

# AGENTS IN INDIA

1. Mr. A. Thacker & Co., Calcutta.
2. Messrs. W. Newman & Co., Calcutta.
3. Messrs. S. K. Lahiri & Co., Calcutta.
4. Messrs. R. Chatterjee & Co., 8 & 10, Hastings Street, Calcutta.
5. Messrs. D. B. Tanna & Co., 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.
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# Assam Legislative Assembly Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

SIXTH SESSION OF THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE  
ASSEMBLY AFTER THE FIRST GENERAL  
ELECTION UNDER THE SOVEREIGN  
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN  
CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER SESSION

VOLUME II

No. 34

The 30th October, 1954



सत्यमेव जयते

1955

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OCTOBER-NOVEMBER SESSION

VOLUME II

No. 34

THE ARAB LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



**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 Saturday, the 30th October, 1954.

**PRESENT**

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

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

(Starred Question Nos. 1 to 4 standing in the name of Shri Hareswar Goswami were not put as the questioner was absent during question time).

**UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**

(To which answers were laid on the table).

**Prohibition Propaganda**

**Shri INDRESWAR KHOUND** asked :

2. Will the Minister-in charge of Excise be pleased to state —

- (a) What is Prohibition Propaganda by Official Organisation ?
- (b) What kind of Propaganda is done and in which districts ?
- (c) What is Prohibition Propaganda by Non-Official Organisation ?
- (d) What kind of Propaganda is done and in which districts ?
- (e) What are the functions and duties of the Honorary Prohibition Commissioner ?
- (f) What Prohibition Propaganda is being done in the Dibrugarh Subdivision ?

**Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister)** replied :

2. (a) & (b)—No Prohibition Propaganda is carried out by the Official Organisation ; the duties of prevention and detection of opium offences are being performed by officials in all districts except Garo Hills, Naga Hills and Mizoram.



(c) & (d)—The main duties of the Non-Official Organisation are:—(i) Mobilising public opinion against the evil effects of opium, (ii) Persuading opium addicts to undergo Medical treatment in the treatment centres to enable them to give up opium habit and (iii) Detection of opium offences.

(e)—In addition to duties mentioned in (a) and (d) above, the Honorary Prohibition Commissioner constitutes Prohibition Committees in the various Districts consisting of local non-official members. He also dissolves or reconstitutes any such Committee. He is to perform tours in the State in connection with formation of Prohibition Committees relating to opening of treatment centres and their management, etc. Besides that he controls the non-official budget.

(f)—No non-official propaganda is done; but with a view to check illicit trade of contraband opium, the Excise staff has been increased in the Subdivision and the Excise circles have been reorganised and various check posts have been created at strategic points.

### **Re: Opium Addicts and Opium Smugglers**

**Shri INDRESWAR KHOUND** asked:

3. Will the Minister-in-charge of Excise be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government has made a census of the opium addicts in the State of Assam?
- (b) If so, when it was made and what are the numbers found districtwise?
- (c) If not, whether Government will take steps to take the census of the opium addicts in Assam?
- (d) If not, why not?

4. Will the Minister-in-charge of Excise be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government has made a list of the reported opium smugglers in the State?
- (b) If so, when it was made or prepared and what are the numbers found districtwise?
- (c) If not, whether Government propose to make such a list now?
- (d) If the reply to (c) above is in the negative, what are the reasons for not preparing such a list?



**Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister)** replied :

3. (a)—Yes.

(b)—In 1949. The numbers found are :—

Kamrup	...	...	...	...	...	706
Darrang	...	...	...	...	...	1,364
Nowgong	...	...	...	...	...	1,899
Sibsagar	...	...	...	...	...	2,750
Lakhimpur	...	...	...	...	...	6,500
United Khasi and Jaintia Hills	...	...	...	...	...	550
Cachar	...	...	...	...	...	150
Total ...						13,919

(c) & (d)—Do not arise.

4. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Since 1945 and onwards. The number is as follows :—

Goalpara	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Kamrup	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Darrang	...	...	...	...	...	12
Nowgong	...	...	...	...	...	34
Sibsagar	...	...	...	...	...	88
Lakhimpur	...	...	...	...	...	761
Cachar	...	...	...	...	...	13
United Khasi and Jaintia Hills	...	...	...	...	...	47

(c) & (d)—Do not arise.

### Number of cases taken up to the Supreme Court

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI** asked :

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

(a) How many cases were taken up to the Supreme Court at the instance of Government during 1952-53, 1953-54 ?

(b) In how many cases Government appeared as respondent opposite party during the same period ?

(c) In how many of these cases Government have become successful ?

(d) What is the total amount spent for conducting these cases in the Supreme Court ?



**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister)** replied :

5. (a)—1952-53 ... One

1953-54 ... Nil.

(b)—1952-53—(i) 23 Habeas Corpus petitions.

(ii) 2 Special leave petitions.

(iii) 1 Criminal appeal.

1953-54—(i) 1 Habeas Corpus petition.

(ii) 5 Civil appeals of which 4 appeals have been consolidated into one.

(iii) 1 Special leave petition.

(c)—1952-53—(i) Appeal filed by Government was dismissed.

(ii) 13 Habeas Corpus petitions became infructuous as the petitioners were released before their petitions were disposed of.

9 Habeas Corpus petitions were dismissed and one was allowed.

(iii) One special leave petition was dismissed and one was granted.

(iv) In the criminal appeal the sentence was reduced but conviction upheld.

1953-54—(i) The Habeas Corpus petition was dismissed.

(ii) The civil appeals are pending.

(iii) The special leave petition was granted.

(d)—Rs.12,880.

**Shri MAHI KANTA DAS (Parliamentary Secretary) :**  
Mr. Speaker, Sir, we may take up discussion on the four Bills during the question hour for want of the time, viz., the Assam Betterment Fee and Mooring Tax (Dibrugarh) (Amendment)



Bill, 1954 ; the Assam Excise (Amendment) (Extension to Garo Hills, Mikir Hills and North Cachar Hills District) Bill, 1954 ; the Assam Opium (Amendment) (Autonomous Districts) Bill, 1954 and the Assam Local Self-Government (Second Amendment) Bill, 1954.

(At this stage, the Opposition Members rose and said that as the programme has been fixed on Monday, the 1st November 1954 for discussion, these Bills as suggested by Shri Das should not be taken up today).

(Interruptions from both sides).

(It was then agreed by both sides to take up discussion on Monday, the 1st November 1954.)

**Discussion on the Supplementary Statement of Expenditure charged upon the Consolidated Fund of the State for 1954-55**

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is really re-assuring to us this time that there has not been too many items of expenditure charged upon the Consolidated Fund of the State. We find here in Page 61 of the List of Supplementary Demands, one Item under the Major head—25—General Administration, Sub-head—A—8.—Ministers, that a sum of Rs.30,000 has been spent or advanced from the Consolidated Fund under the Sub-head—A—8.—Ministers. Now, we find that during the Budget Session of the Assembly no matter a sum than Rs.6,75,700 was granted and we find that in the adjourned session of the Budget Session itself another sum of Rs.20,200 was taken by way of Supplementary Grants. Then, again, after two months we find another sum of Rs.30,000 has been sought for. So it shows that from the last Budget Session up till now, within these few months, a sum of Rs.50,200 more has been granted for our Ministers. After the budget was adopted in March last we find that an additional sum of Rs.50,200 has been needed for the Ministers. If that be so, what type of budgeting is ours ?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** What percentage do you allow to contingency ?

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** 2 per cent. 5 per cent. is too high but here it has exceeded 6 per cent. already in seven months, i. e., April, May, June, July, August,



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MENT OF EXPENDITURE CHARGED UPON THE  
CONSOLIDATED FUND OF THE STATE  
FOR 1954-55

September and October and there are five months still left. We might hope, Sir, and we may pray to Almighty Allah that there be no more such appropriation. (A voice ভূতকে ঘুঁহনে বান নায়।)

We see within this course of seven months that those who are placed in charge of preparing the budget have failed in seeing things. I do not blame the Minister because I know that this accounting is not done by the Minister, the Minister only signs. After all, there are permanent staff under him. But then the responsibility is his. I know how things are really done. If he spends all his time in running about Morigoan, Kalong and other places, how can he have the time to look into these things? Now, the way these things are done shows that we are abandoning ourselves to fate and going on incurring expenditure at random and we come with Supplementary Demand without any proper and astute study.

This so happens because the Minister neglects his own duty as a Finance Minister. I should like to say that provision ought to be made for proper functioning of the Finance Department. Now he moves on from village to village in his Constituency without having time to look into his portfolio and the result is that every time we are confronted pathetically with the tale of complete chaos in preparing our budget estimates.

What is the necessity of such an additional sum? It may be said that this amount of Rs.30,000 has been necessitated due to the floods because on account of floods our Ministers had to undertake a lot of tours. But I have already given my opinion about that. It is not just and proper that the Ministers instead of conducting the machinery as a whole should be working like fitters and Khalasis or helpers. If the Engineer or the Foreman instead of doing his own job arrogates to himself the job of the fitter or Khalasis, in that case that factory cannot run. Our factory, I mean our State, is also just like that. Our Ministers are just now doing such jobs as an engineer doing the job of a fitter or a helper or a Khalasis. I do not say that these jobs should be abandoned, but they should be left to the people meant for them. But the thing is otherwise. That shows the failure of the administration. This sort of things should not happen in future, and the budgeting should be as accurate as possible. There might be contingency for which we may allow a margin of say 5 per cent. but under no circumstances it should exceed 5 per cent. If possible, it should be brought down



to 2 or even half per cent. or nil. This sort of chaotic budgeting should be stopped and our Ministers should also be doing their ministerial duties instead of leaving them to their Secretaries. These are the suggestions which I wanted to make in course of this discussion.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, has already pointed out that on account of travelling allowance of Ministers, we have already granted an additional sum of Rs.20,200 in the last Session, and they have again come forward with another additional demand for Rs.30,000. But, Sir, there is no indication in the supplementary statement as to what was the original amount provided in the budget under this particular sub-head. I have been telling Shri Bora, our Finance Minister, that it is essentially necessary to indicate the original grants in the budget under particular sub-heads whenever we are asked to grant any additional amount under those sub-heads. It is also necessary to state the reasons for which the additional grant has been sought. Unfortunately, Sir, all these things have not been stated here. In spite of the repeated requests from this side of the House, the particulars have not been provided. So we are not in a position to judge as to why, in addition to the amount that is provided in the budget, the Government should come forward with supplementary demands under the same heads almost in every Session and we also do not know what will be the ultimate total expenditure under the said heads, because we have yet another occasion to consider supplementary demands. On looking into the budget I find.....

**Mr. SPEAKER:** What is done in other cases ?

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN:** I do not know. Common sense suggests and experience demands that particulars should be furnished before us. All that we want is to satisfy ourselves what are the reasons for which these additional demands are asked. If these particulars are provided, lot of criticism can be avoided, because most of the criticisms are provoked either for suppression of or omission of facts. We find that there is a sum of Rs.60,000 provided in the budget under the head "Travelling Allowance of Officers—Charged". Unless the contrary is proved, I would naturally presume that this sum of



DISCUSSION ON THE SUPPLEMENTARY [30TH OCT.  
STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE CHARGED  
UPON THE CONSOLIDATED FUND OF  
THE STATE FOR 1954-55

Rs.60,000 is for the Travelling Allowance of Ministers and nobody else. Now in addition to this Rs.60,000, we have once granted Rs.20,200. Then again there is another demand of Rs.30,000 in this Session. The total under this head comes to Rs.1,10,200 up till now. Now the question is whether this sum of Rs.1,10,200 for Travelling Allowance of Ministers is not too high. I of course agree that there have been some extra expenses as Travelling Allowance of Ministers due to the floods. I personally believe the Minister should go to different places affected by floods to see the sufferings of the people and device ways and means for their relief. Sometimes decisions have got to be taken on the spot in consultation with the local officers and the people. That is necessary. But that does not mean that all these tours should be too frequent and a number of Ministers should visit the same place on the same mission. Again when the Chief Minister goes to a particular place there is hardly any necessity for another Minister to go there because the Chief Minister as the head of the Government can look into all matters whether they relate to his portfolios or not. But we have found on more than one occasion one single place is being visited by several Ministers. It may however be necessary for the Finance Minister to go there to look to the condition of the people, so as to determine the extent of relief necessary. The Public Works Department Minister may have to go to see what damages had been done to roads and embankments and there may be necessity also for the Veterinary Minister and the Public Health Ministers to go to the same place to look into the administrative sides of their own departments. Of course, so far as the Chief Minister is concerned, he has got the overall responsibility for general supervision in all matters all over the State and in his case touring may be more extensive than in the case of other Ministers. But even taking into account all these factors, I feel that this amount is too high. In this connection I should like to know whether this amount includes the travelling allowance of Shri M. M. Chaudhury who undertook a tour of the far East in Japan and China, which was on a specific mission other than normal duty of a Minister. If it is so, then I hold it involves a new policy. If Government decides that their Ministers should be deputed for special study of certain subjects in foreign countries this must be treated as a matter of policy. Normally, Travelling Allowance is meant for touring on duty inside the State or on special occasions, outside the State but within the Indian Union. To be fair



Government must make their intention clear when extra expenditure is provided as Travelling Allowance of Ministers for tour in foreign countries. Then at the time of discussing the budget the issue will come before the House and it will open to the House to give a decision whether such a course should be adopted or not. If we are given at least an understanding that one of our Ministers may have to be deputed outside India for study of certain special subjects or any special problem for the benefit of our administration, that should be all right, but it involves in my opinion, a new policy. Therefore, I want to know whether in this amount of Rs.33,000 the Travelling Allowance of Mr. Chaudhury for his foreign tour is included. If the House were given an opportunity of discussing this matter during the Budget Session they could have discussed it as a matter of policy, because this matter came up before the House during the last Budget Session when in course of the discussion in the Budget—Jonab Moinul Haque Chaudhury suggested that some hon. Members of this House should be deputed to other parts of India to study the administrative and Legislative activities of other States and gain experience thereby. In reply to that the Finance Minister said that there was no guarantee that the hon. Members who would be deputed to various places to gain experience would be returned in the next election. If that is the reasoning in the case of the hon. Members, then I say that this equally well applies in the case of the Hon'ble Ministers also, as there is no guarantee that even those Hon'ble Ministers would be returned next time. So, Sir, on this matter of policy I want a clarification from Mr. Bora. On this particular item of expenditure so far as international tour is concerned, I think we have got to come to a specific decision as a matter of policy. Apart from that Travelling Allowance of Ministers is a charged expenditure and therefore the House cannot reduce or refuse it according to the provision of the Constitution. The underlying principle for such a course is that Ministers being highly placed persons are supposed to exercise their discretion properly in incurring expenditure on their travelling. Whether any touring is essential or in public interest or not is entirely left to their discretion and judgment. If Ministers by taking advantage of this special provision indulge in touring for personal gain or for other non-essential purposes, it would indeed, be most unfortunate and such conduct will amount to abuse of privilege.



I therefore want a clarification from Mr. Bora on all the points I have raised.

With these words, I finish my observations on the motion.

**Shri MOHENDRA NATH DEKA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it appears from the statements made by Mr. Bhattacharyya and Mr. Umaruddin that their discussion entirely centres round the amount of Rs.30,000 mentioned at page 61 of the List of Supplementary Demands for Grants. hon. Members of this House know well that during the last part of the last Adjourned Session of this Assembly hundreds of telegrams were sent from the flood-affected areas of Assam to the hon. Members concerned and to the Chief Minister and other Ministers as well and there was also a press report that the flood was so heavy that the Assembly should not continue any longer and the Hon'ble Ministers and Members of the Assembly should visit those affected areas at the earliest possible moment. On the 1st August last the Assembly was adjourned and we all approached the Chief Minister and other Ministers to visit the respective areas. This was an extraordinary circumstance under which the Ministers and Deputy Ministers had to visit the flood-affected areas of about 12,000 square miles as is admitted in the statement made by the Finance Minister on the floor of this House the other day. We all know that the area in the Assam Valley is nearly 24,000 square miles and more than half of the area was affected by the unusual and unprecedented flood. The damage was so heavy that the people had to leave their fate to the Government and as such this extraordinary Demand had to be brought before the House. Those who are in the helm of the Government had to visit the affected areas to see the distress by themselves. More or less we spent 12 lakhs in this year for gratuitous relief of the distressed people and therefore for this amount spent for the unusual and unprecedented flood no protest or criticism should have come from the opposite camp. So, Sir, the discussion appears to me to be quite a flimsy one. I want to add one word more that the flood was so big that this House had to devote not one hour, not two hours but full 12 hours to discuss the situation created by it, in Assam this year. When the circumstances are such that naturally the Ministers had to leave their headquarters to



visit those flood-affected areas and therefore this amount appears to be an absolute necessity.

