

**Proceedings of the First Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly  
assembled after the first General Election under the Sovereign Demo-  
cratic Republican Constitution of India.**

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 10 A.M., on Monday, the 31st 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 Ministers, two Deputy Ministers and eighty-seven Members.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**

(To which Answers were laid on the table.)

**Police raid in village Dampur**

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA** asked :

22. (a) Will the Hon'ble Chief Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Police Inspector Rajendra Kumar Sen of Gauhati with twelve armed policemen and Daroga Ramanikanta Sarma of Hajo Police Station with three constables raided village Dampur in the Hajo Police Station of Kamrup district on the fifth instant, arrested villagers at random and terrorised women and children ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to make an immediate and impartial enquiry into the matter ?

**The Hon'ble Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI** replied :

22. (a) & (b)—Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup has been asked to submit a report after enquiry. His report is being awaited.

**Forcible ejection of local tenants, including refugees in village  
Makunda**

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA** asked :

23. (a) Will the Hon'ble Chief Minister be pleased to state whether he has received the following telegram from the tenants of village Makunda in Patharkandi Police Station, namely :—

“On 25th February Garlow, an American Missionary Landlord of village Makunda under Patharkandi Police Station, attempted forcible ejection of local tenants including refugees with hired Goondas and gun in hand. Several persons wounded on both sides when tenants compelled to defend rights and persons. Prevailed over by landlord, local executive and police arrested 22 tenants. Landlord declare to set exemplary lesson to tenants as Americans are creditors of Union Government solicit immediate intervention and special enquiry—Makunda Tenants” ?



(b) If the answer to the question (a) above is in the affirmative, what steps have been or are being taken by Government in the matter ?

**The Hon'ble Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI** replied :

23. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Deputy Commissioner, Cachar and Subdivisional Officer, Karimganj have been asked simultaneously by wire to submit report after enquiry. Their reports are being awaited.

#### **Improvement of the Scheduled Tribes**

**Shri KARKA CHANDRA DOLEY** asked :

24. (a) Are Government aware that there are provisions in the Constitution for improvement of the Scheduled Tribes of Assam ?

(b) If so, how far these are being implemented ?

**The Hon'ble Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI** replied :

24. (a)—Yes.

(b)—In accordance with the provisions of Article 275 of the Constitution, Five-Year Plans for the promotion of the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes in the State have been prepared. There are separate plans for the development of the Autonomous Districts and the plains Tribal Areas. These plans have also been submitted to the Planning Commission with a view to having them incorporated in the State Five-Year Plan.

The Five-Year Plan for the Autonomous Districts envisages a total outlay of Rs.238 lakhs. In 1950-51, the Government of India sanctioned a grant-in-aid of Rs.24 lakhs for the implementation of the schemes included in the Plan, out of which only a sum of Rs.8,26,834 could be spent that year owing to the late receipt of sanction and approval of the schemes from the Government of India. During the current year, the Government of India originally sanctioned a sum of Rs.24 lakhs as grant-in-aid to the schemes already started during 1950-51. On a further representation made by the State Government, the Government of India subsequently agreed to enhance this grant by Rs.15 lakhs, subject to actual expenditure being incurred. However, in view of the scarcity of building materials, shortage of suitable contractors and the dearth of labour, it is expected that not more than Rs.20 lakhs would be spent during the current financial year. The schemes are now in progress and will be pursued vigorously during 1952-53.

The total outlay on the Five-Year Plan for the development of the Plains Tribal Areas is Rs.121 lakhs. During 1950-51 and during the current year, despite repeated representations made by the State Government the Government of India did not sanction any grant-in-aid for these schemes. The Government of India have again been moved for the provision of funds to the extent of Rs.22,62,733 for the implementation of schemes for the development of Plains Tribal Areas during 1952-53. Their reply is awaited. However, despite the deficit in the State Budget, schemes for the development of the Plains Tribal Areas have been undertaken during the last two years to the extent permitted by the State's financial resources. On an average, an annual expenditure of Rs.16 lakhs has been incurred on development projects other than road projects, during 1950-51 and 1951-52. Road projects costing Rs.19 lakhs are in hand.



### Scarcity of Cloth and Yarn

**Shri MOHI KANTA DAS** asked :

25. (a) Are Government aware that there is scarcity of cloth in the villages ?

(b) If so, what steps do Government propose to take to remove the scarcity ?

(c) Are Government aware that black-marketing in cloth is rampant in the villages and that the officers are either too much indifferent or inefficient to detect the same ?

(d) Do Government propose to take more effective steps to check the same ?

(e) Do Government propose to set up again the Subdivisional Textile Advisory Committee to ensure equitable distribution of cloth ?

(f) Are Government aware that due to the free trade allowed to the Procuring Agents, the Trading Co-operatives are adversely affected and that some of them are on the verge of collapse ?

(g) Are Government aware that cloths of high price are supplied to Trading Co-operatives and cheap cloth are supplied to retail dealers as a result of which cloths of Trading Co-operatives remain unsold ?

(h) Are Government aware, that cloths and yarn are available in greater quantity with retail dealers and in lesser quantity with Trading Co-operatives ?

(i) Do Government propose either to stop the free trade or fix a small percentage so that the Trading Co-operatives may be saved from extinction ?

(j) Are Government aware that black-marketing of cloth and yarn are being carried on by the dealers selected by the Procuring Agents for the purpose of free trade ?

(k) Do Government propose to leave the selection of these dealers with the Textile Advisory Committee to be formed and not simply with the Textile Department and the Procuring Agents ?

(l) Are Government aware that scarcity and black-marketing of cloths and yarn are due to the want of vigilance, inefficiency and in some case corruption of the officers of the Textile Department ?

(m) Do Government propose either to lift the control altogether or to devise ways and means to cure the defects in the system ?

**The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** replied :

25. (a)—May be in some remote villages but generally the position is not bad.

(b)—Government are trying their best to cater equitably as far as possible and to remove the difficulties when so informed.

(c)—Government have no such information.

(d) - Does not arise.

(e)—Yes, for supervision and distribution generally.

(f)—In exceptional circumstances Government have allowed sale direct to Licenced Dealers but such sale has not affected the Co-operatives adversely.



(g)—As the Central Trading Co-operatives have first choice of all the textiles imported this cannot be so.

(h)—Government have no such information and there is no reason to believe so.

(i)—If by free trade occasional free sale to licenced dealers at controlled rate is meant, such sale has not been allowed on a scale large enough to menace the Co-operatives. However, Government is always looking to the interest of the Co-operatives.

(j)—No.

(k)—This will be considered when such committees are again formed.

(l)—No.

(m)—The abolition of control is a matter for decision by the Central Government. Government have the whole existing policy of procurement and distribution under examination with a view to improvement of the existing system.

**Quota of C. I. Sheets fixed for Tezpur during 1949-50, 1950-51 and 1951-52**

**Shri MOHI KANTA DAS** asked :

26. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) What was the quota of C. I. Sheets fixed for Tezpur during 1949-50, 1950-51 and 1951-52 ?
- (b) Whether all the quotas were lifted by the procuring agents ?
- (c) If not, what were the causes of failure ?
- (d) Whether Government propose to take effective steps so that people of Tezpur get their quotas regularly in future ?
- (e) Whether Government are aware that there is great discontent among people for non-supply or inadequate supply of C. I. Sheets ?
- (f) If so, what steps Government propose to take to remove the discontent ?

**The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** replied :

26. (a)—1949	...	...	...	...	154 tons.
1950	...	...	...	...	126 tons.
1951	...	...	...	...	22 tons upto period II of 1951 (The quotas for period III and IV will be soon fixed).
1952	...	...	...	...	No quota has been fixed yet.

(b).—No.

(c)—The causes of failure are:—

- (i) want of a registered stockholder at Tezpur from 19th May 1950 to 8th June 1951 as no suitable firm or person came forward to work as such.
- (ii) Inability of successive Procuring/Handling Agents to function properly.



(iii) Non-availability of stock with producers and adequate transport space.

(d)—The Government are taking all possible measures to ensure regular supply.

(e)—Government have no definite information but there may be discontent.

(f)—All possible steps are being taken by the Government to expedite despatch of C. I. Sheets to Tezpur, but a good deal depends upon the allotments by the Government of India which have always been inadequate to meet full public demand, availability of stock and transport and proper functioning of the handling Agent and concerning Registered Stock holders.

**Shri MOHI KANTA DAS:** Sir, in regard to No.26, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to say whether any Procurement Agent for supply of C. I. sheets for Tezpur Subdivision has been appointed or made available?

**The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Sir, a quota of C. I. sheets has recently been sent to Tezpur Subdivision. That shows that there is a procurement agent there at present who has been able to lift the quota for Tezpur Subdivision.

**Shri MOHI KANTA DAS:** Has any quota been moved to Tezpur Subdivision up till now?

**The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Yes, Sir, about 400 bundles of C. I. sheets.

#### Price of Paddy and Rice

**Shri JOGOKANTA BARUA** asked:

27. (a) Is it a fact that Government have allowed five per cent. of paddy being retained in rice?

(b) Are Government aware that this 5 per cent. of paddy is mere waste?

(c) If so, why this waste has been allowed in these days of scarcity?

28. (a) Is it a fact that Government have increased the price of paddy and rice by 28 per cent. from March 1st, 1951 and relaxed control in some places for a period?

(b) Are Government aware that the paddy producers are now unwilling to part with their paddy for this?

29. (a) Do Government give any receipt to the sellers while purchasing paddy and rice from them at controlled rate and keep a counterfoil with them?

(b) If not, do Government propose to do it in future?

30. (a) In fixing the price of paddy have Government taken a reasonable account of the cost thereof or have they done it simply comparing it with other articles of food in the market?

(b) If not, do Government propose to take into consideration the actual cost while fixing the price of paddy?

