

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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 1-30 P.M., on Friday, the 21st March, 1952.

**P R E S E N T**

The Hon'ble Shri Kuladhar Chaliha, B. L., Speaker, in the Chair, the ten Hon'ble Minister, two Deputy Ministers and seventy-nine Members.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**

(To which Answers were laid on the table)

**Road Communications in Sibsagar District**

**Shri ANANDA CHANDRA BEZBARUA** asked :

4. (a) Is Government aware that Balighat over the Dikhu River at Nazira is of importance for through communication ?

(b) Is Government aware that the Bor Ali on the other side of Dikhu connecting Nazira with Sibsagar *via* Amgurighat bridge remains impassable for a major part of the year specially during rains ?

(c) Is Government aware that all road communications to Nazira, Joktali, Athkhel and some other Mouzas are to pass by this Ghat ?

(d) Is Government aware that there are a large number of tea gardens in these Mouzas and all the road traffic of the gardens are to pass over the Ghat ?

(e) Is Government aware of the importance of the Nazira town in Sibsagar district as a business centre ?

(f) Is it a fact that the people of Nazira has been agitating for construction of a bridge there for the last few years by submitting petitions and waiting upon deputations ?

(g) Will Government be pleased to state whether any action has been taken to remove this longfelt want of the people ?

(h) If so, what is that ?

(i) If not, why not ?

**The Hon'ble Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA** replied :

4. (a)—Yes.

(b)—This may be so.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Yes. Nazira town is a growing business centre.

(f)—Yes.

(g) & (h)—The Balighat Bridge over Dikhu at Nazira has been proposed for construction under "Development Scheme included in the Five Year Plan" at an estimated cost of Rs.6,00,000.

(i)—Does not arise.

**Shri ANANDA CHANDRA BEZBARUA:** Will Government be pleased to state if there is any hope of the implementation of the "Five Year Plan"?

**The Hon'ble Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA:** No. I cannot say definitely.

**The Hon'ble Shri RAM NATH DAS:** It depends upon the availability of the promised grant from the Government of India.

**Shri ANANDA CHANDRA BEZBARUA:** Sir, it appears like giving কণা হাঁহিক পতান বান দিয়া (*laughter*). May I request the Government to take a loan from the Government of India which the Government of India has promised to advance for productive projects to implement this scheme?

**The Hon'ble Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA:** It is a new question, Sir. I want notice of it.

**Shri ANANDA CHANDRA BEZBARUA:** May I request Government to take up Bor Ali from Local Board by the Public Works Department for improvement, as it is the other only important road connecting Nazira?

**The Hon'ble Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA:** That will be considered by the Road Communication Board, Sir.

### Result of Election to the Assam Minority Commission and District Minority Boards

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The following hon. Members are hereby declared duly elected to the Assam Minority Commission:

1. Shri Akshay Kumar Das (from and by Members other than Muslims) and
2. Maulavi Md. Idris (from and by the Muslim Members.)

So far elections to the District Minority Boards of Kamrup, Nowgong, Sibsagar, Goalpara, Darrang, Lakhimpur and Cachar are concerned, I hereby inform that the number of candidates being equal to the number of vacancies, for the District Minority Boards of Nowgong, Darrang, Sibsagar, Lakhimpur and Cachar, the following candidates are hereby declared duly elected.

#### Nowgong

1. Maulavi Rahimuddin Ahmed;
2. Maulavi Faizuddin Ahmed Master, and
3. Maulavi Hafizuddin Ahmed.

*Darrang*

1. Haji Nasimuddin Ahmed;
2. Maulavi Mahatab Ali and
3. Maulavi Mahmud Sayed.

*Sibsagar*

1. Maulavi Rukunuddin Ahmed ;
2. Maulavi Abdul Rejak ; and
3. Maulavi Bakhadatulla.

*Lakhimpur*

1. Maulavi Afazuddin Ahmed ;
2. Maulavi Mahamudul Hoque ; and
3. Maulavi Saifuddin Ahmed.

*Cachar*

1. Maulavi Moinul Haque Choudhury, M. L. A. ;
2. Maulana Abdul Jalil, M. L. A. and
3. Maulavi Jalaluddin Choudhury.

There will therefore be election only for the District Minority Boards of Kamrup and Goalpara.

**Result of Election to the Co-operative and Industrial Sections of the Assam Advisory Board for Development**

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** For the Co-operative and Industrial Sections of the Assam Advisory Board for Development, the following hon. Members are hereby declared duly elected:—

*Co-operative Section*

1. Shri Sarveswar Borua.
2. Shri Gauri Sankar Roy ;
3. Shri Mahadev Das ; and
4. Shri Davidson Bhabora.

*Industrial Section*

1. Shri Jogokanta Barua ;
2. Shri Ram Prasad Choubey ;
3. Shri Kistobin Rymbai ; and
4. Shri Jadab Chandra Khakhlari.

## DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

GRANT NO. 2

(7.—Land Revenue)

**The Hon'ble Shri MOTIRAM BORA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 36,89,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1953 for the administration of the head "7—Land Revenue".

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Motion moved: "That a sum not exceeding Rs. 36,89,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1953 for the administration of the head '7—Land Revenue'."

**Shri MOHENDRA NATH DEKA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 36,89,200 under grant No. 2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, at page 2 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.36,89,200 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

The object of my Cut Motion is to raise a general discussion on the Government's Land Revenue policy.

Now, Sir, it appears from the Budget Memorandum that under the Head Land Revenue, the amount of income is going down every year. It appears from the Memorandum as follows:

Land Revenue—

1948-49—Trs. 1,67,52, 1949-50—Trs. 1,71,38, 1950-51—Trs. 1,89,64 (Actual)—

The Budget for 1951-52—Trs. 1,68,08, 1951-52—Trs. 67,78 (Revised), 1952-53.

Trs. 1,65,47.

Now, Sir, when we go to the expenditure side we find the expenditure increasing. The figures are as follows:—

Expenditure

Actual

1948-49, Trs. 23,94 ; 1949-50, Trs. 27,40 ; 1950-51, Trs. 28,61; Budget 1951-52; Trs. 33,15 ; Revised 1951-52, Trs. 34,81 ; Budget 1952-53, Trs. 36,99.

So, Sir, when the revenue is going down every year, the expenditure is going up. This clearly shows, that Revenue Department is not taking due and proper interest in the matter.

I want to refer to another most important item in the Budget and that is this:—"Charges on account of revenue collections." Sir, for a comparative study I give below the following table which will show the revenue collections from the year 1948-49 upto now, and the corresponding charges.

	1948-49.	1949-50.	1950-51.	1951-52.	1952-53.
	Trs.	Trs.	Trs.	Trs.	Trs.
Ordinary Land Revenue.	1,23,45	1,23,83.	1,36,05.	1,26,42	1,25,41.
Total Land Revenue.	1,67,52	1,71,38.	1,89,64.	1,67,78.	1,65,47.
Charges on account of land revenue collections.	6,14	6,90	7,39	8,97	8,58

It will appear from the above table that collection charges are very high. The total revenue collection for the year 1952-53 is estimated to be Rs.1,65,47,000 while the charges on account of this revenue collection are going up to Rs.8,58,000 Sir, it is difficult for us to understand why it is so.

