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OFFICIAL REPORT

BUDGET SESSION

VOL. I

No. 17

The 26th March, 1963



सत्यमेव जयते

1963
PRINTED AT THE ASSAM GOVERNMENT PRESS
SHILLONG

Price 10 annos.

1901

No. 17

The 17th March 1901



THE GOVERNMENT

PRINTED AT THE ARABIC GOVERNMENT PRESS
BOMBAY

THE 17th March

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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong at 10 A. M. on Tuesday, the 26th March, 1963.

PRESENT

Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury, B. L., Speaker in the Chair, nine Ministers, two Ministers of State, three Deputy Ministers and sixty-three Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Re: Scheme for Fisheries and Pisciculture

Shri TANKESWAR CHETIA (Nazira) asked :

*70. Will the Minister-in-charge of Fishery be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government have received any scheme from the Nazira Anchalik Panchayat in the Sibsagar Subdivision for Fishery and Pisciculture at an estimated cost of more than a lakh of rupees ?
- (b) Whether Government have examined the feasibility of otherwise of the scheme ?
- (c) In view of dearth of fish, whether Government propose to take necessary steps to encourage such schemes of the Panchayats ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Fishery) replied :

70. (a)—Uptill now Fishery Department has not received any such scheme from Nazira Anchalik Panchayat.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—There is no scheme operated by Fishery Department for giving financial assistance to Panchayats for fisheries schemes. Panchayats Department may have such provision and in such a case Fishery Department is concerned only with technical vetting of the scheme.

Re: Amenities of Passengers

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) asked :

*71. Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether there is any amount specially earmarked for the amenities of the passengers ?
- (b) If so, the amount actually spent during 1960-61 and 1961-62 ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Transport) replied :

71. (a)—There is no specific provision for providing amenities to the passengers. But amenities in the form indicated below are provided throughout the entire jurisdiction of the organisation—

- (1) Prohibition of over-crowding to any extent over the sitting capacity.
 - (2) Provision of better coaches with comfortable seats.
 - (3) Ensuring regular running of services as per time-tables.
 - (4) Establishment of regular stations and sub-stations with booking facilities at important places.
 - (5) Provision of waiting rooms in all stations and sub-stations.
 - (6) Provision for reservation of seats with arrangement for booking of seats in advance.
 - (7) Running of Express Service between important towns of the State.
- (b)—Does not arise.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) : May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether the Government will be pleased to give more amenities to the State Transport Passengers ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Transport) : Amenities given are already enumerated. May I know Sir, what does the hon. Member mean by 'more amenities' ?

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA : For example, such amenities as are given by the Railways ? *(laughter)*

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : Those amenities are already provided, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER : Are Government prepared to give waiting room and refreshment facilities ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : These facilities are provided as far as possible, in important Stations.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) : Is it a fact, Sir, that the tube-wells that have been provided in the transport stations are mostly not functioning.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Transport) : I am not aware of it, Sir. I want notice.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) : Whether "prohibition of over-crowding to any extent over the sitting capacity" is also an amenity ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Transport) : If there be over-crowding, that will naturally cause discomfort to passengers, Sir.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) : May I know whether Government will be pleased to equip the State Transport Waiting Rooms with all the modern amenities ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : They are fully equipped, Sir.
(laughter)

Shri MAHAMMAD UMARUDDIN (Dhubri) : May I know, Sir, whether the urinals in the State Transport stations are regularly cleaned ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : Yes, Sir.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA SINHA (Golakganj) : Are the Government aware that the waiting rooms, baths and the latrines of the Transport stations are not kept clean ?

Mr. SPEAKER : He has already replied to that question and stated that latrines and urinals are kept clean.

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI (Laharighat) : Are the Government aware that the lavatories in most of the Transport stations are kept under lock and key at the time when the buses leave the stations ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Transport) : It may be so only when a certain lavatory goes out of order and requires repairs.

Shri MADHUSUDHAN DAS (Barpeta) : Whether Government will be pleased to open one Canteen at Shillong Motor Station and another at Gauhati so that the waiting passengers are not in need of going out to public canteens ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : At Gauhati, Nowgong and some other important Stations canteens are provided by the Transport Department.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) : Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that most of the waiting rooms provided in the transport stations are not fit for human habitation ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : I am not prepared to admit that, Sir.

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (Bihpuria) : May I know from the Minister whether the North Lakhimpur Transport Station, which is a major station, is provided with a canteen and other amenities for passengers ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : That is a new question, Sir and I want notice.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gaubati) : May I know Sir, whether the Hon'ble Minister has ever personally visited any of the waiting rooms of the State Transport ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : Yes, Sir, during my tours I make it a point to visit the Transport stations.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora) : Is it a fact that there is no waiting room worth the name at the Silchar Transport Station ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : It may be so.

Shri MOHIKANTA DAS (Barchalla) : Is it a fact, Sir, that most of the buses plying on the North Bank are of unserviceable conditions and the passengers are stranded on their way very frequently ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : No Sir, it may be so occasionally when the buses go out of order.

Mr. SPEAKER : The hon. Member has asked whether unserviceable buses are placed on the North Bank.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : I have no information. If the hon. Member brings it to the notice of the Government the matter will be looked into.

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI (Laharighat) : Are the Government aware that the charges of the Gauhati Canteen are most exorbitant ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : Yes, I received a complaint and that is being looked into.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara) : Is it a fact, Sir, that at Gauhati there no longer exists a canteen.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Transport) : As far as I know it exists now, it was not there for some time in the past.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) : In reply to the question put by the hon. Member Shri Madhusudhan Das, the Hon'ble Minister replied that at Gauhati there was no canteen, and how is it that a canteen exists now at Gauhati ?

Mr. SPEAKER : No, no, he replied that there is a canteen at Gauhati.

Shri RAM PRASAD DAS (Bijni) : Will the Government be pleased to consider about constructing waiting sheds for passengers at every bus-stop ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Transport) : We have already had a number of waiting sheds at different places and construction of some more waiting sheds are under consideration of the Government.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) : May I know whether the Minister would be pleased to enquire about the existence of the Gauhati canteen ?

Mr. SPEAKER : He is sure about it. How the question of enquiry arises ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Transport) : As far as I know, it is in existence.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) : In view of the fact that from the existing tube-wells water supply lavatories, canteens, etc., are in a very miserable condition, will Government be pleased to enquire into these matters ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : If the hon. Member brings specific cases to my notice I shall enquire.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA : Almost all the Members have expressed their opinion that the waiting rooms.....

Mr. SPEAKER : This is not the hour for expressing opinions, it is for asking questions.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA : I am simply developing my question, Sir. Almost all the Members of this House have expressed their opinion that the majority of the waiting rooms including lavatories, are in a bad condition, will the Government set up a committee to enquire into the whole matter ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : No Sir, because the condition is not bad.

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (Bihpuria) : Like the Railways, will Government provide bathrooms for passengers at least in the central stations like Gauhati, Nowgong, Charali, etc. ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : I cannot commit.

Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHOUDHURY (Patacharkuchi) : Will Government be pleased to construct lavatories and urinals in the stations from North Gauhati to Barpeta ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : That will be done. We have only recently taken over the line.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) : May I know whether Government has constructed a building at the Nowgong bus station for canteen purposes ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : Yes, Sir.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) : Is it not a fact that this building is very defective ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : I do not know, it is not defective.

Shri ABU NASAR Md. OHID (Rupohihat) : Is it not a fact that the latrines at the Nowgong bus station are not cleaned ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Transport) : I have already answered that question.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) : Is it not a fact that the newly constructed State Transport building at Gauhati is leaky ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : May be, I have no information.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA : Will the Minister please make an enquiry about this ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : Yes, that will be done.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) : The Minister said that if specific instances are brought to his notice, he will enquire. May I ask whether he is aware of the fact that the tube well at the Thalamara station, which was constructed long ago, is not functioning till now ? Will the Minister make an enquiry ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : I want notice.

Re: Price of Fish

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) asked :

*72. Will the Minister of Fisheries be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that price of fish has gone very high at Gauhati ?
- (b) What step the Government propose to take to bring down the price of fish ?
- (c) Whether Government will open some fair price fish stalls in Gauhati like the West Bengal Government to bring down the price of fish ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Fishery) replied :

72. (a)—Yes. The price of fish has to some extent gone high not only at Gauhati but throughout the State.

(b)—Seasonal rise of price is somewhat inevitable because of seasonal fluctuation of production as against inelasticity of demand throughout the year. There is no control over the fish price. The only way to bring down the price is by improving the production largely by individual enterprise and better facility for marketing. The Department has a number of schemes in operation for helping production. A scheme for improving marketing to Gauhati town is also under way and for that purpose a cold storage is being set up.

(c)—Fish produced from the departmental tanks at Gauhati are usually sold to the consumers during scarcity period at a reasonable price. But production of fish from these tanks being limited, it is not possible to meet the entire demand. The West Bengal Scheme referred to deal mostly with Sea fish and imported fish.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) : In reply to (b), the Minister has stated that the Department had a number of schemes in operation for helping production. May I know whether, as a result of these schemes in operation, production has increased, if so, what will be proportion of increase in comparison to what existed before the schemes were in operation ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Fishery) : Sir, the hon. Member has been repeating this question in more than one sessions. There seems be somewhat lack of appreciation of the position of the Fishery Department. The Fishery Department is actually a Pisciculture Department. It helps pisciculture and induces people to take to producing more by pisciculture ; whereas the natural fisheries are dealt with by the Revenue Department and the bulk of the fish supply in the State comes from natural fisheries and not from tanks. What our Department intends is that individual farmers should take to pisciculture. For that reason, the Department supplies them with fish seed and fingerlings. That is the major scheme in our Department. We have taken an induced breeding scheme from which we produce fish seed of selected varieties of fish and then distribute the same to the people. Then, Sir, we have also provision to encourage private individuals to take to pisciculture by way of giving them loans and subsidies. Loans are given through Land Mortgage Banks and subsidies are given in the Sixth Schedule districts. In order to increase the supply of fish, fishermen who have organised themselves into co-operative societies are provided with financial assistance in the form of grants. Derelict fisheries are also reclaimed and regenerated with fish population. Steps are being taken for stocking of fish in some of the hydro-electric project reservoirs. Then, I have already stated about the cold storage at Gauhati. These are some of the general features of our scheme.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) : In his lengthy statement the Hon'ble Minister has not replied to the point. The pertinent point is whether Government contemplates, like West Bengal, to start fair price fish shops at Gauhati in order to remove the scarcity of fish there ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : No, Sir.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) : May I know whether Government consider fish to be an essential commodity or not ? If it is considered essential, whether Government is serious about removing the scarcity of fish in the State, particularly at Gauhati ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Fishery) : Government is no doubt serious about it. The House itself is serious about it and therefore, there will be grant placed before the House during the course of today's business. The seriousness of the matter is not disputed by anybody but the question is about the seriousness on the part of producers themselves.

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (Bilpuria) : পশ্চিম বঙ্গ দৰে অসমৰ মাগুহৰো মাছ staple food সেই কাৰণে চৰকাৰে মীন মহল বিলাক indiscriminately settle কৰি মাছ বংস ধবংস নকৰিবলৈ কিবা ব্যৱস্থা হাতত লবনে ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Fishery) : চাব, এইটো পলিচি বিষয়ৰ প্ৰশ্ন !

Mr. SPEAKER : You need not reply.

Shri MAHAMMAD UMARUDDIN (Dhubri) : May I know from the Hon'ble Minister what is the amount of fish produced per acre ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Fishery) : I want notice for it.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA SINHA (Golakganj) : May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether the price of fish is related in any way to the price at which fisheries are sold ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Fishery) : This be better addressed to the Revenue Department. So far we are concerned, we sell fish at a fixed price which is much less than the cost of production. Our idea is that by underselling we should keep down the price in the general market to some extent.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) : Whether Government contemplate to import fish from outside Assam with a view to ease the position ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Fishery) : At the moment we have no such contemplation.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) : Whether Government consider it necessary to take some measure to bring down the price of fish when it goes up occasionally ?

Mr. SPEAKER : He has already replied to that question. They release fish from the tank to bring down the price.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Fishery) : Unless and until refrigerator trains are allowed to run between Assam and the rest of India, there is no chance of such schemes being taken up. If such schemes to import fish from outside Assam are taken up without such trains it will end in great loss.

Shri MAHAMMAD UMARUDDIN (Dhubri) : What amount of fish is released at every station in times of scarcity ?

Mr. SPEAKER : Can you supply it immediately ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Fishery) : Let me refer to my papers in connection with the Cut Motions.

Mr. SPEAKER : Yes, please find it.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Fishery) : Sir, in the First Plan period the Department sold altogether 230 maunds of fish. In the Second Plan period, they sold 1169 maunds of fish through these fish farms.

Shri MAHAMMAD UMARUDDIN (Dhubri) : I mean the stations where they were sold.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : I cannot say it.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) : Is it a fact that fish is allowed to be exported from Assam whereas there is scarcity in Assam ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Fishery): There is no control over fish price. Therefore, there is no control over the movement of fish also. As fish goes out of Assam, in the same way our people import fish from outside also.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri): In view of the fact that the process of granting loans to individuals through Land Mortgage Banks is a complex one, will the Government consider about formulating an easier process to do so?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Fishery): We thought of that, Sir. It was considered that Government should not deal with such kind of patronage and so we transferred the matter to the Bank to deal with it in a business-like manner.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati): Whether the lessees of the fisheries could be asked to supply some amount of fish, as required for the people of Gauhati?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Fishery): Again, this is a question which be better addressed to the Revenue Department.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): Hon'ble Minister has replied to a question that the West Bengal Government has started fair price fish stalls. May I ask the hon'ble Minister if there would be any serious legal barrier or objection if he starts fair price stalls with the available local fish, caught either at the Brahmaputra or at other places?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Fishery): I do not know what scheme the hon. Member has in mind. The only scheme possible under the circumstances is to supplement our production by purchase of fish by our departmental officers from local fishermen of the State and then to sell the same to the public. I am not prepared for such a scheme.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA SINHA (Golakganj): Do the Government hope to solve the problem by producing sufficient quantity of fish?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Fishery): It is never the idea of Government that they will take over the task of supplying fish to the people. Our idea is not to replace the ordinary fishermen or pisciculturists. The idea of the Government is to encourage modern fish-farming. The Government Farms are meant to produce seeds and fingerlings for sale to the public so that they take to fishing. These farms supply fish seeds or fingerlings to the public and sell a part of their fish which is produced in these Government tanks and fisheries.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati): If it is not the intention of the Government to produce fish with a view to ease the situation of scarcity, then for what purpose is the Fishery Department meant?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I do not think I have anything to add. I am sorry, I have not been able to clear myself to the hon. Members inspite of all what I had said. I am afraid I shall not be able to do so.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri): What amount of dry fish is imported ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I want notice for it, Sir.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA SINHA (Golakganj): Only one question Sir. Will the Government take it from me that the price of fish is related to the price at which fisheries are sold ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Fishery): I have nothing at dispute with the hon. Member because this is a matter which I am not dealing with. It is for the Revenue Minister to reply.

Re : Aijal Civil Hospital

Shri R. THANHLIRA [Aijal-East (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] asked :

*74. Will the Medical Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether there is any scheme for the extension of the Civil Hospital, Aijal, if so, how far the scheme has been worked out ?
- (b) If reply to (a) above is in the negative, whether Government has taken up proposal to relieve the congestion ?
- (c) Whether electric lights are proposed to be provided ?

Shri CHATRASING TERON (Minister, Tribal Areas and Welfare of Backward Classes) replied :

74. (a)—Yes, there is a proposal. The scheme is under preparation.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Yes.

Shri R. THANHLIRA [(Aijal-East Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : May I know what is the capacity of the extension wing of the Civil Hospital, Aijal ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Medical): It will depend to a great extent on the availability of suitable land in the existing site of the Civil Hospital. The matter has been left to the Executive Engineer, Aijal Division to examine and prepare a Scheme.

Shri R. THANHLIRA : Does it mean that the scheme has not been finalised ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Medical): No, Sir. We have asked the Executive Engineer, Aijal Division to prepare a Scheme.

Mr. SPEAKER : The scheme is under preparation, not in operation.

Re: Urban Study Committee

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) asked :

*75. Will the Minister of Town and Country Planning be pleased state—

(a) Whether the Government consider it necessary to set up an urban study committee for indicating ways of tackling urban problems ?

(b) If so, steps proposed to be taken in this direction ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Town and Country Planning) replied :

75. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA : (Gauhati) : Whether the Government is sympathetic towards the subject of tackling urban problems ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Town and Country Planning) : We are quite sympathetic towards this problem but we have not been able to match our sympathy with the grants and loans as desired.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA : May I know whether the Government would consider the feasibility of forming such a Committee for indicating the ways of tackling urban problems ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Town and Country Planning) : In a Conference held in Calcutta where the Union Health Minister was present, a Resolution was adopted that such a Committee should be set up. But in view of the Emergency the Committee was not set up. However, we are trying to meet the situation by convening a meeting of the Chairmen of the Municipal Boards under the Town Planning organisation in Shillong sometime in May to discuss the problems.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) : Sir, in view of the fact that we are in a special situation and we have also schemes for Town Planning why should not the Government consider the question of setting up an Urban Study Committee for helping the implementation of different schemes that we have taken up.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Town and Country Planning) : There is no difficulty. At a resolution passed in a Conference of the Municipal Authorities held in Calcutta under the Chairmanship of the Central Health Minister, as I have said before, in view of the emergency it was decided to go slow in setting up such committees, but we are meeting the situation. The idea has not been abandoned, it is rather postponed. We are going to hold the Conference in which we will discuss and decide the problems of urban development.

Shri MADHUSUDHAN DAS (Barchalla): Whether the matter of urban development can be entrusted to the Town and Country Planning Committee which is already in existence, instead of setting up a separate committee?

***Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI:** That Committee is considering the peculiar problems of Gauhati and Tinsukia. The general problem of urban development may be a little wider and may cover all those areas which come under town areas. So we are holding the Conference, which will be in a position to go into all these points and discuss the finance of the Municipal Boards and Town Committees and therefore there will be no difficulty in meeting the situation.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Re: The Jute Research Sub-station at Sorbhog

Shri MADHUSUDHAN DAS (Barpeta) asked :

63. Will the Minister-in-charge of Agriculture be pleased to state—
- When the Jute Research Sub-station at Sorbhog was established?
 - Why permanent office and quarters have not been established yet?
 - When permanent office and staff quarters will be constructed at this Sub-station?
 - Whether it is a fact that this Sub station is going to be shifted from Sorbhog to Kahikuchi?
 - Whether Kahikuchi is a jute growing area?
 - If not, whether this decision will be revised?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister of Agriculture) replied :

63. (a)—The Jute Research Sub-station at Sorbhog was established by the Indian Central Jute Committee in the early part of 1957. The State Government took it over on 1st April 1962.

(b & c)—It is not known what was the difficulty in the way of constructing permanent office and quarters by the Indian Central Jute Committee so long. However, the State Government is taking up for funds with Indian Central Jute Committee for permanent constructions.

(d)—Yes, there is such a proposal under consideration of the Government.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—This will be considered by four-member committee constituted by the Government for selection of sites for all research schemes undertaken by the Agriculture Department and will be ultimately decided in consultation with Indian Central Jute Committee.

Shri TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari): Who has given the proposal of the shifting the Sub-station from Sorbhog ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture): If I remember a right, the people who are in-charge of the Sub-Station themselves are keen to shift the Sub station from Sorbhog.

Shri MAHAMMAD UMARUDDIN (Dhubri): May I know if it is a fact that the site for the Sub-station had been selected by the Indian Central Jute Committee in consultation with the State Government ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I do not know, because it is a matter long of past history, but I presume that the Indian Central Jute Research Committee must have consulted the State Government,

Shri TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari): What are the reasons given in this proposal for shifting the Sub-station.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Various reasons have been given. (1) They feel that the neighbouring people are not very sympathetic to the scheme, (2) they also feel that they should be nearer to other research stations at Gauhati, and thirdly, possibly the officers feel that by the proposed shifting they will have better association with other people of the same profession. All these reasons are there.

Shri MAHAMMAD UMARUDDIN (Dhubri): The selection of the site was done on the basis that this station should be located primarily in a jute growing area. Is the Minister aware of it ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I presume so, Sir.

Shri TAJUDDIN AHMED: If these are the reasons, will the reasons be sufficient ground to shift the Sub-station, from Sorbhog to Kahikuchi.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture): I have not announced any decision as to whether we consider these grounds to be sufficient or insufficient for shifting the Sub-station. The people in-charge of this Sub-station are feeling that the Sub-station should be taken away from there. We have not yet agreed to it or rejected it. What I have said here in reply to the question in this that we will refer it to a committee. Government of India recently felt that lot of our research schemes are located in such places which are not conducive to the best interest of such schemes and accordingly they asked us to look into it. Accordingly, we had formed a committee which has already been notified. This Committee has been asked to look into this question as well and submit its finding. While considering the report, when submitted, Government, if necessary, may take the advice of the Indian Central Jute Committee.

Shri TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari): How many officers are there in that Sub-station and from which places they come ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I want notice.

Re: The Fishery Office at Karimganj

Shri ABDUL MUNIM CHOUDHURY (Karimganj-South) asked:

64. Will the Minister of Fisheries, be pleased to state—

- (a) When Government has started Fishery Office in Karimganj Subdivision ?
- (b) What are their functions ?
- (c) How many applications for fishery loan were received from the public in the year 1960-61 and 1961-62 ?

- (d) How many applications were recommended for consideration ?
- (e) How many fishery loans were sanctioned in 1960-61 and 1961-62 in Karimganj ?
- (f) What is the amount sanctioned by Government for fishery loan in Karimganj Subdivision and how much money was utilised ?
- (g) Whether the Director of Fisheries has paid a visit in Karimganj specially Ratabeel Co-operative Fishery for understanding the actual and accurate report of the Fishery Officer of the area ?
- (h) If so, whether Government will be pleased to lay a copy of the report of the Director of Fisheries on the Library Table ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Fishery) replied :

64. (a) In the month of October, 1961.

(b)—The Fishery Officer is responsible for implementation of the various fishery schemes undertaken in the Subdivision, including the schemes in the Development Blocks and Anchalik Panchayats. They are also entrusted with survey and enquiry in connection with preparation of schemes of the Department and relating to fishery loan and also for giving technical guidance to private individuals on their piscicultural problems.

(c)—Thirty applications were received from Karimganj Sub-division.

(d)—So far only one application was sent to Land Mortgage Bank and 2 were rejected being considered unsuitable.

(e)—The Central Land Mortgage Bank, which was entrusted to issue fishery loan since 1960-61, has not so far sanctioned any loan to any party in Karimganj.

(f)—Funds are sanctioned for the State as a whole and made available to Land Mortgage Bank and area-wise allocation is not done.

(g)—Director of Fisheries did not visit the fishery as no specific problem deserving Director's personal attention was brought to his notice.

(h)—Does not arise.

Re: Nilambazar Veterinary Hospital

Shri ABDUL MUNIM CHOUDHURY (Karimganj-South) asked :

65. Will the Minister-in-charge of Veterinary be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government is aware that there is no doctor in the Nilambazar Veterinary Hospital in spite of great public demands except a few Veterinary Field Assistants ?
- (b) Whether Government is aware that there is no instruments medicines, etc., and if so, why, and who is responsible for this affairs ?
- (c) Whether Government proposed to take any action against the person or persons at fault ?
- (d) Whether Government propose to place a doctor immediately with medicines and instruments, etc. ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Veterinary) replied :

65. (a)—Yes. The hospital has been started recently and doctor will be posted from the next batch of graduates.

(b)—There is a First Aid Veterinary Centre at Nilambazar and a Veterinary Field Assistant has been posted there with some medicines and appliances to meet the emergencies. He can draw his further requirement any time he needs from the neighbouring Dispensary.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—Yes.

***Re: Co-operative loan for Ratabeel Fishery Co-operative Society**

Shri ABDUL MUNIM CHOUDHURY (Karimganj-South) asked :

66. Will the Minister of Fisheries be pleased to state—

(a) Whether any application was received from the Ratabeel Fishery Co-operative Society for granting Co-operative loan?

(b) If the reply to (a) above is in the affirmative, whether any amount of grant sanctioned to the said society ?

(c) If so, what is the amount ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Fisheries) replied :

66. (a)—Yes, one application from the Co-operative Society was received for Fishery loan.