**The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** replied:

27. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Does not arise.



**Shri JOGAKANTA BARUA:** চৰকাৰে যেতিয়া ধান বানি চাউল উলিয়াবলৈ 'মিল' বিলাকত বন্দবস্তী দিছিল তেতিয়া চাউলৰ লগত শতকৰা ৫ ভাগ ধানহে মিহলি কৰিবলৈ নিৰ্দেশ দিছিল ?

**The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** No, Sir, that is not a fact.

**Shri JOGAKANTA BARUA:** শতকৰা ৫ ভাগ ধান থাকিবলৈ যি সৰ্ত্ত দিয়া হৈছিল, তাতকৈ যদি বেচি থাকে, তেতিয়া চাউল বুলি ধৰা হবনে নাই ধান বুলি ধৰা হব ?

**The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Now I have been able to understand my hon. Friend's intention, Sir. There is a provision that in case more than 5 per cent. of paddy is found in the rice, the price that will be paid for such rice will be the price fixed for paddy and not for rice. But that does not necessarily mean that Government allow 5 per cent. of paddy to be put in the rice. The percentage of foreign materials allowed to exist in rice at present is half a per cent. only.

**Shri JOGAKANTA BARUA:** সেইটো অৰ্থ হলে, ধানৰ শতকৰা ৫ ভাগৰ ঠাইত যদি মিল মালিক সকলে বেচি মিলাই.. ..

**The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** No, Sir, only half a per cent. of foreign materials is overlooked by the Government. It is not 5 per cent.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN:** Sir, we have seen some mills mixing more paddy in the rice.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Are you giving information to the Hon'ble Minister ?

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN:** My point is that if there is more paddy in rice than what is allowed by the Government under the law, what is the penalty ?

**The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Up to half per cent., Sir, there is no penalty. And if there is more paddy than half per cent. it is up to the consumers either to accept that rice or not. We are in a vicious circle, Sir, and so if we become very strict in the matter, there will be no rice in the market. Most of the businessmen taking advantage of the position are mixing more paddy or other foreign materials than what is permissible by Government.

**The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE** replied :

28. (a)—Yes, the prices of rice and paddy were increased by about 28 per cent. with effect from 1st March 1951. As regards relaxation of control in some places for a period, the question is rather vague, but if the hon. Member is referring to the direct purchase made by the Tea Industry in the districts of Sibsagar and Cachar and the subdivision of Dibrugarh during the months of April and May 1951, the answer is in the affirmative. This was necessitated to meet urgent requirement of the Tea Gardens due to low stock with the Government and the Industry and delayed supply of imported rice by the Government of India.



(b)—Government have no specific information, at least of any general withholding of stock.

29. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Does not arise.

30. (a)—No correct statistical data about cost of production of paddy being available, the control prices of paddy are fixed by Government keeping in view the pre-war price level of paddy and other essential articles of life and comparative rise in prices since then.

(b)—Government will consider this question as far as practicable.

### Assam Junior Civil Service Association

**Shri PRABHAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI** asked :

31. (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they are in receipt of a copy of the representation dated 26th May 1951 from the Honorary Secretary, Assam Junior Civil Service Association, addressed to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam with reference to the latter's Memo. No.AAP.32/51/13, dated the 14th May 1951?

(b) If so, what action do Government propose to take on the matter?

(c) Do Government propose to give effect to Government Resolution No.AAA.10/45 of 3rd December 1946 regarding re-organisation of the Assam Senior and Junior Civil Services with a view to create an amalgamated Civil Service under the present circumstances of the State?

**The Hon'ble Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI** replied :

31. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The representation which embodies the views of the Association will be given due consideration by the Government before the Assam Civil Service Class I rules are finally approved and given effect to. The desirability of increasing the reservation to 25 per cent of the vacancies in Assam Civil Service and of giving two chances to Junior Civil Service officers not exceeding 32 years of age to appear at the examination for recruitment to A. C. S. is under active consideration of Government.

(c)—No. The matter has been dropped as it was found inconvenient to classify officers of all grades in an amalgamated Civil Service.

### Scholarships for Plains Tribal Students in the Veterinary College

**Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI** asked :

32. Will the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to state the number of scholarships allotted to plains tribal students in the Veterinary College?

**The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR** replied :

32.—In the Assam Veterinary College, there is no provision for any scholarship particularly allotted to plains tribal students only, but there is provision for two special scholarships in each class which are awarded to the students of the backward Communities, viz., Scheduled Caste, Hills and Plains tribals, etc., on competitive basis.



**Printing of Electoral Rolls in Assam**

**Shri SARJU PRASAD SINGH** asked :

33. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total amount spent in printing the Electoral Rolls of the Parliament and the State Constituencies of Legislature of the State of Assam in the last general election ?

(b) What was the total value of work done by (i) the Assam Tribune Press and (ii) the Janambhumi Press relating to printing of Electoral Rolls ?

(c) Is it a fact that the said Presses got the highest amount of work in whole of the State ?

(d) Is it a fact that high rates of printing charges were allowed to these two Presses ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the names of various Presses given work for printing the electoral rolls and the value of work done by each ?

(f) Will Government be pleased to enquire and state whether the Chief Electoral Officer of Assam is a relation of the Proprietor of the Janambhumi Press ?

(g) Is it a fact that the Janambhumi Press quoted high rates of printing charge and in order to accommodate this Press the rate of printing charge of other Presses had to be increased above the rate quoted by the latter ?

(h) Do Government propose to enquire into this matter ?

**The Hon'ble Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI** replied :

33. (a)—Rupees 18,41,482-12-4.

(b)—(i) Rupees 1,77,918-0-0.

(ii) Rupees 1,27,143-0-0.

(c)—No.

(d)—No. A uniform rate was allowed to all Presses entrusted with this work.

(e)—A statement with all available information is placed on the Library Table.

(f)—Yes.

(g)—No. The rates were fixed on the basis of the recommendations from the District Officers and the Superintendent, Assam Government Press.

(h)—No.

**Shri ANANDA CHANDRA BEZBARUA** : Is it a fact, Sir, that orders were placed by the Subdivisional Officers, Deputy Commissioners and not the Chief Electoral Officer for printing electoral roll in different presses ?

**The Hon'ble Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI** : Instructions were issued to the Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers to place orders for the purpose with the local presses according to their capacity of printing.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN** : Will Government be pleased to say whether the Chief Electoral Officer had anything to do with the placing of the order ?

**The Hon'ble Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI** : No.



**Shri DALBIR SINGH LOHAR:** এই কথা সচানে যে জনমভূমি প্ৰেছে যিমান কাম পাইছিল সেই বিলাক কাম জনমভূমি প্ৰেছে কৰিব নোৱাৰি অসমৰ কেবাটাও প্ৰেছত বাতি দি অধিক লাভ ৰাখি আন আন প্ৰেছৰ দ্বাৰা কাম কৰাইছিল ?

**The Hon'ble Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI:** গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে সেই সম্বন্ধে কোনো খবৰ পোৱা নাই। তেখেতে যদি কিবা খবৰ জানে আৰু গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টক দিয়ে তেন্তে সেইমতে অনুসন্ধান কৰিব পাৰে।

**Shri DALBIRSING LOHAR:** চৰকাৰে মোৰ পৰা জানি লব যে জনমভূমি প্ৰেছৰ বহুতো কাম শ্বিলঙৰ বাণী প্ৰেছত কৰাইছিল ?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** তেখেতে সেই সম্বন্ধে আগতে কৈছেই।

**The Hon'ble Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI:** তেখেতে আমাক খবৰ দিলেহে আমি সেইমতে enquiry কৰিব পাৰে।

**Shri DALBIRSING LOHAR:** নতুন বছৰৰ কাম বিতৰন কৰাৰ আগতে চৰকাৰে এই সম্বন্ধে তদন্ত কৰি local press বিলাকক এই কাম বিলাকৰ সুবিধা দিব নে ?

**The Hon'ble Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Chief Electoral Officer ব অফিচত চাব—শ্বিলঙৰ পৰা এইবোৰ দিয়া নহয়। এই কাম বিলাক ভগাই দিবলৈ D. C. আৰু S. D. O. সকলক ভাব দিয়া হৈছে।

**Shri DALBIRSING LOHAR:** এই কথা সচানে যে অসমৰ ভিতৰত আসাম ট্ৰিবিউন প্ৰেছ আটাইতকৈ ডাঙৰ ?

**The Hon'ble Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI:** It is a question of opinion.

#### Scholarship for study of Dentistry

**Shri ANANDA CHANDRA BEZBARUA** asked :

34. (a) Has Government given any scholarship for study of Dentistry ?

(b) If not, will Government be pleased to state the reason ?

(c) Whether Dental Surgeons are available in Assam ?

**The Hon'ble Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA** replied :

34. (a)—Government have given no scholarship for study of Dentistry within India, but only one foreign scholarship was awarded for taking post-graduate training in Dentistry to one Shri B. Chaudhury who has since returned after completion of his studies.

(b)—As persons are already taking to the profession of Dentistry at their own expense, Government do not consider it necessary to award scholarships for Dentistry.

(c)—Yes.



**Shri ANANDA CHANDRA BEZBARUA:** Is it a fact that many towns are going without Dentists ?

**The Hon'ble Shri RUPNATH BRAMHA:** I have no information about that.

**Shri ANANDA CHANDRA BEZBARUA:** Will Government be pleased to enquire and take steps in the matter ?

**The Hon'ble Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA:** I may look into that.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Have you got a Dentistry Service ? I think not. Therefore you cannot look into it.

**The Hon'ble Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA:** I thought taht his Question was that there is dearth of dentists in the town.

