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Assam Legislative Assembly Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

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

BUDGET SESSION

VOL. I

No. 21

The 1st April 1963



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DEBATES OF THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1963

(Budget Session)

Vol. I., No. 21

The 1st April, 1963

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**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 Monday, the 1st April, 1963.

PRESENT

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

—————

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Re: Inadequate Supply of Electricity in North Lakhimpur Town

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (Bihpuria) asked:

*110. Will the Minister-in-charge of Electricity be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government is aware that the present electric installation in North Lakhimpur town is quite inadequate to meet the demand of the people even the immediate daily necessities?
- (b) Whether Government will strengthen the installation so that any and every necessity can be met?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Electricity)
replied:

110. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The existing derated installed capacity of the station is about 80 KW. against the peak load of over 60 KW. Arrangements to augment the installed capacity by one 100 KW. diesel generating set are already in hand. It is expected that the set will be ready for commissioning within 5/6 months. This will ease the situation to some extent but it will not be possible to meet unrestricted demand till after 1965-66.

Re: Books on Ideology and Philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) asked:

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

- (a) Whether the Government will undertake to draw up a scheme for making books on modern ideas including the ideology and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi to be made available at cheap rates?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH (Minister, Education) replied:

111. (a)—Government do not directly publish books, but encourage publication of books on modern and scientific matters through a Publication Board set up by Government which gets a recurring grant of Rs.1.00 lakhs, and through other organisations like Assam Sahitya Sabha, Assam Science Society and Assam Academy by giving them financial assistance. Publication of such books as are suggested may also be undertaken by these organisations.

***Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati)** : Will the hon'ble Minister tell this House whether Government is proposing to draw up a scheme to prepare books based on Gandhian Philosophy and Gandhian economy?

***Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH** : I shall consider this.

Mr. SPEAKER : For your information I may tell you that Gandhi Smarak Nidhi is doing this job.

***Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH** : Sir, he is referring to Assamese language.

Mr. SPEAKER : Yes, it is done in Assamese language.

Re : Uparhali High School

Shri PRABIN KUMAR CHOUDHURY (Boko) asked:

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

- (a) Whether Uparhali High School has been given deficit grant?
- (b) If so, when?
- (c) Whether properly qualified teachers have been appointed by the Managing Committee of the school?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH (Minister, Education) replied:

112. (a)—Yes.

(b)—in 1960-61.

(c)—Yes.

Re: The Post of District Sessions Judge at Jorhat**Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) asked:*****113. Will the Minister-in-charge of Judicial be pleased to state—**

- (a) Whether Government is aware of the fact that the post of the District Sessions Judge at Jorhat is lying vacant for pretty long time?
- (b) If so, whether Government proposes to fill up the vacancy early in consideration of the heavy work there?
- (c) If not, why not?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Law) replied:

113. The attention of the hon. Members is invited to Law Department's Memo. No. LJJ 45/63/2, dated the 21st March 1963, on a similar question asked by the hon. Member, Shri K. N. Barbaruah, during this Budget Session, which is placed in the Library Table.

Re: Supply of Power at Sibsagar**Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) asked:*****114. Will the Minister-in-charge of Power and Electricity be pleased to state—**

- (a) Whether the supply of power at Sibsagar is adequate to meet the demand of the public?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the Municipal Board has been pressing for supply of power to run the Motor Pump of the Water works and also for providing street lights in some of the important roads of the town?
- (c) Whether the Sibsagar Electric Supply is a profitable concern and whether the Sibsagar Municipal Board has been paying up dues regularly?
- (d) Whether there is demand for more house connections in the town?
- (e) If so, whether Government propose to take steps to redress those grievances of the people of Sibsagar Town?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister-in-charge of Electricity) replied:

114. (a)—No. The derated installed capacity at Sibsagar is about 400 K.W. and the peak demand about 325-350 K.W.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—No. It is yet to earn profit.

The Municipal Board, Sibsagar has been paying their dues regularly.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Due to acute shortage of Diesel sets, the Assam State Electricity Board is not in a position to augment capacity of Sibsagar Station till the advent of power from Naharkatiya Thermal Project in 1964. However, arrangements are in hand to augment the generating capacity of Sibsagar Power House from Namrup. The proposal is to connect up the proposed 66 KV grid Sub-station at Nazira by an 11 KV line from Namrup at present and to supply the requirements of Nazira and Joysagar through this line. The Sibsagar Power House will thus be relieved of the loads of these two towns and will be able to meet further loads to some extent. This work is expected to be completed within a month or so.

Shri TANKESWAR CHETIA (Nazira) : Will the hon'ble Minister be pleased to say whether the Commercial Officer of the Assam State Electricity Board directed the Executive Engineer, Sibsagar to install a 20 H. P. Electric unit with water pump unit *vide* his letter dated 20th June, 1961?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Electricity) : If the hon. Member put a question, I shall be able to reply.

Re: Tribal Population of Kamrup District

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) asked :

*115. Will the Minister of Tribal Areas be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the tribal population of South Bank of Kamrup District has been deprived of the advantage of Art. 275 of the Constitution of India?
- (b) If so, the reason thereof?

Shri LALIT KUMAR DOLEY (Deputy Minister, Tribal Areas and Welfare of Backward Classes Department) replied :

115. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

***Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA** : What is the total amount spent out of the grant under Article 275 for the welfare of the tribal people particularly the tribal people of South Kamrup district?

***Shri LALIT KUMAR DOLEY** : I want notice for this.

***Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU [Majuli (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]** : What is the total tribal population in the South Bank of Gauhati?

***Shri LALIT KUMAR DOLEY** : This information is not ready with me.

Mr. SPEAKER : Will you kindly supply this information to him.

***Shri LALIT KUMAR DOLEY** : Alright Sir.

Re ; Settlement of Fisheries

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) asked :

*116. Will the Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) Principles by which fisheries are settled ?
- (b) How many fisheries have been settled on open bid or tender and how many have been settled directly in the district of Kamrup ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Revenue, etc.) replied :

116.(a)—Fisheries are settled in exercise of the powers conferred by the Rules framed under Sections 155 and 156 of the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation, 1886 and Section 6 of the Indian Fisheries Act, 1897.

(b)—Forty-eight Fisheries have been settled by tender system and 4 have been settled directly by Government.

***Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat)** : Sir, what are those fisheries which are settled directly by the Government.

***Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Revenue)** : Sir, there are three such fisheries in Gauhati Sub-division and the other is Brahmaputra Upper Part 1(A) and (B). These three are Jaljali, Jambari Alike and Dambir and Bihua taba fishery.

***Shri PRABIN KUMAR CHOUDHURY (Boko)** : Is it not a fact that the Secretary of the Jaljali Fishery Co-operative is a defaulter ?

***Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA** : No, Sir, he is not a defaulter. Deputy Commissioner recommended his case and I obtained a report from the Co-operative Societies.

Mr. SPEAKER : His point is that whether the Secretary of the Co-operative Society is a defaulter ?

***Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA** : No, Sir.

***Shri PABINDRA NATH SARMA (Nalbari-East)** : Whether the direct settlement is made only with the fishery co-operatives.

***Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA** : Yes, the direct settlement was made with the fishery co-operatives.

***Shri PABINDRA NATH SARMA** : Whether these 4 fisheries were settled with the fishery co-operatives ?

***Shri SIDDHI NATH SARMA** : Yes, with fishery co-operatives.

***Shri MADHUSUDHAN DAS (Barpeta)** : Sir, with whom the Barpeta-Sarutapa fishery was settled ?

***Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA** : Sarutapa Fishery Co-operative Society.

***Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla)** : Whether fishery is settled directly with the individual also ?

***Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA** : Yes, sometimes it is settled with the individual cases also if the cases are deserving.

***Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur)** : Will the hon'ble Minister be able to say how many fisheries are settled directly throughout the State ?

***Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA** : Not more than 8 fisheries throughout the State.

***Shri HARENDRA NATH TALUKDAR (Rampur)** : With whom Jamadiha fishery has been settled ?

***Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA** : This fishery is settled with Kalika Jamadia Co-operative Society.

***Shri HARENDRA NATH TALUKDAR** : Sir, may I know whether the people with whom this Fishery Co-operative is formed belong to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe ?

***Shri SIDDHI NATH SARMA** : Sir, technically all such people who form the fishery co-operatives should belong to Scheduled Caste.

***Shri PABINDRA NATH SARMA (Nalbari-East)** : Why the fisheries are settled directly with the individuals when there are clear rules ?

***Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA** : Under Rule 12 of the Fishery Rules, Government can settle fisheries directly.

***Shri MADHUSUDHAN DAS (Barpeta)** : Is it a fact that in case of Bahua-Kapa fishery Government did not take report from the local authorities before settlement of the fishery ?

***Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA** : I have not got the full facts with me, but generally fisheries are settled on the report of the S. D. O. or D.C. concerned.

***Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla)** : In reply to a question the Minister said that these fisheries were settled directly with co-operative societies. He further said that sometimes fisheries are settled direct with individuals also. May I know what are the reasons for settling fisheries direct with individuals ?

***Shri SIDDHI NATH SARMA** : When they apply for direct settlement their applications are considered. Sometimes they are rejected also.

Re: Quarter for Excise Staff working at Majuli

Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU [Majuli (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] asked:

*117. Will the Minister, Excise be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether there is any quarter for the Excise staff working at Majuli ?
- (b) If not, whether Government proposes to construct a quarter for them ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Excise) replied :

117. (a)—No.

(b)—There is no proposal now to construct any quarter at Majuli. It is, however, Government's intention to provide housing facilities to Excise officers and men at various places gradually depending on availability of funds.

Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU [Majuli (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Are Government aware that the Excise staff at Majuli are experiencing great difficulties for want of quarters of their own ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: May be, Sir.

Re: Placing of City Buses in the Barabazar-Laban Route

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) asked :

*118. Will the Minister-in-charge of Transport be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that a few number of City Buses are placed in the Barabazar-Laban Route ?
- (b) If so, whether it is a fact that due to less number of Bus plying in the route, public is facing much difficulty particularly in winter and rainy days ?
- (c) If so, whether Government propose to place more City Buses on the aforesaid route ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Transport) replied :

118. (a)—There is no route from Barabazar to Laban.

(b)—No complaint has been received.

(c)—Does not arise.

Re : Santhalia Tea Estate

Shri RAMPIRIT RUDRAPAUL (Hailakandi) asked :

*119. Will the Minister-in-charge of Industry be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government is aware that one Santhalia Tea Estate under Hailakandi Subdivision has been closed for some time past due to non-payment of wages ?

(b) If so, what action Government has taken in this regard ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour) replied :

119. (a)—Yes, from 1st January 1963. The closure was due to the fact that the Santhalia Tea Estate which was leased out to Sramik Kalyan Samity was closed down from 1st January, 1963 as the lease granted to Samity expired on 31st December, 1962.

(b)—On receipt of information of the closure, the Labour Officer, Silchar contacted the Receiver, Santhalia Tea Estate who informed that the Court of Sub-Judge, Silchar was being moved by him through his advocate for extending the term of lease for one year more, i.e., upto December, 1963.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI ((Minister, Industries) :

(After the printed replies were read out)

Since then we have received further information that the lease was extended upto 14th March 1963, but the Sramik Kalyan Samity refused to accept extension upto 14th March only. Now the matter has been referred to the High Court and it is pending there.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora) : Who is the owner of the Santhalia Tea Estate ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : Santhalia was the owner. He disappeared and the garden was closed for nearly one year. Ultimately, almost 4 years ago the Sramik Kalyan Samity, which was organised by the labourers, undertook to open it. They negotiated with the Receiver and the garden was opened and was run for nearly 3 years. In December, 1962 its sale was announced but the sale could not take place because of procedural difficulties. Then the question of extending the lease came. The lease was not extended ; the Sub-Judge ultimately extended it upto March 14th. The party obviously was not willing to accept because how can they run it for three months only. Therefore, the Receiver moved the High Court for extending the lease upto the end of December, 1963.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) : Have Government taken any interim measures for smooth running of the garden ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Industries): We have not been able to take interim measures because the Court has bedevilled the situation by not extending the lease for a suitable period. In the first six months the tea gardens have to invest and in the next six months the money comes back. If a party is permitted to work for only first three months nobody will come. This was not appreciated by the Court. The Court made the mistake by extending the period by three months only. The matter has been taken up in the High Court.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora): May I know whether the Sramik Kalyan Samity was making any profit from this garden?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: I donot know about their profits.

Mr. SPEAKER: That does not arise.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: May I know how many workers have been affected by this closure?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: I do not know the number of workers involved. The entire tea garden is closed.

Re: Conversion of Hailakandi Town Committee into a Municipal Board

Shri RAMPIRIT RUDRAPAUL (Hailakandi) asked:

*120. Will the Minister-in-charge of Local-Self Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government received any proposal for converting Hailakandi Town Committee into a Municipal Board?
- (b) If so, what action Govern nent is going to take to implement the scheme?
- (c) If the reply to (a) above is in the affirmative, when Govern-ment propose to convert Hailakandi Town Committee into a Municipal Board?

Shri CHATRASING TERON (Minister, Local-Self Govern-ment) replied:

120. (a)—Yes, before the Hailakandi Town Committee was superseded.

(b) & (c)—As soon as the affairs of the Town Committee are brought to normal to enable an elected Body to function, the feasibility or otherwise of converting Hailakandi Town Committee into a Municipality will be examined.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: May I know what is the total population of Hailakandi town now?

Shri CHATRASING TERON (Minister, T. A. D.): A notice will be helpul for this.

Shri RATHINDRA NATH SEN (Karimganj-North) : Does the Minister think that the situation is still abnormal ?

Shri CHATRASING TERON : Yes, because the Town Committee is still under supersession.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE : When was it-superseded ?

Shri CHATRASING TERON : I think, Sir, this question does not arise in this connection. Any way, as far as I remember, the Town Committee was superseded on 22nd September, 1961.

Re: Election of Karimganj Municipal Board

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora) asked :

*121. Will the Minister-in-charge for Local-Self Government be pleased to state—

- (a) When the election of the members of Karimganj Municipal Board took place ?
- (b) Why the Government has not yet nominated the members to that Board though more than 6 months have already elapsed after the General Election ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that Karimganj public made a representation to the Chief Minister during his last visit at Karimganj ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister declared in a public meeting at Karimganj on 27th January, 1963 that nomination would be given soon after his return at Shillong.
- (e) If so, when the names of the nominated members would be published ?

Shri CHATRASING TERON (Minister, Local Self-Government) replied :

121. (a)—On 25th July 1962

(b)—Appointment of Commissioners to the Board made by the Government was notified on 27th February, 1963.

(c) & (d) --Yes.

(e)—Does not arise in view of reply to (b) above.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE : May I know why so much delay was caused for nominating two members ?

Shri CHATRASING TERON (Minister, T. A. D.) : With due respect I may submit, Sir, the situation immediately after the election had to be taken into consideration. Because of the emergency and other factors connected with it at that time it was considered necessary to hold up the nomination for some time.

Re: Revised Pay Scales for Government Middle Vernacular School Teachers of Gauhati Subdivision

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked:

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the teachers of the Government M. V. Schools of the Gauhati Subdivision have not been allowed to draw their pay according to the revised scale of pay that was given effect from 1st April, 1961?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the Head Pandits of Government M. V. Schools have not been allowed to draw the Head Pandits' charge allowance with effect from 1st October 1956?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the Headmasters of M. E. Schools with only three classes in their schools have been given a charge allowance of Rs.20 per mensem. Whether it is a fact that the Head Pandits of M. V. Schools with eight classes including the English classes have been allowed to draw only Rs.10 as charge allowance?
- (d) Whether the work load for supervision and management in M. E. Schools is greater than those in M. V. Schools?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH (Minister, Education) replied:

122. (a)—Yes The initial pay statements along with the service books of the teachers of Government M. V. Schools of the Gauhati Subdivision have been submitted to the Accountant General, Assam, by the Deputy Inspector of Schools, Gauhati, for fixation of pay of the teachers in the revised scale of pay. Their pay will be drawn as soon as fixation is communicated by the Accountant General, Assam.

(b)—The charge allowance of the Head Pandits of M. V. School was a part of the recommendation of the Pay Committee, 1956. Those Head Pandits who opted for the revised (1956) pay scales are entitled to the charge allowance of Rs.10 with effect from 1st October, 1956.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Yes.

***Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur)** : May I know whether in case of other subdivisions, the service books of the teachers whose pay was revised, were submitted to A. G. for fixation of their pay?

***Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH (Minister, Education)** : I shall require notice for that, Sir.

***Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI** : Is it not a fact that these teachers were drawing their pay in the scale fixed by the 1956 Pay Committee and when the pay-scale was revised with effect from 1st April, 1961, the revised scale was extended to all the schools in the State except in the case of these teachers of the Gauhati Subdivision?

***Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH (Minister, Education) :** I do not know; but there must be weighty reasons for referring these cases to the Accountant General, and it is always safe for the Department to take the consent and opinion of the Accountant General beforehand, otherwise the officers may not get their pay later on.

***Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalgur) :** When the service books with initial pay statements were submitted to the Accountant General ?

***Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH :** On the 15th September, 1962.

Re: Unrest among the Students of G. C. College, Silchar

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora) asked :

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

- (a) Whether there was unrest among the students of G. C. College, Silchar during the month of December, 1962 ?
- (b) If so, what was the cause of these unrest and whether a Minister visited the college to settle the matter ?
- (c) What were the terms of settlement and whether the said Minister assured that an enquiry committee would be set up to enquire into the College affairs ?
- (d) If so, when the said Committee would be formed and with whom ?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH (Minister, Education) replied :

123. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Difference of opinion between the Principal (Dr. Roy) and the Governing Body of the College on administrative matters in general, and about the appointment of an office assistant in particular led to the resignation of the Principal. His resignation was accepted by the Governing Body. The students, however, wanted Dr. Roy to continue as Principal. This led to the students' unrest.

Minister, Shri B. Mookerjee when he was in Silchar tried to effect a settlement. It is understood that as a result of his efforts Dr. Roy, the Principal withdrew his resignation. And then he went on leave.

(c)—Government have no information about any terms of settlement, nor of any assurance given by the Minister, Shri B. Mookerjee, that an Enquiry Committee would be set up. As all parties concerned wanted an enquiry, he assured that he would report to Government for consideration about causing an enquiry which he did.

(d)—Government will consider whether an enquiry is necessary departmentally or by a Committee on receipt of full report about the incident.

The printed replies should be modified as follows :

123. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Difference of opinion between the Principal (Dr. Roy) and the Governing Body of the College on administrative matters in general, and about the appointment of an office assistant in particular led to the resignation of the Principal. His resignation was accepted by the Governing Body. The students, however, wanted Principal, Dr. Roy to continue as Principal. This led to the students' unrest.

My colleague, Shri B. Mookerjee when he was in Silchar tried to effect a settlement and I also requested him to do so. It is understood that as a result of his efforts Dr. Roy, the Principal withdrew his resignation. And then he went on leave.

(c)—Government have no information about any terms of settlement, nor of any assurance given by the Minister, Shri B. Mookerjee, that an Enquiry Committee would be set up. As all parties concerned wanted an enquiry, he accused that he would report to Government for consideration about causing an enquiry which he did.

(d)—Government will consider whether an enquiry in necessary departmentally or by a Committee on receipt of full report about the incident whether an enquiry is necessary at all.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora) : Whether Government propose to appoint a Committee to provincialise the College ?

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Re: Loan taken from Centre

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) asked :

133. Will the Minister, Finance be pleased to state—

(a) The total amount of loan taken from the Centre till today ?

(b) The total amount of loan refunded ?

(c) The total amount of interest paid till today and the balance to be paid every year.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance) replied :

133. (a)—The period for which the information is sought is not clear.

However, the amount of loan taken from the Centre during the period between 1951-52 to 1961-62 totalled Rs.66,78,90,000.

(b)—The instalment repayments by way of principal during the aforesaid period totalled Rs.10,14,97,900. This does not relate exclusively to the loans taken during 1951-52 to 1961-62 but also includes instalment repayments falling due during the said period on account of outstanding loans taken earlier than 1951-52.

(c)—The amount of interest paid during the period under review totalled Rs.5,60,83,900.

This again does not relate exclusively to the interest payable for the loans obtained during this period but also includes interest on outstanding loans taken earlier than 1951-52.

The interest payments payable every year depends on the balance outstanding and is variable.

Re: Subsidised Dispensaries in the State

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked :

134. Will the Minister of Medical be pleased to state—

- (a) What is the number of subsidised dispensaries in the State ?
- (b) How many of these dispensaries are allopathic and how many of them are Ayurvedic ?
- (c) What is the amount of subsidy given to these dispensaries annually ?
- (d) Whether any interim increase was made in the subsidy to these dispensaries from the date of introduction of the scheme of subsidy dispensaries ?
- (e) When the scheme of subsidised dispensaries was introduced ?
- (f) Whether any decision has been arrived at by the Government regarding the proposal to increase the subsidy of the subsidised dispensaries, i.e., doctor's pay from Rs.80 to Rs.125 per month, medicinal grant from Rs.400 to Rs.750 and repair grant from Rs.100 to Rs.250 annually ?
- (g) Whether Government be pleased to increase the subsidy to these dispensaries immediately and take an early decision as was assured by the Hon'ble Minister in reply to Unstarred Question No.236 on 4th August, 1962 ?

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

134. (a)—One hundred and fifty-nine.

(b)—Allopathic—109.

Ayurvedic—50.

(c)—For Allopathic dispensaries for the 1st year at Rs.80·00 per month for subsidy for doctor's pay. Rupees 500·00 for medicine for the year and Rs.150·00 for equipment, furniture, etc., for the whole year.

In subsequent years—

Rupees 80·00 per month as subsidy for pay of doctor.

Rupees 400·00 for purchase of medicine per year.

Rupees 100·00 for repair of buildings per year.

In Ayurvedic Dispensaries, for the 1st year—

Rupees 80·00 per month as subsidy towards pay of doctors.

Rupees 500·00 for medicine equipments, etc., for the year.

and for subsequent years—

Rupees 80·00 per month for pay of doctors.

Rupees 400·00 per annum for medicine.

Rupees 100·00 for repair of building for the year.

(d)—Yes, 62 Allopathic dispensaries were given some increased subsidy for purchase of medicine and repair of dispensary buildings.

(e)—Allopathic dispensaries in 1943 and Ayurvedic in 1952.

(f)—Not yet.

(g)—The matter is still under consideration.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalgur): As regards (d), whether a decision has been arrived at by the Government to give effect from 1st April, 1962?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Medical): No decision has been arrived at as yet. But as I have already said that in the question it was mentioned 'whether Government be pleased to increase the subsidy to these dispensaries immediately and take an early decision as was assured by the Hon'ble Minister in reply to Unstarred Question No.236 on 4th August, 1962. Sir, I consulted the then put question and answers given by me the question was—

"Whether it is a fact that for want of medicines the subsidised dispensary cannot cater to the needs of the people for a greater part of the year"? My reply was "May be, sometimes, in some cases".

As regards the other points, I had said that the matter was under examination. I did never assure as mentioned by Shri Goswami. We have placed this matter before the Finance Department, and I hope something will be done. But I cannot assure, Sir. The Medical Department is pressing hard to increase the amount of subsidy.

