading the N.E.S. Block of Bhoi area ?

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister)** replied :

1. (a)—The district-wise allotment of Community Projects, Community Development Blocks, N. E. S. Blocks in Autonomous districts is shown below—

Name of district	Name of Block	Remarks
1. United Khasi and Jaintia Hills.	Bhoi area N. E. S. Block.	Allotted in 1953-54.



Name of district	Name of Block	Remarks
2. Garo Hills ...	(1) Garo Hills Community Development Block.	Allotted in 1952-53.
	(2) Dalu N. E. S. Block.	Allotted in 1953-54.
3. Naga Hills ...	(1) Kohima N.E.S. Block.	Allotted in 1953-54.
	(2) Chakhesang N. E. S. Block.	Allotted in 1954-55.
4. Mizo district ...	Aijal Community Development Block.	Allotted in 1953-54.
5. United Mikir and North Cachar Hills.	1. Howra ghat N.E.S. Block. 2. Bokajan N.E.S. Block.	Allotted in 1954-55.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—No. A reference was made by the Tribal Areas Department on receiving copy of a resolution of the District Council of the District to the Community Projects Department who requested the Deputy Commissioner concerned to furnish necessary particulars.

A proposal for opening 2 N.E.S. Blocks in the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills District during 1954-55 as recommended by the District Development Board, was received from the Deputy Commissioner of the district, who also furnished certain particulars.

(d)—Yes, the question will be taken up in January next.

(e)—Information to this effect was received from the Project Executive Officer concerned. This is under correspondence with the Deputy Commissioner, who submitted the original particulars.

(f)—This will be considered on merits when the question of upgrading N.E.S. Blocks is taken up.

**Further discussion on the Statement by Revenue Minister on the situation created by the recent flood in Assam and various relief measures taken by Government**

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** The Revenue Minister has stated that the floods in Assam this year were mainly caused by Himalayan rivers. It is true that the



Himalayas which were a source of pleasure and inspiration to our people and the poets, those Himalayas on which Kalidas waxed so very eloquent as to say—

অন্ত্যস্তবাস্যাং দিশি দেবতাস্বা হিমালয়োনাম নগাধিবাজঃ ।  
পূৰ্ব্বাপৰং তৌৰনিধিবগাহ্য স্থিতা পৃথিব্যাশ্বিৰমানদণ্ডঃ ॥

Those Himalayas now have become a source of trouble to us. The geologists say that Himalayas are the youngest range in the world and naturally there are serious subterranean disturbances in the Himalayan region as a result of which not only Assam, but other States of India and some parts of China also have been affected by flood this year. But then I am sorry I cannot agree with Mr. Goswami.

**Voices:** Who is Mr. Goswami ?

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** Mr. Narnarayan Goswami of Pattacharkuchi. I cannot agree with Mr. N. Goswami that as this youngest range has been in turmoil we are to abandon ourselves at its mercy, that it is Biswakarma who creates all these things and we have nothing to do. Those days are long past when elements of nature were thought to be unconquerable and the power of nature was supposed to be beyond the jurisdiction of human control ; but those days are long past. These are the days of science, industry and human ingenuity and, therefore, our efforts should be concerted to fight and control such elements and make our people and our State nay the entire humanity happy and prosperous.

And so when we see that the “বুঢ়া লুইত” the old Brahmaputra has been in spate and has become a source of trouble to us we should not abandon ourselves to our faith and remain contented by saying—“ব্রহ্মপুত্র মহাবাহো শাস্তানু কুলনন্দন  
অমোঘাগর্ভসমুত পাপং লৌহিত্য মে হব”

We must face the problem and try our best to solve it. I again take the opportunity of thanking the Government and all concerned who have done whatever they could in this great national calamity ; but I want to make a few suggestions by way of criticism. One thing we have seen is that at the beginning of the floods when many people became homeless and foodless in different places, the local officers were almost helpless. It was only after the arrival of the Ministers, Deputy Ministers



and the Parliamentary Secretaries that relief measures were taken up in right earnest. This I saw from my own personal experience. We have seen from the Supplementary Budget placed yesterday on the table, that simple for the Parliamentary Secretaries and their clerical staff a sum of Rs.30,000 has become necessary for their wider travels. Now, Sir, it does not speak well about the efficiency of the administration when for every minor thing a Minister or a Parliamentary Secretary should undertake a tour to the spot and then only the wheels of machinery of the Government begin to move. This rather shows a very bad state of affairs of the administration. There should be given immediate help where help is necessary. The Finance Minister said yesterday that gratuitous relief was not a very good thing ; but it also so happens, Sir, that even well to do people have lost everything in flood or erosion and in that case he also must need some gratuitous relief. For example, one hon. Member said yesterday that a certain gentleman had come for 20 seers of rice as gratuitous relief while he possessed 2 granaries. Even if that be a fact we should not be surprised, because one may have two full granaries of paddy, but he may have no rice. When everything is under water including his milling machine, then a man having two granaries of paddy but no grain of rice may require some quantity of rice as relief for the time being. So this sort of attitude that people come for one Pawa or  $\frac{1}{2}$  seer of rice for nothing is a very wrong one. If the word sadism is too strong I would say that such an attitude shows a lot of callousness.....

(**Voices :** It is a very strong term Sir, এয়া বড়ো কথা )

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Please substitute by mild one.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** So far as gratuitous relief is concerned, this is necessary only in time of sudden troubles. After 9 or 10 days it may not be necessary. Moreover, Sir, I have seen with my own eyes that sometimes the officers are moving about in the truck with only one or two bags of rice. On one occasion I saw the Sub-Deputy Collector of Gauhati running to Palasbari with the hon. Member of Silasundari-ghopa with only  $1\frac{1}{2}$  bags of rice in the truck. I do not understand how many people can be given relief with this small quantity of rice.

Yesterday, my friend Mr. Hazarika of North Lakhimpur said that in spite of his best efforts he could not go to the worst-affected places like Dhemaji which are out of the way places. We don't know even up-till-now what has happened in those



areas. Thus we see that those people who live in the interior places have not got sufficient attention either from the Government or from the non-Governmental sources.

In the matter of distribution of gratuitous relief or loan we see that those places only get the greatest amount of benefit which are near the Trunk Road or near the Railway station and so on. For example, without grudging what attention has been given to Dibrugarh or Palasbari and while exhorting that these places do require attention and more attention, I would like to say that there are interior areas like Barkhetri between Gauhati and Barpeta Subdivisions which form a part of the Chief Minister's Constituency but which are going out of his Constituency next time, but these areas have not received any attention so far.

**Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister):** Majuli is neither connected by Trunk Road nor by Railway.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** I do admit that Majuli is not near the Trunk Road or the Railway Station. So it is difficult for the Ministers to go there. Therefore that place has also not received sufficient attention.

**Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister):** I visited this place personally before the Chief Minister went there.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** Till the end of the 1st week of August, i. e., till after the Assembly was prorogued, none of the local officers visited Bukia and Bargasa which were very badly affected by floods. The Deputy Commissioner was then at Rangiya, but he did not visit those areas which were most affected in the Paschim Barbhag Mouza. It is the Minister who went there and not the Deputy Commissioner or the Sub-Deputy Collector. But it was only after a week of the calamity. It is rather surprising that the Minister who after the prorogation of the Assembly and after going down from the Cabinet meeting should be the only person from the Governmental side to visit those areas and not the local officers. When we complained to the Deputy Commissioner why he did not visit the worst-affected areas he said that there were no boats. The Government should see that in a State like Assam where there are recurring floods there should be provision of boats at the disposal of the Sub-Deputy Collector who are to take immediate steps. The Government should see that for the future at least these arrangements are made pucca. Even if there be no flood, let there be at least two boats at the disposal of each Sub-Deputy Collector.



Another very unfortunate incident took place in the Upper Barbhag mouza. It is reported that after a strenuous search the Sub-Deputy Collector of Nalbari Circle managed to get a boat but that was not quite good and the result was that the boat had capsized before the relief could reach the people for whom it was meant. And after that the Sub-Deputy Collector and other officers were frightened and they did not dare go to those areas till the flood subsided and the result was that the relief did not reach those areas in time and so did not come to any help as it was too late. Some relief in the Upper Barbhag mouza was received by the people only after my Friend, Sri Goswami, visited these areas and not before. So all these things come to the support of my contention that in spite of what has been done by the Ministers and also by hon. Members of this House, this fact has come out as a glaring truth that the administrative machinery as a whole did not function immediately, properly and promptly for the service of the people.

With regard to the tour of Ministers also I have something to say. I quite appreciate their eagerness and their anxiety to see the things themselves. I also understand that there are hon. Members like my Friend, Shri Narnarayan Goswami, who would like that all the "Dash Avatars" should have simultaneous "abirbhab" and concentrate in a place like Pahumara (Loud Laughter). There might be some anxiety, but after all our Ministers and their Deputies are not meant for being on eternal tours in Pahumaras and Khahimaras. They are meant mainly for setting the ball of Administration rolling and the permanent officialdom and the public are to do the detailed concrete jobs. For every small job the Chief Minister or the Finance Minister need not run to the spot because as a result of their eternal tours the administrative machinery at the top suffers and many vital and important things remain pending. Even matters of policy sometimes are either to be kept pending or disposed of by the Secretaries. This method of work should be modified at least to a certain extent if it cannot be altogether abandoned at this time. I understand that in such formative stage of our country first hand information of the Ministers is necessary. So I do not altogether rule out the necessity of our Ministers going about to the important spots. It is to be appreciated that the Chief Minister goes to Dibrugarh or Majuli or any other particularly important spot, but he need not necessarily run to hundreds of places from South Salmara to Saikhowaghat, because if he makes himself a Rover-Scout, who will do his job



as Chief Minister ? So I am sorry I cannot quite agree with either Shri N. Goswami or Shri Lohar that there should be special complaint that this Minister or that Minister did not visit this village or that township and so on. I would like that the stress should be otherwise.

With regard to the solution of the basic problem ; I quite appreciate that problem is colossal. It is not only flood but also erosion. Of course both these things are due to the Brahmaputra. But then the two problems are of different nature—one is primarily extensive though in some respect intensive too, and the other is wholly intensive.

Now, so far as solution of these problems is concerned, there are short term solutions as well as long term. So far as the long term solution of the problems is concerned, I quite appreciate that our State Government alone cannot do it. We have not got sufficient resources at our disposal to train big rivers or to make revetments or even to dredge some tributaries not to speak of solving the entire problem. For these things we shall necessarily need the help of the Union Government and if we hope to control the Brahmaputra at its source then perhaps there shall be the necessity of some international agreements also. We find that it is not possible to solve the problem all by ourselves. We can only express our opinion and request the Union Government that this very important but generally neglected State should get more attention of the Union Government. It is no doubt true that the Union Government has given us unusual attention this time and we are grateful to them for that.

But apart from what we can expect from the Union Government, we have got our own responsibilities and our own sphere where we can do our best. I am not an expert in flood-control and my suggestions are those of a layman. But even as a layman I can say this much that the fury of the floods can, to a great extent, be lessened if there be some planned afforestation at the source of the tributaries and rivulets because the Brahmaputra which is so very mighty at Dibrugarh is not so at a distance of say one hundred miles up when it flows in the names of Lohit, Dibang and Dihing rivers. They constitute the Brahmaputra and each of these again are fed by small tributaries—some of which are simply small mountainous streams. It is too difficult to control the Brahmaputra as such. But I do not think it is too difficult to control the Dibang or any other of these tributaries.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Have you been there ?



**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** No. I did not go there after the Earthquake. I am saying just as a layman not having the first hand information of the recent devastation.

My second point is that there are smaller floods which we can control. I do agree with my Friend, Sri Goswami, that we can control small rivers say in the Pahumara region.

**Shri NARNARAYAN GOSWAMI:** Reasonably he is to agree with me in all respects.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** In all reasonable matters I agree with him. I think these tributaries can be controlled by the State Government itself. Of course in summer they become furious.

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister):** That scheme is included in this year's programme.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** These rivers can be controlled even by the State Government. There are schemes. These schemes should be well planned and speedily executed. In spite of our best wishes that our State should be free from floods it may not be possible to be free from floods for another period of five or ten years. Some of these schemes will necessarily be big. They will take time till the plans are completed, but the small things can be done by the State Government even in shorter periods. These should be taken up in right earnest and something should be done; otherwise apart from the physical sufferings there will also be a lot of psychological sufferings and even when the Government invites public co-operation the public will not come at all. I think the Minister, Public Works Department has himself experienced some of these sentiments in his tour in the interior areas. When it is not possible to complete a project within one season and if we are to suffer during that season because the work will not be completed it should be made known to the people. The Publicity Department did not make it known to the people. When a Bund was constructed on the eastern side of the Baralia but not on the western side that in the next season there would be a bund on the western side also. The people have been left to guess. They have agitated. They have sent deputations and a great deal of agitation was going on. When the Bund on the western side is taken up people



will say, just see, they are doing it not because they have got a feeling for us ; they are doing it not out of sympathy but out of fear because of our making their life miserable.

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister):** Not that, Sir, the Bund was constructed on both sides of the river but the extension cannot be done. I have disclosed this earlier.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** He may think like the proverbial ostrich putting its head under the sand at the side of a coming sand storm that he will thereby save himself, but my duty here is to pull the poor ostrich out of the sand and save it if I can. Now, the point is about the feeling of these people who have suffered. It is no doubt true that I did not accompany him in the boat. Yet my information is that the Minister had to reply to many questions and criticisms on his face and that in his absence a great deal more was said. So, I think he will appreciate that it is in order to help the Government that I am making this suggestion.

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister):** I spoke to them myself.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** Otherwise there would have been so many deputations either tomorrow or the day after.

**Mr. SPEAKER.** How long will you take Mr. Bhattacharyya ?

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA.** I would have finished by now but for these interruptions. The House will see from the Supplementary Demand in this Appendix A that what I am speaking is the truth and what the Minister is speaking is just the contrary. The Government ought to have foreseen the necessity of so many extensions but the Government did not foresee and so these things have to be incorporated in the Supplementary Budget. So far as the question of rehabilitation of the flood-affected people is concerned, we find that something in some areas has been done. As for example, in order to rehabilitate the people of Ahotguri some land is being availed of in the District of Sibsagar from the tea gardens. That is a good thing. In this connection the Minister said that the plan for rehabilitating some of



the affected people of Dibrugarh in Chaukidingi area has failed. But it has been also said that the owner has now been privately selling some of his land to some private persons for dwelling purposes at exorbitant price. Now, if it is so, it is a violation of the terms of the grant, because fee-simple grant was given to the tea estates for some specific purpose, that is to say, for growing tea only and if the planter now uses that land not for cultivation of tea but for selling to some other persons for residential purposes it is a violation of the term of that grant. Therefore I think the Government is legally entitled and also morally duty-bound to cancel that grant and requisition the entire land for distribution to the people.....

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** What is the law ?

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** Because, Sir, at the time of giving the grant it was for some specific purpose.

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** In the lease of the grant there is a provision that any surplus land will be assessed as ordinary land revenue.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** That does not absolve the Government of the duty and responsibility of rehabilitating the people or of solving the problem by utilizing the land of the grant if such land is not used for the purpose for which it was given. If that term has not been fulfilled by the planter, Government is entitled to take back the land. But if there be any legal difficulty then Government should acquire such land under the Requisition and Acquisition Act at reasonable price which will be decided by an arbitrator or any such machinery (*a voice*: or by court). May be by a court if there is a provision for that. Any way, the price will be fixed either by a court or by an arbitrator. But the main point is that the people at Dibrugarh who have been affected by erosion are now in temporary shelters, and their problem is not of legal niceties, their problem is not whether the land is priced at Rs.6,000 a bigha or Rs.5,000 a bigha, but their problem is for getting immediate shelter. If they are not in a position to purchase it, it is the duty of the Government to give them subvention. The Finance Minister reported yesterday to my Friend, Shri Ramesh Chandra Barua, by saying that in 1937 it was not a welfare State, but in 1954 it is a welfare State. If it is so, it is the duty of the State to see to the welfare of those people who have been the victims of the vagaries of nature. Not only Government should reconsider



the Plan but they should immediately take up the plan and see that those affected people are immediately settled though this will mean a considerable expenditure to the Government exchequer.

One word more and I finish. In the matter of distribution of gratuitous relief and also agricultural loans when we scan the allotments to different subdivisions we do not find a sound policy therein. It appears to us as if such allotments have been given off-hand when the demands came. We do not find that the different subdivisions have been given allotment according to their necessity. This is at least the idea that we get from the list placed on the Library Table. I do not think there is necessity of going into the details in this connection.

Now, I come to another thing. It is surprising that some of the Ministers visited their own constituencies only. We are all expected to have here a State wide attitude. As soon as we come into the Legislature we are expected to give equal deal to the whole of Assam. But unfortunately our Ministers are so very constituency-minded that every one of them tries to please only the people of his constituency or rather some keymen of his constituency than to do justice to the most needed areas of the State. We have seen in some newspaper reports—though all of them may not be correct—that at the time when people go for relief some officers not only misbehave but even slap some of them. If that is true then it is most objectionable.....

**Mr. SPEAKER.** Did you try to ascertain ?

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** In one case at least I have ascertained. Perhaps this matter is under Departmental enquiry when brought to the notice of the authorities and so I should not disclose any further about it. Of course all the officers are not alike. Some of them are appreciated for their good and sincere work, but there are some who misbehave with the people and even assault them when they come for relief. When we go to give the people relief we should see that material help is given to them and at the same time we should also have real sympathy for them. We should remember that a word of sympathy pleases a man more than a seer of rice. I hope Government will instruct the officers to be more humane in their dealings to be kind in behaviour and to be modest in their approach to the people. If this is done then we might in future alleviate some amount of the sufferings of the people who fall victim to recurring floods and thus in future we shall be able to tackle the problem and solve it to some extent. Thank you.



**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister):** Sir, I want to make it clear for inclusion of schemes relating to embankment and drainage works. My Friend has criticised for inclusion of the schemes under the Supplementary Grant as these schemes were not even under contemplation in the past. This is not a fact. I should like to draw the attention of my Friend to the procedure followed in selecting the scheme under the Embankment and Drainage. Generally such proposals are placed before the Embankment and Drainage Committee and they select the schemes in consultation with the experts of the Public Works Department. These recommendations are again placed before the Development Committee for final selection of the Committee. If my Friend looks into the appropriate gazette he will find that some schemes are selected on priority basis. It is not possible for the Government to come forward with any Demand for Grants unless those schemes selected are surveyed and the plans and estimates are made by the Public Works Department. So it cannot be said that such schemes are not under contemplation.

**Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel I should give some general idea to the Hon'ble House regarding the relief measures undertaken from the Medical and Public Health side. Unfortunately the report could not be made available yesterday when my Colleague the Revenue Minister made his statement. To-day I have received an interim report. We asked for a detailed report, which has not yet come up but this interim report will give some general idea.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Yes. I think the House would like to hear it.

**Shri RUPNATH BARHMA (Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, when we first received reports of floods in different areas within the State, we immediately gave a general direction to all district medical and Public Health Officers to be vigilant and render all possible relief to the affected people in the affected areas. I am glad to inform the hon. Members that up till now we have not received any report of any epidemic of any kind from any part of this vast area beginning from Saikhowa right upto the westernmost border. Except four cases of cholera in the Barpeta subdivision there is no report of any epidemic from any area up till now. This shows that the situation was tackled very promptly and in a very effective manner by our Public Health personnel.



Sir, we began our relief work with the stock of medicines and drugs which we had in our stock carried over from previous years. Then when we got reports of more floods we anticipated that there might be epidemics and there would be need for more medicines and drugs ; we sent an appeal to the Government of India for help. We received a large quantity of medicines, drugs and equipments from different sources. I may mention some of them.. They have sent these things as donation. They are the Indian Red Cross Society, New Delhi, UNICEF, Government of India, National Christian Council of America, G axo Laboratories, East India Pharmaceutical Works, India Red Cross Society, West Bengal Branch, American Red Cross Society through Indian Red Cross Society, New Delhi, May and Baker Limited, and many other more organisations. I am glad to inform the hon. Members that large quantities of medicines, drugs and equipments have also been promised by different societies and organisations ; they have not yet come. We are grateful to all these organisations.

Sir, we have got a very limited number of public health doctors. It was with the co-operation of the Local Board doctors that enabled our staff to do work in the affected areas. Besides these, there were other societies and organisations from which we get co-operation in our works ; they are Indian Red Cross Societies, Local Relief Parties, Local Congress Relief Parties, Local Student Volunteers, Mahila Samities, Assam Medical Relief Societies, Gram Sevak Parties, Marwari Relief Socitety, Sreemanta Sankar Mission, Ramkrishna Mission and so on and so forth. These were the main relief organisations in co-operation with which our Public Health Department worked and we are thankful to them.

Sir, regarding the staff engaged in relief works I may give some idea.

In Lakhimpur district, we had 42 Relief Centres where 36 Health Assistants and 7 Assistant Surgeons (II) worked.

In Sibsagar, 24 Health Assistants and Assistant Surgeons and Local Board Doctors worked in 18 centres.

In Nowgong, 26 Assistant Surgeons II including Local Board doctors and 16 Health Assistants worked in 28 Relief Centres.

In Darrang, 24 Health Assistants with the local doctors worked in 24 Relief Centres.

In Kamrup, 17 Health Assistants, 28 Assistant Surgeons including Local Board doctors worked in 39 Relief Centres.



In Goalpara, 24 Health Assistants, 14 Assistant Surgeons II, including Local Board doctors, worked in 33 Relief Centres.

In Cachar, 9 Health Assistants, 4 Assistant Surgeons, including Local Board doctors worked in 13 Relief Centres.

In Garo Hills, the Civil Surgeon with his existing staff worked in different Centres. So it appears from the figures, I have given that the total staff who worked in different Centres in the state was as follows, *viz.*, 8 D. M. O. H., 9 S. D. M. O. H., 85 Assistant Surgeons including Local Board doctors and 150 Health Assistants in 197 Relief Centres in different areas.

Sir, we had to entertain extra staff for this work. Twenty four Health Assistants and 2 Medicine Carriers in Lakhimpur district, 17 Health Assistants and 1 Medicine Carrier in Sibsagar district, 5 Health Assistants and 1 Medicine Carrier in Nowgong district, 3 Health Assistants and 1 Medicine Carrier in Kamrup district, 1 Health Assistant and 5 Medicine Carriers in Goalpara district, total 50 Health Assistants and 10 Medicine Carriers had to be entertained as extra staff for, a temporary period of 3 months.

Sir, regarding preventive work done against outbreak of diseases in an epidemic form, from the beginning of the flood upto 16th October 1954 I am giving the following figures.

Name of district	No. of cholera inoculation	No. of water sources dis-infected	No. of vaccination.
Lakhimpur ..	1,56,484 ..	15,896 ..	5,903
Sibsagar ..	88,420 ..	2,402 ..	6,036
Nowgong ..	1,67,382 ..	7,707 ..	11,391
Kamrup ..	47,346 ..	19,955 ..	13,122
Darrang ..	1,24,759 ..	2,418 ..	7,734
Goalpara ..	1,54,940 ..	13,847 ..	4,517
Cachar ..	45,346 ..	1,353 ..	6,569

Total. . 6,84,737                      63,590                      55,272

Besides these, we received considerable quantity of milk from different sources. A total quantity of milk of 180 casks have been already distributed and another lot of 860 drums are expected shortly. The Centres through which the distribution is carried out are as follows:—

1. North Lakhimpur ... 14 Milk Centres.
2. Doom Dooma ... 7    "    "
3. Dibrugarh ... 7    "    "
4. Golaghat ... 5    "    "
5. Sibsagar ... 13    "    "
6. Jorhat ... 10    "    "



7. Nowgong	...	35	Milk Centre
8. Mangaldoi	...	14	" "
9. Tezpur	...	10	" "
10. Gauhati	...	12	" "
11. Goalpara	...	12	" "
12. Tura	...	10	" "

These were the measures taken by the Government.