**Re: Report on the working of the Assam Public Service Commission.**

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN:** When the report on the working of the Assam Public Service Commission was laid before this House, the Hon'ble Leader was pleased to say that the Members of the Opposition might discuss the matter if they bring in a Motion. Accordingly I gave notice of a Motion, but the Hon'ble Minister in-charge declined to give his consent. So I seek the permission of this Hon'ble House to move this Motion of mine. I feel that this refusal of the Motion has caused a certain amount of injustice to a public cause.

**The Hon'ble Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it will appear that the Report on the working of the Public Service Commission was placed before this House on the 6th of March, but till the 27th, the hon. Member did not think it worth while to submit his Motion. The Motion was very late and therefore I was unable to give my consent. In this connection materials have to be collected, but within this short period, I thought, it would not be convenient for the Government to collect all the materials again. As a matter of fact I am prepared to supply any information to my hon. Friend outside the House, if he so desires. If on the very day the report was placed before the House or within next 2 or 3 days a Motion was brought, I would readily have given my consent and Hon'ble Speaker could have given permission for a discussion in the matter. As I have said, even now I am prepared to supply any information to my hon. Friend outside the House, if wanted. I do not want to keep anything secret from the hon. Members of this House.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN:** May I have a copy of the rules regarding the Public Service Commission ?

**The Hon'ble Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI:** These rules are available for sale in the Government Press, Shillong. If there is any difficulty, I will see that the hon. Member gets a copy of the rules.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I find that the Report was laid on the table on the 6th March and the notice of the Motion was given on the 27th. Of course, as soon as a report is laid, it is expected that all things are there.



On account of the delay in tabling the Motion, the Motion had to be refused. Any way, when the Hon'ble Leader has said that he would be prepared to meet any objections or anything which he wants to know, the hon. Member should be satisfied.

**Resumption of debate on the Resolution *re*: Consideration of the Memorandum submitted to the Finance Commission by the State Government**

**Shri BIJOY CHANDRA BHAGAVATI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in continuation of what I said the other day, I would like to observe that expenditure on administration does not depend on population alone. Climate, area and physical features have some bearing on the expenses of the Administration. Judging from this point of view, Sir, it will be seen that cost of Administration in Assam is bound to be much higher than in many other States of India. I was also speaking that it is not possible to meet the increased demand of the State with the meagre resources that can be realised from the inelastic or diminishing resources of the State. My contention is that if the State Governments are to discharge their duties properly then they must be in command of resources with which they can not only manage the present, but can also look forward to the future with hope. Sir, the financial adjustment between the Centre and the State should be made in such manner that the Provincial revenue may also be elastic. In this connection, I referred to a speech delivered by the Hon'ble Shri Bishnu Ram Medhi to increase the divisible pool of income-tax from 50 per cent. to 60 per cent. The reasonableness of this proposition cannot be questioned. When Sir Otto Niemeyer allocated 50 per cent. of the income-tax for the States, then the financial position of the Government of India was not very good. To quote Sir Niemeyer, the Railway budget was frankly disquieting. Now the position has improved a great deal. The Railway budget has shown a surplus. The Government of India can afford to share some more from the income-tax with the States. In this connection, Sir, Assam's grievance is that she does not get proper share from the divisible pool of income-tax also. It is so, because the Tea Industry in Assam pays income-tax on tea in Calcutta and London and not in Assam. Now it is for the Government of India to see that Assam is not deprived of the benefit of the main industry of Assam. Industry is a provincial subject. If the Province where the industry flourishes, does not get any benefit from that industry it is only natural that the Province will lose all initiative or means to develop industries in the State. An authority of international repute on matters relating to taxation explains the reason thus—"One State may tax a corporation where it is legally domiciled, that is where its principal place of business is, another State may tax the corporation where its property happens to be, and the third State may tax the stock holder where he chances to reside". So for one income different State may tax different persons. To avoid this, it has been laid down that the income tax should be levied and realised by the Centre. So, I think, Sir, that the Centre has to see that the State of Assam where tea is grown gets due share of the income-tax that is derived from tea wherever that tax may be realised. In the past, Assam has not got justice from the Financial Committees. Now we look forward to the Finance Commission for justice and equity. We realise that there was reason for the Centre to be cautious against financial stability. And so even though we were disappointed by the Desmukh Award, we did not lose hope. Now that the Finance Commission has been set up, we hope that justice will be done and Assam will get her proper share.

With these words, Sir, I support the Motion moved by Shri Bimala Kanta Borah.



**Shri AKSHAY KUMAR DAS:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in support of this Resolution of vital importance to this State, I would like to say a few words. Probably it will be good to remember that in this hungry world, there is very little hope of getting charity. So I am sure that our Government will be well-equipped with facts and figures about the amounts and sources of taxes etc. that are collected by the Centre and the amount of subvention that is given to different States from the Centre. A comparative study may be easily possible in that case. With reference to Assam, I would only add that the peculiar topography of our State should draw a special consideration from the Central Government. If they spend sufficient money in this State, it will be returned many times more than what they will spend, because the Centre intends to develop this State which has vast natural resources and it is always easier to work out resources if local help is available. I believe that the Centre will not fail to take note of this fact. Then the tea industry in Assam has taken out a vast area of arable land from our people. We all know that with the influx of refugees from outside who are being provided with land, many of our people are becoming refugees. This state of thing we are prepared to bear, provided at least part of our difficulties be removed by the Centre by way of help in developing our State. I hope the Centre will take note of it. Then Sir, with regard to the vast tribal areas, both hills and plains, the Constitution itself has taken up a special mission to develop these areas. Therefore they should also make adequate allotment of money for the development of the tribal areas. But I suspect that when the Centre will make necessary allotment for this purpose, they will only accept the population of the tribal areas as the guiding factor for making the allotment of money. In that case the ratio which Assam is given definitely falls short of justice because it is in Assam where the percentage of tribal population is probably the highest. Therefore our ratio must be much higher than which is given to the other States for the purpose of development of tribal areas. I am sure the Government is ready with all these facts and figures and that they will place them before the Finance Commission, and the Finance Commission will not fail to recommend the just cause of this State to the Indian Government.

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are really grateful to the Government and to the hon. Mover of this Resolution for affording us an opportunity to discuss the Memorandum of the Government of Assam to the Finance Commission, particularly at a time when it is absolutely necessary that our views should be made public in view of the fact that the Commission is visiting this Province very soon.

Sir, the Indian Constitution as it is and as framed, it is absolutely necessary that the identity of interests and unity of structures of the States and the Centre, both politically and economically, are achieved since the development of the country as a whole will not be complete if a portion of it remains backward, more so for budgetary inadequacies. In such circumstances the whole body politic remains weak with all its inherent dangers.

Sir, when India was ruled as a centralised unitary State from the Viceregal Lodge there was no question of division of revenue between the provinces and the Centre. But when due to gradual transfer of power to the provinces culminating with the Government of India Act, 1935, powers were decentralised, then the question of the division of revenue between the provinces and the Centre came. Sir Otto Niemeyer was ultimately entrusted with the work and his decision popularly known as "Niemeyer Award" giving 2 per cent. of the income-tax to Assam was not only far short of expectation but really unjust and it did not allow Assam to undertake any nation-building works or expansion and building of the necessary institutions and departments. From the floor of this House protests, year after year, were lodged against that



inequitable award and as such it was thought, when the Government of India addressed themselves to the same problem again after the Partition, that more liberal treatment would be given to Assam, a border undeveloped State faced with thousand and one problems due to Partition and natural calamities, but most unfortunately neither the Ad Hoc unilateral award of the Government of India nor the subsequent Deshmukh Award, pending financial adjustment by the Finance Commission when appointed under the Constitution, did justice to Assam. Sir, over and above this, the sudden stoppage of the post-war grants, the hope of which led the Government of Assam to undertake several plans and programme of which some were in actual operation, led this State Government to a crisis, the result of which was and is not only complete dislocation, but stoppage of those schemes culminating in imparting a sense of frustration in public mind resulting in an incentive to the anti-social forces. Because Sir, it is common knowledge that fundamental human problems as have faced the world to day cannot be solved by Military, Police and jails but by bringing in that social and economic standard of life which allows fullest growth of human faculties in a condition of contentment and social justice. But how can a poor State like Assam achieve that ideal state of affairs with such poor revenue which one hon. Member in this Session referred to as lesser than that of the Calcutta Corporation and by another as lesser than the total cost of cigarettes, and other smokes consumed in this State. Over and above this, due to Partition, not only Assam has faced the problem of communication within and with the outside world and loss of market for her border people, but increased costs of her necessaries for communication bottle-necks and also for uncertainty of regular and continuous flow of goods, machines and tools, etc. Further, the Government of India has not also, it seems, seen to the difficulties of Assam surrounded almost on all sides by foreign States, inasmuch as when her people residing in the Garo, Lushai, Khasi and Jaintia Hills and Cachar and other border areas find themselves in an awful economic and financial difficulties due to the absence of proper means of communication and loss of market, etc., they, viz., these common people compare their lot, rightly or wrongly, with the foreign citizens living a few hundred yards away from them who are having the ordinary necessaries of life at a cheaper cost partly due to non-devaluation and partly due to liberal import policy of foreign goods which possibly India cannot afford to, and should not do, endowed with many development schemes. How can the Central Government hope to find a Lushai from Lungleh side having no means of communication due to Partition who is required to spend a fortnight on foot to reach his capital or a man of Cachar who is due to stoppage of hill section during rains is to come *via* Pakistan to his capital submitting himself to the humiliation of repeated searches, content for all time to come. Hence apart from the question of inherent justice denied due to mathematical juggleries, calculations, etc., for reasons of the State and its security Government of India must not only do justice to Assam in financial allocations but take a liberal attitude in the matter.

Sir, if we examine Part XII of the Constitution of India we find :—

Article	270	...	Taxes levied and collected by the Union and distributed between the Union and the States.
	272	...	Taxes which are levied and collected by the Union and may be distributed between the Union and the States.