I come to another head—"Settlement Operations". Sir, hon. Members are perhaps aware that from the year 1948-49 settlement operation is going on in our temporarily settled district up till now, but, Sir, since 1940 no settlement operation was made in Gauhati Town, that is for the last 12 years the old settlement is going on. As far as my information goes assessment statements had been submitted to the Government before July 1951, but up till now, no effect has been given although all officers deputed for settlement operation are sitting idle at Gauhati. I do not understand why there has been so much delay in this important matter.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this connection I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Members of this House that when a small town like Palashbari is paying Rs. 120 per bigha, the premier town of Assam *i. e.*, Gauhati is paying only Rs. 5 per bigha on average. Then again I should like to say that one gentleman of Gauhati town in possession of 17 bighas of land in the heart of the town is exacting Rs. 900 as rent per year from the occupants of 30 Lechas of land for years together. He is also realising very high rate of rent from other occupants while he has been paying Government only Rs. 85 as land revenue for 17 bighas of land since 1910 up till now. For the areas of 30 Lechas he is to pay only Rs. 3 to Government. Revenue per bigha of trade site land in Gauhati is Rs. 30, whereas it is Rs. 120 per bigha in Palashbari, Rangiya town area though backward is to pay Rs. 30 per bigha since 1928. Sir, the old settlement of Gauhati town was made for an area of only 1,800 bighas and out of this area half of the land belongs to the intermediary settlement holders. These settlement holders are, as I have stated above, realising exorbitant rate of rent from the occupants while they are paying only a nominal rent to the Government.

Sir, in the assessment statement which has been submitted to the Government, I am told, that in some cases the assessment is Rs.700 per bigha. It may be so. Under the Land Revenue Manual there is provision that half of the rent valuation can be assessed by Government. Sir, I know some persons who are holding large areas in the heart of the Gauhati town since 1910 on a nominal rate of revenue to the Government, I also know that these people have submitted representations to the Government for reduction of land revenue which has been assessed, but not yet given effect to. Again Sir, in other parts of the Kamrup district people are paying in the rural area revenue to the extent of Rs. 2-4-9 pies per head whereas the Gauhati people are paying only 3 annas per head. When people of a place like Rangiya are paying Rs. 30 per bigha, Gauhati people are paying only Rs. 5 per bigha. My submission before the House is that the Chief Minister when he was in charge of Revenue portfolio, requisitioned 6 bighas of land from the European Club at a cost of Rs. 1,68,000 for the High Court at Gauhati. Originally that land was given to the European Club consisting of the Commissioner of Division, Deputy Commissioner, Civil Surgeon and the Superintendent of Police. As far as my knowledge goes, this beautiful plot of land situated on the bank of the Bramaputra was settled with the European Club without any premium whatsoever, because before 1925 there was no practice of premium. This system was introduced only in 1925. Regarding Gauhati land, everyone who was in possession of a plot of land for consecutively for three years was entitled to a patta. So this plot of land was also similarly settled with the European Club practically without any investment from their side. It is for this

reason we wonder why there has been such a big payment to the extent of Rs. 1,68,000 for this plot of land without having a thorough enquiry of origin of the settlement.

In the town of Gauhati, intermediaries are realising from the people (tenants) to the extent of minimum Rs. 20 per katha and maximum Rs. 700 per katha. Yet the Tenancy Act is lying idle in the hands of the Government. The result is that the intermediaries are filing a number of ejection suits against the tenants. Sir, the Assam Urban Areas Tenancy Bill was passed by the Assembly in 1950, but it is lying inactive as the consent of the President has not been obtained. If this Bill had not been passed, the intermediaries would not have proceeded with ejection suits against the tenants. Due to the action of the Government the intermediaries have filed hundreds of cases for the ejection of the tenants. So, Sir, we feel that the policy of the Government in the matter of land revenue is very slow and that effective measures are not taken for the benefit of the people. My submission is that no effective action is being taken by the Government for the improvement of the land revenue.

I want to say that no effective action is taken by the Government for the improvement of land revenue. Sir, the total revenue of Assam is only a little over 8 crores of rupees, *i. e.*, one eighth of the revenue of Uttar Pradesh which is 62 crores and odd. On the other hand, the population of Assam is about one fifth of the population of Uttar Pradesh. My submission is that if effective steps were taken at proper time, at least the income on account of land revenue would have increased. The settlement operation has been left entirely with the Settlement Officers and there is no supervision whether these are being properly carried out or not. In the district of Cachar, where settlement operations began in 1949 no result has as yet come out. We have up till now spent 12 lakhs of rupees and for next year 8 lakhs have been provided for. Even the settlement operations in a small town like Gauhati have not been finished till now. The staff is simply sitting there. If things go on in this way, our receipts on this account will be swallowed up by the expenditure on account of staff, etc. With these words, I beg to move my cut motion, which I will read again :—

“That the total provision of Rs. 36,89,200 under Grant No. 2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, at page 2 of the Budget, be reduced, by Re. 1 *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.36,89,200 do stand reduced by Re.1.”  
Only one word more, Sir. Our revenue is only 8 crores of rupees and I find, if my information is correct, the said amount is equal to the price of I cigarettes we consume in a year in a small province like Assam. This is a fact.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Cut Motion moved:

“That the total provision of Rs.36,89,200 under Grant No. 2, major head—7.—Land Revenue, at page 2 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 36,89,200 do stand reduced by Re.1.”

(The Hon'ble Shri Motiram Bora rose to reply.)

It will save time if Mr. Goswami moves his Motion and the Hon'ble Minister replies to all the criticisms later in course of one speech.

Mr. Goswami, please move your Motion, but be very brief—not exceeding five minutes.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** That is too short a time. We have saved some time from the question hour, that can be distributed to the discussion of the different demands,

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** That cannot always be done.

**Shri HARESWAR GORWAMI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 36,89,200 under Grant No. 2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, at page 2 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 36,89,200 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

**The Hon'ble Shri MOTIRAM BORA:** I rise on a point of order, Sir. We have got only one Motion before the House now and until that is disposed of no new Motion can be moved.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** You are perfectly right. But I thought it would save time if you had replied only once.

**The Hon'ble Shri MOTIRAM BORA:** But the hon. Member cannot move any Motion; he can only speak in support of the Motion which has already been moved.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** All right, you reply to the Motion first.

**The Hon'ble Shri MOTIRAM BORA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir,

I am really thankful to my hon. Friend, Mr. Deka, for bringing this Motion and enabling Government to explain their position with regard to this matter. Sir, my hon. Friend at the outset said that the receipts from land revenue were going down in this State of Assam for the last 3 or 4 years while expenditure on this Department was mounting up every year. I may tell him that the decrease in revenue receipts are due among others to the following reasons, *viz.*, that for the last 2 or 3 years this unfortunate State has been the victim of so many natural calamities beginning from the earthquake to the successive floods, drought, pests, and things of that kind. For these reasons Government have been compelled in some places to grant remission of land revenue while in other places collection of revenue has been suspended temporarily. For instance, in the Barpeta subdivision, spreading over several Mouzas, on account of communal disturbances I had to suspend realisation of land revenue for the years 1357 and 1358; similar action had to be taken for some parts of other districts also. In Upper Assam it is not unknown to you, Sir, what extensive damage was caused by earthquake and floods. Most of the victims had to be afforded relief in the shape of remission of land revenue or by suspension of its realisation. These factors have resulted in lesser receipt of land revenue in our State in the current year.