**Maulavi SAHADAT ALI Mandal:** গৌৰালপাৰা জিলাৰ কোন কোন ঠাইত এই কেন্দ্ৰবোৰ আছিল।

**Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister):** Sir, I have not received detailed information as yet. I have given these information from the interim report which I have received.

As a matter of fact, I personally visited some of the worst affected areas, including Mankachar and Sukchar in the Dhubri Subdivision. I also visited northern part of Kamrup. My Friend, Sri Goswami, knows that I visited Nalbari-Sanaikuchi and other places. I also visited Saikhoa, Dangari and some other places in the Lakhimpur district. I personally saw the working of the Public Health Department staff in all the places I visited.

Sir, while the water level was high I, in company with the Chief Minister, visited some places where I saw our Public Health Department staff moving from house to house and village to village, in boats with medicine. Sir from what I have stated the hon. Members will have an idea in what manner the Public Health Department worked during the calamity. In co-operation with local Relief Committees and the people

**Shri JADAB CHANDRA KHAKLARI:** অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় মোক অলপ কবলৈ দিয়ক। মই আগৈয়ে দুবাৰ উঠিছো মোক...

**Mr. SPEAKER:** You will get a chance afterwards.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I join with my other Friends who have spoken before me in giving my compliments to the Finance Minister for making a statement before the House dealing with the flood situation and various relief measures undertaken by Government.

Sir, the highlights of the statement are an estimate of the damages done as a result of the floods of the Brahmaputra and its tributaries in the State. He has placed the loss in respect of jute and paddy at Rs. 13 crores; loss in cattle, buildings and Government and private properties at Rs. 5½ crores and the total estimated loss in the State at



Rs. 18 to 19 crores. The number of people affected in the State is estimated at 17 lakhs and the area affected at 12,000 square miles.

Now, Sir, these figures are sketchy because though they have been placed before the House, some more details ought to have been furnished so that we could judge in which particular direction loss has been heavy and how that loss is going to affect the economic condition of our people, because 90 per cent. of the people affected in the State are all agriculturists and the loss of agricultural produce and erosion of their lands mean a great deal to them. So, we are unable from the facts given to judge for ourselves how the economy of our people has been affected at the moment and is likely to be affected in the near future because these adverse effects of floods are going to produce a permanent crippling effect on our agriculturists. Therefore, the measures taken by the Government should be such as will not only alleviate the present distress of the people but will arrange for their rehabilitation in such a manner that their productive capacity is not in any way crippled.

Sir, I have got some more detailed figures from issue No.5 of the Assam Information and this being a publication issued under the authority of the Government, I take these figures as fairly correct. There it is stated that the loss of paddy has been estimated at 73,21,372 maunds, valued at Rs. 72,13,720, jute 21,96,654 maunds, valued at Rs. 4,39,33,080 and other crops valued at Rs. 1,66,570. That is to say that the total loss of agricultural produce has been estimated at not less than Rs. 11 crores. Then loss of cattle estimated is 3643 heads valued at Rs. 3,05,250, loss of other properties is valued at about 1½ crores and value of properties lost due to erosion at Rs. 1,73,03,170 and thus the total overall estimated loss is Rs. 15,00,74,970 as against Rs. 18 or 19 crores stated by the hon'ble Finance Minister.

So far as the loss of paddy is concerned, it has been estimated as shown in the Assam Information at approximately 65 per cent. of the total Aus paddy and that of jute at 53 per cent. of the total production in the State. When paddy provides food to our agriculturists, jute provides them with purchasing power. Now, Sir, a difficulty has been created by not showing district or subdivision—wise the different figures of loss as has already been pointed out by my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya. Unless, it is shown district or subdivision-wise, we do not know exactly as to whether the amount of relief given in any particular district or subdivision



has been adequate or otherwise. As for instance, Mr. Bora has shown the allocation of funds for agricultural loans and gratuitous relief on district or sub-divisional basis, but as he has not shown the losses suffered, on that basis it will be difficult for any hon. Member to know as to whether or not the amounts allotted to a particular district or subdivision have been adequate or not.

Now, Sir, there is one more thing. I find that no mention has been made about the damage done to Sali crops by pests. There is nothing in the report to show whether the Minister in-charge of Revenue has taken into consideration the estimated loss of Sali crops caused by pests.

**Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister):** Pest is quite a different thing.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN:** No Sir, that is not. He is entirely mistaken. When we discuss about the floods we should also take into consideration other contributory factors which may have identical bearing to the effects of the floods. This is most important. Floods will create scarcity of food and so also large scale attack of pests on our crops will aggravate the same problem *viz.*, the food problem because serious scarcity of food caused as a result may bring about famine or near famine conditions. We have got certain figures showing amount of loss of crops and other properties directly as a result of the floods. What I want to say is that there has taken place large scale damage as a result of attack of the pests on our Sali crops. What is going to happen, what is going to be food situation of our State as a result of all these damages? Certainly we are going to face heavy scarcity of food in the months to come. It is true, we had certain quantity of surplus paddy from our last year's harvest. But I do not know how much of that stock still remains after consumption during the interim period and whether the balance left after consumption will be sufficient to carry us through along with the produce of the current year. We are anxious to know what is the food situation in our State to-day. That is the most important question. We should be in a position to tell our people that they need not be afraid of any serious scarcity of food. Coming as I do from a highly flood affected area, from my personal experience, Sir, I am greatly afraid that there may be famine or near famine conditions. In our area which our Revenue Minister, Mr. Bora, was kind enough to visit, practically the entire Aus and Bao crops have been destroyed, and these people now depend for their maintenance on food crops grown on the North bank of the Brahmaputra. But now the sali



paddy in the whole area on the North bank of the Brahmaputra has been badly damaged by pests. It is now very much doubtful whether at least even 40 per cent. of the normal output can be expected from this area. That is the case in respect of the district of Goalpara, particularly of the Dhubri Subdivision. Then again after successive floods had damaged the crops, came drought in the month of August. Along with the drought came swarms of pests causing heavy damage to whatever paddy remained after the floods. I would ask the Minister-in-charge, Agriculture to visit these places and see for himself what is actually the situation there.

How has this happened ? This has happened directly as a result of negligence and inaction on the part of the officers of the Agriculture Department. The department could not prove equal to the task that was expected of them during the calamitous period overtaking the country side as a result of repeated floods, droughts followed by large scale attack on crops by swarms of pests. Last year when these pests swarming caterpillars, etc., were causing damages to Sali crops and the officers of the Agricultural Department were approached, we were told that they had no sufficient stock of pesticides, sprayers and other implements to effectively cope with the menace. Fortunately, however, last year the damage was not so heavy as it is in this year. But in spite of this, it is regrettable, Sir, Government had not the foresight to adequately equip this department to tackle the menace of pests effectively. From a perusal of the last year's Budget with the Budget of this year, and also of the year before last, it will appear that the same amount has been allotted for pesticides and implements. This shows that the Government has not given any more consideration to this aspect of the problem having important bearing on our food production than they did in the last year or in the year before last. This is lack of foresight and preparedness to meet a problem before we are overwhelmed by it. In spite of plenty of applications and petitions submitted to the officers of the Agriculture Department they could not attend effectively to the public representative for want of adequate stocks of pesticide and implements such as sprayers, dusters etc., at their disposal. Another great defect in the machinery of the Government is the lack of spirit of service amongst the Government officials of the department. They did not go from village to village so as to come in direct touch with the villagers to educate them in the method of using pesticides, as well as organise planned attack on the pests.



**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister)** : Sir, We are now discussing about the floods. Is not the hon. Member straining too much on an irrelevant issue ?

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN** : It is a part of the problem.

**Mr. SPEAKER** : We are now discussing about floods. You are straining too much on the point of pests.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN** : The attack of pests is an additional factor adversely affecting our food position, what we want to know is the food position of the country ; whether as a result of the repeated floods we will now be in a position to meet our food requirements , what are the schemes Government have taken in hand to meet any possible deficiency in our food requirement. Sir, time has now come for the cultivation of Rabi crops such as wheat, China, pulses and some other things, as also Baro paddy, etc. The officers of the Agricultural Department should visit the places affected by the floods, come in touch with the people, ascertain their requirements and supply them with seeds and seedlings of these different varieties of crops and also educate them how to grow these things. This may be done by propaganda or by other measures available at the hands of the Government so that these people may be enlightened and educated to take to different kinds of cultivation to supplement their losses in crops. It is the duty of the Agricultural Department to take action on these lines. Again many people have lost their cattle during the floods. They have no money to feed themselves let alone purchasing of cattle to plough their lands. The position is extremely serious. So I say that the Agriculture Department has a special responsibility to look into these matters and help the cultivators with seeds and other requirements so that they may grow as much as possible to supplement the food resources of the country as well as to make them self-sufficient in this vital matter of food.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister)** : Sir, whatever help was given in his area was given in consultation with them and he was satisfied.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN** : Sir, I do not deny that some seeds were given to the flood affected people. I do not deny that. But that is not adequate. If I was satisfied with the help that was given to the people at that time, it was not



because of its adequacy but because of the fact that the Revenue Minister was then labouring under certain limitation which I then appreciated. He cannot do anything according as he desires. He has got to find out funds. He therefore could not give all that I wanted him to give. That position I could quite realise. But, Sir, now the time has come for cultivation of the crops that I have mentioned before which may be grown and used as food. Now it is the time to avail of this opportunity. I do not say that the Department of Agriculture is not working, but what I want to say is that they should do certain amount of work to impress upon the people to grow more wheat and China on a large scale, so that they may get food. Now the trouble is that we have already lost Sali crops and we have to wait for another 6 or 7 months for Aus crops; that means, Aus crops will not be available till June and July next. So, during this period we have got to grow more food crops as far as possible.

Now, Sir, let me come to the question of cattle. A large number of cattle were lost during the flood, some were drowned and some were washed away, and some died of starvation. Mr. Bora himself saw how villagers were collecting water hyacinth in their villages to feed cattle. Now the hon. Members will easily imagine what kind of fodder the villager may get for their cattle when the whole area remained submerged for three months. So, Sir, the people became helpless and they had to feed their cattle with water-hyacinth. Therefore, we now find that their cattle are dying. Before I left my subdivision, I got alarming news that not less than 10,000 cattle have died in the South bank. Some cattle were allowed to graze in some portions of the Garo Hills, but unfortunately the Garo Hills Authorities did not allow these cattle to graze there beyond a certain date. We sent telegrams to the Deputy Commissioner, Garo Hills as well as to the Garo Hills, District Council with a request to allow those cattle to be grazed there for some time more.

We have also heard that a large number of cattle are gradually dying and the people are helpless to tackle this problem. Therefore, Sir, I would request Mr. Bora and also to the Minister-in-charge of Veterinary to make an immediate survey of the loss of cattle caused by floods, otherwise the people will be greatly hampered in their agricultural activities. So, Sir, as this is a great problem, it should be assessed after obtaining the data through the Departmental officers in collaboration with the Flood Relief Committees so that necessary remedial measures may be undertaken.

**Mr. Deputy SPEAKER:** Were you not giving some figures?



**Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN**: No, Sir, the Dhubri Flood Relief Committee has already made a survey, and after going through the figures, we could know what extent of damage has been caused to the cultivators.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER**: What is your calculation?

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN**: Just before I had left Dhubri, I got the information that not less than 10,000 cattle died due to flood.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER**: 10,000 died?

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN**: Yes, Sir. I have got this information through some members of the Flood Relief Committee. About the relief measures, I have already stated that as the figures were not shown district-wise, it has become difficult to assess the adequacy and otherwise of the relief measures so far undertaken.

The total area affected in the Dhubri Subdivision is 1,000 sq. miles out of the total of 2,800 sq. miles. Near about 3 lakhs of people are affected. Loss of agricultural produce and cattle has been estimated at Rs.2½ to 3 crores.

Relief so far granted ...	...	Loan	gratuitous relief
Dhubri ...	...	9,10,00	3,37,900
Goalpara ...	...	3,00,000	59,000

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER**: That is the highest in the State.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN**: It may be so. This loss is also highest. The whole thing should be judged on the basis of the loss sustained by the people. Take for instance, the people of the district of Cachar have not come for any relief because the district of Cachar is not so much affected by flood. So, that should be the basis for granting relief to a particular district. Now, Sir, as against the total loss of Rs.2½ crores, the relief granted is about 12 lakhs which comes to about 5 per cent. of the total loss sustained.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister)**: This is not compensation.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Mr. Umaruddin, this is not compensation.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN**: Why not, Sir, the relief should be granted on the basis of available datas, otherwise there is no meaning in stating the loss as has been done by Government. Again, Sir, it has been found that in the South Bank, loan has come to Rs.15 per family and Rs.7 to Rs.8 per family in the north bank areas. Our total estimated requirement was Rs.26 lakhs. This has been calculated on the basis of 3 months' subsistence at the rate of Rs.25 per family per month.



As against this, we have been given only Rs.13 lakhs as loan. This is quite inadequate, and as such we have been pressing Government for more loan.

Sir, when I left my Subdivision, I got information that large number of people are on the verge of starvation. Mr. Bora was kind enough to give 60,000 maunds of paddy to be sold at concessional rates. But half of the paddy have been lifted and that the other half has been left due to lack of purchasing power of the people. So, I would request Government to give more loans to the people if they are to be saved from acute distress and starvation. When Mr. Bora visited Dhubri last time, I told him that the additional sum of Rs.19 lakh for the whole State for agricultural loans was too inadequate though at that time I had no idea about the extent of damages. Therefore, I would request Government to give more grant in the shape of agricultural loan. Further, I would request Government to give doles to those people who are physically unfit to do any work.

Then again, Sir, we are trying to organise test relief works. As a matter of fact, I believe that the people must work and we should impress upon them the necessity of work so that they may earn something thereby. Therefore, Sir, labourer for test relief works are being organised by us. In this connection, I would like to say that when I had left Dhubri, about 2,000 people came forward and offered to work. Their demand was, "give us work or give us food." and this is the sort of thing that is prevailing. Generally the labourers come from outside from Bihar, do earth work but now under pressure of distress our people say "give us work or give us food". This is not an offer but a challenge to Government.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** I accept it. I will give them work.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN:** Then, Sir, we must impress upon the people that they must work. The motto is, "He who does not work neither shall he eat". We must impress upon the people the significance of the motto and by taking advantage of this situation we should initiate the people to do earth work which they are generally averse. So I request Mr. Bora and Mr. Sarma to see their way to make necessary provisions so that the Test Relief Works in Dhubri may be started immediately Sir, in addition to sanctioned road projects there are other projects also, for instance, the Dhubri-Shalmari Road and Golokganj-Kochukhana Road which fall in



flood affected areas. We have suggested to the Minister in-charge Public Works Department on his visit to Dhubri to take up these two roads, but unfortunately these projects are not yet sanctioned. So I request him to instruct the Officers concerned to undertake immediate survey so that within a month or a fortnight the work may be taken up.

Another thing, Sir, some helpless widows and women came to us for help, they live in the neighbourhood of Dhubri Town and used to earn their livelihood by husking paddy and selling rice or by doing house-hold job of those well-to-do neighbours. But as a result of the floods they have been thrown out of employment and now facing starvation. Now, Sir, we have decided to form Paddy Husking Groups with such women and we have already started three or four groups, but for want of funds we are very much handicapped. In this connection I want to inform the House that one lady has been deputed from Gauhati by the Paddy Husking Association or some such organisation to supervise the working of the groups we have started. For want of funds we are very much handicapped, and so I request Mr. Bora to make adequate funds available to us so that we can run the organisation properly and offer relief through employment to helpless women and widows by engaging them in paddy husking. This will enable them to earn something instead of depending on doles, and therefore, all these arrangements can be made successfully if Government come forward with some amount of financial help.

Now Sir, taking the overall situation of our State which has been caused by the flood and the erosion, I believe the stage has come that we must view the problem seriously and as a long term one. We must have a special administrative set-up for relief and rehabilitation ; of course we are considering measures from the preventive point of view and for that purpose we must have staff to collect the hydrological and other necessary data but this will take a long time to produce result, it may take to 7 or 8 years or more to materialise. But, Sir, we have got no special staff to deal with relief and rehabilitation, we are depending entirely on the local staff and non-official co-operation. But I believe we must create a special relief and rehabilitation department with the officers at the State headquarters to deal directly with the district Officers so that the present circuitous procedure may be cut down or short circuited to expedite measures which Government may undertake. For instance, it is said that about 5,000 families have been rendered homeless by the erosion of the Brahmaputra, but, Sir, in my own district not less than 2,000 families have had the same fate.



Therefore, there should be a detailed survey of all the people who have lost their lands due to the flood and erosion of the Brahmaputra, there should be a survey also of the available land in the State. It is indicated that we are going to spend a crore of rupees on rehabilitation. This amount we must spend carefully, we should have a special department to tackle the problem and take steps on a planned basis and if a separate department is not set-up, there will be delay in implementing the rehabilitation schemes,, for example, at present if a report is called for, that report will pass from one officer to another, and ultimately it may have to go to the Mandal also and subsequently there will be delay in attending to the matter. But if we have a separate set of officers for the relief and rehabilitation of the flood and erosion affected people, we may expedite things without any avoidable delay. Sir, I have heard from many hon. Members, for instance, the hon. Member, Shri Dalbir Singh Lohar, said that the people of Saikhowa have not been looked after, so also was opinion of Mr. Narnarayan Goswami and Mr. Phookan. So, Sir, I say that unless we have a special department to deal with the relief and rehabilitation of the flood and erosion affected people nothing will come out. I therefore, request that Government may take into serious consideration this aspect of the problem so that things can be done as expeditiously as possible, and all the normal procedure cut down and short circuited and reduced to the minimum. Therefore, Sir, I say there should be that special arrangement in connection with the relief and rehabilitation of the flood and erosion affected people. Then again Sir, there should be a separate fund, a permanent fund... (*Voices* He is taking more than half an hour, Sir.)

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I hope you are concluding.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMMARUDDIN:** I am concluding in five minutes, Sir. Therefore, Sir, I say that we must have a permanent fund, and although we did not anticipate any trouble in the past but now frequent recurrence of floods may be apprehended and in times of emergency we can issue money from that fund. This permanent fund should also be annually increased, otherwise our whole Budget will be completely upset if we have to meet larger unforeseen expenditure necessitated by occurrence of floods. The floods this year have created an exceptionally difficult situation to meet for which we have to initiate various new schemes for the relief of the victims of floods and erosion as well as to undertake flood control



measures both of a long term and short term character. For this purpose we may have to divert grants from normal projects in one place to have essential projects in flood affected areas such as Test Relief Works, etc. There also in view of the urgent necessity for flood control measures the Five-Year Plan may have to be recast. Similarly in formulating the 2nd Five-Year Plan highest priority should be given to flood control measures as well as various protective schemes. Many of the normal activities of the Government may have therefore to be stopped and the money transferred for more urgent and essential purposes as stated above. So, Sir, I said the whole scheme of our Five-Year Plan may have to be changed. The First Five-Year Plan is under implementation and the Second Five-Year Plan which is on the anvil must comprise all such schemes. So, on completion of the survey conducted by experts if preventive schemes will have to be taken in hand to fulfil purposes which are more essential for the protection of the life and property of our people. I hope, Sir, these suggestions will be given due consideration by Government. With these words, I finish my observations.

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister):** Sir, I propose to clarify the positions. Instructions have been issued to the Executive Engineers and Subdivisional Officers who generally allot works to the contractors, to allot work not exceeding Rs.10,000 only to any group of persons who would come forward to execute work in flood-affected areas or anywhere in Assam without calling for formal tender in usual course. The group of persons who come forward and take up work will select a leader from among them and work will be allowed in his name. Attempt will be made to make payment fortnightly if not earlier. So there is no dearth of work. In every division there are works worth to the extent of Rs.32 to 40 lakhs or Rs.45 lakhs. If there is any dearth of work anywhere the matter may be referred to the Government. This has been decided by the Cabinet and instructions have already been issued to all the Executive Engineers and Subdivisional Officers to provide work to group of persons for flood affected areas. The people may take advantage of this whether in flood-affected areas or anywhere in Assam. Other things being equal, preference should be given to the contractors of the flood-affected areas. So, Sir, there will be no dearth of work to the people of Assam. It is rather difficult to get labourers for Public Works Department Works.

**Maulavi SAHADATALI MANDAL:** অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, বান বিধ্বস্ত অঞ্চলৰ পৰা যি বিলাক মানুহ কাম কৰিবলৈ আহে, তেওঁলোকৰ ১০।১৫ দিনৰ খোৰাকীৰ কি ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হব ?