With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

**Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN:** Sir, I want to speak a few words, in connection with this amount of Rs.30,000. We have been asked by our constituencies to visit those areas and we, possibly all the Members, did our best to visit them. My constituency is the worst affected one and I say this from my personal experience. The Deputy Commissioner, other officers and some non-official persons moved from place to place and they all put their heads together to render as much relief to the distressed people as possible. But inspite of that we found that when the Ministers themselves were on the spot we could expedite matters and we could render much more relief to the affected people and to this effect I may give one or two instances. The very evening the Chief Minister set his foot on Jorhat we got a telephonic news that a special steamer was being sent by the Steamer Company to carry him to those affected places in Majuli and besides that we immediately got sanctioned from him 1,500 maunds of rice to be taken along with him for distribution. Not only that, owing to his presence we also got various other necessities for rendering relief to the people and also to their cattle. Though we tried our best it was not possible for us alone to do so much, but because the Chief Minister was there on the spot we could do so much thing in a very short time. Recently when I went with the Revenue Minister to Ahotguri side I found the people gathering around him and they put their grievances. The Minister heard them and at once passed orders sanctioning an amount to the tune of several thousands and ordered the Deputy Commissioner to open cheap grain shops for them. Without him this much would not have been possible. So, Sir, considering the catastrophe this amount cannot be grudged by us. Only to play with the gallery that the Ministers have spent a large amount for nothing we can discuss this thing. But if we really want to give relief to the distressed or flood-affected people then I think this should not be grudged and reasonably we cannot carry on a debate on this point. It is unfortunate that a debate on this point has ensued, the motive of which is simply to tell the people, "see how the Ministers spend". Of course, anything spent by Government is not liked by the mass people because they have no knowledge of things. But if we enter deep



into the matter that this sum of Rs.30,000 spent by the Ministers for expenses of travelling to the different distressed areas, it will be found that the people have got, thereby three lakhs of rupees or more. Why should we, therefore, object to the expenditure of Rs.30,000 on this account? We should not carry things too far only for the sake of showing to the people that we are thinking of the poor people and the masses, but the Ministers are spending so much as if this is a luxury expenditure, which it is not.

**Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I take my stand not to bury Caesar but to give Caesar his dues. This item of Rs.30,000 for incurring expenditure by the Ministers for touring the flood-affected areas is a just due, and for this our Ministers deserve praise. If they had not gone to see the distressed areas themselves, what would have happened? Probably the members of their party would have tabled a censure motion, not to speak of the Opposition, for not going to those areas, because it is the duty of the Ministers to see things for themselves in such dire calamities. The other day the Prime Minister of India and some other Union Ministers flew to the furthest corners of Assam. Shri Jawaharlal Nehru flew to Dibrugarh and Palasbari to see things for himself. Shri Gulzarilal Nanda came to Assam and saw things for himself. Did the Parliament of India raise any question as to why they incurred this expenditure by visiting Assam? On the contrary, if they had not, they could have faced criticism in Parliament. The same thing would happen here. If the Ministers had not gone to the flood-affected areas, surely some censure motion would have been tabled, if not by the party in power, at least from the Opposition side. If the members of the Opposition Party had occupied the treasury benches they would have done the same thing. Why should there be this unmerited criticism then? It is right that there should be criticism so that the party in power may be careful. If there is no criticism and all praise, it is not good, but all criticism and no praise is worse. We are after all human beings. Shri Medhi, who is the leader of the Congress Party and the Chief Minister and the other members of the Cabinet are all human beings like other hon. Members and unjustified criticism will affect them just like any. There should, of course be just criticism, otherwise the Government and the Party in power may lose their track. But, Sir, so far as this item of Rs.30,000 is concerned, I should say that I would have been glad had the



expenditure been Rs.50,000, because there are certain parts of the State where they had not gone. I can state the Panidhing area in my constituency, which is situated at a distance of only 28 miles from the Sibsagar town. But it had not been possible for the Ministers to visit that area because the communications are so bad. I would have been glad if the Chief Minister and other Ministers had gone there and incurred some amount of expenditure for that purpose. But since it is not possible they could not go there. Therefore, my humble submission is that so far as this item is concerned, this expenditure is just fit and proper. For two days, we had been discussing the flood situation invoking God, man, and superman and it is surprising that the Members of the Opposition now object to this item of Rs.30,000 incurred on account of Ministers travelling in the flood-affected areas. This is not the correct attitude to take. We should see whether the expenditure is just.

With these few words, I resume my seat.

**Shri NARNARAYAN GOSWAMI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a difficult proposition to deal with the Members of the Opposition Party because they see everything with their coloured glasses. I request them not to see the actions of the Cabinet or of this Assembly with their coloured glasses. Put them off and then you will see the true picture of things. You should know that the best part of Assam, Sualkuchi, Palasbari, Dibrugarh, etc., are going to be washed away by the Brahmaputra, a part has already been washed away. Even our Medical College is in danger of being washed away by the Brahmaputra. In the face of this, should the Members of our Cabinet remain idle and sit tight here? I do not think that proposition is right. This Cabinet is not following the policy of "penny wise and pound foolish". I am glad, and this is the opinion of the people of my constituency also, they are glad that the Ministers have visited the flood-affected areas. Our Chief Minister even at this old age of about 65, had gone to the affected areas of Dibrugarh. He has got the capacity and energy to go to Dibrugarh and other affected areas and canalised the man-power of our students and villagers to come forward to protect Dibrugarh. I think this is an ideal example to the rest of Assam and rest of India. I think if the Members of the Opposition any day have the opportunity to come to the treasury benches they should follow the foot-steps and the example shown by our



Chief Minister and other Ministers of the Cabinet. Our villagers are really glad to see the Chief Minister risking his life in order to give succour to the distressed. I may differ from him in various other points. That is quite a different matter.

But I must praise his action, the House should praise his action and I hope, the hon. Members of the Opposition should learn how to appreciate his action, the sincere action, then and then only, the Cabinet Ministers will get the inspiration, the villagers will get the inspiration and the labourers and other people in the country will get the inspiration. If my friends in the Opposition want to increase the efficiency of persons, instead of playing to the gallery, they should know how to appreciate the acts done by the persons with noble motive.

Now, I think, Sir, this Rs.30,000 is meant for utilisation by the Cabinet Ministers in time of emergency and in time of catastrophe which we cannot envisage, and when there is such an emergency, their first duty will be to move themselves so that such a situation can be arrested timely and in this the policy of "penny wise and pound foolish" should not be pursued. In such a situation the House should say that go ahead with the expenditure and do not care for the money, and if they work sincerely, surely, there are people in our country who will appreciate their actions, *हुनिनांक मतिवम ।* It is a saying we are following and our forefathers were following and it is a saying which the Members of the Opposition are following and their forefathers were also following (*Laughter*). The Ministers are going to spend the money we allot and if they made any omissions or commissions that should be appreciated as after all they are also human beings. My Friends in the Opposition are blaming the Chief Minister and the other Cabinet Ministers as if they did something worst intentionally, as if this Rs.30,000 will go to their pockets, but it should be realised that this money is going to be utilised in purchasing petrol for propulsion of their cars for due discharge of their duties. If we do not appreciate their action, they will not get impetus to do such work and there may be some catastrophe in such abnormal situation. So I say that criticisms made by the Opposition should be constructive and I would request them to take the actions of our Ministers as a lesson and there should not be suggestions or criticisms which will lead to works being hampered and the State affected.



Sir, it is seen from the reports that the Praja Socialist Party is going to be dissolved as there are lots of bickering and mudflinging among their leaders. (*Loud laughter and interruptions.*) You know what is the position of Shri Jaiprakash Narayan and Shri Kripalani now. Shri Jaiprakash Narayan is going to wash his hands of the Praja Socialist Party. (*Laughter and interruptions.*) I am not criticising him but I am praising him because he is taking the line of বানধু instead of remaining in such an Organisation and in that vicious circle of the Organisation. So, Sir, I hope, our hon. Member in the Opposition will also see that the vicious circle is vanished from this House. So, I say that they should come forward and point out noble things to our Cabinet Ministers and they will gladly accept such good suggestions as our Cabinet Ministers are here to fulfil the noble Congress mandate and they will fulfil it. If the Members of the Opposition happen to become Ministers, they are expected to follow the footsteps of our Ministers in following the Congress ideals and thus earn good repute in the country. (*Hear, hear.*)

**Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI :** মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, এই প্রসঙ্গত মোর কবলৈ একেবাবে ইচ্ছা নাছিল ; কিন্তু মোক মোৰ অন্তৰঙ্গ বন্ধু গোবীশঙ্কৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্য ডাঙৰীয়াই ঠিয় কবালে। (হাঁহি)

মহোদয়, তেখেত মোৰ আজিৰ বন্ধু নহয় সকলকালৰে পৰা তেখেত মোৰ একে লগে একে ঠাইতে থকা বন্ধু। (হাঁহি) কিজানি তেখেতৰ উজ্জিবিলাক শুনি কোনোবাই তেখেতক বেয়াটক সমালোচনা কৰে ; সেইকাৰণে মই আনৰ সমালোচনা বন্ধ কৰিবলৈহে মই দুধাৰমান কম। তেখেতক বেয়াটক সমালোচনা কৰিলে বন্ধু হিচাবে মোৰ অন্তৰত বৰটক আঘাত লাগে। (হাঁহি) অৱশ্যে দুখে লাগে প্ৰায়েই লক্ষ্য কৰিছো যে তেখেত বৰ সৰু সৰু কথাত নিজকে আবদ্ধ ৰাখে। বৰ্তমানে উদ্ভৱ হোৱা প্ৰসঙ্গটো Supplementary Budget ৰ অন্তৰ্ভুক্ত মাত্ৰ ৩০,০০০ টকাৰ কথা। এই ধিনি কেতিয়াও সৰহ নহয়। তাতেই যেতিয়া তেখেতৰ ইমানটক মুৰ ঘৰাৰ লগীয়া হৈছে হয়তো কোনোবাই সমালোচনাৰ মুৰত যদি তেখেতক Drain Inspector বুলি উক্তি কৰে তেন্তে মই শুনি সন্মাত্তিক দুখ পাম। সেয়েহে মই কবলৈ ওলাইছো।



**Mr. SPEAKER:** Drain Inspector কথাটো ইয়াত উল্লেখ নকৰাই ভাল হব।

**Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI:** মই তেখেতক কোৱা নাই। কোনোবাই কব পাৰে বুলিহে ভয়তে উল্লেখ কৰিছো। (হাঁহি)

**Mr. SPEAKER:** আপুনি কব নোলাগে।

(Voice: অধ্যক্ষই কৈছে যেতিয়া আপুনি উঠাই লওক।)

**Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI:** মোৰ উক্তিটো শুনাট ভুল হৈছে। মই কেবল আনক সাবধান কৰিহে দিছো যাতে সেই কথা কোনেও নকয়। (হাঁহি) আনে কৈ যেন তেখেতক আৰু লগতে মোক আঘাত নিদিয়ো। (হাঁহি)

যি হওক, এই পুজিটো মাত্ৰ ২০,০০০ টকাৰ। ডাঙৰ পুজি হলেও তেখেতৰ সমালোচনা প্ৰাসঙ্গিক হনহেতেন। তেখেতে কৈছে কোন মন্ত্ৰী কোন দিনা কলৈ গল, কিয় গল, নগলেও হনহেতেন ইত্যাদি। তেখেতে নিশ্চয় জানে যে শৰীয়াৰ পৰা ধুবুৰীলৈ গোটেই অসমকে যেতিয়া বানপানীয়ে প্লাবিত কৰিছিল তেতিয়া কেবল মন্ত্ৰী সকলেই নহয় আমিও চাৰিওফালৰ পৰা চিঠি টেলিগ্ৰাম জাউবিয়ে জাউবিয়ে যিমান পাইছিলো তাৰ কোনো লেখ নাছিল। তাত মন্ত্ৰী, উপমন্ত্ৰী সকলক লগত লৈ তৎক্ষণাত ঘটনাস্থলত উপস্থিত হব লাগে বুলি অনুৰোধ জনাইছিল। আমি অকলে গলে বাইজে কয় আমি কেবল তেওলোকৰ দুৰ্দশা চাবলৈহে গৈছো। কাৰণ তেওলোকৰ ধাৰণা যে মন্ত্ৰী, উপমন্ত্ৰী বা পালিয়ামেণ্টৰী চেক্ৰেটৰী সকল গলে তেওলোকে সোনকালেই কিছু সাহায্য বা কাৰ্য্যকৰী পৰামৰ্শ এটা পাব। এনে ক্ষেত্ৰত বাইজে বিচাৰে মন্ত্ৰী, উপমন্ত্ৰীসকল প্ৰত্যেক বিপদগ্ৰস্ত অঞ্চললৈ যাব লাগে আৰু আমাৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াই জনমতৰ বিৰুদ্ধে বিচাৰে যে তেখেতসকল কেতিয়াও যাব নোলাগে। এইটো নিশ্চয় এটা অবাস্তৱ উক্তি। এই বিষয়ত ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াৰ লগত মইতো একমত নহয়েই বাইজে নহয়।

তাবিপচিত অসমৰ ইমূৰৰ পৰা সিমূৰলৈ ঘূৰিবলগীয়া হলে মন্ত্ৰীসকলৰ যোৱাৰ খবৰ কিমান হব পাৰে তাক নিশ্চয় তেখেতেও জানে। এই বিলাক জানিও তেখেতে সমালোচনা কৰি তেখেতৰ দৃষ্টি ভঙ্গীৰহে পৰিচয় দিছে। কিন্তু তেখেতৰ দৃষ্টিভঙ্গী পৃথক, তেখেতে ভাবিছে যে মন্ত্ৰীসকল গলে তেখেতসকল বাইজৰ প্ৰিয় হব— সেইটো তেখেতৰ কাম্য নহয়। ইয়াৰ পৰা প্ৰমাণ হয় তেখেতৰ দৃষ্টিভঙ্গী ঠেক—

মই তেখেতক সানুনয়ে কও যে সৰু সুৰা কথাত তেখেতে এই দৰে লাগি থাকিলে কমিউনিষ্ট পাৰ্টিৰ তেখেতে কলঙ্ক হে আনিব। কত ২০ টকা, কত ৩০ টকা, কত ৪০০ টকা চৰকাৰে খৰছ কৰিছে ইত্যাদি বোৰ ক্ষুদ্ৰ কথাৰ লক্ষ্য নকৰি জাতিগঠনৰ কাৰ্য্যত উপায় উপদেশ দি চৰকাৰক সহায় কৰিলেহে আচল কমিউনিষ্ট পাৰ্টিৰ কাৰ্য্য সাধন কৰা হব। সিদিনা আমাৰ মহেন্দ্ৰমোহন চৌধুৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই চীনদেশৰ কথা কৈ গৈছে। চীন চৰকাৰৰ নীতিত সকলোৱে চৰকাৰক সাহায্য কৰে। সকলোৱে জাতিগঠনৰ কাৰ্য্যত আগবাঢ়ি যোৱাটোহে একমাত্ৰ উদ্দেশ্য। চৰকাৰক দোষাবোপ দি মানুহক ভল বাট দেখুৱাই দিয়া আচল কমিউনিষ্ট পাৰ্টিৰ উদ্দেশ্য নহয়। গতিকে মই কও যে পাৰ্টি উদ্দেশ্য সাধন কৰা নিৰ্ব্বাচনত জয় লাভ কৰাই প্ৰকৃত জাতিগঠনৰ কাৰ্য্য নহয়। প্ৰকৃত কাৰ্য্য হৈছে কেনেকৈ আমাৰ দেশখনক ক্ৰমে উন্নতিৰ পথত আগ বঢ়াব।



তাৰ দিহা পৰামৰ্শ দিলেহে প্রকৃত ৰাইজৰ কাম কৰা হব। গতিকে ৰাইজৰ সেৱা কৰিবলৈ আমাৰ মিনিষ্টাৰ, ডেপুটি মিনিষ্টাৰ বা সদস্য সকল আগবাঢ়ি অহাত আমি সকলোৱে আনন্দহে পোৱা উচিত। গতিকে বিৰোধীদলক কওঁ যে তেখেত সকলে সামান্য পাৰ্টিৰ স্বার্থলৈ নাচাই যাতে দেশৰ মঙ্গলৰ কাৰণে কাৰ্য্য কৰিবলৈ আগবাঢ়ি আহে তাৰবাবে অনুৰোধ জনাই মোৰ বক্তব্য শেষ কৰিলো।

**Shri BIMALA KANTA BORA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it appears to me that the Cut Motion and the speeches that have emanated from the Opposition Members in connection therewith betray a hidden nervousness which prevails in the minds of the Opposition Members. They appear to think that by constant tours the Ministers have become extremely popular and that Opposition parties may now be ousted from the field. Shortly after the appearance of floods I find the Leader of the Opposition paid a flying visit to Majuli and immediately after coming back issued a statement to the Press to the effect that the floods in Majuli were causing enormous trouble to the people and that Government help was entirely inadequate, and he rest satisfied with that. That was all what he did for the flood-affected people of Majuli. But the position of the Government is quite different. They cannot remain satisfied simply by issuing paper statement to the Press. Similarly also, a Communist Member who came to Nowgong from Bengal to attend a meeting there, on his way back halted at Cooch Behar, and from there he issued a statement in the newspaper giving out that enormous damage had been done by floods in the area and the Government was not doing anything to help the people. That is the psychology prevailing amongst our friends everywhere. They themselves cannot do anything effectively helpful to the people, but will go on criticising Government right and left without any rhyme and reason. But the position of the party that holds the reins of administration cannot be like that. They cannot afford to sit tight on the headquarters of the Government turning a deaf ear to the wails and suffering of the people. Therefore our Ministers who have been entrusted with the administration of the country, and to promote the prosperity and welfare of this country have got to travel very much in the areas affected by such wide spread floods and other calamities. Now, Sir, as many as five or six floods visited the State in quick succession. Since the year 1932 there was no major flood from the Brahmaputra for about 22 years. During this period people were living peacefully. But in this year as many as 5 or 6 floods have come in quick succession which caused untold sufferings to the people in the shape of loss of crop



and cattle and dwelling houses followed in its wake by various diseases. Now, my Friend, Mr. Umaruddin says that the visit of only one Minister is sufficient and if one Minister visits a certain area other Ministers need not visit that place. This kind of argument holds no water. Because I find the Government of Assam, as you are aware, have allotted a sum of Rs.30 lakhs for flood relief work, such as gratuitous relief, test relief, agricultural loan, cattle loan and so on and so forth. Is it not the bounden duty of the Minister to see and supervise that the money is properly utilised, and can this supervision be possible without extensive tours to the areas for which this money is allotted. Sir, I submit, if they do not do this, they will be failing in their duty, and it is for these reasons that there is a tremendous demand on the Ministers to visit the areas personally. Therefore, if certain amount of money is spent on account of tours of the Ministers, this in my opinion does not stand any well meaning criticism. Similarly, enormous damages have been done to the Public Works Department roads involving a loss of more than a crore of rupees. Is it not the duty of Minister in-charge of Public Works Department to see with his own eyes the extent of damages done to the roads, embankments and bridges, etc.? Clearly, Sir, it is a duty which he cannot afford to entrust on some one else. If he does not do that, he will be simply failing in his duties.