Article	273	...	Grants in lieu of export duty on jute and jute products
„	275	...	Grants from the Union to certain States needing assistance,

and these provisions require some examination.

Sir, coming to Article 270 which speaks of division of the proceeds of tax on income other than agricultural income, *viz.*, income-tax, it is so long being divided on the basis of its collection, *viz.*, the share of Assam would be determined on the basis of the collection made actually in that State. This is really an inequitable way of distribution particularly for a State like Assam. It is no the fault of Assam that she could not and did not grow business cities like Calcutta and other cities, as has been done under the care of the British, where most of the head offices of Assam's valuable industries, *viz.*, tea, petroleum, etc., are situated and the bulk of the income-tax is paid from there, thus transferring a greater portion of Assam's legitimate dues and share to her other sister States favourably situated. It is also not the fault of Assam that her topography is such that population is divided over wide ranges of hills without any scope of a compact dense population ever developing and for increased revenue but with necessities of increased expenditure of administrative services. And as such I am glad that our Government has stressed the distribution of income-tax on a formula based on population, area of the State, origin or locus of the income and considerations for mitigating hardships which would give us little over 4½ per cent. of the divisible pool *viz.* about 245 lakhs if the pool be raised to at least 60 per cent. of the net proceeds of the income-tax collected. This is not only equitable and just but a minimum demand from a critically situated State like Assam.

Sir, Article 272 needs no examination for our present purpose. Article 273 of the Constitution speaks of sharing the revenue on export duty on jute and jute products. This is just following Section 140 of the Government of India Act, 1935 which fixed sharing of the total net proceeds thus always leaving room for increased income for a province like Assam where acreage under jute was and has been increasing year by year. But most unfortunately the share of 62½ per cent. fixed by the Otto Niemeyer Award was reduced to 20 per cent. under the Provincial Constitutional Order, 1947 followed by a fixed grant-in-aid of Rs.40 lakhs under the Deshmukh Award. This is costing our State exchequer, according to available statistics at the rate of Rs.276 lakhs annually on average ever since 1948-49 and this will continue if the Finance Commission does not come to our rescue. No doubt Article 273 of the Constitution speaks of a grant-in-aid and not of division of the net proceeds but such statutory grants-in-aid cannot and should not be fixed arbitrarily. In fact the corresponding provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935 and the Sir Otto Niemeyer Award both provide for division of the total proceeds and as such the succeeding Government ought to have calculated the amount of the grant on the basis of aforesaid Act and Award which would have allowed them to give us more liberal grant-in-aid and I hope this grievance of us will be ameliorated by the Finance Commission consisting of distinguished souls of our country.

Sir, Article 275 of the Constitution makes provision for grants for general purposes as well as for bringing up the level of administrations of the Scheduled areas and of the welfare of the Scheduled tribes. In view of the large territory in Assam covered by such areas and tribes and the increased duties imposed by the Constitution and the immense difficulties created by the Partition and other natural calamities like floods and earthquakes and also Partition to which I have



referred to already, Assam should be granted such amounts by the Central Government after payments made under Articles 270 and 273, as to enable her to get rid of her perpetual deficit and to undertake nation-building projects all over the State which is hitherto confined in some particular areas. And I entirely agree with the hon. Mover that it should be atleast Rs. 5 crores.

Sir, It is a common knowledge that Assam's income is so small that so far she was not in a position even to undertake expansion of her necessary administrative machineries far less to speak of acting as a full-fledged welfare State. The heads of Finance Ministers, one after another, had been aching to find out money for running University High Court, Medical and Engineering Colleges, etc., far less to start electric and hydro-electric projects all over the State in big scales. Although her budget is poor, Assam is not poor. It is she who supplies world with tea. Her womb contains Petrol and Kerosene—all three are dollar earners to-day. Not only this, Sir, in order to allow growth of these two industries Assam had to and has to sacrifice crores of her revenue annually in the shape of concessions to these industries by giving fee simple grants and other concessions without which possibly these industries would not have grown ; but these industries are not paying us much in any manner. On the contrary they are depriving us from income-tax share by paying most of their income-tax revenue outside Assam. While Central Government derives revenue to the extent of Rs. 5 crores by excise and export duties on tea of Assam and Rs. 2 crores on Crude Oil of Assam, Assam's share is only 30 lakhs by way of subvention, if my information is correct. It is unjust, inequitable and a barricade on the way of a people striving to be great. How can Assam due to these iniquities and the stoppage of the post-war grants take equal seat with her sister States—not to speak of with the advanced countries of the world ?

Sir, I am a believer and I believe that injustice and misunderstanding cannot continue long and for all times. Now with the appointment of the Finance Commission let us hope and pray that we would be getting our due share enabling us an opportunity to build modern Assam where every house would be echoing with smile and contentment and sense of gratitude towards the Commission for removal of our long-felt grievances thus paving the way for our becoming great and happy.

—Jai Hind.

**Shri MOHIKANTA DAS:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the discussion of the Budget several Members of this House expressed unequivocally their sentiment against the treatment accorded by the Central Government to Assam so far as the financial arrangement is concerned. In my speech I suggested that the entire House should express by a resolution its dissatisfaction at the inequitable financial arrangement made with regard to Assam's share of the duty on petrol and tea. I am very glad that one of hon. Member of this House has moved a resolution in respect of the memorandum to be submitted by this Government before the Finance Commission. The memorandum has dealt very clearly how the Niemeyer Award and the Deshmukh Award have done injustice to Assam. The resolution has made simply a modest demand. As regards our commitment to our people the Hon'ble Finance Minister has already stated "I have examined all the avenues and do not find source to lay my hands upon to remove the deficit. The deficit can never be covered unless we get from the Government of India our share of revenue for which we have been crying hoarse for years." In 1950 the Finance Minister had expressed his feelings in the following terms, "I was greatly disappointed to find that Shri Chintamani Deshmukh did not go into the question how Assam and other jute-growing States had been adversely affected and how their budgetary position has been upset by the unilateral action of the Government of India by sudden reduction



of the divisible pool of Jute Export Duty from 62½ per cent. to 20 per cent. when Assam is badly in need of financial help to wipe out her deficit but passed his so-called award on the unilateral decision of the Government of India reducing the divisible pool without examination of the question *de-novo* to see if such decision was justified". In conclusion he said, "in view of the impending financial crisis which the State is confronted due to stoppage of post-war grants, it is essential that under Article 272 of the Constitution, Parliament should provide by legislation that at least 75 per cent. of Excise Duty on Tea, Petroleum and Kerosene and increased grants in aid under article 275 should be made available to Assam to meet the basic needs etc.". In view of the fact that this is a poor State, still undeveloped and inhabited by people of various stages of civilization, and in view of the fact that the people who are poor have been made poorer by frequent earthquakes, floods and other natural calamities and further in view of the strategic position of the State, the Central Government should come forward to fulfil its obligations under the Constitution so that the State can keep pace with other sister States and maintain her autonomous character in Independent India so that her citizens can feel and enjoy the fruits of real freedom like those of other States.

With these few words, Sir, I support the Motion moved by my Friend, Shri Bimola Kanta Bora.

**Shri HARESWAR GO᳚WAMI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, by and large I am in agreement with the memorandum of the Assam State Government presented to the Finance Commission in 1951, November. Sir, although we are in the Opposition yet, Sir, I can assure this House that in moments of emergency when we are called upon to defend our State and also in emergency when the finances of the State cannot meet the demand of the State, we are at one with the Government of how to defend best the country in augmenting the financial resources from sources it is available.

Sir, it is said that the British power occupied India in a state of absent-mindedness and therefore the chaos in its development is always attributed to this state of absentmindedness. Similarly I feel, Sir, the Congress party came to power in a state of absentmindedness and therefore the powers high up are not in a position to understand the difficulties of this strategic State of ours. Sir, it is no use speaking *ad-infinitum* about the injustice done to the State of Assam in the days of the British and also during these few years under the Congress Government at the Centre. Although several Commissions were appointed to go into the finances of various States, although in certain cases recommendations were also made, yet we have not received our share. Sir, we are told, and it is also under the Constitution that India is a Federal State. Sir, so far as I understand the principle of federation is not confined to division of subjects or powers or avenues of taxation between the Centre and the State, but the principle of federation means also an attempt to bring about a common well being of all the component parts of the present Federation. It is on this score when I go into the Articles of the Constitution from Nos. 268 to 275, I find that arbitrary powers have been given by the Constitution to the Centre and when we look into the 7th Schedule of the Constitution we find that most of the sources of revenue are kept with the Union and sources which are not sufficient to meet the demand of the State are kept in the State list.

Sir, I want to quote a few figures in support of my contention. The finances of the Centre has a great buoyancy and therefore we find that in spite of their huge expenditure they are having surplus budgets. Sir, we find that in the years 1947-48, 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1951-52 there were budgetary surpluses of 44.48 crores, 50.8, 32.27 and 26.20 crores. In this year, Sir, the revenue surplus of the Central Government will be about 90 crores. Now, Sir, when



we look into the position of the States we find that there is always a deficit particularly in certain States and Assam is one of such States. When we look into the revenue receipts and expenditure of various States, for example, Madras, it is 59 crores and 60 crores, Bombay 60 crores and 60 crores, West Bengal 34 and 38 crores, Uttar Pradesh 61 and 61 crores, Punjab 16, Bihar 25 and 21, Madhya Pradesh 20 and 21 crores and in the case of Assam it is only 9 and 10 crores. Sir, it appears from these figures that whereas it is possible for certain States to have as their revenue receipts sums between 59 and 60 crores, in our State with so much of potentialities, natural resources, unlike other States—we have in our State petrol, coal, tea, jute and other things from which we can earn enough money, yet our revenue receipt is always between 9 to 10 crores—receipt 9 crores and expenditure 10 crores. On the other hand when the allotments are made, it is made on the basis of square-miles and population. If we go into these figures also we find the same discrimination. Although we have in our State 50,296 square miles and 91 lakhs population as against 71 lakhs, 56 and 69 lakhs in Madras and some other States, yet the Centre has not given us our due share. Sir, we find the Centre has consistently neglected our requirement. It is only during the war years that there was an awakening of consciousness that Assam can also be a vital State in defence of India, although that fact has since been glaring, yet we find that, that fact has again been lost sight of.