Shri SYED AHMED ALI (Gauripur) : Whether the Minister is aware that in some subsidised dispensaries there are no doctors ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Medical) : Yes, but to supply doctors to such dispensaries is not Government's responsibility; it is the responsibility of the local people to supply doctors. Government is ready to give the subsidy.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI : Sir, in view of the fact that certain subsidised dispensaries had to be closed for want of medicines, will Government consider the cases of individual subsidised dispensaries for increasing the subsidy ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Sir, I can say that no dispensary could be closed due to want of medicines. It might be that due to the negligence of the local doctors there might have been such cases.

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB (Kokrajhar) :—Is it a fact that subsidies are not paid regularly ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Medical) : It is expected that they should be paid regularly. But, Sir, in some cases, there were some difficulties, but when the matters are brought to our notice we take steps. In some cases, the Accountant General's Office raised certain points, so it took some time to satisfy them and to get the necessary authority.

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS [North-Salmara (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] : Whether it is a fact that representations have been submitted by the doctors for non-receipt of their pay for nine or ten months ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Medical) : As I have already replied only in some cases they did not get their pay in time. But ultimately they all will be paid, we are sorry for the delay.

Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU [Majuli (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Whether there are instances that Government have not paid the subsidy to the dispensaries ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Medical) : That is not to my knowledge.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) : May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether those subsidised dispensaries where there are no doctors will be allowed to continue in the existing condition or whether Government will take the responsibility to improve them ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Unless they are converted into State dispensaries Government cannot do it. I think the hon. Member should understand the meaning of subsidised dispensary. The Government is to subsidise, otherwise it would have been a full-fledged Government dispensary. My difficulty is that some of my friends do not hear us properly.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA : Whether the subsidised dispensaries will be converted into full-fledged dispensaries or not ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : I have already replied to that. I want to make the position clear. Gradually, practically all the subsidised dispensaries will be converted into State dispensaries. But that will be done on a phased programme.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA : Sir, this year only five subsidised dispensaries will be converted into State dispensaries. If this process is allowed to continue it will take at least 20 years to convert all the subsidised dispensaries into State Dispensaries.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Sir, so far as the number is concerned, my friend's information is wrong. The number is 10 and not 5. But it all depends on the availability of funds. However, the Government's desire is to convert most of them as early as possible. All the deserving will be converted.

Shri PRABIN KUMAR CHOUDHURY (Boko) : Is it a fact that some subsidised dispensaries have no qualified doctors ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Medical) : That may be due to the fault of the local people, as I have said. To find out a doctor is local people responsibility.

Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHOUDHURY (Patacharkuchi) : Whether Government propose to increase the subsidy ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) : With regard to what has been said now, I would like to clarify that there will be no overlapping of dispensaries. There will be no point in converting a subsidised dispensary if there is a State Dispensary near it. Only in deserving cases such subsidised dispensaries will be provincialised.

Shri DEVENDRANATH SARMA (Gauhati) : What are the criteria on which these subsidised dispensaries are upgraded into State dispensaries.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Medical) : There are a few criteria. Criterion number one is the location of the dispensary and the facilities available to the people. Criterion number two is availability of required land for a State dispensary. These are the main points.

Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHOUDHURY : Whether Government propose to increase the subsidy for doctors and for medicines this year ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : This is a question which has been discussed and replied just now. Alas !

Re: Publication of the complete works of Swami Vivekananda

Shri SANTI RANJAN DAS GUPTA (Lumding) asked :

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

(a) Whether Government is aware that the Government of India has published the complete works of Swami Vivekananda in all the fourteen principal languages of India ?

(b) If so, whether Government of Assam made any attempt to get the Assamese version of the Books from the Government of India ?

- (c) Whether Government will publish the Assamese version of the Books so that it may be available to the public and that the youths of Assam can earn experience by going through them ?
- (d) Whether Government is aware that Local Ramkrishna Mission are celebrating the Birth Centenary of Swamiji in the month of May, 1963 ?
- (e) Whether Government will help the Ramkrishna Mission so that the Birth Centenary of Swamiji can be widely celebrated all through Assam and thus people of Assam may be apprised of the Great works of Swamiji ?
- (f) Whether Government of India has written any letter to State Government in this regard ?
- (g) If so, what was the reply given by the State Government ?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH (Minister, Education) replied :

135. (a)—Government have no information.
 (b)—Does not arise.
 (c)—Government have no such proposal under consideration, but financial assistance of Rs.3,000 has been given by Government to an organisation, viz., Shillong Ramkrishna Mission for publication of "Selection from Swami Vivekananda" in Assamese.
 (d)—Yes.
 (e)—No such proposal is under consideration of Government.
 (f)—No.
 (g)—Does not arise.

Re : Re-organisation of Sanskrit Tols

Shri GOURI SHANKAR ROY (Katlicherra) asked :

136. Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state—
 (a) How far Government has progressed in regard to re-organisation of Sanskrit Tols and fixation of pay scale of Adhyakshas and Adhyapakas of Sanskrit Tols including Model Tols in the State as assured by Deputy Minister of Education on reply to a supplementary question of the questioner on the floor of the House on 26th October, 1960 ?
 (b) How many Tols and Model Tols are there in the State ?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH (Minister, Education) replied :

136. (a)—The proposal for giving a pay scale of Rs.125—275 to teachers of Sanskrit Tols has been included in the scheme for re-organisation which was sent to Government of India, asking for Central assistance under Government of India's scheme. The matter is under consideration of Government of India.
 (b)—113 Tols including 4 Pali Tols and 3 Model tols.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: When the scheme for Model Tols was sent to the Government of India ?

***Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH (Minister, Education):** I think, Sir, it was done in the middle of last year. The Government of India have asked for a scheme with pay scales as indicated in the reply. I am not sure; but it might have been in the middle of last year.

Re: Improvement of the housing of the Harijans

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) asked :

137. Will the Minister, Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Government of Assam undertook a scheme for improvement of housing of the Harijans in the State ?
- (b) If so, whether there is any proposal for implementation of the same ?
- (c) Whether the Sibsagar Municipal Board submitted a scheme for improvement of the Harijans Colony ?
- (d) If so, what steps is being taken ?

Shri CHATRASING TERON (Minister, Local Self-Government) replied :

137. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—It will be considered for grant in 1963-64 subject to availability of grants.

Re: Selection of Roads for the Third Five Year Plan

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked :

138. Will the Minister-in-charge of P. W. D. (R. & B.) be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government have come to any final decision regarding selection of roads for the Third Five Year Plan ?
- (b) What lengths of the following roads under North Kamrup P. W. D. Division have been decided to be taken up for improvement during the Third Five Year Plan—
 - (i) Jalimura-Changsari ;
 - (ii) Kendukona-Changsari ;
 - (iii) Bezera-Balikuchi ;
 - (iv) Dakhinsingira-Kusumpur link road ;
 - (v) Salmara-Haldha ;
 - (vi) Changsari-Rangmahal ?
- (c) Whether any work has been started in any of these road during the Third Plan period ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Minister of State, P. W. D (R. & B.)] replied :

138. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The length taken up under Third Five Year Plan is indicated below :—

- (i) Jalimura-Changsari road—4.0 miles.
- (ii) Kendukona-Changsari road—2.75 miles
- (iii) Bezera-Balikuchⁱ—5.5 miles.
- (iv), (v) & (vi) The roads have not been taken up under Third Five Year Plan for paucity of fund.

(c)—No. Works will be taken up early after completion of all formalities.

Re : Settlement of Dangdhora and Khona Fisheries

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (Bihpuria) asked :

139. Will the Minister, Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) With whom the Dangdhora and Khona Fisheries are settled ?
- (b) Whether these are settled directly from Shillong by Government ?
- (c) Whether these are settled with the lessee of Chela Charikaria fishery ?
- (d) What was the cause of direct settlement ?
- (e) Whether Government is aware that the lessee is a benamdar of another undeserving party operating in that area ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Revenue) replied :

139. (a)—The Dangdhora fishery has been placed under the management of the Local Panchayat, while Khona beel fishery was settled directly with Shri Mahoram Hazarika, a scheduled caste lessee.

(b)—Only Khona beel fishery was settled directly by Government.

(c)—Only the Khona beel fishery was settled with the lessee of Chela Charikaria fishery.

(d)—During rainy season, Chela Charikaria fishery and the Khona beel fishery which are contiguous become one sheet of water. In order to avoid dispute between different lessees or between the lessee of Chela Charikaria and other members of the public, it was decided by the Government to settle the Khona beel fishery directly by Government at an annual revenue of Rs.10,000 with Shri Mahoram Hazarika, the lessee of Chela Charikaria fishery. These two fisheries will be settled as one group after expiry of the current term.

(e)—Government have no information.

Re: The Titabar-Thangal Public Health Water Supply and Sanitation Project

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) asked :

140. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Health be pleased to state—

- (a) What was the total allotment of fund for the Titabar-Thangal Public Health Water Supply and Sanitation Project ?
- (b) What was the total amount spent in different years ?
- (c) How many tube wells, ring wells, deep tube wells, pipe water supply and water seal latrine plates have been installed ?

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

140. (a)—The total allotment of fund for National Water Supply and Sanitation Schemes in Thengal-Titabar area Rs.4,00,000

(b)—Total amount spent in different years :—

						Rs.	nP
1958-59	...	...	...	...	...	48,554	69
1959-60	...	...	...	...	...	1,51,930	38
1960-61	...	...	...	...	...	1,86,056	70
						3,86,531	77

- (c)—Tube wells (1½" dia) installed 115 Nos.
- (2) Ring wells installed (3'—6" inside dia and 4'—0" outside dia). 2 Nos.
- (3) Deep tube wells installed (6'×4" size). 2 Nos.
- (4) Piped Water Supply Scheme 1 Unit.
- (5) Water seal type latrine seats (Squatting plates and traps.) 605 Nos.

Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU [Majuli (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : May I know whether these tube-wells that have been installed have become successful ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Medical) : Sir, the reply will be found under reply to question No.141.

Mr. SPEAKER : Unstarred question No.141. Mr. Pegu, you can now make any supplementary question if you like.

Re: Deep tube wells installed at Titabar**Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar)** asked :

141. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Health be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the deep tube wells installed at Titabar are not working properly ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the deep tube well installed at Titabar Hat Khola is not at all working ?
- (c) What steps has been taken to make the well serviceable ?
- (d) When this well will be made serviceable to the public ?
- (e) What is the additional fund required for the purpose and whether it is sanctioned ?

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

141. (a) and (b)—Two deep tube wells were installed at Titabar one of them installed at Hatkhola is not working and the other one is working properly from which regular supply to Town is being maintained.

(c)—Washing and developing of the deep tube well were done several times but without any appreciable improvement. Drilling party has since been sent for over all rectification by extraction of the existing one and resinking the same nearby.

(d)—Within May next, provided this resinking work gives satisfactory result.

(e)—Rs.6,000 (Rupees six thousand) will be required and met from annual maintenance fund.

Shri NANDA KISHORE SINGHA (Silchar-West): As regards (d) may I know the reasons for delay in disposing of the undisposed cases of 1961 and 1962 ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Supply): I do not know the exact reasons, but the delay is obviously due to certain procedure that is to be followed in such cases.

Re: Fatehpur Subsidised Dispensary**Shri ABDUL MUNIM CHOUDHURY (Karimganj-South)** asked :

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

- (a) Whether any annual non-recurring grant has been sanctioned to Fatehpur Subsidiary Dispensary under South Karimganj Constituency ?
- (b) If so, how much of the sanctioned amount is being utilised annually ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that there is no doctor in the dispensary now ?
- (d) Whether Government propose to convert it to a State Dispensary ?

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

142. (a)—No.
 (b)—Does not arise.
 (c)—Yes.
 (d)—It is the Government's intention to convert to State Dispensaries all Subsidised Dispensaries as and when funds permit.

Re : Violation of Food Control Orders

Shri NANDA KISHORE SINGHA (Silchar-West) asked :

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

- (a) How many cases of violation of Food Control Orders and for smuggling of paddy or rice have been accorded sanction by the Government for prosecution in the district of Cachar in the years 1960-61 and 1962 ?
 (b) Whether any Rice Millers of Cachar District has been involved in any such prosecution ?
 (c) If so, what are the names of the Mills and who are the owners and number of cases against each of them ?
 (d) What is the position of the prosecution cases ?
 (e) Whether it is a fact that some owners of mills involved in such cases (Prosecution) have been nominated by the Government as members in the Supply Advisory Boards ?
 (f) If so, who are those members ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Supply) replied :

143. (a)—

In 1960	...	...	...	..	...	...	10
1961	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
1962	...	...	...	...	...	...	19

(b)—Yes.

(c)—(1) M/s. Shree Lankeswari Rice Mill, Silchar; Owner, Sri Ambar Ali Sadial—2 cases under Foodgrains Control Order and one case under I. P. C.

(2) M/s. Kamakhya Rice Mill and Industries (P) Ltd., Katakhal; One under Foodgrains Control Order. Ownership of Mill has been changed.

(3) M/s. Netaji Rice Mills, Hailakandi; Owner—Sri Tulsidas Roy—One under Foodgrains Control Order.

(d)—

			Cases ended in acquittal	Cases ended in conviction	Cases pending disposal	Total
1960	...	...	9	1	Nil	10
1961	...	...	3	...	8	11
1962	...	...	1	1	17	19

(e)—Yes, only one.

(f)—Sri Ambar Ali Sadial.

Re: Disputes referred to Labour Court

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) asked :

144. Will the Minister-in-charge of Labour be pleased to state—

- (a) How many disputes have been referred to the Labour Court since its formation ?
- (b) How many references (disputes) have been adjudicated upon so far ?
- (c) How many awards have been given in favour of labour and how many in favour of the management ?
- (d) How many cases of dismissals have been referred to the Labour Court ?
- (e) How many appeal cases of dismissals have been accepted and how many rejected ?

145. (a) What is the minimum and maximum period of time required from the date of reference of the publication of the awards in the Labour Court ?
- (b) What is the number of references now pending with the Labour Court ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister for Labour) replied :

144. (a)—Five hundred and seventy.
 (b)—Three hundred and fifty-five.
 (c) - In favour of labour 130 and in favour of the management 170. The remaining 55 cases have either been dismissed or compromised.
 (d) -Five hundred and forty-six.
 (e)—Fifteen cases of dismissals have been accepted and 9 cases of dismissals have been rejected by the High Court and the Supreme Court. 11 cases are pending with the High Court and the Supreme Court.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar): Sir, when the number of cases pending in the Labour Court is so large, will Government be pleased to consider it necessary to appoint labour Courts in Assam.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour): In the interim period there was a vacancy which might have been the cause of the non-disposed of cases being large. If, however, it is found that the one-man Labour Court cannot finish the work, then Government will consider the suggestion of the hon. Member.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar): Whether it is not a fact that a large number of cases are lying with the Labour Court undisposed ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour): Yes Sir, there are a large number of cases lying.

145. (a)—The minimum period is 6 months and the maximum is 2½ years.

(b)—Two hundred and fifteen of which 70 cases have already been taken but not disposed of yet.

Re: Construction of Embankment for protection from regular floods in the Sibsagar Subdivision

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thawra) asked :

146. Will the Minister-in-charge of P. W. D. (E. & D.) be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the people of flood affected areas of Sibsagar Subdivision applied since several years past to construct embankments to protect from regular floods every year ?
- (b) If so, what action Government have taken in this regard ?
- (c) Whether the State Government have moved the Central Government to grant more funds to enable them to construct more embankments ?
- (d) If so, what are the dates of moving to Government of India ?
- (e) If the answer is in the negative, whether Government consider to move Government of India for funds for the said purposes ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister-in-charge, F. C. & I., etc.) replied :

146. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Embankment and drainage scheme have been taken up where these are found technically feasible and economically sound and on priority basis within the limit of funds available.

(c) & (d)—Yes. A draft 3rd Five Year Plan for Flood Control work for an outlay of Rs.700 lakhs including Rs.150 lakhs for new embankments was originally taken to Delhi for discussion of the same in November, 1960. The Planning Commission approved the plan for an outlay Rs.500 lakhs including Rs.50 lakhs for new embankments.

Subsequently the matter of granting additional allocation on the basis of short term measure programme of Rs.9 crores in view of devastating flood of 1962 was discussed with the Officer of the Finance Ministry, Government of India on 10th November, 1962 at Shillong. This was further discussed by Minister, Flood Control with Union Minister, Irrigation and Power on 14th and 15th November, 1962, at Delhi and Government of India agreed in principle to make available additional allocation of Rs.102 lakhs during 1962-63 for restoring the damages caused by 1962 floods and have further allocated Rs.150 lakhs for taking up short term measures during 1963-64 against Rs.321 lakhs as demanded by the State.

(e)—Does not arise in view of reply to Question Nos. (c) and (d) above.

Re: Karimganj Municipal Board Election**Shri RATHINDRA NATH SEN** (Karimganj North) asked :

147. Will the Minister, Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

- (a) When the Karimganj Municipal Board Election took place last ?
- (b) Whether the Government Nominations have been notified ?
- (c) If not, why not ?
- (d) Whether Government is aware that since last Municipal Board Election in Karimganj, the Government administration in that Municipality has been considerably slackened resulting in tremendous hardships and sufferings for the rate-payers ?
- (e) If so, whether Government propose to take steps to allow the Board to function now ?

Shri CHATRA SING TERON (Minister, L. S.-G.,) replied :

147. (a)—On 25th July, 1962.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—No.

(e)—Yes.

Re: The last Flood in the Cachar District**Shri NANDA KISHORE SINGHA** (Silchar West) asked :

148. Will the Revenue Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) What was the area affected by the floods in the last year in the District of Cachar and what was the estimated loss of crops cattle and human lives, etc. ?
- (b) Whether any detailed report was received by the Government, from the District authority ?
- (c) If so, when the same was received ?
- (d) What was the amount sanctioned for seed and rehabilitation loans in each Subdivision of the District ?
- (e) When the same has been distributed to the needy persons ?
- (f) Whether any compensation or relief to the affected people in kind or cash was given ?
- (g) If so, in what way the same was given and when ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Minister of State for Revenue) replied :

148. (a)—An area of 660.13 sq. miles was affected by the floods in the last year in the District of Cachar and the estimated losses were as follows :—

(i) Crops (Approximate)—

(a) Paddy	..	...	...	...	15,64,725 mds.
(b) Jute	.	...	...	...	4,525 mds.
(c) Sugar cane		...	...	...	4,720 mds.
(d) Tea and others	...	..	...	...	67,109 K.G.

(ii) Cattle ... 326 Nos.

(iii) Human lives ... 14 persons.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—After the occurrence of the floods both in June/July and August, 1962.

(d)—The following amounts of Seed and Rehabilitation loans were sanctioned Subdivision-wise :

Subdivision	Seed Loan		Reh. Loan	
	Rs.		Rs.	
Silchar	...	65,000	...	30,000
Karimganj	...	5,000	...	20,000
Hailakandi	...	5,000	...	26,240
Total	..	75,000	...	76,240

(e)—Seed loans were distributed on receipt of lists of deserving persons from the local Anchalik and Gram Panchayats.

Rehabilitation loan was issued on completion of enquiry by the Land Revenue Staff and after observation of necessary formalities as required under the existing rules and orders.

(f) & (g)—Gratuitous relief in kind was issued to the flood affected people in the shape of foodstuff such as rice, dal, salt, etc., during the period of flood and also after flood for sometime where it was considered necessary.

Re: Test Relief Work in Kamalpur Circle**Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur)** asked :

149. Will the Minister-in-charge of Revenue be pleased to state —

- (a) What amount has been sanctioned for Test Relief works in the flood affected areas of Kamalpur Sub-Deputy Collector Circle, during the year 1962-63 ?
- (b) What are the projects sanctioned and what amount has been allotted for each of these projects ?
- (c) When the projects have been executed ?
- (d) Whether the amounts have been paid ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Minister of State for Revenue) replied :

149. (a)—A total amount of Rs.20,245.00 nP. has been sanctioned for Test Relief works in Kamalpur Circle.

(b)—A statement showing the projects and amount sanctioned for each is placed on the Library Table.

(c)—The Projects are on the process of execution and are scheduled for completion by 31st March, 1963.

(d)—Payment will be made after the completion of works.

Re: Damage caused by Flood in the Kamalpur Circle**Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur)** asked:

150. Will the Minister-in-charge of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) What was the estimated damage in Kamalpur Sub-Deputy Collector Circle, due to floods of June and August last ?
- (b) How many families were rendered homeless by the breaches of Puthimari embankment at Bardakpar and Kshudrasesa ?
- (c) What was the amount of relief sanctioned to these families ?
- (d) What amount of loan for rehabilitation has been sanctioned to each of these families ?

Shri RADNIKA RAM DAS (Minister of State for Revenue) replied :

150. (a)—The total estimated losses due to June and August floods are as follows—

- (i) Paddy—2,53,410 mds.—Valued at Rs.25,33,400·00 nP.
- (ii) Sugarcane—3,150 mds.—Valued at Rs.84,500·00 nP.
- (iii) Cotton—90 mds.—Valued at Rs.2,700·00 nP.
- (iv) Other crops—120 mds.—Valued at Rs.22,150·00 nP.
- (v) Bridges, etc.—Rs.97,500·00 nP.
- (vi) Houses—195 Nos.—Valued at Rs.3,66,825·00 nP.
- (vii) Cattle—24 Nos.—Valued at Rs.2,550·00 nP.

(b)—Fourteen families.

(c) & (d)—All these 14 families were given relief in kind, but no cash relief was given to them. As regards rehabilitation loan, 6 families out of these 14 families have applied for rehabilitation loans. Steps have been taken to issue loans to these families during the current financial year.

Re:—Drawal of remuneration by Gazetted officer of Education Department

Shri RAM PRASAD DAS (Bijni) asked :

151. Will the Education Minister be pleased to state —

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Gazetted officers of the Education Department can not draw remuneration for doing over-time work without sanction of the Finance Department and authority from the Accountant General ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the Registrar of Director of Public Instruction Office has drawn an amount of Rs.250 without such sanctioned authority ?
- (c) Whether Registrar is a Gazetted Officer or a non-Gazetted Officer ?
- (d) Whether this sum has been adjusted in any way by the Finance and Accounts Officers of the Director of Public Instruction Office ?
- (e) If so, how ?
- (f) If not, whether the sum has been refunded ?
- (g) Whether any action has been taken for such illegal drawal of money ?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH (Minister, Education) replied :

151. (a)—As provided in the Fundamental Rules and Assam Subsidiary Rules, the Director of Public Instruction, Assam is empowered to sanction remuneration upto Rs. 250 per annum in each case. The authority from the Accountant General, Assam to draw the amount is also necessary under T. R. 22 of the Assam T. Rs and S. Os

(b)—An amount of Rs. 250 was paid to the present incumbent of the post of Registrar, Office of the D. P. I., Assam as honorarium for various special work done by him when he was occupying a non-gazetted post. The amount was drawn by the D. P. I., Assam under S. R. 41 (Serial No. 23 of Appendix 4) of the F. Rs and S. Rs.

(c)—A Gazetted Officer.

(d)—Adjustment was not necessary.

