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1847

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for ...

THE ...

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

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The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 10 A.M. on Saturday, the 5th March, 1955.

P R E S E N T

Shri Kuladhar Chaliha, B.L., Speaker in the Chair, the nine Ministers, the two Deputy Ministers, two Parliamentary Secretaries and fifty four Members.

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**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**STARRED QUESTIONS**

*(Starred question No. 1 standing in the name of Shri Mal Chandra Pegu, M.L.A. was not put and answered as the Questioner was absent.)*

**UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**

(To which answers were laid on the table)

**Chalchali Panchayat in the District of Nowgong**

**Mrs. USHA BARTHAKUR** asked :

4. Will the Minister for Rural Development be pleased to state—

(a) When the Chalchali Panchayat in the District of Nowgong was started ?

(b) The amount of grant given till now to said Panchayat ?

(c) If the Panchayat is working ?

(d) Whether it is a fact that the Government is yet in a fix to appoint the Secretary of the said Panchayat ?

(e) If so, the reason of delay in appointing the same ?

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister)** replied :

4. (a)—On 1st January 1954.  
(b)—Rupees 15,000 during the current year.  
(c)—Yes.  
(d)—No. The Secretary has already been appointed.  
(e)—Does not arise.

*Re: Preservation of an ancient Namghar*

**Mrs. USHA BARTHAKUR** asked :

5. Will Government be pleased to state if it has received a memorandum from the people of Brahmachari to preserve the ancient Namghar, which had been ransacked by the Burmese in their invasion of 1816 ?

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister)** replied :

5.—No.

**Discussion of the Motion of thanks on Governor's address or matters referred to in the address**

**Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI** :—

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, ৰাজ্যপালে দিয়া ভাষণৰ ওপৰত আজি দুদিন ধৰি এই সদনত আলোচনা, সমালোচনা চলি আছে আৰু বহু ক্ষেত্ৰত ই যুক্তিতকৈ ধুমুহাৰ বা বতাহ। মইও সেই আলোচনাত অলপ ভাগ লবলৈ চিয় হৈছো। প্ৰথমতে ৰাজ্যপালে দিয়া ভাষণৰ কাৰণে তেখেতক অভিনন্দন জনাওঁ আৰু চীফ ছইপ শ্ৰীমহীকান্ত দাস ডাঙৰীয়াই দাঙি ধৰা প্ৰস্তাৱটো সমৰ্থন কৰোঁ। দ্বিতীয়তে আমাৰ বিৰোধী দলৰ উপ-দলপতি ভট্টাচাৰ্য ডাঙৰীয়াই সেই প্ৰস্তাৱৰ ওপৰত অনা সংশোধনীটোৰ বিৰোধীতা কৰে।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, ৰাজ্যপালে তেখেতৰ ভাষণত আমাৰ চৰকাৰৰ এবছৰৰ কাৰ্য্যপদ্ধতি আৰু ব্যৱস্থাৰ বিষয়ে যিখিনি উল্লেখ কৰিছে সেই সন্দেহ এই সদনৰ বহুতো সদস্যই নানাৰকমে সমালোচনা কৰিছে। কিন্তু আমি জানো যে অসম এখন সমস্যাপূৰ্ণ ৰাজ্য। ভূমিকম্প, বানপানী আদি নানাৰকমৰ প্ৰাকৃতিক দুৰ্যোগে অসমক প্ৰতি বছৰে জুকলা কৰি আহিছে। এনে এখন সমস্যাপূৰ্ণ ৰাজ্যৰ সকলো বৃত্তান্ত স্তম্ভৰ চমু ভাষণ এটাত বৰ্ণনা কৰাৰ কাৰণে ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয় আমাৰ ধন্যবাদৰ পাত্ৰ।

বিৰোধী দলৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্য ডাঙৰীয়াই ৰাজ্যপালৰ ভাষণত Statisticsৰ উল্লেখ কৰি কয় যে there are three kind of lies—Lies damn lies, and Statistics অৰ্থাৎ তেখেতে unemploymentৰ কথা কওঁতে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ কোনো statistics নাই বুলি সমালোচনা কৰে আনহাতে তেখেতে statistics এটা lie (মিছা) বুলি অভিহিত কৰিছে। গোটেই পৃথিৱীৰ প্ৰায় ২০০ কোটি মানুহৰ ভিতৰত অবিচেছদ্য ভাৰতত ৪০ কোটি নবনাৰীয়ে বাস কৰিছিল। এই বাহু ভাৰত আৰু পাকিস্থানত বিভক্ত হোৱাৰ পিচত ভাৰতত প্ৰায় ৩৬ কোটি নবনাৰীয়ে বাস কৰিছে এই লোক সংখ্যাও তেখেতৰ মতে মিছা। সাম্প্ৰদায়িক সংঘৰ্ষৰ পিচত এই লোক সংখ্যা ক্ৰমে বৃদ্ধি প্ৰাপ্ত হৈছে। এনে স্থলত অসমৰ কিয় গোটেই ভাৰতৰ সমস্যা বাঢ়ি আহিছে—সেই সমস্যা বিলাকৰ সমাধানার্থে অসম গভৰ্ণমেণ্ট যথেষ্ট তৎপৰতা দেখুৱাইছে আৰু এই তৎপৰতা statisticsৰ ওপৰতে হব লাগিব আৰু হৈছেও যদিও তেখেতে statistics মিছা বুলি কয়। নিবনুৱা সমস্যাৰ বিষয়ে বহুতে বহুতো উক্তি কৰিছে। বহুতে কেৱল Quotations হে গাই গৈছে। কিন্তু এটা কথা সদায় লক্ষ্য ৰাখিব লাগিব। অসমলৈ সদায় নতুন নতুন মানুহ ধাৰাবাহিক ভাবে সোমাই থাকি এই নিবনুৱা সমস্যাৰ বহু-গুণে সৃষ্টি কৰিছে। ইয়াৰ ওৰ পৰা আৰু যিমান ক্ষীণ্ৰগতিৰে সমাধান বিচাৰিছে ই টান কথা। বিশেষকৈ গণতান্ত্ৰিক দেশ সমূহত।

Socialistic Pattern ৰ এটা কথা উঠিছে—

পূৰ্বৰে পৰা কংগ্ৰেছৰ আদৰ্শ হল Socialistic Pattern of Society—a casteless and class less society. অৰ্থাৎ সমাজতান্ত্ৰিক নমুনাৰে এখন সমাজ গঠন কৰা। এনে আদৰ্শত অনুপ্ৰাণিত হৱেই আজিলৈকে কংগ্ৰেছে কাম কৰি আহিছে। আবাদি কংগ্ৰেছে মাত্ৰ Socialistic Pattern of Society বুলি পূৰ্বৰে আদৰ্শবাদৰ পুনৰুত্থাপনহে মাত্ৰ কৰিছে বা এটা নতুন ৰূপ দিয়াৰ চেষ্টা কৰিছে। আবাদি কংগ্ৰেছে এটা নতুন তথ্য বা কাৰ্য্যপদ্ধতি ঘোষণা কৰা নাই।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, ভটাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াই Land Policy সম্বন্ধে কথা কৈছে, মোৰ বোধেৰে এইটো অকল অসমৰে নহয় ভাৰতৰে নহয়, সমগ্ৰ পৃথিবীৰ সমস্যা। এই সম্বন্ধে কবলৈ গলে ময়ো বাচীয়াৰ কথা কওঁ; এই বাচীয়াৰ আদৰ্শত অনুপ্ৰাণিত হৈয়ে আমাৰ ভটাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াই সেই কথাৰ ইঙ্গিত দি গৈছে। বাচায়া এখন বিশাল দেশ। তাৰ লোকসংখ্যা অনুপাতে মাটি বহু বেচি। মাটি আছে মানুহ কম। আনহাতে ভাৰত এখন দুখীয়া খেতি প্ৰধান খেতিয়কৰ দেশ ইয়াত লোকসংখ্যা সবহ কিন্তু মাটি তাকৰ। তেনে স্থলত বাচীয়াক দোহাৰি ভাৰতৰ মাটি সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিবলৈ যোৱাটো সমীচিন আৰু সম্ভৱ নহয়। তথাপি কংগ্ৰেছ গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে এই সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিছে। আৰু বহুখিনি আগ বাঢ়িছে অসমত বহুতো এক-চনীয়া পট্টাৰ মাটি আছে; গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে যেন তাৰ এটা সূ-ব্যৱস্থা সোনকালে কৰাৰ চেষ্টা কৰে; তেতিয়াহলে এই সমস্যা সমাধান কৰা কামটো বহুগুনে ফলৱতী হব বুলি মই আশা কৰো

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, অৱশ্যে ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ৰ ভাষণত কৈছে যে তেখেতৰ মন্ত্ৰী সভাই নানা কাৰণত কিছুমান কামত কাৰ্য্যতৎপৰতা দেখুৱাব পৰা নাই। তথাপি সেই কামবিলাকত তৎপৰ হবলৈ অহোপূৰ্ণকাৰ্য্য কৰিছে। আজি আমি দেখিছো যে বৰ্ত্তমান হাতত লোৱা Community Projects, National Extension Block আদিৰ জৰিয়তে বিশেষকৈ আমাৰ কৃষক সকলৰ যে উন্নতি বিধান হব তাত সন্দেহ নাই, যদিও আশাতীত হিচাবে কাম হোৱা নাই। মহোদয়; মই এটি বিষয়ে মাননীয় সদস্যসকলৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰো যে এসময়ত ভাৰতত খাদ্যৰ অভাব ইমান উৎকট আছিল যে খাবলৈ নেপাই হেজাৰ হেজাৰ মানুহৰ মৃত্যু মুখত পতিত হৈছিল। কিন্তু বৰ্ত্তমান কংগ্ৰেছ গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে সেই সমস্যা সমাধানত অকল আগবাঢ়াই নহয় এতিয়া আমাৰ খাদ্য Surplus হৈছে। বৰ্ত্তমান এটা মানুহো খাবলৈ নেপাই মৰা নাই। বৃটিছ গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ শাসন কালত আমাৰ ৰাষ্ট্ৰত অকল দুভিক্ষতেই ৩১০ কোটি মানুহ খাবলৈ নেপাই মৰিছিল। স্বাধীনতাৰ পিচত এটি মানুহ খাবলৈ নেপাই মৰা দৃষ্টান্ত বোধকৰো নোলাব। অনু সমস্যাই প্ৰধান সমস্যা আছিল। কংগ্ৰেছ গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে সেই সমস্যাৰ সমাধান নাই কৰা বুলিলে সত্যৰ অপলাপ হব।

**Mr. SPEAKER:** In Bengal famine the highest estimate was 40 lakhs and the lowest ten lakhs.

**Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI:** Yes, Sir, it was during the British days বৃটিছ চৰকাৰৰ আমোলত ৩১ কোটি মানুহ অকালত মৰিল। এতিয়া খাদ্য সমস্যাতলৈ লক্ষ্য কৰিলে দেখিব যে এই সমস্যা ভাৰত তথা অসমত সমাধান কৰিয়েই এৰা নাই। এতিয়া ভাৰতে খাদ্য সামগ্ৰী বণ্টনী কৰিব পৰা হৈছে। এই প্ৰসঙ্গত, অৱশ্যে স্বৰ্গীয় ৰফি আহমদ কিদ্ৰাইৰ নাম সোনালী আখৰেৰে লিখা থাকিব। তেখেতৰ অভিনব নীতি আৰু আশাশুধীয়া চেষ্টাৰ ফলতে ভাৰতে আজি খাদ্য সমস্যাৰ নিচিনা এটা ডাঙৰ সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিব পাৰিলে। কিন্তু দুঃখৰ বিষয় যে সেই পূৰ্ণৰ অকাল মৃত্যুত ভাৰতে এজন প্ৰতিভাশালী ৰাজনীতিজ্ঞ আৰু স্ৰযোগ্য শাসক হেৰুৱালে।

আমাৰ এতিয়াও নিশ্চয় বহুত সময়্য সমাধান হবলৈ বাকী আছে, যেনে কৃষি, চিকিৎসা আৰু জনস্বাস্থ্য। অসম এখন কৃষি প্ৰধান দেশ। এই কৃষিৰ সৰ্বস্বত্ব উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে বিমান টকাৰ দৰকাৰ আমাৰ ৰাজ্য চৰকাৰে সিমান টকা খৰছ কৰিব পৰা নাই। যি ক্ষেত্ৰত কোটি কোটি টকাৰ দৰকাৰ তাত লাখ টকাৰে সময়্য সমাধান হব নোৱাৰে। ঠিক তেনেকৈয়ে চিকিৎসা আৰু জনস্বাস্থ্য। স্বাস্থ্যই মানুহৰ প্ৰধান সম্বল। এই স্বাস্থ্য নিৰ্ভৰ কৰে চিকিৎসাৰ ওপৰত। মানুহক পূৰ্ণাঙ্গ স্বাস্থ্যবান কৰিবলৈ হলে সেই হিচাপে টকাও খৰছ কৰিব লাগিব। আশাকৰো চৰকাৰে সেই অনুপাতে টকা খৰছ কৰিব।

কৃষি সম্বন্ধে পুনৰ কওঁ যে চৰকাৰে কৃষকক ঋণ দিবলৈ টান পায় অথচ চৰকাৰী কৰ্মচাৰী সকলক যথেষ্ট পৰিমাণে ধাৰ দিয়ে। এই পাৰ্থক্য কিয় বুজিব নোৱাৰো। সিদিনা শ্ৰীদলবীৰ লোহাৰ ডাঙৰীয়াই কৈছিল যে কৃষিৰ উন্নতি কৰিবলৈ হলে কৃষি ঋণৰ বাবদ অন্ততঃ কুৰি লাখ টকা খৰছ কৰিব লাগে। কৃষকৰ অৱস্থাৰ উন্নতি হলেই আমাৰ ৰাজ্যৰ আৰ্থিক উন্নতি হব। সেই কাৰণে ময়ো চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰিছো যে আমাৰ কৃষক সকলক টকা ধাৰে দিব লাগে আৰু উন্নত ধৰণৰ কৃষি প্ৰণালীত মনোনিবেশ কৰিব লাগে। চৰকাৰে কৃষকক ঋণ দিবলৈ টান পায়, কাৰণ তেওঁলোকৰ বহুতৰ মাটি একচনীয়া বা মাটি নাই। কিন্তু এনেবোৰ অসুবিধা আছে বুলিয়েই কৃষকক ঋণ নিদিয়াটো বুদ্ধিসঙ্গত নহয়। মুঠ কথা দেশৰ প্ৰথম আৰু প্ৰধান মূলধন হৈছে মানুহ আমাৰ ইয়াত কৃষক আৰু সেই মানুহৰ উন্নতি সাধিবলৈ হলে চৰকাৰে ধন খৰছ কৰিবই লাগিব। কৃষকক ঋণ দিলে কেতিয়াও অথলে নেযায়। কাৰণ তেওঁলোকে ধন খৰছ কৰিব পাবিলে উপাৰ্জনৰ মাত্ৰাও বাঢ়িব, আৰু তেওঁলোকৰ পৰা তেতিয়া চৰকাৰে যথেষ্ট কৰ-কাটল আদায় কৰিব পাৰিব। আশা কৰো চৰকাৰে এই নীতি অনুসৰণ কৰে আৰু দেশৰ মানুহক দুপইচা উপাৰ্জন কৰিবলৈ সুবিধা দিয়ে, এয়ে মোৰ অনুৰোধ।