As to the mounting expenses, I may state for the information of the hon. Member that expenses have risen due to the settlement operations which are in progress since the last 3 or 4 years. The settlement operations in the district of Cachar are nearing completion and we hope they will be over in course of a year. Then, Sir, my hon. Friend said that so much time should not have been taken for settlement operations in a small town like Gauhati. But, Sir, I submit that the area of Gauhati town may be small, but the problem there is a very complicated one. Price of land is very high. Land is very valuable in the Gauhati town and the settlement operation in Gauhati town is very much complicated for this and other reasons. It is going on in other parts of the country—the immature areas in Barpeta, the immature areas in Tezpur and Nowgong and the immature areas in Golaghat; settlement operations are going on and naturally expenditure in this department should go up.

My hon. Friend has said that the collection cost is shown as very high—as much as 8 lakhs in the next year. For the information of the hon. Members I should state here that Mouzadars in Assam have been pressing Government to give some consideration to their case; while Government servants have been getting the benefit of dearness allowance in these hard days, the Mouzadars have not been given the consideration that is due to them. Government after due consideration of the cases of Mouzadars were pleased to increase the commission of the Mouzadars to certain extent. This is the reason for the enhancement in cost.

**Shri MOHENDRA NATH DEKA :** May I know the rate of increase that has been allowed?

**The Hon'ble Shri MOTIRAM BORA :** Ten Rupees per hundred upto Rs. 15,000 and same rate upto Rs. 20,000 if realisation can be completed within a certain date.

My hon. Friend Mr. Deka has given some very useful information to me. I feel the information given by Mr. Deka is very important. He says that land revenue in Gauhati is very small. In a small town like Palashbari, rate of land revenue is Rs.120 per bigha but in the town of Gauhati it is very small in comparison. It is only Rs.30. The matter is really under consideration and final decision of the Government will be taken early as to what rate of land revenue should be fixed for Gauhati Town. The matter is pending and in course of a few months the matter will be finalised and suggestion of my hon. Friend will be given due consideration at proper time.

He also said that why so much time was taken in completing the settlement operation in Gauhati town. As I have said, it is because the settlement operation in Gauhati town is a very complicated affair and must take some time from the nature of the thing.

The last point stated by my Friend, Mr. Deka, is that Government did not take effective and timely steps for the improvement of the revenue position—revenue position would have improved it. Government had done all that is possible and all possible steps that could be taken, were taken. For his information, I may say that everything possible is being done to take out the concealed revenue to our coffer. Survey operations have been undertaken in different districts and improvement of the position has been noticed as a result of these survey operations. It has been ordered that the Sub-Deputy Collector who will be able to complete the survey operation in his circle early, his case will receive due consideration at proper time from Government. That has resulted in some improvement of the position also. In the Tihu circle, survey operations have been completed. Government have not been sitting idle and they have taken active steps in the matter. In Rangiya circle also, that is being ordered. My hon. Friend says why Government did not initiate settlement operations earlier. If this was done, these operations would have been finished by this time. The reason is this that the settlement operations have been initiated by Government after completion of a lot of preparations which take some time.

One word more about Urban Areas Tenancy Bill. He said that because of the absence of this Act, the rapacious landlords have been harassing the poor tenants. Government have realised it and had brought that measure *viz.*, the Urban Areas Tenancy Bill, with a view to give some relief to the hard pressed people of the State. But the Government of India has sent back this Bill which



was sent for the assent of the President with an endorsement from the Attorney General that our Bill comes in conflict with certain provisions of the Constitution and we have been asked to redraft it. We have directed our Law Officers to redraft the Bill in the light of the suggestions given by the Attorney General. I hope to bring this measure early before this House.

I hope the hon. Mover of the Cut Motion is satisfied with what I have stated and I request my hon. Friend to withdraw the Cut Motion.

**Shri MOHENDRA NATH DEKA:** I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Cut Motion.

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

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I make my speech I would like to request you to allow me 15 minutes more because.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** No, no.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** It is my request, Sir, because I have another Motion on Industries and I shall not move that Motion; that is why I request you to give me more time now.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** That cannot be your plea for more time. However, carry on.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.36,89,200 under Grant No.2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, at page 2 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.36,89,200 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, I have moved this motion because I am not satisfied with the entire land policy of the Government. The land policy of the Government must not be formulated just on land revenue earning basis, but must be formulated with a view to bring more welfare to the people and to increase the productivity of the land. Assam is a predominantly agricultural State. About 80 per cent. of the people live on agriculture, yet we find that we are suffering every year under the chronic shortage of food. So we must give maximum emphasis on this problem and do everything possible to tackle the land problem. As is rightly said, Sir, the problem of agriculture is the problem of industry. Both are interwoven. We cannot discuss agriculture without discussing industry. Our problem to-day is not only how to bring the vast acres of land still lying fallow under the plough, and how to redistribute land amongst the landless people, but we must also tackle the pressure of population on land and at the same time utilise all available land to increase food supply of the province. Sir, in this connection I would again say that we must not view the food problem, as one of somehow filling the gap and filling the deficit, but we must tackle it on a long term policy. If we do that, then it is essential that we take up the land problem with topmost priority in the State. Sir, I will cite certain figures that I have been able to find from the Agricultural Statistics of Assam in the Report for 1949-50. Our total land under cultivation according to this statistics is 5,569,918 acres; the total land under tea gardens is 1,429,950 and the actual area under tea is

only 400,000 acres—1,000,000 acres of tea land is still not under cultivation. The actual area of land lying fallow during the year under report was 1,739,011 acres and other uncultivable lands excluding fallow land is 16,946,238 acres. Of this figure, in the seven Plains districts we have only 1,765,000 acres. That is, we have still as uncultivable fallow land of 3,504,019 acres. Then Sir, I will cite certain figures from the statistics of a Survey of Rural Economic conditions in Darrang—this gives us only a sample survey. Sir, we find 82 per cent. of the villagers are on the average, predominantly agricultural families, owner cultivators form 54 per cent. and tenant cultivators form 20 per cent. of the agricultural families; the average holding is 18.3 bighas of the family, 18.484 per cent of the families are without any land. About 25 per cent. hold between 6 and 15 bighas per family. Only 12.6 per cent of the families hold more than 30 bighas per family. This shows that about 88 per cent. of the people have lands of less than 15 bighas. Sir, I have gone into these statistics and find that the cultivators owning land between 1 bigha and 10 bighas is 35.7. All this shows that a large proportion of our people are holding land which is not sufficient according to the present standard of living. Sir, these figures are self-explanatory. They explain how huge the problem of land is to-day. Unless we tackle the problem of the landless people to-day in a scientific manner, our province is heading towards a crisis. Sir, it is not the Socialists or the Communists who whip up a revolution, but this army of landless people who have kept the Democles' sword hanging on the disintegrating economy of the province of ours. If we are to give lands to the landless, it is essential that we give topmost priority to this problem and solve it now

Sir, I have seen that in our State the policy of Government in the sphere of land has been very hesitant and halting. Abolition of Zamindary was professed and a Zamindary Abolition Act was passed in 1949, but it has taken three years for its implementation. It affects only two districts, Cachar and Goalpara although in other places also we have Zamindars though they may not be called so according to definition. Abolition of Zamindary can be no more than a phase in our agrarian reforms. We see Sir, that this abolition has not been effected in the way in which it should have been done. But even then abolition of Zamindary alone will not solve this huge land problem in our State. If we are to do social justice to our people, we must redistribute the land and give to the landless their due. Sir, it is said very often that we are doing it, but when we see the policy that has been followed in the State we find it will take 50 years if not more to give land to the landless and, Sir, by the end of 50 years we will have different ideas for social reforms and the present reforms will become out of date by that time.