(b)—The application of the Society has been recently sent to the Central Land Mortgage Bank for disposal as the Fishery loan, whatever is provided by Government is made available to the Bank for sanction and disbursement to the applicants.

(c)—Does not arise.

Shri ABDUL MUNIM CHOUDHURY ((Karimganj-South): Other 27 সমস্কে কিছু বলেন নাই ।

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Fishery) : এটা ঠিক যে, এই কর্মচারীদের কাজ যে পরিমাণ হওয়া উচিত বলে একজন মনে করতে পারেন সেই পরিমাণ কাজ হয় নি আমি এই বিষয়ে তদন্ত করব ।

Shri PULAKESHI SINGH (Sonai) : এই যে, বলেছেন Land Mortgage Bank কে State wise টাকা দাওয়া হয় না, মন্ত্রী মহোদয় এটা কি consider করবেন যে, এই বিষয়ে State wise নীতি গ্রহণ করা ইউক ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Fishery): This policy of dividing Budget allocation district-wise and sub-division-wise as we have done in the case of distribution of money for roads under P. W. D, first district wise and then subdivision-wise and now reservation of allocation constituency-wise, is not a proper approach.

Shri ABDUL JALIL CHOUDHURY (Badarpur): Reference Reply (c) বলা হয়েছে আঞ্চলিক এবং ব্লক Schemes বিভাগীয় অফিসার গণ consider করবেন মন্ত্রী মহোদয় ইহা কি জানেন যে officer দেবের আঞ্চলিক পঞ্চায়তে এবং Development Block মিটিংএ call দিনে ও সাবরা মিটিংএ যান না ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: আমি জানিনা এই কর্মচারীরা development block থেকে নোটিশ দেওয়া সঙ্গেও উপস্থিত হয় না, মাননীয় সদস্য যা বলেছেন তা আমি গ্রহণ করছি : আমি সেই বিষয়ে অনুসন্ধান করব ।

Re: Starting of Homeopathic Dispensary

Shri PABINDRA NATH SARMA (Nalbari-East) asked :

67. Will the Minister, Medical be pleased to state—

(a) What steps are being taken by the Government to start Homeopathic Dispensaries within the State ?

(b) If so, what is their number ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister-in-charge, Medical) replied :

67. (a)—There is no proposal to establish any Homeopathic Dispensary by Government. The question of taking any step does not arise.

(b)—Does not arise in view of reply at (a) above.

Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHOUDHURY (Patacharkuchi): How many Homeopathic dispensaries are there in the State ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Medical): Government have no Homeopathic dispensary.

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (Bihpuria): Whether Government propose to establish Homeopathic dispensaries like the Ayurvedic Dispensaries ?

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no proposal to establish Homeopathic dispensaries by the Government.

Re: Dearth of Doctors

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

68. Will the Medical Minister be pleased to state —

- (a) Whether Government is aware that there is more dearth of Doctors in the State as some young doctors are going for commission ?
- (b) If so, whether Government proposes to employ retired doctors beyond the age of 60—provided they are found medically fit ?
- (c) If not, how the Government proposes to meet the situation of shortage of doctors ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister-in-charge, Medical) replied :

68. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The matter is under active consideration.

(c)—Does not arise in view of reply at (b) above.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) : In reply to question to (b) it is said that the matter is under active consideration. When the Government expect to come to a decision ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : The decision is expected soon.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) : In reply to (c) it is said that 'does not arise in view of reply (b) above. What is the shortfall ? In other words, how many doctors are necessary in our different dispensaries ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Medical) : So far as the Assistant Surgeon I is concerned, total strength of the cadre is 433. Now, the number of posts filled up is 297 excluding filled up by re-employment regular and the total vacancy at present against the sanctioned posts is 136. Now, the number of vacancies that have been filled up by re-employment is 12. The total number of vacancy even after re-employment of the retired personnel is 124.

So far as Assistant Surgeon II is concerned, the sanctioned posts are 468 and number of posts filled up excluding re-employment is 387 and total vacancies including re-employment are 81. Out of that 46 have been filled up by re-employment and there are 35 vacancies excluding re-employment. Total strength of the cadre of Assistant Malaria Officer is 15 ; number of post filled up excluding re-employment 9 and vacancy is 6 out of which 1 has been filled up by re-employment and total vacancy is 5.

Shri MAHAMMAD UMARUDDIN (Dhubri) : How Government are going to fill up these vacancies after some of these are filled up by retired personnel ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Medical) : By recruitment as far as possible.

Shri MAHAMMAD UMARUDDIN : Is it a fact that Assistant Surgeons II are no longer available and neither they are trained ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Practically so, Sir.

Shri MAHAMMAD UMARUDDIN : How the Government propose to fill up the vacancies held by the Assistant Surgeons II ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Medical): By Assistant Surgeon 1.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati): As there is dearth of doctors in the State will the Government be pleased to consider the question of re-opening the Medical Schools with a view to increase the number of qualified doctors?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, that does not depend upon the sweet-will of the State Government. It will depend on the All-India Policy. There was a proposal for re-opening the Schools but I understand that the idea has been dropped for the present.

Shri R. THANHLIRA [Aijal-East (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Is it a fact that with a view to solving the problem of doctors there was a proposal to start L. M. F. course again?

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minister said that the idea has been dropped.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati): Will our Government move the Central Government to start Medical Schools again?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I do not think it will be wise for us to take the initiation and to move the Central Government for this.

Shri SAYED AHMED ALI (Gauripur): May I know how long the Government will take to arrive at an active consideration.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I have already replied Sir, that we shall try to arrive at a decision soon.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): Will the Minister be pleased to state how many of these dispensaries are now run by Dacca National Medical College passed doctors.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, to narrate this history I require notice.

Re : Price of Drugs.

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

*69. Will the Medical Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government is aware that prices of Drugs have gone high, which is beyond the easy reach of the common people?
- (b) Whether Government propose to hold the price line of drugs and pharmaceuticals?
- (c) Whether Government propose to constitute a price Vigilance Body for Drugs in the line of West Bengal?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE, (Minister-in-charge of Medical) replied:

69. (a)—The price index of drugs and all Chemicals had gone up to a considerable extent since the middle of the last year following import restrictions and imposition of excise duties and other taxes and the same level has been maintained up-to date.

(b) & (c)—In view of the Drugs (Display of prices) Order, 1962, promulgated under the Defence of India Rules, 1962 by Government of India, dated 22nd December 1962. Government do not consider it necessary for the present to set up price vigilance body.

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (Bihpuria): Sir, in reply to (b) & (c) it is stated that in view of the Drugs (Display of prices) Order, 1962, promulgated under the Defence of India Rules, 1962 by the Government of India, dated 22nd December, 1962, Government do not consider it necessary for the present to set up price vigilance body. May I know from Government whether the Pharmacies actually display the price list?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Medical): Yes, Sir. According to Rules it is necessary for the Pharmacies to display the price list and we have instructed our Drug Inspectors and others in the District and Sub-division to see that such price lists are actually hung in a conspicuous place.

Shri MOHANANDA BORA: If that is not hung whether Government will take any suitable steps?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Yes, Sir. If the hon. Member can bring any such case of non compliance to the notice of the Government necessary steps will be taken.

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS [North Salmara (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]: Is there any agency or machinery to check the prices?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Medical): One who will buy the drug will be the best person to check whether he is being charged according to the price list or not.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur): Will the Government be pleased to make some sort of an advertisement through new papers so that the consumers can be in a position to know the actual price of the medicines and buy them accordingly?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Rules have already been published by the Government of India.

Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU [Majuli (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: May I draw the attention of the Minister to the fact that the price lists are not displayed by the pharmacies of Jorhat town?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Medical): If the hon. Member gives the name of the pharmacy, I shall certainly take steps.

Mr. SPEAKER: No, no, he is speaking about all the dispensaries in Jorhat and not a particular dispensary.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Alright, Sir, I shall make an enquiry.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur): Is there any dispensary which has displayed the price lists?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Yes, Sir. I would request the hon. Members kindly to visit one or two pharmacies during the lunch time, and see whether the Shilong pharmacies are displaying such price lists or not.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Mookerjee, instead of throwing a challenge to the questioner, it is better to supply the information to the hon. Member.

Shri MAHAMMAD UMARUDDIN (Dhubri): How many Drug Inspectors are there in the State?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: It is a new question, Sir.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati): Whether the price lists of medicines are exhibited in the pharmacies at Gauhati?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: It is expected to be so, Sir.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: Sir, in majority of the pharmacies at Gauhati the price lists are not displayed. Will the Minister be pleased to look into it and take action?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Medical): Yes, Sir.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): Will the Minister be pleased to enquire into the fact that in no pharmacy in Tezpur the price lists are displayed?

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI (Laharighat): Sir, in Nowgong also the price lists are not displayed by the pharmacies.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I have noted the names of these districts, I shall look into it.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA SINGHA (Golakganj): Sir, the hon'ble Minister said that there is no agency to check the prices and the customers are the best judge. But when we the customers are saying that the price lists are not displayed by the pharmacies, will the Government take some steps in this regard?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: I am not prepared to accept that the price lists are not displayed by any pharmacy. It may be that in some cases the price lists are not displayed.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): Is it not the duty of the Civil Surgeon in the districts to make surprise visits to the pharmacies and see whether the requirements are fulfilled or not?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: It is not only the duty of the Civil Surgeons but also of S. D. M. O. s. and there are Drug Inspectors also who are expected to inspect the pharmacies.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati): Are there Drug Inspectors in every district or subdivision?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: No Sir, there are some Inspectors who are to inspect all the pharmacies in all the areas.

Re : Silchar Medical College

Shri NANDA KISHORE SINGHA (Silchar-West) asked:

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

- (a) Whether the site for Silchar Medical College has finally selected?
- (b) If so, whether the land is now in possession of the Government?
- (c) If not, what are the reasons of delay in expediting this long pending matter?
- (d) Whether Government be pleased to indicate a time limit for implementing this?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister-in-charge, Medical) replied:

70. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No.

(c)—After final selection of the site the land acquisition proposal is going on according to law. The stipulated period for hearing objection, etc., under the law, and the different steps in the proceedings prescribed, are the cause of this delay.

(d)—No time limit can be fixed, in view of (c) above. Further completion will depend upon the availability of fund and building materials. It is the Government's intention to complete the works as early as possible.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora): Whether the hon'ble Minister can tell us if the land acquisition work has already been started for the Medical College at Silchar?

Shri BAIDAYNATH MOOKERJEE: Yes, Sir. The other day I replied to this question exhaustively.

Re: Flood damage grants to Schools

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

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

(a) The amount granted to the Schools damaged by last flood Subdivision-wise ?

(b) When this grant has been allotted ?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH (Minister, Education) replied :

71. (a)—A list showing Subdivisions-wise allocations of the flood-damage grants to aided educational institutions is placed on the Library Table.

(b)—The grant will be disbursed as soon as list of Schools with recommendation is received from the Inspecting Officers.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati): Sir, is there any basis for allocation of flood-damaged grants to the aided schools ?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH (Minister, Education): Yes, it is based upon the damage done. Sir, the question came before us only a couple of days ago. The grant is given on the basis of damage done, as reported by the Inspectors. On the basis of estimates submitted with the help of P. W. D. Officers or Community Development Officers the money has been allotted district-wise and the amount will be disbursed through the D. Cs. and S. D. Os.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur): Sir, as the amount has been allotted district-wise on the basis of reports submitted by the Inspecting Staff, why the schools could not be disbursed the grants on that basis ?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH (Minister, Education): Sir, the sanctioning order was received only on the 28th January last and then we have to ensure that the money was properly utilised according to the procedure laid down by Rules in this behalf.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur): My question is that as the estimates have already been made why the money could not be disbursed on that basis ?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH: Sir, the inspecting staff had to take the help of the P. W. D. and Community Project Overseers, and that took time.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur): Sir, whether the Government will be pleased to execute the scheme through the Deputy Commissioner and S. D. Os., instead of allowing the grant to be disbursed through the Inspecting Officers ?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH (Minister, Education): Sir, I am prepared to place the list of the financial order before the House. The money has to be spent through the D. C. and S. D. O.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara): Sir, may I know how the money will be spent? Is there any check?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH (Minister, Education): The D. C. and the S. D. O. will spend the money.

Shri TAZUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari): Sir, are the Government aware whether the Inspecting Officers have visited the Char areas damaged by the flood?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH: Which char?

Shri TAJUDDIN AHMED: Char in the Barpeta Subdivision area.

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH: I will find it out.

Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHOUDHURY (Patachar-kuchi): মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে কৈছে Inspecting officers ৰ recommendation ব পাচতেই গ্ৰাণ্ট দিয়া হব। পাটাচাৰকুচি বিদ্যাপীঠ হাইস্কুলটো flood এ damage কৰা বুলি বৰপেটাৰ আগৰজন S. D. O. ই recommend কৰিছিল কিন্তু এতিয়াৰ জনে কৰা নাই। সেইকাৰণে এই বিদ্যালয়ে Flood damage grant নাপাব নেকি?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH (Minister, Education): যদি Inspecting officer এ দিছে পাব।

Mr. SPEAKER: তেখেতে কৈছে, আগৰ জন S. D. O. ই বিকমেণ্ড কৰিছিল, এতিয়াৰ জনে কৰা নাই। এনে অৱস্থাত পাবনে নাপায়?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH: নিৰ্দিষ্টাক মাতি নি দেখুৱা বা অন্যে বিকমেণ্ড কৰা ক্ষেত্ৰত, আইনৰ ব্যতিক্ৰম কৰি টকা দিয়াত অসুবিধা।

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): যিবিলাক স্কুল Inspecting officer এ চাই গৈছে সেইবিলাকৰ কাৰণে allotment হৈছে— আৰু যিবিলাক চোৱা নাই, সেইবিলাকৰ টকা Lapse হব নেকি?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH: 'ফাইনান্স'ৰ নিয়ম কি নই কব নোৱাৰো। মুঠ দহ লাখ টকাৰ ভিতৰে ৯ লাখ ৪০ হাজাৰ টকা ইতিমধ্যে দিয়াই হল।

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS: যদি স্কীম নাহে—তেন্তে সেই স্কুল-বিলাকৰ টকা lapse হব নেকি?

Mr. SPEAKER: নহয়।

Re: Assistants and Peons of Election Office

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) asked :

72. Will the Minister, Election be pleased to state—
- (a) How many assistants and peons working in the different District and Subdivisional Election Offices are permanent ?
 - (b) How many Assistants and peons working continuously for more than 10 years in those offices ?
 - (c) What is the reason for not giving them the benefit of permanency as resolved by the Government in para. 15 (2) of the Government Resolution No.FEP.3/56/27, dated 26th December 1956 ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance) replied :

72. (a)—22 Assistants and 13 Peons are permanent against same number of permanent posts.

(b)—21 Assistants and 14 Peons, are working against temporary posts out of which 21 Assistants and 13 peons are working continuously against the temporary posts for more than 10 years.

(c)—As long as permanent posts remain filled up no one can be made permanent unless the number of permanent post is increased. The revision of the existing yardstick of receipts to be dealt by an assistant is under consideration of Government and pending finalisation of the revision, Government cannot consider to make any more posts permanent.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar): Sir, in answer (b), it is said that 21 assistants and 13 persons are working continuously against the temporary posts for more than ten years. Sir, may I know what is the background of making a post permanent ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): Sir, I have already stated that permanent appointments are made against permanent posts. For temporary posts we have to keep the incumbents as temporary so long there is no permanent vacancy.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI: Will the Government consider to make these 21 assistants and 13 peons permanent ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): It is not possible now, simply because they are holding temporary posts for temporary work. They cannot be made permanent.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI: Will the Government be pleased to create some posts to make these 21 assistants and 13 peons permanent, as they are working for more than 10 years ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: That cannot be done without the work load.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI: If the posts are not sanctioned on permanent basis, why the Government are keeping these assistants and peons so long ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: The honourable members must realise that sometime posts are created for temporary work of casual nature. For example, for the purpose of bye-election some people are to be employed for a short time and as soon as this work is over they are switched off to their temporary work and the service is terminated, their service is no longer required. So, unless there is necessity and provision of permanent posts nobody can be made permanent.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI: If the works are of temporary nature, how can they be kept so long a period?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister Finance): So long as their services are required, they will be kept like that.

Calling Attention Motion under Assembly Rule 54

Mr. SPEAKER: I receive a notice of Calling Attention Motion under Rule 54 from Sri Lakshmi Prasad Goswami. It was dated 19th March 1963. I discussed this matter with the Law Minister. Assam Government has no information on the subject. It pertains to the matter over which the Assam Government has no control and also for the defence reasons, this motion cannot be discussed on the floor of this House. Therefore I request the honourable Member to pass on whatever information he, has to the honourable Law Minister so that he can look into the matter and see whatever action is necessary. Therefore, calling attention motion is disallowed on the ground of security reasons.

Voting on Demands for Grants

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOWDHURY (Minister, Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, Sir. On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 2,85,79,300, be granted to the Minister in charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1964 for the administration of the head "51—Agriculture".

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved is that a sum of Rs. 2,85,79,300, be granted to the Minister in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1964 for the Administration of the head—"51.—Agriculture".

There are cut motions—Sri Madhusudan Das.

Shri MADHUSUDAN DAS (Barpeta): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 2,85,79,300, under Grant No. 20 Major Head—"31—Agriculture, at page 173 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1 i. e. the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 2,85,79,300 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, এই শিতানত বহুতো টকা ধৰা হৈছে। প্ৰায় তিনি কোটি টকাৰ দাবী মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে কৃষি বিভাগত মঞ্জুৰী দিবৰ কাৰণে দাঙি ধৰিছে। আমাৰ দেশৰ শতকৰা আৰ্শি (৮০) জন লোকেই কৃষিজীৱি গণিতকৈ কৃষিৰ কাৰণে যদি ইয়াতকৈও বেচি টকাৰ মঞ্জুৰী বিচাৰিলেহেঁতেন তেতিয়াও সেই শিতানত মই কোনো আপত্তি কৰিবলৈকে ইচ্ছা নকৰিলো হেঁতেন যদিহে কৃষি বিভাগে সেই টকা ঠিকমতে খৰচ কৰি ঠিক কাম কৰিলেহেঁতেন। কিন্তু দেখা গৈছে, কৃষি বিভাগ নাথাকিলে যিমান উৎপন্ন হলেহেঁতেন, তাতকৈ এতিয়াৰ কৃষিবিভাগ খকাৰ কাৰণে কমহে উৎপাদন হৈছে। এই সম্পৰ্কত, এটা কথা কও—কেই বছৰ মানৰ আগত, কৃষি বিভাগে আছ বিধান বুলি বাও ধানৰ বিধান দিছিল।

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: কত ?

Shri MADHUSUDHAN DAS (Barpeta): মঙ্গলদৈত ।

মানুহে, আখে বেখে, ধান বৈ, নিৰাই-বিধাই খেতি কৰিলে । বৰি মাটিত । তাৰ পিচত দেখা গল ধানে ফল নধৰিলে, গতিকে তেওঁলোকৰ পৰিশ্ৰম কোনো কামতেই নাছিল । কৃষি বিভাগে এইদৰেই, বহুতো টকা নষ্ট কৰিলে । এই ক্ষেত্ৰত কৃষিবিভাগৰ কৰ্ত্তাসকলে তাৰ ভিতৰত, মিনিষ্টাৰো আছে—কৃষিৰ মূল সমস্যা কি আৰু খেতিয়কসকলৰ basic problem কি তাক ধৰিব পৰা নাই । এই সমস্যাৰ যাতে সমাধান হয়, কৃষকৰ 'বেচিক প্ৰব্লেম' যাতে meet হয় তাৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে চিন্তা কৰা উচিত । আমাৰ কৃষি প্ৰধান দেশৰ মানুহক, কৃষিজাত দ্ৰব্য উৎপাদনৰ কাৰণে যি আহিলাৰ প্ৰয়োজন, তাক দি অধিক উৎপাদনত সহায় কৰিব লাগিব । আৰু পাৰিলে অন্য দেশলৈও শস্য export কৰিব লাগে । কিন্তু দেখা গৈছে আমাৰ ৰাজ্যৰ বাবে কোটি কোটি টকাৰ কৃষিজাত দ্ৰব্য সামগ্ৰী বছৰি আন ৰাজ্যৰ পৰা কিনিব লগা হয় ।

কোনো বকমৰ ডালিৰ খেতি, তেলৰ কাৰণে সৰিয়হৰ খেতি আদি কোনো খেতিয়ে আমাৰ ৰাজ্যত নাই । এইবিলাক কথা আমি চকুৰে সদায় দেখি আছে ।

আমাৰ স্বাধীনতা পোৱাৰ পিচৰ পৰা আমাৰ খাদ্য সমস্যাবিলাক কেনেকৈ সমাধান কৰিম, তাৰ কাৰণে কোনো দৃষ্টি আমাৰ কৃষি বিভাগে আজিলৈ কৰা নাই । এইবিলাক খেতি কৰাত বৰি খেতিয়কক কোনো অনুপ্ৰেৰণা যোগাব নোৱাৰে তেন্তে, আমাৰ কৃষি বিভাগ থকাৰ কোনো প্ৰয়োজন নাই । যদি নিত্য প্ৰয়োজনীয় বস্তুবিলাক আন ৰাজ্যৰ পৰাই আনিব লাগে, তেন্তে আমাৰ দেশত কৃষি বিভাগ নথকাই ভাল ।

এইবিলাক যিনিচ আমাৰ ৰাজ্যত যে উৎপন্ন নহয় তেনে নহয় - আমাৰ মানুহ অলপ এলেকুৱা—অলপতে সন্তুষ্ট হয়—তেওঁলোকে ডালি, গম, সৰিয়হ আদিৰ খেতি আজিও কৰা নাই কাৰণ কৃষি বিভাগে অনুপ্ৰেৰণা যোগাব পৰা নাই । এই কথা মই সদনত দুইবাৰো কৈছো যে বৰি শস্য আমাৰ ইয়াত নহয়, কাৰণ ধান কটাৰ পিচত মানুহে গৰু উদং কৰি দিয়ে—গতিকে গৰুৱে বৰি শস্য খাই পোলায় । কিন্তু ইমানবিলাক কৰ্মচাৰী এই বিভাগত ৰাখি দৰমহা দিয়াৰ পৰা কি লাভ হৈছে, যদি মানুহক ভালকৈ বুজাই দি গৰু ভালকৈ ৰখাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰি উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি নকৰে । এই কৃষি বিভাগে আমাৰ গাঁওবিলাকত গৈ সৰহ শস্য উৎপাদনৰ কোনো দিহা কৰা নাই । খাদ্যৰ অভাৱ হলে, চৰকাৰী টকাৰ আমদানী হয় ; গতিকে সকলোৱে দুই চাৰি পইছাৰ আয় বৃদ্ধি হয়—আৰু তাতে এই বিভাগে সন্তুষ্ট । গতিকে সৰহ শস্য উৎপাদন কথাটো কাগজত আছে কৃষি বিভাগৰ পৰা কোনো চেষ্টা হোৱা নাই ।

মহকুমা বিলাকত এই কৃষি বিভাগৰ সদৰ অফিচ আছে আঞ্চলীক পঞ্চায়ত বিলাকত দুই এটা অফিচ ৰখা হৈছে । তাৰ পৰা যে ৰাইজৰ কি উপকাৰ হৈছে কব নোৱাৰো । শস্যৰ বিষয়টি বিচাৰিলে নাই বুলি কয় । কিন্তু এটা কথা মই M. L. A. হোৱাৰ পিচত কিন্তু যোৰ ঘৰলৈকে শাক-সজ্জিৰ গুটি পঠিয়াই দিয়ে এইটোও মই ভাল পাইছো । কিন্তু সকলোকে বিলাই দিয়েনে নিদিয় কব নোৱাৰো ।

Mr. SPEAKER: বিলাই নিদিয়, বেচিব দিয়ে।

Shri MADHUSUDHAN DAS (Barpeta): বিলাইরো নিদিয়, নেবেচেও। মূঠৰ ওপৰত এই বিভাগটোৰ পৰা অকনো কাম হোৱা নাই। আমাৰ বৰপেটাত মাটি দ। তাত মানুহে আনুব খেতি কৰে। এইবাৰ S.D.O. ব জৰিয়তে আনু বীজ গুটি দিছে কিন্তু সময়মতে দিয়া নাই। দুই তিনি মাহ পিচত দিছে। যদি সেয়ে হয় তেন্তে এইবিভাগটো বগা হাতী কৰি ৰখাৰ কি দৰ্কাৰ কৰ নোৱাৰে।