সদৌ শেষত বিৰোধী দলৰ সদস্য সকলে যোৱা বছৰ যেনেকৈ সমালোচনা কৰিছিল এইবাৰ সেইদৰে সমালোচনা কৰা নাই, কিছমান ক্ষেত্ৰত তেখেত সকলে চৰকাৰক সমৰ্থনহে কৰিছে, কাৰণ দেখিছে যে চৰকাৰে যথেষ্ট কাম কৰিছে সমালোচনা কৰিব লগীয়া বিশেষ একো নাই। উট্টাচাৰ্য ডাঙৰীয়াই ও বহুত ক্ষেত্ৰত চৰকাৰক সমৰ্থন কৰিছে এই আঁচনি সমূহ ভালকৈ চিন্তা কৰি চায়েই। অৱশ্যে কাম যেনেকৈ নকৰক কৈফিয়ৎ লবলৈ সকলোৰে অধিকাৰ আছে। নাম ঘোষাত একাকি কথা আছে—

“বাম বাম বাম বয়নন্দন,  
বালিক বদ্বিলা হবি কি কাৰণ”

অসমীয়া সমাজে আজিও অৱতাৰ শ্ৰীৰাম চন্দ্ৰক এই বুলি কৈফিয়ৎ তলব কৰি আছে আজি মেধী ডাঙৰীয়া মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী, তেখেতৰ নেতৃত্বত চৰকাৰ চলিছে, বৰা ডাঙৰীয়া বিত্তমন্ত্ৰী, দাস ডাঙৰীয়া বনমন্ত্ৰী ইত্যাদি হিচাবে মন্ত্ৰী মণ্ডলী গঠিত হৈছে আৰু মন্ত্ৰী হলেও তেখেত সকল মানুহ। গতিকে মানুহৰ ক্ৰটি বিচ্যুতি বিলাক তেখেত সকলৰো থাকিব। আমি সকলো কামৰ দায়িত্ব তেখেত সকলৰ ওপৰতে এৰি দিলে নহব। সদস্য সকলৰো দায়িত্ব কোনো গুণে কম নহয়। মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰীৰ যি দায়িত্ব শ্ৰীযুত মেধী ডাঙৰীয়াই পালন কৰিব তাৰ লগতে আমিও সদস্য হিচাপে আমাৰ দায়িত্ব পালন কৰিব লাগিব যত দৰকাৰ তেখেত সকলক দোষ ক্ৰটি বোৰ দেখুৱাই দিব। তেতিয়াহে দেশৰ সৰ্বস্বত্ব উন্নতি হব পাৰিব। তেখেত সকলৰ ওপৰতে সকলো কাম এৰি দি দায়িত্ব সম্পাদন হৈছে বুলি বহি থাকিলে নহব। অৱশ্যে এই ক্ষেত্ৰত কংগ্ৰেছ সদস্য সকলৰ দায়িত্ব আৰু বেচি যে হেতুকে আজি কংগ্ৰেছে চৰকাৰ চলাইছে। কিন্তু যেনে কামেই নকৰক বিপক্ষৰ পৰা তাৰ সমালোচনা হব ই কিয়নো বিৰোধী দলৰ পৰা কথা কোৱা অতি উজু। চৰকাৰৰ যি কোনো কামকে সমালোচনা কৰিব পাৰে। আমি হোৱা হলেও তাকেই কৰিলোহেতেন। অৱশ্যে সমালোচনা বিলাক কাৰ্য্যকৰী হব লাগে আৰু সমালোচনাৰ বাবেই সমালোচনা হব নোলাগে। তেতিয়া চৰকাৰকো বহুত সহায় কৰা হয়। তেওঁলোক এই ফালে থকা হলে বুজিলেহেতেন ক্ষমতাধাৰী

'party in power' সকলৰ পক্ষে কথা কোৱা কিমান টান। আজি যদি দেশখন সোণবো কৰি দিয়া হয়, তেতিয়াও সমালোচনা হব হীৰাব নকৰি কিয় সোণৰ কৰি থৈছে। সমালোচনাৰ হাত সৰা বৰ সহজ নহয়।

নিবনুৱা সমস্যা। আজি নিবনুৱা সমস্যাই দেখা দিছে বিশেষকৈ শিক্ষিত ডেকা বিলাকৰ মাজত, কিয়নো তেওঁলোকে মেহনতৰ কাম কৰিব নোখোজে বা নোৱাৰে আজি লাখ-লাখ, কোটি-কোটি টকা গড়কাপ্তানী বিভাগত খৰছ কৰিছে। কিন্তু সেই টকা নিছে বিহাৰী মানুহে, অথাৎ অসমৰ বাহিৰৰ মানুহে। যদি সেই লাখ-লাখ টকা অসমবাসীয়ে বাগিব পাৰিলে। হেতেন তেন্তে এই সমস্যাৰ বহুখিনি সমাধান হ'লহেতেন। এই নিবনুৱা সমস্যাৰ সমাধান ক্ষেত্ৰত—আমাৰ ইয়াত বহুতো চাহ বাগিচা আছে, ডিগবইৰ তেল কোম্পানী আছে। এই বিলাকত আমাৰ শিক্ষিত নিবনুৱা বিলাকক সোমোৱাই লবলৈ, চৰকাৰে কিছু জোৰ দিলে, এই নিবনুৱা সমস্যাৰ বহুল ভাবে সমাধান হ'ব। এই ক্ষেত্ৰত কেৱল কিছু ডাঙৰ ডাঙৰ শিল্প প্ৰতিষ্ঠান গঢ়ি উঠিলেই—নিবনুৱা সমস্যাৰ সমাধান হ'ব নোৱাৰে। ইয়াৰ লগত জড়িত থকা 'কমিউনিটি প্ৰজেক্ট', 'ডেভেলপমেন্ট প্ৰজেক্ট' সমূহৰ অন্তৰ্গত, কিছুমান কাৰিকৰী শিল্পাৰ্থন, কুটীৰ শিল্পৰ অধিক উন্নয়ন আদি কাৰ্য্যৰ প্ৰতি আমাৰ চৰকাৰৰ দৃষ্টি অকৰ্ষণ কৰিব খোজে।

(সময়ৰ সংকেট ধবনি—বাজি উঠে)

আসামৰ যি বাজহ তাৰ পৰিমাণ ১৭।১৮ কোটি টকা। এই টকাৰেই, আমাৰ ইয়াত থকা জটিল আৰু বৃহত সমস্যাবিলাক সমাধান কৰা সহজ নহয়। আমাৰ সমস্যা বৰ্তমান দুয়োটাই—মানুহ আৰু ধন (men and money) মানুহৰ উদ্ভৱ হোৱা জটিল সমস্যা বিলাকৰ তুলনাত বাজ্যৰ বাজহৰ পৰিমাণ কম আৰু ইয়াৰে আমাৰ সিমানখিনি কৰা সম্ভৱ নহয়।

(আকৌ সংকেট ধবনি)

এই প্ৰসঙ্গত আৰু এটি কথা উল্লেখ কৰো—সেইটো হৈছে—জগন্নাথিয়াৰ প্ৰেসিডেণ্ট মাৰ্চেল ন্তিই ভাৰতৰ উন্নয়ন মূলক আঁচনি সমূহ কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰিবলৈ লোৱা প্ৰতিষ্ঠান সমূহ পৰিদৰ্শন কৰি নতুন দিল্লীত ব্যক্ত কৰি গৈছে যে, সমস্ত ভাৰতবৰ্ষই কাৰখানালৈ ৰূপান্তৰিত হৈছে। (The whole of India turns into as workshops.) যি গতিত আজিৰ ভাৰতবৰ্ষ, জগতৰ উন্নত জাতিৰ সমকক্ষ হ'বলৈ আগবাঢ়ি গৈছে তাৰ পৰা আশা কৰা যায় যে, ওচৰ ভবিষ্যতত ভাৰত তথা অসমৰ,— আজিৰ জটিল নিবনুৱা সমস্যা আৰু অন্যান্য সমস্যাবিলাক আংশিক ভাবে হলেও সমাধান হৈ যাব। ই-মাথোন সময় সাপেক্ষ।

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I think you are concluding Mr. Gogoi.

(সংকেট ধবনি পুনৰ বাজি উঠে)

**Shri GIRINDRANATH GOGOI:** হয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, ইয়াকে কৈ মই শ্ৰীযুত মহীকান্ত দাস ডাঙৰীয়াই ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ৰ ভাষণৰ ওপৰত অনা প্ৰস্তাৱটি সমৰ্থন কৰো আৰু শ্ৰীযুত গোঁবী শঙ্কৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াই অনা সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱটোৰ বিৰোধীতা কৰিছো।

**Shri JOGA KANTA BARUA :** অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই.....

**Mr. SPEAKER :** শ্ৰীযুত বৰুৱা, সময় কিন্তু দহ মিনিট হে।

**Shri JOGA KANTA BARUA :** মই, মোৰ বন্ধু, শ্ৰীযুত মহীকান্ত দাস ডাঙৰীয়াই, ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ৰ ভাষণৰ ওপৰত অভিনন্দন জনাই অনা প্ৰস্তাৱটি সমৰ্থন কৰিবলৈ ঠিয় দিছো।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, যোৱাৰাবৰ বানপানী আৰু গৰাখহনীয়াৰ ধবংসলীলাই, সদীয়াৰ পৰা মানকাচাৰলৈকে আমাৰ ৰাইজৰ দুৰ্গতিৰ সীমা নাইকিয়া কৰিলে। ইয়াৰ প্ৰকোপত পলাশবাৰী এৰি যাব লগা হ'ল; গুৱালকুটি বিপদাপনু; ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰ অৱস্থা শোকলগা।



ডিফ্ৰগড়ৰ গৰা-খহনীয়াৰ চুক্তি হেবোৱা মুক্তি দেখি, আমি কিয়, সকলোৱেই ডিফ্ৰগড়ৰ আশা এৰি দিব লগাত পৰিছিলো। তেনেকুৱা অৱস্থাৰ সম্মুখীন হৈও, আমাৰ মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে ইয়াক বক্ষা কৰিবলৈ আগবাঢ়ি যোৱাটো কম সাহস আৰু উদ্দীপনাৰ কথা নহয়। কেবল সিমানতেই ক্ষান্ত নহৈ, দিল্লী চৰকাৰক সজাগ কৰি, মাননীয় ভাৰতৰ প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰীকো ইয়াতলৈ আনি দেখুৱালে। লগতে প্লেনিং মিনিষ্টাৰ আৰু বহুতো পাৰ্লামেন্টৰ মেম্বাৰ আহি ডিফ্ৰগড়ৰ গৰা-খহনীয়াৰ ধ্বংস লীলা চাই গ'ল। তাৰেই ফল হিচাবে, আজি, ভাৰতীয় বিশেষজ্ঞ সকলে এই নগৰ বক্ষা কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা হাতত লৈ কাৰ্য্য চলাবলৈ আৰম্ভ কৰি দিলে। এতিয়াও কাম চলি আছে। কৃত গতিৰে কাম কৰি আৰু এমাহ মানৰ ভিতৰত কাম শেষ কৰিব পাৰিলে সকলো বক্ষা পৰিব; নহলে, এই কামত কৰা সকলো খৰচ পাতি, শাৰীৰিক পৰিশ্ৰম অহা বছৰ বন্ধপুত্ৰৰ প্ৰবল সোতে সামৰি লব আৰু তেতিয়া ডিফ্ৰগড়ীয়া ৰাইজৰ অৱস্থা কিহৰ ভাবিলেও ভয় হয়। এই প্ৰসঙ্গত মই এটা কথা উল্লেখ নকৰি নোৱাৰো যে চৰকাৰে এই বিষয়ত যিদৰে দেশ তথা ৰাইজৰ হকে কাম কৰিবলৈ আগবাঢ়ি গৈছে চৰকাৰৰ কৰ্মচাৰী সকল সেইদৰে আগবাঢ়া নাই। তেনে হোৱাহলে কাম আৰু পৰিপাটি হুলহেতেন। এই নোবৃত্তি পৰিত্যাগ কৰি নতুন উদ্দীপনাৰ মন্ত্ৰেৰে, ৰাইজৰ সেৱা বৃত্তত বৃত্তী হব পৰা নাই। ভাবিলে দুখ লাগে। আনহাতে আমাৰ ৰাইজসকলেও নিজৰ দায়িত্ব বুজি চৰকাৰৰ লগত আৰু সহযোগীতা কৰা দৰ্কাৰ নহলে, অকল চৰকাৰৰ ওপৰত নিভৰ কৰি বহি থাকিলে দেশ বক্ষাৰ আশা কম।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, তাৰ পিচত, ৰাজ্যপালৰ ভাষণত মাটি আৰু নিবনুৱা সমস্যাৰ কোনো ইঙ্গিত নাই বুলি বিৰোধীদলৰ পৰা শ্ৰীযুত গৌৰীশঙ্কৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াই যি অভিযোগ আনিছে তাৰ উত্তৰত কও—আমাৰ চৰকাৰে, বাগিচা বিলাকৰ পৰা মাটি লৈ, আৰু জমিদাৰী প্ৰথা উচ্ছেদ কৰি, মাটিৰ সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিবলৈ আজি অনেক দিনৰে পৰা চেষ্টা কৰি আহিছে। গতিকে সেইকথা পুনৰ উল্লেখ নাথাকিলেও, ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ৰ ভাষণ কলুষিত হব নোৱাৰে। এই মৰ্শে তেখেতৰ ভাষণত কাকী, সূৰনখাটা আৰু ফিলবাৰীৰ 'বিক্ৰমেচন'ৰ কথা উল্লেখ আছে। এইবিলাক আঁচনিৰ পৰা ওলোৱা মাটিবিলাক ভূমিহীন খেতিয়কক দিয়া হৈছেই আৰু যেতিয়া এই কাৰ্য্য পূৰা হব, মোৰ বিশ্বাস, তেতিয়া এই দুই সমস্যাৰ সমাধান হব। ইয়াৰ উপৰিও তেখেতৰ ভাষণত, কুটাৰ শিল্প আৰু কাৰিকৰী শিক্ষা অনুষ্ঠানৰ কথা উল্লেখ আছে। সেই বিলাকেও, নিবনুৱা সমস্যাৰ সমাধান পথত সহায়তা কৰিব।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, এই সমস্যাত শিক্ষিতৰ নিবনুৱা সমস্যাই সকলোকে বিমূৰ্ত পেলাইছে। ইয়াৰ সমাধানৰ বাবেও চৰকাৰে যথেষ্ট চেষ্টা কৰিছে। মই কিন্তু আচৰিত হৈছো বছৰি হাজাৰে হাজাৰে আন প্ৰদেশৰ মানুহ আহি অসমত জীৱিকা অৰ্জণ কৰিবলৈ ধৰিছে। বিনা শিক্ষাৰেই, সেইবিলাক মানুহে, আমাৰ ইয়াত আহি অৱস্থা ভাল কৰাৰ কথা সকলোৱে জানে। তেনে অৱস্থাতো, আমাৰ শিক্ষিত ডেকা সকল সদায়ে যদি কেৱল চাকৰীৰ কাৰণেই হাবাখুৰি খাই ফুৰে তেন্তে আমাৰ দেশৰ কেনেকৈ মঙ্গল সাধন হব। একে লগৰে যিবিলাক শিক্ষিত ডেকাই চাকৰীত সোমাইছে, সেইবিলাকৰ অবস্থালৈ চাই যিবিলাকে কাৰবাৰ কৰিছে তেওলোকৰ অৱস্থা অনেক গুণে টনকিয়াল। বিদেশী কোম্পানীয়ে অসমৰ বনৰীয়া গছ চাহৰ পৰা কোটিয়ে কোটিয়ে টকা উপাৰ্জন কৰিছে। এই অসমত চাহতকৈও ভাল অনেক বস্তুয়েই কৰিব পাৰি। তেনে অবস্থাত যদি আমাৰ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ত শিক্ষা পোৱা ডেকাসকলে খাবলৈ নাপাই হাহাকাৰ কৰে তেন্তে ই বৰ পৰিতাপৰ কথা। অসমৰ শিক্ষিত ডেকা সকলে এই কথাটোলৈ লক্ষ্য কৰি দেশত কৃষি উৎপাদন কাৰ্য্য আৰু কাৰবাৰত মনোনিবেশ কৰি নিজৰ আৰ্থিক উন্নতি আৰু দেশৰ সম্পদ বৃদ্ধি কৰিব বুলি মই আশা কৰিলো।