(e)—Does not arise.

(f)—Refund was not necessary.

(g)—There was no illegal drawal as money was drawn by the D.P.I. under S. R. 41.

Announcement by Speaker

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no more question.

I would now like to make an announcement regarding the position of questions during this session. During this session altogether 372 starred and 522 unstarred questions were admitted. Out of these, replies to 336 Starred and 496 Unstarred Questions were received. That means 93 per cent of the questions were replied for which the credit goes to the Treasury Bench.

But I must also observe that the bulk of the replies to the Starred Questions were received rather too late and therefore, these could not be fixed in the Order Paper to-day or earlier. As such, these are fixed for disposal that tomorrow, which is the last day. As you will appreciate that not more than 30 Starred Questions can be disposed of in one hour, most of the Starred Question will be disposed of under Assembly Rule 47.

Discussion *Re:* City Bus Association of Dibrugarh

Shri PRABIN KUMAR CHOUDHURY (Boko): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have received one telegram informing me that the city Bus association at Dibrugarh are going to stop plying of the city buses. In view of the inconvenience that will be caused to the public due to this, I want to know what steps Government has taken in this regard.

Mr. SPEAKER: Have you got any information about this, Mr. Sarma (looking to Shri Siddhinath Sarma, Transport Minister)?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Transport): No, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you collect the information and make a statement, tomorrow?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Transport): Yes, Sir.

The Assam Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 1963

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: (Minister, Finance) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 1963, be taken into consideration.

Shri MADHUSUDHAN DAS: Sir, I want to oppose the passing of the Bill. (Shri Tazuddin Ahmed also stood up at the same time).

Mr. SPEAKER: As there is no amendment it will be better, if hon. Members want to oppose the Bill, to do so in the passing stage. That will be the right procedure. So I put main question: The main question is that the Assam Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 1963 be taken into consideration.

(the question was adopted)

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I beg to move, Sir, that the Assam Stamp (Amendment) Bill, be passed.

Mr. SPEAKER: The motion moved is that the Assam Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 1963 be passed).

Shri MADHUSUDHAN DAS (Barpeta): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I take my stand to oppose the Bill. অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, Assam Stamp Amendment Bill আমাৰ আগত উত্থাপন কৰিছে কিন্তু ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰা দুখীয়া মানুহৰ প্ৰতি ন্যায় বিচাৰ হোৱা নাই। দুখীয়া মানুহে বহুত অসুবিধা ভোগ কৰিব এই সম্পৰ্কত বিত্তমন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে যি বিলাক প্ৰস্তাব আনিছে তাৰ দ্বাৰা দলিল আদিৰ মূল্য দুগুণ বঢ়াবলৈ বিচাৰিছে। এইটো উচিত হোৱা নাই। গৰীব লোক সকলেও বহুতো কামৰ কাৰণে দলিল ব্যৱহাৰ কৰিব লাগে। গোটেই খন amendment মাফ দিয়া টান হ'ব। মুঠতে কওঁ ৫০ নয়া পইছাৰ ঠাইত ২ এটকাৰ ঠাইত দুটকা, ৫ টকাৰ ঠাইত ৭১০ টকা কৰিবলৈ বিচাৰিছে। এনেকৈ বঢ়োৱা উচিত নহয়। সেই কাৰণে মই কওঁ এই বিল এইবাৰ উত্থাপন কৰিব নালাগে। আগতে যি ৱাৰ্টিছে তাতে মানুহৰ বহুত অসুবিধা ভোগ কৰিব লগা হৈছে। এতিয়া আকৌ যি দৰে বঢ়াবলৈ বিচাৰিছে তাত দুখীয়া মানুহৰ অতিপাত দিগদাৰ হ'ব। সেই কাৰণে এই বিল পাচ কৰিব নালাগে বুলি মই আবেদন জনাওঁ।

Shri TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari): অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই এই বিল খনৰ বিৰোধীতা কৰিছো কাৰণ ২১ বছৰ আগতে মাত্ৰ এই ষ্টাম্পৰ হাৰ শতকৰা ৫০ ভাগ বৃদ্ধি কৰা হ'ল। এতিয়া আকৌ ইয়াক বৃদ্ধি কৰাৰ কোনো অৰ্থ নাই আৰু ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰাই এটা ডাঙৰ ভুল কৰা হ'ব। মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে ক'ব পাৰে যে চৰকাৰক টকা লাগে। মই কওঁ যে, ফুটা কলহত পানী ভৰাই কি লাভ? আজি ৰাজ ভৰালৰ তলি ফুটিছে, তাত অৰ্থ ঢালি ফুটা মাৰিষ নোৱাৰে। এই ভলি কেনেকৈ ফুটিল আগতেই কোৱা হৈছে আজি আৰু নকওঁ।

মহান্নী মহোদয়ে কব পাৰে যে, এই ষ্টাম্প ডিউটি আৰু ক'ৰ্ট ফী গৰীব মানুহে দিব নালাগে ধনীৰেহে দিব। মই কওঁ যে, এই ষ্টাম্প ডিউটি আৰু ক'ৰ্ট ফী ধনীতকৈ গৰীব শ্ৰেণীৰ মানুহে বেচি দিব লাগে। কাৰণ ধনীতকৈ গৰীব মানুহে বেচি টকা ধাৰ কৰে। যাৰ ঘৰত টকা নাই, বান নাই, সেই জনে লৰা-ছোৱালীক পুহিবৰ বাবে বান কিনিবলৈ আৰু খেতিৰ গৰু কিনিবলৈ টকা ধাৰ কৰে। টকা ধাৰ কৰোতে হেণ্ডনোট দিব লাগে। ইয়াৰ ষ্টাম্পৰ দাম আগতে আছিল ৬ নং পং: তাৰ পিচত কৰিলে ১০ নং পং: তাৰ পিচত এতিয়া কৰিব খুজিছে ২০ নং পং:। এতিয়া শতকৰা ১০০ ভাগ বঢ়াব খুজিছে। টকা ধাৰ লওঁতে আমাৰ কামৰূপত দহিলখন কিনি আনিব লাগে ধাৰ লওঁতাজনে। গতিকে গৰীবেই কিনিব লাগিব। ইফালে টকা লওঁতেও ১০ টকাত ২৫ নং পং: ষ্টাম্প দিব লাগে, ১০ টকাৰ সেই ২৫ নং পং: ষ্টাম্পৰ আজি ৫০ কৰিছে। ৫০ টকাৰ পৰা ১০০ টকাৰ ভিতৰত ১ টকা এইদৰে ৫০০ টকাৰ পৰা ১,০০০ টকাৰ ভিতৰত ৭'৫০ নং পং: দিব লাগে। এইটোও দিব লাগে গৰীবেই।

ঘৰ বা মাটি বিক্ৰি কৰে শতকৰা ১৫ ভাগ গৰীবে, হয়তো ২।১ জন ধনীয়েও কৰিব পাৰে কাৰবাৰ বা অন্য কাৰণত। এই বিক্ৰিৰ ক্ষেত্ৰতো ১০০ টকাৰ মূল্যৰ নহ'ত আগতে আছিল ১'৫০ নং পং: আৰু এতিয়া কৰিব খুজিছে ২'২৫ নং পং:, ২০০ টকা মূল্যৰ উপৰত ৩ টকাৰ ঠাইত এতিয়া ৪'৫০ নং পং: কৰিব খুজিছে। এইদৰেই বঢ়াই নি আছে। ই ধনীৰ ওপৰত একো প্ৰতিক্ৰিয়া নকৰে মাত্ৰ দুখীয়াক আৰু দুখীয়া কৰিব। সেই কাৰণে মই এই বিল খনৰ বিৰোধীতা কৰিছো।

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thought that there would be least objection to this increase in taxation because in this case an indirect tax increase is sought of payable by only those persons who approach the court as litigants, or those who purchase court fee stamps for purposes of transactions and business, etc. All are not subjected or required to pay this tax but only those who are litigants properties for transfer by sale or gift otherwise indulge in other business transaction will have to pay this tax and the incidence, so far the agreement on transaction of categories are concerned will be very small. It is certainly true that under the proposed Bill we propose to increase the ratio particularly in respect of transactions and agreements involving value of thousands and lakhs of rupees and thus the Government will get little more than what they have been getting from this source in the past. Sir, it has been my concern not to make the increase unbearable and in many of the cases I have only brought the rates up to the level of what are prevailing in other States. Even then in respect of certain items our rates will be much less than for similar items in many other States. As I said already, this increase in taxation will not generally affect the people having an annual income of less than Rs. 1,500, but it will have indirect effect on limited people having more income than that. I was under the impression that at least this bill would not be opposed but this expectation has been belied as my friends on the opposite are bent upon opposing all taxation measures realising that unless and until we are able to raise our resources through taxation as well it is neither possible for us to undertake our heavy programme of development nor to meet the expenditure which we may have to incur to meet the present emergency or the loss arising out of natural calamities. I appeal to the hon. Members to realise the reasonableness or the justification of opposing this measure and to which their further opposition to this measure. The fact that the hon. Members on the opposite have not submitted any amendment to the Bill is a proof that they could not find any provision which will adversely and badly affect the poor people.

Shri TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari): There is no scope for giving amendment item by item.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): I do not know how the hon. Member says that there is no scope for giving amendment. If he had any improvement to suggest have done so by bringing forward the suitable amendment.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that the Assam Stamp (Amendment) Bill, 1963. be passed.

(The House was divided and the vote was taken by asking the Member to rise on their seats).

The following was the result:—

Ayes: 59. Noes. 12.

(The question was adopted.)

The Assam Court Fees (Amendment) Bill, 1963

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): Sir, I beg to move that Assam Court Fees (Amendment) Bill, 1963 be taken into consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that the Assam Court Fees (Amendment) Bill, 1963 be taken into consideration.

(The question was adopted.)

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that the Assam Court Fees (Amendment) Bill, 1963. be passed.

Shri TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari): মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই এই বিলৰ [Court Fee (Amendment) Bill 1963] বিৰোধীতা কৰিছো। কাৰণ মাননীয় সদস্যসকলে নিশ্চয় জানে যে দুই তিনি বছৰ আগতে ক'ৰ্ট ফিজ চাৰি আনাৰ ঠাইত আঠ আনা, আঠ আনাৰ ঠাইত এটকা কৈ বঢ়োৱা হৈছে; Schedule ও বাঢ়িছে। আজি আকৌ সেইবিলাক বঢ়াবলৈ বিল আনা হৈছে দুগুনৰ ওপৰত দুগুন; অৰ্থাৎ দুবছৰৰ পিচত, চাৰিগুন বাঢ়িব। এই ক'ৰ্ট ফিজ Amendment Bill, at page 1. অলপ দিনৰ আগতে যিটোৰ ফিজ আছিল ৫০ নং পং: সেইটো বঢ়াব খুজিছে ১ টকালৈ আৰু এটকাৰ ঠাইত দুটকা। কপি পিটিচনৰ কাৰণে ক'ৰ্ট ফিজ কাৰণে এতিয়াৰ দুটকাৰ ঠাইত ৪ টকা, এটকাৰ ঠাইত দুটকা, দুটকাৰ ঠাইত তিনি টকা, পাঁচ টকাৰ ঠাইত ৭ টকালৈ বঢ়াব খুজিছে। দৰ্খাস্তবিলাকত যত ২৫ নং পং: আছিল সেইটো ৫০ নং পং: লৈ বঢ়াব। যদি এইদৰে বঢ়াই গৈ থাকে তেন্তিহলে ৪ গুন বাঢ়িব। মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে হয়তো কৰ-ক'ৰ্ট ফি' সকলোৱে নিদিয়ৈ। মই কওঁ যে, ক'ৰ্টৰ সংশ্লিষ্ট অহা সকলোৱেই দিব লাগিব- তাৰ ভিতৰত ধনী দুখীয়া নিৰ্বিশেষে পৰিব। ধনী সকলে ধনৰ জোৰত

দুখীয়াক উৎপাদন কৰি আহিছে তৰিহাতেও চলি থাকিব। কাজেই, এনে অৱস্থাত যদি দুখীয়া মানুহবিলাক অতিৰিক্ত ক'ৰ্ট ফিজ দিব লগা হয়—বহু ক্ষেত্ৰত তেওঁলোকে 'ক'ৰ্ট' বিচাৰ পাবলৈ টান হ'ব আৰু টকাৰ অভাৱত নিজৰ ন্যায্য দাবীও কৰিব নোৱাৰিব। আনহাতে ধনীৰ জোবত ধনীসকলে উকীল দিব, ক'ৰ্ট ফিজ দিব—সকলো দি নিজৰ কাম আদায় কৰিব। তাৰ পিচত, 'এফি-দেবিট'ৰ বেলাত, ধনী দুখীয়া দুয়োৱে দিব লাগিব—টকা সমানে দিব লাগিব। 'নকল' লওতে ধনী দুখীয়াই সমানে ফিজ দিব লাগিব। এই দৰেই দুখীয়া মানুহবিলাক অসুবিধাত পৰি যাব—ধনীসকলৰ অসুবিধা কতো নহ'ব। কাজেই এই বৰ্দ্ধিত ক'ৰ্ট ফিজৰ ফলত দৰিদ্ৰ জনসাধাৰণৰ বহু অসুবিধা হ'ব—জাক এইটো ব'ব দুখৰ কথা হ'ব। আজি আমি সমাজ তাত্ত্বিক সমাজ ব্যৱস্থাৰ চেষ্টা নকৰি, যদি সমাজৰ দৰিদ্ৰ শ্ৰেণীটোৰ ওপৰত শোষণ চলাওঁ তেন্তে এই ব্যৱস্থা হৈ নুঠিব। এই ফিজ অথবা ক'ৰ - কাটনত ধনী-দুখীয়া বুজি তেওঁলোকৰ আৰ্থিক অৱস্থাৰ বিবেচনাত বেচি আৰু কম হোৱা উচিত আছিল। এতিয়া দুখীয়াই বেচি বোজা ব'ব লগাত পৰিছে। আজি ক'ৰ্টলৈ যায় কোন ?

গতিকে মই দৰিদ্ৰ সকলৰ ওপৰত বোজাৰ বেচি তাৰ দিব খোজা এই ক'ৰ্ট ফি' সংশোধনী আইনখনৰ বিৰোধীতা কৰিছো আৰু চৰকাৰে যেন এই বিলখন প্ৰত্যাহাৰ কৰে।

Shri MADHUSUDHAN DAS (Barpeta): মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই এই বিলখনৰ অৰ্থাৎ Court Fees (Amendment) Bill খনৰ বিৰোধীতা কৰি দুখাৰ ক'ব খুজিছো। মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে কৈছে যে এই বিলখনলৈ চাই বেচিকৈ বিৰোধীতা কৰাৰ বিশেষ একো কাৰণ নাই, গতিকে যি ধাৰাত প্ৰয়োজন তাত সংশোধনী দিলেই হ'লহেতেন তেনে সংশোধনী দিয়া নাই গতিকে বিৰোধীদলৰ সভ্যসকলে ক'ব আপত্তিত আন্তৰিকতা নাই। কিন্তু সংশোধনী কিয় দিব লাগে। এই বিলখনৰ প্ৰয়োজনীয়তা নাই গতিকে, গোটেই বিলখনৰ বিৰোধীতা কৰিছো। ক'ৰ্ট ফি বঢ়া কাৰণে গৰীব জন-সাধাৰণৰ ওপৰত অন্যায় হ'লেও তেওঁলোকে ক'ৰ্ট ফি দিব অপাৰগ হোৱাৰ কাৰণে বিচাৰালয়ৰ আশ্ৰয় ল'ব নোৱাৰে। সিহঁতে ধনীৰ অন্যায় অত্যাচাৰ আদি নিৰবে সহ্য কৰি থাকিব লগা হয়। কিন্তু এইটো গণতান্ত্ৰিক ৰাষ্ট্ৰ নীতি নহয়। অথবা উন্নত সমাজৰ লক্ষণ নহয়। উন্নত সমাজত ধনী, দুখীয়া সকলোৱে আইনৰ আশ্ৰয় ল'বলৈ সমানে সুবিধা পাব লাগে—গতিকে বিচাৰৰ খৰচ পত্ৰ যিমান সম্ভৱ সম্ভৱীয়া হ'ব লাগে। এয়েই দেশ আৰু সমাজৰ অগ্ৰগতিৰ লক্ষণ।

কিন্তু তাৰ ঠাইত চৰকাৰে বিচাৰৰ খৰচ বঢ়াই গৰীব শ্ৰেণীক সুবিচাৰৰ পৰা বঞ্চিত কৰিবলৈ ওলাইছে। আমাৰ বিত্ত মন্ত্ৰীও আইনজ্ঞ লোক তথাপি তেখেতে উচ্চ আদালততহে ওকালতি কৰিছিল, কিন্তু আমি নিম্ন আদালতত ওকালতি কৰি গৰীব শ্ৰেণীৰ লগত মিলি আছো আৰু তেওঁলোকৰ অভাৱ অভিযোগৰ কথা তেওঁতকৈও (বিত্ত মন্ত্ৰীতকৈও) ভাল দৰে জানো।

অধ্যক্ষ, আপুনি Personal reference নকৰিব।

মই অভিজ্ঞতাৰেহে কথা কৈছো। গতিকে গৰীবৰ সুবিধাৰ কাৰণে এই ক'ৰ্ট ফি বঢ়োৱা কথাটো নীতি হীন হৈছে। দোঙ্গল সত্ৰাটিকলৰ দিশত বিচাৰৰ কাৰণে কোনো খৰচেই নাছিল।

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister, Jail etc) : আগতে খৰচ নাছিল নেকি ?

Mr. SPEAKER : কাজীৰ বিচাৰৰ কথা কৈছে।

Shri MADHUSUDHAN DAS (Barpeta) : খৰচ বহন কৰিব নোৱাৰিলে দুখীয়া ৰাইজে আদালতৰ আশ্ৰয় লব নোৱাৰে। গতিকে তেওঁলোকে তেওঁলোকৰ ওপৰত কৰা অন্যাৱৰ উচিত প্ৰতিকাৰ পাবৰ উপায় কৰিব নোৱাৰে।

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Industry) : উকীলৰ খৰচ কমাইছে নেকি ?

Shri MADHUSUDHAN DAS : উকীলে বিচাৰত সহায় কৰে মাত্ৰ। সেই কাৰণে তেওঁলোক সমাজ সেৱী হৈছে। উকীলে গৰীবলোকৰ নায্য বিচাৰ পোৱাতহে সহায় কৰে। তেওঁলোকৰ ধৰা বান্ধা কোনো ফি নাই বা তাক কোনেও নিৰ্দ্ধাৰিত কৰি দিয়া নাই। কিছুমান মোক্কেলে উকীলক ফি দিয়ে কিছুমানে নিদিয়োও। সেই কথা ইয়াত নাহে। কিন্তু ক'ৰ্ট ফি দিবই লাগিব। গতিকে পৰাপক্ষত অন্যাৱৰ প্ৰতিকাৰ উৎসুক দুখীয়ালোকৰ কাৰণে আনি কোৰ্ট ফি বঢ়োৱাত কৈ কমাবহে লাগে।

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH (Minister, Education) : কোৰ্ট ফি উঠাই দিলে কেনে হয় ?

Shri MADHUSUDHAN DAS : সেইটো আৰু ভাল হয় (হাঁহি)। বঢ়ালে দুখীয়া মানুহে অন্যাৱৰ বিচাৰ পাবলৈ কোৰ্টলৈ আহিব নোৱাৰে।

সেই কাৰণে মই আশা কৰো এই বিষয়ে গভীৰ ভাবে চিন্তা কৰি চাব। কিন্তু চিন্তা কৰাৰ লক্ষণ মই হলে দেখা নাই—(হাঁহি)।

তথাপি কওঁ যে, আমাৰ পৰামৰ্শ মতে কাম কৰিলে তেখেতৰ জনপ্ৰিয়তাহে বাঢ়িব।

ইয়াকে কৈ মই ইয়াৰ বিৰোধীতা কৰিছো।

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am rather surprised to find that the lawyers from Barpeta have been prominent in opposing this Bill. There are certain mis-conception in the minds of the hon. Members which I should like to remove. Sir, it is not correct that court fees were increased about two years ago. Court fees have not been increased since 1950. What happened in 1958 was that amendments were made in order to convert the rate into decimal system. That was the only thing done in 1958. For the last 13 years, there has been no increase in the rates of the Court Fees. Even under this Bill we do not seek to increase the rate of court fees on all items. If the hon. Members would be pleased to see, they would find that Court Fees ad-valorem have not been increased. For example, under items 6, 7, 8 and 9 in Schedule I, nothing has been

touched. Similarly, except for items 3—6 and 10—12 under Schedule II, nothing else has been touched. Sir, I have already pointed out that this form of indirect taxation only affects the limited persons. Those who do not want to go to the Court and are not litigants will not have to pay this tax. Sir, on the one hand the hon. Members would put forward suggestions for increasing the pay scale of those working in the Judicial Department and on the other, if a Bill is brought to increase the fees in order to provide funds for considering such suggestions the hon. Members oppose the measures likely to help the Government in increasing its resources. Sir, there is no justification whatsoever for the hon. Members to oppose this Bill, which perhaps was done by them because of certain misconceptions. I hope, these have been removed after the clarification given by me.

Mr. SPEAKER: I put the main question. The question is that Assam Court Fees (Amendment) Bill, 1963 be passed.

The House was divided with the following results:—

Ayes	...	...	...	60
Noes	...	...	...	9 (Summary division was adopted).

(The question was adopted)

The long and short title of the Bill do form part of the Bill.

(The question was adopted.)

The Assam Urban Immovable Property Tax Bill, 1963.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is a message from the Governor:

R J BHAVAN

SHILLONG

The 18th March, 1963.

I recommend under Article 207(3) of the Constitution of India that the Assam Urban Immovable Property Tax Bill, 1963 be taken into consideration by the Assam Legislative Assembly.

Sd/—Vishnu Sahay,

Governor of Assam.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Urban Immovable Property Tax Bill, 1963, be taken into consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER : Motion moved is that the Assam Immovable Property Tax Bill, 1963 be taken into consideration.

There is no amendments to clauses 1 and 2.

(Clauses 1 and 2 do stand part of the Bill).

Mr. SPEAKER : Are you going to move your motion, Mr. Tajuddin Ahmed?

Shri TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari) : No, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER : The question moved is that the clause 3 does stand a part of the bill.

(Clause 3 does stand a part of the Bill).

Clause 4—

Shri TAJUDDIN AHMED : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that after item (f) of clause 4, the following shall be added as item (g)

“(g) used by the owner for his own residential purpose and not for rental purposes.”