Sir, we have always felt that the Centre should come to our rescue. I feel, a moment has come and at this moment whatever the Finance Commission recommends and whatever is given to this State will not be changed for 5 years. So, it is time when we should put all pressure on the Central Government that if the need of the State is not properly taken into consideration then we cannot go on in this way.

Sir, steps are also there and I think, if we are bold enough to do what is right to our State, people outside will also support us.

Sir, I have seen, because of very good press propaganda in certain States, their requests are focussed in such a way that the Centre is to yield to them. If we also can focuss in such a way this Memorandum and what our requirements are and that it would be iniquitous to ignore our demands, if we can also create a public sanction behind our demands, I am sure, the Centre will have to yield to our demands. I appeal through this House and to the press to stand by us at this moment.

We have been told about the density of population and that grant is given to different States on the basis of density of population. I consider, the present idea of taking density of population as the basis cannot be a sound economic doctrine. The concept of density of population is also dynamic. It is not that it will exist for ever. It depends how we develop our State. Bombay or Madras were not created in a day. In their process of development Government helped by spending money and looking to other methods of their development.

Similarly, Sir, if we are to base all our calculation on the density of population then we have got a very dark future. I consider, the whole process of allotting of grants on the basis of density of population is wrongly conceived. In a State like Assam where we have got far-flung communication system right from Ledo and through hills and dales, it cannot be that the density of population will compare well with the density of population in other places. If we go into density of population, take for instance, Sualkuchi, what is the density of population, there? The density of population there will not be less than any other village of India, even it may be more. When we have such a vast land, when we have got to develop communication not only for the well being of the people but also for the defence of the country, our communication must be improved. The stereotyped principle should not be a guiding factor for allotting grants to us.



I agree, Sir, that whatever we get must be spent economically and must be spent for a productive purpose. In that we are lacking and we will quarrel on that score whoever the Government may be. But we cannot deny that the Centre has not done justice that is due to us.

Sir, regarding petrol, it will be interesting to know.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** What is the percentage ?

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** We in Assam produce about '6 per cent. of the world production and Indian requirement will be about 4 per cent.

We have suffered a lot during these years for developing tea industry and it has been rightly said that in Assam land revenue has suffered very much for the existence of these gardens. If we go into the history of land revenue, as it appears in the Land Revenue Manual, Government granted lands to tea industry in big slices to encourage the growth of tea from which the Centre gets crores of rupees today but the Government of Assam did not fix land revenue for those lands with the result that no land revenue was received and if any land revenue was received it was very nominal. The export duty on tea does not come to us but goes to the Centre. I would like to know for example who gets the duties on industrial products at Jamshedpur or Beharampur, what share Bihar gets out of them. Our State is not the only petrol producing State ; we find that there are other States in America and elsewhere where the federal principle is followed, which produce petrol and those States also get share in the income derived by the Centre from petrol. Here I find that exception has been made in the case of our State and we are not given our proper share in an industry for the development of which we have given our best.

Similarly, in respect of jute duty, we find that 62½ per cent. was given to Assam for some time. When Sir Otto Niemeyer recommended 50 per cent., even then there was discrimination between Bengal and Assam. Bengal was given a higher percentage and Assam was given lower percentage, of course, it was afterward corrected. Now even from this a large amount had been taken away by the Centre from us. It means adding insult to injury. I think, the Memorandum that has been submitted by the Government to the Finance Commission is rightly done and I will also suggest that at the time when the Finance Commission arrives in Assam, we should have a delegation consisting not only persons from Government benches but representing all sides of the House so that with an united voice we can place before the Commission our demands and ask it that these should be fulfilled.

When we go through revenue and other sources, when we look into the financial structure of the whole Government, we find that our State has been left helpless. Our finance from revenue is not elastic and the Centre has taken away the elastic sources of revenue. Sir, no edifice of a modern progressive State can be built on the basis of land revenue only. If we compare the percentage of land revenues to other revenues in other States it would not be 2 per cent. or even less than 2 per cent. But here we have to depend mostly on land revenue and the next sources of our revenue are forest resource, income from fisheries. I admit that we should develop these resources so that they can yield as a good revenue. But at the same time unless we get sufficient grants from the Centre to develop the industrial resources of the Province or to develop industries, then we cannot hope to make our State industrialised and prosperous. Sir, our



demand is just and reasonable, it is long overdue. The demand must be clearly placed before the people and it must obtain their sanction. So, Sir, in this respect a public opinion has to be created. The whole House should deeply think, I cannot say whether the hon. Members sitting opposite will agree with me, whether we should not contemplate non-co-operation with the Centre if our just demands are not met. It is necessary to take this step when we have not been able to develop our Province, when we have been suffering so much and when we have to approach the Centre with a begging bowl year in and year out. This is the moment for doing so. Once we miss this opportunity it will not come again. Let our case be decided once and for all and let there be an end of the matter and to that end, if the hon. Members sitting opposite are ready to do what is necessary, we will lend our whole-hearted support in order to see that the justice sought to be done to us is actually done and we do not have to witness the spectacle of our Finance Minister lamenting over this fact every year.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN**—Sir, for the information of the House I may state that the petroleum used in India is 62 $\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. of the world output.

**Shri MOHENDRA HAZARIKA**: মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মাননীয় শ্রীযুক্ত বিমলাকান্ত বৰা ডাঙৰীয়াই যিটো প্ৰস্তাৱ এই সদনত দাঙি ধৰিছে, তাৰ নিমিত্তে মই তেখেতক আন্তৰিক ধন্যবাদ জনাইছো আৰু প্ৰস্তাৱটো সৰ্বাস্তকৰণে সমৰ্থন কৰিছো। সমৰ্থন কৰাৰ কাৰণ এয়ে যে অসম এখন সীমান্ত দেশ। ইয়াৰ প্ৰায় চাৰিওফালে বিদেশী ৰাষ্ট্ৰৰে পৰিপূৰ্ণ। সেই কাৰণেই এই ৰাষ্ট্ৰৰ নিৰাপদতা বক্ষাৰ্থে ইয়াৰ উত্তৰ আৰু দক্ষিণ ফালে দুটা ৰাজ আলি হোৱা নিতান্ত দৰকাৰ। তাৰ বাহিৰেও আমাৰ দেশৰ খাদ্য সামগ্ৰী আৰু অন্যান্য বস্তু অনানিয়া কৰিবৰ কাৰণে আৰু দেশখন বক্ষা কৰিবৰ কাৰণে মাত্ৰ এটা ৰেল আলি আছে যদিও তাৰ বিশেষ সুব্যৱস্থা নাই। তাৰ কাৰণেও বহুত অসুবিধা আছে। এই ৰেল লাইনত বিশেষকৈ গঙ্গা নদীৰ ওপৰত চেক্ৰিকালী ঘাট আৰু মনিহাৰী ঘাটৰ মাজত কোনো দলং নাই আৰু ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰৰ ওপৰত কোনো দলং নাই। এই বাৰ কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰৰ বিশেষকৈ ৰেল বাজেটত বহুত টকা বাহি হৈছে। সেই কাৰণে এই বাহি টকাৰ পৰাই এই নদী দুখনত দলং দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা অতি আৱশ্যক বুলি ভাবো।

আমাৰ ৰাজ্যৰ বিশেষকৈ জনজাতি সকলৰ যি অসুবিধা তাক এই সদনৰ সকলোৱে জানে দেশ বিভাগৰ পিচত তেওঁ বিলাকৰ যাতায়াতৰ কোনো সুবিধা নোহোৱা হ'ল। সেই কাৰণেই তেওঁবিলাকৰ উৎপন্ন বস্তু বিলাক বেচা কিনা কৰাৰ কোনো সুবিধা নাই। তেওঁলোকৰ এই অসুবিধা দূৰ কৰিবৰ কাৰণে কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰে অসম চৰকাৰক বিশেষ সাহায্য দিয়া নিতান্ত প্ৰয়োজন।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমাৰ ৰাজ্যত ধনৰ বৰ অভাৱ। সেই কাৰণে আমাৰ মঙ্গলজনক কাম-বিলাক কৰিব পৰা নাই। আমাৰ ইয়াত বান্ধি বান্ধি বিজুলী শক্তি উৎপন্ন কৰাৰ যি পৰিকল্পনা চৰকাৰে হাতত লৈছে সেই পৰিকল্পনা কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰিব পাৰিলে আমাৰ অতুলনীয় সম্পত্তি হ'ব। এই পৰিকল্পনা কাৰ্য্যকৰী হলে আমাৰ ৰাজ্যৰ যিবিলাক বনজ আৰু খনিজ বস্তু আছে, তাৰ পৰা বহুত টকা আয় হ'ব, আৰু ৰাষ্ট্ৰৰো উন্নতি হ'ব। আমাৰ ৰাজ্যত বানপানীয়ে সদায় নানা বৰুৱাৰ ক্ষতি কৰিছে। যদি এই বান্ধিৰ বাবেও আৰু বিভিন্ন ঠাইত বান্ধি তাল দৰে বান্ধিব পৰা যায় তেনেহলে, বানপানীৰ জুলুমৰ পৰাও বক্ষা পাব পৰা যাব আৰু যথেষ্ট পৰিমাণে খাদ্য সামগ্ৰী উৎপন্ন কৰি আমাৰ ৰাজ্যৰ খাদ্য অভাৱ দূৰ কৰিও বিভিন্ন ৰাজ্যক যোগান ধৰিব পৰা যাব। এই বিজুলী শক্তি যদি অসমৰ ঠায়ে ঠায়ে উৎপন্ন কৰিব পাৰি তেনেহলে আমাৰ বনজ আৰু খনিজ সম্পদ আদিৰ পৰাও বহুত কাম লব পৰা যাব। সেই কাৰণেই মই এই ন্যায় দাবীৰ প্ৰস্তাৱটো সমৰ্থন কৰিছো।



অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়. আমাৰ দেশ বৰ পিচপৰা। ইয়াৰ ভিতৰতো বেচি পিচপৰা বহুত জাতি আছে, যেনে জনজাতি আৰু অনুসূচিত (বা তপচিলভুক্ত) জাতি আদি। অৱশ্যে ভাৰতীয় সংবিধানৰ ৪৬ ধাৰাত কৈছে যে দহ বছৰৰ ভিতৰত এই তপচিলভুক্ত পিচপৰা জাতি বিলাকৰ শিক্ষা আৰু আৰ্থিক উন্নতি কৰিব লাগে। কিন্তু আমাৰ চৰকাৰৰ টকা নাই আৰু যদি ভাৰত চৰকাৰেও অৰ্থ সাহায্য নিদিয়ে তেন্তে কেনেকৈ পিচপৰা জাতিবিলাকৰ উন্নতি সাধন হ'ব? সেই কাৰণে ভাৰত চৰকাৰে যথেষ্ট পৰিমাণে অৰ্থ সাহায্য দিব লাগে; নহলে সংবিধানৰ এই ৪৬ ধাৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থাটো এটা ভুৱা মাত্ৰ হ'ব। যদিও দহ বছৰৰ ভিতৰত পিচপৰা জাতিবোৰৰ উন্নতি সাধন কৰিবলৈ কোৱা হৈছে, কিন্তু অসম ৰাজ্যৰ ১০।। কোটি টকাৰে একোৱেই কৰিব নোৱাৰিব। সেই কাৰণে এই প্ৰস্তাৱটো সৰ্বাস্তঃকৰণে সমৰ্থন কৰি বক্তব্যৰ সামৰণি মাৰিছো।

**Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI:** মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমাৰ শ্ৰীযুত বৰা ডাঙৰীয়াই যিটি প্ৰস্তাৱ এই সদনত দাঙি ধৰিছে সেইটি প্ৰকৃততে সময়োপযোগীয়েই হৈছে আৰু তাৰ বাবে তেখেতক সন্মুখী জনাও। তাৰ পিচত, সাংবিধানিক নীতি মতে, যি 'মেমবেণ্ডাম' 'ফিনানচিয়েল কমিচন'ৰ আগত দিবলৈ ওলাইছে তাৰ বাবেও আমাৰ গভৰ্ণমেণ্টক ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন কৰিছো। এই বিষয়ত যে আমাৰ বিৰোধী দলৰ নেতা শ্ৰীযুত হৰেশ্বৰ গোস্বামীও একমত হ'ব পাৰিছে তাৰ বাবে তেখেতকো ধন্যবাদ জনাইছো। মোৰ এই বিষয়ত ক'ব লগা বিশেষ একো নাছিল যদিও এটা কথা উল্লেখ কৰিবলৈ বাধ্য হৈছো। সেইটো হৈছে এই—

আজি চাওঁতে চাওঁতে, স্বাধীনতা পোৱাৰ চাৰিটা বছৰ অতিবাহিত হ'লহি। সংবিধানৰ ২৭৫ ধাৰা মতে ১০ বছৰৰ ভিতৰত ভাৰতৰ পিচপৰা জাতি সমূহক অন্যান্য উন্নত জাতিবিলাকৰ সমকক্ষ হ'ব পৰাকৈ সংগঠিত কৰি তুলিবলৈ যিখিনি টকাৰ প্ৰয়োজন আছিল, সেই টকাখিনি ভাৰত চৰকাৰে ভৰি দিলেহি।

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** বৰ্তমান আলোচ্য বিষয়ৰ লগত ইয়াৰ কি সম্বন্ধ আছে?

**Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI:** আছে। মই সম্বন্ধলৈ লৈ যাম।

এতিয়া সাংবিধানিক ধাৰা হিচাবে সেই দহবছৰৰ যোৱা চাৰিবছৰ বাদ দি বাকী সময়ৰ ভিতৰত পিচপৰা জাতিবিলাকক উন্নত হ'বলৈ সুবিধা দি, অন্যান্য উন্নত জাতিৰ সমকক্ষ কৰি তুলিব লাগিব। এই কথা সংবিধানত ভালকৈ লিখা আছে। এই উদ্দেশ্যেৰে কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰে যি টকা দিছে, তাৰ পৰা সেই উদ্দেশ্য সাধন হ'ব বুলি মই আশা কৰা নাই। এই সম্বন্ধে, কোনো কথা যোৱা ৰাজ্যপালৰ বক্তৃতাতো উল্লেখ কৰা নাই।

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** No, No, I object to it. You are irrelevant.

**Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI:** আজি যি স্বাৰক পত্ৰ দিবলৈ সাজু হৈছে, তাতো কোনো উল্লেখ নাই।

**The Hon'ble Shri MOTIRAM BORA:** Sir, my Friend is absolutely out of order. He may be asked to stop.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** এই resolution ত যি টকাৰ প্ৰয়োজনীয়তাৰ কথা কোৱা হৈছে সেইটো লাগে নে নালাগে তালৈ আহক।



**Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI:** আমাৰ অসম প্ৰদেশখন সকলোতকৈ পিচপৰা বুলি সকলোয়েই জানে। তেনেস্থলত সেই Backwardness দূৰ কৰিবলৈ যি টকাৰ প্ৰয়োজন সিমানখিনি নাপালে তাক কাৰ্যকৰি কৰিবলৈ টান হব। আজি আমাৰ মাজত শিক্ষাৰ অভাৱ দীক্ষাৰ অভাৱ.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** If it is not possible for you to come to the point, I hope you will resume your seat.

**Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI:** All right, Sir.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very momentous question, I mean the question of finance. We have a great responsibility to run the State in the way that will befit a respectable independent nation. Sir, it has been realised that poverty cannot be allowed to go on in the way as has been the case for the last one century. We have taken great troubles and made great sacrifices to liberate this country. We fought for the liberation of the country for the last five decades, and as a result of all these sacrifices we have been able to take up the reins of administration in our hands. Sir, each State has been given the autonomy, but in the sphere of finance, the sources of revenue have been divided between the Centre and the State. The resources of the country are so distributed by nature that all the units cannot be self-sufficient from the sources which have been allotted to them under the Constitution. Other States have various sources of revenue, but in Assam the main source is land revenue, and whatever resources there are in the bowels of the earth belong to the Centre. Sir, in the annexure to the Memorandum we find that if we are to run the administration on the basis of a *status quo* without any special projects for development, we must have a big deficit. If we have got to develop the country in the next five years from 1952-53 to 1956-57 under the Five Year Plan and as our revenue is not at all sufficient to implement the projects, annual deficit will be from five and a half crores of rupees to nine crores. That is an amount which is more than our basic annual revenue which is about seven crores of rupees. This is a grim picture indeed. I want the hon. Members to realise what is our position—whether we should remain in a static position or whether we should march ahead with the schemes of development that we want to take in hand. Sir, although there are certain paramount responsibilities of the Centre, the main responsibility is the defence of the country. Defence means protection of the country from external aggression as well as from internal disruptive forces. If there is poverty in the country to an appalling degree, there is bound to be discontent which will give rise to disruptive forces, which may endanger the very stability of the State itself. So the duty of the Centre is two fold, one to protect it from external aggression and the other is to maintain peace and tranquillity inside the States, by raising the standard of living of the people. So we are to adjust our financial position between the Centre and the State not only under the provisions of the Constitution but also through understanding and good-will. Sir, in the Memorandum very cogent arguments have been advanced in favour of a favourable allocation in our favour. That must be considered by the Centre with understanding and sympathy and good-will. Sir, it is said we are not vocal in our demand like other States where the Press is very powerful and that is why we are always ignored. Sir, it is time that the common people of Assam should join with Government in the clamour for more revenue from the Centre and the Centre should hear our legitimate demand and do justice in our case. Sir, it is not a question of sentiment; we feel that we need money and we do



feel that we have to spend our money on many projects which are of a nation-building type. We must be able to convince the Centre that our demand is based on the provisions of the Indian Constitution. Sir, the first item of revenue which we can claim is income-tax. As I have already pointed out in my budget speech, in the Memorandum it has not been shown what is the total revenue on account of income-tax realised by the Centre from the State of Assam (*A Voice* :— Not possible to ascertain). I believe it can be found out. Before we claim a share we must know the volume of income-tax derived by the Centre from our State. We have now been given only Rs.1,51,00,000 out of the divisible pool of income-tax, and the Government of Assam have suggested certain criteria on the basis of which division should be made. But we do not find the total volume of income under this head which the Centre derives from the State of Assam from sources existing in Assam. As for instance, the tea gardens yield a large amount of income-tax, out of which a part is realised in Assam and a part, the bigger part, in Calcutta. But the part realised in West Bengal is derived from the sources existing in Assam. From the point of view of locus or origin I want to know whether the amount of income-tax realised in Calcutta is treated as a part of Assam's income-tax or West Bengal's income-tax.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER** : Part, I think, of Bengal as they say the management is conducted from there.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN** : That is why I say, Sir, that the locus should be the criterion of distribution. I, therefore, say that these figures should be collected and placed before the House.....