শেষত ৰাজ্যপাল ডাঙৰীয়াই কৈছিল "The fortitude with which lakhs of people have faced the calamities caused by the floods and

the determination with which they have applied themselves to repair their lives also a pointer to the essential qualities of the men and women of Assam'.

ময়ো তেখেতক সমৰ্থন কৰি তাকেই কও আহক সকলো বীৰব দৰে আগ বাঢ়ি আহি দেশক আগ বঢ়াই নিও । ইয়াকে টেক মই ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ৰ ভাষণৰ ওপৰত অন্য অভিনন্দন সমৰ্থন কৰো ।

**Shri AARAN SANGMA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by Shri Mohi Kanta Das. In spite of great loss and difficulties through natural calamities the State Government have taken bold steps to implement the schemes taken up for permanent improvement and to initiate the schemes in anticipation of Government of India's approval. Development activities cannot make much headway if we tie ourselves down to old pattern and system of redtapism must be lessened in developmental activities. We can see our sister State, West Bengal, taking a very bold step in setting up a special high power board to deal with the developmental activities and for dealing with matters of the Autonomous Districts. These problems are not problems to be dealt with by an ordinary hackneyed way followed for centuries. Set patterns of rules and regulations were good for the old regime but when something new has to be done and when we are trying to make our State a welfare State, the very set patterns have got the deadening effect on such new ventures, and the country under such a rut cannot move forward.

It is a fact that we have become comfortable in our food position but that does not mean that we can sit over it. Agricultural activities, specially in Garo Hills, are not sufficient.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** You are not relevant in your discussion.

**Shri AARAN SANGMA:** We want more field staffs to guide the people on the spot. Scientific way of irrigation is necessary in the Hills. People without knowledge of agriculture and 'dong' making, do more harm than good. Once the people lose faith, it is difficult to draw them to take up anything new. Does it matter what we spend now as all will be spent for productivity of the country in future?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** You are to concentrate or focus your mind to the points or plans or policies laid down by Governor in his address. If there is any point in your speech regarding the omission or commission in the Governor's address, you can just refer to that. Garo Hills is not the appropriate item

for discussion in this debate. Though I am not the proper person to advise you, you can refer to the various measures that have been touched upon by the Governor, and how they are inadequate or unsuitable and like that.

**Shri AARAN SANGMA**: I am happy to know about the renewed prosperity of the tea industry but the price of tea leaf inside our own State is so high that it is becoming a luxury for the middle class people to enjoy this refreshing and delicious beverage.

**Mr. SPEAKER**: This again is irrelevant. I cannot allow you to go on like that.

**Shri AARAN SANGMA**: No, Sir, something is mentioned about tea in the Governor's address. However, I am not going to dwell on that point any further.

The problem of unemployment can be coped with to some extent by establishing several factories. Assam has enough raw materials and minerals for starting sugar factory, cement factory, jute and paper mills. While on the subject of unemployment, I would like to mention that I have noticed increase in the number of beggars in our side of the State. This problem is a very important one. Is something being done to check and relieve these unfortunate ones ?

**Mr. SPEAKER**: Reserve this point for your Budget speech.

**Shri AARAN SANGMA**: We are looking forward to the generous plans taken up by the State Government in the next second Five-Year Plan. I hope it will be an all round improvement of the State especially the backward classes in the Hills and it will bring better understanding between the Hills and the Plains.

Smoothen out all differences between the Hills and the plains. I was looking forward to hearing some new ideas and constructive suggestions from Shri Bhattacharyya but I was disappointed, he touched only the old topics and I therefore do not see any reason why I should not oppose his amendment. Once again I support the motion moved by Shri Mohi Kanta Das. With these few words, I resume my seat.

**Shri CHANOO KHERIA**: মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, যোঁৱা ২ তাৰিখে মাননীয় ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ে দাঙি ধৰা চমু ভাষণৰ কাৰণে মই তেখেতক অভিনন্দন

জনাইছে। তেখেতৰ ভাষণৰ কাৰণে অভিনন্দন জনাই আমাৰ দাস ডাঙৰীয়াই যিটো প্ৰস্তাৱ আনিছে তাক মই সমৰ্থন কৰিছো। কিন্তু সেই প্ৰস্তাৱৰ ওপৰত ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াই যিটো সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱ আনিছে তাৰে বিৰোধীতা কৰি দুঘাৰ কবলৈ ঠিয় দিছে। তাতে মোক দুঘাৰ কবলৈ আমাৰ গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াই যে সময় দিছে তাৰ কাৰণে তেখেতক মোৰ ধন্যবাদ। (হাঁহি)

সদনত এই সম্পৰ্কে ভালমান খিনি আলোচনা হৈ গৈছে। মোৰ বিশেষ কবলগা নাছিল। তথাপি মোৰ বোধেৰে মানুহক অকল মাটি দি সময়্যা সমাধান কৰিব নোৱাৰি অকল ঋণ দিও সেই সময়্যা সমাধান নহয়। মাটি দিয়াৰ লগে লগে সেই লোক সকলক টকা পইচা দি সহায় কৰিব লাগিব। কাৰণ হাবি কাটি মাটি ভাঙিবলৈ মানুহৰ টকা পইছা নাই। নহলে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ তৰফৰ পৰা হাবি কটাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰি তাৰ পিচত মানুহ বহালেহে বাইজৰ সুবিধা হব। মানুহে খাবলৈ পইচা নাপায় হাবি কটাবলৈ পইচা পাব ক'ব পৰা ?

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** মাননীয় সদস্যই জনাবনে যে এই জঙ্কল কাটিবলৈ মানুহ আনিব ক'ব পৰা ?

**Shri CHANOO KHERIA:** গাঁৱৰ মানুহবিলাকে ধোৱা বোৱা বা টকা পয়চা দিলেই সেই হাবিবিলাক ভাঙিব, তেনে ব্যৱস্থা চৰকাৰৰ তৰফৰ পৰা ললে মানুহবিলাকক উৎসাহ উদগনি দিয়া হব।

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** তেনে ব্যৱস্থা ইতি পূৰ্বেই কৰা হৈছে। টকা দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা আছেই নহয় ?

**Shri CHANOO KHERIA:** পুনৰসংস্থাপনৰ কৰণে ঋণ দিয়াৰহে ব্যৱস্থা আছে। যিহওক, গোলাঘাট মহকুমাৰ বৰপথাৰৰ ধোদাচাম অঞ্চল আৰু মৰঙ্গীৰ কলঙনী অঞ্চলত বহুত পতিত মাটি আছে। যদি চৰকাৰৰ তৰফৰ পৰা tractor ৰ সহায়েৰে হাবি কাটি দিয়া হয় তেন্তে তাত বহুতো মানুহক মাটি দি সহায় কৰিব পাৰে। আশাকৰে চৰকাৰে এই বিষয়ে ভাবি চাব।

মহোদয়, বানপানীয়ে প্ৰায় দহ হাজাৰ পৰিয়ালক গৃহহীন কৰিছে। ভগবানে নকৰক কিন্তু আকৌ বানপানী আহিলে সেই পৰিয়াল বিলাকৰ কষ্টৰ সীমা নোহোৱা হব। কিয়নো বানপানী বাধা দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা একোৱেই হোৱা নাই। আধামান হওতেই আকৌ বাৰিষা আহিব, ফলত যিখিনি আধাকৰা হৈছে তাকো ভহাই নিব, টকাও নষ্ট হ'ল অথচ কোনো কামো নহ'ল। সেই কাৰণে যাতে কামটো সময় মতে হয় তাৰ প্ৰতি চকু ৰাখিব লাগিব। নহলে চৰকাৰৰ চেপ্টা অথলে যাব। মিছাকৈ টকাও নষ্ট হ'ব। সেই কাৰণে আৰম্ভনীৰে পৰা শেষলৈ জোৰেৰে কাম কৰি সময়মতে কাম শেষ কৰিব লাগে। তেনে কৰিলে বহুতো কাম হ'ব। উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে মই ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰ কথা কও। তাত মাৰ্চত কাম আৰম্ভ কৰাতকৈ নভেম্বৰৰ পৰা আৰম্ভ কৰিলে হয়তো বাৰিষাৰ আগতে বহুতো কাম হ'ল হেঙোন। এনেকৈ প্ৰত্যেকটো আঁচনিতে হয়তো ১/২ ভাগ কাম বৈ যায়; আৰু ফলত তাৰপৰা কোনো লাভ নহয়। অন্যান্য আঁচনি বিলাকতো ঠিক তেনেকুৱাই হৈছে। বাজেটত লোৱা আঁচনি বিলাকতো একে অবস্থা। আৰু কাম নোহোৱা কাৰণে বাজেটৰ বহু টকা Lapse হৈ যায়। সেই কাৰণে মই চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰো যাতে সকলো কাম সময়মতে হয়। নহলে আঁচনি লোৱাৰ পৰা লাভ নাই; টকাও এনেয়ে যায়। আমাৰ ৰাজ্যৰ অৰ্থনৈতিক অবস্থা বৰ শোচনীয়। তাতে প্ৰাকৃতিক বিপৰ্য্যয়ত জনসাধাৰণ একেৰাৰে জুৰুলা হৈছে। তাতে আকৌ যদি এই বিলাক বেমেজালি ঘটিলে তেন্তে তেওলোকৰ অবস্থা আৰু শোচনীয় হ'ব। গতিকে চৰকাৰে এই বিষয়ে দৃষ্টি ৰাখিব।

আমাৰ ৰাজ্যিক সকলোপিনে আগবঢ়াবলৈ হলে প্ৰথমতে লাগিব কাৰিকৰি শিক্ষা। আমাৰ এই বিষয়ে শিক্ষাপোৱা মানুহৰ সংখ্যা বৰ কম। মই অনুৰোধ কৰো যাতে গুৱাহাটীতেই এখন Basic School কৰি তাত সবহ শিক্ষক Training দিব লাগে। তাত বেচিকৈ কাৰিকৰি শিক্ষাই দিব লাগে। গুৱাহাটীৰ ইঞ্জিনিয়াৰিং স্কুল খনকো কলেজত পৰিণত কৰি আমাৰ ডেকা লৰাক উচ্চ কাৰিকৰি শিক্ষা দিয়াটো বাঞ্ছনীয়।

মই আক বেচি কথা নকও। লোৱা আঁচনি বিলাক বৰ প্ৰশংসনীয়। কিন্তু যুদ্ধৰ সময়ত যেনে গতিত কাম চলে ঠিক তেনেকৈ কাম নকৰিলে আমাৰ আঁচনি বিলাক কাৰ্য্যকৰী নহব। বৰ্তমান চাবিওফালে আমাৰ জন সাধাৰণৰ মাজত এটা জাগৰণ পৰিলক্ষিত হৈছে। চৰকাৰে তাত সহযোগীতা কৰি ৰাজ্যখনক কেনেকৈ উন্নতিৰ পথত আগবঢ়াই নিব পাৰে তাৰ চেষ্টা কৰিবলৈহে মই চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ জনালো—জয়হিন্দ।

**PU LALMAWIA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, being my first attendance of the Assembly Session, I would request the House to excuse me if I use improper language or go against the rules of debate which I may commit owing to my inexperience. I would confess that up to this time, my opinion is not biased by any party affiliation.