**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) :** যেতিয়া এখন বান-বিধ্বস্ত গাঁৱৰ মানুহে কাম কৰিবলৈ ওলাই আহে তেতিয়া তেওঁবিলাকৰ খোৰাকীৰ কাৰণে বিল কৰি টকা উলিয়াওতে ১/১১১ মাহ লাগি যায়। তেনে অৱস্থাত তেওঁলোকক ১৫ দিন অথবা প্ৰথমতে ৭ দিন মানৰ ভিতৰতে বিল দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিবলৈ কোৱা হৈছে। অৱশ্যে ৭ দিনত বিল কৰি টকা দিয়া টান হবও পাৰে। কিন্তু যত্ন কৰা হব। যদি কোনো অসুবিধা হয় তেনে হলে আমালৈ জনালে তাৰ ব্যৱস্থা লবলৈ যত্ন কৰা হব।

**Shri HARINARAYAN BARUA :** অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মাননীয় বিত্ত মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই বানপানী সম্পৰ্কে এই সদনত যি বিবৃতি দাখিল কৰিছে আৰু সদনৰ সদস্যসকলক আলোচনাত যোগদান দিবৰ কাৰণে সুবিধা দিছে, তাৰ কাৰণে তেখেতক ধন্যবাদ দিছো। ১৯৫০ চনৰ বৰ ভূইকপৰ পিচত এইবাৰ ১৯৫৪ চনৰ বানপানী আৰু গৰা খহনীয়াই আমাৰ প্ৰদেশৰ এটা অংশত প্ৰলয়ঙ্কৰী অৱস্থাৰ সৃষ্টি কৰিছে। এই অৱস্থাত আমাৰ প্ৰদেশত যিবিলাক ক্ষতি হৈছে আৰু যিবিলাক মানুহ বানপানী আৰু গৰা খহনীয়াত দুৰ্দ্দশাগ্ৰস্ত হৈছে সেই বিলাকৰ সুখ সুবিধা আৰু সহায় কৰিবৰ কাৰণে সদনৰ সদস্যসকলে পৰামৰ্শ আগবঢ়াইছে। ছৈখোৱাৰ পৰা আবন্ত কৰি আজি পশ্চিমে ধুবুৰীলৈকে প্ৰায় ৪৫০ মাইল দীঘল এটা বিৰাট অঞ্চলত ১৭ লাখ মানুহ বানপানীত প্ৰপীড়িত হৈছে। এই ১৭ লাখ মানুহৰ ভিতৰত প্ৰায় ১০ হাজাৰ মানুহক গৰা খহনীয়াই গৃহহীন কৰিলে, আৰু বহুত মানুহে নিজৰ সকলো সম্পত্তি, গৰু গাই, আদি হেৰুৱালে। আজি বহুত মানুহৰ পক্ষে জীৱন যাপন কৰাই বৰ কষ্টকৰ আৰু অসম্ভৱ হৈ পৰিছে। আজি এই মানুহবিলাকক সহায় আৰু সুবিধা দিয়াৰ উদ্দেশ্যে যি আলোচনা হৈছে; সেই আলোচনা যদি প্ৰপীড়িতলোক সকলক সহায় আৰু সুবিধা দিয়াৰ দৃষ্টি ভঙ্গি নহয়, তেতিয়া হলে এই মানুহবোৰক সহায় কৰাটো দুবৰ কথা আৰু দুঃখ-কষ্টলৈ টেলি দিয়াহে হব।

আজি আমাৰ প্ৰত্যেকেই বক্তৃতা প্ৰসঙ্গত চৰকাৰক সমালোচনা কৰিছো নাইবা কোনো ব্যক্তি বা অনুস্থানক সমালোচনা কৰিছোঁক। আজি দেশৰ এনে এটা দুৰাৱস্থাৰ সময়ত চৰকাৰ বা কৰ্মচাৰী সকলে তালৈ চকু দিয়া নাই বা কোনো অনুস্থানে সহযোগিতা কৰা নাই বা কাম কৰা নাই ইত্যাদি অভিযোগ কৰিলে কেতিয়াও সমস্যাৰ সমাধান নহয়। এই কথা বিবেচনা কৰিবলৈ সকলোৱে সুবিধাও নেপায়। অৱশ্যে ময়ো এই কথা আলোচনা কৰিবলৈ ইচ্ছা নকৰো, কাৰণ আমাৰ সকলোৰে একোটা উদ্দেশ্য আৰু কোনটো কথা বা কামৰ পৰা সেই উদ্দেশ্য সিদ্ধি হব তালৈ লক্ষ্য ৰাখিহে আমি কথা কওঁ বা কাম কৰো। সকলোৱে জানে যে এই ৪৫০ মাইল দীৰ্ঘ অঞ্চল এটাত প্ৰায় ১৭ লাখ বানপানী প্ৰপীড়িত লোক আৰু ১০ হাজাৰ গৃহহীন লোকৰ পুনৰসংস্থাপন কৰা কথাটো সিমান সহজ নহয়। সেইকাৰণে বহুত সময়ত ইমানবিলাক লোকৰ পুনৰসংস্থাপন কৰিবলৈ যি এটা আচনি কৰে বা কৰিছে সি হয়তো পৰিস্থিতি অনুযায়ী যথেষ্ট নহবও পাৰে। এই সকল লোকৰ বেচি ভাগেই সৰ্ব্বহাৰা তেওঁলোকৰ ঘৰ সম্পত্তি একোৱেই নাই। সেই লোকসকলক এখন নতুন ঠাইত সংস্থাপন কৰা কথাটো যে সহজ কথা নহয় তাক সকলোৱে মনে মনে উপলব্ধি কৰিছো গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ তো কথাই নাই আনকি সকলোৰে সমবেত শক্তি হলেও বৰ্তমান পৰিস্থিতিত হাৰ মানিব। সকলোৱে একযোগে কাম কৰিলেও এই লোকসকলক সকলোবিলাক সুখ-সুবিধা দিয়াটো সম্ভৱপৰ নহয়।

এতিয়া ধৰক গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে ১০ হাজাৰ লোকক কিছু মাটি দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছে। এই পুনৰ সংস্থাপনৰ কামত যদি আমাৰ সকলো সদস্যই সহায় সহানুভূতি আগবঢ়াই তেন্তে এই প্ৰপীড়িত লোকসকলে মাটি পাব নোৱাৰে। উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে মই কও যে আমাৰ যোৰহাটৰ কিছুমান লোকে উত্তৰ লক্ষীমপুৰৰ ঠাই এডোখৰত বহো বুলি প্ৰায় ২০০ ঘৰ মানুহ লগ লাগি গৈ ঘৰ দুৱাৰ বান্ধিলে। কিন্তু তাৰ খলুৱা মানুহে তেওঁলোকৰ লগত



সহযোগিতা নকৰিলেই বৰং গভৰ্ণমেণ্টক কৈ নানা উপায়ে তেওলোকক তাৰ পৰা উঠি আহিবলৈ বাধ্য কৰিলে। তেওলোকে তাৰ পৰা ঘৰ দুৱাৰ ভাঙি মাটি বাৰী এবি থৈ তাৰ পৰা ওছি আহিল। অৱশ্যে পুনৰ তেওলোকক বহিবলৈ কৈছে। এই দৰে প্ৰত্যেক জিলাতেই যদি স্থানীয় লোক সকলে যদি আপত্তি কৰে তেন্তে এই লোক সকলক গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে বহুৱাব খুজিলেই বহুৱাব নোৱাৰিব। সেইকাৰণে স্থানীয় লোকসকলৰ সহযোগীতা নহলে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে কোনো আচনিয়াই কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰিব নোৱাৰে। আকৌ আমি যদি সকলোৰে ভাবো যে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে কৰি দিয়া সুবিধাতেই মানুহৰ সকলো সমস্যাবেই সমাধান হ'ব, তেতিয়া কোনো সমস্যাই নাথাকিবহেতেন। আৰু সমস্যা নাথাকিলে আমাৰ পাটি বিলাকেই বা থাকে কেনেকৈ ?

সেইকাৰণে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে কববাত কিবা এটা সুবিধা কৰিলেই কিছুমানে তাৰ খুটিনাতি বাহিৰ কৰি সহযোগীতাৰ সলনি এটা গওগোলৰ সৃষ্টি কৰে। তেনেক্ষেত্ৰত গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰো কাম কৰা সম্ভবপৰ নহয়।

মোৰ নিজা অভিজ্ঞতাৰ পৰা মই আমাৰ সদস্য সকলক অনুৰোধ কৰো যে এই সমস্যা বিলাক অকল শৰীয়াৰ বা চৈখোৱাৰ বা ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰ সমস্যা বুলি মনলৈ নানি প্ৰত্যেক কথাৰে বৃহৎ দৃষ্টি ভঙ্গীৰে ৰাজ্যিক সমস্যা বুলি ধৰি লৈ সকলোৱে একযোগে কাম কৰিলেহে আমি কিছুদিনৰ পিচত এই প্ৰপীড়িত লোকসকলক সুখ-সুবিধা দিব পাৰিম বুলি আশা কৰিব পাৰো।

তাৰ পিচত আমাৰ ভটাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াই এটা কথা কৈ গৈছে। অৱশ্যে মই তেখেতক সমালোচনা কৰা নাই। তেখেতে মোক ক্ষমা কৰিব। তেখেতে যিখিনি কৈছে সকলোৱে শুনিছে। তেখেতে কৈছে যে সকলোৱে বহি আছে। কোনো আচনি নাই— কি বস্ত দিছে কি বস্ত দিলে মানুহৰ সুখ সুবিধা হ'ব মন্ত্ৰীসকল কিয় গল-নগলেওতো হলহেতেন, আকৌ আন হাতে কৈছে তেখেত সকলে Constituency-minded হৈছে..... ইত্যাদি। অৰ্থাত আন সমাধি লৈকে যাব লাগিছিল। দেখা গল এতিয়া, মন্ত্ৰীসকলৰ গলেও লেঠা আৰু নগলেও বেয়া। আমি পাহৰা উচিত নহয় যে এই মন্ত্ৰীসকলক আমিহেই পতিছো তেখেতসকলৰ ওপৰত আমাৰ ৰাইজৰ সুখ-সুবিধা কৰি দিয়া অৰু ৰাজ্যৰ দায়িত্ব আছে। তেখেত সকলে প্ৰত্যেক গাঁৱলৈ গৈ সকলো সমস্যা উপলব্ধি কৰি তাৰ সমাধানৰ চেষ্টা কৰিব। এইখিনিতে মই এটা কথা কও। আমাৰ মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী মহোদয় তেজপুৰৰ পৰা যোৰহাটলৈ গৈছিল। তেখেত যোৱাৰ দিনাই বানপানীত মাজুলীৰ ভীষণ অৱস্থা বাতি ১০ বজাত খবৰ আহিল। মাজুলীৰ অৱস্থাৰ খবৰ শুনি সেই বাতিৰ ভিতৰতে সকলো অফিচাৰক মাতি আনি এই সদনৰ সদস্য সকলৰ লগত আলোচনা কৰি বিলিফৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিলে। মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে Steamer Company ৰ সহায়ত এখন Steamer যোগাব কৰিলে; সেই বাতিৰ ভিতৰতে অফিচাৰ সকলৰ সহায়ত প্ৰায় ১,১০০ মোন চাউল আৰু ৭/৮ হাজাৰ টকা আৰু এহেজাৰ মোন তুঁহগুৰি সংগ্ৰহ কৰি ৰাতিপূৰা আমাৰ যোগান মন্ত্ৰী, জললীবিভাগৰ মন্ত্ৰী অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় আদি কৰি আমাৰ কিছুমান সদস্যই মাজুলীলৈ গৈ দেখিলো যে অৱস্থা সচাকৈ শোচনীয়; আনকি যিনিষপত্ৰ নমাবৰ কাৰনে এটুকুৰাও বাম ঠাই নাই। যিহওক বহুকেইবোৰে লোকসকলক সম্ভবপৰ সাহায্য আগবঢ়োৱা হল। সেইটো হল আমাৰ মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ৰ সৌজন্যতহে। তেখেত যোৱা কাৰনেই সেইখিনি সম্ভব হল। ইয়াত মন্ত্ৰীসকল যোৱাত তেখেতৰ আপত্তিৰ কাৰণ নবুজিলো। তেখেতে বোধকৰো তেনে সমস্যাৰ সন্মুখীন হোৱা নাই, হলে বুজিলে হেতেন যে মন্ত্ৰীসকল ঘটনাস্থলত উপস্থিত থাকিলে কিমান সহায় হয়। তেখেতৰ লগত মোৰ এইখিনিতে অমিল।



তেখেতে আক এটা কথা কৈ আমাৰ মাননীয় গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াক সমালোচনা কৰিছে। গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াই যেনিবা পছমৰা নদীৰ কথা কলে সেইটো নিশ্চয় বাইজৰ উপকাৰাথেই উনুকিয়াই দিছে। তেখেতে তাৰ পুনৰুক্তি কৰাৰ অৰ্থ কি আমি বুজা নাই বৰলীয়া নদীৰ মথাউৰিৰ কথা কৈ কলে যে, মাত্ৰ এছোৱাহে থাকিলে সিও মন্ত্ৰীৰ ওচৰৰহে ছোৱাটো বান্ধিলে বাকী ছোৱা নাবান্ধিলে। কিন্তু সেইছোৱা নাবান্ধো বুলি কোৱা নাই। এবছৰ এছোৱা বান্ধিলে পিচত বাকি চোৱা বান্ধিব বুলি ঠিক কৰি থৈছে। সেই কথাও মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে ঘোষণা কৰিছে এইবাৰ সেইখিনিও বান্ধিব। এই কথা স্পষ্টকৈ জানিও তাৰ কাৰণে ইমান মিটিং কৰি জনসাধাৰণক উচটাই দি চৰকাৰৰ ওচৰলৈ সজাতিদল অনাৰ কি অৰ্থ থাকিব পাৰে? আমাৰ বোধেৰে এইটো এটা কোনো দলৰ প্ৰচাৰ কাৰ্য্য মাত্ৰ। অৰ্থাৎ চৰকাৰে কৰিব খোজা কাৰ্য্যটো কোনোদলে কৰোৱাৰ কথাটোকে দেখুৱাবলৈ এনে কৰা হৈছে। ইয়াৰ বাহিৰে আনঅৰ্থ হ'ব নোৱাৰে। ইয়াৰ পৰা আমি এইখিনিকেই বুজো যে এনে দৃষ্টিভঙ্গীৰে এখন দেশৰ সমস্যা কেতিয়াও সমাধান হ'ব নোৱাৰে।

উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, কিছমান পৰিস্থিতিৰ পৰা আমি ইয়াকেই উপলব্ধি কৰিছো যে আমাৰ নিচিনা ভোট বিচৰা মানুহ বিলাক বৰ সাংঘাতিক মানুহ; আমি আমাৰ জনসাধাৰণক বহুক্ষেত্ৰত বিপদৰ সন্মুখৰ পৰা বক্ষা কৰা দূৰৰ কথা আমি তেওঁলোকৰ মৰাশৰ ওপৰত নাচিহে আনন্দ পাও। অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়! দেশৰ ৰাজনৈতিক দল বিলাকৰ কাৰ্য্য কলাপ দেখি মোৰ এনে ধাৰণা হৈছে। আমি আমাৰ দলৰ শক্তি বৃদ্ধি কৰিবলৈ গৈ মানুহৰ সমস্যা বিলাকৰ সমাধানৰ চেষ্টা কৰা দূৰত থাকক তেওঁলোকৰ সমস্যা জটিল কৰিবলৈহে ভাল পাও। মানুহক ধুংগৰ মুখলৈ ঠেলি দি আমি খেলা খেলো অৰ্থাৎ তোমালোকে খাবলৈ বা পিছলৈ পাবা নেপাবা সেই কথা আমাক নেলাগে আমাৰ দলৰ কথা শুনি আমি যি কও কৰি যোৱা। মানুহেও কৰি যায় সমস্যা সমাধান নহয়; গতিকে কৈছো আমি তেওঁলোকৰ মৰাশৰ ওপৰত উঠি আনন্দ পাও, আমি কও, “বাইজসকল আমাক ভোট দিয়ক আমি আপোনালোকৰ মৰাশৰ ওপৰত উঠি নাচিম।” সেই কাৰণে মানুহৰ সমস্যাৰ ওপৰত ঠিয় হৈ নিজৰ দলৰ শক্তি বৃদ্ধি কৰিবলৈ যাওঁতে দেশৰ সমস্যা বঢ়াই দিছে। এইটোৱেই নুবুজাইনে যে আমি জনসাধাৰণৰ মৰাশৰ ওপৰত নাচিবলৈ ভাল পাওঁ?

যিহওক, মই ইয়াকেই কব খোঁজো যে প্ৰত্যেক অঞ্চলতে একোটা একোটা সুকীয়া সমস্যা আছে; সদনত মই ইতিপূৰ্বেও উল্লেখ কৰি গৈছো যে মাজুলীখন আমি সোণৰ মাজুলী হিচাবে গঢ়িম। আৰু সেই উদ্দেশ্যে বহু লাখ টকা চৰকাৰেও খৰচ কৰিবলৈ সক্ষম হৈছিল, কিন্তু আজি মাজুলীৰ অৱস্থা কি? চৰকাৰেই বা কি কৰিব? কি আচনি লোৱাৰ কথা আছিল আৰু কি ঘটনা হল? গতিকে আজি গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে যি ইচ্ছা কৰে সেই ইচ্ছাৰ বিৰুদ্ধেও বহু অজানিত শক্তিয়ে তাক বাধা দিয়ে, সেইকাৰণে আমাৰ গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াই বিশুদ্ধকৰ্ম্মাৰ নামটো উচ্চাৰণ কৰিছিল; তাতেই কিছুমান সদস্যৰ চুলি ঠিয় হল। ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰই মাজুলীৰ মানুহৰ অৱস্থা যি কৰিছে সি বৰ্ণনা কৰিছে। অৱশ্যে মই আকৌ মাজুলী মাজুলী কৰি থাকিলে আমাৰ কিছুমান মাননীয় সদস্যৰ আকৌ খং উঠিব।

মাজুলী পানীৰ মাজৰ এটা দ্বীপ। বাহিৰ জগতৰ লগত সেই দ্বীপৰ সন্মত নাই। প্ৰায় ৫০ মাইল জুৰি ৭৬ হাজাৰ লোকে বসবাস কৰে। মুঠ লোকসংখ্যা ৭,৬০০ হাজাৰ। গৰাক্ষনীয় ই তাৰ প্ৰায় ১৩শ ঘৰ উটুৱাই লৈ গৈছে। সেই মানুহবোৰৰ পুনৰব্যৱস্থাৰ কাৰণে ৰাজহবিভাগৰ ডেপুটি মিনিষ্টাৰ মহোদয়ে যোৰহাটত M. L. A. আৰু S. D. C. সকলকলৈ যোৱা দহ তাৰিখে এখন মিটিং কৰিছিল। সেই মিটিঙত বানপানী বিশ্বস্ত লোকসকলৰ পুনৰ বসতিৰ দিহা পৰামৰ্শ লৈছিল। মই আগতেই কৈ আহিছো যে অকল চৰকাৰী সাহায্যৰ ওপৰতেই কেতিয়াও এই সমস্যাবোৰ সমাধান হ'ব নোৱাৰে। সকলোৰে সহযোগীতাৰ ওপৰতহে এই সমস্যাবোৰৰ সমাধান নিৰ্ভৰ কৰে।



মজুলীৰ কথা কলে বহুতৰ খঙ উঠে কাৰণে মই ভয়ে ভয়েহে কৈছো। মাজুলীত অসমীয়া কৃষ্টিৰ কেন্দ্ৰ বেঙেনাআতি, আউনিআটি, সত্ৰদুইখন গৰাখহনীয়াই একেবাৰে উটুৱাই নিলে। এই দুখন সত্ৰ আমাৰ অতি গোবৰৰ বস্তু। ভাটি ফালৰ পৰা কোনো ডাঙৰ মানুহ আহিলে দক্ষিণ পাট, আউনিআটি, গড়মূৰ আৰু বেঙেনা আটিলৈকে লই যাওঁ। অসমীয়াৰ কৃষ্টি কলা আমি তাতেই দেখুৱাওঁগৈ।

ইয়াৰ ভিতৰৰে দুখনৰ দুগৰাকী গোসাঞী গৰাখহনীয়াৰ মুখত কৰি সৰ্বস্ব হেৰুৱাই সামান্য চালি কৰি যি অৱস্থাত আছে দেখিলে বেজাৰ লাগে। গতিকে এইবোৰ সমস্যা ক যদি আমি ৰাজ্যিক সমস্যা হিচাবে নাচাও তেতিয়া হলে সমস্যাৰ সমাধান কেতিয়াও হব নোৱাৰে। এই খিনিতে সকলো সদস্যৰ ওচৰত মোৰ এটা অনুৰোধ আছে। আজি আমাৰ যি ১০ হাজাৰ মানুহ গৰাখহনীয়াৰ দ্বাৰা পীড়িত হৈছে—সেই মানুহ বোৰৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে যি মাটি দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছে তেওঁলোকক বহুৱা কাৰ্য্যত যাতে আমাৰ সকলো সদস্যই সহযোগীতা কৰে। (voice কোন সদস্যই নো এই কামত অসহযোগীতা কৰিব?)

মোৰ উদ্দেশ্য হৈছে যে কমিউনিষ্ট বা চছিয়েলিষ্ট পাৰ্টিৰ লোকে কব পাৰে তোমা-লোকক চৰকাৰে কি মাটি দিছে—সেইবোৰ তেনেই বেয়া মাটি তালৈ তুমি নাযাৱা আন ঠাইত মাটি খোজ। ইত্যাদি কৈ চৰকাৰৰ কাৰ্য্যত অসহযোগীতা নকৰে। আৰু তেখেত সকলে যেন তেওঁ লোকৰ কৰ্ম্মী সকলকো এনে পৰামৰ্শ দিয়ে।

কাৰণ আমাৰ ৰাজনৈতিক দল বিলাকে বহুসময়ত এনে কামকেই দলীয় স্বাৰ্থত কৰি আহে। সময়ত মিছাৰ আশ্ৰয় লবলৈকো আমি পাছ নপৰো। এই খিনিতে মই উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে এটা কথা কব খোজো—আমাৰ মাননীয় ভটাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াই মোৰ কথাটো মূৰ ডাঙি শুনিলে ভাল পাওঁ। কথাটো হৈছে—যে কাকডো ফৰেষ্ট ৰিজাৰ্ভত হেনো ৫০ বিঘানে ৫০ পুৰা মাটি গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে মোক দিছে। যোৱা মাৰ্চ মাহত যেতিয়া কমিউনিষ্ট পাৰ্টিৰ এটা ডেপুটেশ্যনে আমাৰ মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰী আৰু বেভিনিউ মিনিষ্টাৰক লগ ধৰে তেতিয়া এই আপত্তি মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ৰ আগত দিয়ে। কিন্তু আজি মই এই সদনত জোৰকৈ কব পাৰো যে কাকডো ফৰেষ্ট ৰিজাৰ্ভত মোৰ নামত ৫০ লেচাও মাটি এতিয়ালৈকে পোৱা নাই। কোনো বিশ্বাস যোগ্য সন্ধান নকৰাকৈ ৰাজনৈতিক দল সমূহে দলৰ শক্তি বৃদ্ধিৰ কাৰণে এনে জঘন্য মিছা প্ৰচাৰ কৰে। কিন্তু ভটাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়া! মই সসন্মানে কব খোজো যে এনে ধৰণৰ মিছা প্ৰচাৰ কৰি কেতিয়াও কোনো দলে দলৰ শক্তি বৃদ্ধি কৰিব নোৱাৰে। কমিউনিষ্ট পাৰ্টিৰ লোক জনৰ এনে কাৰ্য্যত ক্ষুব্ধ হৈ যোৱা ১৭ তাৰিখে এখন বিৰাট ৰাজহুৱা সভা বৰহোলাত বহে। সেই সভাৰ প্ৰস্তাৱ এটা মই পাইছো। যদি ভটাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াই চাবটো ইচ্ছা কৰে তেন্তে, মই তেখেতক দেখুৱাব পাৰো। অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় এনে কাৰ্য্যই দেশৰ সমস্যা বিলাক সমাধান কৰাত কেনেকৈ সহায় হব পাৰে মই ভাবিব নোৱাৰো। এই কাৰণেই মই বাৰে বাৰে এই সদনৰ সদস্য সকলক অনুৰোধ কৰিছো যে বানপানী প্ৰপীড়িত লোক সকলৰ দুঃখ দুৰ্দশা মোচনৰ কাৰ্য্যত যাতে এনে খেলা নেখেলে। ই অতি লাজ আৰু হীনতাৰ পৰিচয়।

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** On a point of information and personal explanation, Sir, The Communist Party did not bring any such deputation either to the Chief Minister or to the Finance Minister. So far as I know the Kisan Sabha and the Kisan Panchayat brought a deputation.

**Shri HARINARAYAN BARUA:** It was at the instigation of the leader of the Communist Party.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** I repeat it was the Kisan Sabha and the Kishan Panchayat.