আজিলৈ এই কৃষিবিভাগে এখন আদৰ্শ কৃষি ফাৰ্ম কৰি গাঁৱৰ মানুহক সবহ শস্য উৎপাদন কৰিবলৈ উদগণি দিব পৰা নাই। আজি ১০ বছৰেকোনা গাঁৱত বা কোনো চহৰত তেনে কোনো আদৰ্শ দেখুৱাব পৰা নাই। এনেকুৱা আদৰ্শ গাওঁ কৰিবলৈ আঁচনি লব লাগে। কি কাৰণে এতিয়াও নোৱা নাই মই তাক কব নোৱাৰে।

তাৰ পিচত, কৃষি বিভাগে আমাৰ খেতিয়কক সুবিধা দিবলৈ বান্ধ-দং আদি নিৰ্মাণ কৰি সময়মতে বানপানী নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰিব লাগে, বাতে বাও বান, মাহ খেতি আদি কৰিব পাৰে। এই কানবিলাকত E. & D. বিভাগেৰ ফালৰ পৰা আওকান কৰি আহিছে। এইটো ডাঙৰ সমস্যা। আমাৰ খেতিয়ক শ্ৰেণী দিনে দিনে বিত্বস্ত হৈছে। আজিলৈ এটা নদী নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰা হোৱা নাই। এই কথাটো চৰকাৰৰ কাণসাৰ অকনো নাই। যেতিয়া বানপানী হয় তেতিয়া Relief দিয়ে—ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰা মানুহে আত্মসংমান হেৰুৱাইছে। সেই কাৰণে আমাৰ কৃষি আৰু E & D বিভাগে আৱশ্যকমতে বান নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ আৰু পানী যোগান দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে।

কৃষি মন্ত্ৰী আৰু ই, এণ্ড, ডি মন্ত্ৰী একেজন মানুহ। যোৱা বাৰ যুদ্ধৰ সম্ভা-বনাত উদ্ভৱ হোৱাত জৰুৰী অৱস্থাৰ বাবে খেতিয়কক সবহ শস্য উৎপাদনত সহায় কৰিবলৈ Power Pump ব্যৱহাৰ পৰিমাণে দিব বুলি মন্ত্ৰীমহোদয়ে সদনত প্ৰকাশ কৰিছিল, কিন্তু সময়ত দেখা গ'ল তেওঁ Pump দিব নোৱাৰিলে। আমি বৰপেটাৰ পৰা লিখি লিখি হায়বাণ হলো। ডিবেক্টৰ, মন্ত্ৰী সকলোৱে কলে “এই আহিব, পাব”। সময়ত একো কৰিব নোৱাৰিলে। যদি কৰিব নোৱাৰে, মুখেৰে কবও নোলাগে। কাৰণ তেওঁলোকৰ কথা শুনি আমি বাইজক এইবোৰ দিয়া হব বুলি আশ্বাস দি বাইজৰ মনত মিছা কোৱা বুলি প্ৰমাণিত হলো; বাইজে মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ক নাপায়—আমাকহে পায় আৰু ভাৱে যে, আশ্বাস দিবৰ বাবে মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে Pump দিব বোলা কথাতো তেওঁৰ নহয় আনাৰহে।

ভাৰতবৰ্ষ এখন কৃষি প্ৰধান দেশ কিন্তু চৰকাৰে প্ৰধানকৈ কৃষিত মনোযোগ দিয়া নাছিল বুলি প্ৰমাণ মন্ত্ৰীয়ে এবাৰ আক্ষেপ কৰি কৈছিল। এতিয়া যুদ্ধ আহি আমাৰ দেশৰ ওপৰত পৰিছে গতিকে এতিয়া কৃষিৰ প্ৰতি চকু দিয়াৰ সময় হৈছে। এই কাৰণে ভাৰতৰ প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰীয়ে কৃষি বিভাগৰ ভাৰ ৰাজ্যৰ মন্ত্ৰী সকলক লবলৈ কৈছে বুলি সংবাদ ওলাইছে। আমাৰ এই বিভাগৰ ভাৰ মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰীয়ে ললে ভাল হব বুলি মই বিশ্বাস কৰোঁ।

অৱশ্যে মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰীয়ে যে বেচি যোগ্যতাৰে কাম কৰিব আৰু বৰ্ত্তমানে ডান পোৱা কৃষি মন্ত্ৰীয়ে যে, যোগ্যতাৰ পৰিচয় দিয়া নাই মই তেনে কথা কোৱা নাই। কিন্তু মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰীৰ টকা পইছা আন বিভাগৰ পৰা অনাত আৰু কৃষি

সম্পর্কত আন বিভাগ বোৰত হস্তক্ষেপ কৰাৰ যেনে সুযোগ আছে, আন মন্ত্ৰীৰ তেনে সুযোগ নাই। তদুপৰি কৃষি বিভাগটো মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰীয়ে ললে কৃষি বিভাগ কাম খৰখেদাকৈ কৰিব পাৰিব। আমাৰ কৃষি মন্ত্ৰীয়ে তেওঁ ভাল কাম কৰিব নোৱাৰাৰ কাৰণে এইটো কৈছো বুলি নেভাবে যেন। এতিয়া কৃষি বিভাগত হোৱা দুৰ্নীতিৰ বিষয়ে কওঁ। ছিলঙত থকা কৃষি বিভাগটো একেবাৰে অকৰ্মণ্য আৰু দুৰ্নীতিপূৰ্ণ। এটা দুৰ্নীতিৰ উদাহৰণৰ দ্বাৰাই এই কথাৰ ভাল বুঢ়ালিকচন গাওঁ নামে ঘাটৰ জি, চি, গোস্বামী নামৰ এজন মানুহে ১৯৫৯ চনতে বুঢ়ালিকচন গাওঁ নামে এখন গাঁৱত কৃষি বিভাগৰ কিছুমান ঘৰ সাজিবৰ কাৰণে টেণ্ডাৰ এখন দিছিল। কিন্তু আচৰিত কথা এই যে, সেই টেণ্ডাৰ খন হেৰাই গল। তেখেতে ১৪ শ টকাৰ এখন বেঞ্চ ড্ৰাফ্টও চিকিউৰিটি হিচাবে দিছিল। সেই কাৰণে সেই খন হেৰুৱাব নোৱাৰিলে? কাৰণ সেইখন বেঞ্চতে ভণ্ডাৰ লাগে। সেই কাৰণেই তেখেতৰ টকাতে থাকি গল। তাৰ পাছত বহুত লিখা লিখি কৰাৰ পিচত কোনো মতে ১৯৬২ চনত জুন মাহতহে সেই টকা খিনি তেওঁ ওভোটাৰি পালে।

Mr. SPEAKER : কিহৰ টকা ?

Shri MADHUSUDHAN DAS (Barpeta) : টেণ্ডাৰৰ লগত দিয়া চিকিউৰিটিৰ টকা। এই কথা বিভাগীয় মন্ত্ৰী, কৃষি বিভাগৰ ডাইৰেক্টৰ সকলোৰে নজৰলৈ অনা হৈছে।

Mr. SPEAKER : কোনে নজৰলৈ আনিছিল ?

Shri MADHUSUDHAN DAS : উক্ত জি, চি, গোস্বামীয়ে বিত্ত মন্ত্ৰীয়ে এই সম্পর্কৰ চিঠি পোৱাৰ Acknowledgement মোৰ হাততে আছে, লাগিলে দিব পাৰো। এইটো ভাণ্ডাৰ দুৰ্নীতিৰ থকা। সন্দেহ হৈছে ইয়া, কোনোবা অফিচাৰ লিখি আশে। এইটো কিয় Enquiry নহল? ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰা মাননীয় মন্ত্ৰীয়েও কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ দুৰ্নীতিলৈ আওকান কৰা নবুজায় নে? মোৰ হাতত এই বিলাক Correspondence আছে। মই আশা কৰো এই দুৰ্নীতি-টোৰ বিষয়ে চৰকাৰে তদন্ত কৰি চাব। এই বিভাগৰ নাম জাহিৰ কৰিবৰ বাবে তোলাই খবৰৰ কাকত দিয়া ছবি এটি দেখি মই বৰ কৌতুক অনুভৱ কৰিছোঁ। চেক্রেটাৰীয়েটৰ আগত শাক পাচলি বেচিবৰ দগা-পাল্লা লৈ দোকান দিয়াৰ দৰে প্ৰস্ততি কৰি তোলা ছবি আমি দেখিছো। মই শাক-পাচলি অলপ বেচিকৈ খাওঁ। সেই কাৰণে মই তালৈ কিছু শাক-পাচলি আনিম বুলি গৈছিলো। পিচে দেখিলো তাত তেনে কোনো দোকান নাই মাত্ৰ ফটো তুলিবৰ দিনাহে সেই দোকান বহি-ছিল। ফটো তোলাৰ খৰছ চৰকাৰে ভৰিছে নেকি? সেইটো চাব লাগে।

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : মোৰ ফটো উঠা নাই।

Shri MADHUSUDHAN DAS (Barpeta) : আপোনাৰ উঠা নাই কিন্তু আপোনাৰ ঠিক তলৰ জনৰে উঠিছে। তাৰ পাছত গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে কিছুমান ফাৰ্ম কৰিছে, এনেকৰা ফাৰ্ম যোৱাটো কৰিছে তিতাবৰটো কৰিছে। একেখন জিলাতে দুখন কৰিছে। এখন জিলাতে একাধিক খন নকৰি অন্য জিলাতে কৰিব লাগে। আৰু যদি এই বিলাকৰ পৰা একো লাভ নহয় তেনেহলে এই বিলাক উঠাই দিয়াহে উচিত। এই কাৰণেই মই কৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাৱটো দাঙি ধৰিলো আৰু তাক সমৰ্থন কৰিবৰ কাৰণে সদনক অনুৰোধ জনালো।

***Shri SANTI RANJAN DAS GUPTA (Lumding) :** Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, in support of the put motion moved by my friend, Shri Madhusudan Das and in doing so I shall make only a certain observations. Actually speaking on this demand whether I should confine my speech to this particular demand or I should limit my speech on the items of the demand is somewhat confused, because when I look at the replies of the hon. Minister to the cut motion, I find that the Minister at length dwelt on the entire activities of the department. Therefore, Sir, I shall be speaking accordingly.

Sir, I have found from the records that from 1956-57 to 1962-63 a sum of Rs. 10,93,89,253 has been spent in this Agriculture Department and under the head "Agriculture". So, it is quite amazing to hear that the Agriculture Department has not spent a single pie in the Second Five Year Plan.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) : Sir, I do not remember to have said like that.

Shri SANTI RANJAN DAS GUPTA (Lumding) : I have noted from the Assembly proceedings.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Sir, I have also got the proceedings with me. Sir, I was referring to medium size irrigation and I said that during the Second plan not a single pie was spent on medium irrigation. Whatever money we had we spent it for setting up a River Research Institute and collecting certain hydrological datas. So Sir, my friend should not build up a theory from the proceedings of this House about which I said nothing.

Shri SANTI RANJAN DAS GUPTA (Lumding) : However Sir, the Agriculture Department set up Agriculture College, Agriculture extension training centre, seeds multiplication farm, Research Institute and food preservation factory, etc.

Sir, these were the words which we find from the statement made by the Hon'ble Minister that day. Sir, in the last speech of the hon. Minister he said that during the First Five Year Plan only 279 lakhs of rupees were spent and during the Second Plan only 435 lakhs of rupees have been spent. Against, Sir, the hon. Minister has said that during the period to 1956, the Government was importing food to the tune of 51,000 tons and prior to the that Government was importing food to the tune of 41,000 tons. May I refer to the hon. Minister for Agriculture to his speech he made last year in reply to the cut motion where the Minister had said that there was no denying the that Assam is feeding this additional 31,00,000 people. From where the hon. Minister got this figure of 31,00,000 I do not understand. The other day also he had said that there were 26,00,000 additional people. He also said that last year Assam is feeding the additional 26,00,000 people. For the period from 1950 to 1959 we used to bring from outside foodgrains such as 60,000 to 70,000 tons yearly, and if I remember aright, at one time, Assam had to import foodgrains upto 80,000 tons. That was the speech of the hon. Minister last year. But this year what the hon. Minister said that prior to 1956 we were importing 41,000 tons of foodgrains, and after 1956.....

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) : I would only say that the hon. Member should speak having my speech

before him and should not give his own version in my speech. This creates all sorts of confusion. What a Member did not say, it is also against courtesy to say so in the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should not misquote if the proceedings are not before you.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture): I do not think that his memory is sharp that he can quote everything.

Shri SANTI RANJAN DAS GUPTA (Lauding): The point is this, whatever the hon. Minister said about agriculture, what result we have achieved. The other day the hon'ble Minister said that nothing has been achieved. I re-present an area which produces agricultural produce like jute paddy and mustard seed. This is one of the most agricultural producing areas. But the hon. Minister said that nothing has been done last year. The hon. Minister said that Jamuna scheme will be taken up and irrigation will be done but this year it has been delayed in view of the emergency situation. So far as all these points are concerned, unless these things are placed by them before the House how can we vote for this demand. That is the point I want to press. I do not want to dwell on irrelevant factors. There must be some consistence and there should not be any deviation in the statements made by the Hon'ble Minister before this House. That was my point.

Sir, again I want to say that we find so much money nearly 11 crores of rupees has been spent. Where does the money go? The State Government are not consistent in their thoughts, in planning matters as well. From the Audit Report we find at one time, for example, Philobari Reclamation Scheme was taken up and a sum of Rs. 20 lakhs and odds was spent. After that we find that the scheme was dropped and all this money was spent from the Agriculture Department and it has been spent for nothing. No work has been done. Still we are to believe that the State is going ahead in agricultural matters. Again the Agriculture Minister wants us to believe that he had not said all these things when he will reply to this cut motion. What we actually find in this demand? An enormous amount has been spent for the Officers' pay, honoraria and allowance and salaries. Every time we find allowances and honoraria for officer featuring prominently in Agriculture Department. For the pay of officers a sum of Rs. 1,88,000, for the honoraria and allowances a sum of Rs. 1,30,000 have been provided. It appears therefore that more than five or six times we are spending for the officers pay and allowance. So, it seems that the whole amount we are allocating which this Assembly voted every year has been spent on allowances and other things. Sir, we have spent crores and crores of rupees in Agriculture but we have not gone ahead.

As my time is very short, I do not want to say much. I would only request for one thing that is, that the Agriculture Minister will actually realise that they are Minister, last year the Minister said "I am a layman". It may be very modest but he has to deal with a demand and his speeches must be restricted so that figures are given correctly. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir while supporting the cut motion moved by my esteemed friend, Shri Madhusudan Das, I want to make a few observations in respect of this particular

grant. Sir, you are doubtless aware that this Department is practically the basic department to improve the economic condition of this backward State whose people mainly depend on agriculture. Sir, we are maintaining a huge staff in order to have the schemes properly implemented and in order to fulfil the hopes of the people and also to bring output successfully. But Sir, if you observe very carefully about the development and increase of Agricultural production, you will find, I should say, that it is a statistical increase in figures only and there is no actual increase in agricultural produce. Sir, Assam is a fertile land in comparison to other States in India. It is therefore natural that we expect much from this Department that at least agricultural production would be more than that of other States. But it is very disappointing that its production is less. The other day, our Finance Minister as well as the Agriculture Minister said that we are gradually developing agriculture. But I want to submit before you, Sir, that a very careful observation will reveal that this was not done on basic figures and by taking proper calculation of the production by deducting the expenditure incurred.

This Agriculture Department is thereby only for the name of it, and no substantial work has been done by this department. With a view to bring about real agricultural development in the country, a revolutionary approach to the problem is necessary, and to achieve this purpose a thorough overhauling of the whole machinery is necessary. Any agricultural development worth its name naturally means the increase of the *per capita* income of our people, augmentation of the national income as well as the improvement of the economic condition of our people. Therefore, it is necessary to lay proper emphasis on this particular demand. I quite appreciate that proper planning is the *sine qua non* of success in any undertaking. Planning is also necessary for this Agriculture Department. But planning alone will not do, it alone is not the end. The end is the raising of the agricultural out-put and thereby improve the economic condition of the people. Therefore great stress should be given on this. Although, Sir, a lot of money has been spent during the last two successive plans, the total out-put compared to the cost incurred, is indeed very disappointing. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to see that the out-put is raised substantially so that we may not have to face a failure in this respect as dismal and disappointing as the previous two plans. Sir, in this scientific age, science has made available to us a good number of scientific tools and machineries. It is therefore good that our Government is also trying to make available to our agriculturists some scientific tools and machineries such as the tractors. But it is to be regretted that these tractors have not been properly utilised; most of them have gone not to the real agriculturists and cultivators. I would therefore request Government to see that these tractors are properly utilised; they are distributed in a manner so that the real cultivators may be benefited out of these tractors. Our Government has also done nothing to give incentive to our cultivators for using the scientific ploughs. Our people should be encouraged to make use of these plough. But although I had occasion to speak about this on several previous occasions, nothing has been done as yet by our Government. This is also equally so in respect of the fertiliser. In Assam, Sir, we have enough lands for cultivations. Fertiliser need not to be used in equal quantity in all varieties of lands. Soil condition is a very important factor. These things should be properly examined. Although we have a Research Section in our State I do not know what research has been carried on by it. I would request Government to give proper importance to this department. This department can do a lot of help

to the public regarding the proper use of fertiliser. At present fertiliser distribution is made in a most haphazard way. So far my knowledge goes, a large quantity of fertiliser is lying at Jorhat. But because people are not fully conversant with its use, no one has come forward to avail of the benefit of the fertiliser. Government should try to popularise the use of fertiliser amongst our cultivators. Sir, if necessary, the fertiliser should be made available to our cultivators at some concessional rate so that they may be induced to make use of fertiliser in their cultivations. We have also spent a lot of money in purchasing pesticides and such other things. But because our cultivators do not know how to make good use of it, a huge stock goes waste. For all these things proper propaganda, proper demonstration is necessary. Demonstration is a very important thing. The Agriculture Department has a Publicity Wing. But I do not know what this department is doing. This department should be geared up so that it may give an impetus to our people to the use of fertiliser, to the use of scientific ploughs, to the use of tractors and so on and so forth. As regards the so called Demonstration Farms, I should confess, Sir, I have not been able to discern any benefit accruing out of these demonstration farms. I do not find any justification for spending a lot of money in these demonstration farms. Government of India has a similar scheme and it will be better if the function of these demonstration farms are made over to them. As regards the field Management Committee, Sir, I do not know whether our Government has any clear picture about the functioning of these Field Management Committees. These committees are not properly co-ordinated with the Panchayats. To my mind, these Field Management Committees are mere agencies for sharking responsibilities, and these committees function only in name.

I would like to speak a few words about the Agriculture College and the M. Sc. Class there. I referred to this matter last time also and the Minister-in-charge agreed with me that the quality of the products of that College is not as it should be. For this I do not blame the students. The College is not suitably and sufficiently equipped and properly staffed. Some sort of discrimination in the matter of appointment of teachers for the college is said to be responsible for the inferior quality of the products of the College. These things should be properly looked into if we are really serious to see that the students coming out of this College may be able to make important contributions to the matter of agricultural development of the State.

Now I would like to speak a few words about the Agricultural University. Last time our Minister told us that the establishment of this is delayed due to want of land. This does not seem to be a very plausible ground for not taking effective measures for establishment of this University. In this connection, Sir, I would like to refer to a letter received by me from the Secretary, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Government of India. Here it has stated:

"I am directed to invite a reference to your letter dated the 26th October, 1962 addressed to the Union Minister for Agriculture on the subject mentioned above and to say that the proposal for setting up an Agricultural University in Assam has not so far been received from the State Government. They have, therefore, been requested to intimate whether they have prepared any scheme for the establishment of an Agricultural University at Jorhat. Further action in the matter will be taken on receipt of a reply from the State Government."

It is, therefore, clear that the Government of India are willing to establish an Agricultural College, but our State Government is not at all keen about this and that is why our Government failed to take up the matter with the Government of India in right earnest. Government of India are willing to give us money for this purpose but our Government failed to represent our case. This is I should say, a great discredit on the part of our Government.

Apart from that I also want to say one thing, of course, the Minister may take it otherwise—in respect of the appointment of the Director of Agriculture. Recently, the Assam Public Service Commission held an interview for this post. I do not know the Result of it. Sir, on that day, the Agriculture Minister stated that there was lack of sufficient number of technical personnel in the Department and due to which the Department is not functioning upto the mark. If it is so, why then the Government is going to send the present Director of Agriculture to the Central Government? Here at least in the Agriculture Department we are having a highly qualified technical person like the present Director and since we are short of technical personnel, I do not know the reason why we should not continue to have the benefit of his service in the State. It is understood that an I. A. S. officer who is not an Agricultural expert is going to be appointed in his place. If it is so, it will be really an unwise act on the part of our Government.

Now another thing of which I have personal experience. The executive officers of the Agriculture Department should not be posted in their own locality. It does not give good results. Then again the executive officers or the field officers of the department must be made to contact the masses in all times. What the field officers do in the actual field is that they, instead of contacting the agriculturists, contact the rich people, people like those who give land under the Adhiar system, go to M. L. As. and like that.

In regard to the pay scales between general B. Scs. and B. Scs. in Agriculture, there is some discrimination. This needs be looked into and dissatisfaction should be removed.

The Package Programme has been introduced in Silchar district alone. This should be extended throughout the State and should not be confined to a particular district.

The Government purchase so many power pumps but these were not utilised properly. These are now just lying in a damaged, deteriorating condition inside some godowns of the Agriculture Department. This is just a sheer wastage of public funds.

One of my hon. Friends referred to the problem of irrigation. Proper plan should be chalked out to give irrigation facilities to the agriculturists. In this way, the agricultural production can be augmented while it is now being lost.

Then there is irregularity in the matter of purchase of materials. While purchasing tools, implements, etc. undue preference has been given to some firms outside the State ignoring the claims of local businessmen. Therefore, these cases should also be considered seriously.

There are various anomalies in respect of distribution of seeds. People do not get the seeds at a time when they need, *i. e.*, at the sowing season. When the department supplies it, the season is already over. This matter needs serious attention.

It is necessary that the jute development and 'Boro' cultivation scheme should be encouraged in the flood-affected areas, especially in places like Majuli where it is not possible to have other crops than 'Boro' and jute.

My last point is in regard to crop insurance scheme. This scheme should be utilised in our State also. Assam is well-known as being ravaged every year by natural calamities like floods and draughts, etc., due to which people incur heavy loss in agricultural products. If such a scheme is introduced people will be saved from utter ruin and they will get economic impetus for their Agricultural Development.

One more point and I conclude. There should be a rural unit plan for the various development schemes under agriculture. By this I mean that there should be co-ordination between the Panchayat and institution like the Field Management Committee. There should be a Plan Committee for this in the rural areas.

Sir, I support the cut motion tabled by my friend Shri Madhusudhan Das with these words. I repeat again that the agriculture department is the most essential one which is specially concerned with the economy of the rural population and since this is a State which is the victim of repeated natural calamities, maximum attention should be given to the subject of agriculture in this State. Until and unless we can develop and re-organise the villages of our country, there can be no successful implementation of the agricultural plan.

Thank you, Sir.

Shri MAHAMMAD UMARUDDIN (Dhubri): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. Now this demand on agriculture, in my opinion, is one of the most important demands this House has to consider because it is vitally connected with the welfare and economy of 80 per cent of the population in our State, Sir, here I find that there is a total demand of 2,85,79,300 and this comes under two heads: one under the Plan and the other under the head General. Under the Plan, the provision is Rs. 1,88,11,864 and that under the General, is Rs. 97,67,397. That means the amount provided under General or non-Plan is almost half the amount provided under the Plan. There can be no question therefore, that this amount provided is inadequate. It is quite a substantial amount which may, if properly utilised, change the position of our agriculture in the State entirely. Now I will deal with some of the main items on which this amount is proposed to be spent.