A friend in need is the friend indeed. This is an old saying. Ours is a democratic Government and the Ministers are the servants of the people. When hundreds and thousands of our people are suffering as a result of the repeated floods, it is a clear duty of the Ministers who profess themselves to be friends of the people to go to the people and stand by their woes and miseries. If they are real friends and servants of the people as they profess to be, can they afford to ignore the people at the times of crisis? Can they sit tight to their seats in heights of Shillong? In that case what will be the feeling of the people, can he well imagine? Definitely they cannot do that, therefore they must be on the move, move to the people, share their difficulties and try to ameliorate, as far as they can, the grievances and the distress of the people. What has happened in Bihar during recent floods that overtook that State? Shri Srikrishna Singh, the Bihar Chief Minister mobilised and the entire machinery of the State was geared to the flood relief work. The Police, Military and the Civil Departments of the State marched in a body to combat the flood menace.



Of course our State had not to go to the same length. What happened at Dibrugarh when a very valuable slice of the town was eroded away and the flood water was rushing through the entire town area? All the people were fear-stricken and panicky. A feeling of despondence was writ large in the face of the entire population. At such a moment the visit of the Chief Minister to Dibrugarh has taken away their feeling of despondence, and the entire population men, women and children came out in a body to save the Dibrugarh town and engage themselves with new vigour and energy to throw stones on the Brahmaputra. The Chief Minister is a lay man, he is not an engineer. What can he do to fight the ravages of the nature? But his presence on the spot inspired and that went a great way to dispel the sense of despondency from the minds of the people. When the existence of the town was threatened, I find our Chief Minister issued a bold statement to the effect that the Dibrugarh town must be saved. That has inspired the people and geared them into action. So also, Sir, Shri Bora during his short visit to Nowgong, he enthused the people by his visit with hope and cheer and collected about Rs.5 thousand as donations to be given to the flood affected people of the district.

Now, it has been found that the Minister's Travelling Allowance is not spent on flood-relief work alone, but side by side, other work has also enormously increased. I find from the newspaper's report that almost in every month there is a meeting in New Delhi which our Ministers have got to attend. Our Ministers must go there to attend those particular meetings, otherwise, our views, our demands and needs will go unrepresented. Naturally when such visits are increasing due to multiplicity of works the expenditures on account of travelling allowance will also increase. So, Sir, when all these things are taken into account the whole amount of the supplementary demand is justified. I consider that the demand which has been placed before the House is quite reasonable. With these words, I beg to resume my seat.

**Shri DALBIR SINGH LOHAR :** অব্যক্ত মহোদয়, মোবো কিছু কথা কব লগীয়া আছে—কিছু সময় মই পালে ভাল হয়।

**Mr. SPEAKER :** আপুনি এতিয়া বহক। মিষ্টাৰ গোস্বামীৰ পিচত কৰ।



**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI :** Mr. Speaker. Sir, I had no desire to take part in this debate, but when the last Speaker has mentioned my name in connection with my tour to Majuli and said that at least I could afford to remain satisfied by issuing a press statement. I take my stand to clarify my position. I am really very sorry that Shri Bimala Kanta Bora, whom I respect, could make such a statement knowing the actual state of affairs. We have said, that "the Opposition is not at the helm of affairs. The key is not with us." Our duty is to see whether the money is spent, whether the activities undertaken by the Government are really to the interest of the people or are well spent. We have to offer our criticism on that. We have also to look to the distress and sufferings of the people as well as the measures undertaken for their welfare. In such cases, we have to go round and see things, and make statement. If we are to be criticised on that score for making statement and for not offering any help, I am sorry that Mr. Bora did not understand the role and significance of the Opposition. Mr. Gogoi has rightly said that Opposition is necessary in a democratic set up to offer healthy criticisms. If we are all praise for the Ministers, they may feel complacent. If we say that everything is all right they may feel complacent and will not undo things which are palpably wrong. I want to say that Ministers' visit to a particular place is necessary at times. I also confess that tours have done good and it is proper that people are met. But, Sir, the main point here is, as it appears, the House has taken a wrong stand about the whole matter. Mr. Basumatari, Mr. Deka and Mr. Naranarayan Goswami have said that we have criticised very much about this small sum of money as if, this House should not take into consideration if the money allotted is a small amount. I assert that this House has a right, a moral obligation to criticise even the expenditure of a small farthing. We must see whether a farthing, even a pie is spent on a relevant one, and whether the sum is big or small is immaterial. Sir, it is also conceded that in a welfare state, where we are to see to the welfare of the people, the people who are in the helm of affairs, must go and see them. I am not speaking that the Ministers are moving about always unnecessarily. I am not saying that by their visits, the Ministers are gaining popularity with a view to win election. It is the political philosophy that counts and not the personal popularity of a Minister. There is a conflict of ideology, of programme, of method. Ultimately these things will determine the destiny of a party. Therefore it is, not the particular popularity of a person that



will help in winning the election. It will be decided on the basis of ideologist programmes and the country will take care of it.

Sir, about the tours, my main opposition is that there is no plan in them. There is collective responsibility in the Cabinet. The Cabinet comes and goes together. If there is a collective responsibility in the Cabinet, there should be a planning in these tours also. What I observe is that, to a particular place, the Ministers are running all at a time, even if the matter is a small one, and it appears that sometimes two or three Ministers are found together touring in the same locality, and not a single Minister is found in the capital. I do not know, how far this sort of tours are necessary for the welfare of the people. Sir, I can cite from the Gazette that at a time two or three Ministers have gone to a particular place. Was it necessary? If we really see that there is collective responsibility, would it not have been possible for a particular Minister to go to that place and collect necessary information and other data on behalf of his colleagues also? Is it also necessary for the second Minister to go to that place again? As for example, if the Chief Minister goes to a particular place accompanied by Public Works Department and Finance Ministers, that is sufficient. Why do they not collect necessary information for their other colleagues? Instead of that, all the Ministers will go to that place together. It demands the attention of the Government. To see the conditions at Dibrugarh and Palasbari it is not necessary that all Ministers should go there. To my mind, the Chief Minister, Public Works Department and Revenue Ministers are necessary. All the Ministers need not go there to express sympathy to the people. Because, what one has seen that has to be taken, as seen by all the Ministers. In that case, we can save money on that score. Therefore, Sir, I should like to offer a constructive suggestion in regard to this case that they should sit together at a time and chalk out programmes accordingly. There should be some amount of harmony, as well as co-ordination amongst the Ministers, which will not only save a lot of money but also serve both the purpose and this will enable the Ministers to see things for themselves and there will also be economy. Sir, I have also another objection to a thing which is very often indulged in, that is, when any Minister goes to a particular constituency except in the case of the Chief Minister, we do not know who is visiting that constituency. Take for instance my constituency, except in



the case of Finance Minister and the Public Works Department Minister, we do not know when the Ministers go to that constituency. Sir, it is the duty of the Minister to inform the Member in-charge of the constituency, whether he belongs to the party in power or not, so that the Member in-charge of the constituency also may bring up certain things and also discuss important matters with the Minister visiting that constituency, otherwise the people will think that the Minister has come there not specially for governmental works but for party works mainly. It is not wise to serve as a Minister forgets all governmental works and remembers only party work. Therefore, Sir, it is necessary for Ministers to keep all the times in their minds that they are first Ministers and then party men. Therefore, Sir, as I have already said the Minister while going out on tour should supply information to the Members in-charge of the constituency so that the people may not think that the Minister has come just to perform some functions or do some organisations or popularise the organisation and not for doing the actual governmental work. Sir, this is very important, and Sir, as I have said and as my Friend Mr. Bhattacharyya has said that these are not unprecedented things or unwarranted things. Therefore, Sir, we must try our best to prepare our Budget in such a way that these unforeseen contingencies may also be taken into account, so that every time we must not come to this House to discuss again and again that the Ministers want so much for their tours.

We don't want this sort of thing. We don't like to discuss the same subject over and over again. The people outside do not like to hear the same thing every time that provision is made for the Ministers' tours. Therefore, Sir, it is necessary that the Budget should be prepared as accurately as possible; but this is not done and if this had been done, so much heat would not have generated in the debates.

I hope these things should be taken into account.

**Shri DAIBIR SINGH LOHAR:** अध्यक्ष महोदय, मौर बद्धु श्रीगोबीशंकर ठाटाचार्य ठाडबीयाई एई सदनत मन्त्रीसकलर ब्रमण बानचर कारणे अधिक टका खबच करा हैछे बुलि यि आपत्ति देखुराईछे सेई आपत्ति केतियाओ उचित होरा नाई । एई बद्ध गबांखनीया आरु बानपानीत यि अरुस्था है गल सेई अरुस्थानत समालोचना करिले एने कोनो मानुह नाई यि अस्तुवत आघात नेपाव ।



**Mr. SPEAKER :** মাইকত কলে ভাল হয়। Press গেলেবিত নু শুনিব।

**Shri DALBIR SINGH LOHAR :** অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, সমালোচনা কৰাৰো এটা সময় আৰু সীমা আছে। সকলো সময়তে সমালোচনা কৰিলে তাৰ দ্বাৰা অনেক ক্ষেত্ৰত মানুহৰ বিতৃষ্ণাহে জন্ম। মই কেতিয়াও ভবা নাছিলো যে এই ৩০,০০০ টকাৰ কাৰণে ইমান সমালোচনা হব। মোৰ বিশ্বাস ৩০,০০০ টকাতকৈ মানুহৰ প্ৰাণ বেচি দামী আৰু মানুহৰ প্ৰাণ বক্ষাৰ কাৰণে টকা খৰচ হলে আপত্তিকৰাটো যুক্তি সঙ্গত নহয়। এই বছৰ যি অৱস্থা হৈছিল সেই অৱস্থাত মন্ত্ৰীসকল নিজে নোযোৱাহলে আচল পৰিস্থিতিটো উপলব্ধি কৰা টান হলেহেঁতেন। মই ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰ কথাৰে কওঁ। আমাৰ মাননীয় মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়া ডিব্ৰুগড়লৈ গৈ যেতিয়া দেখিলে যে পুৰণি চাৰকিট ঘৰ ডঙাৰ পিচত নৈৰ খহনীয়া ক্ৰমে বাঢ়িবলৈ ধৰিলে আৰু ৰিভেটমেন্টৰ কাৰণে নৈৰ দাঁতিত বখা ডাঙৰ ডাঙৰ শিল, ইটা আনি লাখ লাখ টকাৰ ব্যয় প্ৰায় যায় যায়। সেই সময়ত আমাৰ মাননীয় মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই বাইজক আহবান জনোৱাত বাইজ আৰু চৰকাৰী কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ আপ্ৰাণ চেপ্টাত ইটা, শিল আৰু চৰকাৰী সকলো সম্পত্তি বক্ষা কৰিব পাৰিলে। মাত্ৰ মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰীৰ এটা কথাতে স্কুল, কলেজৰ ছাত্ৰসকলে আৰু চৰকাৰী কৰ্মচাৰী সকলেও দিনে বাতিয়ে আপ্ৰাণ চেপ্টা কৰাৰ ফলত গোটেইবোৰ বস্তু তাৰ পৰা গুচাব পাৰিলে। কাজেই মন্ত্ৰী সকলৰ উপস্থিতি সেই সময়ত কেনে মূল্যবান আছিল তাকে এবাৰ ভাবি চাওক।

কালিও এটা সমালোচনা হৈ গল যে উপাধ্যক্ষই ওকালতি বা আন কোনো ব্যৱসায় কৰিব নোৱাৰে। অধ্যক্ষ বা উপাধ্যক্ষই কিয় ওকালতি কৰিব নেলাগে সেই সম্বন্ধে যদিও মই কালি নকলো তথাপি মই ভাবো যে, সন্মান বজাই বখাৰ ওপৰিও তেখেত সকলে হয়তো ভ্ৰজ সকল আৰু হাকিমসকলক প্ৰভাৱ বিস্তাৰ কৰিব পাৰে। সেই কাৰণেই অধ্যক্ষ বা উপাধ্যক্ষই কাছাৰিত ওকালতি কৰিব নোৱাৰে বুলি সিদ্ধান্ত কৰিছে। ঠিক সেই দৰেই মন্ত্ৰীসকল, উপমন্ত্ৰীসকল বা সংসদিসচিব সকল যদি বিপদগ্ৰস্ত লোকসকলৰ মাজত ঠিয় হয়গৈ, তেতিয়াহলে সেই মানুহবোৰে মনত উৎসাহ আৰু উদ্দীপনা পায় আৰু অবিৰাম কাম কৰিবলৈ শৰীৰত বল পায়। এনে অৱস্থাত মন্ত্ৰী বা উপমন্ত্ৰী সকলৰ উপস্থিতিয়ে অসাধ্য সাধন কৰিব পাৰে আৰু জনসাধাৰণক কৰ্তব্য পথত অগ্ৰসৰ হবলৈ ইন্ধন যোগাব পাৰে। গতিকে এনেকুৱা আৱশ্যকীয় খৰচত আপত্তি কৰাটো একেবাৰে যুক্তিহীন।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, বিপক্ষ দলৰনেতা শ্ৰীযুত হৰেশ্বৰ গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াই কৈছে যে ডিব্ৰু-গড়ত revetment ভাঙি নিয়াৰ পিচত ডিব্ৰুগড়ত যি অৱস্থা হৈছিল সেই সময়ত কেৱল মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী বা বিত্তমন্ত্ৰী তালৈ গলেই হয়। আটাইবোৰ মন্ত্ৰী যোৱাৰ কোনো আৱশ্যক নাছিল। কিন্তু তেখেতে ভাবিচোৱা নাই যে মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী বা বিত্ত মন্ত্ৰীয়ে আটাইবোৰ কাম কেনেকৈ কৰিব পাৰে। ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰ চৰকাৰী হাইস্কুলটো নৈয়ে খহাই নিলে গতিকে স্কুলৰ কিবা এটা ব্যৱস্থা তৎক্ষণাত কৰিব লগা হোৱাত শিক্ষা মন্ত্ৰীৰ আৱশ্যক। তেখেতেহে স্কুলৰ কামটো ঠিক মতে কৰিব পাৰিব। খহনীয়াই বহুত মানুহক ভূমিহীন কৰিলে, গতিকে মাটিৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিবৰ কাৰণে ৰাজহ মন্ত্ৰীৰ আৱশ্যক। সেই সময়ত ফৰেষ্ট ৰিজাৰ্ভৰ মাটিৰ কাৰণে হাজাৰ হাজাৰ মানুহৰ দখান্তু। ফৰেষ্টৰ মাটি সেই বিভাগৰ মন্ত্ৰীয়ে ঠিবাং কৰিব নোৱাৰিলে ৰাজহ মন্ত্ৰীৰো বহুত ক্ষেত্ৰত হাত নাথাকে গতিকে সেই সময়ত সেই বিভাগৰ মন্ত্ৰীৰ বিশেষ আৱশ্যক হৈ পৰে। এই বাৰ বন বিভাগৰ মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই হৈছেখোৱালৈ



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MENT OF EXPENDITURE CHARGED UPON  
THE CONSOLIDATED FUND OF THE  
STATE FOR 1954-55

গৈ প্ৰায় ৩০০ পৰিয়ালৰ কৰেট বায়ত হিচাবে থাকিবলৈ অনুমতি দি আহিছে, সেইদৰে খাদ্য মন্ত্ৰী যেতিয়া ছেখোৱালৈ গৈছিল, সেই সময়ত খাদ্যবস্তুৰ বৰ অসুবিধা হৈছিল আৰু খাদ্য মন্ত্ৰীয়ে তৎক্ষণাত অনুসন্ধান কৰি সেই ঠাইলৈ চাউল পঠাই জনসাধাৰণক বন্ধা কৰিলে। স্বাস্থ্য মন্ত্ৰী গৈছিল মহামাৰী বা আন বেমাৰ আদিৰ প্ৰতিৰোধৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিবৰ কাৰণে। তেখেতে ভিতৰুৱা অঞ্চলবোৰৰ কাৰণেও ঔষধ পঠোৱাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰি আহিছে। ইয়াৰ পৰা বুজিব পাৰি যে মন্ত্ৰীসকল নিজেই গল কাৰণেই সকলো ব্যৱস্থা সুকলমে কৰিব পাৰিলে। যদি মন্ত্ৰীসকল নগলহেতেন আৰু যদি কোনো মানুহৰ প্ৰাণ হানি হলেহেতেন তেনেহলে আমাৰ বিৰোধীদলৰ পৰা হয়তো স্বৰ্গিত প্ৰস্তাৱ (Adjournment motion) আনি এই সদনত ছলস্থূল কৰিলেহেতেন। আজি তাকে কৰিব নেপায় ত্ৰিশ হাজাৰ টকা অধিক খৰচ কৰালৈয়ে নানান অগ্ৰিয় সমালোচনা কৰিছে। ই বৰ দুখৰ বিষয়। এনে হেন বিপদত যাৰ অন্তৰ আছে তেনে কোনো মানুহ শান্তিৰে বহি থাকিব নোৱাৰে। মন্ত্ৰীসকলে তালৈ ভোট বিচাৰি যোৱা নাছিল; বা তাৰ চাৰকিট ঘৰত আমোদ প্ৰমোদ কৰিবলৈকে যোৱা নাছিল। তেখেতসকল গৈছিল ৰাইজৰ কাম কৰিবলৈ আৰু বিপদগ্ৰস্ত লোক সকলক বন্ধা কৰিবলৈ। গতিকে এই ৫০,০০০ টকাৰ কাৰণে ইমান সমালোচনা হোৱাটো উচিত হোৱা নাই। মই আশা কৰো ভবিষ্যতে যাতে আমাৰ বিৰোধী দলৰ নেতা বা ভট্টাচাৰ্য ডাঙৰীয়াই এনে অগ্ৰিয় সমালোচনা কৰি ৰাইজৰ মনত আঘাত নিদিয়ে।

**Mr. SPEAKER:** In the meantime we shall try to have a convention here that after the Leader of the Opposition finishes his speech the Minister in-charge will have the right to reply. However, this was not done before and the hon. Members did not know. Therefore I allowed Mr. Das to speak as I have allowed the other side. But in future after the Leader of the Opposition finishes his speech the Minister in-charge will reply.