**Shri HARINARAYAN BARUA:** মই এই কথাখিনি উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপেহে কব লগা হোৱাত মোক যেন ক্ষমা কৰে।



যি হওক আজি ১৭ লাখ বান পানী প্ৰপীড়িত লোকৰ কথা আমি আলাচনা কৰিছোঁ ই ক মানুহে দুৰ্দশাগ্ৰস্ত অবস্থাত জীৱন যাপন কৰিব লগা হৈছে। ভাত, অৰ্থ আৰু কাপোৰৰ অভাৱত মানুহে হাহাকাৰ কৰিব লাগিছে। দলীয় লোক সকলে অন্য দৃষ্টি ভঙ্গী যদি লৈয়েই থাকে সহায়কাৰী দৃষ্টি ভঙ্গী লৈ আগ বাঢ়ি নহে তেনেহলে এই মানুহ বোৰক তেওলোকে সহায় কৰা দূৰৰ কথা মানুহক দুখৰ ঘৰলৈহে ঠেলি দিয়া হ'ব। মোৰ নিজৰ সমষ্টিৰ টিয়ক মোজাতো বান পানীয়ে দৌৰাত্য কৰিছে। মইতো সেই কথা এতিয়াও কোৱাই নাই। দুখন মিৰি গাওঁ গৰাখহনীয়াই খহাই নিছে।

সেই কথাও মই এতিয়াও কোৱা নাই। মই সমস্যাটো ৰাজ্যিক সমস্যা হিচাবেহে ধৰি লবলৈ যত্ন কৰিছোঁ। আমাৰ বিপক্ষ দলৰ মাননীয় দলপতিয়েও মাজুলী পৰিভ্ৰমণ কৰিবলৈ গৈছে। তেখেতে নিজে নিশ্চয় দেখি আহিছে গৰ্ণমেন্ট মাজুলী খন তৈয়াৰ কৰিবলৈ কিমান যত্ন লৈছে। বহুত সময়ত আমাৰ সদনৰ সদস্য সকলে ফুৰিবলৈ যাওঁতে কৰবাত এজন মানুহে আপত্তি দশালে যে তেওঁএ সাজ খোৱা নাই। আমি তাৰ পূৰ্ণ সম্ভেদ নোলোৱাকৈয়েই এই সদনত কওঁহি যে অমুকঠাইত মানুহে খাবলৈ পোৱা নাই। হয়তো সেই মানুহজনে সকলো হেৰুৱাই বেজাৰতেই লঘোন দিব পাৰে। সেই কথা লৈয়েই আমি গৰ্ণমেন্টক আক্ৰমণ কৰোঁ। আৰু সেই টোকেই আমি প্ৰাদেশিক সমস্যা হিচাবে তৈয়াৰ কৰি লবলৈ যত্ন কৰোঁহক। খাদ্যৰ অভাৱত যে মানুহ মৰা নাই সেই কথা মই কোৱা নাই। মাত্ৰ মই এটা সমস্যাৰ কথা আলোচনা কৰিবলৈ গৈছে এনে কথা কব লগা হৈছে। এনে বোৰ কথা আমি আগে পিচে দেখি শুনি আহিছোঁ কাৰণেহে আজি মই সকলোকে অনুৰোধ জনাইছোঁ বিশেষকৈ ৰাজনৈতিক দলীয় লোক সকলৰ নেতা সকলক; যাতে এই বিপদৰ সময়ত পাৰ্টিৰ দলীয় মনোভাব লৈ বিপদগ্ৰস্ত লোক সকলক তুল বাট দেখুৱাই নিদিয়। যোৰহাট মাজুলীৰ কথা আলোচনা কৰা হৈ গৈছে। কিন্তু ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ দক্ষিণ পাৰৰ কথা এতিয়াও কোৱা হোৱা নাই। যোৰহাটৰ ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ দক্ষিণ পাৰে টিয়ক, চাওখাট, হাতীগড়, হেজাৰঠ, বালিগাওঁ আৰু পৰ্বতীয়া মোজাৰ ৰায়তকে। বাণ-পানীয়ে জুৰুলা কৰিলে। দক্ষিণ পাৰৰ বহুত গাওঁ নিঃ চিৰ হৈ গৈছে। পৰ্বতীয়া মোজাৰ গৰমবা গাঁৱৰ কুমাৰ গাওঁ খন খহনীয়াই প্ৰায় শেষ কৰিলে। ইয়াকো আমি স্থানীয় কথা বুলি ধৰি লোৱা নাই। ইয়াক আমি ৰাজ্যিক কথা বুলিহে ধৰিছোঁ। দক্ষিণ পাৰৰ বহুত মিৰিগাওঁ গৰাখহনীয়াৰ গ্ৰাসত পৰি জুৰুলা হৈছে। নিমাতি গৰা-খহনীয়াৰ মুখত পৰিছে। নিমাতিৰ গৰাখহনীয়া দেখি আমাৰ টাউনৰ আৰু ওচৰ সমিপৰ গাওঁ বিলাক আতঙ্কিত হৈছে। সিদিনা মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী গৈ যি ঠাইত ঠিয় হৈছিল সেই ঠাই আজি খহনীয়াই লৈ গৈছে। আমাৰ যোৰহাটৰ কাৰণেই এটা সমস্যা হৈ উঠিছে। চিনাতলী, শালমবা, আউনী আটি, বেঙেলা আটি, তাকৰচুক আমাৰ সমস্যাৰ কথা। মুঠৰ ওপৰত যোৰহাটৰ বহুতো মোজা বানপানী আৰু গৰাখহনীয়াত আক্ৰান্ত আৰু বিধ্বস্ত হৈছে। সেই বোৰ কথা মই কোৱাই নাই। নিজৰ সমষ্টিৰ কথাও কোৱা নাই। মই গোটেই ৰাজ্যৰ সমস্যা হিচাবে, ৰাজ্যিক সমস্যা হিচাবেহে কৈছোঁ।—মই কব খুজিছোঁ—গোটেই প্ৰদেশৰ যিবিলাক সমস্যা, সেইবিলাক এক কৰিবলৈ সকলো মানুহকে কেনেকৈ সমান ভাবে সহায় কৰিব পাৰি তাৰ চেষ্টা কৰিব লাগে। তাকে নকৰি কেচুত শঙণ পৰাৰদৰে সৰু সৰু কথাবিলাকৰ আতিগুৰি বিচাৰি, ডাঙৰ ডাঙৰ কথাবিলাক তলপেলাব খোজা মনোভাব ঠিক নহয়।

(শুনক শুনক)

ইয়াত মই ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ প্ৰবল ধলৰ তুলনাত মাটিৰ মথাউৰি বন্ধাটোক কেচু আখ্যা দিছোঁ আৰু এই সৰু সৰু কথাবিলাক আমাৰ 'কমিউনিষ্ট' বন্ধু শ্ৰীযুত গোবীশঙ্কৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্য ডাঙৰীয়াৰ চকুত প্ৰতিফলিত নোহোৱাকৈ থকা নাই। ইমান সৰু সৰু কথা বিলাকত এনেকৈ লাগি থাকিলে ডাঙৰ কথা ভাবিব কেনেকৈ?



(শুনক শুনক)

এতিয়া প্ৰধান কথা হৈছে প্ৰলয়ঙ্কৰী বানপানী প্ৰপীড়িত অঞ্চল সমূহৰ বায়তৰ আধিক দূৰৱস্থাই গ্ৰাস কৰিবলৈ ওলাইছে। এই দূৰৱস্থা কেনেকৈ দূৰ কৰিব পাৰি তাৰ উপায় উদ্ভাৱন কৰিব লাগিব। ইয়াৰ উপায় হৈছে আমাৰ মাজত লুপ্ত হৈ আহিব খোজা কুটিৰ শিল্পৰ কাৰ্য্যকৰী আঁচনি লব লাগিব য'ৰ পৰা মানুহে আজৰি সময়াখিনি খটুৱাই দূপৰচা উপাৰ্জন কৰিব পাৰে। এই প্ৰসঙ্গত, বিবোধীদলৰ পৰাই মোঃ ওমবোদ্দিন চাহাবে যি খিনি কাৰ্য্যকৰী পৰামৰ্শ আগবঢ়াইছে—তাৰ বাবে তেখেতৰ সলাগ লৈছো আৰু এইদৰে যদি প্ৰত্যেকজন সদস্যই কেৱল সমালোচনাকে আদৰ্শ নলৈ, সমালোচনাত বেচি ভৰ নিদি নিজৰ নিজৰ সমষ্টিত দায়িত্বপূৰ্ণ ভাবে কাৰ্য্য আৰম্ভ কৰেগৈ তেতিয়াহে আমাৰ আধিক দূৰৱস্থা পীড়িত জনসাধাৰণৰ আধিক আৰু সামাজিক উন্নতি হ'ব আৰু তেতিয়াহে আমাৰ দেশৰ কল্যাণ হ'ব। এই ক্ষেত্ৰত কুটিৰ শিল্প উন্নয়নৰ অভিনৱ আঁচনি, self-helpৰ অনুস্থানৰ আঁচনি আদি কৰি কাম হাতত ললেহে প্ৰকৃত কাম হ'ব। কৃষি মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াইটো আহ্বান আগতীয়াতকৈ দিবই। নহলে, এই গৰা খহনীয়াই গৃহহীন কৰা লোক সকলৰ পুনৰসংস্থাপনত বহুত বিঘিনি আহি পৰিব। মোৰ অভিজ্ঞতাৰে মই এইটো ক'ব খোজো যে প্ৰত্যেক বানপানী উপদ্ৰৱত জিলাৰ পৰা বিভিন্ন সমস্যাৰ বিবেচনা কৰি—পৃথক জিলাত পৃথক ভাবে এই কাম কৰিবলৈ চৰকাৰী অফিচাৰ নিয়োগ কৰিলে কাম হ'ব আৰু তেওঁলোকৰ সেই প্ৰচেষ্টাত আমি সকলোৱে সহযোগীতা কৰিব লাগিব।

মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, বানপানী উপদ্ৰৱত মাজুলী অঞ্চলৰ কথা মোৰ পূৰ্ববৰ্ত্তী বক্তা সকলে উল্লেখ কৰিয়েই গৈছে—মই আৰু বেচি কথা নকওঁ। মাত্ৰ দুটা কথা কওঁ এটা হৈছে এই আওহতীয়া অঞ্চলটোৰ বাইজৰ ক্ষতিৰ অনুপাতে চৰকাৰৰ সহায়ৰ সামগ্ৰী যথেষ্ট হোৱা নাই আৰু এই উদ্দেশ্যে অনতিপলমে অধিক সহায় দিব লাগে। আনটো—এই অঞ্চলত যিবিলাক মথাউৰি বন্ধা হৈছে সেই বিলাক ১৯৩৪ চনৰ বানপানীৰ 'লেভেলত' সজা। এতিয়া যেহেতু সেই 'লেভেল' অতিক্ৰম কৰি তাতকৈও ডাঙৰ পানী হ'ব ধৰিছে সেই মথাউৰি বিলাক তাতকৈ ওখ কৰি দিব লাগে। এই উদ্দেশ্যেৰে মই গড়কাপ্তানী বিভাগৰ মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ক অনুৰোধ জনাই মোৰ বক্তব্য সামৰণা মাৰিলো।

(At this stage the speaker vacated the chair and the Deputy Speaker occupied it).

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** I feel, Sir, as there is lot of speakers a time limit should be fixed.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I hope, each hon. Member will try to finish his speech within 10 minutes.

**Shri JADUNATH BHUYAN:** মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমাৰ মাননীয় বিত্তমন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে আমাৰ প্ৰদেশত হৈযোৱা প্ৰলয়ঙ্কৰী বানপানী সম্বন্ধে—  
(আপুনি মাইকৰ ওচৰলৈ আহক—*voice*) আমাৰ এই সদনত যি ৰিবুতি দিলে তাত প্ৰায় সকলোবোৰ কথাই প্ৰকাশ পাইছে আৰু আমাৰ চৰকাৰে বানপানী প্ৰপীড়িত বাইজসকলৰ উপকাৰার্থে কি কি কৰিলে আৰু কি কৰিব খুজিছে—মোটা মোটি ভাবে সকলো জনালে।

আমাৰ ফালৰ পৰা আমি যি দেখিলো তাৰ পৰা এইটো ক'ব খুজিছো যে, সেই বিপদৰ সময়ত আমাৰ চৰকাৰৰ ওৰি ধৰোতা সকলে যিখিনি তৎপৰতাৰে কাম কৰিলে তাৰ বাবে তেওঁলোকক আমাৰ সলাগ জনোৱাটো উচিত হ'ব। চৰকাৰী কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ



উপৰিও আমাৰ মন্ত্ৰীমণ্ডলীৰ ভিতৰৰ পৰা মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী প্ৰমুখ্যে বিভাগীয় ৰাজ্য মন্ত্ৰী আদি যেতিয়া গৰাখহনীয়াৰ তাণ্ডৰ নৃত্যই ডিব্ৰুগড় নগৰৰ উত্তৰ-পূব অঞ্চলটো চুকৰ আগতে চাই থাকোঁতেই—মুছলৈ মুছলৈ গ্ৰাস কৰি ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ বিশাল বুকুত বিলীন কৰি দিছিল তেতিয়াৰ জনতাৰ হাঁ—হতাশৰ মাজত উপস্থিত থাকি ৰাইজৰ কৰ্তব্যৰ সম্পৰ্কে সচেতন কৰি উৎসাহ উদ্দীপনাৰে অনুপ্রাণিত কৰিছিল। মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে সেই সময়তে তিনিবাৰ আৰু বিত্তমন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই দুবাৰ ডিব্ৰুগড়ত উপস্থিত হয়গৈ।

মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে বানপানীৰ সময়ত একাঠু পানীত ছোতা খুলি নিজে খোজ কাটি ঘূৰি ফুৰি নিজৰ তত্বাৱধানত পীড়িত জনতাক বিলিক আৰু উৎসাহ উদ্দীপনা দিয়াটো মৰ্মস্পৰ্শী আৰু সেইবাবে আমি তেখেতৰ কৃতজ্ঞতা জ্ঞাপন কৰিছোঁ। আমাৰ বহুতো সদস্যই চৰকাৰী কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ ওপৰত অভিযোগ আনিছে। মই কিন্তু নিজৰ অভিজ্ঞতাৰ পৰা এই কথা সচা নহয় বুলি কওঁ। কাৰণ সেই সময়ত মই ডিব্ৰুগড়ত প্ৰায় ১১ মাহ পহিলা আগষ্টৰ পৰা ২০ চেপ্তেম্বৰ পৰ্যন্ত প্ৰায় ৮ বজাৰে পৰা বাতি ১০ বজা লৈকে ৰাইজৰ মাজত কাম কৰিছিলোঁ। নিজৰ জীৱন বিপন্ন কৰিও সেই সময়ত বহুত চৰকাৰী কৰ্মচাৰীয়ে ৰাইজৰ মাজত 'বিলিক' কৰা কৰা মই নিজে দেখিছোঁ। প্লেনিং মিনিষ্টাৰ, শ্ৰীযুত গুলজাৰীলাল নন্দ ডিব্ৰুগড়লৈ অহাৰ সময়তে আটাইতকৈ ডাঙৰ বানপানী উঠিছিল। তেতিয়া আমি কেনেকৈ মানুহ বিলাকক সাহায্য দিব পাৰি সেই বিষয়ে ডেপুটি কমিচনাৰ লগত পৰামৰ্শ কৰাত তেওঁ আমাক চিৰা, মূৰি, বিস্কুট আদি সংগ্ৰহ কৰি বিতৰণ কৰিবলৈ অনুৰোধ কৰিছিল আৰু সেইমতে কাম কৰোঁতে আমি খবৰ পালো যে মূৰিয়লী ঘাটৰ পৰা প্ৰায় ৭ মাইল দূৰত থকা ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ পাৰৰ গাওঁ বিলাকৰ ৰাইজ সকলে পানীৰে পৰিবেষ্টিত হৈ অশেষ কষ্টত আছে। সেই খবৰ ডেপুটি কমিছনাৰ ছাহাবক জনোৱাত পাছদিনা তেওঁৰ নিৰ্দেশমতে নিজৰ জীৱন বিপন্ন কৰিও এজন অফিচাৰ কৰ্মীসকলৰ লগত ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ বুকুদি ৪ মাইল গৈ সেই ৰাইজৰ মাজত সাহায্য দি উলটি আহে। সেইজন এজন 'একচাইজ চুপাৰিণ্টেণ্ডেণ্ট'। সেই নাৱত কংগ্ৰেছ সভাপতিও গৈছিল।

তাৰ পিচত পুলিচ বিভাগৰ কৰ্মচাৰীসকলে দিনো ডিব্ৰুগড়ত গৰাখহনীয়া ৰাইজৰ ঘৰদুৱাৰ ভাঙি আন ঠাইলৈ নিয়াত দিনো ডিব্ৰুগড়ত শাৰীৰিক পৰিশ্ৰম কৰি সহায় কৰিছিল। সেইবিলাকক দিহা পৰামৰ্শ দিছিল—বিভাগীয় ডি, আই, জিয়ে নিজে। তেনেস্বলতো যদি আমি তেওঁলোকৰ শলাগ নলওঁ ই অন্যায় হ'ব। আমি তেওঁলোকৰ শলাগ লবই লাগিব। প্ৰায় সকলো বিভাগৰে ওপৰওয়ালা কৰ্মচাৰী তাত উপস্থিত আছিল। অসম চৰকাৰৰ কমিচনাৰ চাহাবো তাত ভালেমানদিন আছিল।

ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰ ঘাইবিষয়া নগৰৰ কামত ব্যস্ত থকাত গাওঁৰ কামত ব্যাঘাত হৈছিল। এতিয়া কথা হৈছে—ইমান জৰুৰী জটীলতাপূৰ্ণ বিস্তৃত কাম দিনে সমাধা কৰোঁতে কিছু দোষ ক্ৰটি হোৱাটো অস্বাভাৱিক নহয়। কিন্তু তেনে ক্ৰটি নিশ্চয় মাজৰ্জনীয়া।

তাৰ পিচত বাৰতীয় 'বিলিক', আদি দিওঁতে নগৰ আৰু গ্ৰাম্য অঞ্চলৰ মাজত যি পাৰ্থক্য আৰু কামৰ শিথিলতাৰ কথা ইয়াত আলোচিত হৈছে সেই সম্পৰ্কে মই কওঁ যে নগৰত যেনেকৈ কাম হৈছে গাঁৱলীয়া অঞ্চলতো কাম নোহোৱাকৈ থকা নাই। মই বৰপানীৰ সময়ত নাহৰকটীয়াৰ এচ, ডি, চি জনক লগ ধৰিছিলোঁ। তেখেতে চাৰিওফালৰ খা-খবৰ কৰি আৰু চৰকাৰী চাউল পাত লৈ পাছদিনা বিতৰণ কৰিবৰ কাৰণে ঠিক কৰিছিল। মোকো তেখেতে বিচৰাত মই সেই অঞ্চলত পাছদিনা সাহায্য বিতৰণৰ কামত সহায় কৰিছিলোঁ।

সেইদৰে ছেখোৱা অঞ্চলতো আৱশ্যকীয় সকলো ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হৈছিল যাতে ৰাইজৰ অসুবিধা দূৰ কৰিব পৰা হয়। ডুমডুমা অঞ্চলতো শ্ৰীযুত হৰিহৰ চৌধুৰী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ তত্বাৱধানত সকলো কাম কৰা হৈছিল। সকলো ঠাইতে ইমানবিলাক সহায় কৰাৰ পিচতো যদি চৰকাৰক আক্ৰমণ কৰা হয়, তেন্তে নিশ্চয় বৰ অন্যায় কৰা হয়। আমাৰ



দেশৰ যি অৱস্থা হৈছিল সেই অৱস্থাত আমাৰ চৰকাৰ, বিশেষকৈ মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই নিজে গৈ যিবিলাক ব্যৱস্থা কৰিলে তাকে নকৰাহেঁতেন আনাৰ আৰু বহুত ক্ষতি হুলহেঁতেন। অসমৰ পালিয়ামেণ্টৰ সদস্যসকল আৰু বিশেষকৈ অসম চৰকাৰৰ অশেষ চেষ্টাৰ ফলতেই ভাৰত চৰকাৰৰ মনোযোগ আকৰ্ষিত হৈছিল। অসমৰ দুৰৱস্থাৰ কথা গম পাই কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰৰ পৰিকল্পনা মন্ত্ৰী আৰু প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী নিজে আহি স্বচক্ষে সকলো দেখিলে আৰু তাৰ যথোচিত ব্যৱস্থা কৰিবৰ কাৰণে পৰামৰ্শ দিলে। এনে অৱস্থাত আমি চৰকাৰৰ ওচৰত কৃতজ্ঞতা প্ৰকাশ কৰা উচিত।

চৰকাৰী হিচাব মতেই কৰিব লগা ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰ ৫,০০০ পৰিয়ালৰ পুনৰসংস্থাপন কৰিবলৈ আৰু তাৰ কাৰণে ক্ষিপ্ৰতাৰে যথোচিত ব্যৱস্থা কৰিবলৈ বিভূমন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ক মই অনুৰোধ কৰিছো। আশা কৰো যেন বিধবস্ত লোকসকলৰ অতি সোনকালেই পুনৰবসতিৰ ব্যৱস্থা হয়।

**Shri JADAV CHANDRA KHAKHLARI:** অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, অসমত বানপানী আৰু গৰাখহনীয়াই যি সমস্যাৰ সৃষ্টি কৰিছে সেইবিষয়ে বৰ্ণনা কৰাত কোনো দৰকাৰ নাই কাৰণ আমাৰ মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই এই বছৰ ঠায়ে ঠায়ে ঘূৰি ফুৰি বানপানীৰ যিমান কথা জানিব পাৰিছে আনে ইমান কথা কেতিয়াও নেজানে বা জানিব নোৱাৰে। মই ছৈখোৱা আৰু শদিয়াৰ কথাৰে অলপ কণ্ঠ কাৰণ কালি বিভূমন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ বিবৃতিত তাৰ কথা নেদেখিলো। (এটা মাত—কাৰ সমষ্টি এইটো) আমাৰ সমষ্টি।

অসমত যি বানপানী হৈছে সেইটো যুদ্ধ অহাবুলি ধৰিব পাৰি। মানুহৰ লগত মানুহে যুদ্ধ কৰিবলৈ হলে কি কৰিব লাগে সেইটো জানে আৰু তাৰ কাৰণে প্ৰস্তুত হৈ থাকে। কেনেকৈ গুলি কৰিব লাগে বন্দুক ধৰিব লাগে তাক জানে আৰু কৰেও। আৱশ্যকীয় সকলে বস্ত্ৰৰ যোগাৰ কৰি লয়। কিন্তু বানপানীৰ প্ৰতিৰোধৰ কাৰণে একো প্ৰস্তুত কৰা নাই। আমাৰ অসমত প্ৰতিবছৰেই বানপানী হয়। কিন্তু তাৰ প্ৰতিৰোধৰ ব্যৱস্থা বা তাৰ কাৰণে প্ৰস্তুতি একো নাই। মানুহে বলবান হাতীকো বশ কৰি ঘৰচীয়া কৰিছে তেনে বুদ্ধিমান মানুহ জাতিৰ আগত বানপানীক প্ৰতিৰোধ কৰিব পৰাটো একো টান নহব কিন্তু বৰ্তমান তাৰ উপযুক্ত ব্যৱস্থা কৰা নাই। আমি যি কামকে কৰো তাক ভাল বিশেষজ্ঞৰ দ্বাৰা পৰীক্ষা কৰি চাইহে কৰিব লাগে। ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰ মানুহৰ সুবিধাৰ কাৰণেই revetment কৰি দিলে, কিন্তু ভালকৈ পৰীক্ষা নকৰাকৈ revetment কৰি দিলে সেই কাৰণেই আজি এই অৱস্থা হৈ লাখ লাখ টকা অপব্যয় হল। আমি যি কামকে কৰো তাক ভালকৈ ভাবি চিন্তিহে কৰিব লাগে। ইয়াৰ কাৰণে অৱশ্যে চৰকাৰকো দোষাবোপ নকৰো আৰু দৈনন্দিক দোষ দিলেও নহব। উক্তকামবিলাক সুচাৰুৰূপে কৰিব নোৱাৰা সময়লৈকে বাইজে কষ্ট ভোগ কৰিব লাগিব।