Sir, under the head general or non-Plan, I find that there is a provision of Rs. 45,20,000 for the Fertiliser Distribution Scheme. The same provision under this head during the last year was only Rs. 11,20,000. In other words, for distribution of fertilisers a lot of importance has been attached by the department and I do appreciate it. I appreciate the fact that there is an awareness on the part of the department as to the vital role which this scheme can play in augmenting agricultural production of the country. This amount has now increased four times what it was in last

year, but the question remains what the details of the schemes are, how the fertiliser would be distributed, where it will go, whom it will benefit and things like that. Sir, we knew some-thing about this fertiliser scheme in the past. About three years back if I remember aright, 11,000 tons of fertiliser were imported into this State but the bulk of it 90 per cent of it, and I say it without fear of contradiction found its way to the Tea Gardens. Then Government changed the policy and the quota was reduced. Once that reduced quota could not be lifted in time. If Government realise that there is need for a sound scheme for distribution of fertilisers to the agriculturists and for that purpose a sum of Rs. 45 lakhs have been provided. I would only expect that Government would spare no pains to see that the scheme as envisaged is implemented properly. It must ensure that the fertiliser actually reaches the fields of the agriculturists. I hope it will be now distributed through the Service Co-operatives. Unless we have a chain of Service Co-operatives throughout the State, it will be impossible to maintain sufficient supplies which the agriculturists require. For this purpose Service Co-operatives should be strengthened and improved.

Next point is that before you make the fertiliser available to the cultivators the first necessary step is to educate the cultivators in the use of these fertilizers, because, I believe, these fertilizers will be inorganic fertilizers, *i. e.*, chemical fertilizers. Unless the agriculturists know the real technique of using the fertilizers, what fertilizer is to be used for what particular crop and in what dose having regard to the nature of the soil, the result will be disastrous. There is also need of irrigation facilities in areas where chemical fertilizers are to be used. Therefore, there should be properly trained staff, there should be means of propaganda and there should be means of demonstration. In this context, Sir, I also refer to some of the points as have been raised by Shri Madhusudhan Das and Shri Dulal Chandra Barua about demonstration farms. Sir, demonstration farm, to my mind, is an out-moded institution.

You cannot have demonstration farms scattered all over the country as this would be a very expensive proposition. Now, the Agriculture Department of the Government of India has come to the conclusion that these demonstrations should be carried out through progressive farmers as well as in actual cultivators' fields by the Gram Sevaks and other Agricultural Officers, particularly in areas which are under the Extension programme, I mean in the Development Blocks. I do not know whether it was done in the past. Unless it is done, agriculture cannot be improved. That is the crux of the whole problem. The Agricultural Officers should go to every village and take some responsive cultivators who will follow the method and use them in their own fields and show better result by use of fertilizers, better technique, facilities of irrigation and other measures which are necessary. This will provide a lesson to the other cultivators, who, I am sure, will be induced to take to such methods.

Another method is to use progressive farmers in different localities for the purpose of demonstration. Such progressive farmers should be given special facilities like credit facilities, manure, fertilisers, improved seeds and improved implements, etc., and they should carry on the improved methods of cultivation in their own fields and the Agriculture Officer will give

necessary guidance. If one person can show better results by better methods and by using fertilizers, the other cultivators will also follow suit. In this way, we can initiate the conservative cultivators into improved methods.

Secondly, we find that in Assam, our people are used to raise only one crop and that is paddy. By that they cannot improve their economic condition. Therefore, what we should do to improve the economic condition of the people, is to introduce certain cash crops which are very profitable, like jute, vegetables, pulses, oil seeds and sugarcane.

My suggestion is this that when progressive cultivators are not available in certain regions we should recruit some experienced cultivators from other regions where they cultivate such crops like jute, sugarcane, etc., so that these cultivators may be attached to certain development blocks for demonstrating in the cultivators' own fields how to carry on jute cultivation, what process to be adopted, how to carry on improved agriculture and so on and so forth. This is one of the ways of educating our cultivators in the cultivation of crops to which they are not used. But what we see now is that nothing has been done in this direction. We recruit a few Matriculates or under-Matrics—generally middle class families, and give them one year's or six month's training in a farm like Khanapara and send them with certain amount of half digested knowledge of agriculture without any practical experience, as Gram Sevaks and Agricultural Demonstrators. It is not an easy subject. Agriculture is a subject in which one should be linked up for generations. He must be by heritage an agriculturist and the people recruited for this purpose must have that heritage, tradition and background that particular outlook. Without that we have recruited some candidates who have never been connected directly with agriculture in his life in the field. I am sure, Sir, in this way we will never be able to carry the conviction to the agriculturists. Therefore, I say that our whole Extension Programme should be re-oriented. We cannot carry on with the sort of officers we have at present. We must have trained staff who should be sent for work in the actual fields with the cultivators so that they can show the cultivators the process and methods to be adopted. Unless such officials have the correct knowledge of the subject, they cannot inspire confidence in the cultivators.

Next point, Sir, is this. I find that there is a provision of Rs. 44,70,730 under the head 'Food Production under National Emergency'. This is a huge amount and I wonder how this is going to be spent, and what detailed schemes. These are not before the House. Therefore, I believe that if this amount has to be usefully utilised then we must select certain specified areas where intensive programme for production can be undertaken, and I believe this has reference to the four districts which the Government of India have selected for the purpose of intensive rice production. The areas which may be selected should have irrigation facilities and the people there should be irrigation minded, and the region must be immune for floods and other natural hazards. The whole Agriculture Department should go forward for supplying fertilizers, improved seeds, improved implements and ensuring adequate supply of water throughout the season. Sir I hope political consideration and other considerations should not influence decisions in this respect. I would like to suggest that a team of experts and other knowledgeable persons should go round the State and select the areas which will be really suitable for carrying out this emergency programme of increased food production.

Sir, the other day, when I discussed the figures of agricultural production, the Agriculture Minister said that the figures, shown in his own publication, are not dependable. It is not understood why these figures could not be collected and preserved by the Agriculture Department during the last 10 or 12 years. The most important thing in planning agriculture is the statistics. There should be statistics of areas under different kinds of crops, areas actually sown and the amount of crops obtained during ten years or so. It is not so much difficult to collect these statistics, because we have the land revenue staff and the Agricultural staff, the B. D. Os and so on. They should be able to find out the figures in each block areas and given some dependable figures for the last 5 years at best—with a reasonable degree. Sir, I would request the Agriculture Minister to give special attention to this problem and unless he can show to the people the statistics of food production and the activities of the Agriculture Department, it will never be possible to remove the disappointment and frustration which pervade the whole country. There is also some provision on account of agricultural statistics. If necessary the provision should be increased and properly utilised.

Sir, then another important point is this—improved seeds. As we know, the improved seeds can have account for 10 per cent increase in foodgrains. The seeds should be such as has been evolved after years of research in a laboratory. These nucleus seeds which should be suited to particular climate and soil should be multiplied in well managed seed farms.

Therefore, I find that according to the policy of the Government of India, there should be a seed farm in every Block Development area covering 25 acres of land and on this account, there is a provision for Rs. 6,60,000. I do not know how much seed has been produced by these farms over the years, and at what cost they have been produced and how these farms are functioning. Sir, some years ago, in a meeting which was organised for the purpose of seed campaign, I said that it was necessary to review the working of these seed farms. I know that in some areas the seed farms are not functioning properly and these have been established on absolutely inferior soil. Sir, although the Government of India's policy is that suitable lands for seed farms should be acquired at a cost of Rs. 1,500 per acre or even more, yet I find that these farms are not working properly and are not at all useful. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister-in-charge of Agriculture to make some special arrangement for the inspection of these farms and to try to improve the working of these farms. If any farm is found to be not working properly then it should immediately be closed down. Then again, if the seed farms can be run properly in every block, then, I can tell you, that they may be used also as demonstration farms because even in the matter of producing seeds we have to adopt the methods of cultivation. Then the seeds should be properly distributed amongst the cultivators. The seeds should be of very good quality because they are the very basis of production. The seeds, produced in the Government farms should in turn be distributed to the registered growers for further multiplication. So far I have not come across any registered growers, whether for jute, paddy or anything. Therefore, Sir, this matter should receive serious attention of the Department concerned.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is up. You try to conclude.

Shri MAHAMMAD UMARUDDIN (Dhubri) : Yes, Sir. Then there is a provision of Rs. 19 lakhs under Soil Conservation and the entire amount has been ear-marked for the Sixth Schedule areas. Why so? Do I understand that there is no soil conservation problem in the plains part of the State? Of course, I know that Soil Conservation problem is far more important in the Hills than in the plains. But in the plains also there is the problem of soil conservation. There are large scale erosions in various places and there are areas which have been devastated by Sand deposits. Therefore, I do not understand why certain amount is not ear-marked for utilisation in certain specific areas in the plains.

Then Sir, this Department has been kept under the Forest Department. Now, Sir, soil conservation programme to be really useful must have the following: (1) There should be Agronomists in this Department, (2) there should be forest officers so that there may be proper afforestation and (3) there should be proper crop planning in those areas where soil conservation schemes have been taken up. Therefore, Sir, I want to be informed how many Agronomists are there in this Department. I do not understand why this Department has been kept under the Forest Department and why it has not been converted into a self-contained independent Department, and why it has been allowed to function in this way. Sir, soil conservation is very important so far as Assam is concerned. Unless there is proper soil conservation it is impossible to save certain areas from erosion and flood. Therefore, the whole scheme of soil conservation should be separated and the Department should be brought under the Agriculture Department. But unfortunately, we find that the Forest Department still runs this Department. Moreover, there is no Agronomist in this Department to give advice about soil conservation. Therefore, this Department has got to be dealt with in a different way.

Then Sir, I come to manure. Green manuring in Assam is very necessary. It is far more important than chemical fertilizers, but unfortunately there is not enough provision for it. Cow-dung which is thrown away should be properly utilised as compost because it does not involve any investment, whereas chemical fertilizers are very costly, and so, our cultivators may not like to use them. Therefore, having regard to the economic conditions of our people we must make a scheme for proper utilisation of green manure. I hope these matters will receive serious attention of the Government. Out of the total provision of Rs. 45 lakhs made for manures at least 5 to 6 lakhs should be diverted for green manures, and green manure seeds should be distributed widely. Wide propaganda should be made so that the cultivators may use green manures. Therefore, Sir, these methods should be adopted. If the Department is serious about its task particularly during this emergency and approaches the problem in a spirit of dedication it will be possible to fully harness the active cooperation of the agriculturists and it will be possible to make some progress in our drive for more agricultural production—otherwise, it will be a cry in wilderness and nothing will materialise.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We have passed more than an hour and still we have not been able to pass a single Grant. Today there are 12 Grants. I think it will be better if the hon. Members fix up the time limit. Is it the sense of the House that there should be some time limit?

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI (Laharighat): Sir, from our side we have decided to discuss the grants relating to Agriculture, Fisheries, E. and D., Medical and Excise. In other grants we do not want to participate. Moreover, we have also selected the Members who will speak on which grant. None of our Speakers will speak for more than 10 minutes.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Then is it the sense of the House that 10 minutes time should be allowed for each grants?

(Voices: Yes, yes).

Shri MANIK CHANDRA DAS (Tengakhat): উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমাৰ খেতিয়কক সঁচ আৰু কঠিয়াৰ যোগান ধৰাৰ বিষয়ে কব খুজিছো। এই বিষয়ে বহুবাৰ আলোচনা কৰা হৈছে যদিও আমাৰ খেতিয়ক সকলক সময় মতে সঁচ আৰু কঠিয়া দিয়া বিষয়টো আশানুৰূপ হোৱা নাই। এই কথা শ্ৰী ওমকান্দীন চাহাবেও কৈছে যে, সময় মতে খেতিয়ক সকলে সঁচ নেপায়। চীনা আজ-মণৰ সময়ত বেতিয়া কৃষি বিভাগৰ পৰা প্ৰচাৰ কৰিছিল অধিক শস্য উৎপাদন কৰিবৰ বাবে আৰু সকলো সঁচ কঠিয়া দিয়া হ'ব বুলি চৰকাৰে প্ৰতিশ্ৰুতি দিছিল আৰু খেতিয়ক ৰাইজেও উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি কৰিবৰ বাবে সম্পূৰ্ণ সাজু হৈছিল কিন্তু কঠিয়া যোগান ধৰিব পৰা নহল। এতিয়া আছ খেতিৰ দিন; কিন্তু চৰকাৰে সঁচ দিব পৰা নাই।

আনহাতে প্ৰতিখন আঞ্চলিক পঞ্চায়ত বিলাকৰ হাতত থকা Seed farm বিলাকৰ কাৰণে ৩০ লাখ টকা খৰচ কৰিবলৈ বাজেটত Provision দেখিছো। এই Seed farm ৰ সংখ্যা আঞ্চলিক পঞ্চায়তৰ সংখ্যা অনুপাতে ১১৬ খন হ'ব। এখনত ৫ হাজাৰকৈ খৰচ কৰিলেও সৰ্বমুঠ ৫ লাখ টকাৰ অলপ অধিক হয়। ইমান টকা বহুবি খৰচ কৰা স্বত্বেও এই কাৰ্মবিলাকে কিয় Seed যোগান ধৰিব নোৱাৰে বুঝি নাপাও। আমাৰ ইয়ালৈ Seed বাহিবৰ পৰা আনিবলগী হয়। এই 'চিদ্দ কাৰ্ম বিলাক চৰকাৰৰ কৰ্মচাৰীৰ তলত নাথাকি ইয়াৰ লগত ওতপ্ৰোত ভাৱে জড়িত অভিজ্ঞ খেতিয়কৰ কিছুলৈ, চৰকাৰী কৰ্মচাৰী মাত্ৰ 'চুপাৰ ভাইজিং'ত থাকি ব্যৱসায় ভিত্তিত খেতি কৰিলে বোধ হয় ভাল হ'ব। সেই কাৰণে মই কও এই Seed farm বিলাক Co-operation ভিত্তিত ওপৰত কোৱাৰ দৰে Commercial farm কৰিলে ফলাফল ভাল হ'ব আৰু তেতিয়াহলে আমাৰ বাবতীয়া সঁচ কঠিয়াৰ যোগান ধৰিব পাৰিব। আনি দেখিছো—আমাৰ ইয়াত হোৱা বহুতো শাক-পাচলিৰ গুটি বাহিবৰ অন্য ৰাজ্যৰ পৰা আহে। English vegetable seed ৰ কথা মই নকও—আনকি সাধাৰণ দেশীয় শাক-পাচলিৰ Seed ও যেনে ভেনি, জিকা, লাও, কেবেলা বেঙেনা ইত্যাদি। আশা কৰো এইবিলাকো যাতে আমাৰ ইয়াতে কৰিব পাৰি তাৰ কাৰ্ম কৰাৰ দিহা কৰিব। ইয়াকে কৈ মই চৰকাৰী মঞ্জুৰী দাবীটো সমৰ্থন কৰিলো।

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very much grateful to the hon. Members for the interest they have shown on this demand. I am entirely at one with the hon. Member from Barpeta that the suggestions given by the Prime Minister that the Agriculture Department should be held by the Chief Ministers in all States, should be implemented. In fact, when the Prime Minister issued this statement, I requested my Chief Minister in writing to take over this port-folio. It is his kindness that he used a few nice adjectives

for me and politely declined to take over this department. He said that this department should continue with me. Not only that, when I became the Minister for the second time, after the general election, the portfolio was again given to me. Why I felt that the Agriculture portfolio should be in the hand of the Chief Minister? The reasons were the same which had been publicly stated by the Prime Minister and some of them have been repeated to day by the hon. Member from Barpeta.

Sir, in spite of what has been stated about the so called heavy expenditure and the importance given to Agriculture, I feel, the country had not given in the past sufficient importance to this subject, nor it had the requisite amount of capital, as is necessary to develop agriculture in an under-developed country, in the proper line within a short time. My friend, Sri Santiranjana Da Gupta is not here to hear my answer. Whatever amount he read from the budget for this demand i.e., Rs.235 lakhs, it is a gross amount. It does not mean that the entire amount is invested in Agriculture. For example, there is a provision of Rs.44 lakhs for fertilisers this is also included in the total amount. This amount will have to be advanced to the Sindri Fertiliser Factory for the fertilisers that will be purchased from them. This is more or less like accounting. On this side of the demand I put Rs.44 lakhs. Let us take it as if it is in the expenditure side to enable the Government to make the initial advance for purchasing the fertilisers. Then the agents will be selling fertilisers and deposit the sale proceeds with us. Let us take it as deposited in the income side. Only when we minus one from the other the question of loss or gain does arise. This would prove that simply because a demand is voted all does not become an investment as such. When some people say that so much money has been spent under such and such head and when I say that it is not correct, there is no reason to react on that. I only try to clear certain facts about which some honourable Members are labouring under misconceptions. But, Sir, in spite of the informations given by us often I find they repeat the same criticism without taking the information from the Ministers or trying to understand them. For example, a large amount will be spent initially for purchasing tractors, power pumps and the like. All these will be sold to the agriculturists there will be receipt for the money advanced which will again be credited to the treasury. So, the money which is initially spent does not mean that all are spent or invested for no return. When we make a statement that so much has been invested in Agriculture by adding up all the budget figures on Agriculture that for the two plan periods then we make the mistake in thinking that every pie has gone to the Agriculturists and there were no returns.

Sir, my friend, Shri Santi Ranjan Das Gupta has misquoted my statement. He said that the Agriculture Minister, when dealing with the subject, should not take the plea that he is a lay-man. It was not a plea. If I said so I said it correctly and I repeat it even today. That is the proud privilege of a legislator. He often heads a department, and it may be a technical department although he may be a non-technical person. That scope is there. It is the proud privilege of a legislative body which is sovereign to judge the quantum and the quality of work of specialists, technicians and scientists. The reason for which such powers have been given to us is not entirely wrong. This has got some basis. A technical man often gets into the tendency to develop angular views. His views must also be tested from the practical point of view of a lay-man. So, it is my proud privilege to be a lay-man although I am the Minister of Agriculture and I take pride for it

Sir, the hon. Member, Sri Santiranjana Das Gupta, I was telling, has misquoted me. If I repeat what I said from my last speech on the subject which is just now in my hand, it will be clear. My speech was about agricultural production in the State I said:

"Having kept these facts in mind, we have to consider whether the production in Assam had remained static or not. Sir, there is a very simple fact. In the year 1950-51, the production in the State was of the order of 13,67,000 tons. From 1950-51 to 1960-61 we have added a population of 26 lakhs of people. Taking the average consumption and making a calculation by normal mathematical process, one finds that these 26 lakhs of people would require more than 4 lakhs tons of food-grains. I have before me the figures of imports of food-grains, whether it is wheat, flour or rice in the State of Assam".

"Just on the eve of the Second Five Year Plan, that is, in the year 1956-57, our import was of the order of 41,452 tons. After adding this 26 lakhs of people our average yearly import during the five years spreading over the Second Five Year Plan period was of the order of 51,000 tons yearly. How, we are meeting the situation then? Is it not miracle? We had only 10,000 tons more as import and as against it the food requirement for 26 lakhs of people was of the order of 4 lakhs tons. How were we meeting the problem of feeding these people if the production was static or if there had been no increase in production?" So, Sir, I don't find any contradiction with the speech I delivered in the previous years.

Shri SANTI RANJAN DAS GUPTA (Lumding): On a point of order, Sir.....

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture): The hon. Member should have patience to hear me, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, Order.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, if there was a devastating flood in a particular year we might require to import 80,000 tons. In some year we may need 80,000 tons and in another year it may be 2,000 tons only. I said, Sir, that when we talk of food production, since we have not been able to stabilize the agriculture by making all the capital investments, particularly, by controlling the floods resulting in very much fluctuations from year to year, therefore, it was not correct to take the production of a particular year as the basis.

Shri SANTI RANJAN DAS GUPTA: This has been.....

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, the hon. Member is again interrupting. The hon. Member should have respect for other's views and he should not be dogmatic as to think that his views are only correct.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, Order.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, what I said is that when we talk of improvement in production as a result of the plan expenditure we should take the annual average of the production

in the First Plan period—what was the yield per acre—what was the average yield per year and what was the yearly average import in that period. Then we should take the Second Five Year Plan and calculate on the same basis the average per acre yield—the average yield per year and the average import per year. On the eve of the Second Five Year Plan, i.e. in the year 1956-57, Sir, we imported 41 thousand tons and in the next period, in spite of additional population our import went up by an average of 10,000 tons of food grain only.

Shri SANTI RANJAN DAS GUPTA: (Lumding) Sir, I want to raise a point of order. The hon.' Minister used the word dogmatic, is that word parliamentary?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Absolutely parliamentary.
(laughters)
Dogmatic words comes from dogma.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The word 'dogmatic' is parliamentary.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: (Minister Agriculture)
Sir, the point, therefore is very clear that the e has been increaset in production. Sir, I reiterate that the plan expenditure for agriculture in the First Five Year Plan was of the order of Rs.279.80 lakhs and in the Second Plan the expenditure was Rs.319.90 lakhs. Then I say, Sir, that while we calculate all these figures we should take out such expenditure, which are advanced by the State for purchasing certain things which are again sold to others and the price thereof recovered. Let us take fertilizers. In view of what I have explained already the only real investment in fertilizers would be what we pay as subsidy per ton to the cultivators and not the entire 44 lakhs of rupees. Our investment for agriculture as such is only the subsidy we give per ton and may be the interest on the amount we advance and not the entire money we advance to the Sindhri Factory to sell fertilizers to us.

Now, Sir, I will go to the other point to which my Friend, Shri Madhusudan Das was referring to, i.e., about the case of one gentleman Shri G. C. Goswami. Without knowing the full facts, I am very sorry, he used very strong language. From one case he comes to the conclusion that this Department is very corrupt and that all the top officials connive at corruption. Taking the brief of a person and taking advantage of his position in the House that his statements are privileged he is condemning in defamatory language all the top officials in the Department. That is very very unfair, Sir. I would tell him for his information that after we received this complaint we handed over it to the Anti-Corruption Department. I am not here to connive anybody's corruption. Therefore, I feel upset when on an individual case, taking the brief from an individual, the hon. Member condemns each and every one of the offices and the Department as a whole. When this case came to us, I understand it was handed over immediately to the Anti-Corruption Department to investigate whether the tender was lost or removed. Whether it was lost or otherwise, that is a matter which could only be looked into by the Department concerned after the receipt of the report from the Anti-Corruption Department. Taking advantage of the immunity of the House—because a Member cannot be sued for the statement made in the House there should not be general condemnation inside the House in such defamatory language which cannot be repeated outside the House. While condemning a person or a

Department on the information received from an individual person without knowing the other side one should not use such strong and indiscreet language; one should have control over language even if it is used for condemnation. In this case, the allegations were received and the case was handed over to the Anti-corruption Department.

If the Anti-corruption Department really finds that the officer concerned altered the paper or removed the tender and he is guilty *prima facie* of the offence, certainly he will be dealt with appropriately.

Shri MADHUSUDHAN DAS (Barpeta): This matter has been pending for four years now and no intimation came to the party concerned.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture): No, Sir, Anti-corruption Department does not give intimation to the party concerned in all the cases they investigate. They deal such cases confidentially. Many cases are such if publicity is given in any way the investigation may be hampered. Therefore, intimation will not be given. But merely because we get some information about corruption of a certain officer, should we condemn everybody in the Department. That is not also a fair attitude, nor a healthy attitude of healthy mind.

Shri MADHUSUDHAN DAS: When this case was handed over to the Anti-corruption Department, Sir?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Now, I come to the question of seed distribution.....

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI (Laharighat): On a point of information, may I draw your attention, Sir to,.....

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture): I it is on a point of information, Sir, I am going to give way, otherwise not.

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI: Sir, May I submit that when a particular Member has some correct information, I think, he has every right to place before the House and the hon'ble Minister should reply in a convincing manner. But here the hon'ble Minister is speaking in a challenging spirit.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is not challenging.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, I admit that every hon. Member has the right to place facts before the House. But before knowing.....

(Noise)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order, please.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, agriculture): Sir, I quite agree with the Leader of the opposition Group that every hon. Member has the right to place correct facts which he has received, but before generalising, *i.e.*, to say that all top officials are corrupt, he should ascertain the truth and know the other side also.

If the hon. Members place some incorrect facts which they receive from unreliable sources without verifications and go on drawing conclusions against all the top officials of the department, it is certainly not a healthy sign or healthy attitude.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): Sir, I draw the attention of this House to Rule 279A which lays down procedure regarding allegation against a person. No allegation of a defamatory or incriminatory nature shall be made by a member against any person unless the member has given previous intimation to the Speaker and also to the Minister concerned so that the Minister may be able to make an investigation into the matter for the purpose of a reply:

Provided that the Speaker may at any time prohibit any Member from making any such allegation if he is of opinion that such allegation is derogatory to the dignity of the House or that no public interest is served by making such allegation.