Sir, it is also claimed that by the Adhiars Protection Act this Government have done much to give relief to the people, but unfortunately if we go into the matter, we will find that this Adhiars Protection Act has been giving more benefit to the landlords than to the Adhiars. Moreover, this Act has not been applied in all districts. I do not know for whom and why this Act has been kept in abeyance. But whenever we say that this Adhiars Protection Act should be applied to those districts where it does not apply, it is said that the people should clamour about it and demand it and then we will allow the Act to operate in a particular district. That is a policy which is wrong in itself. That means that Government also want an agitation on this score from the people.

Sir, in the Adhiars Protection Act scope has been given to the landlord to take away land from the Adhiars if he so desires, as for instance, if the landlord wants the land for himself or if he considers that the tenant is cultivating it in a way prejudicial to the interest of the land. For this real Adhiars are not getting the benefit

of this Act and the landlords are evicting Adhiars in various places taking advantage of some clauses of this Adhiars Act. We cannot encourage litigation. Our people cannot afford to do so. It means more money for lawyers, stamp fees etc., It is for the Government to see that this Act is fully implemented and people get the benefit and to do this, Sir, I would suggest that there should be a Special Magistrate. Some of my hon. Friends may say that the other day I was against increase in the number of Magistrates, but why I am talking of Special Magistrates now? But I would like officers to be appointed in the right place and when he is really needed. Special Magistrates should be appointed to give effect to this Act, otherwise, if our people submit petitions to Deputy Commissioners, these petitions are never attended to. Sir, evictions are going on indiscriminately. It is the supreme duty of Government to encourage people to grow more food.

In application of this Act, discrimination has been shown in different places. I will give one or two instances. In Moirabari-Laharighat Mauza in about 16 Villages viz., Lengeri, Uralkata, Bahamuk, Utkati, Amguri, Bhuiyabari, Belabari and such other villages where Tribal people were living, there these tribal people sold land to immigrants. But in 1948 there was an order according to which no annual patta land could be sold and even if sale is effected that sale will not be valid. Even then some immigrants settled there and for two years, 1948 and 1949 they did not pay any land revenue. After that, they gave Touzibahi revenue, but no patta was issued to them. In this case there was no eviction but in Akshedpath or Pathar 1,600 families were evicted for purchasing such annual patta lands. I think, Sir, such discrimination should not be encouraged.

Recently, I received a telegram from Bhurbandha, where there was a dispute regarding some lands whether it belongs to Darrang or Nowgong district. The people occupying this land, a *char*, have been evicted; not only that, even their standing crops, such as, mustard and paddy, were destroyed. Sir, it is criminal. Crops should not have been burnt and the people occupying the land should not have been evicted when the country is facing a food crisis. Rather we should have encouraged people in their voluntary effort to increase the food supply of the country. There ought to be some amount of mercy in such cases.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Will you please conclude as your time is up?

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** I will conclude, Sir.

In Rupahi in Shantipur Tea Estate in Dibrugarh, some people were cultivating some lands. These people were evicted for no fault of theirs.

We find, Sir, that Socialist and some others who do not belong to Congress are easily evicted.

I remember also the voluntary activity and voluntary effort made by our people to increase food for the people in Tengakhat was thwarted and people were evicted and 54 persons were arrested in Ghiladhari. One hundred twenty-four persons were arrested in Diploma and Moirabari in Tezpur subdivision. More than 100 persons were arrested in Sarucharai and Nakachari. I know of all these personally. These people repeatedly requested Government to allot land to them as they were landless and they were eager to take up cultivation for their livelihood as well as to increase the food production in the country, but when they found that Government paid no heed to their petitions, they had no alternative but to occupy these lands.

Sir, law should always be mixed with equity. Congress Party in the years from 1948 to 1950 were crying hoarse for remission of land revenue. I am not in favour of land revenue remission as such, but if it can be done, it is well and good. If we can increase the productivity of land, there is no harm in increasing land revenue. But there are definite cases which deserve remission of land revenue. In the South Bank of Kamrup district the whole produce was destroyed by hail storms only a few months back. Similarly, in the same South Bank of the district there was a genuine case for land revenue remission for erosion and flood havoc. Petitions for remission were made by the affected people, but no remission was granted. Sir, I consider, we must grant land revenue remission in such cases, although it may affect land revenue position of the Province because Government must be sympathetic and do justice to suffering people.

Lastly, Sir, I want to say a few words about the Mauzadars. I was once the President of the Assam Mauzadars Conference and in that Conference certain resolutions were passed. I do not consider the Mauzadars of Assam as landholders. They are not landholders. They are to collect land revenue for which they are given a commission. I do not approve of the present system of giving commission to them. I should like to have them appointed on fixed salary basis, as this will do away with many of the complications. In the last election some of the Mauzadars wanted to contest for Assembly seats, but the Government did not allow them to do so on the ground that they are Government servants. But it is found that at another time they are not treated as Government servants. Their position is most anomalous. When this is the case, I should like that they should be considered as either regular Government servants by giving them salaries or as non-Government servants with sufficient amount of commission. Many of the Mauzadars' families were ruined during these years for economic hardship. Treat these Mauzadars either as Government servants or give them commission and treat them as private persons and let them live happily.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Cut Motion moved: "That the total provision of Rs.36,89,200 under Grant No.2, major head—7—Land Revenue, at page 2 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1 *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.36,89,200 do stand reduced by Re.1."

**Shri GKANAKANTA GOGOI:** Sir, I may be allowed to speak a few words on this Cut Motion.

Recently about 40 families of Dibrugarh living in the cantonment area have been ejected.....

**The Hon'ble Shri MOTI RAM BORA:** The hon. Member spoke the other day on this particular point, Sir, and I gave a reply.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Yes, you spoke on this point the other day.

**Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI:** I do not encourage any unlawful occupation of land, Sir, but to what I want to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Revenue Minister is that these unfortunate people who lived in the cantonment area for the last 40 years and are now going to be ejected, must be given some relief by way of requisitioning some surplus land from any tea garden lying near the cantonment area—say from Barbari or Chowkidingi Tea Estate.

The next point to which I want to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Revenue Minister is that the people of the Bajipahu village, in Tingkhong Mauza though they lived there for the last 25 years or so, have still not been given periodic patta for their land, and as such they do not feel quite safe to go on living in that village and improve the land for fear that they might be ejected at any time, as their rights to the holdings are based on annual pattas.

The next thing to which I want to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Revenue Minister is that after the erosion by the Brahmaputra of a beautiful village, Nagakhelia, near the Dibrugarh town, the large portion of the affected people applied for some Government land or some land to be requisitioned from the Chaukidingi Tea Estate by Government. Land was actually requisitioned. Later on, major portion of the requisitioned land from the Chaukidingi Tea Estate, to the despair of these affected people, has been settled with the so-called Nagakhelia-Boa-Kata Co-operative Society, many of the members of which do not belong to that eroded village. So, actually a good portion of the requisitioned land has actually gone to people, not all affected by erosion. I hope the Hon'ble Minister in-charge will kindly look into this and allot land to the erosion affected villagers for whom the land was requisitioned.

The next point to which I want to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Revenue is that the settlement of land with the Garudharia Agricultural Co-operative Society in Larua Mauza is a very unpopular measure, as the portion of the land that has been earmarked for it is needed by the landless people of Larua or Jamira Mauza. Settlement of land is an urgent necessity for the landless people of Bajipahu village in Tingkhong Mauza and with the erosion affected people of the Nagakhelia village near the Dibrugarh town and also with the ejected people of the cantonment area. In order to encourage the people to grow more food and to develop the Garudharia area, that area should be settled with all the landless cultivators of Jamira and Larua Mauzas who really want land. The Agricultural Co-operative Society with which that area has been settled, will never succeed as management of the farm is very faulty and the people want land for private cultivation and not a co-operative farm. I hope the Hon'ble Minister in charge will see that the land is made available for those landless cultivators settled in the neighbourhood of Gurudhasia Farm area.