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS:** I respect this convention Sir, but I shall not speak now. I shall speak on the same subject in my cut motion.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya is at his old game again. During the last discussion on flood situation only the other day, my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, referred to the extensive tours of the Ministers and he expressed his opinion that Ministers should not go to the places because the Officers will be there doing their work. The Ministers will remain in the capital devoting themselves to policy matters and leaving works to be done by the Officers. Sir, at that time, I thought Mr. Bhattacharyya was probably not serious and therefore I did not make any reply to the points. I am glad that our lady Member, Mrs. Bartha-kur, had given very good reply to those points raised by Mr. Bhattacharyya. Now, Sir, when I find Mr. Bhattacharyya is again bringing forward that charge, it has led me to a rather



furious thought. Why Mr. Bhattacharyya opposes the Ministers going out helping and rendering relief to our distressed people ? What objection can be there to Ministers going out in these abnormal times when 17 lakhs of our population in our State are in acute distress ? People were crying from all corners for help. Resolutions after resolutions were passed that Government should come and see the grievances with their own eyes. Hundreds of petitions were pouring from those distressed people. Some of our Friends in the Opposition have also wanted us that we should go and see the condition of our people. They have themselves invited the Ministers to go and see the conditions of the people so that at the time of rendering help and relief, prompt and immediate measures can be taken. With this end in view, some Members sitting in the Opposition also desire that we should go out. I am glad that my Friend, Mr. Goswami, the Leader of the Opposition, has thought it necessary for Ministers in such abnormal times to go out but why Mr. Bhattacharyya alone is against the Ministers going out and see the conditions of the people. Now, my furious thinking has led me to certain conclusions. Is it because the party that Mr. Bhattacharyya represents do not like the representatives of this side to go to the people ? This feeling of mine is rather strengthened by certain things that I have noticed during my tours. I find, Sir, in most places of our country the people are simple villagers who have been kept under certain false hopes, under false illusions. These people have been told, 'look here your Government is not doing this and that or this and that sort of thing'. Our people in certain areas are generally very simple and very backward. Such people have been kept under some sort of mis-apprehensions and mis-representations of facts by some people against the party in power. The general charge is this Government is not the Government of the people, this Government does not think of the people and things of that sort. Now, Sir, when the Ministers really come in contact with the people, as Ministers they have more facts, they are in possession of more facts and figures they can remove these false expressions in the mind of the people and they can tell the people, 'look here, your Ministers are sending whatever assistance is possible to our distressed people'. Then most of these people become disillusioned when they see with their own eyes that representatives of the Government moving into the villages and taking prompt and immediate measures. It is not known to the hon. Members of the House, Sir, that there are some people, certain parties in



our State that work with the view to exploit the miseries of the people and they want that the people should remain in their miserable condition. The misery should be there, so that they can exploit the people. But if on contrary, the Government make efforts to render help and relief to the people, they feel, their profession is gone. Sir, in certain areas of our State, certain people have really become disillusioned. It is therefore not a question of Rs.30,000 that my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya does not agree. He has some apprehensions which are fundamental to him. He did not like the constant movement of the Government with the people lest the people will be disillusioned when they realise that they are served well by the Government. Therefore, Sir, the thing is not on the smallness or bigness of the amount but because Government move in this way and take immediate steps to remove the miseries of the people which may jeopardise the interests of the party. How can they exploit unless the misery of the people is not there? It is for this reason that Mr. Bhattacharyya objects that we should not go out on tour. As a matter of fact people want us to go to them. I personally feel that this year the promptitude and eagerness with which the distress of the people has been attended to by Government is, to a great extent, due to the constant movement of the many Ministers in the country. Therefore, Sir, I feel that my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya's objection is actuated with a set purpose. He has a deep laid purpose behind his objection. How can a reasonable man object to Ministers going and seeing the distressed people and rendering relief to them unless he has some motive behind? This objection of Mr. Bhattacharyya is the result of that deep laid purpose. Now, Sir, on this subject Mr. Bhattacharyya was pleased to refer to my visit to Morigaon. He also referred to the Public Works Department Minister's visit to Rangiya. I do not know why my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, has referred to the Public Works Department Minister's visit to Rangiya constantly. Is it his intention that the whole Rangiya area should be excluded from the visit by the Public Works Department Minister and left out to him for his preaching (*laughter*)? If that is not his intention, then why should he object so much to the Public Works Department Minister visiting Rangiya? Regarding my visit to Morigaon, Sir, I must say that I feel it my duty to do so and I must visit my constituency as much as others, because after all I have been sent here by my constituency and as such I have some duty to my constituency. In a democratic country



the Ministers must be allowed to visit their constituencies, not only their constituencies but other constituencies as well if there be need. Therefore, Sir, I not only visit my constituency but other constituencies also. If I do not go to my constituency then how I can contact the people of my constituency and besides me who will visit my constituency at the time of need? This is done not only in our country but in other advanced countries like America, England, and so on. If I am expected to nurser the growth of democracy in that area, I must go to my constituency, Morigaon, because the people there were affected by flood and I must try to remove their miseries as far as possible.

My Friend, Mr. Goswami wanted to know from me why two or three Ministers should go together without a plan. Sir, two or three Ministers do not go together without a plan. There must be some planning when two or three of them go together to a certain place and thereby they can do better service to the people and that also ultimately leads to savings of money. I may give an instance in this respect. My Friend, Shri Gogoi, referred to the flood-affected people of Panidehing in the Sibsa-gar District. He wanted that those people be given settlement in the Rangali area which is a Forest Reserve. As this is a forest area, it is not my power to throw open this or any part of this area for cultivation by the flood-affected people. In that case if my colleague, the Forest Minister, go together with me to see things by ourselves and to take immediate steps by which some relief is given to the needy people should there be any objection? In such cases, Sir, we move together to bring about better result and so there is some planning. Without making such planning how can we visit areas together and at the same time?

My Friend, Mr. Goswami, also made a grievance that the Ministers when they go out on tour to visit certain areas, do not generally give any previous information to the respective Members. I do not know, Sir, how he can make this grievance. In his case probably he does not get any such information because often he remains very busy visiting other places in connection with his legal profession. We generally like to have the advantage of his assistance and co-operation in matters relating to his constituency.....

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** I have received complaints from many Members of the Opposition, Sir, that the



Ministers do not inform them of their visits to their constituencies.

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** Generally I send information of my visit to the Members concerned.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** I get information from the Chief Minister.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** For the information of my Friend, Mr. Goswami, I can tell him that this time many of the important decisions regarding flood relief were taken by the Ministers in consultation with the Members of the Opposition in meetings. For instance, with Mr. Ghana Kanta Gogoi we had very important discussion. He was invited by me and he attended a meeting at Dibrugarh where some important decisions after consultation with him and others were taken. My Friend, Mr. Umaruddin, who is sitting behind Mr. Goswami, was moving with me from place to place in his subdivision. We toured together and we arrived at a lot of decisions by consultation. Similarly my Friend, Mr. Tajuddin, who is also sitting behind Mr. Goswami was moving with me during my last visit to Barpeta. We toured there for days together. This sufficiently proves the attitude of the Government. This Government is always for co-operation and we do not feel that there is any harm in getting views and advice from the Members of the Opposition. We always want their co-operation and advice. As a matter of fact, our Prime Minister has also asked the people belonging to other parties to Co-operate with him in development work of the Government. When the Prime Minister offers such co-operation, how small fries like us can refuse it? Therefore, Sir, to say that we are non-operative or irresponsible to them is a very unkind remark.

My Friends, Mr. Umaruddin and Mr. Goswami, wanted that in preparing the Budget we should try to be as accurate as possible. But there are abnormal and unforeseen circumstances in which cases it may not be always possible to be so. In unforeseen circumstances the budget figures have got to swell more or less. In view of this, Sir, this should not be taken very serious notice of.

My Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, referred to the amount of Rs.22,000 in the Supplementary Demand. Again we are coming for Rs.30,000 under this head. Of course, it is true that we wanted Rs. 20,200 on that occasion but



that was not for touring of Ministers but for advertisement charges of the Public Service Commission. All these things are lumped together under one head, and the amount of Rs.20,200 was needed for advertisement charges of the Public Service Commission and not for touring of Ministers. In removing the mis-understanding of my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, on that ground, Sir, my Friends sitting behind me and also those sitting in front and belonging to our Party have given good replies to the points raised by the Opposition Members.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN:** What is the policy underlying the touring of Ministers ?

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** Development of the country. This is a welfare State. We have taken up a lot of development works costing crores of rupees. Say for instance, we want to develop our cottage industries ; if it helps in the development of our cottage industries by touring in a particular area where cottage industries have developed to a great extent, we think the money spent in touring is well-spent. That is the policy.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN:** Is it the policy to train up Ministers in specialised and technical lines, or to train up officers ? This is what I want to know.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** No question of training of Ministers comes. At least my Friend will credit us with that amount of intelligence to understand that no man can be trained up in course of a month or so.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Our Ministers are supposed to be trained people.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** There is no question of training of Ministers. Ministers are sent out abroad to see things for themselves, to get an idea of how things are done, what agencies are doing them, and so on ; in short, just to get a broad idea of the development works and not to be trained as officers. He is under a mis-apprehension. (*A voice:—Does it apply to Members also ?*) Yes, if it is considered that sending a particular Member outside will help the cause of development of the country, surely we shall send him



Sir, with these observation I close my speech.

## Supplementary Demands for Grants

### SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No. 1

#### (7.—Land Revenue)

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.20,000, be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1955 for the administration of the head—“7.—Land Revenue”.

	Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly .. .. .	44,16,200
II.—Supplementary grant voted by the Assembly during July-August 1954 Session.	12,000
Additional amount now required .. .. .	20,000
III.—Sub-head under which the Supplementary grant will be accounted for :—	

	General	Sixth Schedule A) Area	(Part Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
F.—Survey, Settlement and record operations—			
(a) Assam Surveys—			
(iv) Traverse section .. .. .	20,000		20,000

The explanatory notes given below will explain the need of this demand.

#### EXPLANATORY NOTES

The amount is required for construction of 3,500 concrete pillars for demarcating the boundaries of 400 villages of the District of Goalpara to be traversed by the Assam Surveys during the ensuing field season of 1954-55.

The expenditure could not be foreseen in view of the fact that the rapid stride made by the Assam Surveys Department in the village traverse in Goalpara was unexpected and therefore no budget provision was made.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Motion moved is that an additional sum of Rs.20,000, be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1955, for the administration of the head—“7.—Land Revenue”.

(The motion was put by the Chair as a question before the House, and adopted.)

### SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No. 2

#### (8.—State Excise)

**Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister):** On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.7,480, be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the



course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1955 for the administration of the head—"8.—State Excise".

	Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly .. .. .	10,86,000
II.—Supplementary grant voted by the Assembly during July-August 1954 Session.	75,800
Additional amount now required .. .. .	7,480
III.—Sub-head under which the Supplementary grant will be accounted for :—	

	General	Six h Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
B.—District Executive establishment—			
5. Prohibition proganda .. .. .	7,480		7,480

The explanatory notes given below will explain the need of this demand.

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

The amount is required for maintenance of one vehicle of the Lakhimpur district and two others for Sibsagar and Darrang which will be available for service very soon.

The amount is required for the following detailed heads :—

	Rs.
(a) Official Organisation—	
Maintenance of Motor Vehicles .. .. .	6,600
Pay of casual employees .. .. .	880
	<hr/> 7,480 <hr/>

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Motion moved is that an additional sum of Rs.7,480, be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1955, for the administration of the head "8.—State Excise".

(The motion was put by the Chair as a question before the House and adopted.)

### SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No.3

#### (10.—Forest)

**Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister) :** On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.1,48,974, be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1955, for administration of the head —10.—Forest".



	Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly ...	47,86,100
II.—Grant voted in July-August 1954 Session of the Assembly.	2,30,700
Additional grant now required ...	1,48,974
III.—Sub-heads under which the supplementary grant will be accounted for :—	

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
Normal—			
B.(a) Conservancy and Works—			
II.—Timber and other produce removed from Forests by Consumers and Purchasers	Rs. 3,360	Rs. 7,479	Rs. 10,839
VI.—Communications and buildings.	500	20,000	20,500
VIII.—Miscellaneous ...	12,420	...	12,420
Total ...	16,280	27,479	43,759
Development Schemes (Art. 275)—			
B.—Conservancy and Works—			
VI.—Communications and buildings.	75,000	18,787	93,787
C.—Establishment			
2. Pay of Establishment ..	3,000	2,000	5,000
Total ...	78,000	20,787	98,787
Development Schemes (Five-Year Plan)—			
B.—2. Conservancy and Works—			
VI.—Communications and buildings.	6,428	...	6,428
Grand total ..	1,00,708	48,261	1,48,974

The explanatory notes given below explain the need of this demand.

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

B(a)II.—A sum of Rs.2,880 is required for staff for markings and disposal of windfallen trees of the Goalpara and Kamrup Divisions. Another sum of Rs.480 is required for entertainment of a Forester for six months for checking of illegalities at Boko gate.

The amount of Rs.7,479, is required in connection with the working out of the Narenggiri Unclassed State Forest which is now under Garo Hills District Council. The amount could not be provided in the budget for



1954-55 due to non-settlement of the terms and conditions of the operation and apportionment of revenue with the District Council. The amount represents the cost of marking trees, making camp shed, pay and allowances of the temporary staff to be entertained.

B(a)VI.—The amount of Rs.500 is required for construction of a temporary structure at Palasbari Revenue Station to carry on the work of checking of timbers. The expenditure is unforeseen.

The amount of Rs.20,000 is required for improvement of a Forest Road which is found essential for operation of the Narenggiri Unclassed State Forest.

B(a)VIII.—An amount of Rs.500 is required to meet the expenditure for dismantling the Palasbari Forest Beat Office threatened by the last Brahmaputra erosion.

An amount of Rs.1,970 is required to meet the additional expenditure on staff employed in connection with settlement of flood-affected people in certain Reserves of the Lakhimpur District.

The extra amount of Rs.9,950 is required to meet the living cost and other expenditure in connection with the visit of the F. A. O. Forestry Expert who will investigate the economic possibilities of improvement of forest resources and possible forest industries based on such resources.

Development Schemes (Article 275)—

B-1-VI (*General*).—An amount of Rs.75,000 is required for construction of the Haltugaon-Saralpara Road on Kharikatia-Desso Valley Road since approved by India.

B-1-VI.—(*Sixth Schedule Areas*).—A sum of Rs.12,787 is required for the construction and maintenance of certain roads since approved by India. Another sum of Rs.6,000 is required for supply of water to the forest staff at Nongpoh.

C-2—Establishment.—The additional requirement is partly for entertainment of a Doctor and a Compounder for the Basugaon Dispensary and partly for meeting expenditure due to increased rate of pay to the low paid Government Servants.

Development Schemes (Five-Year Plan)—

B-2-VI.—The amount of Rs.6,428 is required for supply of water in the Compound of the Assam Forest School at Jhalukbari and also for making payment to two men employed for pumping water. The expenditure was not foreseen at the time of preparing the budget.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Motion moved is that an additional sum of Rs.1,48,974, be granted to the Minister in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1955, for the administration of the head "10.—Forest".

**Shri RADHA CHARAN CHAUDHURY :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.10,839 under Supplementary Demand No.3, Major head 10.—Forests, Minor head—B. (a)—Conservancy and Works, Sub-head—II. Timber and other produce removed from Forests by consumers and purchasers, at page 2 of the List of Supplementary



Demands be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.1,48,974 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, this is a very small matter and yet I have to move this cut motion. My intention in moving this motion is to show how the sum allotted for maintaining additional staff for marking and barking of windfallen trees and checking illegalities in certain gates is inadequate.

Sir, you may know that during the years 1952 to 1954, more than 20,000 Sal trees were felled by storms in different localities of South Kamrup alone. The Forest Department with its limited staff could not make the barking of trees in time ; as a result most of the trees were destroyed by worms and the Forest Department had to sell them to the contractors at a very low rate. If a tree remains in this condition for more than a month it is damaged by worms. For lack of adequate staff the trees could not be barked in time and as such the trees were damaged by worms and the Department did not get the actual price.