Shri MADHUSUDHAN DAS (Barpeta): I have not made any allegation against a particular person. I said about the department.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): So Sir, when a particular Member makes allegation against a particular man he should first.

Shri MADHUSUDHAN DAS: Sir.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order; order.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, the hon. Member is making allegation.....

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI (Laharighat): Sir, on a point of information.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture): Sir, I am in possession of the floor and I have not finished my speech.

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI (Laharighat): Sir, I beg to submit that if the Minister gives reply in this way, it will be impossible for us to continue in this House.

Shri MADHUSUDHAN DAS (Barpeta): Sir, the Minister is replying to the debate in an abusive way.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How long will you take ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY 10 minutes more, Sir.

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

After lunch

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, just before lunch I was about to deal with the question about the supply of seeds when the House was adjourned. Sir, it is true that there is a scheme in the Department to supply improved seeds to the cultivators. With the idea to supply such seeds the Department had a scheme of multiplying nucleus seeds and distributing the same to the agriculturists. Since our capacity in the agricultural farms was limited we also took the help of the registered seeds growers, but there seems to be some amount of misunderstanding about supply of seeds. For example, Sir, when there is flood, the Revenue Department issue seed loans. This seed loan has nothing to do with the seed distribution by the Agriculture Department. The normal scheme of the Department is that certain amount of seeds will be produced in the agricultural farms and also obtained from registered seed growers and these would be distributed to the cultivators. This scheme has a limited scope and it has to operate within its limited scope. But in case of a flood when there is large-scale destruction and when loans are given to the agriculturists, the demand for supply of seed comes to the Deputy Commissioners, or the subdivisional officers and they are expected to give this seed or the seed loan in cash. But while giving seed loan to the agriculturists they very often take the help of the Agriculture Department people. The Agriculture Department people are asked to advise or help the Deputy Commissioners in the matter of purchase of seeds from the open market. Very often that scheme of the Revenue Department is misconstrued as the job of the Agriculture Department and because of that criticisms are made against the Agriculture Department. I would request the hon. Members to visualise the difficulties about purchase of paddy from market to be used as seeds. Sir, in course of the last few years there is considerable improvement in the matter of supply of improved seeds. Sir, starting with the distribution of 90, maunds of Ahu seeds, 92 maunds of Sali paddy seeds in the year 1956-57 we have gone up to 4,000 maunds of Ahu seeds and 7,500 maunds of Sali seeds which are produced from our farms. But if we are to distribute improved and dependable seeds to the agriculturists in a year of destruction when all their stores and granaries are destroyed when demand would be very high, then the Agriculture Department should maintain seed stores of its own where they should collect seeds in a planned manner in anticipation. We may maintain seed stores but next year if there is no demand, the seeds would not be sold. Therefore, it has got to be disposed of as ordinary paddy before they deteriorate. Certainly, the price of ordinary paddy is lower than the price of seed; naturally there would be loss. A question has been raised about seed potato. In the same manner, the Agriculture Department, if they are to be successful should store seed potato. If there is no flood, or if there is no demand the some potato seeds cannot be sold and it being a perishable commodity is likely to be waste. I would remind this House about the post-mortem analysis made either by the Public Accounts Committee or the Estimates Committee, I don't exactly remember about the loss suffered in distribution of potato seeds some years back. What happened, Sir, in that year the Department purchased some potato seeds; the agriculturist did not purchase them from the Department; they purchased from the market or they relied on their own seeds. Possibly that was in a year of destruction by flood. So, Sir, considerable quantity of potato seeds were damaged and there was loss. The Public Accounts Committee, after six or seven years said that the responsibility must be fixed on the officers and the loss should be recovered from them.

I remember, Sir, I had to draw up proceedings against certain officers who were on the verge of retirement and in some cases proceedings could not be drawn because the officer concerned had already retired. These are obvious difficulties. Only if we agree to the maintenance of seed stones and the loss likely to be suffered there is an answer to this problem. But such a scheme did not find favour with anybody because it was fraught with these difficulties. Unfortunately, in a year of destruction only there will be huge demand from the people asking for seeds from the Deputy Commissioners against revenue loans. But when the demand will not or cannot be met because of the lack of sufficient improved seeds in stores criticism is levelled against the Department of Agriculture. I hope most of the cases referred to by the Hon'bles Members, the details of which have not been given, relate to such distribution of seeds under the Revenue Schemes in years of difficulties. Most probably, last year when the devastating flood took place and the seed requirements could not be met. Some purchases had to be made from market and some of them did not terminate in some places very likely. I have given instructions to my officers that merely because there is some pressure from the Revenue Department or from the non-officials to supply seeds, the Department should not go to the market to purchase something and then distribute it as seeds just to please them. If there is a demand the Department should try to meet out of their own seeds. The rest of people should be given cash loan instead of distributing doubtful seeds as loan.

In this connection, Sir, hon. Member from Dhubri, has given a very good suggestion. He has said that the working of these Seed Farms should be examined. What happened, Sir, during the Second Five Year Plan, the Government of India undertook a scheme that for each Block we should start a farm of the size of 25 acres or so. It has been found from experience by now that even if the entire land of 25 acres is utilised it is very difficult to make such a small farm a profitable concern after meeting all overhead charges of establishment including pay of the officers. In this State, in most of the cases we selected for seed farms, such high lands which were either T. G. R. or V. G. R. or something like that. In order to reduce the cost in many cases such unsuitable lands were selected. At our instance Shri Nilkantan an officer of the Government of India who is incharge of the Seed Multiplication Scheme, visited many of our Farms and he found that we could profitably reduce the number of these farms because if all the farms could be put into full operation according to that officer, they would be able to meet our normal seed requirements.

Because of paucity of funds and the number of farms being too many we have been unable to utilise all the lands in the farms properly. In some cases it was found that the land were not suitable for farms. Sir, that report has been accepted in principle; of course, here and there some details require further clarification consideration, examination. The State Government is reviewing the working of the Seed farms and I have no doubt in my mind that some of these farms will have to be closed down or diverted for some other purposes. In this connection a suggestion has been given by Shri Manik Chandra Das that seed farms should be handed over to the co-operatives and they should be asked to run them. I do not think, Sir, this suggestion can be accepted. We have seen the fate of co-operative farms in this State and also the working of many of the co-operative. Although my friend thinks that Government will not be

required to pay anything to these co-operatives. I know from my experience that whenever a co-operative is formed, the members of that co-operative think in terms of Government help and nothing else. So, virtually, I will change the management from the hands of the officers to somebody else on whom I will have no control with no consequent change of liability on the part of the Government or reducing its investment.

Sir, I agree with Shri Santiranjana Das Gupta that it was unfortunate that we were not in a position to fulfil our commitment about the Jamuna irrigation scheme. I have already explained under what circumstances this scheme had to be given a go-bye by the Planning Commission for the annual plan of 1963-64. I myself am not very happy about it, particularly in the background that no importance has been given to the medium irrigation schemes. In fact, our hope to bring certain areas of our State under irrigation has been belied. This matter has again been taken up with the Government of India and we are still expecting that it will be reconsidered.

Sir, coming to the criticism made by Shri Dulal Chandra Barua, I am very much obliged to him that he has appreciated that full importance has not been given to this Department and thought that it should be given. With regard to the distribution of fertilisers, he said that we should give subsidy. In fact, this is a scheme under which subsidy is given to the agriculturists. Now in order to bring fertilisers within the easy reach of the cultivators, we have recently raised to distribution commission keeping in view the high transport charges in the State. For this also, Sir, the subsidy has gone up. The State Government has agreed with the Government of India to bear the increased cost of transport and distribution half and half. The present scheme of fertiliser distribution is this: we would appoint some well established firms as fertiliser dealers in the State. They would be asked to maintain at least five distribution centres in each block. In appointing these sub-agents of theirs they should give preference to co-operatives. The hon. Member from Dhubri suggested that we should employ for this purpose the service co-operatives. In fact, this is our intention, but the service co-operatives at the moment are not very strong. They are weak; their membership and capital being extremely limited they are not in a position very often to deal with fertilisers. This had been our general experience when we had completely switched over to co-operatives for distribution of fertilisers during the last few years. Sir, every effort is being made to plug all the loopholes about fertilisers for agriculturists being diverted to tea cultivation. But so long as there would be two prices ruling in India, higher one for tea and lower one for Agricultural crop, there would be incentive for diversion and it would be impossible for anybody to say that he would be able to plug all the loopholes. In fact, I repeatedly pointed out this to the Government of India. This is a problem not peculiar to Assam alone; this is being experienced in other States as well.

Sir, coming to the Assam Agricultural college, my friend; Shri Dulal Barua thinks that the quality of the students coming out of that institution is inferior compared to some other institutions in the country. I think he is absolutely correct, but I do not think he is correct in his assessment of the causes for which this has happened. He thinks that we have not properly equipped the institution with implements and teachers. That is not the main reason. The main reason to my mind, Sir, is that 90 per cent of the students of the agriculture of the agricultural college are third division

matriculates. That is the main cause. My colleague, the Education Minister dealt with this aspect of general education in the State yesterday and also while intervening in the budget discussion. Normally we should take only intermediate science pupils in the Agricultural and Veterinary colleges. Unless such pupils are taken, others, without having some background of the preliminaries of science, cannot be very useful students to start with and may not in some cases be able to follow the lectures even. But in view of the difficulties to find I.Sc. passed students in the State for our Agricultural college, we had to downgrade the educational qualification to matriculation. Even then if we could have got first division boys they could have been possibly given some coachings and utilised much better. The boys themselves could have utilised their time better. But there also unfortunately we found that about 80 to 90 per cent of the entrants were third division matriculates. Many of them were unable to follow the lectures properly. In some cases, they had to be given additional coaching to enable them to grasp the preliminaries of science. Sir, that is the main reason why the quality of our products is not very good. As I said the other day, I would like to repeat that in a backward economy such deficiencies and difficulties would be there in the beginning. A large percentage of our agricultural officers are not agricultural graduates. My friend was complaining that these people had not proved a great success and so we should recruit people having some agricultural background. In a State like Assam where 76 per cent of the population are agriculturists, I presume, Sir, the bulk of the officers do come from an agricultural background. May be in the present decade a few have come from families who are not agriculturists, but by and large most of these boys are coming from families having agricultural background. But because of the inherent deficiency in their general education, they have not been able to prove as useful as they should be. In any case, Sir, a large number of the staff of the Agriculture Department are not Agricultural Graduates because of shortage of qualified people; they are either ordinary B.Sc.s, B.As. or even Matriculates. As far as the Field Staff are concerned, they have got to get some amount of training, and then only they are sent to the field. In course of time, however, we hope to be able to get better staff when there will be wider scope for recruitment in this connection, Sir, my friend, Shri Barua, was very critical for not having a Rural University in Assam. Sir, when one has a backward economy, he must be very careful about the utilisation of the limited money he has at his disposal. He must see that the same is used to his best advantage. Shri Barua himself has correctly stated that even now we have not been able to man the various Post Graduate Classes with suitable and adequately qualified Professors. That being so, will it be possible for us to man the Rural University properly with suitable professors and teachers? Supposing, we are in a position to man it properly, what will be the number of students in it? The number will be very limited indeed. Even in our present Agriculture College itself the number of boys is not quite adequate. Then again regarding the question of expenditure, Sir, several crores of rupees will be necessary to complete the University in addition to a considerable amount to be spent annually as recurring expenditure. Therefore, before we embark upon a scheme, we must look to its economics also. We should see whether the money is likely to be profitably used or not. If we find that it will not, then it will be better for us to send our boys outside the State for such higher training. The question of an Agricultural University was mooted by us when the Department framed its Third Plan. But the scheme did not find favour with our planners. Recently when myself and

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh went to Jorhat the demand for the Agricultural University was repeated. My friend, Shri Barua, has referred to a letter received by him from the Government of India. So, as far as the position of the Government of India is concerned, it is very simple. If a scheme is sent to them, they will consider it on merit. But when a scheme is made, it is we who will have to think, find out, and indicate the resources to finance it. If we put forward a scheme for a Rural University, it becomes the responsibility of the Government of Assam to find out money for it. It is not that Shri Ram Subhag Singh will make a gift of the money that will be required to start the University.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): If the University is started by the Government of Assam, will not the Government of India give the money.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture): There is no such assurance; They may help us but the bulk of the money will have to be found out by us, may be within the Plan. Then again, in the Fourth Plan possibly the entire cost of running the University will have to be provided in the Budget of the Agriculture Department out of State resources. Therefore, before we go to the Government of India, we have got to examine the problem from various angles. We have to find out the money, we have to find out the sufficient number of teachers; we have also to find sufficient number of students and also whether or not we will be able to bear the burden outside the Plan in the Fourth Plan when the scheme will no longer be financed out of the Third Plan money. These investigations naturally take time. It is not a question of this Government not trying to get money from the Government of India. We are looking into this question from all these aspects. But I myself would say, with the possible risk of being a little unpleasant, that we should not rouse too much hope in the mind of the people regarding the Rural University. If we start a Rural University without taking into careful consideration all the various aspects and the remedies thereof in that case, I am afraid, we will be guilty of spoiling the future of many young boys.

Sir, about the Soil Conservation Department: A suggestion has been made that this department should be incorporated with the Agriculture Department. At present this department is working under the Forest Department as a separate department. However, Sir, this suggestion will have to wait for future.

With regard to the statistics, Sir, I agree with Maulavi Umaruddin that it is really an unhappy state of affairs that there are no firm statistics about Agriculture in this State. So far as per acre average production is concerned, there some scientific bases about it because it is done under the Scheme known as Sample Survey which is on the same pattern, more or less, followed in the whole Country. With regard to total area under cultivation and the total production, Sir, these are done through the mandals and the Gaonboras-mandals and Patwaries in case of temporarily settled areas and in case of the Hill districts and permanently settled areas the Gaonboras and other revenue staff. The system is obviously fraught with the danger of uncertainty, inflation and underestimation. There is nothing scientific about it. A Mandal moves around his area and says last year it was 5000 Maunds and that this year it is 6000 Maunds. One

cannot question about it. It is true, therefore, that there is a great amount of uncertainty about the statistics and the consequent difficulties about planning. Recently, when the subject was handed over to the Statistics Department they had found out some more difficulties about which I took the Assembly into confidence in one of my recent speeches. Sir, these uncertainties will have to be removed as far as possible. We have submitted a scheme to the Government of India for package Dispute with a draft plan for collection of statistics properly.

Shri Barua also suggested about crop insurance. This is really a very good idea. If the crops can be insured against flood, drought and other natural calamities, the people will be much more enthused about better utilisation of land and production. This is a much talked of scheme for the whole country. But because of the paucity of the resources of the Government this scheme did not find favour and as such the scheme has not been taken up. Sir, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research I understand, has started a Pilot scheme in Punjab and they are looking to its economics. If that pilot scheme is successful possibly it will be adopted in other place too. Let us hope this will be, in that case, extended to Assam as well.

Sir, my friend, Shri Umaruddin has stated that no specific provision has been made in the Budget for Plant or protection of crops against the attack of pests. Sir, the Extension Staff are expected to do the plant and protection works in course of their duties in the villages. Certain specific quantity of drugs are kept with these officers, and they are to utilise the same.

Sir, I tried to cover most of the points raised by the hon. Members. Even then I am not quite sure if I have been able to reply to all of them. Time being limited I have to cut short my speech.

With these few words Sir, I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House and request the mover of the Cut Motion to withdraw his Cut Motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you going to withdraw your cut motion ?

(After a pause)

Has the hon. Member leave to withdraw his cut motion ?

(Voices: Yes, Yes)

Then, I put the main question. The question is that a sum of Rs.2,57,300 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1964 for the administration of the head "31.—Agriculture."

(The question was adopted.)

GRANT No.21.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Fishery): I beg to move that on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, a sum,

of Rs.15,94,700 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1964 for the administration of the head "31—Agriculture—II—Fisheries".

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved is that a sum of Rs.15,94,700 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1964 for the administration of the head "31—Agriculture—II—Fisheries".

There are cut motions, are you going to move ?

(Voices ; Yes, Yes)

Then, one will move.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.15,94,700 under grant No.21 Major head—"31 Agriculture—II—Fisheries," at page 207 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1 i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.15,94,700 do stand reduced by Re.1 "

Mr. SPEAKER: Your observations should be brief.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amuguri): মহোদয়, অন্য বিষয়বিলাক এই সদনত আলোচনা হৈছে, কেৱল মাছৰ বিষয়টো আজি ৬ বছৰৰ অভিজ্ঞতাৰ পৰা মই যি জানো, বিশেষ আলোচনা হোৱা নাই ; সেই কাৰণে এই বিষয়ে অলপ আলোচনা হোৱা উচিত । কথাটো হল, আমাৰ ৰাজ্যত এটা Fishery Department, মৎস্য বিভাগ আছে আমাৰ বহু বিভাগ আছে—, কিন্তু কামত হৈ নাই । যেনে আমাৰ Supply Department বা যোগান বিভাগ আছে কিন্তু Supply বা যোগান নাই (হাঁহি) । Fishery Department, মাছ বিভাগ আছে—মাছ নাই (হাঁহি) । স্বাস্থ্য মন্ত্ৰী আছে মানুহৰ স্বাস্থ্যৰ কোৰত চাল গৈ হাড়ত লাগিল (হাঁহি) —এইটো বাক আছৰিত কথা নহয় নে—বিল্ড মন্ত্ৰী আছে কিন্তু মানুহৰ বিল্ড নাই । মাছৰ বা Fishery ৰ বিষয়তো বিভাগ তিনিটা এভাগ আছে Revenue বা ৰাজহৰ হাতত—যেনে বিলবিলাক ; এভাগ আৰু বন বিভাগৰ হাতত । আনটো আছে মাছ বিভাগৰ বা Fishery হাতত এই সিচৰতি হোৱাৰ ফলত মাজ মূলত ৰাজ্যত মাছ নাই (হাঁহি) । গতিকে এভাগ ইয়াত, এভাগ তাত, এনে নকৰি ওটাই একেটাত থকাই ভাল—কিজানি বা মাছৰেই শক্তি হয় (হাঁহি)—বাইজে খাওক নাখাওক । আতাই কেইটা বিভাগ ফিছাৰি বিভাগৰ তললৈ অনা উচিত ।

মাছ অসমত ৫ লাখ মৌন উৎপন্ন হয় অৰ্থাৎ ১৮০০০ মেট্ৰিক টন ।

পাকিস্তানৰ পৰা আহে ২ লাখ মৌণ । তাৰোপৰি শুকান মাছৰ প্ৰয়োজন অসমত প্ৰায় ২ লাখ মৌণ । এই শুকান মাছ অসমত প্ৰায় ৪১৫ হাজাৰ মৌণ মানহে হয় । বাকী প্ৰায় ২ লাখ মৌণ মাছ আহে সুন্দৰ মাদ্ৰাজ, কেৰেলা আৰু বোম্বেৰ পৰা ! উৰিষ্যাৰ পৰা কম দামতে সাগৰৰ শুকান মাছ আনিব পাৰে !

মহোদয়, অসমত মাছটো বৰ দৰ্কাৰী বস্তু । অসমৰ প্ৰায় প্ৰতিজন মানুহেই মাছ আহাৰ কৰে । মাছ সকলোৱে ভাল পায় । অসমত, মানুহৰ জনমূৰী বছৰি ৩ সেৰ মাছ পৰে ভাৰতৰ সেই পৰিসংখ্যা ৪২ সেৰ । মাছ ওলালেই বজাৰত

বিক্ৰী হয়। এনে অৱস্থাত এই বিভাগে লাভ কৰাৰ স্থল আছে। কিন্তু Department যে য'ত Fisheries খুলিছে কি কম তাৰ অৱস্থা নাই। প্ৰতিখনত লোকচান। (হাঁহি)।

চৰকাৰে যিবিলাক ঠাইত Fishery খুলিছে, তাত মাছ নাই—তাতেই Loss লোকচান। Fishery তো Loss লোকচান। আমাৰ চৰকাৰে য'তেই হাত দিছে, তাতেই জুই লাগিছে। (হাঁহি) আজি এনে এখন চিলক বা Sericulture Farm নাই, য'ত লাভ হৈছে—এনে এখন কৃষি পাম নাই য'ত, লোকচান হোৱা নাই। সেই দেখি কৈছো, য'তেই হাত দিছে তাতেই জুই লাগিছে (হাঁহি)।

চৰকাৰৰ হাতত নৈ উপটৌ বীল লৈ ৭৩০ খন ফিছাৰী আছে। ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ আৰু বৰাক নদীত ২,২০০ খন নাও, আৰু ৩,৫০০ খন জালেৰে মাছ ধৰে। কেন্দ্ৰৰ Inland Fisheries Research stated in two Reports in 1955 and 1959 এটাৰ মতে so intensify catching fish from the Rivers, আৰু অন্যতো বা পাচৰতো মতে নদীত অধিক মাছ ধৰাতো পাচলৈ আমাৰ চৰকাৰে দুয়োতাৰ গুৰুত্ব আৰোপ কৰি এটা ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে—কিন্তু আজিও নাই।

আমাৰ চৰকাৰৰ দুটা Plan গ'ল কিন্তু মাছৰ কোনো Plan নহল। দুটা ৫ বছৰীয়া পৰিকল্পনা পাৰ হ'ল—কিন্তু মাছ বৃদ্ধিৰ পৰিকল্পনা নহল। মাছ ধৰাত কিছুমান নিষেধাজ্ঞাও দিব লাগে। আজি দেখা গৈছে মাছ ধৰাত এনে জাল ব্যৱহাৰ কৰিছে যে, পোণা মাছো উঠি আহে। এবাৰ জাল মৰাৰ পিচত মাছৰ বংশ নিবৃদ্ধি হয় পিচত মাছ নাথাকিলে পানীয়ে মাছৰ পোৱালী দিব নেকী? (হাঁহি)।

চৰকাৰে জালৰ পাহৰ নিৰ্দিষ্ট কৰি দিছে যে, অন্ততঃ জাল পাহ ২।০। ইঞ্চিৰ কম হব নোৱাৰে। তেতিয়াহে মাছৰ পোৱালী বিলাক বৈ যায়। কিন্তু বিলৰ মালিকে সৰু পাহৰ জালেৰে মাছ মাৰি শেষ কৰা নাইনে? মাজে মাজে বিল বিলাক চফাও কৰিব লাগে বিহ মেটেকা উঠাই দিব লাগে। মাজতে কিছু দিন মাছ মৰা বন্ধ কৰিব লাগে। চ'ত বহাগত মাছ পোৱালী দিয়ে, সেই সময়ত মাছ ধৰা নিষিদ্ধ কৰি দিব লাগে। এই সময়ত মাংস-কণা যোগানৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে।

বিলৰ পৰা ২।। লাখ মোণ মাছ ধৰে। কাছাৰ, কামৰূপ, তেজপুৰ আদি ঠাইৰ কিছুমান বিল Reclaim কৰিছে, এইটো ভাল হৈছে। এইদৰে বিল চাফ কৰি মাছ পোহাৰ ব্যৱস্থা হব লাগে। ৫০ হাজাৰ একৰ এই ধৰণৰ ফিছাৰী যদি হয় প্ৰায় এককোটি টকা খৰচ পৰিব—প্ৰায় ২ লাখ মোণ বছৰি মাছ পায়। কিন্তু চৰকাৰে মাছ হব বুলি এনেয়ে বহি আছে। বিল বিলাকৰ মাজত ইখন সিখনৰ লগত সংযোগ এইদৰে যাতে শেষৰ বিলখন নদীৰ লগত সংযোগ থাকে। কিন্তু আজি আমাৰ ইখন বিলৰ লগত সিখনৰ যোগ নাই যেনে, শিৱসাগৰ মহকমাৰ বকতা মৌজাৰ টকীয়া কান্দলী জান, শঙুণ পৰা, শিঙুৰাজান, আদি বিলৰ লগত ইখন বিলৰ লগত সিখনৰ সংযোগ নাই। চৰকাৰৰ Fishery বিভাগ বিলাকৰ নিছিনা হৈছে (হাঁহি)। সংযোগ থাকিলেহে মাছ বৃদ্ধি পোৱাত সহায় হয়।