After listening to several bright and interesting speeches from both sides of the House, I am of the opinion that the motion of thanks on the Governor's address as moved by Shri M. K. Das need not be amended for reasons as follows:—

(1) On the whole, the Governor's address touches practically all the important points though not in detail.

(2) The address also reveals the intention of the Government to follow "steadfastly the goal they have set before themselves of bringing about all-round improvements in the economic and social life of the masses" (page 15 last paragraph.)

(3) The problem of the State, in the spheres of land and unemployment are also mentioned indirectly. When the Five-Year Plan is implemented fully, will not the question of unemployment be solved to a great extent? The Schemes as laid down by some districts for implementation of the Five-Year Plan also include reclamation of land, etc.

However, I agree with Shri Bhattacharyya when he says that the Governor's address fails to give clear indication of measures for solving the various burning problems of the State, because the Governor's address does not give the measures taken by the State or intended to be taken in details. But, for this reason, I do not think it is necessary to amend the motion of Shri M. K. Das.

The State Legislature consist of just over 100 members. It is the duty of each one of us to bring to the notice of the

Government the burning problems of the State for necessary legislation or action.

The Governor in his Address mentions about the border problems, vividly, but many problems of the border areas are not dealt with in details.

I would like to mention that the Government have been taking much pains to develop and improve the economic and social condition of the district by sanctioning a large sum of money for improvement of town and rural water supply, for construction of roads, and also they have been subsidising transport for Lungleh Civil Supplies during the last five years. I must say that in spite of all these, there is yet much to do for the Government to make the economic condition of the district to the same level as other districts of Assam.

As you might know, economic condition of Lushai Hills after the partition of India, has become deteriorated and unbearable especially for the people of Lungleh Subdivision having a population of 60,000 approximately. Trade with Pakistan could not be continued and so is the position with the Burma Border. In pre-Partition period, they used to get all their essential supplies from Chittagong *via* Demagiri, a border town in Lungleh Subdivision. But, now, they have to get all their supplies from Silchar *via* Aijal. The distance of Lungleh from Silchar is about 240 miles by road and transport cost varies from Rs. 45 to 50 per maund. Now that the Aijal-Lungleh jeep road is opened, it is expected that the transport cost will come down by Rs. 5 per maund. But, it will still be too high for the poor villagers to pay even this reduced rate of transport charge.

In pre-Partition period, salt was selling in Demagiri at 5 seers a rupee. But now will this be possible? No. At Silchar, salt is selling at 5 seers a rupee approximately. If you add to this the transport charge at Lungleh it will sell at Rs. 50 or more per maund.

The remedy to this is construction of an air strip at Lungleh or nearby place. Even if it cost the Government a sum of rupees ten lakhs, which I do not believe it will, it is worth making it in order to relieve the people of their extreme hardships. The Government have spent about 10 lakhs of rupees during the last five years for subsidising the essential supplies for Lungleh Subdivision. The minimum requirements of goods including salt, sugar, kerosene oil, etc., is not less than 15,000 maunds. By constructing an air strip there will be a

saving of Rs. 20 to Rs. 25 per maund as transport cost, for, by air borne transport, it will cost only Rs. 20 or even less from Silchar to Lungleh, or even from Agartala-Lungleh. For 15,000 maunds, there will be a saving of Rs. 3,00,000 per year.

Another problem that requires immediate attention by the Government is the question of finding market for agricultural produce of Aijal Subdivision. Pakistan merchants use to be the main customers for the Lushai Hills oranges, chillies, cotton, etc. But now as they have no free exit into the Lushai Hills, we lost the market for our agricultural products. For example, some of the orange growers who could sell oranges with Rs. 10,000 or more in previous time can only sell their oranges at Rs. 1,000 or even less. There are many orange growers who can not sell their oranges at all. As a result of it, quite a number of orange gardens have been desolated and not cared for. I would request the Government to examine the position and help the agriculturists in finding market for their agricultural products.

Another point I want to mention is about the Pawi and Lakher Regional Council. The Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India provides for the formation of a Regional Council for Tribal people. Taking this opportunity, the Pawis and Lakhers combined and formed a Regional Council. The region has a population of 20,000 approximately. As the revenue of the region does not cover even one quarter of the cost of administration efficiently and smoothly in the absence of sufficient grant-in-aid by the Government, I estimated that the requirement of the region is in the neighbourhood of Rs. 80,000 annually. I would request the Government to liberally give them the grant urgently needed by the Regional Council.

I would also mention that the Lushai Hills is going to face scarcity of food during this year as the crops failed last year owing to insufficient rain and in some cases insect pests destroyed the paddy. It is estimated that the food produced will be sufficient to feed the population for 10 months. To make up the deficiency, some measures should be taken by the Government at an earlier date.

Lastly, I would like to tell the House that the Constitution of India allows religious freedom for all of the subjects of the Republic of India. As you might know, more than 80 per cent. of the population of Lushai Hills are Christians. Two Missionaries from Lungleh Subdivision had recently left the Hills after their retirement. The Mission concerned sent out from England Mr. and Mrs. Mudd, to replace the two Missionaries (retired). But Mr. and Mrs. Mudd are still now

in Barapani as they are not allowed to come to Lushai Hills. If religious freedom is not denied.....

**Mr. SPEAKER:** It is for the Government of India to decide. There is no question of denial of freedom of religion.

**PU LALMAWIA:** Any way, I would request the Government of Assam to look into this and allow to Mr. and Mrs. Mudd who are now teaching in the Assam Christian College at Barapani, to come out to Lushai Hills and work there.

In conclusion, I would request the Government to give sympathetic considerations into the pressing needs of the Lushai Hills district and also of other districts without delay. Anticipating that the Government shall not fail in its duties in order to make the State an welfare State, I shall try to make myself content with the motion of thanks on the Governor's Address as moved by Shri M. K. Das.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am really thankful to Sri Jairamdas Doulatram, our Governor, for giving us this opportunity of discussing the policies, plans and programmes that are to be pursued in the coming year. Unfortunately the address is devoid of such policy. It is devoid of any plans and programmes. Sir, we have followed this procedure of giving the House an opportunity of discussing plans and policies on the 1st day of every Session, from England from the mother of Parliament. There the King's and now the Queen's speech is a short one containing policies and programmes in clear cut terms so that the House may know, the people outside may know what actually the Government is going to do in the coming year. As we had borrowed many things only in form and not in substance, here also we have borrowed the thing in form only and not in substance. Sir, it would have been better if he would have given us certain concrete ideas about the policies to be pursued, programme to be taken up, then perhaps our time would have been devoted in a much better manner. Sir, what do we find in this address? The programme and policies that will be carried out through legislation are the Assam Displaced Persons (Rehabilitation Loans) (Amendment) Bill, 1955, the Assam Forest Amendment (Autonomous Districts) Bill, 1955 and the Criminal Law Amendment (Extension to Autonomous Districts), Bill, 1955 and the Assam Acquisition of Land for Flood Control and Prevention of Erosion Bill only. That much we get. The Governor has failed to give us any idea regarding any other legislation during this year. If these are the legislations only on the envil of this House, I must say that in the coming year nothing will be done regarding improving the economic life of the people. Sir, therefore



we are very much disappointed by this address of the Governor. We expected that after the momentous Session of the party in power in Avadi where Socialistic pattern of the society has been accepted as the prime guide, some indication of how the Government is going to usher in that pattern of the society should have been given in the address. At one time we are accused of being slaves of phrases of borrowing ideas, etc., from foreign land. Whenever we spoke of Socialism, we were accused of borrowing the phrase from a foreign land. Now the party in power has used that phrase. For the party in power it is more incumbent, it is more necessary to show that they have faith in Socialism by doing something, by following certain programmes. In the Governor's Address we find nothing, nay in the address there is nothing about the problems of this problem State of Assam. It is silent, it is absolutely silent about the land problem. It has nothing to mention about the unemployment problem, about the communication difficulties from which this State is suffering. There is no indication as to what Government is going to do, what steps they are going to take to solve these problems. It does not say anything about the various tendencies that are coming to the foreground in the State and therefore, Sir, if my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, has moved his amendment, I think it is in the fitness of things that he has done so. Sir, the most important tendency to-day and the most important programme that faced our State is the diabolical attempt both outside the State and inside also to dismember the State and I am glad that the Leader of the House the other day, in reply to a question said that the Government have submitted a memorandum before the States Re-organisation Commission and that fact should have been brought out here also. Sir, the fact that the Government of Assam have submitted a memorandum to the States Re-organisation Commission should have been mentioned in this Address also because whatever may be our feelings, whatever may be our differences, I can assure that so far as integrity of the State is concerned, so far as preventing any attempt to dismember the State is concerned, we are at one and we hope that such an idea should vanish as we feel that dismemberment of our State is against the interest of India.

Sir, to-day unfortunately, outside the State many things are being spoken against our State and unfortunately also, some of our friends, some of our people have been misled to raise a movement which will be detrimental to the interests of the State. We must do something to prevent that movement. Myself and my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, both representing two parties, can say that we are against such a movement.

We do not think the people of the hills will be benefited by the demand for a separate Hills State. We know that the creation of a separate Hills State will not solve the problem of the hills people themselves. We want that both the hills and plains people living in Assam should be united into one and it is our bounden duty to work shoulder to shoulder so that we can bring about a better and prosperous Assam where everybody will enjoy his rights, his due share. But, Sir, when we analyse the whole thing, we cannot also shut our eyes to the discontent of the people of the hills. Here in this address, much has been said about our work amongst the hills people. In page 11 of the address under Autonomus Districts and Tribal Areas, we find that in 1954-55, the total grants under Article 275 for welfare schemes in the Autonomous Hill Districts came to Rs.176 lakhs as against Rs.150 lakhs. Then, again, in page 12, it goes on further and says that the amount budgeted for under the same heads in 1954-55 as against 1947-48 is Rs.242 lakhs, an increase of more than 10 times, an increased number of schools, hospitals and roads have been taken up by Government. Why after all this some hills people should think of creation of a separate Hills State? Then there must be something wrong in the whole approach to the problem. It is not the hospitals, the schools or the roads that matter to the hills people so much. There must be a human approach—there must be a friendly approach so that we can remove the suspicion amongst the hills people. We are sons of the same soil and the movement for a separate Hills State, the discontent amongst the hills people which is detrimental to the interests of the country should be removed. It is our wish in this side of the House to see that the discontent is banished for ever. Are we not entitled to live together as one people?

Sir, regarding Naga Hills also the Governor has spoken a few words only. He has mentioned under the heading "Law and Order." This belies or rather betrays the whole approach to the problem. The whole problem, as we have said last year, has been looked from a wrong angle from the angle of law and order only. It has not been looked from the angle of humanity, from the angle of welfare activities, from the angle of promoting closer relationship between the people of the Naga Hills and the rest of Assam.

Sir, it is really tragic that to-day in the fourth year of the Assembly, we have not been able to bring the 3 representatives of the Naga people. The Praja Socialist Party was made the scapegoat to be slaughtered in this House last year so as to appease public opinion outside. Attempt was made to make the public believe that it is the Praja Socialist Party that has been

doing all these things. We have since then not done anything in consonance with the utterances made in this House. We have said that the Naga demand for independence is incompatible and absurd and that the Naga people should give up this demand. The party in power today has not been able to solve the problem and in spite we hear of new violent activities in Mokokchung and other areas. Why it is so? We have failed to tackle the problem. This problem requires serious attention. Whatever we may do in the economic field, in the social field, Assam as she is to-day calls for a united effort to unite the hills people and build up the prosperity of Assam. But because of the wrong approach that has been followed by our Government here the problems remain as complicated as before. Therefore, I will again appeal to the Leader of the House, the Chief Minister that the time has come when we must take up seriously this problem. I am convinced we can put an end to these things. Let us take it and bring a new chapter so that we can live happily. Sir, I have also to mention in this connection about the North-East Frontier Agency. Although North-East Frontier Agency does not fall within the orbit of our administration for geographical reasons, it is contiguous to our State and people outside feel very much about this problem. I would like to request the Leader of the House to let the Central Government know about the feelings of the people of Assam about North-East Frontier Agency. The North-East Frontier Agency should be integrated with Assam without loss of any time. The States Re-organisation Commission is coming and it is our duty to place before the Commission all these things so that we can fulfil the task of uniting the people of Assam as a whole.

Sir, all that has been said in the address are good but these things which I have just mentioned earlier have been left out. Some movements are going on in the State. No mention has been made about them. Are we not entitled as representatives of the people here to know about the movements from the lips of the Governor? Are we not entitled to know from the Government what steps have been taken to help the integrity of Assam? Therefore, the Governor's address is faulty in these respects.

Sir, coming to other problems, namely economic problem, although the Governor says that the economic situation has improved, I must say that it is not wholly true because to-day in the villages we find the purchasing power of the people is decreasing day by day. In spite of our efforts, in spite of the heavy expenditure under the various heads, we have not been able to increase the purchasing power of the people. Sir, the paddy price fell and if by this fall some town dwellers

are benefited, it is also true that some middlemen have been benefited and to-day some of these middlemen are selling paddy at a higher price. Here also we have not been able to bring about parity between the agricultural prices and the industrial prices. Then, Sir, the question of unemployment is as serious as it was, rather it is becoming more serious every day. We have no statistics regarding the number of persons who are unemployed. We have no statistics also as to how many persons have been employed.

Sir, there is also the problem of labour, there is the problem of industry. When we take up all these things we will find that even in the fourth year of the first Five Year Plan—it may be true that some roads have been constructed, it may be true that some buildings have been constructed, some hospitals and some schools have been established—but really the economic condition of the masses has not been improved. Even on this score when we come to argue on gross facts Government complains of the paucity of money, every time our Government has to complain that we are a poor State, that we have no money and therefore, we are not in a position to be at par with other States or that we have not the wherewithal to improve the condition of the people. To-day the situation has changed. We have enough money. But what we have, we cannot spend. In our first Five Year Plan it was first planned for Rs. 18·23 crores : then it was raised to Rs. 23·7crores and what we find is that upto 1953-54 we spent only 6·8 crores. Then in 1954-55 we have a programme of over 7 crores and then we contemplate between 1955-56, 9 crores. Then there is this line that “every possible effort is being made to increase the tempo of work all round and achieve the targets.” Sir, in the last year we realised that tempo is low. In the last year we realised that we have not been able to spend the allotted money, we fully realised that the progress was very slow and therefore we have said that every effort is being made to increase the tempo. Did we not realise all this beforehand? Did we not realise a few years before or even a year before? What is the main trouble? What is the reason for this slowness of progress in the plan? Sir, I do not know. I would like to know from the Leader of the House how much money was actually spent out of this 23 crores up till now and how much is still left unspent, If all these figures are given we will see that our State has lagged behind various other States. Sir, in the Five Year Plan itself at page 73 you will see the allotment made to each State. From there you will find that our allotment was the lowest. We are given 17·84 crores which has been increased to 18 something and now it is 23crores.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** What is the basis for this allotment? Is it on population or area basis?