Shri TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari) : চাৰ, মই এই সং-
শোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱটো এই কাৰণে আনিছো যে আমাৰ চহৰবিলাকত মিউনিচিপালিটিৰ
যি টেক্স সেই টেক্সটো ইতিমধ্যে বেচি হৈ গৈছে। যদি অনুসন্ধান কৰি চায়
তেতিয়া দেখিব বহুৰে যিমান টেক্স আদায় হ'ব লাগিছিল প্ৰত্যেক চহৰতে সেই
পৰিমাণে আদায় হোৱা নাই। ইয়াৰ কাৰণ এইটো নহয়—যে মানুহে টেক্স নিদিয়,
আচলতে মানুহে টেক্স দিব নোৱাৰে। বহুত ক্ষেত্ৰত মিউনিচিপালিটিয়ে ক্ৰোক
কৰিছে। বাতি খাচি লোটা আদি নিলাম কৰিও সেই টেক্স উঠাব পৰা নাই।
মানুহে টেক্স নিদিয়াৰ কথা নহয়—টেক্স দিব নোৱাৰে। মিউনিচিপালিটি টেক্সৰ
লগত পানীৰ টেক্স আছে তাতে আকৌ নতুনকৈ লগোৱা লাইটৰ টেক্স আছে।
গতিকে আগৰটোকে মানুহে দিব নোৱাৰে এতিয়া আকৌ টেক্স বঢ়াবলৈ প্ৰস্তাৱ
দিছে—এতিয়া যি টেক্স আছে, তাৰ লগত আৰু আধা বাঢ়ি যাব। আগতে যি
মানুহে টেক্স এশ দিছিল তেওঁ দেড়শ দিব লাগিব। প্ৰায় আধা বাঢ়িব।
এই টকা চম্ভাৰৰ হাতলৈ নাহে। এইটো মিউনিচিপালিটিলৈ যাব। কিন্তু
এতিয়া মিউনিচিপালিটিয়ে যি টকা আদায় কৰিবলৈ আছে সেই খিনিকে আদায়
কৰিব পৰা নাই। গতিকে যি অলপ অচৰপ আদায় হৈছিল সিও বন্ধ হৈ
যাব। তাৰ উপৰি কিছুমান সম্পত্তিৰ ওপৰত টেক্স লগাবলৈ মানা কৰিছে বা
ষ্টেম্পৰ পৰা ৰেহাই থাকিব। মিউনিচিপালিটি, টাউন কমিটি আৰু পঞ্চায়ত
মহকুমা পৰিষদ আদিৰ সম্পত্তিৰ ওপৰত টেক্স নহ'ব।

Exceptions :—

The Urban Immovable Property Tax shall not be leviable in respect of urban land and buildings—

- (a) Occupied by the State or the Central Government,
- (b) owned by—
 - (i) A Municipal Board or Town Committee;
 - (ii) A Panchayat or Mahkuma Parishad constituted under any law for the time being in force ;
- (c) Set apart for public worship and actually so used ;
- (d) Under exclusively as a public burial or burning ground ;
- (e) Under for charitable purposes as the Government may by notification specify ;
- (f) Used for the preservation of ancient monuments.

ইয়াৰ লগতে মই কওঁ আৰু এটা বস্তৱ পৰা টেক্স বাদ দিব লাগে। যিবিলাক ঘৰত মালিক নিজে থাকে ভাড়া নিদিয়ৈ যাৰ ঘৰৰ পৰা হিচাবে কোনো আৱ নাই সেইবিলাক ঘৰৰ পৰা এই টেক্স বেহাই দিব লাগে। ঘৰ ভাড়া দিয়া মালিকে বা মানুহ জনে কোনো মতে দিব পাৰিলেও ভাড়া নিদিয়া মানুহ জনে কেনেকৈ এই টেক্স দিব। এজন মানুহৰ একটা মাটিৰ ওপৰত এটি ঘৰ আছে ভাড়া ও দিব নোৱাৰে লৰাছোৱালীও পুহিব লাগে তেনে ঘৰৰ ওপৰত টেক্স লগালে অন্যায় হব। ভাড়া দিয়া মানুহসকলৰ ওপৰতো টেক্স বঢ়োৱাটো আশি নিবিচাৰে। কিন্তু যাৰ ভাড়া ঘৰ নাই তেওঁৰ ওপৰত টেক্স লগাব নালাগে। আশা কৰো এই সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱটো গ্ৰহণ কৰিব।

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance) : Mr. Speaker, Sir. The hon. Member has moved his amendment so that the houses used by the owners for their residential purposes and not for rental purposes are not taxed. I shall deal with this aspect of the opposition. I do not know how the hon. Member can claim to speak on behalf of the poor people when the very objective of this amendment is not to seek relief for the poor but to provide exemption to many a rich people. Sir, I would like to illustrate this by giving an example. Suppose the hon. Member or myself invests four or five lakhs in constructing a house and we use it for our residential purpose. According to proposed amendment the house simply because will be occupied by us it will not be subject to tax. But a poor person construct a house with a small expenditure and instead of using the house for his own residence bears it only for Rs. 100 per year or so, he will have to pay Rs. 3 or so as tax. Does the Member consider this a reasonable or equitable proposition by simply opposing on the ground that higher the value of property, the more tax it will pay. If we accept this amendment moved by the hon. Member, myself or the hon. Member in the circumstances explained will be benefited by the poor people compelled to let out their houses will have to pay tax. I am not prepared to accept this amendment. I do not think the hon. Members by sponsoring this amendment are trying to protect or look after the interest of the poor people, but only.....

Shri TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari) : Sir, there are poor people in the towns also.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance) : Yes, not only the poor people living in towns will be liable to pay much less but out of tax levied on property having rental value of Rs. 4 or 5 lakhs, the Municipality will get more funds for providing amenities to the people of the town which will equally benefit the poor people even though they will pay little by way of taxation. I do not understand the purpose behind this amendment.

Mr. SPEAKER : Are you going to withdraw the motion.

Shri TAJUDDIN AHMED : No, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER : Now I put the question. The main question is that after item (f) of Clause 4, the following shall be added as item (g)—“(g) used by the owner for his own residential purpose and not for rental purpose”.

(The question was adopted.)

There are no amendment upto Clause 17.

Now I put the question. The question in Clauses 4 to 16 both clauses inclusive do stand part of the Bill.

(The question was negatived.)

Clause 17

Mr. SPEAKER : Yes, Mr. Tajuddin.

Shri TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari) : Sir, I beg to move that in sub-clause (1), after the word “paid” Occurring in the second line the words “or fails to pay” shall be inserted.

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, এই সংশোধনী প্রস্তাবটো আনিছো এই কাৰণে যে এই কৰ যি দিব নোৱাৰে তেওঁক defaulter বুলি ধৰিব লাগে। এই defaulter ৰ পৰা টকা আদায় কৰাৰ এটা procedene আছে। যিবিলাকে দিব নোৱাৰে অৰ্থাৎ fails to pay সেইবোৰৰ পৰা defaulter হিচাপে আদায় কৰিলে হেৰাচুমেণ্ট নহয়। সেই কাৰণে মই মাত্ৰ এটা শব্দ সুমাই দিছো যাৰ দ্বাৰা আইনখন বেচি ভাল হব। আশা কৰো বিত্ত মন্ত্ৰীয়ে কোনো আপত্তি নকৰি গ্ৰহণ কৰিব।

†**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance)** : Sir, I have not been able to understand the implications of the amendment, because the words “not paid” covers also the implication that he “fails to pay”. I do not know how the explanation of this amendment will improve the matter. On the other hand, it will be a very awkward reading of the Bill, Sir. Therefore, I cannot accept the amendment of the hon. Member.

†**Mr. SPEAKER** : Now, I put the question. The question is that “in sub-clause (1) of Clause 17, after the word “paid” occurring in the second line the words “or fails to pay” shall be inserted”.

(The question was negatived.)

Mr. SPEAKER : I put the question. The question is that there is no amendment upto Clause 30. Therefore, the Clauses 17 to 29 (both clauses inclusive) do stand part of the Bill.

(The question was adopted).

Clause 30

Mr. SPEAKER : Yes, Mr. Tajuddin.

Shri TAJUDIN AHMED (Tarabari) : Sir, I beg to move that in Sub-clause (1) of Clause 30—

- (i) the item (a) shall be deleted and the subsequent items shall be re-numbered accordingly ;
- (ii) in item (d) the words “fails or” at the beginning shall be deleted.
- (iii) for the words “one thousand rupees” occurring in the seven-teenth line, the words “five hundred rupees” shall be substituted.

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই এই সংশোধনীটো আনিছো এই কাৰণে, এইটো হৈছে শাস্তিৰ বাৰা। এই বিলখন গ্ৰহণ কৰাৰ পিচত যেতিয়া মানুহে কৰ নিদিব তেতিয়া শাস্তি দিব।

He shall be liable, on conviction, to a fine which may extend to one thousand rupees and when the offence is a continuing one, with a daily fine not exceeding fifty rupees during the period of the continuance of the offence.

এই শাস্তি দিব খুজিছে যিসকলে কৰ দিয়া নাই বা দিব পৰা নাই। whoever

- (a) Fails to pay the tax due from him within the prescribed period; or
- (b) Fraudulently or wilfully evades the payment of any tax due under this Act; or
- (c) Obstruct any prescribed authority from entry under section 7; or
- (d) Fails or neglects to comply with any requirement made by him under the provisions of this Act; or
- (e) Knowingly produces incorrect accounts, registers or documents or knowingly furnishes incorrect information; or
- (f) Contravenes any other provision of this Act or the Rule made there under.

চাৰ, ইয়াত (a) পৰা (f) লৈকে যি কেইটা কথা কৈছে যে যদি কোনোৱে বাধা দিয়ে নাইবা ঠগিবলৈ বিচাবে তেওঁক শাস্তি দিব। কোনোৱে হয়টো অৱাৰ বাবে এই টেক্স দিব নোৱাৰে বা অন্য, কাৰণত নিদিয় তেতিয়াই ১০০০ টকা জৰিমনা ভৰিব লাগিব। মই কওঁ যে “he does not pay আৰু

fails to pay' একে কথা। তেনেহলে এজন মানুহে টেক্স যদি নিদিৰে তেওঁ defaulter হব, defaulter জনৰ টেক্স আদায় কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা থকা স্বত্বেও এহেজাৰ টকা জৰিমনা কিয় কৰিব? This is a matter of civil nature সেই কাৰণে সেই হিচাপে টকা আদায় কৰিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিব লাগে। গতিকে ইয়াত কৰা জৰিমনা ব্যৱস্থাতো বৰ কঠিন হৈছে। তাৰোপৰি এই শাস্তিৰ ব্যৱস্থা বেচি হৈছে। সেইটো এহেজাৰৰ পৰিবৰ্তে পাঁচশ টকা কৰিব লাগে। কেৱল আইন খন পাচ কৰিলেই নহয় তাক কাসত খটাব লাগে। মোৰ বোধেৰে আবৃত্ততে এহেজাৰ কৰাতো ঠিক নহব। এতিয়া পাঁচশ কৰাই ভাল। ইয়াকে কৈ মোৰ সংশোধনীটো দাঙি ধৰিলো।

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Ahmed.

†**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance):** Sir, first of all my Friend wants that Sub-clause (a) of Clause 30(1) should be deleted. Sir, I am not prepared to accept this, because that will mean people's not paying this and no action being taken.

†**Mr. SPEAKER:** Is it not covered by Clause (b)?

†**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** That is entirely a different argument, Sir.

†**Mr. SPEAKER:** His argument is—in case a person defaults, what action will be taken.

†**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** So far that is concerned, it refers to the motive. But what we are providing is that without motive also if a person ordinarily defaults that Section will apply—

Therefore, in clause 2 it has been explained how clause (a) will be dealt with and so far as the clause (b) is concerned, the court is empowered to proceed against such person and the fine will depend upon the nature of circumstances. The court will consider whether one rupee or two rupees or hundred rupees should be fined according to the circumstances. If a person is a habitual offender his fine will be more so on and so forth. The Court will definitely consider whether the person concerned is a habitual defaulter who is not paying tax year after year willfully such cases will be dealt with having regard to the circumstances of the offence.

†**Shri TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari):** On a point of classification চাব, বিবিলাক মানুহে দিব নোৱাৰিব সেই বিলাকৰ অৱস্থা কি হব?

†**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance):** Sir, the bonafide or otherwise will be decided by the Court having regard to the circumstances,

†**Mr. SPEAKER:** This is a very hard provision.

†**Shri TAJUDDIN AHMED:** চাব যি জন মানুহে দিব নোৱাৰিব তেওঁক ১,০০০ (এহেজাৰ) টকা কাইন কৰিব। যি টকা দিব নোৱাৰাৰ কাৰণে এই এহেজাৰ জৰিমনা হব—সেই টকা আদায় কৰিবনে নকৰে?

Mr. SPEAKER: Now I put the question. The question is that in Sub-Clause (1) of Clause 30 the item (a) shall be deleted and the subsequent items shall be renumbered accordingly; in item (d) the words 'fails' or at the beginning shall be deleted, and for the words 'one thousand rupees' occurring in the seventeenth line the words 'five hundred rupees' shall be substituted.

The House divided.

Noes—9

Ayes—61.

The question was negatived.

I now put the question. There is no amendment in clause 32. The question is that the clauses 30 to 32 do form part of the Bill.

(The question was adopted).

The long and short title and the Preamble do form part of the bill.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Urban Immovable Property Tax Bill, 1963 be passed.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Sir, I oppose this Bill. Sir, I think before placing this Bill in this House, the hon. Finance Minister should consider the impact of this Bill as well as the justification of this Bill. Sir, this sort of taxation is prevailing only in Gujrat and Maharastra which are far developed States than our State. Generally tax increase is resorted to by those States which are industrially advanced. Our State is an under developed one and if we compare our State with the developed states like West Bengal or Bombay we will see that this tax is not desirable in our State.

Sir, I want to repeat again that in the name of emergency and development our Government is going on imposing taxes one after another. Sir, our State is backward and ours is a backward economy. We have seen that during the last two plans period we have not been able to succeed at all. There is no industrial development worth the name. So I see no justification in imposing this tax. As my hon. friend, Shri Tajuddin also said in this amendment, it is not in the democratic spirit of the Government as the democratic spirit requires the Government to consider all angles as far as possible before going in for new taxation. Without considering the impact of the tax as well as the difficulties of the people to pay the tax, there can be no justification on the part of the Government to impose such a tax. For example, this tax will hard hit the poor people. I am speaking about my own place at Jorhat. Almost all those people who are having a big income from their landed property are tea planters. The category of people will not feel much for payment of such tax. But the poor people will be hard hit. At the same time these tea planters will be able to make up that deficit from the common people. Therefore, the impact of this tax will automatically fall on the poor people.

The day before yesterday, our Finance Minister stated that the standard of living in Assam is high. But I should submit, Sir, that the standard of living cannot be judged or determined on the basis of good dress or some vehicles or that different people might have some buildings. Sir, the standard of living should be considered with reference to the over-all economic condition of the people. The Finance Minister has not taken into consideration that the price index is also high. If the standard of living is judged keeping in view the general price index, any practical thinking will lead us to the conclusion that the over-all economic condition of the people has far deteriorated.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): I said the standard of living has improved.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Sir, we must consider the economic condition of the people with strict reference to the general price index. Sir, apart from that, you will find that in Clause 2, it has been provided that "urban area" includes a Municipal area and any area declared to be such by the Government by notification in the Official Gazette, within 16 kilometres of any Municipal area". This clearly shows that in our towns where our people are residing, the impact of this tax will not be much. But the village population will suffer as a result of this tax. This tax, will affect the rural economy and instead of developing our rural economy by means of this tax, we are suppressing it in the name of the development and in the name of the national emergency. Sir, I think Government did not consider one particular aspect. That aspect is with regard to the category of people who are having a fixed income. They are to suffer a lot. Those people who have a fixed income or regular income include the Government servants also. But there is no provision that there should be some concession for these people. The businessmen are residing in urban areas but they will not feel much for this tax. But what about the low income group if we are to collect this tax from them? Apart from that you will find, Sir, that this tax, as soon as it is imposed, will give a death blow to the poor people. The House will agree with me that here in Shillong, the amount of house rent is so high that it is hitting hard the fixed and low income groups. But what measures Government are going to take? At the same time, all those people whose pay is Rs. 300 will be liable to pay income-tax. Moreover they are to pay the municipal tax and so on.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: This is not a tax on the fixed income.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Not only that. There are compulsory savings, high cost of house rent, etc. Then again, this tax on immovable property. What will be the condition of these people? Sir, it is very easy to impose tax in the name of development and national emergency. I appeal to the Finance Minister to reconsider this matter. Sir, it is time to have co-operation from all sections of the people. Now, Sir, regarding the national economy, it has been shown that the *per capita* income has increased. But it is accumulation of *per capita* it is not distributive income because the *per capita* income is based on the statistical data. One businessman may have some money. But that cannot be taken as *per capita* income, for other people in general. I am not an expert in economy. I request the Finance Minister to consider these things carefully and should not ignore the economic theory, otherwise it will tantamount to utter negligence of the interest of the common people.

Now, it seems the poor section will remain poor and their condition will never be improved. Sir, these middle class people, even if they want to come up and try to raise their standard of living, they cannot do so, though the Finance Minister has stated that the standard of living has improved. Instead these middle class people will be pushed back to their original condition. By bringing this new tax, the Government is giving them a kick. Therefore, I submit that this Bill should not be taken into consideration at this stage. Considering the gravity of the situation, this Bill should be referred to the Select Committee to examine the impact of the tax on the poor people. At the same time, we are to obtain the opinion of the people. Sir, by doing like this in the name of development and other things; we are going to create a repurcussion in the society. Therefore, before coming up with such fresh taxation proposals in the name of development and emergency, I would request the Finance Minister to find out the resources. For example, in respect of excise there should be increase. I, therefore, suggest that this Bill should be referred to the Select Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER: That stage is over now.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): In any case the Government should elicit the public opinion. The people will feel that we are here to respect the opinion of the people and they will have confidence in us that we have brought this to their notice. But if we insist on passing this Bill, the people will have reason to blame that it is due to the negligence on the part of the Government that the cause of the defence is hampered and also the unity of the country is impaired.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora): Mr. Speaker, Sir. This Bill, if passed and acted upon, will virtually ruin a particular class of society, viz., middle class in general and lower middle class in particular. More than 90 per cent of people of the lower middle class society in our country live in cities and towns. They mainly contribute towards cultural, social, political, scientific and intellectual development of a country. As a matter of fact, they are a nation's conscience-keeper.

In the last year, almost all the Municipal Boards, Town Committees etc., in Assam have substantially raised, in some cases have doubled, the rate of municipal tax after making so called reassessment of annual rental valuation of holdings within the jurisdiction of Municipality or Town Committee, as the case may be. But the House would be astonished to know that by and large, a particular class of the society, viz., the richer class have been sympathetically treated in the so-called reassessment of annual rental valuation of their palatial buildings. While submitting completion reports of their building constructions, they already managed to get the municipal tax fixed at the lowest rate after a nominal assessment of their holding. As for instance, under Shillong Municipality, there are large number of houses belonging to high officials, big merchants, etc. for which nominal rent has been fixed. For the same land area and house area with same amenities in the same locality, if a high official is required to pay an annual municipal tax of Rs.80, an ordinary man is required to pay at least a sum of Rs. 2,000 per annum. Mr. Speaker, Sir, our Minister may say how one can be termed as ordinary man if he is the owner of a homestead equal to that of a high official? The reply is simple. To be an owner of a big

house, one may not purchase it. He might have inherited the property, although his monthly income is too low. This glaring discrimination was made particularly in Shillong and other big towns of Assam. So far as Shillong Municipality, reassessment was made during the time it was taken over by Government under an Executive Officer. A Sub-Deputy Collector was appointed for this specific purpose of reassessment of annual rental valuation of holdings under the Shillong Municipality. In some cases annual rental valuation has been reduced and in some, the same valuation has been allowed to continue. The worst sufferers of this reassessment are persons belonging to lower middle class. In Shillong, the worst sufferers are Government employees drawing pay below Rs. 500 per mensem. With this background, the House can realise which strata of the society would be hit hard if an additional tax is levied at 3 per cent on the annual value of immovable property situated in an urban area,

Mr. Speaker, Sir, while defining the 'urban area under sub-section (11) of Section 2 of this Bill, it is stated that within 16 kilometres of any municipal area. Generally the poorer section of people reside in suburbs in the vicinity of towns and it becomes very difficult for them to meet their both the ends. Government it seems, our Finance Minister does not like to spare them also. So, the object of the Bill is to make the rich richer and poor poorer by totally wiping out the middle class population of the society.

Again Sir, under Section 25 of the Bill, no suit can be brought in any Civil Court to set aside or modify the tax levied or orders passed.

Mr. Speaker, what do you mean when you say that no suit can be brought in any Civil Court? Sir, under provisions of this Act no prosecution suit or other proceedings can lie against any officer of the State Government for anything done in good faith or intended to be done under this Act. It is a strange provision made to deprive the people of their fundamental right for seeking redress in the Court of Law. It is a peculiar combination of judiciary with executive in the same person or persons. The same body of officers will sit in their own judgement on whatever they have done under this Act even on good faith and a case will not lie against it in the Court of Law. This is an important provision rather worst provision of the Bill which has given a very long hope to Government for indulging in favouritism and nepotism without any check or hindrance.

After the heavy tax levied on the common people by the Government of India, one of the prominent personalities in India who is known to be out anti-Communist, remarked that this taxation-aggression of the Government of India is much more dangerous than the Chinese aggression. Now the State Government is going to levy taxation over and above heavy taxation levied by the Government of India. I do not know where this will lead to. But the people has a limit of their patience.

Sir, recently the Government of India has introduced a scheme for compulsory saving. In this connection, I would like to read out an extract from the Eastern Economist to show what the hon. Finance Minister of the Government of India said. He has provided some maximum and, "These maxima are : 50 per cent of the basic land revenue on 1959-60 assessment for agriculturist; 3 per cent of the annual rental value of property for property-owners in urban areas; 3 per cent of the salary for

employees who earn more than Rs. 1,500 per annum but are not liable to income-tax; and other comparable rates for professional and other classes.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Bhattacharyya, we are now discussing about the Assam Urban Immovable Property Tax Bill, and 'Compulsory Saving Schemes' does not fit in here.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigera): Sir, if a man drawing Rs.300 per month construct a house, what will be his position? To show this I am referring here to the maximum provided in the Compulsory Saving Scheme. For compulsory saving a man under this scheme has to pay 3 per cent of his salary if his salary is more than Rs. 1,500 per annum. A man who is getting Rs. 150 per month has got to pay Rs.4.50 np. per month. A man drawing Rs. 150 per month has no capacity to pay this amount. While on this subject I would now like to read out a letter appearing in the Press. One gentleman of the lower income group who has a family has written this letter.