আমাৰ খাল পুখুৰী, জান, কিমান আছে তাৰ কোনো চাৰ্ভে নাই অৰ্থাৎ চৰ-
চৰকাৰৰ হাতত কোনো তথ্য পাতি নাই।

মাছৰ উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি কৰাৰ উদ্দেশ্যে আমাৰ কিমান পুখুৰী আছে তাৰো কোনো
Survey হোৱা নাই। সেই কাৰণে বিল খাল, পুখুৰী আদিৰ তথ্য যোগাৰ কৰা
উচিত। মোৰ নিজৰ অভিজ্ঞতাৰ পৰা কৈছো যে, চৰকাৰে এতিয়ালৈকে পুখুৰী ব-
বিল য'ত লৈছে সেই সকলো বিলাকতে হানি বা loss দিছে। উমজুত ১১২
একৰ মান বন্ধন পানীত এতিয়াও মাছ বৃদ্ধি কৰিব পৰাৰ সুবিধা আছে। এক
একৰ মাটিত এহাজাৰ মান পোৱালী এবিধ পাৰে কিন্তু চৰকাৰে সেই ঠাইত এবিধ
মাত্ৰ এটা পোৱালী। উমিয়াম বা বৰপানী বিজুলী পৰিকল্পনাৰ ঠাইত মাছ পুখু-
ৰীৰ বিশেষ ঠাই বা জাগা ওলাব। এতিয়া যমুনা, কপিলী বেকিতে ওলা
ধুবুৰীৰ পৰা মাছ বায় উত্তৰ বঙ্গলৈ। বৰফৰ ব্যৱস্থা চৰকাৰে কৰা নাই নেকলৈ
অসমৰ মাছ বায়, বৰফৰ অভাৱত মাছ নষ্ট হয়। আকৌ যি মাছ সংগ্ৰহ কৰা
তাকো বিক্ৰী কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা নাই ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ পৰা যি মাছ পায় তাকো বেচিৰ
কাৰণে ভাল Transport ব্যৱস্থা নাই। মাছ ধৰাৰ ঠাইৰ পৰা বিক্ৰী
ঠাইলৈ আনোতে মাজতে নষ্ট হয়। শুকান মাছ যদি বাহিৰৰ পৰা আনিব লাগে
তেনেহলে উৰিফাৰ পৰা নানে কিয়? তাৰ পৰা আনিলে সস্তাও হব। কিয়নো
কেবেলা, মাদ্ৰাজ, বন্দেতকৈ ই ওচৰত। চৰকাৰে পুৰণা পুখুৰীত ফিছাৰী উলু
কৰিলে ৫ হাজাৰ মোণ, বিল উলুয়ন কৰিলে এক লাখ মোণ আৰু নদী উলু
কৰিলে ১ লাখ মোণ মাছ পাব বুলি আশা কৰিব পাৰি, কিন্তু এই ব্যৱস্থাৰ
চৰকাৰে ভবা নাই। আৰু এটা কথা কি জাল ব্যৱহাৰ কৰিব লাগে সেইটো
চৰকাৰে ঠিক কৰা নাই। কিছুমান জাল বন্ধ কৰি দিব লাগে। Reserved fishery
বখা দৰকাৰ। মাছৰ বিষয়ে প্ৰচাৰ প্ৰয়োজন Publicity বিভাগে অন্য কিছু
মান কথাহে প্ৰচাৰ কৰে মাছৰ বিষয়ে কোনো প্ৰচাৰ নাই। মাছৰ তথ্য সংগ্ৰহ
হোৱা নাই। মানুহৰ স্বাস্থ্য বৰ্দ্ধাৰ কাৰণে মাছ এটা বৰ দৰকাৰী বস্তু। গাৰ্খ
কমি আহিল, মাছো যদি কমি যায় তেনেহলে সেইটো বৰ দুখৰ কথা হব। সেই
কাৰণে এই বিষয়ে বেচি মন দিয়া দৰকাৰ।

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (Bihpuria) :

মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ
নহোদয়, ফিছাৰী সম্পৰ্কে যিটো গ্ৰাণ্ট অনা হৈছে সেইটো সমৰ্থন কৰি দুই চাৰিটা
কথা ক'ব খুজিছো। আমাৰ ৰাজ্যত মাছ প্ৰধান খাদ্য বস্তুৰ ভিতৰে এবিধ। মাছৰ
উৎপাদন আগতে স্বাভাৱিক বিল আদিৰ ওপৰত নিৰ্ভৰ কৰি আছিল। এতিয়া
সেই দিন নাই, বিলবিলাকতো মাছ কমি গৈছে। আজি চৰকাৰে যি টকাৰ
মঞ্জুৰী বিচাৰিছে নই ভাবো সেই টকা এই অতি আৱশ্যকীয় কামটোৰ
অতি নগণ্য। আমাৰ ফিচাৰিবিলাক বেভিনিউ আৰু ফৰেষ্ট ডিপাৰ্টমেণ্টৰ
আছে। ফৰেষ্ট আৰু বেভিনিউ ডিপাৰ্টমেণ্টত মাছৰ বিষয়ে অভিজ্ঞতাৰ
নাই কাৰণে তেনেকুৱা মানুহৰ আৱশ্যক নাই। তেওঁলোকৰ আৱশ্যক হৈছে
ফিচাৰিৰ পৰা খাজানা লোৱাটো, সেই কাৰণে ক'ব উঠিছে গঁচা কিন্তু সেই
ফিচাৰে মাছৰ উৎপাদন বাঢ়াব যত্ন নাই, বৰঞ্চ মাছ ধৰোতে ধৰোতে মাছ
কমিহে আহিছে। নই জানো চৰকাৰে আগতে মাছৰ breeding ৰ কাৰণে
কিছুমান reserved fishery বাধিছিল কিন্তু ফিচাৰি মানুহক বন্দোবস্ত
দিওঁতে দিওঁতে breeding ৰ কাৰণে ঠাই নাইকিয়া হৈছে। সেই কাৰণে
সকলোৱে জানে এতিয়া মাছৰ দাম সমস্ত ৰাজ্যতে অতিপাত বাঢ়ি
গৈছে। গতিকে চৰকাৰে এতিয়া মাছ কেনেকৈ বৃদ্ধি কৰিব পাৰি সেইটো
চিন্তা কৰা উচিত। সেই কাৰণে ফিচাৰি বিভাগটো আৰু শক্তিশালী কৰি বৰ্ত্তমানে

বেভিনিউ আৰু কৰেষ্ট বিভাগৰ তলত থকা সকলো ফিচাৰি, ফিচাৰি বিভাগৰ তলত আৰু যোতে মাছৰ উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি কৰিব পাৰে তাৰ চেষ্টা কৰিব লাগে। মই ইয়াকে আশা কৰি এই কেইটা কথা কলো।

Shri MONUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Fisheries) মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মোৰ বন্ধু শ্ৰীদুলাল বৰুৱা, শ্ৰীৰবা আৰু অন্য কেবা গৰাকীও সদস্যই যিবিলাক পৰামৰ্শ দিছে তাৰ কাৰণে তেখেতসকলৰ শলাগ লৈছো। আমাৰ 'ফিচাৰী' কিছুমান বেভিনিউ বিভাগৰ হাতত আছে কিছুমান কৰেষ্ট বিভাগৰ হাতত আছে আৰু কিছুমান ফিচাৰী বিভাগৰ হাতত আছে এইটো কথা সচা। এই তিনিটা বিভাগ এক কৰাৰ সম্পৰ্কে যি পৰামৰ্শ আগবঢ়োৱা হৈছে সেইবিষয়ে মই এতিয়া তৎক্ষণাত তাৰ উত্তৰ দিব নোখোজো। কাৰণ এইটো নীতিৰ কথা। সেই সম্পৰ্কে আজিৰ পৰামৰ্শৰ বিষয়ে মই মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰীক জনাম, তেখেতে বিবেচনা কৰি এটা সিদ্ধান্ত দিব। বন্ধুবৰ বৰবৰুৱাই কিছুমান অভিযোগ কৰিছে। তেখেতৰ প্ৰথম অভিযোগ হৈছে যে মানুহে যিবিলাক জাল ব্যৱহাৰ কৰিছে তাৰ কাৰণে পোৱালী নষ্ট হৈছে আৰু কিছুমান ঠাইত এনেকৈ মাছ মাৰিছে যে মাছবিলাক নষ্ট হৈ যাব ধৰিছে। এইবিলাক কথা প্ৰকৃত পক্ষে বেভিনিউ বিভাগে চাব লাগে। আৰু আমাৰ যি খন বেভিনিউ মেনুৱেল আছে তাত এই সম্পৰ্কে বিধান ও আছে যে আৰু আশা কৰো বেভিনিউ বিভাগে সেই সম্পৰ্কে দৃষ্টি দিব। আজি যিটো দাবি উত্থাপন কৰা হৈছে সেইটোৰ সম্পৰ্কে এই কথা নাখাটে। তেখেতে কৈছে শুকান মাছ মাদ্ৰাজৰ পৰা নানি উৰিয়াব পৰা অন্য নহয় কিয়? মাদ্ৰাজৰ পৰাই আনে নে উৰিয়াব পৰা আনে সেইটো আমাৰ চাব লগিয়া কথা নহয়। ব্যক্তিগতভাৱে মানুহে আনিলে তাত আমি কি কৰিব পাৰো? তদুপৰি আজিৰ দাবিৰ লগত ইয়াৰ কোনো সম্বন্ধ নাই। তেখেতে এটা পৰামৰ্শ দিছে আমি এক কালিন এক কোটি টকা খৰছ কৰি যিবোৰ Derelict Fishery আছে তাক পুনৰুদ্ধাৰ কৰিব লাগে।

তৃতীয় পাঁচ বছৰীয়া পৰিকল্পনাত Fishery বিভাগৰ কাৰণে মুঠ টকাৰ প্ৰতিমাণ মাত্ৰ ৫০ লাখ টকা, অৰ্থাৎ বছৰি ১০ লাখ টকা। সেই কাৰণে এই প্ৰস্তাৱ কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰা সম্ভৱ নহয়।

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH: আগতেই ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগিছিল।

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: বৰবৰুৱা ডাঙৰীয়াই যদি প্ৰস্তাৱ দিলেহেতেন যে এই টকা এক কোটি ৫০ লাখ কৰিব লাগে তেনেহলে বৰ ভাল হ'লহেতেন। এতিয়া আমাৰ টকা নিচেই অলপ। আজি পুৱা এটা প্ৰশ্নৰ উত্তৰ দিওঁতে মই সদনক ভালকৈ বুজাবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিছিলো Fishery বিভাগৰ কৰ্ত্তব্য কি? এতিয়া আৰু বেচিকৈ ক'ব নোখোজো কাৰণ সময় বৰ কম। আশা কৰো মাননীয় সদস্যসকলে তেওঁলোকৰ কৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাৱ উঠাই লব।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Barbaruah, are you going to withdraw your cut motion?

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri): Yes, Sir
(The cut motion was withdrawn with the leave of the House).

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, I put the main question. The question is that a sum of Rs. 15,94,700 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1964 for the administration of the head—"31.—Agriculture—II—Fisheries".

(The question was adopted).

Grant No. 62.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) : Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 70,000 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1964 for the administration of the head—"95.—Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research."

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved. There is no cut motion and so I put the main question. The question is that a sum of Rs. 70,000 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1964 for the administration of the head—"95.—Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research."

(The question was adopted).

Grant No. 23.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Animal Husbandry) : Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 78,92,800 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1964 for the administration of the head—"33.—Animal Husbandry".

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved. Will the hon. Members move their cut motions? (voices : no, no). Then I put the main question. The question is that a sum of Rs. 78,92,800 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1964 for the administration of the head—"33.—Animal Husbandry".

(The question was adopted).

Grant No. 81.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) : Sir, on the recommendation of the Government of Assam, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 1,50,000 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending

the 31st day of March, 1964 for the administration of the head—"Q—Loans and Advances, etc. (IX—Tea Garden Land Utilisation Loans, Grow More Food Loans, Fishery Department Loans, etc.)."

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved. There is no cut motion and so I put the main question. The question is that a sum of Rs. 1,50,000 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1964 for the administration of the head "Q—Loans and Advances, etc. (IX—Tea Garden Land Utilisation Loans, Grow More Food Loans, Fishery Department Loans, etc.)."

(The question was adopted).

Grant No. 41.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Flood Control) : Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 4,77,43,600 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1964 for the administration of the head—"44—Irrigation, Navigation and Embankment and Drainage Works"

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved.

Shri TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari) : Sir, I beg to move that a total provision of Rs. 4,77,43,600 under Grant No. 41, Major head "44—Irrigation, Navigation and Embankment and Drainage Works and 100—Capital Outlay on Irrigation, Navigation and Embankment and Drainage Works, at page 319 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, i. e., amount of of the whole grant of Rs. 4,77,43,600, do stand reduce by Re. 1.

উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমাৰ বান্ধ, মঠাউৰি আদি দৰকাৰনে অদৰকাৰ এই কথা লৈ আমাৰ মানুহৰ মাজত বহুত আলোচনা হোৱাৰ পিচত ভাগৱতী কমিচন নিযুক্ত কৰা হয়। ভাগৱতী কমিচনে অৱশ্যে বায় দিয়ে যে বান্ধ, মঠাউৰী আদি দৰকাৰ যদিও এইবোৰ বান্ধোতে চৰকাৰৰ ভুলতে বহুত ঠাইত মানুহৰ উপকাৰতকৈ অপকাৰহে বেচি হৈছে। মঠাউৰী বান্ধোতে ঠাইবোৰৰ ভৌগলিক পৰিস্থিতি অধ্যয়ন নকৰাকৈ বন্ধাৰ ফলত এই ভুল হৈছে আৰু লগতে ৰাইজৰ উপকাৰ নহৈ অপকাৰহে হৈছে।

উত্তৰ কামৰূপৰ নলবাৰী, হাজো, বাগদিয়া আদি ঠাইত বান পানীয়ে অপকাৰ কৰে এই মঠাউৰী বন্ধাৰ ফলত হৈ, কাৰণ বহুত ঠাই সদায় পানীৰ তলতে থাকে। বৰপেটা মহকুমাত বৰপেটা মৌজা সৰু ক্ষেত্ৰি মৌজা, পকা মৌজাত মঠাউৰী নোহোৱাত যিমান ক্ষতি হৈছিল, এতিয়া মঠাউৰী হোৱাতহে বেচি ক্ষতি হৈছে। পুখিমাৰী নদী বৈ যোৱা উত্তৰ কামৰূপ অঞ্চলত চৰকাৰৰ ভুলৰ কাৰণেই মঠাউৰীৰ পূৰ্ব অঞ্চলত লাভ হৈছে যদিও পশ্চিম পাৰে অশেষ ক্ষতি হৈছে।

ভাগৱতী কমিচনে বিপৰ্টিত কৈছিল যে নাজে-নাজে Sluice gate দিব লাগে। কিন্তু এই Sluice gate দিছে যদিও কাম হোৱা নাই। বৰপেটাত এদাৰাৰীৰ পৰা বাঘমৰালৈ বন্ধা মঠাউৰীৰ পৰা ৰাইজৰ লাভ হৈছে যদিও তাত যি Sluice gate আছে তাৰ পৰা বিশেষ লাভ হোৱা নাই। এইবাৰ বানপানী বৰ বেচি হৈছিল, বোধ কৰো এনেকুৱা বানপানী ৫১০ বছৰ আগতে হোৱা নাই। সেই সময়ত এশ বছৰৰ থাকিবলৈ ঠাই নোহোৱা হ'লত Sluice gate পালেগৈ। ফলত মাটি খান্দি Sluice gate বন্ধ কৰি দিলে। Sluice gate এনেকুৱা ঠাইত বান্ধিছে যে এইবাৰৰ নিচিনা ডাঙৰ বান পানীও Sluice gate ৰ ওচৰলৈ যাব নোৱাৰিলে। মাত্ৰ ইন্দুৰ বাহ হ'ল। তেনেহলে সেই Sluice gate ৰে পানী যাব কেতিয়া। পানী আহা যোৱা কৰাৰ কাৰণে Sluice gate তৈয়াৰ কৰিছে নে বাৰিধা ইন্দুৰ আশ্ৰয়ৰ কাৰণে তৈয়াৰ কৰিছে?

পিছত মঠাউৰী বন্ধা আঁচনি বিলাকেৰে দেখা যায় অপকালীন হিচাবে মানুহৰ সুবিধা দিয়াৰ পাৰি। মানুহক স্থায়ীভাৱে বিপদৰ পৰা হাত সৰোৱাৰ দীৰ্ঘ কালীন সুবিধা নহয়। মঠাউৰী বন্ধাৰ লগে লগে বৈজ্ঞানীক পদ্ধতিৰে নদীবিলাকো নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰিব পাৰিব লাগিব। অকল মঠাউৰী বান্ধিলেই নহ'ব। আকৌ নদী নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰি প্ৰয়োজনীয় পানী আৰু নদীৰ পলশ, পঠাবলৈ আহিবলৈ দিব লাগিব। পলশবিলাক সাৰ; আৰু এই সাৰ আমাৰ খেতিৰ কাৰণে অতি প্ৰয়োজন। এই পলশ আৰু বালিয়ে নদীৰ গতিবিধি বদলায় আৰু নদীৰ তলি দ বাম কৰে। তানোপৰি ই নদীৰ মুখত জমা হ'লে, নদীৰ পানী ওলাই যোৱাত বাধা দিয়ে তাৰ ফলত, বানপানীৰ কাল দীঘলীয়া হয়। কাজেই নদী নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ আৰু মঠাউৰী বন্ধা কাৰ্য্য বৈজ্ঞানীক প্ৰণালীত হ'ব লাগে আৰু ১১১৥ মাইলে প্ৰতি, পানী ওলাই যাব পৰা পথ দিব লাগে। এই সম্পৰ্কত, এই কথা নটক নোৱাৰো যে, যিমান টকাৰ আঁচনি হ'ব লাগে তাতকৈ বেচি কাম, যি কোনো কাৰণে আমাৰ চৰকাৰে হাতত লয়, তাৰ ফলত কামবিলাক সম্পূৰ্ণ হৈ নুঠে আৰু আধা কাম বাকী থাকি যায়। এই পদ্ধতিৰে কাম কৰাৰ ফলত ৰাইজৰ উপকাৰ নহয় আৰু আনহাতে চৰকাৰৰ টকা অসহকৃত খৰচ হৈ যায়। আনি দেখিছো, সময়মতে কামো আবস্ত নহয়। বৰষুণৰ দিনৰ আগে আগে বা বৰষাৰ দিনত কাম আবস্ত হয় তাৰ ফলত, বহুত কাম, বৰষুণৰ পানী আৰু বৰষাৰ চলে উটোৱাই লৈ যায় আৰু কামত আগবাঢ়িব নোৱাৰে। তাতেই শেষ। এইদৰে ঠিক মতে Calculation কৰিব নোৱাৰাৰ ফলত একে ঠাইতেই, বছৰত বছৰৰ আৰু বছৰে বছৰে একে ঠাইতেই কাম সীমাবদ্ধ হৈ থকাৰ ফলত—কামত অগ্ৰসৰ হোৱাত বাধা পৰে। উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে তাৰাবাৰীৰ মঠাউৰীটোৰ কথাকে কওঁ। বছৰে বছৰে একেঠাইতে খৰচ কৰিব লগীয়া হৈছে—কামো ঠিক মতে নহয়। এই কাৰণে তাৰ ৰাইজৰ বহু অসুবিধা হৈছে। এইবাবে, যোৱা বছৰ ভঙা ঠাইত বান্ধিছে—যদি বাৰিষাৰ আগতে এই বান্ধ বান্ধা শেষ নহয় তেন্তে ৰাইজৰ স্বৰ্গ প্ৰাপ্তি অৱস্থা হ'ব। বিশেষকৈ বৰপেটা মহকুমাৰ দক্ষিণ অঞ্চলত এইবিলাক কৰোতে যথেষ্ট ভুল কৰিছে সেই ভুলবিলাকৰ কাৰণে এহাতে ৰাইজৰ সৰ্বনাশ আৰু আনহাতে অমথা বিৰাট পৰিমাণৰ অৰ্থ ব্যয় হয়।

(সময়ৰ সংকেত)।

আৰু অলপটকৈয়ে শেষ কৰিম। চাব, এই বিভাগত বিভাগীয় কিছুমান 'কেচ' বহুদিন ধৰি পৰি আছে।

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) : কি 'কেচ' ?

Shri TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari) : এই বিভাগৰ কিছুমান অফিচাৰ Suspend হৈ আছে। এই দৰে অনিৰ্দিষ্ট কাললৈ থকা উচিত নহয়। যদি তেওঁলোকে কাম পায়—দিব লাগে—নহলে কামৰ পৰা বৰ্খাস্ত কৰি দিব লাগে। এইবিলাক কেচ সোনকালে শেষ নকৰিলে এফালে কৰ্মচাৰীবিলাকৰ ক্ষতি আনহাতে চৰকাৰৰ কাম আৰু ধন খৰচ হয়।

চৰকাৰৰ বিভাগবিলাকত দুৰ্নীতি কথাটো মুখে মুখে। সেই ক্ষেত্ৰত মই ইমানকৈ কণ্ট যে বেকী নদীৰ যিটো 'বান্ধ' বান্ধিছে—সেই বান্ধ বন্ধা কামৰ কাৰণে বহুতো বৰপেটাৰ মানুহে ইচ্ছা কৰা স্বত্বেও তেওঁলোকৰ দিনা নহল। কিছুমান বাহিৰৰ পৰা মানুহ আনি ঠিকা দিছে—এই প্ৰসঙ্গত এই কথাই কব খজিছে যে, তাত যিবিলাক শিলৰ কাম হ'ব, তাৰ কাৰণে ঠিকাদাৰক যিটো শিলৰ 'ৰেট' দিয়া হৈছে সি বৰ বেচি—অৰ্থাৎ ৮০% দিছে। তাত মাত্ৰ ২০% (শতকৰা বিশ) টকা খৰচ হ'ব। আশা কৰো চৰকাৰে ইয়াৰ তদন্ত কৰিব।

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora) : মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমাৰ বন্ধু তাজুদ্দিন সাহাবৰে কৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাৱ দিয়াছেন তাৰই সমৰ্থন কৰে দু-চাৰটা কথা বলতে চাই। আমাৰে যে, Embankment and Drainage বিভাগ হৈছে এতে কাজ হচেছনা। আমাৰে দুইটা নদী ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ ও বৰাক আজ জন-জীৱনে দুঃখৰ বন্যা নেমে আসে। যখন ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰে বন্যা আসে তখন তাৰ উপ-নদনদীগুলো প্লাবিত হয়ে যায় এবং তারফলে নগর, সহর, গ্রাম অঞ্চল ভেসে যায়, আর জনসাধারণের ক্ষতি সাধন করে। ই এও, ডি, বিভাগে এখানে কিছু করতে পারছে না। গত ১৯৫৪ সালে এর গুরুত্ব উপলব্ধি করে P. W. D. থেকে E/D বিভাগটা পৃথক করা হয়। এবং সংগে সংগে কাজ চলে। প্রতি বৎসর এতে যথেষ্ট অর্থ ব্যয় হচেছ। প্রথম পরিকল্পনায় এ বিভাগে এক কোটির অধিক, ২য় পরিকল্পনায় সেইমত এবং ৩ পরিকল্পনায় পাচ কোটি টাকা খরচ হবে। এতেও নয়, আমাৰে peculiar অবস্থা উপলব্ধি করে কেন্দ্ৰীয় সরকারের চাইতে আরও অধিক টাকা দিবেন বলছেন আর এ বিষয়ে আরও চিন্তা কৰিবেন। এমত অবস্থায়, ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ এবং বৰাক নদীৰ উপনদীগুলো নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰা প্ৰয়োজন-। বৰ্ত্তমানে এজন্য কোন ৰকম তেমন পৰিকল্পনা নাই, বাহাতে এই কাৰ্য্য সম্পূৰ্ণ হয়। এ ছাড়া, যেগুলি পৰিকল্পনা সরকার কৰেছেন, তাহাতে Departmental বিস্তাৰণা এবং দুৰ্নীতিৰ জন্য কাজে অগ্ৰসৰ হতে পাৰছে না আৰু যেখানে কিছু কৰছে সেখানে ব্যৰ্থ মনোৱৰ্থ হয়েছে। এর কারণ এবং কৰ্ম পদ্ধতি সংক্ৰান্ত ব্যাপাৰে, গলদ কোথায়, সেটা তদন্ত কৰা উচিত।