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** I do not know whether it is on the basis of population or area. But I think it must be according to necessity of the State. As I said, Sir, we will find that among Part A States the allotment to our State was the lowest. From this we can see that our State is still economically backward and there are many things to be done in our State. Therefore, we should have submitted a plan that would really fill up that gap. We should have submitted a plan that will enable us to get over atleast the leeway to be at par with other States. But that was not so. What I fear is that this state of things will continue for a long time to come and therefore I accuse the Government that the Government had not been able to realise the magnitude of our problems and has not been able to submit a plan accordingly. Sir, here in the Governor's address at page 9 we are told that we are given 71.5 crores. How for that figure is a correct figure, whether the Central Government has given sanction to it, we do not know. But as far.....

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** This is only the preliminary stage and no sanction from the Central Government is necessary.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Then this is misleading. The Governor has given misleading statement.

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** It is stated therein that the State Government have tentatively decided to formulate the Second Five Year Plan in which provision will be made for expenditure under different heads of Rs. 71.5 crores. So this is only a tentative provision.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** But it also says that, with the intimation of a likely size of the Second Five Year Plan by the Government of India and after a broad review of the needs of the State, the State Government have tentatively fixed this amount. This means that it has been accepted by the Central Government.....

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** There is no question of acceptance.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Please refer to the bottom portion of page 12.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Here also, Sir, the schemes are tentative, but the figure is not tentative.

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** The figure is also tentative.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** That is why, Sir, I want a definite statement from the Leader of the House as to what figure has been fixed. If the figure has been fixed tentatively then the Governor has given a thing which is misleading, because the Central Government may not accept the figure of 71.5 crores. But here if we read the line carefully then we will find that the Governor has given an idea that this figure of 71.5 has already been fixed.....

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** No, no.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** First I was given to understand that the figures were tentative, but now I have been given to understand that the figures have been fixed according to the different items of the Plan. There are two things here: No.1 is about the figure. First of all figure must be decided. No.2 is how the figure is to be allotted over different heads according to different plans. But now if the figure is different then the whole thing will go wrong and will have to be revised.

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** There may not be any wrong and according to the priority of cases we can get more money.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** However, Sir, I do not want to take more time on this, but this should have been carefully worded. We want more money and I consider that even 71.5 crores for the State of Assam will be quite inadequate because we have so many things to do. Therefore our Government should try to exert its influence and pressure to see that more money is allotted for the implementation of the Second Five-Year Plan for the State of Assam.

As I have said already that in the Second Five-Year Plan also what is more essential is fixing of not only the physical target but of the time target also. In the First Five-Year Plan we have missed the time target. For every year there should be a time target and as there was no such time target we were very slow in spending money in implementing the Plan and to-day even under the Second Five-Year Plan we may commit the same mistake unless we put a time target. The physical target is there, but the time target must also be there. What I view is that, whether we accept the Socialist pattern of society or any other pattern of society, unless there is reorganisation of the administration, unless there is promptness in the administration any plan will go amiss and that has been the sad experience of ours. We have seen

red-tapism has increased day by day and nothing comes out from the file in the Secretariat. We want reorientation. It is necessary that the whole administrative set up should be re-organised so that there is no red-tapism, so that speedy action is taken as soon as an order is passed. What have we seen in our action? Let us take the case of Umtru project. It is really very astonishing to find that though this Umtru project was started in the first year of the Plan, even to-day we are not in a position to say that this project has been completed. We only hope that in the year 1956 this project will be completed. It is true that certain other projects have been completed, but this Umtru project has not yet been completed though this is the best in our plans. So, something should be done in this regard.....

**Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister)**: For this project the machinery is to come from Canada and therefore there is delay.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI**: The Ministry is responsible for this. We do not want to hear all these that machineries are not available here or they are to come from outside.

Similarly, Sir, another most important thing is about flood and erosion. Although there is mention that we have got a River Valley Commission and things of that sort yet we have not evolved a plan properly to control our rivers. A time schedule is very important for the work for protection of Dibrugarh and Palasbari. We were given to understand that the work in this connection would be taken up on war footing. Only yesterday I had been to Palasbari and I found only iron nets being fixed there as a preliminary work for the protection and for a length of about 100 to 200 feet along the bank of Brahmaputra. Bamboo spurs are still not being put. If things are done in this speed I do know how long it will take to finish the whole work. Similarly, the progress of work at Dibrugarh is slow. If the progress of work goes so slow then it may so happen that by the end of April if we get rains and the river rises then the whole money so far spent will be wasted. So, here the time schedule is a complete failure. The Ministry might say that they were helpless because the Central Government have not given them sufficient wagons. But I say that such pleas do not stand any scrutiny. If we want that certain things are to be done on war footing then they must be done.

As a matter of fact, a road is being constructed between Narkatia and Digboi by the Assam Oil Company. When they are doing it in a more scientific and vigorous manner, our Government with so much resources both of men and money are falling

far short of the minimum speed and efficiency that are required by the exigency of circumstances like these. They cannot even protect a small town like Palasbari. I have therefore great apprehensions that the Government will not be in a position to rise equal to the occasion demanded of them. This is not only my personal apprehension but my apprehension is shared by no less a person than the President of the Assam Congress, Shri Mohendra Mohan Chaudhury, who after visiting Dibrugarh only the day before yesterday issued a public statement saying that the progress of work there is very slow.

**Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister):** The statement is, perhaps, not to that effect.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Mr. Das, you take a note of the points and give a reply.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** This abundantly proves how we all are highly apprehensive of the Government measures. I therefore ask, Sir, when will these things be completed? My point is that if we really mean what we say, if these things are really to be treated as on war footing, then we must take appropriate action. Unless we can finish these things before the rains, the whole thing will be washed away and the difficulties and miseries of the people will increase by leaps and bounds. I have no doubt, our Chief Minister is a well meaning gentleman, but I would like to ask when he said that these things would be taken on war footing, why it is not so in action? Is it not because of the fact that our whole administrative machinery is so slow that they fail to cope with the situation as speedily and promptly as it calls upon them. Unless we can re-organize the whole administrative machinery and imbibe in our officers the spirit of utmost urgency and immediacy and gear them into action accordingly, I am afraid, Sir, our programme will remain unimplemented resulting in enhanced sorrows and sufferings to the people for whose benefit it is launched.

Sir, what is most amazing is the complete silence of the Governor regarding the land problem in our State. The Governor has not mentioned anything about the steps taken by the Government for ameliorating the condition of the peasantry. We find that although the Zamindari Abolition Act was passed long ago, even to this day it has not been implemented. I am not one who believes that abolition of Zamindaries in the three districts will better the condition of the peasantry of Assam. Certain other things also must be done. Then we have got the Adhiars Protection Act. In these long eight years of our independence when the agricultural economy of the country should have received the top most priority, this Government have not come forward with a single piece of legislation calculated to



better the economic condition of the peasantry. The Adhiars Protection Act passed with so much fanfare by this Government is described by a high-ranking authority as a piece of legislation not for the purpose of protecting the Adhiars but for the purpose of protecting the land-owners. Land-owners are far more benefited by this Act than the peasantry. I came forward with an amendment to this Act, and this time also my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, has given notice of an amendment to it. Unless this Act is thoroughly amended, this cannot be of any real use to the peasantry. Then, Sir, we find that the annual Pattas have not been made as yet permanent. I have to-day received a letter from a friend of mine from Barpeta where I am told that notices have been issued to annual Patta holders to vacate their lands. These people wanted to renew the annual leases but that was also not allowed not because these lands are required for any public purposes but because certain Mandals, Kanangoes or Sub-Deputy Collectors desire that these people should not be there. Sir, unless we can give that amount of security of tenancy to these people, it is impossible to raise any enthusiasm in the minds of the masses. We may build roads, we may construct houses but that alone will not be sufficient to harness the enthusiasm and co-operation of the people which are so essential for implementation of our plans, so essential to bring about an all-round prosperity of the country. Sir, I do not know of any other State in India where the peasant cultivators are so mercilessly thrown to the mercy of the Madals or Sub-Deputy Collectors. I know of permanent tenancy or tetas in such a large scale is prevalent. I had recently been to Barpeta, Dhubri and Mangaldai. There a large number of people had been affected by floods, their houses have been washed away; they could not get lands for settlement because it is very difficult to get agricultural loans. You have got to apply and wait for years and years. It is not possible for them to give lands as security in return for agricultural loans.

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** It is incorrect, Sir. Land is not required to be given as security for agricultural loans.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** I am not speaking about loans from Government. I am speaking about loans from private sources. These flood-affected people are peniless and landless. They cannot get lands from Government because so many formalities have to be undergone. First applications have to be made, then investigations have got to be carried on by Mandals, Kanangoes and Sub-Deputy Collectors. This is a

lengthy procedure. If such a person tries to procure money from certain private source, he will at once have to give some security. But what security will he give ? Not only the Government machinery is very slow in coming to the succour of the people but always of getting loans have been blocked to them. Then again, Sir, a ceiling of land holding has not yet been fixed. The Congress Party itself fixed 150 bighas of land as the minimum economic holding. But even that ceiling has not yet been enforced by the Legislature. Even during these 4 years Government have failed to bring in a single measure for ameliorating the condition of the peasantry. And not only that. When the Congress Party has been professing about the Socialistic pattern of society, so much to-day, we do not find in the legislative list any measure that will put a ceiling to the holding of lands that will minimise the evil effects of the Adhiars Protection Act; that will give security to the people. So, Sir, where about 80 per cent. of the people are agriculturists and have to earn their living by the sweat of their brow and by ploughing land, we do not find anything being done to ameliorate their condition. They are still in the same position. When we go to them and tell them that roads have been constructed, schools have been built and dispensaries opened, they say, "What are we to do with these things ? Most of us are landless. Where is land for us ?" Most of them have not got enough land to cultivate ; most of them are under-employed or unemployed. Sir, how will you judge the prosperity of the State ? Will you judge it by the number of roads constructed, schools and hospitals started, or by the condition of the peasantry, who are the backbone of the State ? What is the condition of the peasantry ? Their condition is worse than what it was before.

Sir, when we come to the problem of the peasantry, it brings me also to the condition of our industries. I am not one who believe that by giving land we can solve the problem of peasantry. The time has come when it is necessary to shift the population from the agricultural sector to the industrial sector. Unless we can take out a fair percentage of people from agriculture to the industry, we cannot expect to better the lot of people in the agricultural field or in the industrial field. But what do we find, Sir ? During the last five years not a single industry has been started either by the Government or by the private capitalists on whom we have so much faith. We have been hearing of jute mill industry, cement industry, etc., for years and years together, but not a single industry has been started. If we look to other States we find steel plants are started, chemical industries are started and other big industries

are started. But here we are content with roads, schools and hospitals ! This shows our approach to the whole thing; this shows our poverty of ideas and imagination; this shows we have not been able to align ourselves with the onrushing new ideals of our time.

Then, Sir, coming to the problem of communication even, what do we find ? During the last flood there were breaches in our rail communications and people had to bring all the commodities by air. The prices soared up and the black-marketers and other traders benefited thereby. Even to-day the effect is not over. But in the Governor's Address there is no mention about measures taken in that behalf. During the last Session we moved a resolution in this House that an alternative line should be built between Assam and the rest of India so that we may not suffer from the vagaries of nature. There is no mention about the steps taken to implement that resolution. This transport bottleneck has affected our people and if we cannot do something immediately or in the alternative we cannot have a self-sufficient economy for our State, which, of course, is impossible, our people are out to suffer for many years to come. The Governor should at least have told us what steps have been taken to implement the resolution that was passed in this House during the last Session.

Sir, about unemployment, my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya said enough. I will only say that if we cannot solve the unemployment problem we shall not be able to create enthusiasm of the people. In every house to-day we have unemployed young-men. It is rather a curious spectacle—a paradox—that when so many crores of rupees are being spent in our State, when public investment is going on at such a feverish speed, we find the problem of unemployment is increasing every day. We are building schools, we are giving higher education to the people. But when these people come out of the schools and the University they find that there is no job for them to engage themselves in. They then feel disappointed and frustrated and with that frustrated mind of the people can we expect to do anything ? Even in the field of cottage industries, if the Government had taken proper steps to encourage spread of cottage industries and to set up small-scale industries—one man, two men industries and give proper guidance, something would have been achieved. When our *ex*-Minister of Cottage Industries, Shri Mahendra Mohon Chaudhury, went to Japan and came back after seeing all these things, it was the duty of the Government to set up many such industries as possible. Can our Government give us any idea as to how many such industries have been set up during the last year or for the matter of that during the past

four years and how many persons have been employed in those industries? Sir, unless we can harness this valuable asset of the State, namely labour, there is no hope or bright future for Assam. We must therefore evolve measures to tap these unemployed youths. This is a paradox that, on the one hand, we have no trained personnel and, on the other, students coming out of the schools and the university are going without employment. What is this? Is it planning? In planning there should be co-ordination between the plan we want to implement and the education we are giving. But there is no co-ordination between the plan and the system of education. Therefore, we find that people coming out of the university are going without jobs. Is it not the responsibility of the Government to see that these two are associated together?

Sir, lastly, I will say that our Government suffers from too much hesitancy in every matter. In this connection I will refer mainly to the work of the Embankment and Drainage and other Departments in executing plans for protection of towns and also in other matters where we find that they are hesitant all the time. We have acquired land but we cannot settle it immediately. It takes a long time to settle lands acquired from tea gardens and other places. In South Kamrup about 1,000 people suffered due to last erosion, but up till now even half of these people have not been settled on land. In Majuli and other places, similar things have happened. We have not been able to settle them on land not to speak of the landless people. If we go on in this way we will not be able to kindle faith in the masses, whose co-operation and enthusiasm are necessary for the implementation of our various plans. The plan must have a purpose, the plan must have an ideal and an ideal must be from all these things. We do not find in the Governor's speech anything which gives a clear cut policy and programme and about the legislation to be initiated in the House here. We find all these things have been completely ignored. I therefore, whole heartedly support the motion moved by my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya.