**Shri HARINARAYAN BARUA:** মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, বিবোধী দলৰ নেতা মাননীয় গোস্বামীদেবে যিটো কৰ্ত্তন পুস্তাৰ এই পৰিষদত উপস্থাপিত কৰিছে, তাৰ বিবোধীতা কৰিবলৈ মই থিয় দিছো। পুস্তাৰটোৰ আলোচনা পুস্কৃত কেইটামান কথাৰ ভুল ব্যাখ্যা তেখেতে দিছে যেন লাগিছে আৰু তাৰ উত্তৰ হিচাবে—মই কেই আঘাৰমান কথা নোকোৱাটো উচিত নহব বুলি বিবেচনা কৰো। কাৰণ সেই কেইটা তেখেতে আমাৰ যোৰহাট মহকুমাৰ কথা কেই কৈছে। আমাৰ দেশৰ আজি যিটো খাদ্য পৰিস্থিতি আৰু সেই খাদ্য পৰিস্থিতিৰ পৰা দেশখন কেনেকৈ বক্ষা কৰিব পাৰি আৰু দেশৰ মানুহে কেনেকৈ এই সমস্যা অতিক্ৰম কৰি যাব পাৰিব সেই বিষয়ে আলোচনা কৰিবলৈ যাওতে তেখেত এটা কথাত জোৰ দিছে। সেইটো হৈছে মাটিহীন মানুহ বিলাকক মাটি দিয়া চৰকাৰৰ উচিত কৰ্ত্তব্য হব আৰু মাটিহীন মানুহ বিলাকক মাটি দিলে সেই মাটিত বাস কৰি অধিক শস্য উৎপাদন কৰিব আৰু এই খাদ্য সঙ্কট সমস্যাৰ সমাধান পথত সহায় হব। হয়, এইটো ঠিক কথা; এই কথাত আসি সকলো একমত। তেখেতৰ কৰ্ত্তন পুস্তাৰটিৰ আলোচনা পুস্কৃত যদি তেখেতে এই কথা কৈ গলহেতেন যে চৰকাৰে খাদ্য সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিবৰ কাৰণে কিছুমান কাৰ্য্য হাতত লৈছে আৰু তাৰ লগে লগে এই খিনি কাৰ্য্যৰ পৰা এই সমস্যা বহুখিনি সমাধান হব—তেতিয়া হলে মোৰ কব লগীয়া একো নাছিল। কিন্তু তেখেতে, তেখেতৰ কেৱল এটা কথাৰ ওপৰেতেই লক্ষ্য ৰাখি কথা বিলাক কৈছে আৰু সেই কাৰণেই মই কেইঘাৰ মান কথা কবলৈ বাধ্য হৈছো।

সিদিনা বাজেট আলোচনা প্ৰসঙ্গত সৰু চৰাই আৰু নকছাৰী মৌজাৰ কথা তেখেতে কৈছিল। নোৰ দুটো বিশ্বাস এইবিলাক কথা যে তেখেতে এই সদনত কবলগীয়া হৈছে তাৰ বাবে তেখেতৰ সহকৰ্মী সকলেহে দায়ী। সত্য কথাৰ সম্বন্ধ পোৱা হলে সেই কথা তেখেতে উপস্থাপিত নকৰিলেহেতেন। মই সেইদিনা তেখেতক শুধিছিলো “আপুনি জানেনে যে গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে মাটিহীন মানুহক মাটি দিবৰ কাৰণে কোম্পানীবিলাকক মাটি এৰি দিবলৈ নটীছ দিয়াত সেই মাটিবিলাক কোম্পানীয়ে ছাৰেণ্ডাৰ কৰিছিল?” কিন্তু তেখেতে সেই খবৰটো পাইছে বুলি নকলে। মাটিহীন মানুহক মাটি বিতৰণ কৰিবৰ কাৰণে কোম্পানীয়ে গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ ওচৰত মাটি ছাৰেণ্ডাৰ কৰিছে। অকল সৰু চৰাই বাগিছাৰ ১ হাজাৰ বিঘা মাটি গবৰ্ণমেণ্টক দিছে। গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে সেইবোৰ মাটি মাটিহীন মানুহক বিতৰণ কৰিবৰ কাৰণে দৰখাস্ত আৰু সেই দৰখাস্ত-বিলাকৰ পৰা মাটি পাবলগীয়া মানুহৰ লিষ্ট গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে তৈয়াৰ কৰিছিল। কিন্তু যোৱা নিৰ্বাচনৰ আগতে ছিছিয়েলিষ্ট পাৰ্টিয়ে দেখিলে যে কংগ্ৰেছ গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে মাটিহীন মানুহক মাটি বিতৰণ কৰিলে কংগ্ৰেছ ৰাইজৰ মাজত জনপ্ৰিয় হৈ উঠিব। সেই দেখিয়েই কংগ্ৰেছৰ জনপ্ৰিয়তা নষ্ট কৰিবলৈ ছিছিয়েলিষ্ট পাৰ্টিৰ মানুহে ৰাইজক ভুল বুজাই থ্ৰাণ্টৰ মাটিবোৰ পাৰ্টি ইনটাৰেষ্টৰ কাৰণে বলেৰে দখল কৰালে, আচল মাটিহীন উপযুক্ত মানুহবোৰ পৰি থাকিল। এনে ধৰণৰ গোলমালৰ কাৰণেই সেই মাটিবিলাক আৰ্জিও গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে দখল দিব পৰা নাই। এই কথাবিলাক তেখেত সকলে ভালকৈ নজনাৰ কাৰণে এই পৰিঘটনাই আহি যথেষ্ট গবৰ্ণমেণ্টক দোষাৰোপ কৰিছে। আৰু এটা থ্ৰাণ্টত দখলকাৰী সকলৰ মাটি দখল কৰোতে গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে সেই মানুহবিলাকক গ্ৰেপ্তাৰ কৰি ফাটেক দিছে বুলি বিৰোধী দলৰ মাননীয় নেতাই অভিযোগ আনিছে। তেখেতৰ মতে সেই ঠাই ডোখৰ হৈছে নকছাৰী—নকছাৰী নহয়, নকছাৰীৰ পৰা কিছুদূৰত। সেই থ্ৰাণ্টটোৰ নাম কাৰ্য্যই প্ৰকৃত দুঃখীয়াক সহায় কৰেনে অনিষ্ট কৰে, দৰৈ ভাবি চাব লগা হৈছে। মই এই কাৰণে অন্তৰত দুঃখ পাইছো যে তেখেতৰ যোৰগাটৰ সহকৰ্মী সকলে সত্য খবৰ যোগান দিয়া নাই। মই ভাবো এনে কৰাত গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ প্ৰতি অবিচাৰ কৰা হৈছে।