So also marking of windfallen trees should be very prompt otherwise price or value which these timbers would have given to the Government would never come so. The amount allotted here for maintaining staff is quite inadequate. The Forest Department should increase the staff and should increase labour so that these things can be done very quickly and in that case Government will not lose money.

Then again, Sir, a small amount of Rs.480 is allotted for checking illegalities by having a check-post at Boko. Unless, the Government allot more money for checking, illegalities will increase day by day. There is a check gate in Boko and I know that many forest produce from Bijni are coming unmarked to Gauhati side ; so more money should be allotted for more check gates and not only that, there should be checking posts in some rivers also by which these illegal timbers pass.

So, Sir, with a view to stop more illegalities and to get more royalties by Government money should be provided in these heads sufficiently.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Cut Motion moved is that the provision of Rs.10,839 under Supplementary Demand No.3, Major head 1C—Forests, Minor head—B (a)—Conservancy and Works, Sub-head—II—Timber and other produce removed from Forests by consumers and purchasers, at page 2 of the List of Supplementary Demands be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.1,48,974 do stand reduced by Re.1.



**Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am constrained to say that the Hon'ble Mover of this Motion is not correct to say that the grant provided for the purpose is not adequate and as a result the Forest Department in disposing of the timbers has lost Government revenue.

Sir, immediately after some trees were thrown down by the wind last year, we engaged staff to bark them and the trees which could not be barked in the Kamrup district were disposed of under a certain system which gave us the reasonable price. I am afraid, Sir, the Hon'ble Mover has not cited any instance in which or by which the Government sold timber at a price at which Government ought not to have sold. This is a very vague charge that Government has lost in selling these trees that were not barked by the Department. Therefore, his charge that the provision for the staff is not adequate and his charge that due to the inadequate provision the Government has lost in revenue are absolutely baseless and without any foundation.

Secondly, Sir, he says that there are chances for committing illegalities in other areas and the Forest Department is to instal gates there also. There may be need for many more gates but the provision of Rs.460 is the amount meant for only one gate, and so if Mr. Choudhury would have said that the amount is small for checking illegalities for the gate and more amount of money is necessary in that case there would have been certain foundation or certain basis of his argument. There may be necessity for more gates for which I have not come with any demand. I have come before the House for approval of a little amount which is necessary for installing one gate, i.e., at Boko only. Therefore, in moving this Cut Motion he is not right in saying what he said and so I request him to withdraw his Cut Motion and support my Demand.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Will Mr. Chaudhury withdraw his Motion?

**Shri RADHA CHARAN CHOUDHURY:** If I am assured that Government will take all possible steps to stop illegalities, I have no objection to withdraw my Motion.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** In fact you are asking for more money for this purpose.

**Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister):** The vary fact that we are asking for money for installation of one gate shows that the Department is very keen to check illegalities.

(The Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn).



**Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.12,420 under Supplementary Demand No.3, Major head —10.—Forests, Minor head B. (a)—Conservancy and Works, Sub-head B. (a)—VIII Miscellaneous, at page 2 of the List of Supplementary Demands be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.1,48,974 do stand reduced by Re.1.

My intention of moving this Cut Motion is to discuss the nature of investigations of the economic possibilities for the purpose of improvement of the forest resources of Assam for which a sum of Rs.9,950 has been earmarked as detailed in the Explanatory Note.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** You want to discuss the policy. How can you do that ?

**Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI:** Sir, it is not a question which involves any policy. It is the provision for entertainment of certain officer to do certain things. Sir, the forests of Assam are all there and the possibility of exploring the resources are also there. Therefore I want to say that our Government should have foreseen the need and made necessary provision for making necessary investigation at the time when the Budget was prepared. At this late session of the Assembly, the Forest Minister has now come forward with a Supplementary Demand for entertaining a certain officer to explore the possibility of exploring those resources. Sir, we do not know what useful purpose will be served by the visit of this officer and what fresh possibilities arising in the meantime necessitated the investigations at this belated hour of the year. The reason of my bringing in this Cut Motion is to have some more light on the subject from the Forest Minister, and in case he can satisfy us with his reasons that have necessitated this provision, then of course, I will withdraw my objections.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Cut Motion moved is that the provision of Rs.12,420 under Supplementary Demand No.3, Major head — 10.—Forests, Minor head—B. (a)—Conservancy and Works, Sub-head—B. (a)—VIII Miscellaneous, at page 2 of the List of Supplementary Demands be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.1,48,974 do stand reduced by Re.1.

**Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, from what I have heard from the hon. Mover of this Cut



Motion it appears to me that the hon. Mover wants to know as to why Budget provision was not made for the officer, and secondly, for what reasons his visit to Assam is considered necessary. These are the only two points.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** And who is this officer?

**Shri RAM NATH DAS (Minister):** That is a new point to which I think, I should not reply.

This Government have been trying since 1952 to get an expert from the F. A. O. of the United Nations.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** What is the F. A. O.?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That question is made with a view to test the knowledge of Minister, I cannot allow that question.

**Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister):** It is well known to the Members of this House and also to those outside that this State is full of forest resources and many industries can be built up out of these forest resources. But nobody can undertake to establish any industry merely on the vague knowledge of information about the existence of plenty of raw materials without taking proper stock of these. Therefore some survey with regard to the stock and potentiality of the forest resources is necessary. So we wanted an expert to go into these matters thoroughly. Since 1952 the Government of Assam have been moving the Government of India to help this Government with an expert for this purpose from the F. A. O. But the Government of India was not able to give us fixed time as to when the expert could be sent from the F. A. O., or could be available to us. This is the reason why Government could not make any Budget provision in advance. This year, however, we request for the expert could be complied with this year, and accordingly the expert has already come and joined this Government in the month of August last. Hence this provision has become necessary, and I have now come forward with this Supplementary Demand. Had the intimation from the Government of India regarding the time of arrival of this expert been received before the Budget was framed, then of course the amount could have been provided for in the Budget, and this supplementary provision would not have been at all necessary. We could not make any budget provision because of the fact that the intimation from the Government of India was received rather late,



Sir, I, have been asked to explain two points, viz., why no budget provision has been regularly made for the current year. I have explained that point. The other point is ; why the expert is necessary ; to that also I have replied. Therefore, Sir I would like to request the hon. Mover of this Cut Motion to be pleased with my replies and see his way to withdraw the Cut Motion.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Have you agreed to withdraw your motion.

**Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI:** Yes, Sir.

(The Cut Motion was, by leave of the House withdrawn.)

(The original motion was then put and adopted.)

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Mr. Nichols-Roy to move Supplementary Demand No.4.

### SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No. 4.

#### (11-Registration)

**Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY (Minister):** On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.7,917 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1955, for the administration of the head "11—Registration."

			Rs.
1.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly	..		1,72,400
II.—Supplementary grant voted by the Assembly during July-August 1954 Session.			
Additional amount now required	..		7,919
III.—Sub-head under which the Supplementary grant will be accounted for:—			
	General Rs.	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas Rs.	Total Rs.
A—District charges—			
2. Pay of Establishment	.. 3,000	..	3,000
3. Allowance and Honoraria	3,627	..	3,627
4. Contingencies	.. 1,210	80	1,290
Total	.. 7,837	80	7,917



THE EXPLANATORY NOTES BELOW WILL EXPLAIN  
THE NEED OF THE DEMAND

EXPLANATORY NOTES

A-2. The amount is required due to revised (increased) pay of low-paid Government servants.

3(i) The additional amount of Rs.2,000 is required for (i) opening of a commission-basis Sub-Registry office at Katlicherra (Cachar District) and the proposed opening of another at Ratabari in the district of Cachar.

(ii) Payment of an honorarium of Rs.500 to Sub-Registrar for doing additional work in connection with separation of Assam Records.

(iii) The additional sum of Rs.1,127 is necessary for meeting the additional Travelling Allowances and Dearness Allowances of Sub-Registry Offices as mentioned at 3 (i) above.

4. The additional amount is required for:—

(i) to pay the house rent of the Dhing Sub-Registry Office building for 1953-54. The amount provided was surrendered as the same could not be paid due to certain correspondence going on with the owner of the house for repair, etc.

(ii) to meet the cost of binding of some old registers and indexes.

(iii) to purchase furniture for more extra writers entertained to clear up arrears work.

(iv) to make local purchase of stationery articles due to non-receipt of indented stationery articles.

(v) to meet the increased cost of remittance of registration receipts which are increasing.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Motion moved is:

That an additional sum of Rs.7,917 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1955 for the administration of the head "11—Registration."

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

(At this stage, the Speaker vacated the Chair, and the Deputy Speaker occupied it.)

**SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No.5.**

**(12-Charges on account of Motor Vehicles Taxation Act).**

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister):** On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.30,000 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March,



1955 for the administration of the head "12.—Charges on account of Motor Vehicles Taxation Act."

	Rs.
I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly ..	13,41,100
II.—Additional grant voted by the Assembly ...	51,500
in the July 1954 Session.	
Additional grant now required ..	30,000
III.—Sub-head under which the additional grant will be accounted for—	

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
A.—Charges for collection ..	30,000	..	30,000

The explanatory notes given below explain the need of this demand.

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

The demand of Rs.5,000 is for T. A. of officers and is due to increased touring and transfer of District Transport Officers and frequent R. T. A and Appellate Boards' meetings to maintain administrative efficiency.

The provision of Rs.43,000 under other non-contract Contingencies is insufficient so much so that another provision of Rs.25,000 is considered essential. It was estimated when the Budget was framed that 8 Motor Cycles for Enforcement Staff would cost Rs.25,000 but now it appears that the price has since gone up and these will cost more than Rs.40,000. Over and above, petrol prices and insurance charges will also account for another Rs.10,000 which will have to be provided for. Hence an additional grant of Rs.25,000 is considered essential.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is:

That an additional sum of Rs.30,000 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1955 for the administration of the head "12.—Charges on account of Motor Vehicles Taxation Act."

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** I beg to move that the provision of Rs.30,000 under Supplementary Demand No.5, Major head—12. Charges on account of Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, Sub-head—A—Charges for collection at page 5 of the list of Supplementary Demands, be refused, i.e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.30,000 do stand refused.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the Explanatory Note the sum has been split up in two parts. Rs.5,000 for T. A. of officers and is due to increased touring and transfer of District Transport Officers and frequent R. T. A. and Appellate Boards meetings to maintain administrative efficiency; and another Rs.15,000 due to the rise of price of motor cycles which we wanted to purchase for the Enforcement Staff and Rs.10,000 for other accounts.



Sir, first of all, about the R. T. A. of whose efficiency we have grave doubts, I beg to say that R. T. A.s are not functioning well and even this Rs.5,000 will not in any way increase their efficiency. About the District Transport Officers also, we have seen that there are various serious allegations made against them from districts of Darrang, Nowgong, etc. In the last session of the Assembly, I brought a question about certain cases made against some District Transport Officers, but I do not know what has happened to that.

We hear from people speaking frequently that these District Transport Officers indulge in various malpractices and corruption and the people's confidence in them is daily falling. So, Sir, if we are to have the confidence of these people on these officers, Rs.5,000 will not be enough. It is necessary to have an overhaul check of the whole thing to look into the roots of these allegations and if necessary, to change them.

Secondly, about the R. T. A. itself, recently there was a very important case in the Hon. High Court of Assam at Gauhati where certain serious allegations were brought against the R. T. A., Dibrugarh, namely, the allegation of taking bribes and illegal gratification. The Hon. High Court did not go through those charges under Article 226. But the Hon. High Court had to go for other confidential records of the Officer concerned, and if I remember well, the judgement delivered by His Lordship the Chief Justice was this: "It would have been better to change the personnel of the R. T. A. Boards, because they are not above suspicion." So, Sir, up till now this has not been done and these are the people who are carrying on still. What I want to say is that even allegations were made before Hon. High Court against these officers. I do not know how far these are true, but these allegations are there.

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Are these allegations proved?

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** I have not said that these are proved.

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister):** Sir, when those members are absent here can the hon. Member say these things?

**Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Are they proved facts?

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** I am stating only facts and allegations made in affidavit.



**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister):** Sir, my hon. Friend was also present in that case.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Yes, I was defending the Government. These are public property and documents; therefore, I am entitled to repeat what was said there.

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister):** Sir, the hon. Member is going astray. He is criticising the members of the R. T. A. who are not here and alleging that they are taking bribes, etc., but they are not here, how can they give any reply?

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** How can they be here — these are allegations against them. There is also an *obiter dicta* of the High Court. There was another case in Lower Assam where the High Court has stated that as the State Transport Organisation was not brought into being by proper legislation, therefore, the Government was not entitled to have monopoly over the Dhubri-Jagighopa Road and if the Dhubri-Bilasipara Bus Association applied for permit where the High Court has stated that if they would apply in proper form, the R. T. A. should consider it. They applied accordingly and the R. T. A. took advantage of a particular section—Section 58 of the Motor Vehicles Act and their application was not considered.

(Here the Speaker re-entered the Chamber).

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister)** I think there is a statutory provision in this connection, and this matter perhaps can be brought in proper form to the Appellate Board.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** But, Sir, when appeals are not preferred are we debarred from discussing these things here? Unless I develop my arguments, it is wrong for the Minister on that side to interrupt. Sir, the R. T. A. should have published all these things in the Gazette, but they did not. But the R. T. A. should have firstly published all these notifications in the Gazette. These R. T. As. have created so many irregularities and difficulties, they should be whipped up. Prompt actions should have been taken against these R. T. As. Sir, in North Gauhati there is no State Transport bus, there are private buses. These private buses are so badly maintained and



the conditions of certain buses are so bad and so inferior to the standard maintained by the State Transport that they should be removed but instead these buses were given permits to ply on the road. These things, Sir, should be looked into. Sir, if we really want good system of communication, good system of bus service, then it is necessary not only to give attention to the State Transport Organisation but to these buses also. But what we have seen, the R. T. As. have given permits to such buses to ply on the road and some of the buses stop on the road, some are carrying overloading, etc., all these things are brought to their notice, but nothing happens, no action is taken. We have seen that people who commit offence, even their permits are renewed. So, Sir, my whole point is that this sum of Rs. 5,000 is really nothing, and with this amount we cannot maintain the efficiency; efficiency should be through supervision and action of the officers of the Department.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Mr. Goswami, it seems you have gone too far as to criticise the whole policy of the Government.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI :** It is said that a sum of Rs. 5,000 is necessary for maintaining the efficiency of the Department.

Then, Sir, I am coming to another point and what is really unfortunate is that we want to purchase 8 motor cycles for the Enforcement Staff at a cost of Rs. 25,000. Now the price has gone up to Rs. 40,000 and we will have to pay Rs. 15,000 more. Sir, if we really wanted to purchase the 8 motor cycles, why order was not placed immediately and delivery taken immediately and why should we pay now another sum of Rs. 15,000 ?

**Mr. SPEAKER :** 'Debates on supplementary and excess grants are restricted to the particulars, contained in the estimates on which these grants are sought and the application of the items which compose these grants and the debate cannot touch the policy or the expenditure sanctioned on other heads by the estimate on which the original grant was obtained except, so far as such policy or expenditure is brought before the committee by the items contained in the supplementary or excess grants'

Mr. Goswami, I think under these restrictions you cannot touch the subject.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI :** I am saying that a sum of Rs. 5,000 or if even more cannot maintain the efficiency.



**Mr. SPEAKER:** Whether this amount is due to more travelling and more checking?

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister)** The members of the R. T. As. and the Appellate Board are to hold meetings and sittings frequently.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Whether these meetings are necessary and the travellings are necessary or not, I shall be obliged if Mr. Goswami will not criticise the Government policy.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** I have finished that point, whether I am allowed to speak or not—what I have said I have said. I am speaking about efficiency.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** You cannot discuss the question of policy whether the man is honest or dishonest.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** My cut motion is that this whole thing should be refused, because these are not done properly.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Cut Motion moved is that the provision of Rs. 30,000 under Supplementary Demand No.5, Major head 12—Charges on account of Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, Sub-head—A Charges for collection, at page 5 of the List of Supplementary Demands, be refused, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole supplementary demand of Rs. 30,000 do stand refused.

The House stands adjourned till 2 P. M.

### Adjournment

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

*(After Lunch)*

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, this supplementary demand is split up into three parts, Rs. 3,000 for Travelling Allowance Rs. 25,000 for purchasing motor cycles and Rs. 10,000 for other accounts. Now, Sir, I shall deal with purchases of motor cycles first. Sir, the last date for submitting a schedule for the budget of the current year is before the end of October. So, the Department in submitting the schedule considered the price prevailing at the time and the budget was placed for consideration of the House in March last and passed in the session. So, in submitting a schedule, quotations for the price are generally called for and it is long before the preparation of the schedule for the budget. So, it is well over a year or more. Now, when the Department called for the quotations for the price of 8 motor cycles, 4 B.S.A. cycles with side cars, 4 Norton cycles with side cars will cost Rs. 37,740. The transport charge is approximately Rs. 800



sales-tax is Rs.2,358-12-0. Thus the actual cost will come to Rs.50,899-12-0. The details can only be ascertained after calling for the quotations at the time of the purchase under the rate contract through the Director, Supplies and Disposals, Government of India. The price for the current year appears to be higher than that of the last year. This demand is therefore necessary because the original provision was only for Rs. 25,000.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Why have the prices gone up ?

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister):** It is difficult for me to say. The prices of motor vehicles have gone up because the Government of India have only given licenses to certain firms for selling transport vehicles who have taken up construction programme in India. The Department probably will have to pay Rs.4,000 more for each vehicle this year. The Government of India probably desire that vehicles should be constructed in India and stop indent from foreign country.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** You mean they have restricted the import ?