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, before going into the details about the amendment I would like to say a few words in reply to a few points raised by some of the Members. It has been stated by the Leader of the Opposition that the Governor's speech has completely ignored the policy and programme in respect of certain matters. He in doing so probably forgot that such matters cannot constitutionally be included in the policy statement of the Governor as such matters are beyond the sphere of the State Legislature. He knows fully well that any matter within the sphere of the Union Government cannot be referred to in the Governor's speech. That is

why such a matter was omitted. Railway being a Central subject no reference was made in the speech regarding the resolution passed by the Legislature recommending an alternative railway line. However I may inform the hon. Members of the House that in accordance with the wishes of the House the recommendation made by the State Legislature along with a copy of the proceedings containing the speeches of the hon. Members was forwarded to the Government of India impressing on them the urgent need of an alternative railway route as well as for strengthening the existing route connecting Assam with the rest of India and also the line inside the State. But, Sir, that being a subject exclusively within the jurisdiction of the Centre I considered it most inappropriate to refer it in the Governor's speech. That is why the matter has been omitted. Sir, it is known to all, both inside and outside the House that we have actually suffered a great deal due to disruption of railway communication for about 4 or 5 months. No one can conceive of our hardship when we had been cut off from the rest of India, for such a long period during which time all varieties of goods were held up and the price level of all essential commodities went up very high causing great hardship and distress to the people particularly at a time when the country was confronted with the worst natural calamity.

Government are making all possible efforts to bring about a feeling of unity for harmonious integration of all parts of the State with a view to building up its economy as one unit. The hon. the Leader of the Opposition found fault that the Governor's speech omitted the agitation for formation of a separate Hills State. Sir, it is well known that this Government as well as every Congress Government are against carrying on any public agitation for reorganisation of States as a high power Commission has been constituted to go into the matter and make their recommendation after considering all aspects of the question including historical background as to how best to reorganise the different States and make them self-sufficient, economic and suitable administrative units with a view to building up a strong and unified India. I feel, Sir, that any controversial matter of this kind should not be raised on the floor of this House as it will unnecessarily generate heat and disturb the atmosphere. We should, on the other hand, go into the merits and demerits of various proposals before the House dispassionately. As a matter of fact, no one should unnecessarily raise a voice of protest in public on such a matter and carry on public agitation which is not helpful in arriving at a decision on a matter of such grave importance.

Sir, the speech of the Governor contains the various welfare activities and schemes for development undertaken by the Government in the hill areas with a view to show that all efforts have been made by this Government to bring the hill areas up to the level of the rest of Assam so that interested parties may not mislead the simple and unsophisticated people in the rural areas and carry on a propaganda that nothing has been done to solve their difficulties. Sir, what has been stated in the speech will clearly indicate that this Government has made all possible efforts to develop the areas and to redress the grievances of the people and that this Government is always prepared to solve all the difficulties from its own resources as well as the resources that may be made available by the Government of India. This Government has placed facts and figures and submitted a Memorandum before the States Re-organisation Commission in support of maintaining the solidarity, unity and integrity of the State within the existing boundaries but these matters were not purposely included in the speech of the Governor so that it may not be a subject-matter for discussion leading to some sort of public agitation on the floor of the House. I am, however, glad that the Leader of the Opposition is also at one with us for maintaining the solidarity and unity of the State and I shall be at his service to supply him all facts and figures in support of maintaining the unity of this strategic State which he may need at the time of presenting his case before the States Re-organisation Commission which is expected to come to Assam in the month of April. As this vital matter affects not only this strategic State but is likely to affect the whole of India, we consider it prudent not to carry on any public agitation or place such matter on the floor of the House while it is pending before the Commission of three eminent politicians and statesmen of India. I am quite sure that the people of the hills living in the interior areas are at one with us and stand for the unity of the State. It is probably a few ambitious politicians have been trying to create such an agitation. The whole matter will be gone into by the States Re-organisation Commission and after consideration of all factors they will make their recommendations. The people will get ample scope to express their views before the Commission and place facts and figures in support of their views. We all are prepared to abide by the decision of the Commission. Sir, it is not at all conducive for dispassionate appreciation of the problem of re-organisation of the States in an atmosphere disturbed by wide-spread public agitation. It merely embitters the feeling between different sections of the

people of the country. We should avoid such bitterness by all possible means. I am sure, the Leader of the Opposition will agree with me as to the need of maintaining a cool atmosphere conducive to the fuller appreciation of the view points expressed by different sections of the people. I also consider it improper to carry on such agitation when the matter is pending before the three eminent Indians. These are some of the reasons why no mention has been made about this re-organisation of States in the Governor's Address.

The Commission is visiting different places and they are trying to come to certain decision, after examining different aspects of the question. We should wait and see their decision first and then we may decide if any further action is necessary. I appeal to everyone, whether living in the hills or in the plains, to maintain peace and harmonious relation between them. They should not be carried away by cheap slogans which will help nobody.

Now, coming to the question of Naga Hills, mentioned by my Friend, it is not our intention to bring one or two or three persons to the Assembly. It is very easy to bring one or two or three persons as the representatives of the people of Naga Hills in this House. That does not solve the real problem. As stated by me previously this problem would have been solved long ago, had there not been any interference in this affair from people outside. It has been clearly shown in the best possible way that there is none more sympathetic to the tribal people than our Prime Minister. I have placed all the facts and figures before this House in this connection. I have clearly shown that these innocent people have been misled by some interested persons. Taking advantage of the difficult communication in the Naga Hills, some people have been able to mislead a section of the people. There are so many dialects there—there are some 22 dialects spoken by different groups of people there. Our difficulty is that we cannot actually exchange our views in their dialects. It is also very difficult to learn these dialects. They generally do not want any outside authority to be there. Our ideas and our approach are that we should win their hearts and secure their co-operation through social work which we have introduced there, and I am glad to say that we are getting the fullest possible co-operation from them in these nation-building activities which are designed to better their condition in all respects. The threat held out by the members of the Naga

National Council has failed, they have failed to carry the people with them. Having failed so, some mischief-mongers have started resorting to acts of violence in Mokokchung area. Taking advantage of the proximity of the Burma border and also the fact that Zapu Phizo is concealing himself somewhere there, some members of the Naga National Council misled by foreigners, have been carrying on anti-Indian activity and demanding separate independent Naga land, have been encouraging some other people to commit acts of violence. Anyway, they have not been able to carry the people with them. My Friend has mentioned about the Naga Good-Will Mission. I would like to ask what impression have they been able to create here? They visited different places in Assam. They even did not claim to be Indians! They said that they were not Indians. Still there are some people who vied with each other in receiving them (*Laughter*)! Sir, this problem will be solved more easily by social workers instead of by politicians (*interruptions*). So I quite welcome any one who want to carry on welfare activities there. Government will be ready to help them in all possible ways. Even in Mokokchung where the Government School was boycotted, the attendance of students in the so-called National School was very poor. So it can be said that the Naga National Council has not got much support from the people. I invite young men to come forward, to devote their lives and open up social centres there to serve them. Political differences between the Praja Socialist Party and the Communist Party, the people in those areas will not understand. Those people understand only social welfare activities which benefit them.

Then, again, my Friend, the Leader of the Opposition, said that the flood preventive measures have not been carried on in a war footing. I wonder how he judges the floods only by going to Palasbari. He cannot judge things in this way as flood and erosion are not confined only to Palasbari. The flood has extended to 450 miles on both sides of the Brahmaputra from Sadiya and Dibrugarh down to Mankachar. My Friend should go all over the places. I ask him to go to Fakiraganj, Balikuchi and other places and his heart would have been gladdened to see that in a remarkably short time, the people themselves have done the work of construction of about 30 miles of embankment. In some places embankments of 15 to 17 ft. high have been constructed over a length of about 30 miles, and out of this, 20 miles had already been completed in record time. Has my Friend not seen the Assamese people voluntarily



working in the construction of revetment and embankments at Dibrugarh and other places? Their co-operation is shown in this manner. Is it not the duty of my Friend to encourage that sort of public co-operation? (Shri Hareswar Goswami—I do encourage). We have a huge problem to solve on both sides of the Brahmaputra and the tributaries numbering more than 100. These are being constructed with as great speed as is possible under the circumstances. Of course, I have no magic as my Friend has said. I do not believe in magic, otherwise I would have said, "let the embankments and the flood protective measures be completed," and everything would have been done. We do not live in a dream land. I ask him to go and see the work for himself. He will see that the people are working day and night including students, and large numbers of volunteers are coming forward to join the movement for helping in the protective measures. In the beginning, there may be some initial difficulty which we had to overcome to be able to say what is the velocity of the current, the silt and other data are to be collected. All these experiments have to be tried there and plants and equipments costing about 50 to 60 lakhs are to be purchased. At the beginning there was shortage of railway wagons but on our insistence these wagons have been made available and railway siding has to be laid in moment's time and land had to be acquired for laying the siding. I am quite sure that the Dibrugarh protection measures would be completed. Instead of decrying here on the floor of this House, I invite the critics to go there and see the enthusiasm that has been created there and not to throw cold water while the enthusiasm is going on for the completion of the various flood protective measures. I am sure the country is anxious to create a feeling of co-operation amongst the people which is essentially necessary. It had been felt by Government from the experience of the past years that the people would not dig up earth to construct roads or embankments or engage themselves in the flood protective measures. But to-day that feeling has disappeared as the people were quite willing to join hands and come forward and begin to dig earth for construction of embankments. That is why the people's enthusiasm has grown and the people have now realised that these measures are for their benefit. It is our duty to help in continuing this enthusiasm which had already been generated. I wish he had seen this enthusiasm generated in connection with the various works. I hope he will see his way that this enthusiasm that has been created in the people is being continued, then only we can completely solve our flood problems.

Before replying to the general questions, and some of the points raised by my Friend, I would like to say a few words in connection with Mr. Lalmawia's statement. He has raised a certain point regarding the deplorable position of the trade relations of Lungleh with Pakistan. It is known to me that Lungleh has been most adversely affected as a result of the Partition in the matter of trade relations. It takes almost 10 days for a man to go from Aijal to Lungleh. Every effort has been made by Government to solve the problem. A committee was formed and Mr. Lalmawia was one of the members of that Committee. Great enthusiasm has been created by this band of workers and with the help of the Assam Rifles and the military we have now succeeded in constructing a jeepable road up to Lungleh.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** So, we now adjourn.

**(Adjournment)**

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

**(After Lunch)**

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) :** I was just explaining matters to Shri Pu Lalmawia although the criticism constituency-wise is not appropriate in connection with Governor's speech. But he being a new man coming from a distant place, it is desirable for me to remove any wrong impression that he may have and I am replying to him in detail with regard to the points that he has raised.

As regards the difficulties, he fully appreciates them especially the difficulties in connection with construction of road as he himself is a member of Road Construction Committee. It is to his credit and to the credit of public men of his type who voluntarily came forward and undertook construction of that long road from Aijal to Lungleh at the beginning on self-help basis. At the beginning there were some difficulties to induce the people to come forward for the construction of this road, but through persistent efforts made by the Committee along with the then Deputy Commissioner, a good deal of enthusiasm was created in the mind of the people. I had occasion myself to be there and noticed the enthusiasm of the local people. Along with them the Assam Rifles also joined in the work of construction of that very road. That road is very important for communications of food, etc. I can tell the House that before construction of this road, a maund of salt

cost about Rs. 45 for carrying from Aijal to Lungleh. My Friend can well imagine what would be the predicament of these people if we could not supply them, even after Independence, salt at the lowest possible price. The State Government took over the portion of the road constructed by the people with a view to speed up the construction of the road. I do not know whether it would be possible to make it jeepable throughout the year because it is very difficult to get labour during the rains when the people of Lushai Hills are engaged in *jhum* cultivation. But we shall, however, make every effort to get the road clear of blocking which is very common in that part of the country during the rains.

In order to give a fillip to the people in the matter of construction of this road, I myself wanted to go there in February last. As a matter of fact, on the 13th of February, I received a telegram that the road has been made jeepable to Lungleh and it was a great pleasure to me to know this. I also received a letter of appreciation from Shri Dengthuama who was a Member of this House, that the people are thinking that the jeeps are running to Lungleh as if by the force of ghosts or some spiritual power. That is how the people are feeling. When the roads are completed, it is very easy for the Leader of the Opposition or men of his type to say that a mere construction of roads, etc., has no meaning; but I wish he had gone to those places in the border areas in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills, to Balat, Shela and.....(Shri Hareswar Goswami: I have been to all those places)...Not after the roads have been constructed. May I ask my Friend, what is the psychology of these people? Is it not essentially necessary to help these people with roads so that they may be able to take their agricultural produce to the best possible market and get a reasonable price for their produce? Is it not the duty of the Government to see that these people are helped in all these matters? It is easy for my Friend to criticise the Government that they are lagging behind other States in our programme of development. But I can tell him that so far as the Hill areas are concerned, we have given the top-most priority to construct those roads which are essentially necessary in the most backward and inaccessible part of the country so that they can bring their essential commodities to the very door of the people. It is very easy to say that mere construction of a road does not improve the condition of the people. Their condition will be improved if they get good prices for their agricultural produce. Their economic standard will be improved and their earning capacity will be increased simultaneously with the construction of good roads.

Now, even in spite of our efforts, although we have made so many roads, we are still backward in the matter of road communications if the plains and the hills are taken together in comparison with road communication in the rest of India.

Another point that has been raised by my Friend relates to the scarcity of food. I received a telegram from the Chief Executive Member of the Lushai Hills to that effect, and on receipt of that telegram, I immediately sanctioned about 15 thousand rupees for gratuitous relief and 30 thousand rupees for agricultural loan to those persons who are suffering on account of this scarcity and failure of crops in that area. I have just received a telegram from the Deputy Commissioner that it may not be possible for him to spend the money within this month of March and he made reference that the money may be made available in April. I sent another telegram to the Deputy Commissioner and the Chief Executive Member that some money for gratuitous relief may be given to those people who are in need of it. Provided they can spend the same in the current month. On receipt of a reply necessary financial help will be given. Even my Friend, Pu-Lalmawia said that money would be needed in the month of April. In the circumstances, I know, he will appreciate that whenever any urgent matter was brought to our notice, it received our immediate attention.