আজিৰ যি সমস্যা এই সমস্যাৰ সমাধান অসম চৰকাৰে অকলে কৰিব নোৱাৰে। কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰৰ ওপৰত সম্পূৰ্ণ নিৰ্ভৰ কৰিব লগা হৈছে। অৱশ্যে কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰেও ইয়াৰ অবজ্ঞাৰ চকুৰে চোৱা নাই। ১৯৫৪ চনৰ বানপানী আৰু গৰাখহনীয়াই দিল্লীত তল ওপৰ লগালে। দিল্লীৰ পৰা মানুহ আহি ডিব্ৰুগড় ভৰি পৰিলহি। খহনীয়া অৱস্থা দেখি সকলোৱে ভয় খাই গৈছে। গতিকে তেওঁলোকে নিশ্চয় কিবা এটা কৰিব, নহলে হয়তো ভাটফালেও অসুবিধা হ'ব পাৰে। মই যোৱা অধিবেশনতে কৈছিলো যে যি দ্ৰুতগতিৰে বানপানী আহিছে সেই গতিৰে চৰকাৰৰ কাম কৰা নাই। আগতীয়া ব্যৱস্থা কৰাহলে এনে অৱস্থা হ'বলৈ কেতিয়াও নেপালেহেঁতেন। এতিয়াও আমি এইকাম যুদ্ধকালীন কামৰ দৰে কৰিব লাগিব আৰু সকলোৱে মিলি জুলি কাম কৰিব লাগিব। কমিউনিষ্ট চাৰ্জিয়েলিষ্ট আদি সকলোৱেই মিলি কাম কৰিব লাগিব। ফুটবল এটাৰ দৰে লৈ ইটোৱে সিটোৱে ধেমালি কৰিলে নহব। মিলিজুলি কাম কৰিলেহে সোনকালে কাম হ'ব।



তাৰ পিচত বিলিফৰ কথা কওঁ। সকলোৱেই কৈছে যে মিনিষ্টাৰ আহিব লাগে আৰু মাজুলীলৈ মিনিষ্টাৰ নগল। আজি মিনিষ্টাৰ সকলে দেশৰ দায়ীত্বৰ কথা নিশ্চয় ভাবিছে। কাজেই তেখেত সকলক কোনো কথা কবৰ দৰকাৰ নাই। আজি আমাৰ চৰকাৰে সকলো কাম হাতত লৈছে। যেতিয়া দেখিছে বানপানী হৈছে বা গৰাখহনীয়া হৈছে তেতিয়া আমাৰ মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী আৰু বিত্তমন্ত্ৰী দৌৰিছে। তেখেত-সকলে সদায় চেপ্টা আৰু চিন্তা কৰিছে যে কেনেকৈ ৰাইজৰ ভাল কৰিব পাৰি। কিন্তু আমি টকা-পয়ছা দিওঁতে ভালকৈ চাব লাগে। তাৰবাবে আমি সকলো দায়ী হব লাগে। সেইকাৰণে মই কওঁ যে-চৰকাৰে সকলো মহকুমাতে একোখন কমিতি কৰি সেই কমিতিৰ জৰিয়তে টকা-পয়ছা, ধান, চাউল আৰু অন্যান্য বস্তুৰ বিতৰণ কৰিব লাগে। এতিয়া যিবোৰ বস্তু পঠাইছে সেইবোৰ যথেষ্ট হোৱা নাই আৰু এচ, দি চিএ যাকে যতে পাইছে দি দিছে। বস্তু কম হলেও তাক ভালকৈ বিতৰণ কৰিলেই ভাল কাম হব। যোৱা বছৰ মাৰ্ঘেৰীতাত আলুগুটি কেনেকৈ বিতৰণ কৰা হৈছে। আমি সকলোৱে একে লগে কৃষিবিভাগক জনালো যে আমাক ২০০০ মৌন আলুগুটি দিয়ক। তাৰ পিচত আমি মিটিং এখন কৰি কিছুমান সৰ্ত্ত বান্ধি দিলো; যে যিবিলাক আলুগুটি বিতৰণ কৰা হব সেই আলুগুটিৰে খেতি কৰিব লাগিব। সেই আলু খোৱাত ব্যৱহাৰ কৰিব নোৱাৰে। যদি খেতি নহয় তেতিয়া কৃষিবিভাগৰ কৰ্মচাৰী আনি বিপোর্ট দিব যে সেই আলু খেতিৰ কামত লগোৱা হৈছে; কিন্তু পোকে খোৱা কাৰণে বা নানা কাৰণত নষ্ট হোৱা কাৰণে খেতি নহল। এনে ধৰাবন্ধা নিয়ম কৰি দিয়াত কামো যথেষ্ট হৈছিল। মই সেইকাৰণেই কওঁ যে এনে কিছুমান নিয়ম কৰি যদি কাম কৰে তেন্তে ভাল হয়।

**Mr. Deputy SPEAKER:** আপোনাৰ আৰু এক মিনিট সময় আছে।

**Shri JADAB CHANDRA KHAKHLARI:** উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মোক আৰু অলপ সময় দিলে ভাল হব। কিছুমানেতো এষণ্টাও সময় পাইছে।

**Mr. Deputy SPEAKER:** আপুনি একো নতুন কথা কোৱা নাই।

**Shri JADAB CHANDRA KHAKHLARI:** মোৰ নিজৰ সমষ্টিৰ কথা অলপ কওঁ (হাঁহি)। মাজুলীত ডাঙৰ ডাঙৰ গোসাঁই আৰু ডাঙৰ ডাঙৰ সত্ৰ আছে। তাত ডাঙৰ মানুহবিলাকে সেইকাৰণেই চকু দিছে। কিন্তু আমাৰ সদীয়া-চৈখোৱাৰ পিনে পৰশুৰাম কুণ্ড আছে। ইও ভগবানৰ ঠাই। তাৰ মানুহৰ দুৰ্দশালৈ আওকান কৰিলে পাপ হব। (হাঁহি) সেইলোকসকলৰ মঙ্গলৰ অৰ্থেও চৰকাৰে মনোযোগ দিব বুলি আশীৰ্বাদ মই সামৰণী মাৰিলো।

**Mrs. USHA BARTHAKUR:** মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, ওপৰা ওপৰিকৈ ৪১৫ টা বানপানীয়ে অসমক প্লাবিত কৰি অসমীয়া ৰাইজক যি দুগতিৰ সন্মুখীন কৰিছে সেই দুগতিৰ অবসান কৰিবলৈ চৰকাৰেনো কি আঁচনি হাতত লৈছে তাৰ এটি চমু বিবৃতি আমাৰ মাননীয় বিত্তমন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে এই সদনত দাঙিধৰাত নথৈ আনন্দ পাইছে আৰু তাৰ কাৰণে মই তেখেতক ধন্যবাদ দিছো।

অৱশ্যে যেতিয়া এটা ভয়াবহ দুৰ্যোগ আহে, সেই দুৰ্যোগৰ গ্ৰাসত পৰি জনসাধাৰণ সাধাৰণতে দুৰ্বল হৈ পৰে; তেনে পৰিস্থিতিত লোকসকল কিংকৰ্তব্য বিমূঢ় হৈ যায়। সেই সময়ত চাৰিওপিনৰ পৰা এটি শান্তনাৰ বানী শুনিলেও তেওঁলোকে সাহসেৰে সেই বিপদৰ সম্মুখীন হৈ আত্মবল কৰাৰ সুযোগ পায়। তেনেস্থলত আমাৰ বিপক্ষদলৰ নেতা গোবীন্দৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্য ডাঙৰীয়াই মন্ত্ৰীসকলে চাৰিও ফালে গৈ সময় নষ্ট কৰা বুলি সমালোচনা কৰিছে। এনে এটা অপ্ৰাসঙ্গীক কথা তেখেতে উল্লেখ কৰাত দুখ পাইছো। এনে এটা কথাৰ প্ৰতিবাদ নকৰিলে আমি নিজৰ মনতেই শান্তনা লাভ কৰিব নোৱাৰিম। অসমীয়াত এঘাৰ কথা আছে যে “আকালৰ ভাত নিদানৰ মাত,” বহুত সময়ত আন আন সামগ্ৰীতকৈও মাতেহে মানুহৰ শৰীৰ আৰু মনত বেচি বল আৰু উৎসাহ আনি দিয়ে। এনে ক্ষেত্ৰত, যেতিয়া লোকসকল বানপানীৰ কৰাল গ্ৰাসত পৰি হাবাখুৰি খাইছে তেতিয়া মন্ত্ৰীসকলে প্ৰত্যেক ঠাইলৈ গৈ এঘাৰ শান্তনাৰ মাত দিয়াতো বিপদগ্ৰস্ত লোকসকলে মনত



বল পাইছে। মোৰ বিবেচনাৰে আমাৰ মন্ত্ৰীসকলক তাৰ বাবে সমূহ বাইজে ধন্যবাদহে জনোৱা উচিত।

তাৰ পিচত বানপানীৰ সমস্যা। সমাধানার্থে বহুতো মাননীয় সদস্যই নানা পৰামৰ্শ আগবঢ়াইছে। সেই বিষয়ে মোৰ বক্তব্য চমুকৈ মই আমাৰ নগাঁও জিলাৰ বিষয়ে এঘাৰ কওঁ। নগাঁওৰ এই বানপানীত প্ৰপীড়িত ৪১৫ টা মৌজাৰ ভিতৰত ময়ো সোমাইছিলো। তালৈ কলগছৰ ভূৰ সাজিহে যাৰ লগা হৈছিল। তাৰ অৱস্থা বৰ শোচনীয়। অৱশ্যে তাত যিবিলাক কৰ্মচাৰী আছে তেওঁলোকক জনোৱাতহে যথাবিহিত ব্যৱস্থা হাতত লোৱা দেখিছে। মই কব নোখোজে। যে তেওঁলোকে পৰাপক্ষত কোনো সমিধান নিদিয়াকৈ আছিল। অৱশ্যে বানপানীটো এটা আকস্মিক দুৰ্ঘটনা। ইফালেদি বাস্তা আৰু যান বাহনৰ সংখ্যা বঢ়াৰ লগে লগে নাৱৰ কোনো ব্যৱস্থাই মানুহে নৰখাত বহু সময়ত নাৱৰ অভাবত চাউল ও ঔষধপাতি মজুত থকা সত্ত্বেও অভাব ও বোগ গ্ৰস্ত লোকৰ মাজত ঠিক সময়ত বিতৰণ কৰিব পৰা নগৈছিল। সেই কাৰণে মই কওঁ যে অসমত বানপানী যেতিয়া এটা নেবা-নেপেৰা অপৰিহাৰ্য্য ঘটনাত পৰিণত হৈছে, তেতিয়া সেই ঠাইবিলাকত নাৱৰ ব্যৱস্থা চৰকাৰৰ পক্ষৰ পৰাই ৰাখিব লাগে।

যেতিয়া বানপানী হৈছিল; মানুহৰ অশেষ দুখ দুৰ্গতিও হৈছিল; এই সকলোৱেই প্ৰাকৃতিক ঘটনা। তাৰ পিচত চৰকাৰ আৰু বাইজৰ সহযোগীতাৰ ফলত প্ৰপীড়িত লোকসকল বানপানীৰ কৰাল গাঁসৰ পৰা সাময়িক ভাবে উদ্ধাৰ পাইছে। কিন্তু ইয়াৰ পৰবৰ্তী সমস্যাহে বৰ জটিল। এতিয়া তেওঁলোকে কৰিব কি? এই ক্ষেত্ৰত আমাৰ সকলোৰে সৰ্ব্বপ্ৰথম কৰ্তব্য হ'ব সেই লোকসকলক কেনেকৈ কামত লগোৱা হ'ব সেই বিষয়ে চিন্তা কৰা। বৰ্তমান চৰকাৰে কি কৰিছে তাকে সমালোচনা কৰি থকাৰ সময় নাই। তাকে কৰি থাকিলে কেৱল সেই প্ৰপীড়িত লোকসকলৰেই অনিষ্ট কৰা নহ'ব লগতে সমগ্ৰ দেশৰো অনায়াস সাধন হ'ব।

বৰ্তমানে তেওঁলোকৰ পক্ষে প্ৰধানকৈ দুটা বিষয়ত বিশেষকৈ লক্ষ্য কৰিব লগীয়াত পৰিছে। সেই দুটা হল শিক্ষা আৰু স্বাস্থ্য। আজি সেই গাঁওবিলাকৰ অৱস্থা ইমান শোচনীয় যে তেওঁলোকৰ লৰা-ছোৱালীক শিক্ষা দিয়ক চাৰি দুবেলা দুমুঠি খাবলৈকো সংস্থান নাই মোৰ বিবেচনাৰে সেই লৰা-ছোৱালী বিলাকক কেনেকৈ চৰকাৰৰ তৰফৰ পৰা সুবিধা দিব পাৰে তাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে। এনে বহুতো উদাহৰণ আছে যে সাধাৰণতে গাঁওবিলাকৰ পৰা বহুতো দৰখাস্ত ঠিক সময়ত কৰ্তৃপক্ষৰ ওচৰ নাপায়; তাৰ আগতে সেই সাহায্য বিতৰণ হৈ যায়। সেই কাৰণে মই শিক্ষাবিভাগৰ মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ক অনুৰোধ কৰো যাতে গাঁওবিলাকক বিশেষকৈ এই বানপানীত প্ৰপীড়িত গাঁওবিলাকৰ ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰী সকলৰ দূৰৱস্থা অনুসন্ধান কৰি তেওঁ-লোকলৈ সৰ্ব্ব প্ৰথম সাহায্য আগবঢ়াব লাগে।

তাৰ পিচত, আমাৰ স্বাস্থ্য মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ৰ বিবৃতিৰ পৰা বানপানী প্ৰপীড়িত অঞ্চলত চৰকাৰৰ পক্ষৰ পৰা লোৱা সাবধানৰ বিষয়ে আনন্দ পাইছো বানপানীৰ শেষত বানপানীৰ প্ৰতিক্ৰিয়া হিচাবে বিশেষকৈ লৰা-ছোৱালী বিলাকৰ নানাধৰণৰ বেমাৰ হয়। সাধাৰণতে গাঁৱত তাৰ প্ৰতিকাৰৰ কোনো ব্যৱস্থাই নাথাকে। সেই কাৰণে সদ্যহতে কিছুমান Mobile Dispensary ৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰি প্ৰত্যেক গাঁৱে গাঁৱে গৈ সেই শিশুসকলৰ বোগৰ প্ৰতিকাৰ কৰিব লাগে; আৰু একোখন গাঁৱত ৪১৫ দিন বা ৬৭ দিনকৈ থাকি গাঁৱৰ অজ্ঞ সগৰ্ভা মহিলাসকল কেনেকৈ থাকিব লাগে আৰু বোগত কেনেকৈ প্ৰাথমিক সাহায্য দিব লাগে তাৰ যথাযোগ্য শিক্ষা দিলে অজ্ঞতাৰ কাৰণে প্ৰাণহানী হোৱাৰ আশঙ্কা নাথাকিব। মোৰ গভীৰ আশা যে এই কাৰ্য্যত আমাৰ মহিলাসকলৰ সহযোগীতা নিশ্চয় লাভ কৰিব পাৰিব আৰু তেনে আঁচনিয়ৈ কৃতকাৰ্য্যতাও লাভ কৰিব।



শেহত এইলোকসকলক কোনো এটা কামত নিয়োগ নকৰিলে পিচত ৰাজ্যত দুভিক হোৱাৰ আশংকা আছে। কেৱল মাটিবাৰী দি খেতিৰ কামতে ল'গোৱাৰ উপৰিও মহিলাসকলৰ মাজত ঘৰুৱা শিল্পৰ আঁচনি মুকলী কৰি দিলে বহুপৰিমাণে অৰ্থনৈতিক সমস্যাৰ সমাধান হ'ব বুলি মই আশা কৰো। সেই কাৰণে শিল্প বিষয়ে যদি এনে এটা আঁচনি চৰকাৰে লয় তেন্তে গাঁৱৰ মহিলা সমাজৰ ভিতৰত ই কাৰ্য্যকৰী হৈ উঠিব পাৰে। আমাৰ মাননীয় শিল্প মন্ত্ৰী শিল্প প্ৰধান জাপানৰ পৰা নতুন নতুন নানা ধৰণৰ শিল্পৰ অভিজ্ঞতা লৈ ঘূৰি আহিছে। বানপানী অঞ্চল সমূহত Test Relief ৰ কাম হিচাবে এই ঘৰুৱা শিল্পটো লোৱা একো টান কাম নহ'ব। মোৰ নিজা অভিজ্ঞতাৰ পৰা মই ক'ব পাৰো যে গাঁৱৰ ভিতৰত এনে Test Relief ৰ কামত মহিলা সকলৰ পৰাহে বেচিকৈ কাম পাব। মোৰ দৃঢ় বিশ্বাস যে আমাৰ শিল্প মন্ত্ৰী ডাক্তাৰীয়াই নিশ্চয় উপলব্ধি কৰিছে যে গাঁৱৰ পুৰুষতকৈ মহিলা সকলেহে সকলো কামতে হাত দিবলৈ আগবঢ়ুৱা হৈ অগ্ৰসৰ হৈছে। এনে অৱস্থাত শিল্প মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে গাঁৱৰ মহিলা সকলৰ ভিতৰত যদি এই নতুন ধৰণৰ শিল্প প্ৰণালীৰ প্ৰচাৰ কাৰ্য্য চলায় তেন্তে মই ভাবো এই আঁচনি কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰিবলৈ সমৰ্থ হ'ব।

ইয়াৰ লগতে মই কওঁ যে আমাৰ প্ৰত্যেক ঘৰ গৃহস্থৰেই অৰ্থনৈতিক সমস্যাৰ সমাধান কৰিবলৈ অকল পুৰুষৰ নিপুণতা আৰু শ্ৰমেই যথেষ্ট নহ'ব লগতে মহিলা সকলৰো পূৰ্ণ সহযোগ লাগিব। ৰাইজৰ মাজত এনে এটি মনোভাব জগাই তুলিব লাগে। এনে মনোভাবেই হ'ব সকলো আঁচনিৰ কৃতকাৰ্য্যতাৰ পৰিপন্থি। আমাৰ মাননীয় শিল্প মন্ত্ৰীয়ে চীন দেশও পৰিলম্ভ কৰি আহিছে। গতিকে যাতে আমি চীনদেশৰ আহিত আমাৰ গাওঁবিলাক সংগঠন কৰিব পাৰো বিশেষকৈ বান বিধ্বস্ত অঞ্চল সমূহত শিল্পৰ যোগেদি আশাৰ পোহৰ ছতিয়াব পাৰো তাৰ এটা আদৰ্শ আমি মাননীয় শিল্প মন্ত্ৰীৰ পৰা বিচৰাটো একো অনুচিত নহ'ব। আশা কৰো মোৰ কথাখিনি অলপ চিন্তা কৰি চাব। এতিয়া সন্ময়ৰো নাটনি হ'ল; সেই কাৰণে মই এই কেইটা কথাৰে কৈ মোৰ কবলগীয়া কথাৰ সামৰণি মাৰিলো।

**Mr. Deputy SPEAKER:** The House stands adjourned till 2 P. M.

### (Adjournment)

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

*After lunch*

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS:** Mr. Speaker, Sir,...

**Mr. SPEAKER:** You have only five minutes.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** Sir, regarding time, there should probably be some regulation. My friend Mr. Das has no flood in his place.

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS:** No flood in Assam? If I am to speak I should be given at-least 15 minutes' time.....



**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Sir, two days have been allotted for the debates. It is not a question of hearing me or somebody else. We have to hear the members of the other constituencies also.....

**Mr. SPEAKER:** You have not 50 per cent. from your side.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** But we have not heard from the Members from Goalpara, Barpeta and other places.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** But yesterday there was some weight in the other side nobody was springing up to speak.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** I spoke, Sir.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** You spoke, but your Party stood mum.

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS:** Sir, we have been discussing about floods during these two days and Sir, we have seen that floods come in Assam almost every year, but this year, the nature of the flood or rather the intensity of the flood is so very big that it extends to almost all the plains areas of Brahmaputra Valley. It is estimated that the total loss is to the tune of 18 crores of rupees. From the other sources disclosed by my Friend, Mr. Umaruddin, this loss is about 15 crores of rupees. Now without disputing these figures, it is admitted that the loss which we sustained in the State is very very colossal, it is in the tune of several crores of rupees.....

**Mr. SPEAKER:** What is your estimate ?

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS:** It may be to the tune of 15/16 crores. These comprise the loss of the State Government, the other public bodies and the loss of the property of the Central Government and private persons. We all know as the Finance Minister has said that the loss is irreparable. Sir, we should try our best to solve the problem of flood in right earnest. In discussing the subject we shall divide the problem into 2 aspects, firstly the preventive measure and secondly the relief measure. So far as preventive measure is concerned it has been said by the Government that for the control of the river Brahmaputra, some data are being gathered and the scheme is being prepared which will be examined by the Central Government. Sir,



before that was done, we must see firstly the nature of river system in India with particular reference to that of our State. Sir, there are 2 kinds of rivers in India—one is the snow-fed river and other carries only rain water. These snow fed rivers are the Indus, the Ganges and the mighty Brahmaputra in our State, and you will see that when the intensity of rainfall is the highest in Assam than in any States in India so the discharge of water of this snow-fed river of our State is only second to that of Ganges in the whole of India. Steps, therefore, ought to have been taken long before by our Government by preventive measures for the protection of the people of our State ; unless this is done, if we spend even 17/18 crores of rupees in our Five-Year Plan for improvement and development of our State, even then that will be futile, as we have seen that the State sustained loss of 15 to 16 crores of rupees in course of a week or so due to flood and erosion of the mighty Brahmaputra. Sir, it has been stated by the State Government that due to financial stringency they cannot take up projects like controlling rivers. On the other hand we have seen from the statements of the Ministers of the Government of India and also of the Prime Minister of India that these river projects are given topmost priority in India only next to Defence Budget. But unfortunately not an inch of water in the Brahmaputra is being utilised in any way. The average utilisation of water in the whole of India is near about 6 per cent., and in some other rivers the percentage is as high as 60 per cent. but no step is being taken by the State Government to utilise the water of the Brahmaputra during these years. It now takes 7/8 years after independence for preparing only the data and for harnessing the mighty river of our State. I hope Government will consider this matter seriously so that the water of the river of our State can be utilised for the benefit of the people of our State instead of creating havoc.....