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister):** Yes, Sir. The Government of India probably want to encourage the dealers who have construction programme in India. The Government purchases are made through the Director of Supplies and Disposals through rate contract, if available, even then the price will come up to this. Another sum of Rs. 10,000 is provided under head, miscellaneous charges. This is for payment of petrol prices, maintenance, etc. It was thought originally that some allowance should be given to the officers to meet the petrol charges, repair charges of the vehicles like our Ministers' vehicles but afterwards it was found that the officers may not undertake necessary tours in order to save money out of such allowances. It is the intention of the Government that the vehicles should be used for checking purposes constantly or daily and the vehicles should be maintained properly, but for want of petrol or for proper repair tours for checking should not be curtailed. It is the intention that the officer should be on duty every day. This is the reason why we propose to maintain the vehicles at Government expenses and also to supply petrol, etc., at Government expenses. So, this item was included and for this reason the amount is necessary.



**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI**: Has there been any corresponding deduction on the other side ?

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister)**: Yes, Sir, no allowance will be provided for petrol and repairs, etc., for vehicle. When the Government will supply petrol, for repairs, etc., the officer will not get any allowance on these accounts. So, Sir, cost of 8 motor cycles will be Rs.37,740, transport charges will be Rs.800. sales-tax at Rs. 2,358-12-0, petrol, etc., at Rs.10, 000. So the total amount comes to Rs. 50,898-12-0. Therefore this Supplementary Demand is necessary.

There is another point, Sir, to which I propose to reply. As regards the Travelling Allowance for the R. T. A. and Appellate Board's Members, etc., my Friend, Mr. Goswami, has referred to certain extraneous matters. Probably he would not have raised these matters unless he is interested in them. Probably, one of the near relatives of a Member sitting behind him was involved in the matter and had been affected by it. Sr, he refused to it.

It is known to all Members and specially to the Leader of the Opposition that the transport activities have very much increased in the State. Secondly, every Member desires that there should be constant checking with a view to overloading and other affairs. Then again offences have also increased. During the current year about 600 cases were filed in the Shillong Court alone. Some of them have been recently disposed of and others are still pending. Then again as soon as the construction of a new road is finished or even before it is finished, there are demands for a new route and the R. T. A. are to hold their meetings at short intervals to dispose such matters. Due to the frequency of their meetings the expenses on their halting and travelling have similarly increased. Lastly, Sir, the High Court has recently given a ruling that every applicant for a permit is entitled to a hearing. Formerly the R. T. A. did not give hearing to all the applications ; most of them were disposed of summarily. But now since the ruling of the High Court the R. T. A. have to give hearing to every applicant and his representative. Therefore their sittings have necessarily increased resulting in larger expenditure on the travelling and halting allowances of the members. Formerly the R. T. A. held their meetings for a day or two at a time, but now they have to sit for 6 or 7 days continuously to give hearing to hundreds of applications. So is the case with the appeals. An appeal which can be disposed of within 10 or 15 minutes will take 1½ or 2 hours. My Friend, the Leader of the Opposition, will bear me out when I say that he himself appeared



in a case and argued for 1½ hours or more which he probably could have finished in 15 minutes or so.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** I was citing a High Court ruling.

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister):** Yes, Sir. He cited the High Court ruling, and he cited so many relevant rulings and things. So, it took longer hours for giving them hearing than before. It will, therefore, be seen that the Board has to sit longer period than expected to hear some of the eminent lawyers like my Friends, Shri Goswami, Shri Radhika Das (*Loud Laughter*), and other eminent lawyers. So, Sir, the Appellate Board has very often to extend the period of hearing by a day or so than fixed originally.

Then again formerly there were very few appeals. Now, every person who is refused a permit will file an appeal and if the appeal is disallowed or rejected, he will file review petition and that too not only for once but for several times. So, the Appellate Board is to give a hearing to all such appeals and review petitions which are often moved by eminent lawyers. For all these reasons mentioned above, the R. T. A. and Appellate Board sit frequently or for longer period than expected and hence the Travelling Allowance and halting allowance of the R. T. A. and the Appellate Board members will be more than before. Hence for this Supplementary Demand.

Then reference was made that some members of the R. T. A., Upper Assam, are corrupt and Government have not taken steps to remove them as yet.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** How do these come?

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister):** Mr. Goswami made certain references to this matter. So a reply is necessary because those Members are not in the House.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** All that I said is that in the High Court as well as outside these allegations were made, not that those allegations were proved or disproved. When those allegations have been made we have to see that those against whom the allegations are made remain above suspicion.

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister):** Sir, no action can be taken or should be taken on mere allegation or on suspicion unless such allegations are proved. He has also stated that those members are not efficient and so on and so forth. Sir, I am not a supporter of corruption. Even when an anonymous letter is received by me, I at once send it to the Anti-Corruption Department for inquiry and report or the matter is enquired into departmentally although Government may not take notice of such letters. With a view to explain the actual



position to the House, I propose to read out relevant portion from the High Court judgment itself, because lot of mis-understanding has arisen unnecessary propaganda was made. I am reading from the High Court judgment :

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI :** Relevant portion, please.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** But there is no relevancy in that.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI :** There is relevancy.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** It has relevancy to tourings and transfers. I do not understand how it is relevant to this particular matter.

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) :** "The petitioners happened to be holders of permits standing in their names for plying Stage Carriage Buses on different routes. The permits according to the case of the petitioners were due to expire in August, 1953 and the petitioners therefore applied for renewal of their permits. All such applications were admittedly placed for hearing by the Regional Transport Authority between the 24th and 28th of August, 1953. The case of the petitioners is that their applications were actually heard on 27th August, 1953 when they learnt that five of the members had already been influenced by extraneous considerations and had taken bribes. They had thus become incompetent to hear those cases. The petitioners therefore filed an application on that very day making definite allegations against these members about the charges of bribery. They had at first lodged a verbal complaint but at the direction of the Deputy Commissioner, they followed it up with a written petition. A counter-affidavit has been filed by the Secretary of the Regional Transport Authority and in the affidavit, it has been stated that the cases of the petitioners were actually heard on the 26th August and not on the 27th as alleged by them and it was only when adverse orders came to be passed against them that they came out with allegations of bribery or corrupt practices against some of the members of the Regional Transport Authority. It would have been very desirable to maintain minutes of the proceedings of the Regional Transport Authority in order to show when these cases were actually taken up by that body ; but we see no adequate reason to discard the statement on affidavit made by the Secretary against whom there is no specific adverse allegation levelled by the petitioners. We accordingly



hold that these cases were actually heard on the 26th August, 1953 while the petition containing allegations of corruption was filed a day after on the 27th. As one would have expected, the allegations made by the petitioners were referred for enquiry to the Criminal Investigation Department. In the meantime, the petitioners also filed an application before the Chairman, State Transport Authority (that is, before me) for stay of the operation of the orders of the Regional Transport Authority. The Chairman, who is also the Minister-in-Charge, on the 9th September, 1953, directed stay of proceedings. He also called for a report from the Criminal Investigation Department and the Anti-Corruption Department on the allegations made in the petition after due investigation. Some other petitions to the same effect were filed on 16th September, 1953 and 5th November, 1953 asking that the appeal preferred in the meantime before the Appellate Authority should be kept pending until the investigation of those charges. On the 23rd November, 1953, the Chairman of the State Transport Authority ultimately passed orders discharging the interim stay which had been granted earlier and directing the appeals to be heard and disposed of by the Appellate Authority. The order shows that the Chairman duly considered the allegations made in the various petitions, the report of the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur, and also the report of the Inspector (C. I. D.) by the latter and also the report of the Deputy Superintendent of Police, in-charge of the Anti-Corruption Branch, dated 18th November, 1953. After considering all these materials, the Chairman held that the complaints had not been substantiated, the witnesses were interested in the grant of permits and such persons as were unsuccessful in that attempt put forward charges of bribery against some of the members. He, therefore, felt that the evidence was of an interested character and he could not act upon that evidence alone. In his opinion, no further action on those petitions was called for and he therefore discharged the stay order and directed the appeals to be heard. *Prima facie*, the order is a well-considered one."

Sir, this is the sum and substance of the allegations. The Anti-Corruption Department reported that the allegations were not substantiated and the Deputy Commissioner also reported in the same way. When the matter came up before the High Court, the Government could have withheld certain papers. But in this case every bit of papers and the recorded evidence were submitted to the High Court along with the reports of the Anti-Corruption Branch and of the Deputy Commissioner.



I consulted the Chief Minister and the Chief Secretary and we decided that for fair judgment of the case everything should be submitted to the High Court for consideration and accordingly it was done and I read out the portion of judgment of the High Court. So, my comment is unnecessary. As regard these members, against whom allegations were made, could have been discharged or new members could have been appointed in their place. I shall read out certain observations made by the High Court on this point also. It run as follows :—

“We quite appreciate that the Regional Transport Authority or the State Transport Authority are quasi-judicial bodies and in the interest of maintaining the confidence of the public, the members of these bodies should conduct themselves with absolute fairness and impartiality. It would have been far more desirable to constitute another Regional Transport Authority to decide these cases when serious allegations or charges had been made against some members of that Body. Even if some of the members of such Bodies carry with them an ill repute that should be enough to disqualify them from sitting on such Bodies. But it appears that here, the allegations were made after the decision had been given and therefore possibly the authorities had no occasion to take steps to supersede that Body which had already decided the matter. These observations, therefore, have been made by us merely for guidance in future.”

Sir, this is the observation made by the High Court in this regard.

The petitioners had a right of appeal and they therefore filed appeals but in those appeal petitions no ground was taken or argued on this particular allegations of bribery, etc. I can produce all the appeal petitions before the House to show that no ground to that effect was taken not even mentioned in argument. I do not remember whether my Friend, Mr. Goswami, appeared in these appeals but several lawyers appeared and argued.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** No, Sir, I did not appear.

**Shri SHDDHINATH SARMA (Minister):** In these appeals no mention of such allegation was made, nor was any argument made by any pleader. So, Sir, Appellate Board has no occasion to consider these allegations.

If certain interested persons come and make certain allegation against some members of the R. T. A., can any action be taken against them without any proof, or will the House advise me to take action against those members unless the allegations are proved? Then, Sir, who are the persons who made these allegations? They are those



who could not succeed in getting permits and then the allegations were made after the decision of the R. T. A. was made known to them. In appeals filed there were no mention of those allegations and these were even not argued in appeal. How can any action be taken under the circumstances?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Did he file any affidavit along with the appeal?

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister):** No, Sir, I can produce all the appeal petitions before the House and no mention was made there about these allegations. One of the appellants who filed an appeal, approached me in my residence. I asked him not to come to my residence but to see me in my office. He told me that he made the allegations at the instigation of some people and he should not be punished for the same. I told him that I did not like to give him an interview at my residence because since he has filed an appeal he might make the same allegations against me also. So, I asked him to go and see me in my office. I, therefore, leave it to the House to judge whether the members of the R. T. A. should be removed on these unfounded allegations. There are 14 members, against 5 of whom allegations were made. Some of them are lawyers and one of the members, newly nominated, was in the last two R. T. A. Boards. He is from Jorhat and not a single complaint was received against him except this. I did not select these members alone. I consulted the Chief Minister and some of my colleagues also. There was no allegation against any of these members before or even after this incident. Moreover, Sir, the term of membership is for a period of 3 years and probably they have completed nearly 2 years. It is also doubtful whether they can be removed under the Motor Vehicles Act on mere allegations unless certain allegations are proved against them.

Then, Sir, as regards the R. T. A., Lower Assam, I have not been able to follow my Friend. He said that the R. T. A., Gauhati, created a condition for contempt of Court.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Why did you say that, Mr. Goswami? How a condition for contempt of Court was created?

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** What happened is this: in the case of Dhubri-Bilasipara-Chapor Bus Association, the High Court in its judgment said that if they made proper applications, these should be taken into consideration by the



R. T. A. But although they applied in time and although, according to High Court's order, their applications should have been considered, the R. T. A. did not consider them on the plea that applications were not published in the Gazette. But it was the duty of the R. T. A. to publish them. In that way it is considered contempt of Court.

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister):** But, against every order of the R. T. A. there is right of appeal. If any party is aggrieved by any action of the R. T. A., they have got a right of appeal or bring the matter before the S. T. A. by an application to the effect. It is not possible to take any action unless an appeal is filed against an order of the R. T. A. or bring it to the notice of the S. T. A. for its redress. If anybody is aggrieved by an order of the R. T. A., he can at once file an appeal and pray for a stay order or file an application before the proper authority for redress. That could be done. No action is possible unless the matter is brought to the notice of the appropriate authority by appropriate procedure laid down in Motor Vehicles Act and the rules made thereunder.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Mr. Goswami's point is that the High Court directed them to do certain things in a certain manner and they did not obey and the R. T. A. rejected the case because their names were not published preliminarily. There was, therefore, no contempt. The R. T. A. was willing to obey the orders of the High Court.

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister):** Certainly, Sir. As I was saying, Sir, for any order, legal or illegal, of the R. T. A., the aggrieved party has a right of appeal. The aggrieved party in certain matters bring matter to the notice of S. T. A. by an application. There is no other remedy except this. Then, Sir, I admit, more checking is necessary. I have already stated that for checking we propose to appoint 8 officers of the Inspector's rank and 8 constables.

Steps are being taken to appoint the enforcement squad at an early date. At present it is not possible for D. T. Os. to go out frequently for checking because they are to work in their offices. As checking is necessary, the Secretary, S. T. A., has ordered the D. T. Os. to go out checking only on Sundays and holidays as it is not possible for them to go out on working days as their absence from office will cause inconvenience to motor vehicle owners and others. In every district mobile Court is



sent for checking transports at suitable intervals. I know personally that on one day several cases were detected in the Gauhati-Palasbari Road and approximately Rs.2,000 or so was realised as fine. Government have been taking all possible steps to stop illegal traffic. If my Friend knows of any instance of corruption, he should bring it to the notice of the Government and necessary action will be taken. I got one anonymous letter which also I sent for enquiry, a copy of which was sent to Shri Hareswar Goswami also. I think I have explained all the points raised by Shri Goswami.

With these words, I would request the hon. Leader of the Opposition to withdraw his Cut Motion.

**Mr. SPEAKER** : Are you going to withdraw your Cut Motion ?

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI** : No, Sir.

**Mr. SPEAKER** : The question is: That the provision of Rs.30,000 under Supplementary Demand No.5, Major head—12.—Charges on account of Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, Sub-head—A.—Charges for collection, at page 5 of the List of Supplementar Demands be refused, i. e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.30,000 do not refuse.

(The Motion was lost).

**Mr. SPEAKER** : The question is that an additional sum of Rs.30,000 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1955 for the administration of the head "12.—Charges on account of Motor Vehicles Taxation Act".

(The question was adopted).

## SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No.6

### (68-B—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage)

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister)** : On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional sum of Rs.64,75,050 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in



course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1955 for the administration of the head "18-B and 68-B—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage".

I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly	Rs. 1,20,82,000
II.—Grant voted by the Assembly during July-August 1954 Session.	
Additional amount now required	64,75,050
III.—Sub-head under which the Supplementary Grant will be accounted for—	

Normal	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
18-B.—N. E. D. Works financed from Ordinary Revenues—			
A. Works ... ..	2,50,000	...	2,50,000
C. Maintenance and repairs	1,36,000	...	1,36,000
68-B.—N. E. D. Works financed from Capital Revenues.			
(1) Productive works.	1,00,000	..	1,00,000
(2) Maintenance and repair for Food Bonus and G. M. F. Schemes.	2,57,950	...	2,57,950
(3) Maintenance and repairs of unproductive works.	2,54,600	...	2,54,600
(4) Maintenance and repairs	6,500	...	6,500
(5) Maintenance and repairs for Schemes for improvement of Scarcity Areas.	75,000	...	75,000
Total—Normal	10,80,050	...	10,80,050
(Development Schemes Five-Year Plan).			
18-B.—N. E. D.—A. 2 Works	1,50,000	...	1,50,000
68-B.—N. E. D.—G. M. F. Schemes—Major Irrigation Schemes—Scheme for improvement of Scarcity Areas.	13,30,000	30,000	13,60,000
Unproductive Works—Addl. Minor Irrigation Scheme	38,85,000	...	38,85,000
Total—Dev. Schemes (5-yr.)	53,65,000	30,000	53,95,000
Grand Total ... ..	64,45,050	30,000	64,75,050

Sir, the matter is explained in the Explanatory Notes given below.



## EXPLANATORY NOTES

Normal—

18-B.—N. E. D.—A.—For details please see Appendix 'A' at page 64.

C.—The recent abnormal and unprecedented flood overtopped most of the embankments and bunds. This has resulted in the heavy breaches and extensive damages to the existing bunds and embankment and as such restoration of the damages is imperative for which heavy expenditure is necessary. This heavy expenditure for flood damages could not be foreseen at the time of preparation of current year's budget. Hence the Supplementary Demand.

68-B.—N. E. D.—

(1) Please see Appendix 'A' at page 64.

(2)—(5) As under 18-B.—N. E. D.

Development Schemes (Five-Year Plan).

For details please see Appendix 'A' at page 65-72.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The Motion moved is that an additional sum of Rs.64,75,050 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head "18-B and 68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage".