Another point that has been raised by my Friend, Pu Lalmawia, is about the Christian Missionaries. Although the Speaker said that this should not have been raised, still I would like to explain in order to remove any doubt that might exist in the mind of my Friend. We have attained our independence now. So we must be independent in our thought and action. There is no reason why one should be dependent in the matter of preaching religion. We must be self-reliant in all matters not only in our thought but also in action. It is said that 80 per cent of the people of the Mizo Hills District are Christians. But why then they should depend on American or other foreign Missionaries, instead of relying on other Indian Christians? There are lots of Indian Christians in Travancore and there are many eminent Indian Christians in other parts of India. The Governor of Bengal is a Christian. Why then should we depend on foreigners to teach us religion? Can we not train our young men in the art of teaching religion, can we not be self-reliant and remove the feeling of depen-

dency on foreign missionaries? After a lapse of 7 years of the attainment of our Independence, should we not feel that we are independent in the matter of preaching religion as in other matters? So my request to my Christian friends will be, to take up the responsibility of teaching religion by our own men according to our own faith. There are also some other factors to be taken into consideration in regard to this question. We have got to be friendly with all nations of the world. We want to discuss international problems also with any party irrespective of their political differences. It is known to all that we are now following an independent policy in international matters, and are friends of all including those engaged in preparation of destructive weapons like Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs so that they can use them in case of war. They, however, do not say that they are out for war, but their words are so inconsistent with what they do, it is difficult for the world to believe that there will be no war. The presence of foreign missionaries, therefore, in a country, specially in the border areas, may generally raise suspicion in the mind of the neighbours. It may be questioned why an independent country like India should allow the presence of such a large number of foreign missionaries in her hills and border areas who may be coming with some other ulterior motive? These are some of the reasons why we want to avoid entry of foreign missionaries at the border areas. In our secular State, we allow every one to profess his or her own religion without any let or hindrance and every citizen has his right to preach his religion, but that is limited to Indians only. If any foreigner wants to carry on any propaganda that might raise suspicion on others, why should we allow him to come here? It is entirely our own responsibility to teach any religion in our country and not the responsibility of the foreigners. These are some of the reasons for our present attitude towards the entry of foreign missionaries in the border areas. I hope my Friend Pu Lalmawia, will appreciate what I have stated. I invite him to explain matters to his people in Lushai Hills. There should be no misunderstanding between us. The Constitution of India guarantees right to everybody to profess his religion according to his faith. But if for any political reason we consider the presence of some people undesirable in the international border, we should have every right to keep them out of it and that is no reason why my Christian friends should feel that the principle of secularism has been violated either by the State Government or the Government of India. That is no reason, that is merely a suspicion which should be cleared by mutual discussion.

Before going into the amendment I express my gratefulness to my Friends, Shri Chaubey and Shri Gauari Sankar Roy, for drawing my attention to the fact that in the speech delivered by the Governor, no mention has been made regarding measures undertaken or proposed to be undertaken to ameliorate the conditions of the labourers in the tea gardens. They have rightly pointed out this to me and I am thankful to them for doing so. In the Governor's speech, it has been stated that the tea industry is passing through prosperity; and the question is whether that prosperity has benefited the labourers or not. That is a right question. But it will be felt by all hon. Members that in a brief policy statement like the Governor's speech, it is not possible to lay out all activities of all Departments of the Government. There is no doubt that the present economic condition of the tea gardens is very satisfactory and taking advantage of this prosperity now enjoyed by the tea industry, some beneficial measures have been taken to improve the condition of the labourers. It is known to Shri Chaubey and Sri Gauri Shankar Roy that during the depression a large number of labourers were thrown out of employment. Now all of them have been employed in the tea industry. Besides we had to take measures in consultation with the Industry that in order to absorb the surplus labourers arrangement should be made to move these people from surplus areas to deficit areas where they could be easily employed and in this measure we had also approached other organisations to help us. Thus taking advantage of the prosperity, of the tea industry, we have taken these measures. It is known to the hon. Members that the tea labourers engaged in plantation form about one-tenth of the total population of the State. Government have now taken steps to implement the provisions laid down in the Plantation Labour Act for the benefit of the labourers. Considerable progress has been made for the finalisation and implementation of the draft rules agreed upon between the representatives of the Government, labour and Industry. The Act will be brought into force as early as possible. Under this Act, the Industry will impart primary education to the children of the labourers employed in the tea gardens and it is also agreed that under this provision the housing condition of the labourers will be improved.

In addition, the Industry will provide medical facilities, education, recreation facilities and protection from weather. I may inform the hon. Members that a scheme for comput-

sory contributory fund has also been worked out and is expected to be finalised on receipt of the approval of the Government of India. It will benefit about 5 lakhs of subscribers with an annual contribution of about 1½ crores of rupees. These measures are likely to raise substantially the living standard of about 10 lakhs of people forming 1/10th of the total population of the State. Besides, minimum wages have been fixed on the recommendations of the Committee appointed by the Government from time to time for labourers and employees engaged in road construction, construction of buildings, in plantation, rice and oil mills, public and motor transport and agricultural operations in selected areas. Besides, 17 welfare centres have already been opened for the welfare of the tea garden labourers in different parts of the State. These are some of the measures we have proposed to take and it will be possible to start these measures in the current year, rather in the current month, and through these measures we are trying to benefit such a huge number of labourers employed in the tea gardens and other industries. As the tea industry is now in a prosperous condition and earning a good deal of money, we must avail of this opportunity to start those measures for the benefit of the labourers employed in the tea gardens.

Shri Bimala Kanta Bora has raised a point about scarcity of water in certain places. His purpose of raising this question is probably that Government should not only see that protective measures are taken against flood and erosion but at the same time they should remove the scarcity of water for drinking and for cultivation. In this connection I should say that all possible measures for this purpose have been taken by the Government and so no impression should be left that the Government has not done anything on this score. The rainfall in that Kaki area is really not as we have in other parts of the State. On account of the reclamation almost all the big trees had to be uprooted in that area which is about 24 square miles and naturally a condition of scarcity of water has resulted and for that reason we have taken a step for systematic tree planting in that area to overcome the situation of scarcity of water.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN:** May I know, Sir, why the big trees were uprooted there ?

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** In implementing the reclamation scheme and to make the land fit for cultivation, all such trees had to be uprooted first by human labour.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN:** But by doing so another problem has arisen.

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** Yes, but we are going to face this problem, we are going to fight this problem and we are not running away without solving this problem. We must overcome this problem in that area at any rate. There is a stream passing from one end of this area to the other dividing it into two blocks and so the first step that we took was to raise a dam on the upper reaches of this stream upto a height of about 6 feet and this measure with the expectation that by this measure it would be sufficient to irrigate the entire land and also supply drinking water. We have been taking all steps to start operations for sinking tube-wells, ring-wells etc. There are some ancient tanks which are lying unused in that area and we are now undertaking to reclaim those tanks and for this purpose money has been allotted to the Local Board to undertake the job. These tanks are also suitable for starting fisheries and the number of them will be about 3 or 4. Besides ring-wells, we also propose to have deep tube-wells in that area. We have got an allotment of about 15 tube-wells to be sunk in Assam and out of them 3 tube-wells have been earmarked for this Kaki area alone. Some time back, Government of India informed us that their own personnel will be made available in Assam for this purpose in 1956, but we cannot wait so long and so we have decided to do something by ourselves. All the same, cultivation were going on there, while we were taking all steps to solve the problem. For starting tube-wells, we called for tenders and we have accepted the tender of a certain company which was to sink the 3 tube-wells and each of these tube-wells will enable us to irrigate at least 600 acres of land and also to supply drinking water. The amount involved in the tender of the said company is about Rs.1,43,000. When the company booked their machinery for sinking the tube-wells, unfortunately on account of some dispute, those machineries have been attached by some party.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** দ্বিভিন্ন লক্ষ্যে  
যায়, সাগৰ শুকাই মানিকো লুকাই।

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** But we have not left things there and inspite of all odds we are trying to overcome the difficulties (*laughter*).

Now, Sir, I come to the Amendment. The Amendment runs like this :



“But it is regretted that the Governor's address fails to give any clear indication of measures for solving the various burning problems of the State—particularly in the spheres of land and unemployment”. I propose to come to the points raised in the amendment one by one, but before doing so, I would like to congratulate the hon. Member, Shri Bhattacharyya, for bringing in an attitude of responsive co-operation in his speech made in support of his amendment unlike previous occasions, although the amendment, as such, does not carry one anywhere near the burning problems of State which the Governor's address had to deal with. I, therefore, sincerely welcome the attitude as displayed by Shri Bhattacharyya in his speech. Unlike his amendment, he has in his speech, in fact, congratulated the Governor for his address, though in an indirect way.

Shri Bhattacharyya has said that the Governor's address fails to give any clear indication of measures for solving the various burning problems of the State. Now, Sir, what are the burning problems of the State? Shri Bhattacharyya has admitted in his speech that in spite of various natural calamities, the food problem which at one time was most critical, has been successfully solved. This I consider to be a humble tribute paid by Shri Bhattacharyya to the Governor for his address. I hope it is not a flattery because I do not expect flattery from any one either from him who is a Member of Opposition or from any one in this side of the House. So, Sir, the food problem has been solved. Then comes the question of maintaining price of agricultural produce at reasonable level and to prevent it falling below the economic level so that the agriculturists may earn the full benefit of their surplus produce in their areas. This requires a network of roads in our rural areas for transport of the additional produce that our agriculturists grow in their respective areas. It is known to all the hon. Members how a network of roads has sprung up in our rural areas since the attainment of Independence. It is true that we have not been able to meet our entire requirement in respect of roads in the rural areas but I feel proud of what has been done in this respect during these few years.

Then I come to the problem created by the repeated floods in our country since after the great earthquake. Is this not the burning problem of our State to-day? And has it not been dwelt upon at length in the Governor's speech? Sir, it is not possible to deal elaborately with any and every problem of the State during the limited time and space of the Governor's address.

Sir, 80 per cent. of our villagers live in our villages. If we want to solve our unemployment problem, we must see that a large number of people may not be thrown out of gear because of the acute scarcity, and helplessness created by the repeated floods. So we directed our attention to solve this problem, although it is not specifically stated in the Governor's address. This is being sought to be done by construction of roads, irrigation channels, embankments and measures like these. We are launching upon elaborate programme of embankments throughout the length and breadth of the country and road construction works and others so that people may come forward and participate in these works not only as voluntary workers but as contractors and labourers and earn their living. This will also help them in carrying on their agricultural operations in their respective areas and protect their crops from ravages of flood. This is the reason why, as you have seen, a large number of our villagers are coming forward and eagerly participating in the various construction work undertaken by Government. Thereby they are helping not only the Government in its efforts to build up the shattered economy of the country but also are helping their own selves. I hope our Opposition Members will also help us in our efforts in this direction.

Besides these, we have taken up a crore of rupees worth of small irrigation schemes to be constructed and completed by our villagers. This scheme has benefited about 1 lakh acres of land. In addition to this we have sanctioned about a crore of rupees for the benefit of the people in the scarcity areas. The schemes that have been undertaken with the amount of money will offer large scope for employment to these people in their extreme need. These are some of the ways by which we are trying to fight unemployment in the rural areas.

As regards education in urban areas, I admit that figures regarding the educated young men in these areas are not wholly accurate. Sometimes exact figures are also not available. We have already directed our Statistics Department to carry on sample survey to have accurate figures regarding the problem of unemployment amongst the educated young men in the urban areas. In addition to this, Gauhati University is also carrying on a statistical survey in the country. As is known to the hon. Members, the method of education that has been imparted in our country to-day needs a thorough re-orientation. With the daily increasing number of High Schools,

Colleges and other educational institutions that have been springing up, it is impossible to solve this problem of educated unemployment unless the existing educational policy is not re-oriented. That is why we are thinking of giving a vocational bias to education and trying to start as many scientific and technical institutions as possible so that our young men may undergo training there and fruitfully utilise their knowledge in various developmental programmes that have been undertaken. We are determined not to allow to swell up the number of unemployed people in our rural areas because of the floods and erosion. Those who are affected by the floods and rendered temporarily unemployed, to them we want to offer occupation by various temporary work and the developmental schemes that have been going on now in the country.

In respect of food, the country is now self-sufficient. Although there was at the beginning a trend of the price of paddy going down, fortunately that trend has now been checked to a great extent and throughout the country the prices have been stabilised at an economic level. Government will keep a strict watch over the prices of agricultural produce so that the agriculturists can earn what is reasonably due for their produce. Besides these, Sir, we are encouraging cottage industries like sericulture, weaving, soap-making, bee-keeping, etc. We also propose to start an Institute of Cottage Industries where a large number of educated young men can receive training in various types of cottage industries like brass-making, tile-making, carpentry, etc., besides sericulture and weaving, so that after the training, these young men can engage themselves gainfully in these cottage industries. Moreover, provision has been made for giving them loans without security so that they may start the job immediately. Then, we are helping in opening rural centres for production of *ghani* oil, silk weaving, production of *khadder* etc. We have also given emphasis on the production of *daos*, pen knives, pruning knives and other agricultural implements. It is for the hon. Members of the Opposition to encourage youngmen to come forward, receive the training and take to cottage industries so that they can earn their living very easily. These industries will not only give employment to our youngmen, but will also give supplementary occupation to our agriculturist, a large number of whom sit idle for some part of the year. We are trying to harness those idle hours and utilise them for individual benefit as well as the benefit of the society in the construction of roads and welfare centres and for increasing production. We are

trying to generate a feeling of enthusiasm and co-operation among the people so that they may join us in the development of the country and at the same time increase their earning. Though all these facts have not been specifically stated in the Address as providing employment, yet it is apparent from the facts stated therein that efforts have been made to tackle the problem of unemployment.

Then, Sir, there is considerable difficulty regarding the sale of fruits grown in border areas. They are mostly wasted either because they cannot be transported or the cost of transport is so high that they cannot compete with similar products of other areas. For giving relief to these people, we are not only constructing roads but are also trying to give training to the youngmen of the areas in fruit preservation. Two such training institutes have been started, one at Shillong and the other at Gauhati, and we are also awarding scholarships to the students, who will learn how to preserve fruit juice and to make jelly and jam, which will fetch good prices in the market.