“কেন্দ্রীয় সরকারের বাজেট প্রকাশ হইবার পর নিত্য প্রয়োজনীয় দ্রব্যাদির মূল্য বৃদ্ধির ফলে মধ্যবিত্ত সমাজের উপর যে প্রচণ্ড আঘাত আসিয়া পড়িয়াছে তাহার মুখোমুখি দাড়াইয়া এই চিঠিখানা আপনাকে লিখিবার কথা আমার মনে হইয়াছে। একশত পচাত্তর টাকা বেতনের ৩৭ বৎসর বয়স্ক কেরানী আমি এবং যে পরিবার আমার মত একজনের অর্থাগমের উপর নির্ভরশীল তাহা মধ্যবিত্তের সংসার বলিয়া বিবেচিত হইবে কিনা তাহা আমি জানি না। তবে একথা নিশ্চয়ই আপনার স্বীকার করিবেন যে দেশের অধিকাংশ পরিবারই আমার মত দুর্দশায় কিংবা আমার চেয়েও খারাপ অবস্থায় পড়িয়াছে। আমার মনে হয় যে, তাহাদের সকলের হইয়া আমি যদি আমার সংসারের চিত্রটি আপনার নিকট লিখিত এই খোলা চিঠিতে যুগান্তরের মাধ্যমে তুলিয়া ধরি তাহা হইলে সরকার এবং দেশবাসী নিম্ন মধ্যবিত্ত সমাজের একটি সঠিক চিত্র পাইবেন।

বছর ছয় আগে আমার পিতৃদেবের অকস্মাৎ মৃত্যুতে বাধ্য হইয়াই মাকে এক বেলার আহাৰ ত্যাগ করিতে হইয়াছে। মা ছাড়া আমি আমার স্ত্রী এবং দুইটি ছেলে লইয়া আনাদের সংসার। বড় ছেলোটী স্কুলের নীচের ক্লাসে পড়ে। পরিত্রিশ টাকা ঘরের ভাড়া দিয়া বাকি একশ চল্লিশ টাকায় যে কি ভাবে সংসার চলিতে পারে ভুক্তভোগী ছাড়া আভ্যকার দিনে তাহা কাহাকেও বলিয়া বুঝানো সম্ভব নই।”

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot allow you to read out the whole letters. Just give the gist of the letter. You should see that it has bearing to the subject matter under discussion.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigera): Sir, what I mean to say is that all middle class families will be hard hit by this Bill. Therefore, I request our Government to withdraw this Bill.

Shri SANTI RANJAN DAS GUPTA (Lumding): We would also like to take part in this discussion, Sir.

Shri RATHINDRA NATH SEN (Karimganj-North): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to dwell at length on this subject as it has been elaborately dealt with by my Hon'ble Friends, Shri Barua and Bhattacharyya

already. But I would appeal to the hon'ble Finance Minister to pause a while before coming forward with this Assam Urban Immoveable Property Tax Bill and think the condition of the people living in the different Municipal areas of the State. In deciding to come with this legislation for taxation, Government possibly took into consideration the present day condition of the urban areas like Gauhati, Dibrugarh or prosperous town like Jorhat. Shri Barua may not like the mention of Jorhat but we consider that Jorhat is also one of the First Class towns. So far this Bill is concerned to the rest of the urban areas in Assam, I would humbly submit to take for instance the condition prevailing in towns like Karimganj, Hailakandi, Barpeta, Silchar and likewise. Sir, what is the condition of the urban areas in respect of these towns? If the hon'ble Finance Minister is to come here with a statement regarding the impact of the proposed taxation on the people of these areas, it will be seen that about 75 per cent of the tax revenue has remained unpaid by the Municipal rate-payers of each of these towns. Now, Sir, over and above this Government has now come forward with a proposal of 3 per cent taxation on the urban immovable property with a penal provision in the Bill that Government will take drastic action in the event of failure to pay the tax by the tax payers or owners of such property. May I, Sir, tell who live in these urban areas? I would appeal to the Government to consider the lot of the poor people who live in the so-called towns, the school teachers, poor clerks, shop-keepers, the struggling lawyers and so on. All the towns are not equally rich or developed. Most of them are poor and some of them are poorer than the poor.

Sir, it is not that the tax is being imposed on the landlords, the big house owners and so on and so forth. When the tax is imposed on the landlords, the landlords will naturally increase the rents and by suing them in the Court, the poor tenants can hardly expect any redress. They will not get any redress even in their life-time.

Sir, this is a very serious matter and the Government should consider this matter in the right perspective. I would appeal to the Finance Minister not to proceed with this Bill. He should give the devil his due, give us our due also. He has a big army behind him to vote for him but this fact should not make him blind to the fact that we are also raising the voice of the people. I, therefore, appeal to the hon'ble Finance Minister one and thousand times to reconsider this matter before the Bill is finally placed for assent.

Sir, if this Bill cannot be sent to Select Committee for some reason, I appeal that this should be at least sent for eliciting public opinion through the different Municipal Boards.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Shri RATHINDRA NATH SEN (Karimganj-North): So, Sir, if the Municipal Boards' views are received, the Bill may come in the next Session. Therefore, I would appeal to the Finance Minister to pause a while before bringing this Bill.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalia): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already given my views during general discussion of the budget about the imposition of taxes which are essential and necessary during this Emergency. I have given my views generally on the different taxes. Sir, as regards this particular Bill, the imposing of 3 per cent on the immovable property in urban areas hon'ble Members have stated their views. It was said that in the town live the millowners, trading communities, Tea planters, businessmen also lawyers, school teachers and poor Mazdoors. So, the rental value of their buildings will be stabbed. The big buildings will be paying more than the small buildings and in this way the assessment will be stabbed according to the value of the property in the urban areas.

Supposing, Sir, I desire to plead for the poorer sections of the people living in the urban areas and I feel very seriously for them and think that they should have some relief, I must do some thing. Every one is entitled to have his honest views on certain matters but for that purpose he must be prepared mentally, constitutionally and also according to the Rules of the Assembly Business to do some thing to that end. If I want to give certain relief to certain sections of the people which is covered by a certain Bill, then I will have to think seriously and act seriously and do seriously. If one lectures seriously, that alone will not do. We must do something according to the provisions made in the Assembly Rules. In this matter also when any hon. Member want to attack a Bill or certain provision of it he has to follow certain procedure, he has either to move that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee or he should put in some amendment to the Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER: You need not say on that. You may leave it to me.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS: Then Sir, there should have been an amendment to the Bill that the Bill should not cover the cases of those people who are Mazdoors, School Teachers, etc. Had there been such an amendment, the House could have appreciated their view points. My Friends in the Opposite seem to have attacked the Millowners, Planters and Pleaders and at the same time feel seriously and speak vigorously in the favour of the Mazdoors, School Teachers and so on under the procedure of the House. Sir, we cannot give any relief to the poorer section unless there is any amendment to this end. Nor there is any Resolution or anything whatsoever to give relief to the poorer sections of the people except some very serious lectures. They have not brought forward anything before the House to save the lot of poor sections of the people whom they want to plead for. In short they have done nothing to save the poor sections from the operation of the Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS: If they really felt for the poor people, they should have brought some such measure. Therefore, Sir, I may be permitted to state that they want to withdraw the whole Bill even against the Planters, Millowners, (voices: hear, hear) the Landlords, whom they attack most.

(The bell rings).

Therefore, I do not see any contention in their argument for withdrawal of this Bill. As regards the impact of the proposed tax on the people, that is purely a question of statistics. Therefore, Sir, I oppose this Bill. (Noise) I oppose their opposition.

Shri SANTI RANJAN DAS GUPTA (Lumding) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to make a little observation. The citizens living in town areas and municipal areas are paying tax which ranges from 8 per cent to 20 per cent on the basis of annual rental value of their holdings. I personally have been paying 8 per cent of the annual rental value at Nowgong and in another case I have been paying 10 per cent of the annual rental value and also in another case 15 per cent of the annual rental value. Sir, already there is such a tax in the municipal areas, and this measure will bring another 3 per cent in addition.

Another point is that in the Exemption Clauses (Clause 4) of this Bill I do not find any exemption being given for schools, colleges, social organisations and such other organisations which are for public purposes, if these are not exempted then from what sources this proposed tax will be paid I do not understand. I am reading the Exemptions Clause.

Exemption (a) occupied by the State or the Central Government :—

- (b) owned by—(i) a Municipal Board or Town Committee;
- (ii) a Panchyat or Mahkuma Parishad constituted under any law for the time being in force ;
- (c) set a part for public worship and actually so used ;
- (d) used exclusively as a public burial or burning ground ;
- (e) used for charitable purposes as the Government may by notification specify,

Under item (e), Sir, this shows that some such institutions may be exempted and some may not be exempted by Government.

Then, Sir, I may refer to clause 11 of the Bill. Clause 11 (1) read as follows : Government may, subject to such rules as may be made in this behalf, by order reduce or remit, whether prospectively or respectively the Urban Immovable Property Tax payable in respect of any class of urban lands and buildings or by any class of persons and in particular the tax payable in respect of urban lands and buildings or by any class of persons and in particular the tax payable in respect of urban lands and buildings which are occupied wholly or partly by the owners themselves. In this respect, Sir, the power is absolutely in the hands of the Government to remit or reduce Taxes of certain people or classes of peoples this is discriminatory clause. Therefore, Sir, in my opinion this is a discriminatory Clause and directly hits Articles 14 and 15 of the Constitution.

Mr. SPEAKER : Your time is up.

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI (Laharighat) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Assam Urban Immovable Property Tax Bill, 1963 has been criticised from various corners. We have seen that though there is provision in the Bill that the tax will be collected from the owner of the property in the collection of Municipal tax it is generally collected from the occupier of the property. We have seen the house problem in the towns. Government has failed to give shelter to thousands of Government employees who live in the town areas with their families in rented houses. The owners are clever enough as they always make a distinction between rent and rent tax. When they fix the rent they make a condition with the tenant that the Municipality tax, so far as property tax is concerned, would be paid by the occupier of the house. Considering the rise of rent in the towns, if there will be any further tax then that will go not from the owner but from the occupier of the house who already pays a heavy rent, whether he is poor or rich. Those who live in their own houses will have to pay the

tax directly, but this tax will fall primarily on those hard hit people who live in rented houses. So, there will automatically be a tendency in rise of rent of the house. Government have miserably failed in controlling the high rent of houses in the towns. Even for the house of a Government officer who lets it out to another at exorbitant rent has to be paid. So, on those people who live in rented houses this measure will definitely have terrible effect.

Now, Sir, the purpose of this Bill is to help the Municipal fund as the entire amount so collected from this taxation will go to the Municipal fund. I do not find anywhere in the Municipal Act that Government has any control over the expenditure of the Municipality. Everywhere in Assam we find that there is always grumbling from the tax payers that the Municipality is not properly utilising their fund and rather misusing it. Recently Sir, at Nowgong the public criticised the Municipality for misusing their fund. There are similar cases of misuse of Municipal fund at Gauhati and elsewhere also. The people have objected to the way in which the Municipal fund is misused. It is so in the case of almost all the Municipalities in Assam.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati): On a point of information, Sir, will the hon. Member cite a concrete instance?

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI (Laharighat): I am coming to that point, Sir. So far, Sir, Government has not taken any step whatsoever to stop such misuse of Municipal fund. At Gauhati we find that there are 30 bullocks belonging to the Municipality and for the maintenance of these 30 bullocks more than 1 lakh of rupees is spent annually. On the other side, in Gauhati Gosala there are 564 cattle and for the maintenance of these 564 cattle only Rs.12,000 is spent.

Mr. SPEAKER: How does this question come here?

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI: Sir, the proceeds of this tax will go the Municipalities and Town Committees but the Government has no control over the expenditure of these Municipalities and Town Committees.

Mr. SPEAKER: You should have brought this objection at the time of passing the L. S.-G. Budget.

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI: Sir, in the Statement of objects and reasons it is stated "The object of the Bill is to levy a tax 3 per cent on the annual value of immovable property situated in urban area. The need for this measure has arisen as it is necessary to secure additional revenue for the development of urban areas. The proceeds from the tax after deduction of the cost of collection will be distributed among Municipal Boards and Town Committees for that purpose." Therefore, Sir, so far as this point is concerned, I feel it relevant.

Mr. SPEAKER: Rupees 12,000 for 564 cattle? Is it monthly expenditure or yearly expenditure?

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI (Laharighat): Yearly expenditure. I am giving you the rate. Sir, for 30 bullocks maintained by the Municipality, it buys 7,000 mounds of "Dhan Kher". The rate at which this 'kher' is purchased is Rs.4-12 as per mound, and the price paid by the Gosala authority is only 12 as per maund.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) : If the hon. Member can supply at 12 as per maund, I am ready to buy 1,000 maunds.

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI (Laharighat) : I do not deal with this article. Then Sir, a sum of Rs. 2,65,000 was earmarked by the Municipality to run a bazar at Paltanbazar but there is no sign of any bazar there. Therefore, Sir, when this Bill is meant to increase the tax and to give the entire money to the Municipalities and Town Committees, these questions come. Government will tax the poor people and give the money to the Municipalities and Town Committees but Government has no control over the expenditure of these Municipalities. Government does not know as to how the money is spent. Therefore, I do not think it will be proper for the Government to ask the people to pay a tax just to augment the resources of the Municipalities which do not spend the money properly. I think the hon. Members of this House will agree with me that this Bill should not be passed and we should re-consider it, redraft it and postpone it to the next session.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have very carefully listened to the criticism levelled by the hon. Members. I do not agree with my hon. Friend that the Members of the Opposition are Devils. I do not consider them as devils. On the other hand, I look upon them as angels. Whatever message they deliver, I give it due consideration. Sir, the hon. Member is opposed to the proposed tax as it would hit the poor people, not only the poor people living in the towns but also the poor people living in the rural areas. Shri Barua has particularly referred to the definition of urban area under clause 2. He thinks that, according to this definition, the people living in areas which though outside the Municipal area but within 16 Kilometer of Municipal limit will also have to pay this tax and thus the poor people living in rural areas will be also affected. Sir, I can assure him this much that this Bill is not intended to affect the rural population living outside the limit of Municipal and Town Committees except, such as at Gauhati where, after large number of palatial buildings have been constructed outside but adjacent to the Municipal area, the owners of those structure will be subjected to this tax till Municipal limit is extended. In such cases, it will become necessary for the Development Authority, which will have to provide amenities to the people to levy the tax. Only such area is within the purview of this Bill. But this Bill, as I have already stated, is not intended to tax the rural people living outside the Municipal areas or Town Committees.

Secondly, Sir, criticism has been made that the people living in rented house particularly poor will be affected because, as a result of this tax, the rent will be increased. I should like to submit for the consideration of the hon. Members that this tax will not be imposed on or realised from the tenants but from the landlords, and if on account of this tax the rent is raised by the landlord to that extent the proportionate tax payable by him will also go up. Therefore, this will not have the effect of increasing the rent of the house. Suppose, Sir, Mr. Barua has a house and he gets a monthly rent of Rs.1,000. On that Rs.1,000 he will have to pay a tax of Rs.30, but if, as a result of this tax, he increases the rent, say by Rs.30 then tax will be limited on Rs.1,030. Therefore, the rent is not likely to go up. Even where the rent is raised, the occupant can make the rent Control Act seek redress from the Court by approaching for fixation of fair rent as laid down in the Act. Sir, this House has already passed the

Rent Control Act, which provides sufficient protection to the tenants. Therefore, if anyone feels that the landlord is realising rent over and above the rate laid down by the Act, he can go to the court and gets the rent reduced. If, however, tenants will not take advantage of such an Act, the Government or the hon. Members can do little to help them.

Sufficient protection against exorbitant rent has been provided if people want to take advantage of it. They need not spend a large amount for seeking this remedy. Sir, I repeat that this tax will be realised not from the tenant, but from the owners of the houses only. In this connection, my Friend, Sri Mohikanta Das, has suggested that the poor persons particularly widows, owning and living in thatched houses in the towns should be exempted. I entirely agree with him that for such persons it would be difficult to bear the burden. There is a providing clause 10, in this bill under which exemption in such deserving cases can be given. This can be done after assessing their property if the authority concerned is satisfied then they should be so exempted. Anyhow, I shall issue necessary direction that such poor people are not unreasonably subjected to this burden. While some of the hon. Members oppose this or other taxation proposal, on one hand, they also consider, taxation is necessary for increasing resources. But when any proposal is placed before them they oppose it.....

Shri SANTIRANJAN DAS GUPTA (Lumding): Then, there is no need of giving any provision to the poor ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): Under Clause 11(1) Government may, subject to such rules as may be made in this behalf, by order reduce or remit, whether prospectively or retrospectively the Urban Immovable Property Tax payable in respect of any class or urban lands and buildings or by any class of persons and in particular the tax payable in respect of urban lands and buildings which are occupied wholly or partly by the owners themselves.

Shri SANTI RANJAN DAS GUPTA: Sir, no rule can nullify the infirmity caused in Section 11(1) of this Bill.

Shri PABINDRA NATH SARMA (Nalbari-East): Sir, may I know whether in section 11 the reduction or remission tantamount to exemption ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Only after assessment we can ascertain that. If we find the owner of the house is not letting it out and is keeping for his use only, in that cases alone he can be exempted those payment of tax. For the purpose of reduction or remission, we shall have to make rules, so that poor people are not taxed unreasonably. Instead of properly understanding the provisions of the Bill, some of the honourable Members are interested in making allegation that Government have imposed a heavy burden on the poor people, but.....

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

Adjournment

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

(After Lunch)

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Ahmed.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): I was referring to the criticism made by the hon. Member that the burden of this tax would fall on the poor people. I have indicated that such criticism was made without any justification under Clause 11, of the Bill, the Government have been adequately empowered to remit or reduce taxes and wherever it is found that the burden of such tax falls on widows or poor persons having no income to pay taxes these powers will be used. I have also indicated that cases of holders of property having no source of income out of which to pay the taxes will be examined for giving them the benefit of remission or reduction in taxes as provided under the law. Therefore, the hon. Members should not have any fear that the impact of this tax will be on the poor people. My hon. Friend from Hojai has already admitted that he has to pay taxes here and there and at several places. It is that category of people who will have to bear this tax and should not grudge such imposition. When those living in towns want that the conditions of the towns should not only be improved but also be provided with all modern amenities, it is only fair that for improvement and provision of amenities in the towns, such of them as it can afford to do so, should willingly part a portion of their income. As I have already indicated that the entire proceeds from this tax will be returned to the Municipalities, the Town committees or any other local authority in proportion to the collection received from them for the purpose of improving the condition of the town areas. Sir, the improvement in the conditions of our towns is essential particularly in view of the growing population during the last few years. It has not been possible for us, on account of a number of commitments and their urgent needs, to spare adequate funds out of our normal budget or to secure funds from the Planning Commission for the purpose of improving all these towns. Therefore, I thought that the only way to find funds for this purpose was to raise it by imposing this tax on people living in the town areas and to give it back to them in proportion to collection made for providing amenities in those places. Sir, because many of our Municipalities are not properly run and there are huge arrears taxes to be realised in most of the Municipalities, we have not provided for and entrusted collection of these taxes to the municipalities. We shall collect it through our agencies and the amount collected by us will be given by way of grants to the Municipalities.

The hon. Leader of the opposition has also stated that the Municipalities have not been properly managing their own affairs and have been indulging in all kinds of waste without any check or control of their expenditures. Sir, we shall have to put our heads together to make those responsible for the administration of the Municipalities realise their responsibilities and spent a large part of their receipts for improving the conditions of town and for providing amenities to the people living in the town areas. I would also urge them to become very strict in the matter of collection of taxes from the rate-payers. Hon. Members may have noticed that some of the Municipalities have been superseded because of mismanagement. I have no doubt, whatsoever, that my colleague, who is in charge of this Department, will not hesitate to take necessary action against other Municipalities not discharging their functions in proper manner. I would also

urge on the Municipalities, through my colleague, to revise assessment of areas under their jurisdiction. Law provides for different assessment for those constructing buildings for their own use for earning income by giving those houses on rent. So far as those who use house for their own residence, they should be assessed at lesser rates than those using houses constructed by them for the purpose of earning income by letting them out on rent. I would request the Municipalities and Town Committees to see that on the houses let-out by owners, proper rental value is assessed on the actual rents on which they are based by these owners. If it is done, I have no doubt that the receipts of the Municipalities will be increased and there will be justification for assessment in different rates houses which are constructed for their own purpose or for renting them out. If the Municipalities are careful enough to observe this distinction and take such actions as are called for they will be able to get funds for the purpose of making considerable improvement in town areas under jurisdiction. I hope, I have met the criticism made by the hon. Members, and I would reiterate that this tax is not likely to hit the poor people and particularly those in the rural areas. It is only desire that instead of getting more funds out of the general revenues, put in use to realise funds to be spent for the people in towns out of those living in towns who can afford to pay. It is for that reason that we want to give the entire proceeds from the collection of Town Committees and Municipalities or the local authorities.

Sir, another point of objection raised by hon. Member, Shri Bhattacharjee, was that this would mean additional burden in the Central Government decision to raise funds from compulsory savings deposits.

So far as the savings deposit scheme is concerned should not be confused with taxation measures. The main objective of the compulsory savings deposit scheme is to restrain people from becoming extravagant and on the other hand, it is also a device to persuade people to save something for the future. They will have to give 3 per cent of the annual value of their property and this will be deposited in the name of the person making this deposit. The Government of India has agreed to give a tax-free interest of 4 per cent on it. I think, Sir, to earn an interest of 4 per cent on such savings is quite adequate and there should be no grievance on that account. This device has been placed before the people to save money for their future and the future of their children. This compulsory deposit scheme should not be confused with a taxation proposal. The tax deprives the person on whom it is levied of a portion of his income, but the compulsory savings scheme will not so deprive him. The money will be paid back to the person concerned at a future date and for the intervening period he will get interest. In this way both the people and the State are sought to be helped. I, therefore, do not see any reason why this should be refused in objecting to the tax. Ours is a taxation measure by which we want to levy a tax on urban immovable property.

With these words, Sir, I submit there is no justification for the hon. Members to oppose this Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that the Assam Urban Immovable Property Tax Bill, 1963, be passed.

The House divided with the following result:—

Ayes...52 }
Noes...12 } (A summary division was taken).

(The question was adopted).

**The Assam Regulated and Licensed Warehouses (Amendment)
Bill, 1963**

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH (Minister, Education): Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Regulated and Licensed Warehouses (Amendment) Bill, 1963, be taken into consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved is that the Assam Regulated and Licensed Warehouses (Amendment) Bill, 1963, be taken into consideration.

(The motion was put as question and adopted.)

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no amendment; so the Minister can move the motion in (c).

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH: Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Regulated and Licensed Warehouses (Amendment) Bill, 1963, be passed.

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved is that the Assam Regulated and Licensed Warehouses (Amendment) Bill, 1963, be passed.

(The motion was put as question and adopted.)

The Assam Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 1963

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Planning): Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 1963, be taken into consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved is that the Assam Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 1963, be taken into consideration.

(The motion was put as question and adopted.)

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no amendment. The Minister may move the motion in (c).

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 1963, be passed

Mr. SPEAKER : Motion moved is that the Assam Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 1963, be passed.

(The motion was put as question and adopted).

The Assam Excise (Amendment) Bill, 1963

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Medical): Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Excise (Amendment) Bill 1963, be taken into consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER : Motion moved is that the Assam Excise (Amendment) Bill, 1963 be taken into consideration.