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** আপুনি চমুকৈ ককক।

**Shri HARINARAYN BARUAH:** হয়, তাৰ পাচত গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে যেতিয়া বাগিছাৰ থ্ৰাণ্টৰ মাটি লবৰ কাৰণে মাটিহীন মানুহক আহ্বান জনায় তেতিয়া ছিছিয়েলিষ্ট পাৰ্টিয়ে মানুহ-বোৰক উচৰ্চনি দি কয় যে, তোমালোকে মাটি নলবা। তোমালোক দুঃখীয়া মানুহ তোমালোকে কেনেকৈ মাটি ভাঙি লবা।

গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে ট্ৰেজৰ দি মাটি ভঙাই দিয়ক। এনেকুৱা ধৰণৰ propaganda ৰ দ্বাৰা গৱলীয়া মানুহ বিপথগামী হোৱা স্বাভাৱিক। এই কাৰণে যোৰহাটত ২১ হাজাৰ বিঘা মাটি মাটিহীন মানুহৰ কাৰণে খুলি দিয়া সত্ত্বেও এশ ঘৰতকৈ বেছি মানুহে মাটি লবলৈ যোৱা নাই।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় আধিয়াৰ protection আইন প্ৰসঙ্গত মই একাধাৰ কথা কব খোজো। আধিয়াৰ আইন গবৰ্ণমেণ্টে পাচ কৰি গৈছে দুখীয়া খেতিয়কৰ সহায়ৰ কাৰণে এই কাৰ্য্যৰ কাৰণে তেখেতসকলে গবৰ্ণমেণ্টক ধন্যবাদ দিয়ক নিদিয়ক আধিয়াৰ আইনৰ যদি কিবা আসোৱাহ দেখিছে তেন্তে সেই বিলাক আসোয়াহ গুছাবলৈ এই পৰিঘটনাত এটা সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱ উত্থাপন কৰি দোষ ক্ৰটি বোৰ গুধৰাই ললে সেই আইন নিশ্চয় তেখেত সকলেই ভবা মতেই কাৰ্য্যকৰী হব। তাকে নকৰি বতাহৰ দৰে কৈ গলে সমস্যাৰ সমাধান নহয়।

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** আপুনি শেষ ককক।

**Shri HARINARAYAN BARUAH:** মোক আৰু ২ মিনিট সময় দিলেই যোৰ শেষ হব।

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** আপোনাক আৰু আধা মিনিট সময় দিয়া হ'ল।

**Shri HARINARAYAN BARUAH:** আগতে গাঁৱৰ যিবিলাক দুখীয়া শ্ৰেণীৰ মাটিহীন মানুহে আধি লৈ আনৰ মাটিত খেতি কৰিছিল তেওঁলোকে আধা শস্য মাটিৰ গৰাকীক দিব লাগিছিল। কিন্তু আধিয়াৰ আইনৰ পাছৰ পৰা মাটিৰ গৰাকীক  $\frac{1}{2}$  শস্য দি গৱলীয়া দুখীয়া খেতিয়কে যথেষ্ট সকাহ পাইছে।

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** আপোনাৰ সময় উকলী গ'ল।

**The Hon'ble Shri MOTIRAM BORA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to my Friend, the Leader of the Opposition, for giving me an opportunity to reiterate in the floor of the House the Government policy, I mean the land settlement policy of the Government. Sir, this land settlement policy has been a subject-matter of discussion in various places including the floor of this House. It has been discussed threadbare, and in all these places Government policy has been clearly defined. My Friend has given me an opportunity to reiterate that policy again before this House, and I thank him for that.

Now, Sir, my Friend Shri Goswami is dissatisfied with the policy that has been pursued by this Government in the matter of land settlement. He says that the policy is halting and hesitant and that we have no clear cut policy formulated as yet. Sir, our policy in this respect is quite clear, and it has been announced times without number. Our policy is this—we want to do away with the old feudal relics in the State of Assam, and Government want to bring about an equitable solution of the vexatious and complicated land problem. Government also want to introduce such reforms in the land tenure of this State as will make it up-to-date and fit in with the modern economic trend. With this end in view, Sir, Government have introduced various measures and have taken various steps in our State. We had made some progress in the abolition of Zamindari. About three years back we passed legislation to bring about this innovation, but Sir, our hands were stayed by the order of the Hon'ble High Court. Apprehending that there might be some delay in proceeding with that Act, we did another thing. We passed another measure, and that was the Estates Management Act. There also our hands were stayed. We could not proceed further. So, Sir, you will be pleased to find that there is no latch on part of the Government in this matter. We want reforms, as early as possible, consistent with the spirit of the time. Where is the doubt and where is the hesitancy on the part of the Government as alleged by my hon. Friend?

There may be some delay in their implementation, which is inevitable from the very nature of the thing. Sir, I am not an impatient idealist like my hon. Friend, I am a practical and a matter-of-fact man. I do not care if there be delay of a year or two if our desire of effecting land reforms can be fulfilled. If we could wait patiently for so many years, why can't we wait for another year or two?

Then, Sir, with a view to give land to the landless people we have passed the Acquisition and Requisition Act by means of which we have been able to take about a lakh of bighas of land from the tea estates and we will take more from that source. For whom have we taken that land, if not for the landless people? Then, Sir, we have been consistently and cautiously following a policy of dereservation, of course, consistent with the safety of the State and the interests of the graziers of the State, an vast areas of reserves, both Professional Grazing Reserve and Villages Grazing Reserve, have been thrown open during the last few years in order to provide landless people with land. If after that, my Friend says that we have done nothing that is surely an unmerited injustice done to the Government. I had already given facts and figures to the hon. Members in the Opposition to show that a very large quantity of land has been found out from the tea gardens, from the Professional Grazing Reserves and Villages Grazing Reserves and from wastelands (A voice:—Why food production is decreasing then?) (Another Voice:—Due to your underground activities). I am sorry, Sir, my hon. Friends are confusing issues. My Friend, Mr. Goswami, said a lot of things about difficulties of food production, pressure of population, productivity of land and things of this kind which really pertain to the Agriculture Department. Any way, Sir, I am trying to meet them as far as possible.

Sir, the land policy which this Government is pursuing has been evolved as a result of mature consideration on the part of Government and we will steadfastly follow this policy as long as we are here. My hon. Friend, Mr. Goswami, said that there was some lacuna in the Adhiars Protection Act. He said that in some places the Act was operating to the advantage of the landlords and to the detriment of the interests of the *adhiars*. Sir, this is a news to me. If really there is any lacuna, my hon. Friend can bring in an Amending Bill, or if a case can be made out that this Act in its operation is causing prejudice to our tenants, for whose benefit this was enacted, certainly we shall give due consideration to it. After all, Sir, for whose benefit did we enact that Act? Certainly, for the benefit of the tenants. I would therefore request my hon. Friend to give some concrete and useful suggestions. Then, he made a grievance that the Act had not been extended to some parts of the State. That is true, but it should be remembered that in some parts of our State the rent realised by the landlords is less than one-fourth of the produce. That is why we have not extended it to these parts of the State. If we find that the Act should be extended to certain parts of the State for the benefit of the people, we will certainly do that.

Then, Sir, Mr. Goswami referred to certain cases in Ghiladhari, Sorucherra and Nakachari Tea Estates. My hon. Friend, Mr. Harinarayan Barua, has convincingly replied that the blame lies not on Government but on a political party. If there has been any inconvenience, it is due to the activities of a certain political party. It was for the benefit of the landless people that the Act was enacted and the intention of the Government will be quite evident from a perusal of the preamble and the various sections of the Act. It is in the interest of these people that tea garden land was acquired. But, Sir, before making of the map and preparation of the *dags*, etc., in order to make allotments, if some people at the instigation of some political parties take the law in their hands and go and squat upon the land thereby preventing Government from proceeding in a lawful and regular way, certainly the blame lies on the party creating these disturbances. I submit, Sir, that in this matter of life-and-death-importance to our landless people, no political party should exploit the situation in this way. Everyone should help Government and not create complications by exploiting the innocence and credulity of our people.