**Mr. SPEAKER:** What river valley projects you are thinking ?

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS:** Multipurposes project as it controls flood as well as does immense services otherwise. These schemes should be prepared by the experts. So far I can say as a layman that water of this mighty river Brahmaputra should be controlled, that instead of allowing this river to do havoc to the lakhs and lakhs of people every year, the power of its water should be utilized for the welfare of the State, for more food, for more industrialisation and for more other things as a multipurpose project will do. If our Government



had prepared a scheme with full particulars and data, I am sure it would have been accepted by the Government of India long before and during these years we could have done some work so as to control this mighty river because our case is the strongest one, but nothing has been done so far.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Can you suggest how the water will be controlled ?

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS :** It will be controlled in various ways according to nature of place, water and other circumstances. Sir, as I said I am not an engineer, so I do not like to waste my time in explaining the technical side of the river valley projects, but what I am saying is that during these 7 or 8 years we could not prepare our case. Though a case of river valley project and control of flood of the Barhmaputra is one of the strongest in whole of India, it could not get a place in any of such projects under taken by the Government of India during these years. Therefore we see that the question of finance does not come in. It has been often said by the Minister of the Government of India that Assam Government could not finish even the projects which have been sanctioned long before. When everybody is sympathising with our Assam Government, with the people of Assam after this unprecedented erosion in Dibrugarh, Palasbari and other places near the Brahmaputra, the Planning Minister of the Government of India blamed the State Government for delay in execution of works in the first two years of the Plan. He said that while other States drew money from the Centre by way of loans, Assam was bargaining for grants, but no exception could be made in favour of one State. This reference he made in connection with the revetment wall of Dibrugarh. The other day my Friend, Shri Ramesh Barua, said if the revetment wall could be finished by 1950 or 1951, a big portion of the town of Dibrugarh could have been saved. But who is responsible for this ? As stated emphatically by the Planning Minister that our Government was bargaining for grants without executing the works. So far as the money is concerned, the Central Government adopted a principle that money should be given to the States as loan, but our Government was urging for grants. So instead of taking such a dilatory course, if our Government had finished this work in 1951 there would not have been so much loss to the tune of several crores of rupees and wastage of the expenditure in revetment wall could have been stopped.



Sir, so far I have tried to show the preventive side of the matter. From the statement which has been given by the Finance Minister, we do not get any hope that in the near future there is any noteworthy plan and programme which is going to be undertaken in order to check and control the water of the mighty Brahmaputra. We are sure that this state of affairs will continue at least for a decade or two.

Secondly, I come to relief and repair of flood damages. We have seen that the total loss is about 15 or 16 crores, but until and unless this total loss is divided Subdivision or Districtwise, it is very difficult for the people here to know which are the places affected most. Unfortunately I do not know on what basis and on what data Government has granted relief to each district. In granting gratuitous relief or agricultural loan they have not shown in their report what was the basis for the distribution. There seems to be no uniform policy in this matter. In some districts they have given two lakhs while in others they have given 5 lakhs without any reference to the amount of loss in that particular district. How can the Minister or officers of Government can prepare a scheme for distribution of relief and agricultural loans in absence of any such assessment of loss districtwise ?

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Why do you assume that ?

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS :** Sir, I like to know the loss in each subdivision or in each district so that we could see whether the funds allotted for gratuitous relief and agricultural loans are sufficient or not.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** You want a detailed report ?

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS :** Yes. With the present report it is not possible for us to know that. In some places the grant may not have touched the fringe of the problem. So unless it is done districtwise it is impossible for us to give any considered opinion regarding the funds made available by the Government whether it is sufficient or not and whether Government has done enough according to their report. But from the remarks made on the floor of the House by certain sections of the House it appears that something has been done in some places while in some places nothing has been done, rather some places have been neglected. It might so happen that we may not blame the Government if it is due to mistake, but if there is any political motive behind this then surely.....



**Mr. SPEAKER :** Have you got any instance ?

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS :** I have got no definite instance but we presume from what has been said by my Friends here that gratuitous relief and other reliefs have been given more to particular constituencies. In this matter of relief if any distinction is made whether one belongs to any particular political party or any particular community then it is most unfortunate and that should be mended by the Government. Secondly, from the report we do not find the extent of money which is required for proper relief and proper repair of the damages. There is no proposal from the Government as to how they propose to meet this expenditure, but in reply to a question on the floor of Parliament Shri M. C. Shah, Deputy Finance Minister, said that "the latest estimate of the requirements of Assam arising out of the floods was placed at Rs.400 lakhs, out of which Rs.20 lakhs was for gratuitous relief, Rs.220 lakhs for roads and buildings, Rs.100 lakhs for rehabilitation, Rs.10 lakhs for test relief works and Rs.50 lakhs for agricultural loans". From that Shri Shah agreed to give half the expenditure on gratuitous relief as a grant and half the expenditure on road repairs, test relief and agricultural loan. So out of Rs.400 lakhs, one item for gratuitous relief, we are getting Rs.10 lakhs as grant and not as loan and out of the rest Rs.390 lakhs half will be given by the Central Government in the shape of loan. We should know from the State Government whether this other half, that is, Rs.195 lakhs should be spent from the Exchequer of the State Government, and if so, what are the proposals brought forward before us for getting money for repair and relief of the flood damages ? If an amount of Rs.195 lakhs is not provided for in the Supplementary Budget it will come to our mind that the figure which was sent to the Government of India, that is, Rs.400 lakhs required for the flood relief and repair, is a bogus figure—it has no correct bearing. There is nothing in the statement of the Finance Minister here with regard to the provision of that Rs.195 lakhs. So, we want to have a clarification from the Finance Minister.

Now, I come to loss of food. It has been said from the other side that the loss or damage which has been made to the crops would be recouped and that there will be no crisis as the Government has sufficient stock of rice and paddy. One thing strikes me, the affected people of this vast area are mainly agriculturists and peasants and so it is admitted that these peasants have tried to sow three times and all their efforts failed during these several months of flood and they could not get any of their crops from their field. It may so happen that Government has huge stocks of rice and paddy or procure the



same from other provinces but how these poor people—90 per cent. peasants—of Assam who could not reap and harvest this year could purchase this rice and paddy and other requirements of their life? We know that a peasant earns from his field and that is his source of income. A portion of that paddy goes to his family consumption and another portion is being spent in purchasing cloth, medicines and other daily necessities of life. We want to know from the Government whether they are going to give this rice to the poor cultivators free of cost. It is not a question of dole or it is not a question of gratuitous relief or anything of that sort. If they say that the loss that has been sustained by the poor cultivators will be recouped and they have got big stocks in the godowns and can bring down the price from Rs.20 to Rs.15 or even Rs.10 to relieve these poor peasants who have lost everything, but will the people have the capacity to purchase rice at Rs.10 a maund? With these words, I ask some clarification from the Government on this point so far and if we do not get any satisfactory reply we shall presume that though we have big stock of food, it is not for the poor flood-affected people for they have not the capacity of purchasing this even at very low prices when they have lost everything.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, a very large number of hon. Members of this House have taken part in this discussion. This is an indication or rather a clear indication of the anxiety that has been felt by the hon. Members of this House for the flood-affected people of our State. By their speeches, the hon. Members have given expression to the feelings of the people of our State as well. Sir, I am particularly glad that the discussion that we are having about the flood situation in Assam has been kept at a very high level. Most of the hon. Members have taken a very broad outlook. They have not allowed themselves to be swayed by the parochial sentiments and considerations. That is very much welcome. Sir, I am really glad that during the course of the discussion some hon. Members have thrown some very useful suggestions and I have taken note of them and some hon. Members have also preferred certain complaints about the distribution of relief and things of that sort in some quarters. I have also taken note of these things and I can assure the hon. Members that I will look into these matters and I will see and give due consideration to those things. In this discussion, Sir, there have been some complaints of a general nature and they are only very natural. Most of the complaints, a very large number of the complaints rather, can be divided into three categories and they are almost all alike. The first



is that the gratuitous relief is inadequate, the second, is that the agricultural loan given is not sufficient and the third is that the rehabilitation benefits that are contemplated by the Government are not at par with the rehabilitation benefits given to the refugees. These are the three charges brought upon by all the hon. Members. Sir, in my speech, I have also dwelt on this matter. I had clearly stated that gratuitous relief is given to the extent of Rs.9 lakhs and I want another Rs.32 lakhs for the purpose. That shows that gratuitous relief so long given may not be quite sufficient. But the time is not over. I have also indicated in my speech that most of our people had lost everything in the affected area and they will have to keep going on till the next harvest. Government have already proposed to open cheap grains shops in certain areas and Government propose to continue these cheap grains shops in these areas. We are giving rice and paddy at concessional rates in various areas. That will have to be continued for sometime more, if possible. Not only that, people will have to be given work. How can you make them going till the next harvest comes? Therefore, we will have to start test relief works and if we can give test relief works to the people then probably they can be kept on going till the next harvest and for that purpose we want Rs.32 lakhs more. Hon. Members are aware that the money that will be spent on this test relief works will be in the shape of gratuitous relief. Of course I cannot give the exact amount that will be required for this purpose. But if the amount that has already been spent and if the amount that will have to be spent in the shape of gratuitous relief are considered together then this cannot be said that the whole amount is quite inadequate. Secondly, Sir, about the inadequacy of agricultural loan. Most of the hon. Members, specially my Friend from Dhubri, Mr. Umaruddin, have left that a sum of Rs.50 lakhs is not quite sufficient for the purpose. I have made it clear in my statement that already a sum of Rs.31 lakhs has been sanctioned for the purpose and I want another Rs.19 lakhs, if possible. Hon. Members will see that the entire amount will have to be found out from the State resources. So far as this item is concerned, India has not agreed to come to our help. India has agreed to give as loan half of what we need for restoration of communication and India has agreed to give half of what we will spend on rehabilitation by way of loan. But so far as agricultural loan in concerned, India has not given any assurance. I believe India will not come to our rescue on this score. Therefore the entire amount of Rs.50 lakhs will have to



be found out from our own resources. Hon. Members have a good idea of the financial position of our State and so they should think whether it will be possible to meet the entire amount from our resources. We want more help, but the question is whether it will be possible to render that help entirely by our State which is so much crippled and whose future is so dark. We can well imagine the condition of our finances and the position of collection of revenue from various sources. With our future so gloomy it is to be considered whether it will be possible to find out more than 50 lakhs of rupees from our own resources. I leave this matter to the hon. Members for consideration.

Now, Sir, about the rehabilitation loan. This loan is also considered as inadequate by certain Members of the House, specially my Friend, Shri Nilmani Phookan, and my Friend, Mr. Das, from Gauhati. They have pleaded as to why the flood-stricken people and the eroded people be not treated at par with the refugees coming from East Bengal after losing their hearth and home. It is a nice idea. But I want to speak something about this also just to enable the hon. Members to appreciate the position clearly. The amount for rehabilitation or rather the amount in the shape of rehabilitation loan for refugees had been fixed at New Delhi, but in this case of our rehabilitation the amount will have to be fixed by us taking into consideration various factors here. The rehabilitation benefit is fixed at Rs.500 per individual family of refugees, but are they getting it? It is very easy to fix rehabilitation benefit, but the amount given is considered not sufficient by the refugees to give real benefit. It is said more than half of the refugees are not getting any benefit at all. Whatever amount they get, they do not get it at a time. Some amount they get in one year and another amount in another year and so on. But does that go to give them real rehabilitation? Moreover, a very large number of the refugees are still not getting the amount due to them. I think our eroded people should not be left in that position as far as possible and that is why, Sir, we are not following that procedure. We are to spend money from our limited resources and we will have to find out more money for our helpless people. Taking everything into consideration, we have prepared a scheme and that scheme also, if compared with the benefit given to the refugees, cannot be said to be altogether unattractive. I have just now received a deputation from some people of Palasbari led by my Friend, the hon. Leader of the Opposition, and I have come to know from them what has been given to them. Each family of the affected



people of Palasbari has been given 2 bundles of Corrugated Iron Sheets as loan besides other loans. But that has been modified in the case of Majuli people to suit local condition as they have been given 3 bundles of Corrugated Iron Sheets in some cases. If we calculate the amount of 2 bundles of Corrugated Iron Sheets, it comes to Rs.160 and for 3 bundles Rs.240 taking Rs.80 as price per bundle of Corrugated Iron Sheets. Besides this loan, there are other benefits given to them. The land at Palasbari has been given free and I propose to find land in other places at comparatively less price, if possible. I have told the gentlemen who came to me on deputation that a very large section of the people has been given land free. I have already stated that all the steps that have been taken in this connection are different to suit local conditions. The eroded people from Ahotguri cannot be said to be people pursuing any trade activities. An agricultural family losing its hearth and home may surely need more relief than a petty trader who may not have lost his articles of trade only and may have lost his hearth and home, etc. Thus, Sir, we have taken steps according to circumstances and therefore the rehabilitation benefits are different. Our people who are proposed to be given rehabilitation benefits will get Rs.300 to Rs.400 and if you look at the over-all picture you will find that thousands of people will have to be rehabilitated. This amount cannot be said as small. The fund at our disposal for this purpose is limited. The Government of India, as I have already stated, is giving 50 per cent. of the amount as loan and the other 50 per cent. will have to be found from our resources. Thus it will be seen that the scheme of rehabilitation prepared by us does stand a fair comparison with the scheme of rehabilitation proposed for the refugees. (The Speaker: There is a cattle loan also.) I am, Sir, very thankful to you for reminding me about this. Some hon. Members are labouring under certain misapprehension. We have 2 kinds of loans in Assam, one is agricultural loan and the other is rehabilitation loan. For the rehabilitation loan we asked the Government of India to help us with 1 crore of rupees, but they have agreed to give only Rs.50 lakhs. So far as agricultural loan is concerned we have, as I have already said, spent about Rs.31 lakhs to enable the people to purchase seeds and, if possible, things of that sort. That is different. If an over-all picture is taken, you will find, Sir, that the rehabilitation schemes prepared by us compare favourably with the schemes prepared for the refugees. In consideration of our peculiar circumstances and within the limitations of our finance, I must definitely assert that our



schemes are not at all unattractive. These are my observations with regard to the general points raised by the hon. Members in course of their speeches that gratuitous relief given is inadequate, agricultural loan sanctioned is insufficient and the proposed rehabilitation loan is also not up to expectation. Sir, it should be remembered that by the very nature of the thing one cannot give full satisfaction in this matter. I must be satisfied with what has been possible for Government to do under the circumstances. I hope the hon. Members will appreciate this.

Now, Sir, Mr. Hazarika from Nowgong made a peculiar complaint that while paying my compliments to some organisations coming from outside to give relief to our people, I did not make mention of the Congress organisation. The Congress organisation of Assam I thought, being an institution of Assam needed no mention and, therefore, I was not paying any compliment to it. I only mentioned those organisations like the Marwari Relief Society, the Ramkrishna Mission and others who came from outside the State to give succour to our distressed brethren. If that is considered as an omission on my part which needs rectification, I take this opportunity of rectifying the omission by stating in this House that the Congress Organisation of Assam, through its different bodies, the Provincial Congress Committee, the District Congress Committees, the Subdivisional Congress Committees and the Branch Congress Committees have rendered very very useful service in the matter of rendering relief and other kinds of assistance to the distressed people. They have done very good and a very fine work. I take this opportunity to make this declaration and rectification of my omission if it is treated as omission by my Friends.

With these observations of a general nature, I think I should come to the specific points raised by the hon. Members in course of their speeches and I shall try to reply to those points as far as possible. I shall take my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, first. His first charge was that our administrative machinery was not very prompt and it was not moving as speedily as it should move under abnormal circumstances. He has referred to the case of the Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup, who could not move to a place on the Hajo side in course of 10 days, though he was staying at Rangiya. My Friend's complaint is that the Deputy Commissioner was not very prompt and he could not manage to get a boat to visit the area concerned. It was his inability to get a boat that prevented him from going to that area. Of course, Sir, as has been stated by some



hon. Members, that due to our having a large number of roads, the people of Assam have ceased to keep boats nowadays. Only a very small number of boats is available and these were taken by different officers and other people engaged in relief work. The Deputy Commissioner did not disturb the other officers who had taken the boats. He could not himself go on the 10th day, probably he could not manage an additional boat to go there on that day. After all, there is only one Deputy Commissioner in a district and it is not possible for him to visit all the affected areas in course of 10 days. If a part of the district was left out, it cannot be said that the Deputy Commissioner was not prompt. On the contrary, the Deputy Commissioner was not sitting tight at Gauhati, he was at Rangiya. That shows that he was engaged in flood relief work. That one instance is, therefore, not sufficient to prove that the administrative machinery is slow-moving. On the contrary, Mr. Bhattacharyya has himself given a lie to his first statement by saying that our officers are so very prompt that one officer at Nalbari had somehow managed a leaky boat and risked his life while going to provide relief to the people. That boat sunk in the river along with the articles of relief taken. So, here are two parallel instances cited by my Friend. The Deputy Commissioner, according to him, was not moving for want of boats but another officer moved in a leaky boat risking his life in order to give relief to the people. It shows from his observations even that the administrative machinery is quite up to the mark.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** He said that you should keep boats.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) :** That is a good suggestion which I welcome. Our lady Member, Mrs. Barthakur, also made this suggestion that since floods have become a regular phenomenon in our State, Government should keep some boats to be used in case of need. This is a good suggestion and I have taken note of it and I shall see what can be done. For the information of the House, I may state that already we have instructed our Forest Officers to supply timber at concessional rates to persons who want it for construction of boats.

Now, Sir, Mr. Bhattacharyya has stated that our officers are not very courteous in their behaviour and asks us to give a special direction to them to behave courteously with people. I think, Sir, in Independent India, such a direction is redundant. After all, our officers are also citizens of Independent India and educated like any of us. It is their duty, like any of us, to be courteous in their behaviour. As a matter of fact, citing of one single instance of a particular officer who is alleged to



have misbehaved with some people and slapped one person does not mean much. That matter is *sub-judice* and, therefore, I cannot say whether these things are true or not. Even if an officer misbehaves, we should take into consideration the number of officers we have got in Assam, we have got an army of officers of various departments from Mandals right upto the Deputy Commissioner, we have got a host of officers who were utilised this time and out of them if one officer is reported to misbehave, that does not show that our officers are transgressing the bounds of limit. On the other hand, Mr. Jadu Bhuyan stated in course of his speech that this time at least officers of Government did very good work besides they worked under great provocation and I have not got any complaint up till now that any of our officers is misbehaving discourteously with the public.

Then, I come to Mr. Ranendra Mohan Das. I had already stated that this time high level of discussion was kept at a high pitch by the hon. Members and there was no mud-flinging but curiously enough I found Mr. Ranendra Mohan Das, as usual with him, has again proved an exception. What was he saying? He said that in distribution of relief, political considerations came in some constituencies and some people of certain political organisations did not receive equal consideration in getting relief. When he was speaking this, you, Sir, were pleased to ask him to cite instances but he could not do so.

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS:** Sir, I have stated what I gathered from information given to me by some persons from different places and as I had not the experience of going personally to those places, it was not possible for me to give instances.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** How could he make such allegations without being sure of his ground? No other Member in this House made similar allegations?

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS:** I got the information and I wanted to know from the Minister whether these were facts.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** He is rather caught in a tight corner. The Speaker had to intervene in his speech and to ask him to give definite cases.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Do not be harsh on him.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** The high level discussion we had this time about the flood situation, Sir, was a bit marred by my Friend. I am only speaking that and not at all harsh at him. As a matter of fact, Sir, in course of my tours, different political organisations including Communists came and met me to discuss about relief measures.



My Friend, Mr. H. Goswami and Mr. R. M. Das were speaking certain things about River Valley Projects in Assam and were making a grievance against our Government.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** River Valley Project will not help floods.

*(Voice: It does, it does).*

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** Anyway, Sir, when they were allowed to speak on this, I should give the reply. They wanted to make a case against this Government as if nothing was done by this Government in this direction, whereas our other sister States of the Indian Union have got several River Valley Projects, and that as Assam Government was not serious about it they could not get any River Valley Project. My Friends probably know much better than myself about this matter. River Valley Project is a thing which needs years of preparation. Unless you are prepared with data, unless we do proper survey and many other such things, we cannot proceed to take up such a costly undertaking in the State, but unfortunately for some other States, till India had attained independence, the State Government of Assam, till Congress took up its administration, did not take any steps in this direction. This kind of project requires river survey, topographical survey, contour survey, hydrological survey and various other preparations beforehand.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Have you started any of them?

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** I am coming to that.

Now, some other States in the Indian Union started these preliminary works much ahead, they took steps even in the previous regime and thus they have got the benefit. Our predecessor did not do anything. This requires many years of preparation. As we did not start the necessary preliminaries, we could not get such projects earlier.

Sir, my Friends, the Leader of the Opposition and Mr. Bhattacharyya, are from Gauhati. I am surprised they do not know that a large number of officers were working at Manas river. This started working from about 6 years now. We took up Manas project and we started the work of taking data and making the survey and after making some progress it was found that on account of unwillingness on the part of Bhutan Government to give us permission to go into their territory we could not make any headway in this project.

The Government of India, at our request, have sent a batch of engineers to our State and they have now been working here for the last three years. This shows that this State Government have not been sitting idle. As a matter of fact, I have stated in



my written statement earlier that we have already started a new Circle with a Superintending Engineer at its head and 4 Divisions have been opened. They are now busy in taking hydrological data and other investigations. We have now a party of engineers from the Government of India who are busy in making contour survey, geographical survey and the like. This proves that this Government is quite alive to the needs of the time and are giving top most priority to it. As a result of all these endeavours on the part of the State Government, even if we cannot meet with complete success immediately, certain important beneficial results are surely to follow which may go to bring about great relief to our people. I stated yesterday that if everything runs according to our plan, our expectations of getting at least one or two important rivers may materialise in a few years' time and thus the burning problem of the time, I mean the repeated floods from some of the rivers, can at least be partially controlled.

Most of the hon. Members have spoken about test relief work to which I have already replied, and I do not propose to dilate upon them any further.

My Friend, Mr. Goswami, had said that two villages, i.e., Simna and Kuthori were not given relief and also lands. But I have got an enquiry made into the matter and found that 40 families of the village Simna have been provided with lands in the Bahjani Professional Grazing Reserve and the rest have been allotted lands by opening the Hatigarh Reserve.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** These 40 families have been allotted lands in the Bahjani Mauza only in the month of August when I, with the Deputy Commissioner, went there and the whole Mauza was under water.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** But you have admitted that 40 families of Simna were allotted lands in the Bahjani Mauza. If you, however, want to take the credit of allotting lands to these people yourself, I do not object to it. I do not want to claim it on behalf of our Government. But the fact remains that these people were allotted lands. What I want to impress upon the hon. Members is that even though some of the people have not got lands, it is definitely not due to any discriminatory treatment meted out to these people by this Government, but it may be due to the fact that Government have not enough lands at their disposal to allot to all the landless and eroded people of the State. As you are aware, we have at the moment about 10 thousand families who have to be rehabilitated. To find out enough lands to all these people is a stupendous question which cannot be solved in a day or two.



But the fact that 40 families of Simna have been provided with lands testifies to the fact that this Government is wide awake to the problem of the landless people.

Again my Friend, Mr. Goswami, has brought certain allegations to the effect that in the matter of distribution of relief, people living by the Trunk Road side have got more attention than those in the interior. I admit that this may be a fact. But if it is a fault, the fault is more with the geographical situation of the localities concerned. Because if you are to visit the interior places, you cannot but go there avoiding roads. If there is any discrimination on that score, are we to be blamed for it? Recently, I had been to North Salmara in the Dhubri Subdivision. Naturally I had to pass through Palasbari twice while going to North Salmara and while returning therefrom. I had been hearing a lot about the miseries of the flood and erosion-affected people of Palasbari which has roused in my mind a keen anxiety to see this place. I availed the opportunity to see this place on my onward journey to North Salmara on returning therefrom as further curiosity was roused in my mind to see this place again on my backward journey I again stopped there and saw the condition of the affected people of this particular place. The result was, that they got attention from me twice. Therefore, I say, Sir, if the people of Palasbari have got some more attention than those of many other places, the fault is not of any one of us but lies with the geographical position of the locality.