Shri TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari) : অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই এই বিলখনৰ বিৰোধীতা কৰিছো। আমি জানো যে আমাৰ ৰাজ্যৰ অফিচাৰ বিলাকৰ মাজত আৰু বহুত অফিচটো দুৰ্নীতি ভৰি পৰিছে। আমি এইটোও দেখিবলৈ পাই যে দুৰ্নীতিৰ আশ্ৰয় লব পৰাকৈয়ে আইন তৈয়াৰ কৰে। এই আইন পাচ কৰিলেও দুৰ্নীতিৰ আশ্ৰয় লব পৰা ভাল সুবিধা আছে। ইয়াত Annexure ত দিছে যে পছোৱাই মদ নিজে ধৰতে তৈয়াৰ কৰি নিজে খায় বা ধৰ্ম কামত ব্যৱহাৰ কৰে কিন্তু বিক্ৰি নকৰে তেনেহলে আঢ়ৈ সেৰ পৰ্য্যন্ত মদ পায়। এইটোও দুৰ্নীতি হ'ব নোৱাৰে যদি ভাল মানুহ হয়। কিন্তু ইয়াৰ সুবিধা লৈ যদি কোনোবাই দুৰ্নীতি কৰে তেনেহলে ধৰিবলৈ উপায় নাই। আজি যি আইন আনিছে তাত পাঁচ সেৰ বৈকে ৰাখিবলৈ কমতা দিছে। অৱশ্যে ইয়াত এটা “কিন্তু” আছে। সেই “কিন্তু” এটা ভৱানক কিন্তু অৰ্ধাং আঢ়ৈ সেৰৰ পৰা পাঁচ সেৰ ৰাখিলেও নমৰে যদি Inspecting অফিচাৰে মিসাংসা কৰি দিয়ে ঠিক আছে। পাঁচ সেনাতকৈ কম হলে Inspector এ কব যে কাছাৰীলৈ যাব নেলাগে, ইয়াতে মিতমাত কৰিম। সেই মিতমাত কৰাত আমাৰো আপত্তি নাই যদি তেওঁ বহুদৈ দিয়ে কিনাম টকা পালে।

যদি আইনৰ মেৰপাক বুজি এই চৰকাৰী কৰ্মচাৰীসকলে বচিদ কেৱল কিছুমান কেচত দি বাকীবিলাকত নিদিয়ো তেন্তে কি হ'ব। আইনৰ বলত, এই একচাইজ বিভাগৰ অফিচাৰসকলে দুৰ্নীতি কৰিবলৈ সুবিধাহে হল তাৰ মানে আইনে তেওঁলোকক দুৰ্নীতি কৰিবলৈ সুবিধা দিলে। যদি চৰকাৰে ভাবো তেতিয়াহলে ২½ সেৰৰ ঠাইত ৫ সেৰ কৰিব লাগে অৰ্থাৎ ৫ সেৰ পৰ্য্যন্ত ৰাখিলে বেআইনি নহয়।

“Excise officer not below the rank of an Inspector of Excise”

এনে কৰিলে দুয়ো ফালে ঠিক থাকিব। মানুহৰো অসুবিধা নহয় আৰু কৰ্মচাৰী সকলেও দুৰ্নীতি কৰিবলৈ সুবিধা নাপাব। এতিয়া কথাটো এনেকুৱা হৈছে যে যিসকল কৰ্মচাৰীয়ে কেচ ধৰিব তেওঁলোকেই Compound কৰিব। মই কওঁ এনেকুৱা হ'ব জিব নালাগে। গতিকে ৰাইজৰ অসুবিধালৈ চাই এই বিলখন আইনত পৰিণত হ'বলৈ দিব নালাগে আৰু চৰকাৰে এইবিল উঠাই লওক।

Mr. SPEAKER : Mr. Mukherjee.

***Shri BAIDYA NATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Excise):** Sir, I am extremely sorry that my Friends here have misrepresented the facts which are embodied in this Bill. Sir, the hon. Member has mentioned two things which have created confusion in the minds of the hon. Members presents here. The first is this that in place of $2\frac{1}{2}$ seers we would allow 5 seers to which I cannot agree.

Sir, the second thing the hon. Members mentioned that the offenders may be fined 20, 30, 40, 50 which you have Sir, heard now. Sir, the fact is that at present only $2\frac{1}{2}$ seers are allowed in a particular are in a particular period for a particular class of people and for a particular purpose.

Now, Sir, it is well known to the hon. Members that there was a case of firing in Mangaldai in the Orang Tea Estate. Sir, a Commission was appointed to inquire into this police firing. The Commission was headed by one ex-High Court Judge, Shri Ram Labhaya. He enquired into this matter and he has recommended some suggestions which are going to implement.

Sir, I shall read out only a relevant portion of the Commission's Report. The Commission of Inquiry appointed to enquire into the police firing incident that took place on the 13th June, 1961 at Orang in Mangaldai Subdivision made an observation that in cases where the quantity of Pachwai found in excess of the prescribed maximum is not large, Excise Officers not below the rank of the Inspector may be empowered to compound those offences on the spot. Government after considering the observation decided that necessary provision should be made in the law for compounding an offence involving distillation and possession of a quantity of Pachwai beyond $2\frac{1}{2}$ seers. But within 5 seers and that the compounding should be done on the spot by an officer not below the rank of an Inspector of Excise and the fine to be imposed on such compounding is not to exceed Rs.25.

***Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI (Laharighat):** Sir, my point is how an Inspector discharges the duties of an Executive Officer?

Mr. SPEAKER: What do you mean by compound. Compound is effected mutually. There is no judgment. Compounding can be effected only when both the parties agree.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Industries): Sir, for information of the hon. Members I may tell that all over the world the motor accident cases are compounded by Police on the spot.

***Shri BAIDYA NATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Excise):** Sir, I do not want to go beyond our own country. There have been many cases are compounded on the spots. So Sir, in order to give some relief to the offenders we have decided to bring this legislation. So, there is nothing serious about it. If the offence is not great, in that case instead of dragging them to the court and make them more loser, we are trying to give little relief. This is also done on the recommendation of an Ex-High Court Judge. Therefore, Sir, when I say 'with a suspicious mind' I do not mean anything. Sir, I hope, I have made the position clear and any Friend will consider that there is no cause for opposing the Bill at this stage.

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that the Assam Excise (Amendment) Bill, 1963 be taken into consideration.

(The question was adopted.)

Mr. SPEAKER : There is one amendment.

Shri TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that for the proposed new sub-section (3) of Section 70 going to be added by Clause 2 of the Bill the following shall be substituted :—

“(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Section, Manufacture or possession of Pachwai exceeding the quantity that may be exempted under Section 73 but not exceeding five seers be exempted from any penalty.”

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই ইতিপূৰ্বেই কৈছো আৰু এতিয়া এটা কব খুজিছো ; অৱশ্যে Treasury Bench ত বহুতো সদস্য আছে, আমি যিবিলাক ন্যায় জনহিতকৰ যুক্তি দৰ্শাও, সেইবিলাক কেতিয়াও নামানে ।

আমি এই ফালৰ পৰা যি যুক্তি আগবঢ়াইছো, মন্ত্ৰীয়ে কৈছে যে সেই বিলাকে misleading the House. কিন্তু আইনত আছে যে এটা মানুহে ২।। সেৰ পাচুৱাই ৰাখি খাব পাৰে । সেই কথাটো মন্ত্ৰীয়ে কৈছে ময়ো কৈছো । ২।। সেৰৰ পৰা ৫ সেৰলৈকে মদ ৰাখোতাও খাওতা আৰু ইনসপেক্টৰে মিলি compound কৰিব পাৰে—যি কোৰ্টত আহিব নালাগে । মই কৈছো যে যদি চৰকাৰে পৰোক্ষ ভাবে সকলোকে ৫ সেৰলৈ খুৱাব বিচাৰিছে, সেইটো প্ৰত্যক্ষভাৱে আইনত থকাই ভাল—কিয়নো এই ভাৱটো ইনিম্পেক্টৰক দিলে তাৰ পৰা দুৰ্নীতি হব । এনেয়ে ৰাজ্যত দুৰ্নীতিৰ সীমা নাই, ইয়াৰ উপৰিও আইনৰ ফাকেদি চৰকাৰে দুৰ্নীতি বৃদ্ধি কৰিব খুজাৰ কোনো হেতু মই পোৱা নাই । গতিকে মই কৈছো যে হয় এইটো এটা দুৰ্নীতিৰ পথ আৱিষ্কাৰ কৰি ইনিচপেক্টৰৰ ওচৰতে আৱদ্ধ নাৰাখি কোৰ্টলৈ যাব দিব লাগে, নহলে ২।। সেৰৰ ঠাইত ৫ সেৰ কৰি আইনত সংলগ্ন কৰিব লাগে অৰ্থাৎ আইনত ৰাখিব ও খাব পাৰা কৰিব লাগে ।

ই এটা যুক্তি যুক্ত কথা । মন্ত্ৰীজনে House ক Mislead কৰা বুলি কোৱাত মই দুখ পাইছো—দুৰ্নীতিৰ পথ দি মন্ত্ৰীয়ে বিল পাচ কৰক, কিন্তু তেনেকৈ কোৱা অনুচিত ।

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in support of the amendment moved by my friend, Shri Tazuddin, Ahmed, I want to make only a few observations. I think the hon. Members of this august House will agree with me that the Government should try to extend liquor prohibition throughout the State without hesitation. But contrary to that we have rather encouraged liquor drinking in the name of cottage industries in our villages. Sir, under this rules, although possession of liquor or producing liquor up to 2½ seers is permissible for there personel consumption, but there is every possibility of producing more and more without detection and the hon. Members will fully agree with me that up-till now so many such case,

have escaped detection because of the mismanagement on the part of the officers. When we are going to entrust the responsibility to a particular Inspector of Excise for detection of excise cases, corruption creeps in. Again, in the name of this Act we are going to degrade the morality of the people. Therefore, I think this Bill should not be accepted by the House for the interest of the State as well as for the interest of the people in the backward areas. If the Government actually are thinking in terms of the socialistic pattern of society and are anxious to develop and raise the moral and good spirit of the people in the rural areas, this amendment Bill should not be brought up, and the officers should not be given an impetus to indulge in corruption. That is why, I support the amendment that has been moved by my friend, Shri Tazuddin Ahmed.

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI (Laharighat): Are these Jeeps given as donation?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Excise): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fail to understand whether Sri Dulal Chandra Barua is opposing the amendment or he is supporting the same.

Mr. SPEAKER: You may have your own interpretation.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Excise): Sir, my difficulty is this, that by this amendment, my hon. friend, Shri Tazuddin Ahmed wants that the exempted quantity that has been fixed should be raised from $2\frac{1}{2}$ seers to 5 seers and for possession up to 5 seers no penalty should be imposed. Whereas my friend Shri Barua says by this exemption of even $2\frac{1}{2}$ seers we are encouraging illicit distillation of liquor. I do not understand how by this exemption we are encouraging illicit distillation it is just the other way. Sir, I leave this to you and the hon. Members from poverty of understanding to decide. Sir, I suffer either from poverty of expression or my friend suffer. But I can tell you Sir, that I can explain matters clearly but I cannot give my friend the power of understanding. That is what I wanted to know from him. But as I have already explained in reply to my hon. friend's objection raised at the consideration stage, this was based on the recommendation of an Enquiry Commission's report. There are demands from some of my friends that the limit should be extended further. My friend, Shri Tazuddin Ahmed, is one of them. If we want to make prohibition a success in that case there must be some restrictions imposed.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: But restriction must be practical.

Mr. SPEAKER: You need not reply to the interruptions.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: After hearing me very well Sir, I hope my friend will not press for the amendment as this gives a little relief to the illiterate offenders so that they are not dragged to the court for minor offences.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Ahmed, are you going to withdraw the amendment?

Shri TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari): No Sir.

SPEAKER: Then I put the amendment. "Notwithstanding anything contained in this Section, manufacture or possession of pachwai exceeding the quantity that may be exempted under Section 73 but not exceeding five seers be exempted from any penalty."

(The amendment was negatived)

The question is that Clauses 1 and 2 of the Bill do stand part of the Bill.

(The question was adopted.)

The question is that the long and short title and the Preamble do stand part of the Bill.

(The question was adopted)

Shri BAIDTANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Excise): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Excise (Amendment) Bill 1963 be passed.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that the Assam Excise (Amendment) Bill, 1963 be passed.

(Voice from the opposition—No, no.)

Order, order. The question is that the Assam Excise (Amendment) Bill, 1963 be passed.

(A summery division was take with the following results: Ayes: 57; No: 13)

(The question was adopted)

The Assam Liquor prohibition (Amendment) Bill, 1963

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Excise): I beg to move that the Assam Liquor Prohibition (Amendment) Bill, 1963 be taken into consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that the Assam Liquor Prohibition (Amendment) Bill, 1963 be taken into consideration.

(The Motion was put as question and adopted.)

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister Excise) Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Liquor Prohibition (Amendment) Bill, 1963 be passed.

Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHOUDHURY (Fatacharkuchi):

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মদ নিবারণ আইন এই সংশোধনী বিলখন আনিছে—সেই বিলখন আজি পাচ কৰিব নালাগে। মহাত্মা গান্ধিৰ নামত কংগ্ৰেছে প্ৰস্তাৱ আনিছিল মদ নিবারণ কৰিব লাগে বুলি আৰু সেই কাৰণেই চৰকাৰে ১৯৫২ চনতে আইন প্ৰয়োগ কৰিছিল। তেতিয়াৰ পৰা দেশী বিদেশী কাকো মদ খাবলৈ মানা কৰিছিল। কিন্তু আজি ১১।১২ বছৰ পিচত কিয় মদ খাবলৈ দিছে কৰ নোৱাৰে। প্ৰথমে কৈছে— Statement of objects ব ৬নং ক্লজ (clouse 6)— It is considered necessary to relax the prohibitory measures in respect of foreign nationals working in oil refineries etc., and foreign dignataries visiting the State, foreign tourists and Army personnel stationed in the prohibited areas.

আজি ইমান দিন তেওঁলোকে মদ নাখাই থাকিব পাৰিলে, আজি কিয় নোৱাৰা হল? section amendment ব 21A (d) ত কৈছে—The consort of any person pecified in clause (a)(b) or (c) or any relation of such person (dependent upon him), Ambassador নাইবা cosul কোনোবা আহিলে আমাৰ মানুহ তেওঁলোকৰ লগত থাকে; তেওঁলোকৰ তলতীয়া কেবানী ইত্যাদি আমাৰ মানুহো থাকিব পাৰে; গতিকে এই Provision মতে তেওঁলোকে মদ নাখাব নে? 21 B Section কৈছে— Not withstanding any thing contained in this Act tourist from any foreign State having all India Tourist Permit may use or consume liquor ইয়াত দেখা যায় ভ্ৰমণকাৰী মানুহ সকলে মদ খাব পাৰিব। আকৌ 21 D (I) ত কৈছে—

No holder of a permit granted under section under any of the provision of this Act shall drink in a public place or in the room of a hotel or institution.

Sir, Game sanctuary লৈ Tourist সকল যায়, Ambassodor সকল যায় তেওঁলোকে Dak bungalow ত Tourist lodge বিলাকো Public place Sanctuary camp ও Public place থাকে। এইটো Public place, এই বিলাক জাগাত মদ নাখাই তেওঁলোকে জংগলত খাব নেকি? গতিকে এই কথা পৰস্পৰে বিৰোধী অৰ্থাৎ Contradictory হৈছে। 21 D (2) ত কৈছে

No holder of a permit granted under section 20, 21A and 21C and no tourist entitled to use or consume liquor as provided in section 21B, shall allow the use or consumption of any part of the quantity of liquor held by him to any other person not so authorised to use or consume liquor under this Act. অন্য মানুহ যদি তেওঁলোকৰ লগত থাকে তেনেহলে তেওঁলোকেও নাখাই থাকিব নে? উল্লেখ কৰা clause ৰ মতে খাব দিব নোৱাৰি কিন্তু এইটোও contradictory হৈছে। তদুপৰি এইখন আইন এতিয়া আনিব নামাগিছিল। আগৰ Original আইন খনতে কেবাটাও সংশোধনী কৰিব লগীয়া আছে। পুৰণি আইন খন যদি চায় তাৰ ৩ নং ক্লজ দেখিব যে, ২।।০ শেষ মত

খাব পাৰে। কিন্তু এতিয়া সেৱা বন্দ থকা উচিত নহয়। সেৱাৰ ঠাইত লিটাৰ হ'ব লাগে। সেই কাৰণে কৈছো এই আইনখন আৰ্জি পাচ কৰিব নানাগে। আৰু আমাৰ দেশত দেশী বিদেশী কোনো মানুহ নদ খাব নোৱাৰে সেইটো আগবঢ়াবে বহাল থাকিব লাগে। সেই কাৰণে মই এই বিল পাচ কৰাৰ বিৰোধিতা কৰিছো।

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Excise): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry to say that in this case also, my Hon. friend has misunderstood the whole position. It has been made perfectly clear in the Act that these foreigners, who have got all India Tourist Licence or who are representatives of other countries, will be allowed to purchase foreign liquor because Sir, if it is their habit to consume liquor and no allowance is given to these foreign personnel the tourist will not feel encouraged to come and visit our country. Therefore some provision has been made in this regard. As regards his misapprehension about the dependants, a dependent does not mean a servant or a cook etc. It has been made perfectly clear in clause 21D(2), which runs as follows. "No holder of a permit granted under Sections 20, 21A and 21C and no tourist entitled to use or consume liquor as provided in Section 1B, shall allow the use or consumption of any part of the quantity of liquor held by him to any other person not so authorised to use or consume liquor under this Act." So, the real position is not, so as my friend wants to prove. The idea of making this provision is that unless we give these facilities to the tourists and other foreigners, who are in the habit of consuming liquor they will not like to visit and stay in our State. Then Sir, as regards the ambassadors, diplomats etc., how can we stop them from taking liquor. This should be understood very clearly so that the same kind of unreasonable question is not put forward again and again. I am trying to meet my friends arguments and I would like that my friends also try to understand me. But unfortunately, Sir, either they do not try to understand me or they misunderstand me.

As regards drinking in public places, Sir, although a hotel is a public place, in the hotels they have got private rooms.

In a hotel separate rooms are there and people can drink there. But in a public place it cannot be done. But to say that a separate reserved room in a hotel is a public place is not quite correct.

Now, Sir, I would request my Dr. friend to understand the real implication of this. Unless we can offer facilities, there would be many difficulties. Our prohibition policy is based on the policies adopted by the Central Government and other States like Bombay, Orissa etc. If we want to be very strict no tourist will come to our State. So in a limited sense these facilities have been given and I hope my friends will understand the implications of this and would not stand in the way of passing the Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that the Assam Liquor Prohibition (Amendment) Bill, 1963, be passed.

(The question was adopted)

The Agriculturists Loans (Extension to United Khasi-Jaintia Hills Districts) Bill, 1963

Mr. SPEAKER: I have got a message from the Governor.

RAJ BHAVAN
Shillong
The 9th March, 1963.

I recommend under Article 207(3) of the Constitution of India that the Agriculturists' Loans (Extension to United Khasi-Jaintia Hills District) Bill, 1963 be taken into consideration by the Assam Legislative Assembly.

VISHNU SAHAY,
Governor of Assam.

Shri CHATRASING TERON (Minister, T.A.D.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Agriculturist Loans (Extension to United Khasi-Jaintia Hill district) Bill 1963, be taken into consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved is that the Agriculturist Loans (Extension to United Khasi-Jaintia Hills District) Bill, 1963, be taken into consideration.

(The Motion was put as question and adopted.)

Mr. SPEAKER: There is no amendment. Item No.(c)—Shri Teron.

Shri CHATRASING TERON (Minister, T. A. D.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Agriculturist Loans (Extension to United Khasi-Jaintia Hills District) Bill 1963, be passed.

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved is that the Agriculturist Loans (Extension to United Khasi-Jaintia Hills District) Bill, 1963, be passed.

(The motion was put as a question and adopted.)

The Land Improvement Loans (Extension to Mizo and United Khasi-Jaintia Hills Districts) Bill, 1963

Mr. SPEAKER: There is a message from the Governor.

RAJ BHAVAN
Shillong
The 9th March, 1963.

I recommend under Article 207(3) of the Constitution of India that the Land Improvement Loans (Extension to Mizo and United Khasi-Jaintia Hills Districts) Bill, 1963, be taken into consideration by the Assam Legislative Assembly.

VISHNU SAHAY,
Governor of Assam.

Shri CHATRASING TERON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Land Improvement Loans (Extension to Mizo and United Khasi-Jaintia Hills District) Bill, 1963, be taken into consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved is that the Land Improvement Loans (Extension to Mizo and United Khasi-Jaintia Hills District) Bill, 1963, be taken into consideration.

(The Motion was put as question and adopted)

Shri CHATRASING TERON (Minister, T.A.D.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Land Improvement Loans (Extension to Mizo and United Khasi-Jaintia Hills District) Bill, 1963, be passed.

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved is that the Land Improvement Loans (Extension to Mizo and United Khasi-Jaintia Hills District) Bill, 1963 be passed.

(The motion was put as questions and adopted.)

Shri CHATRASING TERON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1963, be taken into consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion is moved is that the Assam Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1963, be taken into consideration.

(The Motion was put as question and adopted)

Shri CHATRASING TERON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1963, be passed.

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved is that the Assam Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1963, be passed.

(The motion was put as question and adopted)

The Assam Local Funds (Accounts and Audit) (Amendment) Bill, 1963.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Local Funds (Accounts and Audit) (Amendment) Bill, 1963, be taken into consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved is that the Assam Local Funds (Accounts and Audit) (Amendment) Bill, 1963, be taken into consideration.

(The Motion was put as question and adopted)

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Local Funds (Accounts and Audit) (Amendment) Bill, 1963 be passed.

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved is that the Assam Local Funds (Accounts and Audit) (Amendment) Bill, 1963, be passed.

(The motion was put as question and adopted)

The Assam Legislative Assembly Members' Salaries and Allowance (Amendment) Bill, 1963.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is a message from the Governor.

RAJ BHAVAN
Shillong
The 29th March, 1963.

I recommend under Article 207(3) of the Constitution of India that the Assam Legislative Assembly Members' Salaries and Allowance (Amendment) Bill, 1963, be taken into consideration by the Assam Legislative Assembly.

VISHNU SAHAY,
Governor of Assam.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Legislative Assembly Members' Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 1963, be taken into consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved is that the Assam Legislative Assembly Members' Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 1963, be taken into consideration.

(The motion was put as question and adopted)

There is no amendment, item (c)—Shri Ahmed.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Fishery): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Legislative Assembly Members' Salaries and Allowance (Amendment) Bill, 1963, be passed.

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved is that the Assam Legislative Assembly Members' Salaries and Allowance (Amendment) Bill, 1963 be passed.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say a few words on this Bill. Sir, of course, I am not going to give any opinion on behalf of this House and this is my personal opinion. Sir, I personally feel myself guilty to accept amenities of such kind at this

critical juncture. Sir, I am not going to comment on the opinion of this august House in this respect, but I can not imagine what would be the position of the Members of this august House outside the Assembly floor; because in one side we are going to impose taxes on the poor People like anything in the name of emergency, on the other side, we are passing such kind of bill for our own benefit. On principle, Sir, I want to say that this House should not accept this Bill by considering the present sacrificial need of the country. We have come here to do something with the sacrificial spirit and not to earn money for our own comfort. Our unanimous call to the people is the utmost sacrifice. If we ourselves cannot sacrifice at this critical moment when our country has been faced with grave danger, I think, we should not act as representative of the people in real sense. At the same time, we should properly assess the economic condition of the common people, namely, low-paid Government servants and people of lower strata compared to the present position emerging from national crisis. Unless the economic condition of these people are bettered and improved, it will not be wise on my part being representative of them to accept this Allowance. We have no right to enjoy such allowance while they are confronting such hard days economically.