Then, Sir, it has been urged that some sort of relief should be given to the people in the southern side of Kamrup district who have suffered from hailstorm. Certainly, Sir, if we receive reports from our local officers that the people in those areas could not reap their crops due to their crops being damaged by hailstorm, we shall give due consideration to this and, if necessary, grant either remission, or suspend the realisation, of revenue. It is to meet such contingencies that there are provisions in the Statute Book and we shall certainly take the case of the affected people into our consideration.

Now, Sir, as regards Mauzadars, Mr. Goswami has said that their position is anomalous. Well, Sir, the Mouzadar is a creature of the Statute—Land Revenue Manual. The definition of this office is already there. His powers and duties are stated there. It is stated whether he is an officer of the Government or not. All these things are there. He is the collector of revenue and gets commission for the collection. He is partly official and partly non-official. I do not understand where does he find any anomaly. Therefore, Sir, I do not find that any case has been made out. I am sorry I do not see my way to give them pay and make them salaried servants of the Government rather it may not be good to them as well, if it is considered from all perspective.

A salaried Mauzadar will be subject to Government service rules and rules of transfer and the like. Hereditary character of the office may be lost and he may not take to side business and things of that sort to increase his earning.



I want to speak a word as regards the suggestion of Shri Ghana Kanta Gogoi. He says that 42 families of Dibrugarh have been evicted by the Government. For the information of the House I should say, that these 42 families are mostly washermen, barbars and so on. They were squatting upon valuable Government land in the town of Dibrugarh. How can Government allow such squatting in valuable Government land? I am myself satisfied that such land cannot be given to these people.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** What is the alternative arrangement?

**The Hon'ble Shri MOTIRAM BORA:** They want land in the neighbourhood of Dibrugarh town. To give them land in the neighbourhood of Dibrugarh is very difficult. Still I am keeping this in my mind. If some land is found wherefrom they carry on their profession as barbar and washermen, it will be considered.

As regards annual patta given to some people in Tingkhong Mouza—it is a very complicated problem. Government is pursuing certain policy with the regard to the 'Ekshona' land in the State of Assam. He has pointed out that 'Ekshona' land should be made periodic. It is a matter of great State policy in which lots of complications are involved. Therefore, I cannot off-hand say if they can be made periodic pattas. So far as I can state from re-collection, Government by an order suspended granting of periodic pattas for sometime for important consideration. We are examining the whole thing now. At present settlement operations are going on in different parts of Assam and some decision will have to be taken at the time of issue of pattas after the operations are over. All the points raised will be given due consideration by Government at the time of taking final decision. I shall not take much time of the House. My Friend, Mr. Goswami, says that there is discrimination that some people were evicted while others were not evicted. I may assure him that there is no discrimination, at all in eviction.

As regards Bharbandha eviction, the matter is under discussion. Even to-day I had some discussion about this with my Revenue Secretary.

With these words, I would request my hon. Friend to withdraw his Motion.

(The Cut Motion was put and lost.)

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I put the original Motion. The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs.36,89,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March 1953 for the administration of the head '7.—Land Revenue'."

(The Motion was adopted.)

#### GRANT No.23.

#### (43.—Industries and Supplies—1.—Sericulture and Weaving)

**The Hon'ble Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.8,77,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1953 for the administration of the head "43.—Industries and Supplies—I.—Sericulture and Weaving".

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.8,77,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1953 for the administration of the head '43.—Industries and Supplies—I.—Sericulture and Weaving'."

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** I do not like to move the the Cut Motion standing in my name.

( The original Motion was put and adopted. )

GRANT No.3.

(8.—Excise)

**The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. NICHOLS-ROY:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.8,07,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1953 for the administration of the head '8.—Excise'."

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.8,07,100 be granted to defray the charges come in the course of which will payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1953 for the administration of the head '8.—Excise'."

**Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** Sir, I beg to move:

"That the total provision of Rs.8,07,100 under Grant No.3, Major head—8.—Provincial Excise, at page 13 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.8,07,100 do stand reduced by Re.1.

In moving this Motion, I beg to place only one point and that is with regard to the prohibition propaganda. I see in page 13 of the detailed estimates of Budget that under this item prohibition propaganda, I find a provision of Rs.2,72,609 and under the Sixth Schedule we have Rs.42,012, that is the total comes to Rs.3,14,621.

In reply to our Leader the other day, the Hon'ble Finance Minister was pleased enough to give him a compliment of being an idealist and for himself.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** No, you cannot reply in his absence.

**Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** But I want to make some observations on his remarks.....(A voice from the Opposition: "some one will take note for him") However, Sir, when this prohibition of opium was enunciated and propagated by the Congress and Congress Government, it was done with a definite ideal and that ideal was social reform. I myself had the honour of being one of the volunteers to work in the Dibrugarh Subdivision in 1939 when the Opium Prohibition Campaign was conducted there and we did feel then and we do feel now that this canker should be removed from our society. It has been aptly said—

“কেপা কানি বিহৰ শেষ

কানিয়ে খালে অসম দেশ।”

Sir, so far as the principle of Prohibition is concerned, I think the entire society is unanimous that opium at least should be totally prohibited from this State. But if we go to the actual operation of this Prohibition, how far it has been successful and how it has been done ?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Can you tell me what was the amount of consumption of opium in Assam ?

**Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** I am sorry, I do not know the actual figures, Sir. I am not going into the actual figures because I do not know them. But I beg to submit that if we go to the people and ask them how Prohibition is proceeding and whether the people have actually been cured from this evil habit, we always hear the reply in the negative and that opium is spreading as before the only difference being that the price is higher than before because contraband and opium is to be purchased by addicts and they had to pay more.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** What is the rate of contraband opium ?

**Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** It must be something like Rs.415 to Rs.420 per seer : it may be less or it may be more but it must be more than Rs.400 per seer. I, however, am not sure because I do not myself deal in this matter (*Laughter*). Yes, Sir, I do not deal in this matter. Of course, people say that the black material is carried under 'white caps'..... (*Load laughter*).

**Shri HARI NARAYAN BARUA :** মই জানিব পাবোনে তেখেতে কেতিয়াবা white cap ব পৰা কানি কিনিছিলনে ?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** You can take it as a joke, can't you ?

**The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE :** 'White cap' phobia again ! (*Laughter, loud and prolonged*).

**Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** I am only stating what people say, Sir, because, as I said, I am not myself dealing in this matter and I have.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** What is the conception of the present consumption ?

**Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** I do not know the actual quantity ; but people say that it is increasing.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** What was the increase ?

**Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** I cannot say, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Will the hon. Member be a little accurate and state the accurate figures because that will give us more light in the matter ?

**Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** Thank you, Sir, for the suggestion. As I have already said, I do not know the actual transactions and I am only giving the general impression and the general talk of the people. So, if I am not accurate, I hope you will please excuse me. Now, Sir, while I was in jail, I came in contact with many smugglers—some of them

had been placed in the upper division with me..... (laughter, loud and disturbing)..... Yes, Sir, some smugglers were placed in the upper division. So, Sir, from them I came to know that this business is going on and prospering under the protection and patronage of the white caps and so I beg to submit that this amount of 3 lakhs and odd on this prohibition propaganda has been not only a sheer waste of public money but this has been indirectly appropriated by some of the honourable incumbents. So, I should like to suggest that if the Government is really serious in eradicating this evil, we should take up a proper and vigorous campaign among the backward section of our people to educate them and to raise their standard of culture, their standard of learning and their standard of living so that when their general standard of living and culture is raised, they will be able to see the evil effects of this opium—that it is not only an evil drug but it is really a poison, then naturally they will shrink from it and give up the habit. If we do not approach this problem in the right way and if we only go on appointing Honorary Commissioners whom the people now-a-days call “Anahari”—Commissioners, and if we only go on parading and trumpeting that we have done a thing which perhaps no other State in India has been able to do, that will not solve this problem. So my suggestion is that if the Government is really serious about making the opium prohibition policy a success, we should instead divert this amount to the amelioration of the countryside and improve the cultural standard of our backward people.

With these words, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.8,07,100 under Grant No.3, major head—8.—Provincial Excise at page 13 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.8,07,100 do stand reduced by Re.1.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Cut Motion moved :

“That the total provision of Rs.8,07,100 under Grant No.3, major head—8.—Excise, at page 13 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.8,07,100 do stand reduced by Re.1.”

**Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make some observations on the conduct of some Excise staff, especially, in the villages. It is a well known fact to many of our friends, who have returned to this House from Dibrugarh that Excise Officials, especially, Superintendents and Inspectors are alleged to have been doing dirty things. In the subdivision of Dibrugarh there are 30 to 35 shops of Ganja and country-liquor. These shops are settled to *benamdars* and it appears that all these shops have been monopolised by three parties.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** I should like to advise you not to bring allegation of corruption against whole sale of Excise staff. Such charges should be deprecated as you have not been able to give definite charge against definite officer. It will be appreciated if you cite definite instances.

**Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI :** It is difficult to give definite instance as it is difficult to prove.

I would draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the state of affairs in Dibrugarh. Bribe is given and received by Excise staff very freely.

**The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE :** On a point of information, Sir, there are many other hon. Members from Dibrugarh in this House, will they corroborate the statement made by Mr. Gogoi ?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** There is no need to corroborate.

**Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI:** Surely, Sir, they will corroborate what I said.

Some people of Upper Assam are smuggling contraband opium and much money is spent in purchasing this opium by the poor addicts. In my opinion, the Prohibition Campaign of the Government has practically failed. If this is so and when the Excise machinery of Government cannot check this opium smuggling trade and poor addicts purchase the drug by paying exorbitant prices—why not stop the operation of this Prohibition Act and stop this trade altogether and thus give relief to the poor addicts who can have opium in the normal course from Government. (*Loud laughter and noise.*)

**The Hon'ble REV. J. J.M. NICHOLS ROY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will reply to some of the charges made against Government by hon. Mr. Gauri Sankar Bhattacharyya. When he rose to speak he expressed his feeling that he was anxious to see that the opium evil is wiped out and to see that actual prohibition is carried out to a success. Everyone of us and in the whole country want to see that our opium prohibition is a success. I was hoping that the hon. Member would give some suggestions to this hon. House that such and such things should be done in order to make the prohibition a success, but instead of doing so he said something which nobody understood what he was aiming at. (*Laughter*). He was speaking on hearsay about the price of opium as being Rs. 400 per tola, and about the corruption of officers; but he did not say anything from his knowledge and did not say anything as a suggestion which should be done by Government in order to make this campaign a success. No sensible person will be able to give a reply to such vague statements. (*Loud Laughter*), the statements which have no basis. Therefore Sir, I do not think I should waste the time of the House to reply to such baseless remarks. Mr. Bhattacharyya should have given some suggestions by which the people and the country will be benefitted. (*Hear hear*). Instead of doing that he has accused Government officials and Government without any basis. This is not excepted from an hon. gentleman of this House.

He spoke about the general sentiment of the people. How is the general sentiment of the people to be judged? Some one may say that the general sentiment is that the hon. Members of this House are doing nothing. (*Loud Laughter*). Will that be correct? Some may say that the general sentiment of the people is that the Members of the Opposition in this House are here simply to speak against Government in season and out of season. (*Laughter*). Is it possible to give reply to such vague aspersions?

One serious statement was made by my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya. In speaking about the Prohibition propaganda and the amount budgetted for this, that this amount, if I understood him aright, was for the misappropriation of the incumbent. What did he mean by this? Did he mean it? It appears that he simply spoke it though he knows that he cannot prove it. Then how can he expect a reply. (*Laughter*).

Mr. G. K. Gogoi spoke against Government officers making vague allegations and said that opium prohibition is a failure. He seems to desire to abolish opium prohibition. I do not think that there is anybody in this country who wants that we should go back and should abolish Opium Prohibition and thus allow our people to be victims of opium evil again. (*Hear, hear*).

[21ST MAR.]

The whole of Assam wanted prohibition and the Government of Assam have sacrificed Rs.45 lakh on account of Opium Prohibition. I cannot understand how Mr. Bhattacharyya can have any doubt about the real motive of Government. If the hon. Member doubts the good motive of Government, he cannot see any good in the Government. We must believe in one another's good motive if we want to work together. We must believe that a person who attempts to do a good work is moved by a good motive. This Government has been moved by a good motive to serve the people, to deliver our unfortunate opium addicts from this pernicious habit.

Mr. Gogoi seems to show a great deal of sympathy for the poor opium eaters who have to purchase opium at a very high cost from smugglers, and seems to be in favour of going back to the old method of allowing opium consumers to purchase opium as they like. The opium addicts are to be pitied; but they can give up and be treated to enable them to give up the habit. For the sympathy which we may have for some sufferers, we cannot go back to the old system. Opium habit should be wiped out and the future generation should be delivered from this pernicious opium habit.

Mr. Gogoi wants to make an impression that opium prohibition has been a failure. I say it has not been a failure. Rather it has been a great success. By prohibition we have prevented the younger generation from taking to opium. This is great success. It is to be remembered that we are working for the good of the future generation and it is our strong belief that in future the younger generation will not know opium eating and smoking in this State. When we began the campaign against the opium habit in our province there were about 85,000 registered opium consumers. Now the registered consumers are only over 2,000, but there are about 10,000 consumers who are now the victims of the opium smugglers. (A voice: Who counted their number?) The Government has an arrangement for surveying. Our officers survey the localities of opium addicts village by village and they take note of the number of these addicts. I believe Mr. Gogoi wants that our poor people should not suffer anymore by taking opium. Sir, we have also been successful in treating the opium addicts numbering about 1,000 in different centres; I can say that about 80 per cent. of them have now ceased taking opium altogether. A certain opium consumer came to me and said: "Now I feel happy, I am free from that pernicious habit. I now feel like a man; before I used to feel myself like a brute". Many, who have been treated in our hospitals and centres have thus been made happy. We have been successful in delivering these opium addicts from their evil habit. The prohibition propaganda staff is doing a great service towards the success of prohibition. If all these actions of the Government for opium prohibition are not appreciated and if our motive is doubted, I do not know how Government can convince the hon. Members of our good motive. I think every intelligent person can realise that Government is very serious about this opium prohibition. I hope Mr. Bhattacharyya will not think any more that Government is not serious about it.

I therefore request the hon. Mover of the Motion to withdraw his Motion.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The question is:

"That the total provision of Rs.8,07,100 under Grant No.3, major head 8—Provincial Excise, at page 13 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.8,07,100 do stand reduced by Re.1."

(The Motion was negatived.)