তাৰ পৰে, Audit report এ অনেক কথা আছে, তাহাতেও এটা প্ৰমাণিত হয়। বৰাক ভেলি প্ৰজেক্ট সম্পৰ্কে কেন্দ্ৰীয় সরকার সম্ভ্ৰতি নাকি মনো-নিবেশ কৰেছেন। আশাকৰি মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয় এই সম্পৰ্কে লক্ষ্য ৰাখবেন।

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : কেন্দ্ৰীয় সরকার কিছু কৰেছেন বলে আমি জানি না।

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE : এটা আমি দিল্লী খবৰ Statesman কাগজে দেখেছি।

কোন কোন কাজ হাতে নেওয়া হয়েছে ; কিন্তু স্থানীয় M. L. A. তার কোন খবর পায় না । আজকে সব P.W.D. (R & B) র সকল কাজ এইরকমেই হয়ে থাকে । তাহলে তাই যদি হয়, তবে বুঝা যায় অফিসারেরা মন্ত্রীর কথা শোনে না । আনাদের শাসন ব্যবস্থার, মন্ত্রীকে বললে বড় বেশী কাজ হয় না ।

শ্রমিক বাহিনীর যে কাজ হয়েছে ; সে বিষয়ে আমার বন্ধু শ্রীদুলাল বরুয়া আমার পূর্বেরই বলেছেন । বোরহাটে তিনি নিজেই একটি শ্রমিক বাহিনী গঠন করলেন কিন্তু যখন টাকা দেওয়ার সময় হলো , তখন টাকা পায় না । যখন এই অবস্থাই হয়েছে তখন এসব কাজে কার উৎসাহ অল্প থাকতে পারে ? M.L.A. ই হটুক আর মন্ত্রীই হউন, যেই বলুন না কেন, আমাদের অফিসারেরা কিছু তাহা সমর্থন করে না । শ্রমিক বাহিনী সংগঠন হয়েছে অনেক স্থানীয় শ্রমিক কাজ করবে বলে বাহির হয়েছে কিন্তু এমতাবস্থায় এই সংগঠনের সকল উদ্দেশ্যই বাষ হবে । বর্তমান দেখা যায় কতকগুলি লোক কিন্তু শ্রমিক বাহিনী তৈয়ার করার নামে, টাকা নিচ্ছে । শ্রমিক বাহিনীর কোথায় কাজ হবে, মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের কাছে লেখলেও জানা যায় না । শ্রমিক বাহিনী সম্পর্কে অনেক কথাই আছে তাহা ভালকরে তথ্য সংগ্রহ করে আমি বলব । আনাদের কাটিগড়া এলাকায় কিম্বার খাল, কাকরাখাল, ও কালাইন নদী নিয়ন্ত্রণের চারিটা পরিকল্পনা ছিল । কিন্তু এই পরিকল্পনাগুলির কোন কাজ হচ্ছে না । কিন্তু মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের সমষ্টিতে সকল কাজই হয়েছে । আনাদের কাটিগড়াতে কোন কাজ হচ্ছে না, সেবিষয়ে একটু খবর করে দেখবেন ।

পরিশেষে আমি এদিকে মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করে আমি কর্তন প্রস্তাব সমর্থন করি ।

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (Bihpuria): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Flood is a chronic problem for Assam. So, we are more concerned with this problem. If we cannot save our paddy fields from the ravages of flood it is futile for us to adopt any other methods for stepping up production. So, Sir, I feel it, as I come from an area which is always visited by flood. I feel it my duty to say that the grants given by the Planning Commission to this State is very small. The State Government has submitted schemes for near about 7 crores of rupees for the Third Five Year Plan, but I am sorry to learn that only a grant of 5 crores has been sanctioned by the Planning Commission. This is a very meagre amount. During the Second Five Year Plan, Sir, the Embankment and Drainage Department was practically neglected. During the whole Plan period, Rupees 4,22,95,000 were spend. Now I am happy that our Chief Minister has taken up the matter with Planning Commission and increased some amount at least. Many of our friends are sceptical about the usefulness of the Embankment Department. In some places, it may not be of much use but in places which are full of rivers and where the rainfall is high, it is one of the most important things. Without embankments fields cannot be protected. Throughout our State, I have seen, many areas are often visited by floods during the monsoon and fields are devastated by floods. So, the question whether there should be embankments or not differs from place to place. We should not take it for granted that embankments are not necessary. On the otherhand, we should not be of the opinion that embankments are necessary in every place. In some places, where there is less rainfall, there

may not be any need for embankments. But, Sir, in the Districts where rainfall is high and where there are hill rivers, embankments are necessary in these places.

I am happy that the Committee appointed by Government of Assam under the Chairmanship of Shri B. C. Bhagabati suggested that the embankments, though it has adversely affected in some places has done more good to the people. Sir, I now come to another point regarding this department. In my subdivision, there are many hilly rivers. Some embankments have been constructed on only one side of the rivers leaving the other side open and as a result the paddy fields on these open sides cannot be saved from the flood. So, I draw the attention of the Government to this point. I have seen some items in the budget. For example, item No. 22 under this head-some money has been provided for flood protection works in Kadam area. The total amount which has been provided is about Rs 5,000 only and I am surprised how with this 5,000 rupees the Government will be able to control the flood situation in Kadam areas. Sir, in these areas there are three turbulent rivers namely, Kakoi, Boginodi and Dirgha. In these rivers, embankment is made only in one side of the river, the other side remaining open, is causing havoc to the people of that side. The villagers are suffering very bad. In the same manner, I have seen that there is another scheme known as Pabho scheme. This scheme was undertaken at the end of the First Five Year Plan. As the beginning of the Second Five Year Plan, some miles have been completed and this year only a small amount has been sanctioned. So, I suggest to the Government that this embankment which is incomplete should be constructed which is coming from Rajgarh to Sonapur. I suggest to the Government that more money should be provided for this scheme. There is about six lakhs seventy five thousand and out of this sum 2 lakhs should be sanctioned for extension of this bund from Sonapur to Dahgharia onwards immediately for which plans and estimates are with Government.

Similarly, some other schemes were undertaken without making provisions of sluice gates. A sum of 2 lakhs 75 thousand has been provided for North Lakhimpur Subdivision, but uptill now only one sluice gate is under construction. These sluice gates are very necessary otherwise water cannot be allowed to go outside from inside the embankment areas where it is generally blocked.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your time is up, Mr. Bora.

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (Bihpuria) : So Sir, construction of sluice gates should be expedited, otherwise the embankments will not serve useful purpose.

Then Sir, I come to another point. Sir, I have seen that there are some Town Protection Schemes in bigger towns. In my subdivision there is a small town named Bihpuria. This town is very badly affected by the river Dikrong but nothing has so far been done to protect this town. Uptil now no steps are taken to protect this from erosion. Similarly, there are other important business places like Badañi which are not declared as town, should also be protected from erosion.

Sir, I come to another point.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your time is up.

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (Bihpuria) : Sir, money has been provided for small irrigation schemes. I think this scheme should not be taken up by the Embankment and Drainage Department but execution of these schemes be left to the Panchayats.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Your time is up, Mr Bora.

Shri MOHANANDA BORA : Sir, regarding the personnel of the Embankment and Drainage Department, I like to suggest that the personnel who have taken training in this line should not be allowed to go to other department. I have seen that many Engineers who are trained in this line go to other department. So, I want to suggest that the Engineers who have training on rivers should not be allowed to go to other department, such as Road and Building Wing.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Order, order, Mr. Choudhury.

Shri MOHANANDA BORA : One minute more, Sir,

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Choudhury.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to the hon. Members who have just now participated in the debate. It is, true, Sir, that some of the schemes were undertaken in the early period without much investigation. I do not deny this. That had to be done on the pressure of the circumstances; because the flood made the condition of the people miserable to such an extent that there was widespread demands from the people for protection against flood and as a result of which the Government had to undertake some schemes speedily,—may be in some cases without full investigation. We are now trying to correct the mistakes. Sir, as such Rs. 50 lakhs has been kept apart in the 3rd Plan for raising and strengthening the existing embankments. Then Sir, a sum of Rs. 80 lakhs has been kept for the purpose of putting sluice gates on the Embankments. We have also kept a sum of Rs. 1 crore and 15 lakhs for continuing those schemes which could not be completed during the Second Five Year Plan. The very fact that these amounts have been earmarked by the Government will display their anxiety to remove the defects which had already occurred as a result of undertaking some sort of a new work without any experience of such type of works. In situation like this Sir, some mistakes were likely to occur. We could not bring people from outside to do these works, at the same time these outside experts were not familiar with the type of rivers and the floods taking place in Assam. So, in this matter, by and large, this state was left with its own technical personnel who were hitherto busy with roads and building works and who had no proper training in such flood control works. So, Sir, some mistakes were likely to be committed by these people. I hope the hon. Members will not put too much emphasis over such mistakes. These were inherent in the circumstances then of obtaining. The Bhagavati Commission went into this matter and their findings were that the embankments had done good, by and large, to the state. May be in some old cases, the embankments had not done good to the people but in such cases remedial measures were suggested. In fact the Government has been trying to remedy the defects.

But, Sir, the amount placed at the disposal of the Department is so small that in spite of all our best wishes, it may not be possible for us to undo all the mistakes or to remove all the difficulties that had occurred. In some cases, without any question of any wrong, much more things will have to be done to give full satisfaction to the people. For example, when you construct an embankment on one side of a river, you cannot but expose the people on the other side of the river for some time till you are in a position to construct the embankment in that bank too. Such kind of wrongs are inherent in the situation as this can only be remedied by putting up an embankment on the other bank which will take some time. You cannot simultaneously have the embankments on both the banks of a long river like the Brahmaputra from one end to the other constructed. Naturally, if you construct five miles of embankments on the upper reaches the lower reach will be exposed to flood and the intensity of flood will be more in that area than before. Sir, this is a continuing process and the remedial measures in such kind of works are bound to be some what continuing by the very nature of things. But the problem is this. That the money at the disposal of this Department being meagre, I am afraid, in spite of all our sympathies for the people who are in such difficulties, we may not be able to tackle the problems fully in course of this Plan. As I have explained, the other day that on the basis of the expenditure made by this Department in course of the Second Plan, without giving any added importance to the programme of this Department, the size of the Third Five Year Plan should have been of the order of Rs.7 crores at least. But unfortunately, we have been given only 5 crores of which a part of the money has got to be earmarked for remedial measures which I have enumerated just a few seconds earlier. We are left with a sum of 50 lakhs of rupees only for the purpose of constructing new embankments in course of five years. Dividing it by five it comes to about 10 lakhs of rupees for a year for new embankments. Under the Plan provision there is, of course, Sir, one crore of rupees for drainage schemes and about one crore of rupees for river training and town protection works. These are the only amounts we have got for new works. With this in mind, if the hon. Members consider about our failures to fulfil all their demands, I hope, they will please excuse us. My friend, Shri Tajuddin Ahmed has referred to about one of the sluice gates. He said that there was some defects in its construction. I hope my general observation will take care of this criticism. Coming to this particular case, I cannot give any details. If he gives me the name and the details, I will try to see if the defects can be remedied and the same can be put into full use. He has spoken about more grants being taken by the Department than what we can utilise. It is a fact, Sir, in the Second Five Year Plan with the anticipation that we would get more money much larger number of schemes were announced in the House. I am referring to the Second Five Year Plan when much larger number of schemes were undertaken compared to the money provided for the Department. Partly this was because there was pressure for construction of more embankments not only from the hon. Members of this House or the then House:—I don't find any fault, they were doing it on behalf of the public:—but also from the public too. Then, Sir, there were many schemes which were really necessary and should be executed. Considering that money would be forthcoming the Department included these schemes in the Plan. But, unfortunately, we find very often that we do not get that amount of money which would be required for executing all these schemes. Then, Sir, the working season in Assam is very short. In Madras because there is less rain, the working season is for something like 9 to 10 months whereas in Assam we are left with a working

season of three to four months. Sometimes, that period is not also available to us fully. Over and above, there is the difficulty of acquiring lands. The people sometimes go to the High Court they obtain stay orders. All these things are there. In a situation like this, if we take larger number of schemes than what we can finance from the money that will possibly be available, very likely there will be less surrender. So, all these factors namely advent of early monsoon, in some cases, possession of the land may not be given or there will be a stay order from the High Court, and the like are taken into consideration when the number of schemes are decided upon to be taken in hand in a particular year. There are always a lot of slips between the cup and the lip. Furthermore, whatever schemes we undertake in the Flood Control Department these schemes have got to be submitted to the Government of India and their technical approval has to be obtained. After we know the demands or about the necessity from the public or the Members of this House then schemes are drawn up, investigated and included in Budget. Then we send them to the Government of India. The Government of India may approve or may put a number of queries and in that case there is delay. If we keep all these difficulties in mind then we will appreciate as to why more schemes were or are taken up for any particular year. Even this year we have included much larger number of schemes than we will possibly execute. As per discussion with me and the Member incharge of Flood Control of the Planning Commission we were given to understand that we would be getting additional allocation of at least rupees two to three crores. I was definitely told that I would be given an allocation of rupees 2 crores at the minimum, over and above the amount normally available under the annual Plan allocation. Before the Planning Commission's decision was known, the Budget goes for printing. We have, therefore, to provide for more schemes thinking money would be forthcoming. Now, you know, Sir, I have not been favoured with even 2 crores of rupees; I have been given only one and a half crores. My friend has quoted to-day perhaps from newspapers something about centre deciding to give more money. I am just like Carlyle's 'Dupe of tomorrow'. His nurse used to tell him when he lost his mother at a young age, days in and days out that his mother would come tomorrow. Carlyle believed it and he waited for that tomorrow which never came, so he described himself as a Dupe of tomorrow. Time and again the flood problem of Assam and the question of increased allocation to Assam was discussed. I believed that more money would be coming to Assam. It did not come. So, now a days, I do not believe such news or promises. I will believe only when I will get the money.

Therefore, Sir, I do not pay much attention to this kind of news. If and when such money will come, certainly this House will have a voice over the control and distribution of the same, if any. My friend, Maulavi Tajuddin Ahmed was referring about Tarabari. I agree with him that this retirement is very important for the entire Barpeta Subdivision. What happened? Various difficulties were created for the Department due to pressure from the people. The Department, at the very beginning, wanted to have the alignment quite away from the Brahmaputra. But the people there said that they wanted the retirement nearer the Brahmaputra. It was explained to the people that it was possible for the mighty Brahmaputra to eat up the embankment even encroaching a mile in a year. The people said, No, no, don't have the embankment far away from the river. So far as the Brahmaputra is concerned, it would never attack our

embankment". But, Sir, the river Brahmaputra did not care for all these controversies. It came and eroded the embankment, and a revetment had to be made.

Shri TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari): On a point of information Sir. None disputed about the alignment, the alignment has been given by the Government and the Government sticks to it. That was right.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture): Sir, about this alignment, I know how many deputations, petitions and telegrams I had to receive. Some powerful and important people whose wisdom I respect came and told me that the alignment was wrong and it should be changed. I think, I had to pass an order to re-examine the alignment. Of the two opposing groups one group was ready to give all sorts of obstructions against our getting possession of the land. In spite of our best efforts we did not get possession of the land in time. When possession was given work was started, and the work was given to the Shramik Bahinis. Only yesterday, I discussed this problem with the Executive Engineer concerned. When I came to know that the Shramik Bahinis had failed to complete the work, I had suggested that the work should be given to the contractors also so that the retirement might be completed before the flood season. In view of the added importance given by my friend to this work, I will again remind the department to expedite completion of the work as speedily as possible.

Sir, it is true that we have not been able to meet all the demands made by my friend, Shri Tarapada Bhattacharjee. But I do not find any justification for his criticism that all the new E.&D. works in Cachar District are being confined in my constituency. In fact, there is no truth in this. On an examination of the budget, I find that only one new scheme is under execution in my constituency, that is the scheme for protection of paddy lands from the ravages of Balichari river which is situated in one of the most backward localities of the District of Cachar inhabited by ex-tea garden labourers. The schemes in his mind are all situated in the adjoining constituencies in the upper reaches of river Barak and its tributaries. This is inevitable in a scheme of things like controlling of flood. You must start the flood protection works from the upper reaches of the river and proceed downwards to the lower reaches. Katigora constituency being at the tail end of the district in the down reaches of river Barak the things are bound to come last in his constituency so far as embankments in the Barak river are concerned. With regards to the smaller schemes particularly the Kakrakhal scheme in Katigora constituency, the people were seriously divided. They artificially divided the constituency, into east and west taking the railway line as the boundary. His predecessor M. L. As who came from the eastern side, some of them were seriously objecting to the schemes like Kakrakhal as likely to create bad repercussions in the eastern side of the railway line. When the investigation proceeded considerably then one of them seriously questioned about the utility of the scheme. Government had to consider his objections and ordered for further investigation. That an area in the lower reaches of a river did not get priority would be evident from the fact that Government had to give greater priority in the matter of construction of embankments to North Lakhimpur and Dibrugarh subdivision earlier is an example on the point at issue.

Shri SANTIRANJAN DASGUPTA (Lumding): What about my constituency? Can nothing be done about it.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) : My friend's constituency suffers more from droughts than floods. Therefore we were trying to take up the Jamuna Irrigation Scheme which would involve expenditure of a considerable sum of money, when executed.

Sir, my friend Moulavi Tazuddin Ahmed referred to about alleged over payment for boulders in Beki diversion work. I was in that side in the Forest Reserve at Maithanpara only yesterday to inspect their work amongst others brought nobody such a matter to my notice. Had it been brought to my notice, I could have checked it and seen for myself whether such a high amount was paid to the contractor or whether the proposed payment to the contractor would be higher than what he should get. Of course that area is situated in a place far deep inside the forest, far away from human habitation. I went all around that area and met many people but nobody brought that matter to my notice.

Shri TAZUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari) : I think they are contractors men and so they did not complained.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : I do not deny that some of the people saw me were connected with the contractor what I am saying is this that had it been brought to my notice, I could have ascertained the facts. Anyway, I will ask my department to look into it.

Sir, coming to the Shramik Bahinis and the complaint made by my hon. friend, Sri Tarapada Bhattacharjee that officers were neglecting Minister orders, I must say that I never passed any such orders. I do not know if any other Minister desired anything like that. If so, it was of course the duty of the officers concerned to comply with the order. However, I will look into it.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) : State Minister, Roads and Building said that.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : I will check it up with the Minister concerned and if he had said so, I will see how best we can fulfil that commitment.

Now coming to the question of Barak River Valley Project investigation. Sir, I do not know where my friend Shri Tarapada Bhattacharjee found that Government of India had been coming to our rescue. This is one more instances of the type of motivated propaganda carried on by some people in the towns of Cachar district who look to the Government of West Bengal or the Government of India for everything. These people go on to say that the Government of Assam is unsympathetic to their needs. Whether Government of Assam have been doing in Cachar is due to the pressure put upon us either by the Government of India or the Government of West Bengal as a result of their sustained pressure. This is the type of political propaganda going on in Cachar from quite a sometime past. Almost all the local newspapers of Cachar are propagating some such views ; Cachar is getting to be a funny place due to some motivated people and all types of rumours are circulated there. The real story is quite different. So far as the Barak Valley Project is concerned, Government of India rejected it as not feasible. Government of India also rejected the idea of a scheme for a retention basin for Flood Control as not feasible for want of a proper dam site after investigations were

carried out by the C. W. and P. C. They wanted to stop the investigation and according referred the matter to us. This report of the C. W. P. C. was received when I became the Minister-in-charge of the Embankment and Drainage Department in 1953. In spite of our repeated requests they did not agree to reopen the investigation. Then I placed the matter before the State's Flood Control Board's meeting. I am speaking from memory—the dates may be wrong here and there. I placed it before the Flood Control Boards' meeting presided over by our Chief Minister Shri Chaliha. Both of us, inspite of the objections and insistence by the representatives of the Government of India who were present in the meeting said that we would not agree to such a proportion. We went to the length of saying that they should give us permission to bring foreign experts to carry on the investigation and we promised to finance such experts. Thereafter, for the first time, the Government of India agreed to look into the matter again, they said that they must re-investigate the whole matter. Then we provided them with necessary financial allocation to carry on the investigation. Very recently one of their officers came to see me. He told me that it would be possible to have a dam across the river Barak and the probable site would be at Moinadhar. Curiously enough the public of Cachar had been saying that Moinadhar would be a feasible site and the dam could be built there. Then the officer said that if we would agree to bear the cost for another year, they could carry on investigating at Bhumandhar, another probable site, which was nearest to the human habitation in Cachar, *i.e.*, near to Lakhipur Bazar, where there is a considerable population. It was stated that the Bhumandhar site would be much nearer than Moinadhar. From our point of view also this scheme must combine two or three advantages. One is, Sir, where we sub-merge an area by constructing a dam, if we provide control lock-gates, we would have better navigation between Cachar and Manipur which will mean an easier communication between the people of Cachar and Manipur. Secondly by unpounding the water in the flood retention during flood season, not only we will control flooding but also basin be able to irrigate the land nearby. Thirdly, Sir, with this water retained at higher altitude, besides providing irrigation facilities to the cultivators in the district of Cachar including those in the hilly areas in Cachar we will also be able to generate electricity to the extent of 20-22 thousand K. W. Having heard that officers report I asked my department that we should agree to finance if the Government of India could formally ask us for extending the period of investigation by another year. Recently the Chairman of the C. W. P. C. came to see me. While discussing with him various problems of floods and flood control schemes including the probability of such a retention basins in other places, I mentioned about this scheme and I told him that if the C. W. P. C. wanted to investigate the alternative site at Bhumandhar, we would have no objection to it. We would be too glad to find out money for further investigation for a period of one year. But, then the execution of such a scheme would require something like Rs. 15 to 20 crores. Sir, that would be the cost for this type of scheme—each such project for a river of the size of Barak will cost as much as 15 to 20 crores whether the river is in Assam Valley or in the District of Cachar. But, Sir, we have only Rs. 5 crores for all our activities of the department in the 3rd Plan itself.

Shri SANTI RANJAN DAS GUPTA (Lumding): Besides this year ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Irrigation): My friend, Shri Santi Ranjan Das Gupta was asking me the question whether I consider this amount to be sufficient. I am pointing out to him that controlling of one river, *viz.*, river Barak in a district will cost as much as 15 to 20 crores. If it is taken, at once the other areas will clamour that they are being left out and that consideration has been shown to the district of Cachar only. One river costs Rs. 15 crores. Sir, it is for us to imagine what would be the total cost involved to save the entire State from floods in every places. Because fund was limited. We went for short term schemes. In such projects some areas in the upstream have got to be submerged. If for example we take some schemes in the North Bank rivers, some of the areas which will be submerged will perhaps be in some of the neighbouring countries:—may be some disputed areas with China too. For example, so far as the Manas and Beki rivers are concerned, the areas to be submerged will be in Bhootan. I myself discussed the matter with the Maharaja of Bhootan and he gave us permission to investigate in Bhootan territory but the question of availability of fund stood on our way. So my appeal may, demand to the Government of India, to the Chairman of the C. W. P. C. was that since flood is our biggest problem and since there is no Centrally Sponsored Scheme in this State and that this State requires special attention in this matter. They should take up the problem of tackling of flood in Assam including Barak valley project as a control scheme. I have reiterated this Demand time and again and have told Government of India that unless the Centre comes to our rescue we will not be able to find the money required.

Shri SANTI RANJAN DAS GUPTA (Lumding): Here I have a latest publication of the Government of India with me. Flood is a problem in Assam but although it has mentioned about other States, it is silent about Assam.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let the Minister finish.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Irrigation): Sir, my friend Shri Mohananda Bora referred to the Budget about some schemes in Kadam Mouza and a provision of Rs. 5,000 or so therein. In many small projects, remedial measure had become necessary. By spending Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 6,000 one can not construct embankments on such rivers. Hence it could not be for new embankments. He also mentioned about some other schemes. Sir, these were taken into consideration when we asked the centre for more money. I again repeat that without Centre's the plan will not be possible for us to execute a lot of the schemes, even included in this Budget.