Shri EMERSON MOMIN [(Tura Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Mr. Speaker, Sir, for bringing this Assam Legislative Assembly Members' Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 1963 I would like to congratulate the hon'ble Finance Minister. Although my friend, Mr. Barua has opposed this Bill I feel that this provision is over due. Much earlier this sort of amendment should have been brought before the House. There are I think very few Members who can afford to do without this kind of amendment to the Members' Salary Bill—without any provision for their travelling allowance. Now this Bill provides for T.A. of Rs.150 only. This is not a big amount. Yet, Sir, this will give some help to the Members who are to move from place to place in their constituencies and other places also during the present emergency. From both the Hills and the Plains areas the Members of the Assembly equally deserve this help. While I am supporting this Bill some Members from the plains may be looking askance at me. But whatever that may be, in the interest of our illiterate people in our constituencies we are to move from place to place frequently to help them, both in the hills and plains and so the provision of this Bill will help us to do so.

With these few words, Sir, I again congratulate the hon'ble Finance Minister for introducing this amending Bill.

Shri RATHINDRA NATH SEN (Karimganj-North): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with due respect to Mr. Barua I would like to support this Motion placed before the House by the hon'ble Finance Minister. Sir, most of the Members feel the necessity of visiting their constituencies and to mix up with the people and besides that the Members of the Assembly have to go elsewhere also. So, the fixed salary of Rs 250 per month for the Members of this House according to my opinion is not sufficient and so this provision in the Bill in the Form of T.A. on submission of Monthly Tour Programme within the limitation of Rs.150 per month will bring some relief to meet th

present rise of prices in the market. Most of the Members of the House including myself have to work all time by moving from place to place in our constituencies and so for this provision in the Bill they will feel somewhat relieved. So, Sir, I support this Motion and I congratulate the Finance Minister for bringing this Bill, though belated. Thank you, Sir.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not been able to appreciate the grounds advanced by one of the hon. Members from the Opposition in opposing this Bill. If he had been careful enough to go through the provisions of this Bill, he would have found that this is only an enabling provision which I feel, under the existing circumstances has become necessary. Sir, during the period of emergency, particularly, the Members of the Assembly will be required not only to tour within their constituencies frequently but also outside their constituencies from time to time. As many of our Members have not got large income to spend for undertaking such frequent tours it is only meet and proper that there should be a provision for those who are in that unfortunate position to recoup the expenditure so incurred subject to a limit laid down. I know, Sir, in many of the Members some times may have to incur more than Rs.150 per month on such tours but, on account of the financial position of the State and a large number of new taxes imposing a heavy burden on the people, we have provided a limit under which no one may draw more than Rs. 150 a month for expenditures on tours on public duty. They will not be allowed to draw more than Rs.150 a month but this may be less and those who do not want to charge for such tours they also need not submit their bill and tour diaries on presentation of which alone expenditure subject to restriction of Rs.150 per month will be allowed. Members like Mr. Barua who can afford to meet his travelling expenditure do not require any assistance.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): On a point of clarification, Sir, I am a poor man.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): If Mr. Barua is poor, and if he has to undertake frequent tours from one end of his constituency to another and outside it in public interest he will certainly have to incur expenditure on T. A. and if he does not want to avail of the limited assistance provided under this bill, I do not know from what source he will get funds to incur the necessary expenditure. So, Sir, this undertaking provision becomes necessary for many of our Members considering the present situation of the State. I think, Sir, it is only fair that such of our Members who cannot afford to pay for frequent tours in public interest out of their pocket should to some extent be helped which is sought to be provided by this bill. If Mr. Barua can tour without taking this limited allowance he can do so and will be entitled to our thanks. We shall also be thankful if he will not draw the travelling allowance for coming to attend the Assembly from his constituency and for going back as all this will result in saving.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): At the moment I was speaking that we were going to meet this expenditure by taxing the people.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): As I have already said, Sir, this is only an enabling provision to allow the Members if they are shown to submit bill for their expenditure on tour, subject to a limit, while in their constituencies and outside on public duty for which sometime they may be incurring even more than Rs 150 per month. It is therefore, not correct to say that this is something like an addition in the emoluments, or a reward to the hon. Members which would certainly have been proper when the country is faced with an emergency and the people burdened with taxes in this time of emergency this provision will encourage our Members to undertake tours from one end of his constituency to other and outside which I consider are essential and are helpful to keep morale of the people. I feel this will also not put a heavy burden on the people.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that the Assam Legislative Assembly Members' Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 1963 be passed.

(The question was adopted).

Rules referred to Subordinate Legislation Committee

Shri SYED AHMED ALI (Gauripur): Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Spirituous Medicinal Preparation (Sale) Rules, 1962 and the Assam Spirituous preparation (Manufacturing) Rules, 1962 be referred to the Subordinate Legislation Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved is that the Assam Spirituous Medicinal Preparation (Sale) Rules, 1962, and the Assam Spirituous Preparation (Manufacturing) Rules, 1962 be referred to the Subordinate Legislation Committee.

(The motion was put as question and adopted)

As there is no amendment the Rules are adopted.

Discussion of the annual Financial statement of the Assam State Electricity Board for the year 1963-64.

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI (Laharighat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am extremely sorry to find that this matter which is of vital importance for this House has been brought before us as late as this Sir, 44 per cent of the total allocation for development has been spent on electricity, and it is really a very important subject so far as our State is concerned, because it is the electricity on which the development of industries and other things depend. Sir, the amount involved here is so heavy that I find it very

difficult to do justice to the Budget. We cannot vote on this Budget which has been circulated and placed before this House for giving our opinion as to the nature of expenditure incurred on this Subject by the State Electricity Board of Assam. Sir, a cursory glance on the Budget reveals that there are certain expenditures which are really very heavy and I feel that there is much room for curtailing the expenditure so far as the Electricity Board is concerned. The Board maintains a huge staff in the headquarters including legal adviser and Medical attendant and the total cost comes up to Rs. 5,59,152. Sir, here at page 240 of the Budget we find that the salary and allowances of the Chairman and the Secretary as follows:

The pay of the Chairman is Rs. 2,500 per mensem which comes to 30,000 per annum. The pay of the Secretary begins from Rs. 800 and with special benefits it comes to Rs. 1,150 per mensem and the annual expenditure comes to Rs. 13,845. Then there is the Chief Accounts Officer who is allowed to Rs. 1,300 and the maximum of his scale is Rs. 1,800 and the total annual expenditure comes up to Rs. 20,000. Besides, in the headquarters there are Deputy Secretary, Senior Accounts Officer, Assistant Secretary, Land Valuation Officer, Audit Officer, Public Relations Officer, Private Secretary to the Chairman, P. A. to the Chairman, and Superintendent in the office. The total expenditure under the head "Board's Headquarters Organisation" at Statement 4 of the Budget comes up to Rs. 2,67,616. Again, at page 242 of the Budget, Statement 4, the expenditure comes up to Rs. 1 lakh. Now, Sir, this is really a very top heavy office because we find that even the expenditure incurred on account of the Ministers and their attaches' salaries and allowances comes up to only Rs. 2,75,160. This is inclusive of all allowances, including car allowances and Bungalow allowances. But in the headquarters of the State Electricity Board the expenditure is Rs. 5,59,152. Therefore, Sir, it is really a very top heavy administration. The Departments in which the Board should have given very careful attention, we find that the Board has not given any attention. Let us take the case of Medical Department. Sir, there is a Doctor, but I do not know at what time he gives service to the employees, because he is paid only Rs. 50 per mensem. Therefore, Sir, on the one hand we find that the Board is spending huge sum of money on a count of salaries and allowances of the Chairman, Secretary and other officers and on the other, the Board pays only Rs. 50 per mensem to the Doctor. If the Board does not require any Doctor, it should not keep one. What is the fun of keeping a Doctor by giving him Rs. 50 per mensem? I do not understand what service this Doctor can render to the Board's employees.

Now, Sir, the Board has two Chief Engineers—one is Electrical Chief Engineer and the other is Hydroelectrical Chief Engineer. The annual expenditure for them is Rs. 1,62,623 and Rs. 15,851 respectively. I fail to understand, Sir, how the Board can make two water tight divisions for the work of the electricity. Here electricity is the whole thing. There are machines which have to be driven by the Hydro. If we take the whole Electricity of State of Assam, as a whole, we find that the whole thing has to be run by one Chief Engineer. I do not understand why the Electrical Chief Engineer cannot look over the work of hydro-electrical department also. So, Sir, I feel that the amount which has been spent for the purpose is unnecessary. If these two Chief Engineers are amalgamated with their assistants, there will be a saving of about one lakh of rupees. I hope the Board will consider this.

Another thing, Sir, the Board maintain one Commercial Officer at Gauhati by incurring Rs. 2,24,944, including his establishment. It also maintains a Trade Adviser at Calcutta at an annual expenditure of Rs. 35,024. So, Sir, it is very difficult to understand what is the use of making the provision of these two establishments. The total expenditure of these two establishments comes to Rs. 2,59,968. The Assam Government has also a Commercial Officer at Calcutta. They have also a Trade Adviser at Calcutta. The total expenditure incurred by the State Government for these two establishments is Rs. 1,80,000.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Goswami, in which page these figures can be found?

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI (Laharighat): Details of Commercial Officer will be found at page 285 and Trade Adviser and Director at page 251.

Now, the expenditure for these two departments is Rs. 21,883. Sir, I do not know what function that Commercial Officer who stays at Gauhati and for whom a huge amount of Rs. 1,77,520 has been spent, is doing. Because, Gauhati is not commercially important so far as the electricity is concerned. If we are to purchase some articles and machinery for the Board, it is done outside the State and if at all anything to do in this respect at Gauhati there are other personnel at Gauhati who can easily do this piece of work. At Gauhati, so far I know, there is a gentleman, to help the Electricity Board, for taking delivery of articles which come from outside. He is known as Movement Officer probably. He is posted at Gauhati. Therefore, Sir, these two establishments, specially the establishment of the Commercial Officer can conveniently be abolished. If that post is abolished, I do not think, there will be any difficulty for the administration of the Board. So, if this establishment is abolished, there will be saving of about Rs. 2 lakhs. Again, Sir, I really find it difficult to understand why Board is maintaining a Security Department. The Board has security personnel at Shillong, at Burnihat and at Gauhati also. Its annual expenditure is Rs. 2,87,575. Sir, we think security is only a subject of the State Government. Even in the Autonomous Districts we have seen no such special provision, it is the matter of the State Government. Why then this Board cannot rely on the Security Department of the State, I do not know. From where these people are recruited and whether there is any training or not, if they have training, where they have their training—all these things are not known to us. But the Board is maintaining the Security Department at a huge expenditure of Rs. 2,87,575. I think the Board should have confidence of the Security Department of the State Government and they can easily depend on the Government to look after the security of their property, and if this Security Department can be amalgamated with the Government of Assam, it will give more scope for employment and there will be less expenditure for maintaining such a huge staff, at least it will save an amount to the tune of Rs. 2 lakhs.

Now, Sir, I again find the Board maintains an Automobile Workshop, and this workshop, as I learnt from a confidential source, does not give any service even to the employees of the Board. The employees have to bring their cars here to the Khan Motor Works, because the workshop does not function properly and serve no purpose at all.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Electricity)
Sir, it is unfair for the hon. Member to refer matter indirectly. If there is anything he should put it directly.

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI (Laharighat): It does not matter much. It is only an information. If the hon. Minister thinks that the information I have given is not correct he should say so. Sir, when this budget is placed at the fag end of the Session, it is not possible to go through it and give justice to the subject. While hurriedly going through it, what I find, I think the Board is spending very lavishly and I hope the Board will consider these matters and try to observe economy. They should also see that there should not be any duplicity of function. We should try to curtail unnecessary expenditure.

Lastly, Sir, I beg to request you just to send direction to the authorities concerned or the Minister or Minister-in-charge of Electricity, so that in future the Electricity Budget is placed before the House immediately after General Budget or with the General Budget, so that we get enough time to study the subjects. As we have repeatedly made it clear to the Minister that we are not here just to criticise.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour):
Sir, I am speaking from memory ; this budget was placed before the House quite some time back—several weeks back.....

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI (Laharighat): No, Sir, only day before yesterday.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Still then, you can move a motion for discussion. If a motion is passed that will be carried out.

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI: So Sir, I did not get time to move a motion also.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: That is not my fault, Sir.

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI: Sir, I have already said that we cannot vote on it. It is placed before us with the intention of seeking our recommendation on the matter. It should not be left to the discretion of the individual Members, it should be the concern of the Minister of the Department to see that it is placed before us in time so that the Members get enough time to study it. So, Sir, my last submission to your honour is that in future the Minister may be reminded to place this Budget before us to allow us sufficient time to go through it and study the subjects. Thank you, Sir.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora):

উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, Assam State Electricity বোর্ডৰ যে বাজেট সেটা প্ৰশু দিন মাত্ৰ পেশ কৰেছে। এত কম সময়ে এই বাজেটৰ আলোচনা সম্ভৱ নহ'ল। আৰি একটা মাত্ৰ কথা বলব যে মিটাৰ কেন্দ্ৰীয়া জনা একজন Superintending Engineer নিযুক্ত কৰা হ'ল, যাৰ বেতন এক হাজাৰৰ বেশী, যেটা কাজ একজন Sub-divisional Officer কৰাত পাৰে। শ্ৰীযুক্ত গোস্বামী মহাশয়ও আলোচনাৰ সঙ্গে বলে দিন কেন Superintending Engineer নিযুক্ত কৰা হ'ল বাজেটে বৰ্খন S.D.O. ৰ ব্যৱস্থা ছিল।

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour):

Sir, the point is not clear to me. It will be difficult for me to answer unless the names and points are clear to me.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Bhattacharjee may give the Minister in writing.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: শ্ৰীযুক্ত গোস্বামী মহাশয় সরকারৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰেছিল যে একহাজাৰৰ বেশী বেতন দিয়ে একজন Superintending Engineer নিযুক্ত কৰা হ'ল যেটা কাজ এখন দেখা গেল একজন S.D.O. দিয়ে চলে। এই বৰ্খন মিছামিছি টাকা খৰচ কেন কৰা হয়েছে?

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar): উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, বিবোধী দলে অভিযোগ কৰিছে যে, এই অনুষ্ঠানটো উপৰি গধুৰ। এই বছৰত ১২ কোটি ৪০ লাখ টকা খৰচ কৰিব। এই অনুষ্ঠানৰ কামবোৰ কাৰি কৰি আৰু কৌশল পূৰ্ণ কাম; ইয়াৰ বাবে ইঞ্জিনিয়াৰ দৰ্কাৰ আৰু অন্যান্য কাৰিকৰী দৰ্কাৰ। সেইবোৰ কাম কৰোতে দিনে বাতিয়ে খাটিব লাগে। ইফালে গোটেই অসমত বিজুলী যোগানৰ উপৰিও শিল্প আঁচনি বাধ্যকৰী কৰাৰ কথা আছে। গতিকে ইয়াৰ অফিচাৰ সকলক ২৪ ঘণ্টা খটাত লগা হৈছে আৰু বেচি দৰমহাও দিব লগা হৈছে সেই বাবে মই কেতিয়াও 'টপ হেভি' বুলি কব নোৱাৰো।

মই কেতিয়াও 'টপ হেভি' বুলি কব নোৱাৰো যেতিয়া বাতিয়ে দিনে সমানে ২৪ ঘণ্টাকৈ কাম চলিছে। নামকৰণত আৰু বৰপানীত দিনে ২৪ ঘণ্টাকৈ কাম চলিছে। বাতিয়ে দিনে Shift কৰি বনুৱা সংগঠন কৰা ইঞ্জিনিয়াৰ সংগঠন কৰা সাধাৰণ কাম নহয়। Electricity Board এ বৰ্তমান বছৰত এক কোটি ১২ লাখ টকা Income কৰিছে আৰু ৯২ হাজাৰ টকা Trading expenditure কৰিব। গতিকে depreciation আৰু Interest নকৰাকৈ ২০ লাখ টকা লাভ হয়। Depreciation আৰু Interest বাদ দিলে হয়তো লোকচান হ'ব। Electricity Board এ যে, উপযুক্ত Power House নথাকতো এককোটি ১০ লাখ টকা Income দেখুৱাব পাৰিছে সেইটো যশস্যাৰহে কথা। মই ভাবো Electricity Board এ ডাঙৰ Power House বহুৱালে লাভ হ'ব আৰু তেতিয়া per unit charge বহুত কমি যাব আৰু জনসাধাৰনে বিজুলী শক্তি কমদামত ব্যৱহাৰ কৰিব পাৰিব।

উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই এটা কথা নিবেদন কৰিব খুজিছো যে বিজুলী শক্তি উৎপাদন কৰিবৰ কাৰণে, কেন্দ্ৰীয় আৰু ৰাজ্যিক চৰকাৰে শক্তিয়ে আটো মানে এই বৰ্ডক ঋণ আদিয়ে অৰ্থৰ যোগান ধৰিছে। এই প্ৰচেষ্টা যেতিয়া ফলবতীৰূপ, অসমত বিজুলী শক্তি উৎপাদন কাঢ়িব, তেতিয়া অসমৰ অৰ্থ নৈতিক উন্নত হ'ব। যেনেকৈ দূৰ পাঞ্জাবৰ আৰ্থিক অৱস্থা আজি উন্নত হৈছে। তেওঁলোকে বিজুলী শক্তিৰ দ্বাৰা মান্য বৰমৰ ঘৰুৱা শিল্প কৰি নিজৰ আৰু ৰাজ্যৰ আৰ্থিক অৱস্থা টনকীয়া কৰিছে। শিল্প বাহিৰে তেওঁলোকে খেতি পথাৰত পানী যোগানৰ কাম চলাইছে। ঠিক সেইদৰে অসমতে যেতিয়া বিজুলী শক্তি উৎপাদন কৰিব পাৰিব তেতিয়া বিভিন্ন শিল্পৰ উপৰিও আমাৰ গাঁৱলীয়া খেতিয়ক সকলে খেতি কামত বিজুলী

শক্তি ব্যৱহাৰ কৰিব পাৰিব আৰু পূৰ্ব পাঞ্জাববদৰে আমাৰ অসমো সকলো বিষয়তে উন্নতি কৰিব পাৰিব। সেই কাৰণে মই জোৰ দি কওঁ যে, আমাৰ ইলেকট্ৰিচিটি বৰ্ড খন সংগঠন কৰি বাইজৰ কামত অহাকৈ বিজুলী শক্তি উৎপাদন কৰা উচিত হব।

Shri EMERSON MOMIN : [Tura (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister in charge of Electricity that in Tura town electricity is supplied from a diesel set which has got very small capacity of generating power. This electrification is done some years ago. So, the supply of electricity to the Tura town has become a matter of great difficulty. Although the town area is not very small, it has not been possible to supply electricity in all the areas of the town. It is now reported that the people of the outskirts of the town have refused to pay the electricity light charges.

Sir, we are also told that within a short time there will be stationed about 20 to 30 thousand military on account of the Tura being a buffer area of the East Pakistan. Sir, there are also some technical institutions in Tura which have no electric connection and I think this institutions should be provided with electricity. Some amenities should be provided to the people of the town as far as possible. At the present, the power is not adequate due to the negligence of the officers there. They have not been able to realise the dues from the people as light charges.

Therefore Sir, I suggest that some more diesel sets should be installed there with powerful engine so that the people of the Tura town may get the electricity.