After all, Sir, this Government is the Government of the people. Every person of the State has equal right of approach to the Government in case of any difficulty. Therefore, I say, Sir, if my Friend feels aggrieved for certain matter, he should immediately bring it to the notice of the Government and they will certainly try to rectify the defects. But it is a matter of regret Sir, though I have met my Friend, Goswami, several times during the floods and after, he never complained to me on that score. I discussed the Government proposal to give relief to the flood-affected people to the extent of Rs.1,50,000 in a meeting in which Mr. Goswami was also present, but he did not voice before me a single word of complaint that he prefers now.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** At that time I was under the impression that this sum of Rs.1,50,000 will be distributed not only to Palasbari alone but to other places also.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** At any rate, it is not the intention of the Government to make any invidious distinction. My complaint is that if the hon. Members do not take me into confidence, bring their grievance to my notice in time, in that case even in spite of my best intention, I may fail to be of help to them.



Another thing my Friends, Shri Dalbir Singh Lohar and Shri Jadav Chandra Khakhlari have mentioned is about my omission to mention the names of Sadiya and Saikhowa in my statement. The reason for my not making any specific mention to these places in my statement is that my Friend, the Deputy Minister, had made a statement about flood and erosion of Saikhowa and Sadiya and there he made specific mentions about miseries wrought by floods and erosion there. Therefore, I did not consider it necessary to make mention of the names of these two places in my statement. Besides, Sir, my mention about places should be considered as illustrative only and not an exhaustive one, but when my Friends take exception to my omission, I would like to take this opportunity to assure them that it was definitely not done with a purpose. As a matter of fact, grievances have not been made by them on the ground of not getting relief, but it was made because of my omission to mention the names of the places. I assure them that Government will look to the things they have mentioned in their speeches.

Sir, my difficulty is that some hon. Members may feel aggrieved for not making any specific mention of their suggestions.

My Friend, Shri Mahendranath Hazarika, wanted remission of land revenue. Sir, this is a thing that cannot be decided off-hand. There are certain rules and these things are done according to that. As for example, if certain people cannot grow food crop in certain area, they are required to submit petitions to the Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers. The Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers will make proper survey and on the strength of their recommendation after enquiry, remission of land revenue is granted to them. We are giving remission of land revenue to some people of Dibrugarh and other areas in the course of last 3 or 4 years. So, Sir, this case also will be considered according to rules and procedure as was being done on previous occasion.

My Friends, Shri Hazarika and Muhammad Umaruddin, have also given very good suggestions and that has also been supported by our Lady Member, Mrs. Barthakur. They say that while we adopt test relief measures, we should not concentrate our activities on construction of roads and buildings and such other works. Sir, why should we not take advantage of this when we are going to do some relief measures to the people and also encourage some cottage industries by way of test relief measures? This is a very nice suggestion, but it still remains in the region of vagueness. It is not very clear to me, but then the whole thing will be given due consideration in due course. I agree



that the paddy husking scheme may be operated successfully as has been suggested by my Friend, Shri Umaruddin. It is for the consideration of the Minister-in-charge of Cottage Industries to see to it. I will certainly try to help him as Minister-in-charge of Relief and Rehabilitation. I can assure my Friends that as a Minister-in-charge of Relief, etc., I will try to help my colleagues in their respective spheres as far as possible.

Mr. Hazarika also says why we are not taking steps to introduce Boro cultivation? He says, "Even if floods cause great damage to a district, Boro paddy cultivation will not be hampered unlike the Sali crop. Cultivation of Boro paddy will afford relief to the people affected by flood. These crops can be grown after the floods subside." This is a very nice suggestion. Sir, as a matter of fact, we have been trying to introduce this crop and we have found very successful result. For the information of hon. Members, I should like to say that we are giving importance to this, and we are having a larger number of pumps in order to encourage people to grow more Boro crop.

My Friend, Shri Chanoo Kheria, has put some questions that there are some reserves in certain localities, and why we are not throwing open those reserves for the settlement of the flood-affected people of Majuli? I have taken note of this and shall see what can be done in regard to this matter. I can assure him that I will examine this matter.

My Friends, Shri Ramesh Barua and Shri Dalbir Singh Lohar and also Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya, have said that why should we abandon the Rehabilitation Schemes of Dibrugarh which had been taken up by the Government? I have taken note of that, but I cannot say anything off-hand. When I find that even Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya says that the scheme should not be abandoned as also some of the hon. Members of Dibrugarh, this matter will be given due consideration. I have taken note of that. More than that I cannot say off-hand at the present moment.

Some of the hon. Members have already given replies to my Friend, Shri Narnarayan Goswami, who was speaking about Pahumara River. Of course, I have taken note of that. That scheme will be considered in due course. But this is a small thing, and whether we shall be able to solve the problem of Assam as a whole by taking up the scheme. However, this will be examined in due course.

My Friend, Shri Hem Chandra Hazarika of North Lakhimpur has said that there are large number of tea gardens wherefrom vast areas of land can be made available. I am very glad to take a note of it.



My Friend, from the Garo Hills also has given some suggestions. He has said that he needs more power-pumps in his district. I can assure him that the Minister-in-charge of Agriculture will try to see if some more power-pumps can be given there. He also urges that there should be more co-operative credit societies in the Phulbari area. This question will be examined by the Co-operative Department. At present about Rs. 38,000 has been sanctioned for this district for the purpose of running the Co-operative Credit Societies, and this amount has been found to be quite inadequate to give relief to the people of Garo Hills (Phulbari). He has said that Government should give a few thousand more for the purpose. I will see to it. Probably, it will not be very difficult to fulfil their desire.

As far as Rabi crop is concerned, we have taken steps to distribute seeds amongst the people to enable them to grow this crop just to tide over the difficulties.

Sir, I could not exactly understand why my Friend, Shri Khakhlari, has made some insinuations against the Delhi officers, saying that they have not come to Assam with the purpose of helping our people. He says that they have come out of fear. Sir, I say that they have come here out of love. It will be doing injustice to level these charges against those officers who have come to serve the people of Assam. I say on the floor of this House that these distinguished engineers and officers who have come to Assam, not out of fear, but they are coming here with a spirit of love and service to the people. That kind of statement is not at all justified and I have failed to understand why the hon. Member has said like that. After all what fear they can have that they have come to Assam for fear ! This kind of talk only serves to antagonise people against us. It does more harm than good. I am really sorry for such statement.

Sir, I feel I have done justice to all the important points ; of course, there are some minor points left untouched ; but I will examine them according to the wishes of the Members. So far as major points are concerned, I have tried my best to reply to them. With these words, I beg to close my observations.

Jai Hind.



**Statement by the Minister of Cottage Industries, etc.,  
about his experiences during his recent visit to  
China and Japan**

**Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY (Minister) :**  
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to place before this House a few observations on the experiences I had in my last tour in China and Japan.

The country of Japan consists of four main Islands with an area of 147,000 square miles, roughly with a population of 8,30,00,000 of people, according to 1951 Census. The density of population is 565 per square mile. Forests occupy 60 per cent. of the total area. Only 14 per cent. of the total land area are available for cultivation. According to the World Agriculture Census of 1950, 1,52,92,627 acres are used for agriculture in Japan. Out of this area 1,22,18,565 acres or 81.5 per cent. is used for plantation of plant crops and the remaining area consists of grass-land, farm house sites and miscellaneous uses for agriculture. In mountain districts steep slopes, sometimes as steep as 30 degrees are also cultivated. Irrigated paddy fields occupy 56.5 per cent. of cultivable land. On account of the varied nature of topography of the country, many kinds of crops such as rice, wheat, barley, beans, sweet potatoes, vegetables, fruits, mulberry, tea, etc., are grown. Almost every plot of land which can be made into irrigated paddy field is utilised for cultivation of rice. Rainfall in Japan is abundant. There are frequent showers throughout the year. The average annual rainfall varies from 50 to 100 inches from place to place. To go round the country and to see things in their proper perspective, one month's time, which was at our disposal for touring in Japan, was surely too small a period and therefore we had to cut from our itinerary many important cities and prefectures and had to select for the purpose of our visit the central, south and south-west parts of the country from Tokyo on one end to Nagasaki on the other. We tried to have some idea about the home and small scale industries of Japan. We also tried to appreciate the village organisations and the method of agriculture of the country. In visiting the home and small industry centres, we had in our mind particularly those industries which might have some scope of development in our State and accordingly we laid special stress on seeing mulberry silk, bamboo, cane, wood, straw and hand-paper making industries though wherever opportunity occurred we did not hesitate to visit other



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industries including a few major industries, hydro-electric projects, live-stock and poultry farms, schools and universities and other institutions that we came across. In visiting all these we received full co-operation from the Governments both National and Prefectural. It is the Japanese Government which prepared our itinerary in Japan. The Prefectural Governments of Tokyo, Saitama, Nagane, Aichi, Kyote, Osaka, Hiroshima and Nagasaki were informed by the Central Government of Japan to render us all probable facilities during our visits to those Prefectures in pursuance of our object, and accordingly the Prefectural Governments concerned gave us all facilities.

### Agriculture

Extremely intensive cultivation is the outstanding characteristic of the Japanese agricultural practice. The yield of rice per hectre is 4030 kilograms which is the highest figure among oriental countries and surpassed only by Spain, Italy and Australia. But yield on ordinary land is quite often more than twice as high as this average figure. The yield of wheat is not very high. This is due to climatic condition specially the high humidity which favours paddy but is adverse to wheat. The climatic condition of Japan is unfavourable for white potato but favourable for sweet potato. Japan produces only 60 per cent. of her requirements in agriculture and therefore they are bent on increasing the average yields of their crops. During the last 60 years they are making researches and experiments as to how to improve the average yield of the crops and consequently they have been able to increase the yield of crops from 50 to 136 per cent. They have also been able to find out after due research, some cold resistant and early varieties of rice for cultivation in the Northernmost Island of Hokkaido where the annual average temperature is 6.7 centigrade. The standard application of fertilizer is another reason for increased yield. The abundance input of human labour is yet another reason for getting high yield of rice in Japan. Owing to the smallness of each plot of land, the use of machine for farming operations is beyond conception, and in considerable areas the use of cattle even is prevented. Excepting in the Island of Hokkaido nowhere in the country of Japan agricultural operations are practised by mechanised tools. However, machinery is used for thrashing paddy and about 80 per cent.



of the thrashing is performed by either electric or oil engine machines. Wherever any power ploughs are used they are of small size and are about 3 to 5 horse power in strength. Barley and wheat are the important winter crops of Japan, corn, oat, rye and millet are also cultivated but the area covered by these crops is small and hardly 4.3 per cent. of total agricultural area. Sweet potato is an important upland crop in Japan. When Japan suffered from serious shortage of food during the last war and early post-war years, the cultivation of sweet potato, because of its high caloric value, played an important role in the solution of the food problem. Experiments are being carried on for its extensive breeding. White potato is not generally grown in Japan except in Hokkaido Island. Soya bean is an important food for the Japanese. Almost all Japanese people eat soya bean every day in the form of soya bean paste or sauce. Japan is not self-sufficient in soya bean, soya bean also serve as a principal summer green manure in Japan. Varieties of fruits and vegetables are grown in Japan. Apples, citrus, peaches, pears, chest-nuts, persimmons and cherries are principal among them. On account of shortage of cultivable land in Japan, fruit growing is generally confined to slope-land. Nagano Prefecture is the main centre of fruit cultivation. All kinds of vegetables are grown in abundance in Japan. Green tea, which is the universal drink of Japan, is sufficiently grown in Japan. Green tea is also exported. Japan is self-sufficient in tobacco. Rape and sesame seeds are important sources of edible oils in Japan and they are grown almost all over the country in winter on paddy fields. Fibre crops are not grown very much in Japan. The cultivation of sugarcane is almost negligible and Japan has to depend upon other countries for her domestic sugar supply. Mat grasses of different varieties are grown in some parts of Japan and these are exported to different countries after being processed into mats of various sizes and designs. Kazo and Mitsumata are used in manufacture of hand-made paper for export as well as domestic use.

### Live-Stock

Live-stock industry in Japan is greatly handicapped by the lack of land for production of food. In a densely populated country like Japan all available cultivable lands are to be confined to production of human food rather than



animal food. The Japanese farmers keep only one or two animals of one kind. Open air grazing, except in the Island of Hokkaido, is almost unknown in Japan. All animals are stall fed throughout the year. Stall feeding of animals benefits the cultivators in regard to conservation of manure. People plough generally with one animal, either a horse or a bullock or a cow. The common breeds of draught cattle and horses are from Korean stocks and they are big in size. They require more feed for their maintenance. To economise the cost of feed, experiments are being carried on to dwarf the size of the draught animals, both horses and cattle, so that they can live on small quantities of feed. An attempt is going on to eliminate the use of horses from ploughing in Japan except in the Island of Hokkaido. The use of horse has been found to be uneconomic as the fodder it consumes is more than that of a head of cattle. The hide of a horse when dead cannot be used for any purpose and a horse when it becomes old and useless cannot be used for meat also. Some Japanese people of course use horse meat with soya bean paste during the time of biting cold but it is only on rare occasions. The hide of cattle, when dead, can be used for leather goods and, when old, the meat can be used as beef. There are some farmers who are specialists in fattening cattle for quality beef. Japanese people did not pay much attention for dairy development until recently. Till about 25 years past they did not relish milk or milk products, but the demand for these is now daily increasing. There is an attempt now to develop dairy farms and to improve the breed of dairy cattle. Practically all dairy cattle are of Holstain breed. Pig, sheep and goat rearing is also being encouraged. Almost all farmers raise chicken. Commercial Poultry Farms generally near big cities, are common.

### Sericulture

Japan is by far the largest silk producer in the world. Before the last war cocoon was next to rice, the most important crop of Japanese farmers. During the last war this industry received a great setback as the lands covered by mulberry plants were used for raising food crops. After the war attempts are being carried on for improvement of sericulture to the post-war level despite competitions from artificial silk like Nylon and Rayon. Experiments are carried on for use of the waste products such as the residue



of the mulberry leaves, mulberry twigs, pupa of the cocoon and the excreta of the worms.

### Land Reforms

Agriculture has received great encouragement after the war owing to drastic land reform policy having been adopted. Reclamation and land improvement are always a necessity for Japan to feed her daily increasing population. Reclamation projects, therefore, for employment of demobilised soldiers, unemployed urban workers and repatriates from Japan's lost possession like Formosa, Korea, Manchuria, etc, are being undertaken.

### Home Industries

In spite of all attempts being made in Agriculture, a Japanese farmer can earn only 60 per cent. of his daily requirements or necessities of life from farming. Therefore, to meet this extra cost of his requirements, he has invariably to look for some other occupation. Handicrafts and small industries provide the agriculturists and peasants with certain opportunities in this behalf. People who become surplus for agricultural operation in a farmer's family generally seek employment in the big industries and they generally migrate to their nearby cities for employment. During the last war all the big industries of Japan were almost shattered to pieces due to heavy aerial bombings from the side of their adversaries. An all-out attempt is remarkably visible through Japan among all sections of people to build their country, more particularly to regain their lost industrial glory. In pursuance of this goal, attempts are being made with great success to reshape the industries in perfect order. In pre-war days Japanese people employed labour at a cheaper rate as the cost of living in Japan was by far the less compared to other industrial countries of the world. They also could manufacture the mother plants at lower cost and installation of factories therefore cost them less than other countries. After the war with incoming of the American influence to the arena of Japanese social and economic life, the cost of living has gone much higher up and having been compelled to import machineries or parts of their damaged machineries to bring them to working order from countries abroad for which they are to pay higher price, the Japanese people have found it greatly difficult at the present moment to compete in the industrial field with other countries of the world. The loss of



the colonies of Japan specially the loss of Korea, Manchuria and Formosa has told very heavily on the national economy of Japan. In Manchuria a good many Japanese industrialists installed heavy plants for manufacture of different kinds of machineries and goods. They also used to get from this part supply of raw materials, such as petrol, iron and steel. After Japan's surrender in the war in 1945, they had to give up their rights to Manchuria and repatriate their people from Manchuria. The loss of Formosa and Korea has deprived the Japanese from many of their daily necessities of life and foodstuff and has compelled them to bear the brunt of heavy pressure of unemployment on their meagre resources. Japanese people by their character is not a nation to give way to difficulties and hardship and consequently they are doing their utmost with all amount of their energy, strength, intelligence, thoroughness and sincerity to exploit whatever they can in the circumstances. Therefore, inspite of all difficulties they are looking up and before long they will be able to recoup their lost position. In the field of small and home industries also similar attempts are available. As has already been mentioned above the silk industry in Japan, which is practised almost by every household, has already shown marked improvement and the production which went below during the last war is coming up year after year and very soon it will reach its pre-war level.

In every household in the villages the farmers are engaged in some kind or other small scale industries. In some houses there is something like a domestic factory where all the inmates of the family are engaged in the trade. In some domestic factories people from its neighbourhood are also employed. There are certain factories also in the village which are run on co-operative basis. In such industries small machineries run by electricity are employed. In every house in Japan there is provision for electric lights. The cost of electricity is very small as compared to our country. They pay only 10 yens per unit in the average for electricity (75 yens-one Indian Rupee). The main industries so practised are bamboo, cane works, straw ropes and mat making, handmade paper, woodcraft, ceramics and porcelain, doll and toymaking, lacquer works, etc. From bamboo different kinds of articles are manufactured. Splitting, removing and shaving, slitting and sizing and slicing are all done mostly by machines either power-driven or hand-driven. Bamboo blind making, bamboo fishing trap, bamboo polishing, bamboo and rattan



mat making are all done generally by machines either power-driven or hand-driven. Machines are also used for bending the edge of round baskets and also square baskets. The use of machines makes the operation easy and simple and people with little experience can easily operate and process bamboos to the required dimensions. Even a young girl can easily carry on the processing work. The use of machine is also responsible for the speed of the work and also smooth finishing. At times it has also been found to be economical. Some machines are very simple and strong-built and free from any danger in operation. The goods generally are baskets, screens, curtains, umbrellas, ply-woods, mosaics, fans, etc., and such other varieties of excellent specimen of Japanese handicrafts. The basket making industry thrived mostly during the war. We visited a village named Sebe near Ichinomiya city 25 miles away from Nagoya. All the villagers of this village are engaged in bamboo basket making. The agriculturists when they are free from farm duties, make these baskets. The baskets are used by local people for drying rice and during the war they supplied these baskets to the Japanese Navy in thousands. Every man can produce two baskets a day and the price of each basket is 180 yens in the average, the cost of materials being 80 yens. The net income comes to Rs. 1-12-0 per day. We visited a bamboo factory at Shiroyamamachi near Nagoya city, in the Aichi prefecture. This factory makes only bird cages from bamboo with the help of machinery run by electricity. These cages have very good market in America. The price of each cage varies from 350 yens to 800 yens and the profit per cage comes to about two rupees. Screens and curtains are also done with the help of machineries. They have markets all over the world and bring a good living to the artisans. Bamboo umbrellas are common in Japan. Bamboo umbrella making industry employs persons engaged in both bamboo and hand-paper making industries. Fans made from bamboo are very common in Japan. They are of different kinds and varieties. Bamboo furniture such as sofa sets, chairs, tables, etc., are also not uncommon. Button making from bamboos is also a good paying industry. Bamboo ply-wood and mosaic produce different luxury goods, such as radio cabinets, tea trays, fruit plates, etc. They may also be used for the purpose of making beautiful and artistic ceiling. Bamboo shoots and sheaths are also used for making something or other.



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From wood, different kinds of things are manufactured besides furniture. Toys, trays, bowls, cups are some of them. In Japan as well as in China we did not see the use of galvanised iron buckets as in our country. Everything that is carried in galvanised iron buckets in our country is carried in wooden buckets both in China and Japan. People carry water, food-grains, manures including night-soil in these buckets and carry them on their shoulders. In making these goods people generally use cedar wood or such other soft woods. Another extensive use of timber was visible to us both in China and Japan. In our country, more particularly in our State, all telegraph, telephone and electric poles are made of steel. But in these two countries hardly a steel pole was visible to us. In these two countries 90 per cent. of these poles are from wood. Japan is short of steel and there is no iron ore available in Japan and they have got sufficient amount of timber in their forests, the forest area of Japan being 60 per cent. of her total land area. Therefore, by using timber for these poles they have utilised one of their own natural resources.

Paddy, wheat and barley straws are used for production of different things of utility and luxury. As has already been mentioned above, 80 per cent. of the thrashing in Japan is done by power machines, and by doing so the farmers get their straws in unbroken condition. Paddy straws are mostly used for making bags and ropes. In Japan the production of Jute is almost negligible. Therefore, the Japanese people use straw and paper bags in place of gunny bags. They also use straw bags for packing purposes. In China also we have seen the straw bags being used extensively in the construction of river dykes as sand and stone bags. The ropes made of paddy straws are used for very many purposes including packing of machineries and other commodities for transport. Out of paddy straw also beautiful double floor mats are woven. In Japan every dwelling house possesses floor mattings, and for the purpose wheat and paddy straws are mostly used. These mats also have export markets. From barley straws various beautiful fancy and luxury goods are woven. Beautiful hand bags, and vanity bags, and beautiful hats are some of them. Hand-made paper is used most extensively in Japan. In Japan the old model houses, both in the cities and the villages, people have got sliding door and windows. They cover the doors and the windows with hand-made paper commonly known as Japanese paper. We visited a village named Ogowa



and also some other villages in the Saitama Prefecture. In these villages almost every home manufactures paper. In some houses pulp-making is done with the help of electrical power. In Ogawa there is a medium sized paper mill named as Saitama Prefectural Ogawa Institute of Paper Industries. They have two sections in that mill. One section is run by hand and the other section by power. The former one is run by hand and the other section by power. The former one is meant for manufacture of Japanese paper. They use barks of mulberry, Kozo and Mitsumata trees. A small machine run by electricity is used for making the pulps, and other operations are done by hands. They have five boxes in this mill and each box produces one ton of paper per month. The total investment in this section comes to 80,00,000 yens (Rupees one lakh approximately). The other section is purely run by power. They generally use waste paper for pulp and produce coloured paper for packing in this section. In that section they have invested 1,20,00,000 yens (Rupees one and half lakhs approximately) and the monthly production is 100 tons. The factory has employed 26 persons including 6 girls. The average profit they earned from this mill, as reported to us after consultation with the last balance sheet, was 10 per cent per year. We also visited several vocational institutions where students are trained in hand-made paper making.

Potteries are practised both in large scale and small scale in Japan. The large scale pottery industries produce articles of high quality. We were not interested in the big scale ones. We made some survey on the domestic pottery factories. We visited several such factories. One was in Higashi Oji in Higashiyamaken near the city of Kyote. It is a domestic factory. The proprietor is Mr. Gorosake Asami. He is a graduate of Kyote University with a Post-graduate training in Applied Science of Ceramics. He told us that for the last four generations covering a period of more than hundred years they are having this industry continually. Himself, his younger brother, his mother, his sister and his young wife all work in this industry. They have also employed three other persons from their neighbourhood. They do everything inside the house and everything by hand. We were shown round the factory and were explained about the different processes. They make artistic ceramic articles. This family earns about Rs.2,000 per month from this factory.