With regard to the suggestions for town protection schemes, I have to say that the funds at our disposal for these is relatively small. There is a principle behind acceptance of any such scheme the cost of protection must commensurate with the value of the property sought to be protected. This principle has been laid down, by the Government of India while giving us loans. As you know Sir, the entire flood control money is coming from Government of India as loan therefore, they insist on such conditions before issuing the loan. Small town protection schemes never find favour with Government of India. They find out the value of the properties situated in the locality to be saved at once by a simple process of arithmetic and they come to the conclusion that the scheme would not be

economic or feasible from the point of view of cost. Sir, I am here neither to accept the various suggestions about town protection work nor to reject them at the moment. These suggestions will be looked into and it shall be our endeavour to do as much work as possible in the State within the frame work of the budget provisions and the money available.

Sir, I hope my friends will withdraw their cut motions.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Are you withdrawing your cut motion ?

Shri TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari) : Yes, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his cut motion ?

(Voices : Yes, Yes.)

Now, I put the main question. The question is that a sum of Rs.4,77,43,600, be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1964 for the administration of the head "44. Irrigation and Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works and 100.—Capital Outlay on Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works."

(The question was adopted).

Grant No. 3.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Excise) : On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs. 24,50,500, be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1964 for the administration of the head "10.—State Excise Duties".

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The motion moved is that a sum of Rs.24,50,500 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1964 for the administration of the head "10.—State Excise Duties."

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) : I want to move the cut-motion that the total provision of Rs. 24,50,500, under Grant No. 3, Major head "10—State Excise Duties", at page 18 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 24,50,500, do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, in support of my cut motion I would like to make a few observations. Sir, a lot of amount has been allotted to this Department and we are maintaining a huge staff, but uptill now what we have seen is that this Department is not functioning properly in respect of administration and other alien matters.

Sir, coming to more vital point, we have adopted the Liquor, Prohibition Act to prohibit use of liquor, but it is very astonishing to find instead of decreasing its use is increasing. This Liquor Prohibition Act is indirectly encouraging the cottage industries of liquor both in rural and

urban areas. If you take even the case of Gauhati, you will find that this cottage industry of liquor is developing in the name of liquor prohibition. Therefore, in spite of checking use of liquor, this Act is indirectly encouraging use liquor in a different way.

Secondly, Sir, I come to the settlement of Mahals. In respect of settlement of Mahals a discriminating policy is followed by the authority concerned. Of course, this is done on the recommendation of the District office: s. The cases have been forwarded with recommendations of the Deputy Commissioner and the District Officers without any scrutiny and it appears that the deserving cases have not been recommended to the Government or acceptance rather recommendations are made not on the basis of merits but on the basis of the reward received from the party concerned. In this particular aspect I want to mention that some sort of black marketing is going on in respect of settlement of such mahals. By taking the advantage of the economic condition of the poor local people these mahals were settled with outsiders by taking substantial bribe particularly I like to point out the cases of Lakhimpur District. There are some parties known as Khan party, Kohar party etc. with whom these Mahals are settled. From where these parties came? Why these parties have been given settlement ignoring the claims of the local people?

Apart from this, Government has adopted a policy to withdraw the Mahals from the industrial areas and have given settlement to joint lessees after calling tender. But in respect of Digboi Mahal it has not been done so. In Digboi there are still liquor shops in industrial areas. For settlement of shops there no tender has been called for. So, I say that a discrimination policy in this respect is taking root in the Department. It is understood that the party in power has given settlement to these parties whom they consider as their financiers for election purposes. In this respect, I would like to point out a news-item which appeared in the *Hindustan Standard* of 25th under the caption "taking money for the party". Can our Minister-in-charge of Medical who is God fearing and devote to God say touching his chest that such illegal leases were not given and these parties are not the real financiers to the party in power?

Sir, due to mismanagement done at the district level, the people are harassed and they come to high ups for justice, but instead of giving justice has been denied in many cases.

I would like to bring it to the notice of the House that we are not getting justice even from the Revenue Board which has been constituted with to most qualified section of the officials. Corruption is prevailing even in such a highest body and then how can you expect justice? How Government can give justice to the common people in that way?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Excise): I would request the hon. Member to make specific allegation against the particular officer and for the particular deal.

Mr. SPEAKER: He sent me a note giving some allegations against some high officials, which I received at 12.35 p.m. It appears that copy has been sent to the Minister, Excise for information and necessary action. In that note I remarked that as the time given for making an enquiry into the allegation is too short and the allegation is a grave one, the hon'ble Minister

will not be in a position to enquire into the matter and as the allegation is incriminating and defamatory by nature, the hon. Member should not bring it to the floor of the House.

Most probably, the Hon'ble Minister has not got the copy. When he receives the copy he will go through the note and make some enquiry and intimate the hon. Member what are the actual facts.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Sir, I have received the copy of the note sent by you, but there I do not find the particular deal.

Mr. SPEAKER : I have asked him to give you a note.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Excise) : If I get the details, I will certainly make enquiries.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) : Sir, in respect of functioning of this Department, I want to point out certain things prevailing in an area, that is in Dhakuakhana in the North-Lakhimpur Subdivision. Sir, in that area smuggling of opium is going on freely. No action has been taken by the Government. I submitted one representation to the Government regarding smuggling of opium, gaja, liquor and selling liquor freely in front of the Police Thana and in front of the Excise officials there. But no action whatsoever has been taken on this till now. Even smuggling of opium is going on by motor launch, via., Desangmukh but there is no checking. Can that be called the efficient functioning of the Department? May I know what these Excise officials are doing? Once I met the Excise Commissioner at Jorhat Circuit House and brought these matters to his notice. He just told me that the people of that area are very bad. He ought to have said that he would look into the matter and take proper action.

Sir, by bringing all these matters into the notice of the hon. Member of this August House I want to say that the House should not agree to sanction this grant until and unless the Minister concerned gives a clear picture about the administration of his Department. In respect of administration also, Sir, I want to say something. Discrimination is going on in this Department in respect of promotion, appointment, transfer, etc. The affairs in the Department are being run in a manner which is like that of family business. I would, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister to see that these discriminations are not there.

Then, Sir, I want to bring it to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister that some liquor shops have been established before some educational institutions. Sir, here I can give an instance. A liquor shop has been established on the gate-way to the Engineering College at Jorhat near Bhogdoi river. This should not be allowed to continue. Sir, as the time at my disposal is very short, I do not like to speak much. The liquor prohibition scheme should be conducted efficiently and the high officials should not interfere with the honest work of the district officers. I know that the new Excise Superintendent at Jorhat wants to work sincerely and honestly but he is obstructed by his senior officers which is not desirable from the point of view the efficient functioning of the Department. Then, Sir, Excise staff should be given proper Medical, housing and other facilities which they do not get now.

With these few observations, I request the hon. Members of this August House not to agree to vote this grant until and unless the Minister concerned gives a clear picture about the functioning of the Department.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER : Cut motion moved. Shri Molia Tanti. Your time is 2 minutes.

Shri MOLIA TANTI (Doom Dooma): অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই Excise বিভাগৰ বিষয়ে ২।৪ টা কথা কব খুজিছো। এই bottling System হোৱাৰ পৰা, মই অসমৰ আন ঠাইৰ কথা কব নোৱাৰো, ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰ বিশেষকৈ জামিৰা মৌজা, ঘৰবন্দি মৌজা আৰু ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰ দুই এটা ওৱাৰ্ডত বান-পানী হৈছিল। কিন্তু এতিয়া দেখিবলৈ পাওঁ যে, বাগিচা বোৰত মদেৰে ভৰি পৰিছে। ঠিক বানপানীৰ দৰে, আৰু সেই অঞ্চলৰ মজদুৰ কিশান মদৰ বানত ভাহি আছে, খোলা মদ বিক্ৰী হৈছিল তেতিয়া ডম-ডুমাৰ নিচিনা ঠাইতহে পোৱা গৈছিল। কিন্তু এতিয়া bottling system হোৱাৰ পৰা য'তে ত'তে পোৱা যায়; দোকানে ঘৰে আৰু আলিৰ ওপৰতো পোৱা যায় আৰু এটা দোকানৰ এবিৰাতো বাইচাইকেলত বহুত আৰু সৰু সৰু দোকান মহলদাৰে কৰি গৈছে আৰু ৩০।৪০ টাকৈ বস্তাত বান্ধি নিয়ে আৰু য'তে ত'তে দি আহে।

ডিব্ৰুগড়ত ৩৬ খন মদৰ দোকান আছে আৰু সেই দোকান কেইখনত মাহে ২৫,০০০ গেলন মদ বিক্ৰী হয়। গেলানত প্ৰায় ডেৰ লাখ বটল বিক্ৰী হয়। ইয়াৰ দাম চৰকাৰে বান্ধি দিছে ২'৫০ নয়া পয়ছা ৬০ নয়া পয়ছা আৰু ৩'৫০ নয়া পয়ছা ৩০ নং পঃ তাৰ ঠাইত বিক্ৰি হয় ক্ৰমে ৪ টকা আৰু ৬ টকাকৈ। ফলত লেটীয়ে কিমান লাখ টকা লাভ কৰিছে। ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰা চৰকাৰ চকুত ধূলি দিছে আৰু বাইজক লুটিছে। আমাৰ জাতিয় চৰকাৰ দিনত এইদৰে চৰকাৰক ঠগ আৰু বাইজক লুট কৰাটো ন্যায্য হৈছেনে অন্যায় হৈছে চৰকাৰে চিন্তা কৰি চাব আৰু বান্ধি দিয়া দামত দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে। চৰকাৰে কৰা আইনমতে প্ৰত্যেক মানুহে আটাই সেৰ পৰ্য্যন্ত হাড়িয়া ঘৰে প্ৰতি বনাৰ পাৰে। সেই হিচাবে মানুহে তাতকৈ কম চাউলৰহে হাড়িয়া বনাই। তাকেই মহলদাৰ বিলাকে Excise ক খবৰ দিয়ে আৰু সেইমতে Excise বিভাগৰ পুলিচে গৈ গাওঁৰ ও বাগিছাৰ মানুহক, ধৰি আনে আৰু সেই অশিক্ষিত মজদুৰক ধৰি আনি ইচ্ছা অনুযায়ী দণ্ড জৰিমনা আদি কৰে। গতিকে ইয়াৰ বাবে চৰকাৰৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিলো। কিন্তু চৰকাৰৰ আইনত আছে যে এজন মানুহে ১ বতলহে দুকানৰ পৰা কিনি আনিব পাৰে সিহঁতে এক বতলৰ ঠাইত ৪০।৫০ বতল ঘৰে ঘৰে আনি দিয়ে, আৰু সেই সময়ত ভলণ্টিয়াৰে ধৰি বাগিছাৰ মেনেজাৰক দিয়ে মেনেজাৰে লগে লগে পুলিচক জনাই দিয়ে। আৰু পুলিচে তাৰ কিন্তু কোনো বিচাৰ নলয়। গতিকে ইয়াৰ এটা নিয়ামামূলক কৰিবৰ বাবে চৰকাৰৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিলো।

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara): Sir, I want to make just two suggestions.

Mr. SPEAKER : Alright.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA : Sir, so far as I remember, there was a Government decision not to have any liquor shop in a distance of 2 miles

from a tea garden. But Sir, in certain places this has not been adhered to. So, I would request the Hon'ble Minister to look into it.

My second suggestion is that, as you know, Sir, an enquiry was made into the firing which took place in the Orang Tea Estate, and the hon. High Court Judge made certain suggestions as to what steps should be taken to stop such things, and I would request the hon. Minister to follow that suggestion. The trouble arose for excise raid without informing the management. So, I would request the Hon'ble Minister to look into it.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Excise): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is no wonder that the hon. Mover of the cut motion should be so much excited. Of course I do not blame him, Sir, because it must be due to the influence of the name of my Department- (Laughter). Sir, my Department is such that it's very name generates excitement amongst some of my Hon. friends.

Sir, I shall touch briefly all the points mentioned by Shri Barua. First allegation made by him is that the Department is over staffed. I am sorry, Sir, the staff is not at all heavy for the implementation of the provisions of the Act and to check all sorts of smuggling of opium and illicit distillation of liquor. We require more staff and more conveyances for them. I was trying to increase the number of staff and also to have some more motor vehicles, but as you know, Sir, due to the emergency I could not get many for that. Now, Sir regarding liquor prohibition Act it was stated by my hon. Friend that at Gauhati liquor can be had anywhere and everywhere. He said the same thing about Dnakuakhana also but in the case of Dhakuakhana the only difference is this that liquor is sold in front of Police station and there is none to take steps. He made similar charges in respect of other places also. I would request the hon. Member to extend his helping hand and be generous enough to help me and my Department in this regard. Sir, I shall place my humble self at his disposal and would request him to show me the places where the liquors are openly sold before the Police and the Excise staff.

Sir, to make wild allegations like this is not befitting of an hon. Member.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Sir, on a point of personal clarification. If I am to say the Minister has got no knowledge of his department, I will not be wrong if I say that rather the hon. Minister himself is badly under the influence of his department. Sir, that is why the Minister has forgotten that I have personally requested the Minister and the Commissioner of Excise regarding this matter.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, I am not under the influence of my department on the other hand my friend is completely under the influence of my department as he is taking irrelevant things. He never wanted me to show the places where illicit liquors are kept and sold. This is absolutely false, even now I am appealing to his good sense. If he has got any love for the State, and truth he should come forward with specific instances. I am ready to give him necessary assistance. The entire department is there to render every assistance that he may require and if necessary, police may also accompany him. He makes only wild and baseless allegation for cheap popularity taking advantage of this august House.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, on the point of clarification M. L. As. business is not like the business of the Police or Excise people to search for liquor and opium dens. Probably the Hon'ble Minister has forgotten that a few months back I submitted a memorandum regarding this.....

(Uproar)

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, Order. Mr. Mookerjee, your time is going to be over.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, simply bringing a vague allegation to the notice of the Minister is not enough. The hon. Member should help us with concrete instances with facts and figures. But instead of doing so, he has accused the department for nothing.

Shri TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari): May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has received any from the hon. Member, Shri Dulal Chandra Barua or not?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Excise): Yes, he made some allegations. But on enquiry, it was found that they were all baseless. If any tangible result is to be achieved, the hon. Member should come forward to co-operate with us. Mere bringing of baseless and vague allegations will not do.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Can the Minister say this with his hand on his breast?

Shri TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari): What sort of co-operation is required?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, it is very easy to blame an officer, but nobody is helping an officer to find out the culprits. We must be above these petty things. For the welfare of the State and for the well-being of our people, we must work together and we must help each other. My Friend wants that the Minister should place his hand on his own breast and should say whether the department is running quite well or not—whether he knows about a particular settlement or not. I am afraid, I cannot use that word which my Friend used. There are so many things which I cannot utter here for the sake of decency. I know nothing about the settlement mentioned by him. Minister has nothing to do with any settlement.

Mr. SPEAKER : Your time is up.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, not only I may put my hand on my breast, as desired by my Friend but, if necessary, I may put my hand on his breast also if that would satisfy him.

(Laughter)

About that particular settlement, Sir, I have already said that I know nothing about it. The Minister has got nothing to do with any settlement

The procedure is there. As the hon. Member knows that the Deputy Commissioner settles these shops first and then there are appellate authorities. (Revenue Board, High Court). I am extremely sorry that he has dragged in the party to which I have the honour to belong. Sir, my party is above all criticism. The Congress Party knows where it stands. Any kind of blame or accusation of the Congress Party can not be tolerated and should not be tolerated by any decent man.

(Applause)

The Congress brought Independence to the country. They removed the chain of slavery of our people. So, I request the hon. Opposition Members that if they so desire they may accuse an individual rightly or wrongly for their satisfaction, but they must not accuse the Congress Party as such. They should not touch it, I venture to say that they have no right to lower the prestige of the great and noble party.

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI: Is the present Congress is the same which fought for the freedom of the country? Will he look around him.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Yes the organisation is the same. If an allegation of an general nature is brought, we cannot do anything. But if a particular allegation is made against some definite person in that case we can inquire into the matter. So, I request the hon. Members that we are here to do justice to one and all. Nobody is claiming that the departments are above all suspicious like Caesar's wife. There may be some defects in some departments. Even the hon. Members present here can not say that they are perfect and they are faultless. When a department consists of ordinary human beings, it is natural that there may be some defects in them. Men are subject to commit mistake. To err is human. But to remove all these defects one should not be unnecessarily critical like my hon. Friend Shri Barua. If we always accuse a particular department or an officer of that department how do they feel—how can they work with heart? In society there are both good men and bad men. In every department, in every branch there are good and bad men. Sir, if we really want to remove all the defects and shortcomings and if we really want welfare of our State by simply criticising the departments, we cannot achieve that objective. Can anyone of my hon. Friends say that he has seen himself that the liquor or opium is being sold in such and such place openly? They simply criticise on hearsay.

(Voice—I have seen myself)

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : As M. L. As it is their bounden duty to bring all such cases to the notice of the Police Officers or the Magistrate.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) : I have already brought to the notice of Government.

Sari BADYANATH MOOKERJEE : To whose notice he has brought this I do not know, Sir. My friend flowishes on vagueness.

Mr. SPEAKER : Your time is up.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Excise) : Sir, so far as the complaints made by Shri Malia Tanti, I would like to say that I shall ask my department to be more vigilant and see that the incident that the hon. Member alleged to have taken place does not occur in future. But one thing, I cannot understand, when the prices have been written on the wine bottles why should any one pay more. This should be brought to the notice of the local authorities immediately so that some steps may be taken against the guilty shopkeepers.

So far my Friend Shri Sarma's suggestion is concerned, I shall look into the matter. In some cases, I may tell him that we are acting on that principle. But there might be few places where it requires our special attention and as suggested by him I shall try to meet them as far as possible and practicable.

Mr. SPEAKER : Shri Barua, are you going to withdraw your cut Motion.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) : No, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER : Now I put the Cut Motion—

“That the total provision of Rs. 24,50,500, under Grant No. 3, Major Head “10.—State Excise Duties”, at page 18 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, i. e. the amount of the whole grant of Rs.24,50,500 do stand reduced by Re. 1.”

(The Motion was negetived).

Mr. SPEAKER : Now I put the main question. The question is “that a sum of Rs. 24,50,500, be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1964 for the administration of the head “10.—State Excise Duties”.

(The question was adopted).

Mr. SPEAKER : It is 4-30.

Grant No. 18

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that a sum of Rs.2,51,70,400 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st March, 1964 for the administration of the head “29.—Medical”.

(The question was adopted).

Grant No. 19

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that a sume of Rs.1,79,91,800 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st March, 1964 for the administration of the head “30.—Public Health”.

(The question was adopted).

Grant No. 36

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that a sum of Rs.22,80,800 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st March, 1964 for the administration of the head "39.—Miscellaneous Social and Development Organisation—Miscellaneous (VI.—Directorate of Social Welfare, etc.)."

(The question was adopted).

Grant No. 52

Mr. SPEAKER : I put the main question. The question is: "On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir to move that a sum of Rs. 62,93,200 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1964 for the administration of the head "71.—Miscellaneous—III.—Grants-in-Aid and Contributions, etc."

(The question was adopted).

GRANT No. 73

Mr. SPEAKER : I put the main question. The question is: "On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum of Rs. 17,01,000 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st Day of March, 1964 for the administration of the head "Q.—Loans and Advances, etc. I.—Loans to Local Bodies."

(The question was adopted).

ADJOURNMENT MOTION

Mr. SPEAKER : There is an adjournment motion tabled by Shri Dulal Chandra Barua. The motion is "that this House do now adjourn to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance and of recent occurrence, viz., arrival of heavy influx of refugees from East Pakistan since the 22nd March 1963 in the Shillong Bus Station due to harassment by the Pakistan Government".

I think the Minister-in-charge will now make a statement on the Motion and he will advise me on its admissibility.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Law) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, 14 Hajong families, consisting of male, female and children altogether numbering 64 persons, arrived Shillong on the 23rd March, 1963. They are reported to belong to villages, Radhanagar, Govindapur, Simakata and Panchgaon under Kalmakanda Police Station, within the district of Mymensingh, East Pakistan. They are Pakistani nationals and have arrived here without any travel documents. Statements, from 4 leading persons of these families, have been recorded by our officers and have been forwarded to us with list of their names and other particulars. From their statements, it appears that these families left their homes in Pakistan due

to a sense of insecurity, fear of molestation of their young women, economic depression and attraction of land at village Kumarikata, under Tamulpur Police Station, in Kamrup District. It was stated by them that some of their relations and a number of persons, particularly one Shri Debeswar Hajong have been living at Kumarikata for some time. Lakhan Hajong has also admitted that he went to Kumarikata about three months ago without any travel document, stayed there for a few days, saw a vacant reserve land and went back to his native village in Pakistan to bring these persons. They are all labourers. Very few of them, according to their statements, left behind them scanty landed property in Pakistan. They stated that they have crossed the Border via Lengura camp of Pakistan on the Indo-Pakistan Border and then Moheshkhola in the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills about 15 days back and some about a month ago. They have also stated that they halted for some days at Balat and earned their livelihood working as day-labourer on the road now under construction under the P. W. D. with a view to go to Kumarikata and to settle their family. They also stated that some more persons, numbering about 200 of their villages have similarly crossed the Indo-Pakistan Border without travel documents and are waiting to go to Kumarikata for same purpose. From our reports it appears that 6 Hajong families have entered Zamaduar near Balat, one Hajong family has entered Balat and one Namasudra family at Rajapara under Bholapeta area. All these consist of 30 persons and have come through Moheshkhola from Govindapur village. Nine more Hajong families from Gilagora and Lurgapur Police Station containing 30 persons have also entered and are now staying at Zamduar, Betgora near Rengur Baratgara under Bholapeta area and Balat. All these are reported to be working as daily labourers. Those who have arrived Shillong, have temporarily been housed at Marwari Dharamsala.

For the last two months we have been receiving reports of great deal of harassment being caused to members of the minority community in East Pakistan particularly in Mymensing District. Our nationals on this side of the border have complained that Pakistan authorities do not allow them to cultivate their lands which have fallen on the other side of the boundary. There are also cases of large number of cattle being taken away by force by the Pakistan nationals. These and other acts of harassment have certainly caused panic among the minority community in Pakistan and, as is apparent from the statements of some of the people now in Shillong, many are thinking of leaving their homes out of fear and sense of insecurity.

A protest note has already been sent to Pakistan Government and the matter has already been reported to the Commonwealth Ministry for taking up with the Central Government of Pakistan. The works of Housing and Rehabilitation Ministry which is now doing residual work of refugees has also been asked to make available funds to these stranded families. I feel that the Pakistan Government should not only take back these families but also should take necessary steps to make their lives, property and chastity of their women secure and to restore full confidence in the mind of the minority community. I hope, the Pakistan Government will realise the necessity of providing adequate security of restoring confidence in the minds of the minority community and necessity of taking back these families as early as possible.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you say something about the adjournment motion?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Law) : Sir, I have already made a statement that this thing has been continuing for a very long time. These people are coming and going and so this occurrence is not of recent nature. It is of the continuing nature. Whatever is possible for this Government we are doing this. We have taken steps to bring this matter to the notice of the Pakistan authority and we are keeping the Central Government informed. So, this is not a matter which can be discussed in this House.

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI (Laharighat) : Sir, these people crossed the Pakistan on 23rd of this month. Sir, since the crossing was on 23rd of this month, this is a recent occurrence and it has become the responsibility of this Government to provide shelter to these uprooted people. Sir, the Finance Minister himself also admitted that there was no sense of security in Pakistan, the Pakistan Government cannot guarantee any security to these people. So this is a matter of urgent public importance as occurred on 23rd of this month. So, Sir, I submit that this is a matter of recent occurrence and therefore the adjournment motion is in order.

Mr. SPEAKER : There are certain Rules regarding admissibility of adjournment motion. There are certain facts which cannot comprise the subject matter of an adjournment motion. In this matter the Government of Assam has no administrative responsibility and therefore this cannot be raised by an adjournment motion.

Again, from whatever we have heard from the hon. Finance Minister it is very clear that from this side of the Government all possible steps have been taken. The matter has been reported to the Commonwealth ministry of India for taking up this matter with the Government of Pakistan. The Rehabilitation Department which is now doing the rehabilitation works of refugees has also been asked to render all possible help to these uprooted people. So, from this side of the Government everything has been done which was possible under the circumstances. Therefore, I see no reason to admit this adjournment motion. The motion is ruled out.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A. M. on Thursday, the 28th March, 1963.

R. N. BARUA,

Secretary,
Legislative Assembly, Assam.