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.2,50,000 under Supplementary Demand No.6, Major head—18-B and 68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage, Minor head—18-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works financed from Ordinary Revenues, Sub-head A.—Works at page 6 of the List of Supplementary Demands be reduced by Re.1, i. e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.64,75,050 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, my purpose in moving this Cut Motion is to point out that in the Appendix certain items have been given and certain projects are proposed to be undertaken for repairs as well as for new projects, but I am sorry to say that here some important projects have been omitted, as for instance, we know of erosion of many places.

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) :** Palasbari is omitted.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI :** I will not speak of Palasbari. Tarabari in Barpeta Subdivision has been badly washed away, similarly, out of 38 villages 31 villages in Nitai Panidihing have been completely washed away. In Goalpara also there is great erosion.



**Shri BIMALA KANTA BORA:** Not from Nowgong?

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** I do not personally know, if there is any they should be included.

So also in Niyamatighat there is erosion and people there are constructing a bund to stop the heavy flood water. These places are not included, so I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister as to what steps he is taking to prevent the erosion.

Now, I am coming to my own constituency as I am constituency conscious also. The Bund that was constructed from Palasbari to Simna has got some gaps in Khukuria.

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS:** Money has been provided for that. It is Rs.2 lakhs and 55 thousand.

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister):** It can be seen at page 64 of the list of Supplementary Demands. Even Pahumara is there.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** It may be there, but I have not been able to find it out. If it is there it is all right and this is one of the points of raising this discussion.

Not only that should be repaired but the embankment there runs the risk of being washed away and it may not be able to stop the flood unless this is raised also.

Secondly, it should be extended upto Gumi. In this connection, I may also refer that the Gumi Bund itself has been damaged and there is no provision to have it repaired and if the repair is not done, in that case some villages will be always under water. Unless this is done, money spent already there will be wasted and thereby the people will suffer.

With these few words, I beg to move the Cut Motion and hope the House will accept it.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Cut Motion moved is that the provision of Rs.2,50,000 under Supplementary Demand No.6, Major head—18B and 68B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage, Minor head—18B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works financed from Ordinary Revenues, Sub-head A.—Works at page 6 of the List of Supplementary Demands be reduced by Re.1 i. e., the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.64,75,050 do stand reduced by Re.1.



**Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Goswami has already pointed out that there have been acute erosions in various parts of the State by the Brahmaputra and in the Explanatory Note in support of the Supplementary Demand it is stated that a few of the existing Bunds and embankments which have been damaged need repairs and also to protect some places from erosion.

Now, Sir, it may not be possible to take up too many projects at a time but what I want to know from Government is whether they are fully conscious of the serious damages in other places of the State and whether they are going to take steps to protect such places as well.

Of course I do not grudge Sualkuchi being protected for which they have estimated a sum of Rs.4 lakhs. Similarly there are other places, e.g., Goalpara town. The Finance Minister himself has admitted the urgency of protecting the Goalpara town in his statement on the flood situation. Then again, what has caused the biggest devastation in the State is the Ai river in the district of Goalpara. Sir, my Friend, Mr. Naranarayan Goswami, was speaking about the Pahumara. Pahumara is included also in the list of projects covered by this demand. If Pahumara can be included, then why not Ai? Our river is not Pahumara but it is 'Manuhmara'. This river has caused tremendous devastations in the area. Both the Public Works Department Minister and also the Finance Minister have themselves seen the devastations caused by this highly turbulent river. It is absolutely unthinkable what heavy devastations have been caused by the floods of this river. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take immediate preventive steps to stop heavy devastations which may be caused by this river in future. This river breached the railway line during the first flood. After this breach was bridged and communication restored, the railway line was again breached during the subsequent floods. This has stopped transport of essential commodities from Calcutta and thereby causing immense difficulties to our people. I, therefore, want to know what steps Government have taken to put a stop to these repeated ravages of the river and to find out the remedial measures that can be taken and also urge upon the Government to give the highest priority to this matter. Otherwise, I can assure the House hereafter. Because due to peculiar behaviour of this river due to subterranean disturbances or other natural causes tremendous land-slides have taken place in the upper reaches of the river which brought down not only earth but thousands of animals



and trees also causing enormous losses and damages in the lower reaches. Therefore, I draw pointed attention of the Government so that they may take some immediate steps. I want an assurance from the Minister-in-charge that this river will receive the urgent consideration of Government.

With these words, Sir, I support the Cut Motion moved by my Friend, Mr. Goswami.

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, both my Friends, Shri Hareswar Goswami, Maulavi Umaruddin Saheb, have referred in their speeches to certain omissions and commissions in the scheme. Without dealing specially with these omissions and commissions, I propose to make certain general observations as regards the steps Government have been undertaking and propose to undertake in regard to our schemes.

Sir, the Government of India has sanctioned recently a River Investigation Circle in our State in order to investigate into the flood conditions of all the rivers in Assam. There will be a River Investigation Circle under a Superintending Engineer and under him there will be 4 Divisions at present. In case necessity arises there will be two more divisions under him. It has been decided to bring one Chief Engineer from the Centre who is considered to be an expert in Embankment and Drainage Works, etc. Government of India have assured us to have the aerea survey of the Brahmaputra river where necessary. These officers will take up flood protection work in the State as early as possible. First of all, of course, they will take up works in Dibrugarh and Palasbari and other important places which have been affected badly by erosion of the Brahmaputra river.

The difficulties in taking up the works immediately are many. They are mainly these: Want of trained personnel to take up survey work and other works. This is why many of the schemes intended to be taken up have not yet been able to start. We are, however, not sitting idle in the matter and are taking up all possible means to do away with the problem of shortage of officers. First of all, we approached the Education Minister of Assam to lend us the students of the Gauhati Engineering School to help us in the matter of survey work of a number of projects that require immediate survey. In response to our request, the Education Minister was kind enough to lend us the services of 90 students of the Engineering School to help us in survey works of certain important schemes. After completion of the survey, plans and estimates will have to be made and funds have to be



provided for. In order to enable the students of the Engineering School, to take up the work this year, the school authority has kindly agreed to hold their annual examination one and a half month later than the usual time. These boys will start work from November next. The Department have also started a training Centre for survey work where as many as 80 students, under-graduates, I.Sc.s and Matriculates, have been receiving training for survey and other works.

We have now about 200 sanctioned posts of which about 170 posts are lying vacant for want of officers. So far we have been able to get only about 30 or 40 officers from outside.

Without necessary data, no work can be taken up. The data have to be collected and then only the works can be taken up. Again there are some projects for which finance have to be provided for. This also takes some time.

Dearth of qualified engineers is the main problem not only in Assam but also in other States. Recently I had been to Delhi where I had the opportunity to meet the Public Works Department Ministers of other States of the Union. From my talk with them I could gather that they have been also facing this problem. Only in Mysore, Madras, Andhra and Punjab this problem is not so acute. Bihar also is short of trained engineers. This will give you some idea as to how difficult it has become to get trained engineering personnel. Without trained personnel it is not possible to expedite work.

In the last Embankment and Drainage Committee meeting some important decisions were taken. The Committee have given some priority on certain projects, and the Department is to proceed on the basis of their recommendations. Due to the recent floods, certain projects require priority and necessary steps have been taken to execute them. For that purpose necessary plans and estimates are being prepared and have been included in the Supplementary Demand. Regarding some other projects, the Department will require more time to prepare plan and estimate, etc., after surveys are finished. Unless that is done, it will not be possible to come for funds.

Goalpara project has been included in our schemes and steps are being taken by the Department as advised by the Chairman of the Central Water and Power Commission. Mr. Umaruddin has mentioned about erosion by Brahmaputra at Goalpara Town. So, after the completion of necessary preliminary steps, the work will be taken up as early as possible during the current year. Steps are being taken for protection of Dibrugarh, Palasbari and Soalkuchi.



All the rivers, *viz.*, Ai, Manas, Pagladia, Bharalia, have their origin in the Bhutan Hills in the north. There is no data before us for these rivers. Probably the hon. Members are aware that although some data are available for Manas, further investigation is necessary in Bhutan. But it has not yet been possible to persuade as yet the Bhutan Government to allow us to do so.

The Chairman, Central Water and Power Commission, has given Embankment and Drainage Department certain advice to take steps to control the flood of the Brahmaputra. At present there is a proposal to take up embankment of about 216 miles along the bank of the Brahmaputra in different Districts to stop spills. Accordingly, it has been decided to take up survey works immediately. Survey will take about one and half or two months. Then again, some time will be required in preparing the plan and estimates. As soon as these things are completed, then funds will have to be arranged and then only work can be started.

Sir, the steps have already been taken to stop erosion of Bilasipara town. As regards Gumni Bund, I should like to say that it will be an extension project of the former Bund. Last year, the Department could not spend the entire amount allotted for the purpose, as such the work will continue in the current year, and if additional fund is necessary, steps will be taken to provide it.

As regards Nitai-Panidihing Bund, I cannot say anything off-hand as to what steps are being taken by the Department. Necessary information will be given to hon. Members from Sibsagar by the officers concerned.

Sir, I think, I have explained all the points raised by my Friends in the Opposition. We are not worrying much about finance in order to implement the schemes. The main factor that stands on our way is the dearth of technical personnel and secondly collection of materials, such as, stone for revetment, piles, etc. The engineers who have come to Assam from outside are not also willing to stay here for a longer period, because they have got enough jobs in their own respective States. Only 33 Assistant Engineers came recently from outside the Province. But as a matter of fact, there are 150 or 170 more vacancies.

With these words, Sir, I would request the hon. Mover of the cut motion to withdraw his motion.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Mr. Goswami, will you withdraw your motion ?



**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Yes, Sir.

(The cut motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.)

(The original motion was, then put as a question from the Chair and was adopted).

## SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND No.7

### (25 General Administration)

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in moving Supplementary Demand No.7, I do not propose to move for the present the sum of Rs.36,700, that is, instead of Rs.3,71,496, I am going to move Rs.3,34,796. I will give the reason after I move till that figure is reduced accordingly. So, Sir, I will move the motion and state the reason why I propose to move like this.

On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs.3,34,796 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st March, 1955 for the administration of the head "25.—General Administration."

I.—Grant originally voted by the Assembly ..	Rs. 72,97,800
II.—Supplementary grant voted by the Assembly during July-August, 1954 Session. ...	2,07,154
Additional amount now required. ...	3,71,496
III.—Sub-head under which the Supplementary grant will be accounted for—	

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
A.—8—Ministers ..	30,000	..	30,000
B.—State Legislature—			
1.—Legislative Assembly—			
Contingencies ..	5,000	..	5,000
2.—State Legislature Secretariat—			
Contingencies ...	10,000	...	10,000
D.—Secretariat and Headquarters—			
Establishment.—1 (a)—Civil Secretariat—			
1. Pay of Officers ..	40,000	..	40,000
2. Pay of Establishment ..	70,000	...	70,000
3. Allowances and Honoraria	55,000	...	55,000



## (b).—Publicity Department—

	General	Sixth Schedule (Part A) Areas	Total
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Publicity ..	78,000	..	78,000
(c).—Directorate of Statistics	41,139	..	41,139

## F.—District Administration—

## 1. General Establishment—

6.—Post-War Reconstruction	1,772	..	1,772
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## G.—Works—

(a).—Original works	...	3,885	3,885
Total ...	3,30,911	3,885	3,34,796

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

A—8—(Rs.25,000)—Due to increased number of tours by the Parliamentary Secretaries, Personal Assistants and staff of the Ministers and Deputy Ministers. (Rs.5,000)—increased expenditure on pay of establishment due to re-employment of one former Grade I Stenographer and grant of higher scales of pay to low paid Government servants.

## B—State Legislature—

(1) The Additional amount of Rs.5,000 is required for payment of some bills connected with the repair and other miscellaneous charges of the State Car allotted to the Speaker. The amount has already been advanced from the Contingency Fund.

(2) The Additional amount of Rs.4,000 is required to purchase some books for the Assembly Library. The amount of Rs.6,000 is required for meeting the expenditure required for furnishing as well as for the purchase of furniture for the newly constructed Hostel Building for accommodation of Members at Shillong. This amount of Rs.6,000 has already been spent for the purpose.

## D—Civil Secretariat—

(a)—1—Due to creation of new posts and appointment of staff, viz. Secretary, Local Self-Government; Special Officer, Method and Organisation; Social Welfare Officer; Librarian and Research Officer and 3 Superintendents, etc.

2. Due to the creation of a large number of temporary posts to cope with the increasing activities of Government all round; appointment of staff for the newly appointed Officers in the Secretariat and grant of higher scales of pay to the low paid Government servants.



3. Due to grant of usual dearness, winter and cost of living allowances to the newly appointed officers and staff in the Secretariat (49,000), and for meeting increased charges on tours of the Secretariat Staff, about 6,000.

(b)—(1)—Publicity—

The Government of India have allotted a sum of Rs.39,000 for Publicity work for removal of untouchability. The State Government will have to bear an equal share on this account. The communication regarding this allotment has been received from Government of India after the budget was passed. Hence the supplementary demand to the extent applied for is necessary.

D—(c)—Directorate of Statistics—

Government of India originally recommended to carry out a complete census on agricultural lands on the basis of "operational holdings" on an all India scale. But in view of the huge financial implications, none of the States were agreeable to such a proposal. The present scheme is for a Sample Survey of Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations. The main objects of the survey are to collect data on size of holdings, details of land utilisation, tenure and tenancy, agricultural population, live-stock, etc. Government of India decided to carry out the survey in Assam over 120 villages. A third of this work will be undertaken by the National Sample Survey staff of Government of India, *i.e.*, over 40 villages. The rest will be done by the State organisations, *i.e.*, over 80 villages. The State Government considered it very low and the survey on additional 40 villages is added. For these additional 40 villages the entire expenditure will be borne by the State Government. For 80 villages Government of India will bear a part of the cost amounting to Rs.13,450 towards Travelling Allowance and House Allowance, etc., and the rest of the cost of the scheme amounting to Rs.27,689 will be borne by the State Government. The scheme has already come into operation. The expenditure being of immediate nature has already been provided by an Advance from Contingency Fund. Hence the supplementary grant.

F. (1)—6.—The extra amount is necessary for meeting the increased expenditure of rent for accommodation of Employment Exchange Sub-offices at Gauhati and Dibrugarh as detailed below :—

(1) The Sub-Office at Gauhati was housed in the old Court Building Gauhati at a nominal rent of Rs.6-1-0 per month. But as the Court Building was dismantled the office had to be shifted to a private residential house at an enhanced rate of Rs.80 per month.

(2) The Sub Office at Dibrugarh was housed in a Public Works Department godown and this accommodation was a rent-free one. But as this was required for the use of the Public Works Department itself the office was shifted to a private residential house on a rent of Rs.65 per month.

These could not be foreseen.

G. (a)—Laying of water pipe lines and construction of 3 pit latrines for the Government Buildings constructed for the interpreters at Kohima, is an urgent necessity. As no provision exists in the budget a Supplementary Demand for this amount is necessary. This has already been advanced from the Contingency Fund.



Sir, the main reason is that the Hon. Speaker has intimated that in regard to the furnishing of the Nababhaban Hostel he would like to consult the House Committee as to how they want to furnish the Hostel, and that after discussion he will give the detail about the furnishing of the Hostel. So until they have finally discussed the subject, I do not want to move this amount. The sum of Rs.6,000 has already been spent for furnishing the Hostel with curtains, door mats, coir mats, glass jugs, ash-trays, etc., etc., and also for the hiring of furniture for 15 days during the last Budget Session. That amount has already been spent and has been made available from the Contingency Fund.

With these words, Sir, I move this Grant.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is that a sum of Rs.3,34,796 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray certain charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st March, 1955 for the administration of the head "25 General Administration."

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.30,000, under Supplementary Demand No.7. Major head—25—General Administration Sub-head—A—8 Ministers, at page 8 of the list of Supplementary Demands be refused, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.3,71,496 do stand reduced be Rs.30,000.

The object of my moving the Motion is to criticise the necessity of such expensive tours.

If our Finance Minister would have been present in the House he would perhaps have said that I am again at my old game, but I am not here just to oblige him. It is not because I am a চক্ৰবৰ্তী that I am saying that this amount should not have been taken by way of increased allowances by the staff of the Ministers. Just a little while ago we have discussed how another sum of Rs.30,000 has been appropriated under the charged item. We now see that in addition to the sum of Rs.27,000 which was originally granted by this House during the last Budget Session, another sum of Rs.25,000 has been needed due to the increased number of tours by The Parliamentary Secretaries, and Deputy Ministers, Personal Assistants and staff of the Ministers. Now, we have seen while in the course of discussion with regard to the charged items hon. Members of the House like my Friends, Shri Bosumatari Shri Lohar, Shri Narnarayan Goswami and others have said that this sum is rather too small, so we should not grudge.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Will you excuse me if I point out how Shri Basumatari was not right in his speech? Nobody gives any



allowance. It was not right for feeding friends and Government do not give any allowance for this.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** I think we can take it just as a slip of tongue, just as an honest mistake of my good Friend, Shri Basumatari.

Now, Sir, what does it come to? If the different items are put together it is not a very small sum, because hon. Members will see that the original Grant was only Rs.27,000. Now, that 25,000 more is the Supplementary Demand, is not the tail as big as the head?

**Mr SPEAKER:** You mean to say the tail is as big as the body?

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** Now, in the Budget on Allowances and Honoraria the charged amount was Rs.60,000 and the Supplementary Demand is Rs.30,000. Is it not just 50 per cent.? As we saw just now, the original demand amounted to Rs.27,000 and the Supplementary Demand is Rs.25,000, can we say even after this that the sum is too small? Can we ignore it?

Then, Sir, I want most humbly to point out my Friend Shri Narnarayan Goswami, that “মুনিবাক্য মতিবাক্য” is not a satisfactory explanation for this state of affairs.