Sir, we have also opened emporia in different places of the State as well as outside through which the products of village industries can be sold. The village industry products like silk cloth and other cloths with valuable designs, which are made in our hill areas, are collected in the emporia for sale. Sometimes the villagers find it difficult to come to the emporia from distant villages to sell their products. We are, therefore, thinking of appointing marketing officers, who will not only advise the villagers as to how their products can be improved, but will also collect their products locally for sale through emporia.

Sir, these are some of the ways in which we are trying to tackle the problem of unemployment, both in the urban and rural areas.

Sir, we are in dearth of technical personnel. This is why we are now trying to give a vocational bias in our educational institutions. Basic schools are being started in increasing number. Besides that, development of scientific and technical education has been taken up. The number of seats has been increased three times in different institutions of the State. We have also opened a condensed course for training educated unemployed youngmen for collection of data, survey, etc., necessary in connection with river valley projects. Before any river valley project can be taken up, a lot of data has

to be collected. We are training our youngmen in the method of survey and collection of data through this condensed course. Two batches have already been turned out and they have been distributed to different places for taking water levels, making contour survey of the Brahmaputra and its tributaries and collecting other necessary data. Sir, it is not by magic that multi-purpose river valley projects can be taken up. A good deal of preliminary preparations and collection of the necessary data is essential for taking up such a project. We are also thinking of opening an Engineering College immediately. We have been now sending 27 to 30 boys outside Assam for engineering education by special arrangement with the Government of India. Admission in the I. Sc. classes, the Medical College and Veterinary College has been increased. We also want to remove the Veterinary College outside the town so that there will be enough scope for giving training to increase the number of educated youngmen. With regard to the National Extension Service, large number of workers have been given training in Jorhat and Khanapara Extension Training Centre. During the last year we have appointed more than 700 teachers in the Primary Schools and many of them are undergoing training in the Basic Training Centre. Sir, we are also trying to increase the number of Basic Training Centres. These are some of the steps we have taken to provide employment to educated youngmen by providing useful training in different centres under different scheme.

Now, Sir, about the Socialistic pattern of the State, the Congress at the last Avadi Session made it clear. A Socialist State cannot be made to order. Certain amount of preparation is to be made in order to achieve the objective of ushering in a Socialistic pattern of society. With that objective in view even before the decision of the Congress at the Avadi Session, certain steps had already been taken by the Government in this respect.

Sir, it is also stated that no statement has been made regarding the land problem in the State. It was purposely not made, because in the year 1954, the Governor clearly laid down the policy regarding acquisition of Zamindary.

It is not necessary every year to repeat the same thing. Last year it was stated as to what is the policy of the Government in regard to the acquisition of land. I would only elaborate and indicate how we are going towards a Socialistic State. Regarding unemployment, I have already stated that. All

those cultivators who have been thrown out of employment during the floods have been to some extent provided with some other employments.

It is known to the hon. Members that in Riotwary System, State owns the land and about 80 per cent. of the actual cultivators hold the land directly under the State. In the permanently settled areas, the cultivators hold land under the landlord and other intermediary. In the Riotwary System the area of the land is about five times the area that is in the permanently settled estates in the Goalpara district and in the Karimganj Subdivision. Sir, about 17,02,055 acres are permanently settled, and in the Riotwary System about 64,33,684 acres are under temporary settlement, that is, almost 1/5 of the settled area. The Government with the objective of ushering the Socialistic pattern of society proposes to own land in the permanently settled area and with that objective proposes to acquire the right of the landlord and own the land for which notification has already been issued, with a view to distribute the land equitably to the tillers of soil, after preparation of the record-of-rights. That is why we have given priority for the acquisition of the permanently settled estates. It is also known to my Friend, Md. Umaruddin Saheb, that there is a large number of intermediaries in the permanently settled areas of Goalpara and Karimganj; that is why, we really want to lay great stress in the acquisition of Zamindaries. Notification to this effect has already been issued in the Gazette and is known to the hon. Members of the House, as they get a copy of the Gazette. Under these notifications the estates will vest in the State with effect from the 15th April, 1955, and the preparation has been made for taking possession of the land on that date. Sir, this is known to the hon. Members of the House, that is why, it is not mentioned in the speech of the Governor. This is a policy adopted last year.

Sir, it is also proposed to issue similar notification in respect of the permanently settled areas in the Karimganj Subdivision. Preliminary enquiries are being completed, except those which are in small scattered plains in different parts. In Karimganj there are no reliable record-of-rights. In some cases, it is also very difficult to specify the boundaries, that is why it will take sometime and we actually propose to do it. Sir, a case against the State Acquisition of the Zamindaries Act is now pending with the High Court, and as soon as this is finally settled, we want to go and acquire the lands and get them vested

in the State. Sir, to abolish the intermediaries and settle the land equitably to the tillers of the soil, that is our objective. Sir, ours is a democratic State, we are to abide by the decision of the Court. If the decision of the Court declares the validity of the Zamindari Acquisition Act, we propose to proceed with the work as speedily as possible. In the meantime, I am glad that those Zamindars who are sensible persons like the Gauripore Zamindar have come forward and made offers for the estates to be taken over by the State for management.

Sir, unless the landlords agree to part with the lands some action will have to be taken under the law. In the meantime, we can carry on with the preparation of the record of rights. At present settlement operation is going on in full swing and some more time will be taken to complete the survey and preparation of records. This is also well known to my Friend, Md. Umaruddin Saheb.

We are required to go through various processes. So these are the steps we have taken. On the 15th of April we want to take over all the Zamindaris. Steps will be taken under the Acquisition of Zamindari Act to take over other intermediary rights. That will be taken after the record is prepared. For this purpose we may have to come before this House for further legislation for acquiring the right of other intermediaries. Sir, we are taking advantage of the gradual processes according to the circumstances and environment. We cannot usher in a Socialistic State by order. My Friend may ask as to what we have done about the other areas. Sir, I have got the latest figures which show that more than 80 per cent. of the people hold land directly under the State in some of the districts. In the Nowgong District the percentage of area sublet is 13·06, in Sibsagar 20·1 per cent., Lakhimpur 13·17 per cent., Darrang 22 per cent., and in Kamrup it is 29·82 per cent.

In the temporary settled areas, security of tenancy to tenants ranging from 13 to 20 per cent. of the total holdings in the different district, has been afforded by amendment of the Temporary Settled District Tenancy Act in the year 1953. With a view to give substantial rights including occupancy rights to the tenants in possession of 12 years, this amendment offers permanent, heritable and transferable right, on the privileged raiyats and occupancy raiyats and the maximum cash-rent has also been reduced by the amendment of appropriate legislation to three times the land revenue. The limit of enhancement of rent of occupancy raiyats was also reduced to three annas in the

rupee from four annas in the rupee. Maximum rent was re-defined, in case of cash rent, as a sum representing 3 times the revenue rate. In case of produce rent, it has been reduced to one-fourth and one-fifth-produce of major crops.

In order to give further security to the Adhiars, Government propose to introduce in this very session an amendment Bill, which will bring about far-reaching changes.

The main points of these proposed changes are :—

- (i) Reducing the number of grounds on which an Adhiar may be evicted.
- (ii) Reducing the share of the crop-rent payable by the Adhiar and also limiting it to major crop only.
- (iii) Making provision for decision of disputes relating to share of crop-rent.
- (v) Formation of Conciliation Board, etc.

Then, Sir, we have got the Land Development Board. The Assam Land Development Board was constituted in 1954, March, to advise Government on land reforms and allied matters. Steps have been taken to give practical shape to the suggestions made by the Board from time to time.

Sir, it is our duty to organise the tenants and make them realise their rights so that they can resist all illegal harassment by the landlords. It is the duty of us all to make them conscious of their rights and privileges so that no one can evict them illegally.

We are trying to implement the recommendations of the Land Development Board. We are trying to solve this problem, but we are to go through various processes.

From these facts and circumstances which I have placed before the House it will clearly appear that we are proceeding towards building a Socialistic State. We want to take advantage of the prevailing circumstances. Now, as regards the fixation of ceiling it is very doubtful whether it will have any tangible effect as not much surplus will be available for distribution except it may have psychological effect (Shri Hareswar Goswami—Even at 150 bighas). I am saying of 100 bighas. From the Darrang



Sample Survey it appears that above 50 bighas only 4 per cent. of the land holding population have got lands. In Sibsagar district, above 100 bighas, only 56 per cent. of the land holding population have got lands. In Lakhimpur district above 100 bighas, only 23 per cent. of the land holding population have got lands. These are the figures taken from the Sample Surveys. There is then no prospect of getting land for distribution to the people by mere fixation of ceiling. The fact is that we are completing the entire survey, and we should not take hasty action. Let us realise fully the implications of the problem and the difficulties in this respect. As I have stated before that only 87 per cent. of the people are holding land. With regard to that I will give you the figures just now. (Shri Hareswar Goswami—Then, why do you fix 150 bighas as the ceiling?). We have declared that we have accepted the principles about fixing ceiling, but that is a matter for discussion. When we have made up our minds, we shall disclose it. I will give you the figures now. In Nowgong district, if the ceiling is fixed at 150 bighas, you get about 24,000 bighas. In a population of 9 lakhs what will be the distribution and whether land will be available. In Sibsagar, 14,000 bighas may be available, in Jorhat 31,000 bighas may be available. These are the highest figures that will be available. The solution of providing land is a huge problem. We have got uneconomic holdings; so pressure on land is so great that you cannot solve it by encouraging agriculture, you must insist on industry. As it is known, India is an economic unit itself. Assam cannot be compared with countries like Burma or England because they can carry on their own production. Now, the question of controlling the industries has been left to the private sector. As for instance, cement manufacture, jute and paper and sugar mills have also been left to the private sector. The House will be glad to learn that on our insistence, the Government of India has agreed upon to make an exception in the case of Assam that if the private industrialists do not come forward to start the industries, Government can participate and open them. This principle has been accepted by the Government of India. Again, we had to fight for about three years against the powerful Indian Jute Association that some of the jute mills were lying idle for want of jute materials and after that period the principle has been accepted and import license is going to be issued in the name of the party which is prepared to start the jute mills. Some of my Friends, for instance, Mr. Umaruddin, said that we are not mindful about ascertaining the mineral resources

of the country. That is not correct because we have no geologists of our own but the Central Government has got as pool of geologists. These geologists carry on survey every year in different localities and local surveys are not necessary. As regards cement and distillation of coal, no survey is necessary. There is enough quantity of coal and limestone for the purpose of manufacture of cement. Take for instance, in the Garo Hills, we have been trying to start a cement factory but for want of railway communication that is not possible. We have been trying also with the opening of the ropeway, if possible, so that limestone may be exploited from those areas and brought to the points where railway line is possible. Afterwards we have as our agents engaged about 3 parties to study the possibility of starting the cement factory without of course having to spend anything practically. If the private enterprisers do not come forward to start the factories, we have to see our own way to start them. We have been trying also to develop our major industries for the purpose of decreasing the pressure on land so that the number of educaed young men as well as the number of villagers may be divertetd from land to these various industries. There is scope for paper industry and we have been trying to make every attemptto open it. We have been negotiating with the Government of India to start fertilizer factory, because the tea industry conume a lot of fertilizers, and agriculture increases the producsion by the use of the fertilizers. We have taken up tothe Community Projects covering a percentage of 17.5 of population. We have also tried to communicate to the villager the the latest development regarding the improvement of cultivation, cottagep industries, poultry rearing, bee-keeping. All these industries are being harnessed in the Community Projects and National Extension Blocks so that the people may get the benefit in their own area and learn the experience in the various lines of experiments and intensive production capacity may be communicated to the actual cultivator. The other day Mr. Bhattacharjee was telling that certain persons got so much paddy by intensive cultivation. This was so because price competition is there in all places, so that there is a good competition. When the best quality of crops is grown by the people from different areas and brought to be shown to others for their proper appreciation, then the enthusiasm will be created in the minds of other cultivators also. There are also demonstrators who will guide the cultivators about the way in which cultivation is to be taken up. The number of houses which have been built for the accommodation of officers is so few that

about 3 or 4 persons have got to live in the same room. This is inadequate. But in spite of this, these agricultural demonstrators are giving scientific demonstrations to the cultivators. They are to communicate the message of science to the villagers, so that it can be implanted in their minds and the economic standard can be raised.

These National Extension Service Blocks and Community Projects have been a great success in the country and as a result of these development projects the economic standard of the people has been raised to a considerable extent and their enthusiasm has been created. In the next Five Year Plan we want to cover the whole country with these National Extension Service Blocks and Community Projects and we want the whole-hearted co-operation of our Friends in the Opposition also. Instead of finding fault with the Government, let us join together and build a new India and reconstruct our Nation to improve the economic condition of the masses so that we can usher in a Socialistic pattern of society which is the objective of both the Communist as well as the Proja Socialist Party.

I hope my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, will give up his method of violence to achieve his end to adopt our method of non-violence after seeing the result of all these things.

With these words, Sir, I request my Friend to withdraw his amendment.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Mr. Bhattacharyya, are you agreeable to withdraw your Amendment?

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** No, Sir,  
**Mr. SPEAKER:** I will put the motion then.

The question is:  
"That at the end of the motion moved by Shri Mohi Kanta Das the following be added:—

'But it is regretted that the Governor's address fails to give any clear indication of measures for solving the various burning problems of the State—particularly in the spheres of land and unemployment—in order to create conditions for ushering in a Socialistic pattern of society?'

(The Motion was negatived).

I now put the original motion—

The question is: "That the Members of the Assam Legislative Assembly assembled in this session are deeply grateful to the Governor for the address which he has been pleased to deliver to this House assembled on March 2, 1955."

(The Motion was adopted)

**Re: Change of date for election of members to the Public  
Accounts Committee**

**Shri MOHI KANTA DAS:** Sir, the election to the Public Accounts Committee has been fixed on 7th March 1955. I would be very much grateful if the election be held on the 11th or 12th March if it be possible to change the date to suit the convenience of the Members. On 10th there will be election to the Estimates Committee, so 11th or 12th March will be suitable as there will be no difficulty. The Leader of the Opposition will not have any objection I gather.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** If that is the sense of the House, I shall change accordingly (*Voices—yes, yes*).

Then we may fix 11th day of March, 1955 between 2 and 4 P.M.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Monday, the 7th March, 1955.

Shillong

The 1st September, 1955.

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

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Handwritten signature or name, possibly "Bakul".

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