Shri MADHUSUDHAN DAS (Barpeta) : মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, ইলেকট্ৰিচিটি বৰ্ডৰ বাজেট সম্পৰ্কত এটি শক্ত অংক ধৰা হৈছে আৰু সেই বিষয়ে মোৰ কিছু কথা কব লগা আছে। এই বাৰৰ বোৰ্ডৰ বাজেটত ১২ কোটিৰো অধিক টকা ধৰা হৈছে। বৰ্ডৰ কাজবিলাক যাতে তালে চলে অপব্যয় যাতে নহয়, আৰু যাতে বাইজৰ মজলসাধন কৰা হয় তাৰ কাৰণে চেষ্টা কৰিব লাগে। বৰ্ডৰ বাজেট দেখা যায় বৰ বেচি পৰিমাণৰ। টকা হাতত পৰিলে, এই দুৰ্ভাগীয়া দেশখনত বেচি পৰিমাণে অপব্যয় হয়। এই ইলেকট্ৰিচিটি বৰ্ডখন এখন autonomous Body আৰু ইয়াৰ ওপৰত চৰকাৰৰ নিয়ম কানুন আৰু নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ বিশেষ ভাবে নাই আৰু বিভাগীয় মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়েও বোধ হয় এই বৰ্ডখনৰ কামত বিশেষ ভাবে হস্তক্ষেপ কৰিব নোৱাৰে। যেহেতু এই বৰ্ডে Complete autonomy উপভোগ কৰে। আমি দেখিছো, এই কেই বছৰত বিজুলীশক্তি উৎপাদনৰ কাৰণে এই বৰ্ডে যথেষ্ট পৰিমাণৰ টকা ব্যয় কৰিছে যদিও, সেই পৰিমাণৰ কাম হোৱা নাই। বিজুলী শক্তি উৎপাদন আৰু বিকাশৰ লগত দেশৰ উন্নয়ন বিশেষভাৱে জড়িত। দেশৰ শিল্প বাণিজ্য আৰু উদ্যোগবিলাকৰ উন্নতি দেশৰ বিজুলী শক্তি সুলভ ব্যবহাৰৰ ওপৰত নিৰ্ভৰ কৰে। কিন্তু কৰ নোৱাৰো কিয় দেশ স্বাধীন হোৱাৰ পিচৰে পৰা ইমান বেচি টকা-পয়চা ব্যয় কৰা স্বত্বেও আমাৰ ৰাজ্যত প্ৰয়োজনীয় পৰিমাণৰ বিজুলী শক্তি উৎপাদন কৰিব পৰা নাই আৰু যোগানো ধৰিব পৰা নাই। প্ৰথমতে উমটু আচনিতে যিমান পৰিমাণৰ বিজুলী শক্তি উৎপাদন হব বুলি আমাক আশ্বাস দিছিল আজি আমি দেখিছো তাৰ চাৰি ভাগৰ এভাগো হোৱা নাই। আমি তাবিছিলো তাৰ

বিজুলীশক্তিয়ে অন্ততঃ পক্ষে গুৱাহাটী চহৰৰ যোগান পূৰা হব আৰু বিজুলী-শক্তিৰ দাম কমিব। এতিয়া দেখা গৈছে—বিজুলী যোগানৰো ঠিক নাই আৰু দানো নকমিল। এই কথাৰ ওপৰত চৰকাৰে কৰাৰ বে, এতিয়া হোৱা নাই—অহা বছৰত পূৰা হব। এইদৰে ভৱিষ্যতৰ কথাতেই আমি চলিব লগা হৈছে। এতিয়া, 'উনিয়াম' বিটো 'প্ৰজেক্ট' আৰম্ভ কৰিছে, তাৰ পৰাও আশানুৰূপ বিজুলী শক্তি উৎপাদন হব বুলি ক'ব নোৱাৰি। 'উনিয়াম প্ৰজেক্ট'ৰ কাৰণে পানী যোগান সম্পৰ্কত তোলা এটা প্ৰসঙ্গত বিভাগীয় মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে কলে, পানী যোগানৰ কাৰণে গছ গছনি Plantation কৰিব লাগিব আৰু দুখন নাৰা নদীও divert কৰিব লাগে। গতিকে দেখা যায় 'উনিয়াম ইলেকট্ৰিক চাপ্লাই'ৰ কাৰণে পানী যোগানৰ কি ব্যৱস্থা হব তাক তেখেতেও স্পষ্টকৈ ক'ব নোৱাৰে।

তেখেতে নিজেও তাত সন্দেহ কৰিছে। পানীৰ যোগান নাই বুলি থকা-স্তৰে স্বীকাৰ কৰি, লাগিলে গছ ৰোৱাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লগা হব বুলিও কৈছে। এটা নে দুটা সৰু নদী divert ও কৰিব লাগিব পাৰে বুলিও কৈছে। গতিকে কৃতকাৰ্য্যতাৰ বিষয়ে তেখেতেও ভাঠি ক'ব নোৱাৰে। Afforestation কৰি পানী বৃদ্ধি কৰাৰ কথাও হাহি উঠে। ক'বাত গছ ৰুৱো পানীৰ যোগান ধৰিব পাৰে নে? এইবিলাক কথাৰ পৰা কৃতকাৰ্য্য কিমান দূৰ হব পাৰে তাক কল্পনা কৰিব পৰা যায়।

গতিকে মই বিভাগীয় মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ক জনাও যে, গৰীব ৰাইজৰ কৰা টকা বাতৰি অপব্যয় নহয়, তাৰ কাৰণে সকলো কাম এটা সুপৰিকল্পিত আঁচনিৰ যোগেদি কৰাৰ যত্ন কৰিব লাগে।

আমাৰ বিৰোধীদলপতি শ্ৰীলক্ষী গোস্বামীয়ে কৈছে যে উন্নীয়াত এজন Hydro-Electric Engineer আৰু এজন Chief Engineer ৰাখিছে। ইমান কেইজন সুবৰ্গী ৰাখি এটা বিভাগ চলোৱা প্ৰয়োজন নাই। এখন ঘৰতে বহু নায়ক হলে বেমেজালি নহয়নে? এনেকৈ গোলমালৰ সৃষ্টি কৰাতকৈ এজন Engineer কৰি শৃংখলা ৰক্ষা কৰিব লাগে আৰু লগতে খৰচো কম পৰিব আৰু তেতিয়া অপব্যয় কম হব।

এই বিভাগৰ ঠিকাৰ Tender দিবলৈ ওচৰৰ মানুহে ভুকে নাপায়—দূৰৰ মানুহে কিন্তু আগতে খবৰ পায়। নিম্ন নিৰিখৰ Tender বিলাক এৰি থৈ উচ্চ নিৰিখৰ Tender বিলাক accept কৰা হয়। মই এনে এটা কথা সিদিনা বিভাগীয় মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ক লিখিত ভাবে দিছিলো—তেখেতেও কিবা এটা উত্তৰ দিলে—মই অৱশ্যে বিষয়টো Persue কৰা নাই। মই এনে কথা এনেয়ে নকও। প্ৰমাণ পাইছে কও। যিহওক এইবিলাক বেমে-জালীত যেন টকা অপব্যয় নহয়।

আৰু এটি কথা উল্লেখ্যৰ প্ৰয়োজন হৈছে। আমাৰ ইয়াত এটা Meter Factory স্থাপন কৰিছিল; আমাৰ ইয়াত এইটো এই সময়ত বিশেষ প্ৰয়োজন আছিল, যদিও Factory টো চৰকাৰে উঠাই দিলে।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Meter Factory কথা সিদিনা মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে বুজাই দিছে নহয়।

Shri MADHUSUDHAN DAS (Barpeta) : তেখেতৰ যুক্তিয়ে আমাক Convinced কৰিব পৰা নাই।

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Electricity) : তেখেত ভালকৈ নুশুনিলে কেনেকৈ Convinced হব ?

Shri MADHUSUDHAN DAS (Barpeta) : তেখেতে যুক্তি দিব পৰা নাই। বিহণক কিয় Factory চো উঠাই দিব লগা হ'ল তাক ভালদৰে পৰীক্ষা কৰি চাব লাগিব—এই Factory চোৰ বাবে ১২ লাখ টকা খৰছ হৈছিল—সেই টকা অযথা খৰছ হ'ল। আজিলৈ Electrician ক প্ৰশিক্ষণ দিয়াৰ কোনো ব্যৱস্থা এই ৰাজ্যত হোৱা নাই। দুই এখন Technical স্কুলৰ বাহিৰে চৰকাৰে Electrician Training দিয়া কোনো চেষ্টাই চলোৱা নাই। এটা শিক্ষাৰিত আঁচনিৰ জৰিয়তে সকলো কাম কৰিব লাগিছিল—এইটো কাম সুবিধাৰ কাৰণে এনেকৈ কাম কৰা হৈছে কব নোৱাৰো। এই বিলাক নকৰিয়েই অগ্ৰস্ত টকা পইছা খৰচ কৰি আছে। গতিকে বাতে এই ১২ কোটি টকা ভালকৈ ব্যয় হয় তাক মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে চায় যেন।

বৰপেটা আগৰে পৰা এখন প্ৰসিদ্ধ ঠাই। তাত সমবায়ৰ যোগেদি এটা Electric Supply স্থাপন কৰা হৈছিল। কিন্তু আজিৰ দিনত বেচৰকাৰী প্ৰতিষ্ঠান এটিয়ে ভালদৰে Electric Supply কৰিব নোৱাৰে। গতিকে যোৱা বছৰৰ পৰা বিভাগীয় মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে বৰপেটাৰ Electric Supply ৰ ভাৰ লোৱা হ'ব বুলি কৈ আছিল। কিন্তু আজিলৈ সেই বিষয়ে কোনো ব্যৱস্থাই লোৱা হোৱা নাই। ইয়াৰ পৰাই অনুমান হয় যে কেনেকৈ ছিলঙত এই বিভাগ পৰিচালিত হৈছে। এই ঠাইখন আগৰে পৰা ঐন্দ্যোগীক ঠাই। আৰু তাত বহুতো উদ্যোগানুষ্ঠান হোৱাৰো সম্ভাৱনা আছে, তেনে ঠাই খনক চৰকাৰে অবহেলা কৰিছে—ই বৰ দুখৰ কথা। আজি আকৌ এই ঠাইখনক নলবাৰীৰ লগত bracketed কৰিছে। গুৱাহাটী বা ছিলঙৰ লগত হলেও অলপ সান্তনাৰ স্থল থাকিলহেতেন। (হাঁহি)।

আজি চৰকাৰে তাত Electric যোগানৰ কোনো আঁচনি ল'ব পৰা নাই কিন্তু বহুত আগতে ল'ব লাগিছিল। বিভাগীয় মন্ত্ৰীয়ে প্ৰতিশ্ৰুতি দিও ল'ব পৰা নাই।

Shri TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari) :— মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, এই বিষয়ে মই মাত্ৰ দুটা কথা জানিবলৈ ইচ্ছা কৰিছোঁ।

আমাৰ গাওঁ বিলাকত বিদ্যুৎ যোগান দিয়াৰ কাৰণে কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰে ৰাজ্য-সমূহক বহু টকা ধাৰ দিছে। মই দেখি আচৰিত হৈছো যে অসমৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত এই ঋণৰ টকা একেবাৰে নগণ্য।

পাঞ্জাবত দিছে	ট: ২৫০,০০,০০০
বিহাৰত দিছে	ট: ৪৭,০০,০০০
মাদ্ৰাজত দিছে	ট: ৫২০,০০,০০০
অন্ধ্ৰত দিছে	ট: ২৪০,০০,০০০
উত্তৰ প্ৰদেশত দিছে	ট: ১২৪,০০,০০০
অসমত দিলে	ট: ৪,০০,০০০

আমাৰ অসমত মাত্ৰ ৪ লাখে টকা কেনেকৈ পালে, বিভাগীয় মন্ত্ৰীয়ে বুজায় দিব বুলি আশা কৰিলোঁ। লগতে এই ৪ লাখ টকাৰ আঁচনি ক'ত ক'ত লৈছে তাকো জানিবলৈ দিব।

মোৰ পূৰ্ব বক্তা শ্ৰীমধুসূদন দাসে কোৱাৰ দৰে ময়ো কওঁ যে, বৰপেটাত এটা কোপাৰেটিভ চোচাইটিয়ে Power machine ৰ সহায়েৰে বিদ্যুৎ যোগান দিয়াৰ প্ৰচেষ্টা চলাই আছে। কিন্তু বৰ আচৰিত কথা যে এটা Co-operative য়ে, কেনেকৈ বিদ্যুৎ যোগান দিবলৈ সমৰ্থ হ'ব পাৰে। টকা-পইছা তাকৰ—তাৰ কাৰণে তাত এটা বিস্মৃতিৰ স্মৃতি হৈছে।

বাস্তাবিক্যত দুটা লাইন হ'ব লাগে। এটা জনসাধাৰণৰ ঘৰত বিদ্যুৎ যোগানৰ কাৰণে আৰু আনটো বাস্তাব লাইটৰ কাৰণে। কাৰণ ঘৰবোৰত মানুহক দিনতো বিদ্যুৎ লাগে কিন্তু দিনত বাস্তাব লাইটৰ প্ৰয়োজন নাই। বাস্তাব লাইন বেলেগে নাই কাৰণে দিনতে বাস্তাব লাইট জ্বলি থাকে। সেই কাৰণে সদায়ে লোকছান হৈ আছে। আৰু দেখা যায় বৰপেটা Power house ৰ যন্ত্ৰও বেয়া হৈ যাব লাগিছে। আনি বৰপেটাৰ জনসাধাৰণে চৰকাৰক দাবি জনাই আহিছে যে চৰকাৰে এই Co-operative Power house টো ল'ব লাগে। নলয় কিয়? এই কেইটা কথা জানিবৰ কাৰণে মই এই কেইটা কথা কলোঁ।

Shri PRABINDRA NATH SARMA (Nalbari-East)—Sir, I am not one of those who want to draw a disappointing picture about the working of the Assam State Electricity Board and for that matter, a dismal picture regarding the position of power supply in the whole State of Assam. Instead of that I am rather happy to avail of the opportunity with some of my friends to visit the Umiyam Dam site where the work of the project is going on in full swing. We were shown round the places where we had the advantage of easy excess. As a lay man I had not the least idea about such projects. So far as this State is concerned, a small underdeveloped State at she is, where no plan was made during the 1st plan period also about power production, I am rather happy to say that only yesterday I could have some picture of the shape of things to come in the State of Assam. So, long I was under the impression that the 'Talatal' Ghar at Gargaon built during the Ahom rules was a feat of miracle. But, yesterday Sir, that idea has undergone a thorough change and that idea was completely dispelled from my mind. I could quite appreciate that at least with the help of modern means in science and technology what the man can do. So this project at Umiyam gives one of the idea how in this modern age we are going to advance. We were also glad to learn on enquiry made to the officer incharge of the installation some of intricate features of this project. So far as the technical side is concerned we are in complete darkness. But our people are very much eager to know them. They want to know how their own men are working in this project. They say that they are also the citizens of the State. Besides, the official duty these people working in the project has some patriotic feeling and they want to complete the project in five years. They are working in such a manner that they were sure that by the end of 1964 the project will go into operation. This is indeed a very happy news and I came back with this happy picture of the project. Now Sir, here and there may be some difficulties as there is likely to be some difficulties in the working of the project, as in the case of any other scheme or project because

of various unavoidable reasons. If we take dispassionate view, we have no cause to complain about the working of the power production in the State of Assam. To day the Report of Public Accounts Committee on the Annual Accounts of the Assam State Electricity Board for the year ended 31st March 1959 and the Audit Report 1960 has been placed before us. It has made certain very interesting revelations. These are serious in the sense that the question of money is involved. I hope the whole concern will try to understand the implications of the observations made here. Some of these relate to purchase of materials without proper tenders. This is not the only one instance. There are also other anomalies. What the common people feel is this: whatever money is sanctioned, it must be utilised in the best possible way. There should be no irregularity whatsoever even to a pie. Then only whatever scheme we undertake, it will easily win the confidence the of the people. The confidence of people are the real capital of which the State can be proud of. Without such capital in the form of the confidence of the people, it is not possible to make any real achievement.

So, Sir, with these few words, I again appeal to the Minister in charge to see that the money allotted to the State Electricity Board is utilised to the best.

Shri R. THANHLIRA [Aijal East (Reserved for scheduled Tribes)] : Sir, I confess at the out-set that as a lay man I do not pretend to have any knowledge of the working of the electricity, but I do know that in the matter of development of a country electricity plays a vital role, and no country without developing power can expect to attain any measure of appreciable progress.

Yesterday, Sir, I also happen to have the opportunity to visit the Umiam Project and hearing the speeches of the engineers I was very much enthused and the picture they drew before us it appeared to me that the project has a bright prospect. But Sir, on the basis of the opinion expressed by some very important people expert on the line I am constrained to believe that so far electrification of Assam is concerned, the Assam State Electricity Board is working very slowly. For example, let me say something about my own district.

Aijal town was scheduled for electrification during the Second Five year Plan, so far as I know. But, it happened to be electrified only towards the end of the last year. The electricity we receive there also is very weak and the lights supplied in the streets are very dim. Also lights are supplied only during the night time. We can not use this energy in the day time. I therefore, request the Minister-in-charge to see if we can bring about any improvement regarding the supply of electricity in Aijal.

Sir, several Members of this August House visited the Aijal town. It is very very far. But it is a very pleasant town. In size and population of hills town of Assam, it is next to Shillong.

Sir, there are many intelligent persons who are interested in cottage and small scale industries and they are anxious to utilise this energy for the purpose. But uptill now, they are not in a position to do it.

Sir, moreover, the lights are given only in one public road, of course, it runs from one end to the other; but there is only one line. I therefore, like to request the Minister-in-charge to see if he can extend the light connection to other parts of the town also.

Sir, the working of the State Electricity Board in the district is very slow, as I have said before. Sir, I would also say that inside fittings were done by the contractors several months after the supply of energy. Many times I made enquiry to the Local Board and they said that they cannot get the required labour as the wages paid by the Board is very less. It is about Re. 1-8 annas, whereas the local labours get 3 rupees as their day wages and this is the usual wage. So, if this is the main reason for the delay of the working of the Board there, I think it is time that the Government does something to hasten up the work.

Sir, also there is another reason. My district is under the jurisdiction of the S. D. O. at Karimganj. So, all the proposal for giving energy to the house have to be sent to the S.D.O., Karimganj for approval and unless and until his approval is received nothing can be done and generally it takes a long time. I think, this point also to be looked into and if an S.D.O. cannot be posted in Aijal then atleast a representative's office should be stationed at Aijal.

Shri SANTI RANJAN DAS GUPTA (Lumding): Sir, I rise to make some observation on the working of the State Electricity Board in the State of ours.

Sir, from the Financial Statement submitted by the State Electricity Board for the year 1964-64, it appears that a sum of Rs.12 crores 41 lakhs have been so far invested on Capital Account. But, Sir, I do not like to take into account the sum of Rs.9,41,00,000 and odd which has been invested upto the year ending 31st March, 1962. I am only taking into account the sum of Rs.3 crores so far invested upto the year ending 31st March, 1962 for power generation. Sir, from that investment of Rs.3 crores, we find that the State Electricity Board earned a revenue gross receipts without debiting the working expenses, a sum of Rs.1 crore and odd. Out of this, if the revenue expenditure is debited, then it shows only a surplus of rupees 20 lakhs and odd. But, Sir, if we add with it the depreciating and interest on capital account then we find that there is a huge loss suffered. I have not taken into account the major investment on capital account, as the result of that has yet to be achieved. Now, Sir, where the losses were? Sir, from the report of the Public Accounts Committee, I find that 16.18 per cent of the electricity generated, was not utilised properly. In commenting to this, the Audit report says in D.V.C. and other projects there are the leakage of 5.8 per cent. But here in Assam it is more than 16 per cent. So, in the working of the Electricity Board, if such a huge percentage of loss is there, I do not understand how the Electricity Board will earn revenue for the State where we were spending crores of money for that.

Again, Sir, from my personal experience, I can say if electricity is used for the purpose of lighting or for the purpose of using fans, we can not earn any revenue. We must use electricity for the productive purposes. I am sorry to say that inside the whole State of Assam there are greater demands to use electricity for small scale and cottage industries and also for other industries. But unfortunately the State Electricity Board can not supply that. In many cases the peak load is maximum during night time and during day time it is half of that. Therefore the cottage and small scale industries can only work during day time but at night this electricity can not be used by these industries, not to speak of using electricity by the large scale industries.

In Tea industries there is no chance of using the electricity because tea leaves contains 12 per cent moisture. Furthermore, they have got their own machines to run their factories. Rice milling industry also not going to use the electricity because paddy contains atleast 11 per cent moisture and for purposes of steaming and boiling, Boiler is essential to them. Therefore, the rice milling industry is also not going to use the electricity. Then comes oil. Mustard seeds contain heavy moisture. Electricity can not come to their rescue also. So, so far other large scale industries are concerned, they will use greater energy and as a result there will be greater demand for electricity.

Previously there was some hesitation in the mind of the Government that if we generate sufficient k.w. of electricity there may not be demand for that. After contacting the Government and specially the engineers I came to know that they were under the impression that if the Kopili valley project was taken in hand there would not be any demand to consume so much electricity within the State. There was an idea in the mind of the Government that Assam being a State where there is heavy rainfall irrigation is not necessary. Similarly, Sir, there was an idea in the minds of the administrators that if the Kopili valley project was taken up then the entire outturn of electricity might not be consumed in Assam. So working for so many years and spending so many crores of rupees, on capital account, it would be a wastage in Assam. In the Accountant General's report it is remarked that they cannot understand why there were no attempt on the part of the Electricity Board to maintain the stock register for so much of their spare-parts for their machines and such other things in their stock. This shows that the Board is not maintaining their stock register in the way they have done while crores and crores of rupees are being spent by them. This is an important thing to be noted, There is no record to show that the stock is not going to the hands of others. There is no record to show that so much is used for their own machines.

Another point is that if we take into account the interest on Rs.9 crores then we find that for the interest on depreciation the Board about Rs.78 lakhs or so. This is a serious matter. The Minister in charge of Electricity will then have to find avenues for increasing the money for capital outlay. If we are to lose money by crores then what is the use of making so much attempt for electricity. Considering all these points and observation I request the Minister in charge of Electricity to go into every detail about the point of generation, about supply of electricity to the consumers and whether there is any leakage, etc. All these points require some thought so that our State is not to lose out of the Electricity Board.

In other places like Jamshedpur people have to pay for supply of electricity only half an anna per unit and in some places they pay only 1 to 2 nP. per unit. But here we are paying near about 7 annas per unit and in some places 9 annas per unit. There is no uniform rate inside the State. In some places here it is charged in different ways which is more high. The people in Shillong are paying at one rate and the people of Dibrugarh are paying in another rate. Therefore, Sir, it is to be seen that there is a uniformity in the rate of electricity in the State. I request the Minister-in-charge of Electricity to see that the charge for electricity is brought down as much as possible. When diesel oil produced in our own refinery at Gauhati I do not understand how the rate for electricity can go so high.

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Previously there was some hesitation in the mind of the Government that if we generate sufficient k.w. of electricity there may not be demand for that. After contacting the Government and specially the engineers I came to know that they were under the impression that if the Kopili valley project was taken in hand there would not be any demand to consume so much electricity within the State. There was an idea in the mind of the Government that Assam being a State where there is heavy rainfall irrigation is not necessary. Similarly, Sir, there was an idea in the minds of the administrators that if the Kopili valley project was taken up then the entire outturn of electricity might not be consumed in Assam. So working for so many years and spending so many crores of rupees, on capital account, it would be a wastage in Assam. In the Accountant General's report it is remarked that they cannot understand why there were no attempt on the part of the Electricity Board to maintain the stock register for so much of their spare-parts for their machines and such other things in their stock. This shows that the Board is not maintaining their stock register in the way they have done while crores and crores of rupees are being spent by them. This is an important thing to be noted, There is no record to show that the stock is not going to the hands of others. There is no record to show that so much is used for their own machines.

Another point is that if we take into account the sum of Rs.9 crores then we find that for the interest on depreciation the Board will be losing about Rs.78 lakhs or so. This is a serious matter. The Minister in charge of Electricity will then have to find avenues for increasing the money for capital outlay. If we are to lose money by crores then what is the use of making so much attempt for electricity. Considering all these points and observation I request the Minister in charge of Electricity to go into every detail about the point of generation, about supply of electricity to the consumers and whether there is any leakage, etc. All these points require some thought so that our State is not to lose out of the Electricity Board.

In other places like Jamshedpur people have to pay for supply of electricity only half an anna per unit and in some places they pay only 1 to 2 nP. per unit. But here we are paying near about 7 annas per unit and in some places 9 annas per unit. There is no uniform rate inside the State. In some places here it is charged in different ways which is more high. The people in Shillong are paying at one rate and the people of Dibrugarh are paying in another rate. Therefore, Sir, it is to be seen that there is a uniformity in the rate of electricity in the State. I request the Minister-in-charge of Electricity to see that the charge for electricity is brought down as much as possible. When diesel oil produced in our own refinery at Gauhati I do not understand how the rate for electricity can go so high.

I have understood from a big officer in the refinery that it becomes a problem to dispose such a big stock of oil for which they have a limited capacity to stock and unless they can dispose of this stock they cannot run the refinery. Sir, I have great doubt whether the Umiyam project will come into operation in 1964. I have great doubt that it will be able to function before the later part of 1965. I have got information also that before the end of 1965 it will not be possible to bring it into operation. If that is so, then we shall have to find other avenues to bring down the price of rate of electricity in the interest of general public.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): Mr. Speaker, Sir, some hon. Members have offered valuable suggestions how to stop the leakage, how to recoup the loss, how to improve the management of stores, etc. Some members have expressed doubts about the durability of some of our projects such as the Umiyam project. There may be doubt, Sir, when we have to depend on the nature for rains and various other things. Before a scheme is started. Data for several years have to be collected and all efforts have been taken as much as humanly possible to ensure the durability of the scheme which we have taken up. Sir, for such a scheme for electricity when we have to depend particularly on the bounties of nature there must be some percentage of doubts and suspicion about the durability or permanency of certain schemes. But we have to see whether the necessary data and scientific ground were available before we taken up any scheme.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 10 A.M. to morrow.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Tuesday the 2nd April, 1963.

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

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