There may be certain mistakes here and there at the time of budgeting money. To err is human. But what we are emphasising upon is not the issue of mistakes. We are challenging the very approach of the Government. Our outlook is quite different from that of Mr. N. Goswami and the Government though he might say:—

“বেদা বিভিন্ন স্মৃতয়ো বিভিন্ন।  
নাসৌ মুনিবাক্য মতং ন ভিন্নম্।”

I am, Sir, giving a different approach to the question.

That sum and Substance of the Sloka cited by me is that different personalities would differ in opinion. My approach to the question is entirely different from the approach of the hon. Minister and his supporters. What is my contention? My contention is that this sort of Supplementary Budget involving such a huge amount shows a bad state of affairs in our Budget Department and also the necessity of the Ministers and their deputies along with their entire entourage of running to the spot shows the inefficiency and slack character of the administrative machinery. My esteemed Friend, Shri Phookan, also stated that by the presence of the Ministers at Majuli, the work could be expedited not only once or twice but several times. My contention that the administrative machinery is rotten is proved



by the statement of Shri Phookan that unless and until the Chief Minister intervened, the relief work did not progress well.

**Mr, SPEAKER :** Before that the machine worked quite well there.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** He went to defend the Government, but as a matter of fact he supported my contention. Now, I am not also saying that these tours of our Ministers and their Secretaries and their staff should not be undertaken at all. The Personal Assistants, etc., are of course to move along with the Ministers when they go on tour in connection with flood and many other things. I put a straight question to the Chief Minister and the Finance Minister. Were all these unforeseen tours necessitated only by flood and other contingencies or were they also to open a Girls' Hostel here, to preside over a Girls' Middle English School Prize Distribution Function there, or to participate in a Minister's daughter's marriage here, in another Minister's niece's marriage there and still another Minister's maternal father-in-law's daughter's marriage somewhere else (laughter) ? Was it also for the opening of a Patrika Branch, the inauguration of a newspaper office and so on and so forth ? Whether expenditures incurred by Ministers in attending these things are included in this amount or simply whether this Supplementary Demand has been necessitated for the flood relief purposes ? If the Minister can give a reply that exclusively for the extraordinary situation, then of course I shall be only too glad and grateful to the Minister and say that the money has been well spent. I want a straight answer to this question. Then it was also said that the Minister had to go to the areas which were badly damaged by flood and the people needed special attention of the Minister to the damages done at Dibrugarh, Palasbari and so on. I am not going to enumerate here the places affected by flood. But was not Bag-Barkhetri Mouza also one of the worst affected areas ? Were not worst affected areas ? Did anyone of the Ministers visit Dhemaji during this year ? If so, I want to know on what date. Did any other Minister go to other areas of North Lakhimpur ? I have asked the question and if the Minister would say 'yes' I take it. I want to know a little more on which date did the Chief Minister visit North Lakhimpur and whether his visit was an aerial visit by a Helicopter or a visit on earth ? I want to know whether it was an aerial visit to survey things from the air or whether the Minister actually put his feet on the ground ? If I get the answer in the affirmative that these areas were attended to, then they are justified in making this expenditure for the



visits. Then, of course, it may so happen that some of the hon. Members commit a little mistake due to sheer carelessness ; for example, my esteemed Friend, Shri Bimala Kanta Bora, has said that one of the Lady Members of the Bengal Legislative Assembly came to the Nowgong Refugee Conference. The name of the said Member is Ambika Charan Chakravarty but then he is not a "lady" he is a "gentleman" (*laughter*). I shall not be surprised if having seen in my name the word "Gauri" he mistakes me to be a woman or having seen the word "Bimala" in his own name he begins to doubt whether he is a man or a woman (*laughter*).

**Shri BIMALA KANTA BORA :** The name is Mani Kuntala Sen or something like that.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** Comrade Mani Kuntala Sen never came to Nowgong. It was Ambika Charan Chakravarty who came there to preside over the conference which was held near the house of my Friend, Shri Bimala Kanta Bora. But he appears to be so careless that he mistakes a man for a woman. These are however extraneous matters. So far as this amount is concerned, my contention is that it is extravagant and I should rather say more than what was necessary though I quite appreciate that in extra-ordinary circumstances there should be exceptions, the exceptions should not be made a rule. That is my contention and I should like to point it out to the Minister that unfortunately exceptions have become the rule. Supplementary Budget has lost its significance when we see that the amount is almost as big as the original demand itself. Therefore, I move this Cut Motion to this Demand.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Cut Motion moved is:

That the provision of Rs.30,000 under Supplementary Demand No. 7, Major head 25 General Administration, Sub-head A—8—Ministers, at page 8 of the list of Supplementary Demands be refused, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.3,71,496 do stand reduced by Rs.30,000.

**Shri BISHNU RAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya has moved this Cut Motion. Sir, flood was very unique in the history of not only Assam as a whole but of India and probably of the world. Flood occurred very frequently during the period from June to October. The area affected by the flood has been from one corner of Assam to the other, that is, from Sadiya to Mankachar. This length will be more than 450 miles and if the total area is taken into consideration it will be about 12,500 miles and from this we can well imagine that almost more than



half of the area of the plains District of the Assam Valley has been very adversely affected by this flood. And inspite of this unique flood situation which caused a devastation throughout the country if the Ministers, Deputy Ministers and the Parliamentary Secretaries would have sat tight here enjoying the salubrious climate of Shillong then everyone would have remarked "Rome was burning while Nero was fiddling" and this would have been the remark by the Members of the Opposition. But we did our duty not to avoid criticisms of our Friends like Mr. Bhattacharyya. When we, the Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries, began receiving thousands of telegrams from different quarters of the flood-affected areas we felt it a duty that some measures should be taken to keep up the morale of the affected people, as this was an important step to be taken at the moment, otherwise the people would have been at a loss what to do and how to stand up and fight this natural calamity. When I reached Dibrugarh I actually found the people in this state of mind, they were absolutely at a loss what to do. Then what I had to do? I had to suspend the ordinary routine business of the administration and had to requisition a large number of labourers and technical personnel from different organisations and I had to approach the tea gardens, the railway authority, the A. O. C. at Digboi, the I. N. T. U. C. and some other organisations to assist as at once with technical personnel and in various other respects. We had to harness all the technical personnel that was available to save the properties of both the Government and the private individuals. We could not remain idle and we had to do everything that was possible to fight the danger which would otherwise carry away properties worth crores of rupees. Everyone who visited the place of devastation found that hundreds of technical personnel, labourers, lent by the tea gardens, the railway authority, the A. O. C., the I.N.T. U. C., police personnel and students working together to dismantle the buildings of the Government as well as of the private individuals. In such a catastrophe it was absolutely necessary to keep up the morale of the people and to gear up the administration, as the ordinary administration could not meet such a situation. For that reason I passed an order to appoint an emergency committee at Dibrugarh. Some people had to work for 24 hours a day and the police had also to guard the danger zones. Otherwise it would not have been possible to carry on with the dismantling work smoothly owing to the interference caused by the sight-seers. I had to close down the colleges, schools, offices, etc., for the time being so that the students could render voluntary work in this connection. The Deputy Inspector General of Police



Battalion was particularly called for to look into the work of the police employed in dismantling and guarding.

The emergency Committee had to be set up with officials and non-officials who had to remain in a camp near about the place to manage the affairs. If such steps had not been taken then I think much more devastation or disaster would have happened. This is only an instance to indicate how visit of Ministers helps not only to keep up the morale of the people but also helps to speed up the work on the spot. It will appear that the amount involved is insignificant in comparison with the result achieved. It was absolutely necessary to incur this expenditure by the Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in visiting the flood-affected areas from time to time. The Ministers could not alone visit all the places affected by the flood and so the Deputy Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries had to be requested to visit some of those places. It is quite natural that for the Ministers alone it was not possible to deal with a situation extending over a period of more than 3 months, that is, from July till the middle of October. I had to send innumerable telegrams to the Government of India. Almost daily I had to send telegrams some times to the Prime Minister, sometimes to the Minister-in-charge of Central Works and Powers, sometimes to the Chairman C. W. P. C. and so on seeking their help and assistance. I went so far to say that if we cannot control this calamity caused by the Brahmaputra then the whole of the Assam Valley which is the granary of rice of Assam, is likely to be swallowed up by Brahmaputra. The Assam Valley is situated on both sides of the Brahmaputra in a narrow strip extending from 10 miles to 30 miles at places, and that existence of Assam will be at stake in case we cannot control the vagaries of the Brahmaputra which has caused widespread damage to crops and supply rice to Hills and Plains of the State. Every Minister who went there used to send me information and on the basis of that I succeeded to some extent in drawing the attention of the Government of India and the public to the serious situation caused by the flood. We had to take very prompt measures to combat the devastation caused by flood and to save 17 lakhs of people who had been adversely affected by it. Can any one having humane feeling and sense of responsibility remain idle at Shillong? The visit of the Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries in different places greatly helped in gearing up the administrative machinery and in invoking public co-operation in the distribution of relief and in taking other measures to alleviate the distress and to save life and property. While they were out on the flood-affected areas, many of my Friends, the



Members of the Oppositions were enjoying life in their houses. But for the prompt and quick action taken by the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries on the spot, the situation would have been worse. Considering all these, this amount of Rs.30,000 is absolutely nothing. The amount provided in the Budget had been spent in meeting this extraordinary situation and this amount is needed to meet the travelling allowance and daily allowance for the remaining part of the year. But the hon. Members know the catastrophe created by the floods and the measures we had to take both long term and short term to meet this extraordinary situation. We are to collect more than one crore cft. of boulders, for which special trains have to be arranged. Land has to be acquired for making new sidings and laying out railway lines; various instruments will have to be brought from different places. Can all these things be speeded up and public co-operation secured without going to the spot? Till now we have not got competent contractors for the execution of the protection work in record time before the rain starts. Then a large number of labourers will also be necessary. We have taken these flood control measures on a war footing. We do not like to go on lecturing sitting here in Shillong and dealing with files. Of course, we shall deal with the files. The files can be sent where we are. The people would not like the Ministers to sit in Shillong and deal with the files only when they are in such terrible distress. The Ministers have to go for rushing relief where urgently needed, and to see that the officers are doing their duty properly and also to gear up the administrative machinery to cope with this emergency created by flood. Sometimes in times of catastrophe, the officers get nervous and have not a correct idea of what Government want them to do in dealing with such extraordinary situation. This impression must be removed by personal contact on the spot. The Ministers have also to enthuse people to keep up their morale and to stand on their legs. This can only be done by personal contact with the people. The people want the Ministers, the Deputy Ministers and the Parliamentary Secretaries amongst them.

Then, Sir, if we do not take the P. As. how can we pass orders? Sometimes even upto 11 o'clock at night we have to dictate orders, call different officers and discuss matters. How can orders be passed if we do not take the P. As.?

Then, Sir, somebody on the Opposition suggested that one Minister could go, see things, come back to Shillong and discuss matters with other Ministers. This will mean a delay o



at least seven days. Can we afford to lose a single moment when the country and the people are facing such a natural calamity? That is why Ministers of respective Departments sometimes had to be called out to discuss matters on the spot. There is nothing to be surprised that an extra amount of Rs. 30,000 is required. This amount is insignificant compared to the magnitude of the task we had to face. Sir, even the European concerns were giving their steamers and aeroplanes free of charge to us for use. The people outside Assam realised that we were passing through one of the worst catastrophies in our history. When that was the position, could anybody expect the Ministers to sit tight here in Shillong and do nothing only for the sake of a few thousand rupees that may be needed to meet the travelling and daily allowances? I leave it to the Opposition to follow that practice when they take charge of the Government. But we are people's men and we feel that we cannot live in luxury and comfort here when the people are suffering. We would like to live with them, to starve with them and to move with them in slush mud and water. We want to inspire them with a sense of confidence and save them from demoralisation born of a feeling of helplessness.

Then, Sir, mention was made about my flights to Dhemaji without landing. Sir, it is probably not unknown to Mr. Bhattacharyya that Helicopter can land anywhere. As a matter of fact, I got down in front of the Middle Vernacular School at Dhemaji and got a large number of people there. I ascertained whether there was rice stock and enquired why they should not do earth work. Their objection was to carry earth on their heads. I told them they could carry earth on arm or on shoulders and ultimately they agreed to do it and earn a living.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** What was the date?

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** I can not remember the exact date as I had been to so many places.

**A Voice—**First week of September.

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** May be. I have short memory and I cannot possibly remember the dates on which I visited different places.

Then, Sir, flying is sometimes necessary in order to find out whether anybody has been marooned and isolated and to make arrangements for dropping food to the marooned areas.



**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** How much food was dropped in Dhemaji ?

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** About 500 maunds of rice and other commodities were dropped, not only for Dhemaji but other places also. At my request, the Prime Minister placed an I. A. F. plane at our disposal for this purpose.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** How much of foodgrains was dropped in Dhemaji ?

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** I do not exactly remember. But food was dropped to every place where it was necessary. I contacted the Deputy Commissioner on telephone to draw up a plan for dropping of supplies and the work was done according to that plan. It is difficult for me to remember what exact amount was dropped in a particular place.

Then, Sir, I can assure my Friend that no Minister Deputy Minister or Parliamentary Secretary draw any travelling allowance for attending any private marriage ceremony. The opening of public institutions is a different matter. Suppose a person has donated 30 or 40 thousand rupees for a public institution or the people of a particular locality collect some money for setting up an institution, it is the duty of Ministers to go and encourage them in these useful activities so that others might also feel enthused and follow their example. For instance, the N. C. C. constructed a road 9 to 10 miles in length. It is our duty to go and enthuse the students by opening the road. We consider it our duty to do so as representatives of a democratic Government. Under these circumstances, I think, there is nothing to justify this Cut Motion.

I hope, in the circumstances, Mr. Bhattacharyya will withdraw his Cut Motion.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Are you going to withdraw your Motion ?

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** I am not going to withdraw in view of the fact that my straight question have not been replied straightaway.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The question is that the provision of Rs. 30,000, under Supplementary Demand No. 7, Major head—25—General Administration, Sub-head—A-8—Ministers, at page 8 of the List of Supplementary



Demands be refused, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Supplementary Demand of Rs.3,71,496 do stand reduced by Rs.30,000.

(The Motion was lost).

Cut Motion No. 3.

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** Before the next Cut Motion on the Budget of the Assembly Secretariat is moved, in this connection I am reading this—

“It is now a well-settled convention both in the United Kingdom and in India that no parliamentary questions are answered on the floor of the House in respect of the Assembly Secretariat, nor is the matter discussed in the House in the shape of motions for reduction of grants or any other parliamentary procedure. That does not mean that information regarding Assembly Secretariat is not available ; the Speaker is at all times willing that any Member wishing to have information about the staff position or any other matter relating to his Secretariat should be readily supplied with it by the Secretary, and if the Member has any suggestions to offer the Speaker is always ready to discuss the matter with him.”

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** May I know where from this is read ?

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** That is a pamphlet, issued by the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative).

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** Should we understand that the all that is followed by the Central Assembly Secretariat will be followed here ?

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** It is for the Speaker to decide.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** This is from the Constituent Assembly of India (Legislative), it reads—

“It is now a well-settled convention both in the United Kingdom and in India that no parliamentary questions are answered on the floor of the House in respect of the Assembly Secretariat, nor is the matter discussed in the House in the shape of motions for reductions of grants or any other parliamentary procedure. That does not mean that information regarding the Assembly Secretariat is not available ; the Speaker is at all times willing that any Member wishing to have information about the staff position or any other matter relating to his Secretariat should be readily supplied with it by the Secretary, and if the Member has any suggestions to offer the Speaker is always ready to discuss the matter with him”.



Under this convention the Cut Motion should not be moved. Therefore, I disallow it.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Regarding this convention and other conventions, if there is any, we should be informed so that we can follow them.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** I will be glad to do so.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** If the Government want to take shelter under such conventions, I will not be able to move this, but how should you reconcile to this position when the Government brings this amount within a voted demand and not as a charged item ?

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The convention is there and the Assembly Secretariat is not represented here and the Chief Minister has taken the responsibility of the Legislative Assembly Secretariat. But I can assure the hon. Members that our Secretariat will give any information that they want to get on the working hours.

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** Charged item is made by a statutory provision. Charged Item is a statutory matter provided in an Act of the Legislature. It is a convention, but if the House like, the House or the Speaker should consider whether it should adopt the convention.

• **Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN :** Does it relate to the charged expenditure for maintenance of a car by the Speaker ?

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** Any matter relating to the Legislature.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN:** This item could have been easily taken as a charged item.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** I disallow that and so also Cut Motions Nos. 4 and 5 accordingly.

**Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.78,000 under Supplementary Demand No.7, Major head—25—General Administration, Minor head (b)—Publicity Department, Sub-head—1—Publicity, at page 8 of the List of Supplementary Demands be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole supplementary demand of Rs.3,71,496 do stand reduced by Re.1.



Sir, this amount is demanded for publicity purposes with the idea of removing untouchability. Sir, we do not know who are the people in our State who are regarded as untouchables and also we do not know how...

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The House stands adjourned till 10 A. M. on Monday, the 1st November, 1954.

### **Adjournment**

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A. M. on Monday, the 1st November, 1954.

Shillong  
The 3rd January, 1955.

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



...the ... is ... for ... with  
the ... of ... who  
are ... in our ... who are ...  
and ... do not know how ...

MR. SPEAKER: The House will adjourn till 10  
A.M. on Monday, the 1st November, 1934.

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Monday,  
the 1st November, 1934.

R. N. BARTON,  
Secretary,  
Legislative Assembly,  
Adelaide.



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