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We also saw lacquer works factories, tortoise shell factories, oil expelling factory, rice mills, wool spinning mills, knitting mills, brick tile making factories, glass ware factories, poultry and fish farms, etc. We also visited a few doll and toy making institutes. Dolls and toys are very good paying industries in Japan, and at the present moment it has been used as a dollar-earner. The girls and housewives are generally engaged in this trade, though nowadays boys are also steadily being attracted to it.

The whole secret of development of the cottage industry in Japan is the artistic skill. Different industries are practised by different persons or group of persons for generations together, and they in this course have developed a special technique for these industries. Different villages or group of villages are apt to different industries according to availability of raw materials and knack which has developed from sometime past.

What has been possible in Japan for development of cottage and small scale industries, even all the conditions now prevalent in Japan being satisfied, may not be possible here in Assam. It is the local genius that is counted most, and unless we create conditions to appeal to that genius these things cannot thrive in our soil. We have our cottage industries in Assam. Many of these industries are confined to a particular caste of people or to a village or to a family and as the present generation is not prepared to undergo the hard labour involved in these industries and also the products being not upto the standard to attract the modern taste of the people, these industries are gradually deteriorating and have reached almost a dying stage, unless some serious attempts are made these industries may not exist long.

### Co-operatives.

In the year 1900 the first Agricultural Co-operative law was enacted in Japan. Now co-operatives have been organised practically in all rural villages and towns in Japan. Every village or town in Japan has one or more co-operative for marketing of various crops, purchasing for supplies and household goods, processing members' products and also receiving deposits from members and advancing loans to them. Village or local co-operatives are federated on sub-prefectural or prefectural level. As all farmers in Japan are



members of one or more co-operatives, the business volume of the co-operatives is large. Japanese farmers depend mostly upon co-operatives for short term credit and Government loans for long term credit.

All articles produced by village artisans find ready market in their respective village co-operatives. The co-operatives also supply the artisans with designs of various articles. They also fix the number of different articles the artisans are to produce. All artisans carry their production to the co-operative for sale weekly once. The artisan agriculturists sell their goods and also purchase their requirements including raw materials for his industry, cattle and chicken feed fertilizer, and in the case of any balance that remains, he deposits with the co-operative. The village co-operatives also independently run some factories such as rice and flour mills, paper mills and hydro-electric projects. In these societies about 20 to 30 persons are employed, the majority of whom are girls.

### **Village Administrative Organisations**

While visiting these industries in the villages we also took the opportunity to study the village administrative organisations of Japan. In Japan every village or a group of villages in case of smaller villages has got a village council for the administration of the village. The Japanese equivalent of the village council is "Sonkai". We visited several villages and also enquired about the organisations of their respective Sonkais. Nishitamamura village with a population of 9,200 is one of them. The Sonkai of Nishitamamura village comprises of 22 members elected on adult franchise basis. They are elected for four years. The council decides on all constructive activities including water supply, industrial development and other municipal matters. The council elects a Head for execution of the work. The Head is called Sancho. The Sancho may or may not be a member of the Sonkai and he is responsible for execution of all the decisions of the Sonkai. The Sancho takes two other persons to assist him for execution of his duties. One is called Joyaku meaning Deputy Sancho and the other is called Shunyujaku who is in-charge of Finance and Revenue. These three together constitute the village office. The following are the sources of the revenue of the village council.



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VISIT TO CHINA AND JAPAN

[28TH OCT.]

1. Villagers Tax—18 per cent. assessed on income-tax. This tax is levied on villagers paying income-tax. Every villager is to pay 18 per cent. of the income-tax they pay to the Government as villagers' tax. This tax forms 60 per cent. of the total income of the Sonkai.

2. Per Capital Tax (Ninto Zei). Every villager male or female above 20 years of age must pay a tax of 400 yens per year to the Sonkai. 25 per cent. of this tax goes to the District Union of which the Sonkai is a part as contribution.

3. Fixed Assets Tax (Kotci Shisan Zei).—Every household is assessed to pay a tax on his immovable properties and the rate is determined by the village officer.

4. Tax on bicycles, dogs, carts, etc.—This constitutes only 10 per cent. of the total income of the Sonkai.

The District Union of Village Councils is responsible for drainage, sanitation, etc. The village has got one clinic with one physician and a surgeon. It has a six-bedded hospital. Irrigation is the responsibility of the village council.

We also visited several hydro-electric projects, among them two were run by village co-operatives, one generating 550KWT and the other generating 250KWT. They supply electricity for lighting and cottage industries and also run by themselves rice and flour mills, saw mills and paper mills for consumption of the surplus power and it was reported to us that they were earning good profits besides giving employment to 200 persons in each case. One of them also supplied irrigation water for terrace cultivation in its neighbourhood.

We also visited a few tourists centres. Hakone and Miyajima are two of them. These centres are over-crowded with visitors at all times. Teachers of schools of different categories lead their students to these centres every now and then. Hakone has a big lake about 25 sq. miles in area. Six big steam ferries provide pleasure trips in the lake. Innumerable motor launches, and out-boarded engined boats are available for pleasure ride. Boats are also available for hire or rowing. Hotels, restaurants and refreshment rooms of different prices and tastes are around. Miyajima is a small hillock overhanging the inland sea. There is an old Shrine and a Buddhist Pagoda. The Shrine maintains curios as old as 1,000 years. There are deers and other beasts and birds maintained in their natural condition in the hills. Every temple and shrine in Japan, the old feudal castles, the old Imperial



palaces are developed as tourists centres, and these institutions are always crowded with people mostly by students led by their respective teachers. Foreigners also go to these places very frequently and in good number, but the bulk of visitors are local people. It is part of the routine with every Japanese people to go for week-end to one or other of these centres.

In all fields of activities, indoor and outdoor, Japanese women work side by side with men. There is no sex bar in any work. The women of Japan are very hardworking. They carry full bucket loads of manure and water and other things to their fields and other places on their shoulders from a long distance.

In the factories also they work equally with men. There are women engineers, technicians and foremen in the factories. In the silk reeling, throwing and weaving factories girls predominate. In the hotels and inns almost all the employees are girls. The girls are polite, hospitable and fascinating. They can make foreigners by their behaviour their own within a very short time.

(The Deputy Speaker occupied the Chair at this stage, the Speaker having left the Chamber).

The villages of Japan are very neat and clean. The village roads are very narrow. At places it is difficult for two cars to cross. The reason for the narrowness is that every available inch of land they use in growing crops. From the edge of the roads there is cultivation. On the Railway lines also from the edge of the railway sleepers all lands available are brought to cultivation.

In every house in a village there is a small orchard of pear, peach and apple trees, ordinarily it has a small vegetable garden and a few flower bushes. Every household rears a few chicken and some also have pigs. Every house in a sense is almost self-sufficient.

Every village has a primary School. Education for nine years to all boys and girls of Japan is compulsory. The primary school buildings are magnificent. They are generally two-storeyed and they are almost of type plan. The enrolment is very high. One of the schools we visited had 1,500 students—boys and girls in the roll with fifty teachers—26 males and 24



females. Thirty-eight of them were trained. The students have their midday meal in the school and for that every boy and girl is to pay 100 yens a month. We saw the boys taking physical exercises under the scorching mid-day sun, bare bodied. We were told that it was their usual practice. The boys having been under the sun are exposed to *ultra violet* rays and by being exposed to sun for a longer time they increase their power of endurance, making them fit for hard labour. The teachers and students welcomed us most cordially and with a ceremony they presented us a painting done by one of the boys of the school.

There are hospitals run by Co-operatives for groups of villagers. They are well equipped. We visited several village hospitals and Saku hospital was one of them. In that hospital researches are being carried on as to the common diseases of farmer peasants. The hospital has about 600 beds with an operation theatre. We went round the hospital. It was quite nice and attractive. The main disease was dysentery due to hook worm. The cause of hook worm was due to raw night soil being used in farming operations. Propaganda has been launched to prevent it by converting night soil into composts. The doctors, nurses and staff received us most cordially and they spoke very kind words about India and Assam. They reiterated the cultural affinity Japan is having with India. The occasion was a pleasant one.

Japan lost the last War. It has lost its Empire. The city and industries were razed to the ground by aerial bombs. Atom bombs almost effaced out of existence Hiroshima and Nagasaki cities. But spirit of the Japanese people are still unbroken. We visited Nagoya where the Zero type planes were manufactured. The city of Nagoya was levelled to the ground—but it has completely been reconstructed. The city of Osaka was destroyed by bombs. All the industries were destroyed. But we found no trace of destruction in it anywhere. The towering chimneys bear testimony of the indomitable spirit of the Japanese people. Everywhere wherever we had been, we saw in the people a firm determination to build their country. They might differ from each other on hundred and one points but they are one in one point, and that is their country must be great and prosperous. They want that Japan should rise up again and what they have lost in the war must be regained. In Hiroshima and Nagasaki except the horrible memory of Atom bombs in the minds of the people



almost nothing can be traced out about the destruction caused by Atom Bombs. We visited the Nagasaki Ship Building Yard where the World's biggest 60,000 ton battleship was built. The workers there still feel that they are capable of building many more battleships of that magnitude even now.

Japan was a great country and Japanese people were a great nation. They are bound to be great again and signs were visible everywhere.

The Government of Japan, both National and Prefectural, rendered us all facilities including transport in many cases in furtherance of our tour. We are surely grateful to them. We were overwhelmed with the hospitality of Japan. Wherever we had been we were treated by the people most kindly. In visiting villages we were received by big crowds both males and females, boys and girls. In many villages old men and women above 80 years of age showered blessings on us. The newspaper men also took keen interest in our movements and helped us in all possible manner. Many industrialists and institutions have promised us all possible help for development of cottage industries in Assam.

From Japan with the permission of our Chief Minister we proceeded to pay a brief visit to China. I was received by the Government of China as a State Guest. Geographically China is quite contiguous to India with a common border of more than one thousand miles. The main purpose of our visit was to see how this country with a population of 60,00,00,000 of people and with an area of 1,00,00,000 square miles is combating against flood and pestilence, illiteracy and ignorance, starvation and nakedness and above all how she was marching forward towards industrialisation. The history of China from the very beginning is the history of strifes and battles and history of rivalries and quarrels between one dynasty and other and between one party and another. China has manpower next to none in the world. She has got vast material resources and if properly harnessed it is almost certain that China can be beaten only by a few. We read in history that in the 3rd century B. C. Emperor Hsih Huang-Ti constructed the great Chinese Wall out of the blood and sweat of countless Chinese labourers. The construction of the 1,800 miles long Wall manifests unique mobilisation of manpower in the country even in those days. The Wall was constructed to protect China from the constant raids of the barbarians. Efforts to mobilise manpower is being made now under the new regime to combat against all evils China had been suffering from.



STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF  
COTTAGE INDUSTRIES, ETC., ABOUT HIS  
EXPERIENCES DURING HIS VISIT TO  
CHINA AND JAPAN

[28TH OCT.]

In every sphere of China's life one can see a new enthusiasm, a new vigour, a new drive and above all a new sense of patriotism. Pre-1949 China was tired of war and factions. The Japanese occupation of almost the whole of the country was too bitter an experience for the Chinese people. The weak Kuomintang rule added to the miseries of the mass people. This was another cause of bitterness that swayed the people of the country. Naturally the victory of the Revolution for the liberation of China from the grip of the foreigners as well as from the hands of the greedy landlords and warmongers was hailed by the people with great satisfaction. The Leaders of the Revolution headed by Chairman, Mao-Tse-Tung, could very well understand this psychology of the people and as soon as power came to the hands of the revolutionaries they started measures to improve the economic condition of the peasants and workers and for more production in the country. They also started measures to improve the living condition of the workers in the factories and to enthuse them for greater output in the factories. They also took up effective measures to banish illiteracy and ignorance from the country.

In pursuance of these ideals a bold land reform policy was decreed. Landlordism was abolished and all lands including draught animals, farm implements, surplus grains, and surplus houses in the countryside owned by the landlords were taken over and lands and properties thus available were distributed among the people including the landlords on per capita basis. Restrictions were also put on the holding of rich and middle peasants. Peasants who were so long groaning under the heels of exploitation of the landlords became masters of their own holdings. Their enthusiasm therefore knows no bounds. Mutual Aid Teams, Agricultural Producers' Co-operatives and Collective Farms are being gradually developed and every village is marching ahead towards progress and prosperity. The Mutual Aid Teams save labour. People after receiving due training in the works of the Mutual Aid Teams and deriving benefits out of them, voluntarily form into Co-operatives and ultimately into collective farms, when the day to day problem of each individual farmer becomes the collective responsibility of the village as a whole. We visited a few places according to the programme arranged. People in those areas are having their own model villages on collective basis. Common stables for horses, mules and donkeys, common barns, common pig-pens and common poultry sheds were not uncommon there. The



activities have been so moulded that people now feel confident that something permanently good has surely come to them, though their condition at the present moment may not be as satisfactory. People still groan under poverty and shortage of food in certain places. Many of them do not have sufficient clothes to protect themselves from the biting Mongolian wind. But they believe that this was only passing phase and bright future awaits them as the country develops economically, culturally and socially. They are doing their best for increased production with great satisfaction and contentment to do away with their poverty and increase the wealth of the country.

In every village there is a village administrative council called the People's Village Government. These Councils are constituted with members elected on the basis of universal adult franchise. Every Council has a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman and a Secretary. The Councils get subsidy from Government, and also raise funds from the people themselves to run their affairs.

China even now is not very much developed industrially. The workers in the industries till 1949 were treated as the chattels of the industrialists. The Eastern coastal part of China for eleven years till 1945 was under the Japanese occupation. Whatever industries China had in the past thrived only in north-eastern parts of China and the Japanese took up each one of them and marshalled them for their own benefit and for helping Japan in her war efforts against China and other countries of the East. The treatment meted out to the Chinese workers and labourers was reported to be not satisfactory. Their service was insecure and amenities of life they had very little or none. There was no proper arrangement for their medical treatment or educational facilities for their children. Consequently they almost felt frustrated and worked only with a view to keep themselves somehow going on with their life without putting any heart in their work. After surrender of Japan in the last War, things did not improve owing to inefficiency and corruption so prevalent in the Kuomintang regime as I was told. People labouring under such helpless condition saw a bright ray of hope in the Liberation of 1949. Their hopes have now been gradually realised and now theirs is the most important voice in the administration of the country. New dormitories for workers are springing up daily around every factory and mill. Old mud houses are being replaced by massive buildings. Their pay scale also has improved and it is scaling up higher along with experience and increase in



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efficiency. Other amenities such as sports and recreation grounds, libraries and club houses, educational and medical treatment, sanatoria and rest camps have been provided. We were taken to a few workers' palaces. Workers' palace is a new conception of amenities to the workers. A workers palace is a cultural centre of workers of all categories for a group of industries of a particular place. The palaces have beautiful buildings built with 60 per cent. Government contributions and 40 per cent. contributions from the local confederation of labour. Every factory whether State owned, co-operative or private-owned is to contribute to the local confederation of labour and every worker of the factories under the confederation becomes automatically a member of the workers' palace. A workers' palace possesses an Opera Hall, music and dancing halls, technical research rooms, an Open Air Theatre and a Library. The palace provides also out-door enjoyments such as recreation grounds, rowing boats and lake skating facilities etc. Works done by a boy or a girl, a man or a woman receive the same price. We visited several Nursery Houses, Nursery Schools, Primary Schools and High Schools where the children of workers receive education. These improvements in the workers' conditions have resulted in higher production undoubtedly. In every factory the workers and employees of the factory constitute a Board to safeguard against any short-fall in the production. In case of any short-fall in any term the members of the Board meet and decide to have overtime works without any extra remuneration and the decision is carried out most gladly by the workers. This has resulted in the increase of efficiency.

Trade Union do not organise strikes, they are meant for ensuring increased production and educating the members with up-to-date knowledge of work and production. There is no distinction between the workers of State-owned industries and those owned by private industrialists or co-operatives.

Though China enjoyed independence from the beginning of her history with an interval of eleven years of Japanese occupation, it was only in name, and education of China was at the lowest. Hardly 10 per cent. of the population could somehow read and write. Education to the common mass was altogether unknown and the villages and towns were hot beds of superstition and conservatism. Whatever the Government might be, to ensure its future stability and ensure the well-being of the country as a whole on a permanent footing, proper education on a mass scale is an absolute necessity. The present Government of China



is fully aware and conscious of this responsibility. The gates of China's Universities are wide open to every Chinese boy and girl. All tuitions from Primary to University standards are free. In a country like China as it is to-day with lack of proper communication facilities, the task of spreading education throughout the country in a mass scale is undoubtedly a gigantic one, but never daunted with the gravity of the task that confronts the problem, the work is being pursued on in a planned manner.

A remote village where people had not the least knowledge as to what literacy was till the other day, is now being provided with a Primary School and the children of the peasants are now receiving their education. Speed-up spare time courses of education are a common feature both in a village as well as in a worker's centre. Though education is not compulsory in China even to-day, yet the new enthusiasm prevailing throughout the country has roused the consciousness of the people about the value of education and everybody is eager to send his or her children, boys or girls, to schools for studies. In the schools the teaching of the children is not confined to books alone. They have been given such training as to make their life useful and all-round above all to love labour. Sports, recreation, arts and paintings, singing and dancing and social service form part of the curriculum in the schools and facilities are accordingly provided for each one of them. New colleges and universities of different kinds and different faculties have come into existence. Alone around the city of Peking ten new colleges and universities have recently been established. The People's University which trains people in social, administrative and all-round leadership is a unique institution. There is also a Central Academy for National minorities with students from Tibet, Inner Mongolia and other regions all over China, which seeks to solve the knotty national minority problems, political, social, economical and linguistic. Here in this Academy the minorities are being trained in the art of administration to equip themselves with art of Self-Government so that they may feel that they are equal partners of the mighty country of China and that they have to contribute their mite towards its all-round reconstruction.

We also visited the Peking Jail. There was about 2,000 prisoners of whom about 400 were females. Of these 2,000 prisoners, male and female, 2/3 were counter-revolutionaries. A textile mill and knitting factory were run inside the Jail mostly



with the labour of the prisoners. We inspected the dormitories, the kitchen and lavatories of the prisoners and they were fairly good. The jail has an open air theatre state where the prisoners themselves hold performances on Saturdays and Sundays every week.

Our main purpose of visit to China was to see the river dykes and other flood control projects, but unfortunately we could not see many of these measures as the last devastating floods made access to many of them almost impossible. We were also much handicapped owing to shortness of time at our disposal. However, we could see the Kwanting Reservoir, the biggest flood control project in China, and also a parcel of the dyke along the Yangtse river around Hankow city. We also could glance a part of the Hoang Ho river dykes. The dykes are same as our river embankments. In China they are not a new thing. They are there from a very long time past since the days of the Emperors. But during the last War and after, they were totally neglected making them almost ineffective. The new regime, we were reported, by mobilization of sheer manpower is renovating them in right earnest. In renovation and strengthening of the dykes of the Yangtse river this year, as we were told, over 2,90,000 people worked day and night in shifts for about two months and completed in early July last before rains started. The water level in the Yangtse river this year was the highest ever recorded, but the dykes were made strong enough to give protection to people against such high floods and no appreciable damage either to crop or houses was caused. In China, as we could gather, river erosion is almost unknown and the dykes are constructed right from the margin of the water. The level of the city of Hankow is below the flood level. When the water rises in the river, the water from rain sewage and seepage collected in the lower region of the city is to be continually pumped back into the river. 300 pumps of 50 H. P. are kept ready for action for this purpose. The Kwanting Reservoir is a flood control measure on the Yangting river. The work on the Reservoir started in May, 1952 and completed by October 1953. This has saved the people of a vast area from annual recurrence of flood. When properly developed it will also be used to irrigate a few thousand acres of land and make them arable, and also supply electric power. The floods in the Yellow River (Hoang Ho) was not very high this year and the dykes along the river were strong enough to give protection to the people of both the banks.



Despite all these achievements in various fields of life, the people of China are never complacent. They are fully conscious that they have still a long way to march on to reach their destination. They know that to build China of their dream, it will take yet long years of sweat and labour. People of China ungrudgingly work for achieving what they have not got and are proud for what they are having.

Once the policy is decided by the Government, after all criticisms being obtained from the people, no opposition against it is tolerated. Everyone in the country must strive for implementation of the policy as laid down to the best of his or her ability, intelligence and knowledge. Freedom of speech is guaranteed by the Constitution. Newspapers only educate people as to how the policies and programmes for national development are to be best implemented. To dissuade people from action or to induce them even indirectly to opposition or inaction is a high treason against the State. Everybody whether he is a politician or a Government servant, a peasant or a student, a worker or an employee, has to put heart and soul for the achievement of the ideal irrespective of any obstacle that may stand on the way. And therefore the China of to-day is forgoing ahead. An outsider who visits new China with an open mind cannot but congratulate the Government and the people of China as a whole for their achievements during the last five years.

We are grateful to the Government of China for all the facilities they rendered us to see their ancient country. We were overwhelmed with the hospitality of the people of every locality we had a chance to visit. We offer them our heartiest thanks. The officers who all throughout our tour accompanied us and did all to make us happy and comfortable and to make our journey fruitful deserve our sincere congratulations.

In the bounds of a statement of this nature all the details of everything we could see in Japan and China are difficult to describe. I have been very brief in many matters and have confined myself only to making passing reference to many. I hope I shall be excused for my limitations. I am extremely grateful to you all for giving me a patient hearing. I am also thankful to you, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to make this statement, and with these words, I beg to resume my seat.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The House stands adjourned till 1-30 p.m. tomorrow.



## (Adjournment)

The Assembly was then adjourned till 1-30 p.m. on Friday, the 29th October 1954.

Shillong :  
The 21st June 1955.

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



## **AGENTS IN INDIA**

1. Messrs. Thacker Spink & Co., Calcutta.
2. Messrs. W. Newman & Co., Calcutta.
3. Messrs. S. K. Lahiri & Co., Calcutta.
4. Messrs. R. Cambray & Co., 6 and 8/2, Hastings Street, Calcutta.
5. Messrs. D. B. Taraporevala Sons and Co., 103, Meadow Street, Fort, Post Box No.187, Bombay.
6. The Indian School Supply Depot, 309, Bow Bazar Street, Calcutta.
7. The City Book Company, Post Box No.283, Madras.
8. The Director, The Book Company, Limited, Book Sellers and Stationers, 4/4A, College Square, Calcutta.
9. The Manager, The Imperial Publishing Co., 99, Ry. Road, Lahore.
10. Messrs. Chapala Book Stall, Shillong.
11. Messrs. Sirbhumi Publishing Co., Calcutta.
12. The Proprietor, 'Graduates Union,' Gauhati.
13. Mr. Banwarilal Jain (Book Seller), 1719/2002, Mati Kutra, Agra (India).
14. Messrs. Low Book Society, 65/3, Harrison Road, Calcutta.
15. The Director, Benares Corporation, University Road, P.O. Lanka.
16. Messrs. Law Book Society, 4A, Wellington Square, Calcutta.
17. Messrs. Bodh Raj Marwah, Booksellers, Shop No.63, Pusa Colony Market, Delhi-Karol Bagh, New Delhi.