**The Hon'ble Shri MOTIRAM BORA** : In my Budget speech I tried to make it clear that we could not obtain those figures though we had tried.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN** : Then, Sir, the next item is export duty on jute. It has been very properly stated in the Memorandum that the division of that duty should be on the basis of the quantity of the production of jute in our State. Sir, Assam produces about 30 per cent. of the jute produced in India and if we take that criterion, our share of revenue should be much higher than the meagre sum of Rs.40 lakhs now given to us. Sir, jute production involves a lot of labour and physical wear and tear to the cultivators. At the same time, everybody knows that by reason of jute cultivation in a certain season of the year the water in those areas is polluted. Then the people who grow jute are subject to various inconveniences and prone to attack by diseases. Then, Sir, improvement of communication in those areas is necessary for the improvement of cultivation. It is, therefore, in the interest of the Centre that more money should be given to this State so that those areas where jute is grown are developed, not only from the point of view of communications, but also from the point of view of water supply and medical facilities. The State Government should, therefore, press the Centre for an appropriate share of the export duty in order to develop the jute growing areas in point of communication, water supply, medical facilities, etc. If our cultivators do not get encouragement from the Centre, in the shape of increased revenue, production suffers thereby and then it is the Centre which will ultimately stand to lose. Therefore it is in the interest of the Centre that jute production should be encouraged and that can only be done by increasing the share of the export duty on jute to the States concerned. Then, Sir, with regard to the excise duty on petrol and excise and export duty on tea, it has been pointed out in the speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister in the year 1950-51, that the Centre realises a sum of about 9 crores of rupees from Assam on this account whereas we are given a meagre sum of Rs.30 lakhs, which represents 3.3 per cent. of the total receipts of the Centre. Sir, this is grossly unjust. We cannot, under the Mining Act, enhance the royalty on arude oil, neither can we enhance the land revenue on tea garden lands or impose



sales tax on tea. Though we have imposed sales tax on petrol, the income from it is not large and we are paying a much higher price for petrol than any other part of India. We are getting a very poor sum from the Centre on these accounts. According to the allocation now made, we get Rs.1,51,00,000 from income-tax, Rs.30 lakhs as subvention from the excise and export duties on petrol and tea, Rs.40 lakhs from jute export duty and Rs.40 lakhs as grant-in-aid under section 275(1) of the Constitution, *i.e.*, a total of Rs.2,61,00,000 whereas we can legitimately claim anything between Rs.5 to 6 crores, in order not only to make up our deficit of Rs.2,52,00,000 but also have enough surplus to execute our development projects which we have taken in hand. Sir, I am glad to find that the Government, apart from submitting the Memorandum, have also issued a Press Note (Press Note No.87, dated Shillong, the 17th March 1952) by which views of the public have been invited. It is stated in the Press Note, "before making their recommendations the Finance Commission would welcome the views of all who may have made a study of these questions. The views may be set forth in a written memorandum and sent to the Secretary, Finance Commission, Faridkot House, Lytton Road, New Delhi, on or before 15th April 1952". Sir, this question has come up before the public. Now, Sir, apart from supporting the Resolution and making our demand by a united decision, some Members of this House who are interested in finance may be requested to sit with other members to draft a memorandum to reinforce the claims which have been put forward officially. It is an urgent matter and we may meet in an informal meeting and discuss the ways and means as to how best we can represent matter before the Finance Commission. With these words, I resume my seat.

**Mr. EMONSING SANGMA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, in support of the Resolution of hon. Mr. Bora I want to speak something about the needs of the Hill districts in Assam. It is essential and it is a known fact to every one of my hon. Friends here that under the Constitution the conditions of the Hills of Assam are yet very much deteriorating and lying difficult to solve.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** You will try to be relevant and you will devote your attention to the Resolution and say for your backwardness Government should give more money.

**Mr. EMONSING SANGMA:** Backwardness of the Hills is most essential. In addition to this pertinent question relating to the Hills, our people living in the borders have no chance to be granted facilities particularly in matters of trade outside India. They cannot export their agricultural produce and forest products to any part of Pakistan. So thereby our people cannot be helped on this point. We are very much lacking in road communications and some of my hon. Friends in the Hills have to walk about hundred miles to come over to this House. Without any communication, it is known to every one here that we cannot achieve any development in our districts. We know that 39 lakhs of rupees has been sanctioned from the Central Government for the upliftment of the Hill Districts according to the provision laid down in article 275 of the Constitution of India, and while considering this amount I want to know what kind of schemes we shall have. With this money alone we shall be unable to uplift all our hill districts to the level every one of us desires to have. We need hospitals, we need roads, we need schools and so on. So my request to the Hon'ble Minister... ..

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Not to the Hon'ble Ministers here.



[31ST MAR.]

**Mr, EMONSING SANGMA:** We have scarcities in the Hill Districts of Assam and as such, our problems for upliftment have been thrown out frustrated. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we know that without education there cannot be any sort of enlightenment in our work. We are very much lacking in education and for that purpose we need money. There is no fund sufficient by which it would be possible to educate our children.

With regard to health, I would like to stress more. That in the interior parts of the districts we are practically out of the way of medical facilities. Wealth is nothing without health. So to regain our energy, to regain our vigour we require adequate measure of facilities and for this purpose we require financial help from the Centre.

Considering all these points, I beg to support the Resolution moved by hon. Friend, Mr. Bora.

**\*Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to offer our full support to the Government in supporting the Motion moved by my hon. Friend over there, placing the memorandum as prepared to be submitted to the Finance Commission. In Assam we have vast resources, we have rich forests, we have vast cultivable waste lands, the percentage of which I think is the highest in the country. Nature is plentiful in distributing her blessings. Many of the rich hill tracts are full of natural resources. But why the people of the State are living in a miserable and stagnant condition? Assam is pressing for a share of tax and duties on jute and Income-tax. It is very inequitable. We should impress on the Finance Commission that we should get a share of tax on tea and petrol-eum. I think much has been discussed on this subject and after what has been said by my Friend, Mr. Goswami, I do not want to add to this. If we get a legitimate share from these taxes, Assam will be one of the richest States in India. Sir, it should be noted also that money taken from the Government of India should be spent wisely and more economically. As we find from experience that since this Government took the reins of office in 1945-46, they have been practically squandering the money they got from the Government of India.

**The Hon'ble Shri MOTI RAM BORA:** On a point of information, Sir, is the hon. Member relevant in criticising the Government?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. Member will please confine to the Resolution.

**\*Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS:** Yes, Sir, I am supporting the Resolution; but what I want to impress upon the Government is that money they got from the Government of India should have been spent wisely, because we find from our experience that money received from the Government of India such as grants for development projects, for grow-more-food scheme, etc., were not properly spent.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** That is not the point for discussion; you should confine to the Resolution; either you support it or say that this Resolution has no effect.

**\*Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS:** It certainly has great effect, Sir, as has been said by some of my hon. Friends. But as I said, I want to impress upon the Government that we should learn economy in our making use of the money



we get from the Centre, as from our past experience we find that Government did not make good use of the money.....

**The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Government are not squandering money, I think my Friend is not relevant, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Will you try to be more relevant ?

**\*Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS:** I am not irrelevant, Sir. I think we have every right to criticise the Government. Now, Sir,.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** No, no, will you first withdraw that word, that you are not relevant ?

**\*Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS:** All right, Sir, I was not relevant at first and I became relevant afterwards ; but there was so much disturbance from the other side. Now, Sir, as has been said by my hon. Friend, Mr. Umaruddin, regarding our legitimate share from excise duty on tea, etc., we are losing a big share from the income-tax on duties paid in Calcutta. If we get this share, we will certainly swell our funds to a great extent and strengthen our position.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Your time is up.

**Shri BIMALA KANTA BORAH:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am really very happy to find that the whole House has given their unequivocal support to this Resolution. This indicates that in moments of crisis our countrymen can rise as one man irrespective of caste, creed or party affiliations. This is a very happy sign for our country. Sir, the Resolution has been discussed from different points of view and there is practically nothing left for me to dilate more on it. But one thing I would like to say in addition to what I have already said and that is, Sir, that it cannot be argued by any one that our Government is sitting idle in the matter of augmenting our resources to run the administration of the State. They are doing everything that is possible in their power to collect funds and even by imposing unpopular taxes like Sales Tax, Agricultural Income-tax, etc. Sir, we have diverted our paddy land to the jute cultivation to enable the Government of India to earn dollars, we have given concession on tea garden lands to enable the Government of India to earn more dollars, and so we can naturally expect that our legitimate claims will be conceded this time. We have also our natural resources like petrol and mines exhausted by intensive work in order to enable the Government of India to earn the taxes. All these facts must be taken into account by the Government of India. We hope that the Finance Commission will take a reasonable view of the whole matter and meet the demands of the State placed before them. We have not demanded money to convert Assam into provinces like Bombay or Madras, we want that money only to run an average standard of administration which we have not had and we are far below and much behind other progressive States like Bombay, Madras, etc.

My hon. Friend, Mr. Goswami, the Leader of the Opposition, has clearly indicated what were the incomes derived by other States like Madras and Bombay. Our income is less than that of the Calcutta Corporation. It may be our dream that some day our Province will be like the provinces of Bombay or Madras, but our present claim is only to enable us to maintain our ordinary administration at the level which cannot be called backward. Sir, we want funds not to make big



schemes or any ambitious scheme, but ordinary practical schemes which are necessary for the existence of a nation. Therefore our claims are equitable and we want also equitable distribution of our resources from the Central Government.

**The Hon'ble Shri MOTIRAM BORA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset I must express my deep gratitude to my hon. Friend, Mr. Bimala Kanta Borah, the Mover of this Resolution for bringing this Resolution before this august House. I must also express my gratitude to the other hon. Members of this House who have spoken in connection with this Resolution, for their informative and illuminating speeches. Sir, this is a very timely Resolution brought at a very opportune moment. The Finance Commission is coming to Assam on the 2nd of May and will stay here for about 10 days. If this Resolution is passed by this House unanimously, I feel, Sir, it will strengthen the case that the Government of Assam have presented before the Commission. The Commission will know, Sir, if this Resolution is passed by the House unanimously, that the case presented by the Assam Government has the support of the entire people of Assam behind it. This will not only strengthen our case but will add dignity and weight to our cause.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The House stands adjourned till 1 P. M. to-day.

#### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 1 P. M. for lunch.

#### After Lunch

**The Hon'ble Shri MOTIRAM BORA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am really very glad to see the spirit of sweet reasonableness and co-operation shown by the hon. Members of the Opposition in regard to this Resolution. Most of the hon. Members have given expression to a sense of frustration and a feeling of disappointment for the unhelpful attitude of India in regard to financial adjustment between the Centre and Assam. Most of them have said in eloquent terms and with very great seriousness that our case, the case of Assam, with regard to the financial adjustment, always goes unheeded. For long, long years, the people of Assam have been crying hoarse, but getting no financial justice. Our demands are legitimate and modest, but even such modest and legitimate demands for financial justice have been ignored so long. All these points were very strongly put forward by the hon. Members who have taken part in to-day's debate.

Sir, in my speech while presenting the Budget to the last House as well in my recent speech to this hon. House, I have made it abundantly clear that unless the Central Government comes to the rescue of this Province and unless financial justice is given by the Centre, we are undone.

My predecessor, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, who was in-charge of Finance before me, had also repeatedly stated the case of Assam in unequivocal and unmistakable terms and he had also made out a very strong case about this, but all these have gone unheeded as it seems. There have been three awards uptill now, one is the Meston Award, the second is Otto Niemeyer Award given by Sir Otto Niemeyer and the third is the Deshmukh Award given by Shri Deshmukh. All these previous awards have gone against us and therefore it is natural for the hon. Members of this House to become disappointed and to give expression to the feeling of frustration that Assam will not get justice, that justice will not be done to Assam.



Personally, Sir, though we find that Assam has been repeatedly denied justice in the matter of financial adjustment, I cannot share the feeling of pessimism of the hon. Members. I feel that this time justice will be done and we will surely get some amount of justice, if not full justice. There are reasons why I feel like this. I feel that there is some significance in the Constitution of a Commission for this matter as well. In the two previous occasions, the matter of financial adjustment was left to the discretion of one individual. It is no doubt that they were very eminent persons. But however eminent an individual might be, it was not fair to leave such vital matters to the discretion of one individual when such adjustment of financial relation between the Centre and the Provinces is a question of life and death to individual States. The framers of this Constitution probably realised it and therefore they in their wisdom decided that a Commission should be constituted for this purpose. Accordingly this Commission has been constituted with five very eminent persons of great experiences in public finance and public administration of our country. They will not only concentrate on documents and papers, but they will be moving themselves to different places to see things for themselves. They will be coming to Assam and will move to interior places of Assam also and I am hopeful that this time when such a Commission consisting of such eminent persons have been constituted and when they will see the state of affairs with their own eyes, there is no reason why we should feel pessimistic. Our case, the case presented by the Government of Assam, is not based on sentiments. It is a case which has truth and justice behind it. And truth and justice cannot be ignored for all time to come. Course of truth and justice cannot be deflected for a long time. And justice cannot but be done in the long run. I feel, Sir, that this time at least the Finance Commission will render some justice to us.

Again, there is another reason why I feel optimistic. That reason is that we are unanimous in our demand, to whatever party we may belong or whatever difference we may have amongst ourselves or to whatever caste or creed we belong to we have been one in our claim. That unanimity of our demand is another reason for which I feel very optimistic that this time at least we may get our demand conceded. As I have already said to this House that the Commission is coming to Assam and it will be moving in different parts of the State. We are trying to make a programme of itinerary for the Commission in such a way as to enable them to visit almost all the places which they may want to visit. For instance, the Commission may want to see some tea gardens and we are making provision in the programme to take them to Dibrugarh and to show some tea gardens there. Then again we are arranging to take them to Digboi to show the Assam Oil Company, if necessary. Thus they will see two very big industries of Assam, *viz.*, the Tea Industry and the Oil Industry, which the Government of Assam have fostered in the State by giving various concessions. Everyone knows what amount of money we had to sacrifice in the shape of various concessions for the growth of this tea industry and also the Digboi oil industry, but the people of the soil have not derived as much benefit as they should from these two industries. The Commission will see this with their own eyes and find out that how an injustice has been done to us in the matter of tea and petrol duty. They will see how these industries were started in the province at the cost of our people. After that they would be shown the devastated areas, how by freak of nature extensive damage was done to a very great area. Then they will realise the magnitude of the task and see for themselves whether it is possible for this poor State to rehabilitate all the people affected by the great earthquake and the terrible floods. They will see whether in these vast areas of Assam where damage is so extensive, the Government of Assam with its limited resources is capable of bringing these people to normal condition of life. After that they will see the Dibrugarh town and find out how a big and prosperous town and a very important centre of trade in



this State is going to be wiped out. They will see with their own eyes the damage done to the town and realise whether it is possible for this Government to protect this town, whether the Centre should not come to our help.

Then it is proposed to take the Commission to the tribal areas to show them the conditions of our tribal brothers and sisters living in the hills and plains, their poverty, wretchedness and backwardness. Let them then feel whether it is possible for the poor State of Assam to bring these people to our level within the course of next ten years, whether it is possible to give them just the necessary amenities of life that other ordinary people do get. They will see with their own eyes in what miserable condition people of these areas live. In several parts of the hill areas people are in extreme distress so far as food is concerned. Though we may have food, we cannot rush it to these areas on account of bad communication and they will also see how for want of markets for their products, they have been hard hit. The Commission will see all this with their own eyes, they will see whether it is possible for us with our limited resources to bring these people to normal life, whether the Centre should not come to our help in such vital problems.

Next is the border problem. Every body knows how this problem has been intensified, how this problem has become almost baffling to us. This State is surrounded on almost three sides by foreign States and the problem of the border has become very serious and almost baffling. It will be seen whether with the poor resources at our disposal we can tackle the border problem and whether it would be wise for the Centre to leave this problem to the State alone.

The Commission will probably stay in the town of Gauhati for a day and they will be shown the condition of this premier town of Assam. There they will be shown the condition of our University and many other institutions which we have started, but for financial difficulty we have not been able to house these institutions in the way we should have. Take for instance, the Veterinary College, where are we housing it? The Engineering School—how it is being housed? Then the University—in what wretched condition it is? I feel when these things will be seen by the august Commission they cannot deny the justice that is due to this State as was used to be done previously.

Then, Sir, I should like to say a few words about the Memorandum that we have placed before the Commission. My hon. Friends have all gone through the Memorandum. It is very simple document. We are preparing the case of Assam in the simplest manner possible. We are not making it unnecessarily lengthy, we are not filling it with unnecessary and tedious facts and figures. All that we do want is justice and we have placed our case in that line. We want that in the allocation of the income-tax some scientific principles should be adopted, some principles that stand to reason, that stand to commonsense. If that principle is adopted we are sure that in the allocation of the income-tax we will get more amount of money than at present given. In this matter we feel that justice has not been done to us and that is our standing grievance. This province has not been given what is due to her. Our claim is that the divisible pool of income-tax should be raised to 60 per cent. The present rate is 50 per cent. which we want to be raised to 60 per cent. There is a very cogent reason for this.

Sir, we have seen the budgets of several other States of our Union and we have found that most of these budgets are deficit budgets. Even our neighbouring State of West Bengal is confronted with a deficit of over 5 crores. Our own State is confronted with a staggering deficit. Though many other States are similarly confronted with such a deficit, the Central Government has got a good surplus. The problem of development of the States is left to the States themselves by the Constitution. But the financial position of majority of the States is far



from happy. They have not got any elastic sources of revenue. That is why, Sir, on behalf of ourselves as well as on behalf of other States of the Union we are arguing and placing our case to get divisible pool of income-tax raised from 50 per cent. to 60 per cent. Again there has been no reasonable or equitable principle adopted in the distribution of this divisible pool of income-tax amongst the States. The task of this distribution of divisible pool of income-tax was left to the discretion of one individual person. Our case is that some amount should be allocated on the basis of population and area. Some amount should be distributed on basis of origin and some amount should be reserved for provinces like West Bengal, Assam, the Punjab and PEPUSU. The economic life of these Provinces has been very hard hit and shattered owing to the cruel Partition of India. All these States deserve special consideration on that account. This will be a sound principle, and this we are going to press for adoption of a sound and equitable principle by the Commission. I think the case that we are going to place before the Commission is a very plain one. We want that justice be done on some principle in the matter of allocation of revenue. In the matter of allocation of jute duty also, Sir, some principle be observed by the Centre. Sir Otto Niemeyer fixed the divisible pool at 62½ per cent., but it was altered by India to the great hardship of jute producing States and such a decision was arrived at by the Government of India without referring the matter to the State Government. Not only this, Sir, the share of the States for jute duty was again cut down to 40 lakhs of rupees by a unilateral decision and without letting us know anything about it. Sir, in the year prior to that when this decision was arrived at our income from jute duty went to more than sixty five lakhs. A real injustice was done to this State and other jute growing States of the Union by reduction of their legitimate shares of income. This is a vital matter which is affecting us very seriously and adversely. Some principle should also be adopted in the matter of allocation of jute duty by the Union. Sir, if some equitable principle of distribution is observed, we expect to get about 2 crores 45 lakhs as our share from Income-tax and 116 crores from jute duty. But even this amount is not sufficient to meet the current expenses of the administration of our Province which is at present confronted with a heavy deficit. Sir, to meet our deficit we feel that more generous grant should be made to us. We are now getting 30 lakhs as subvention from the Centre. Sir, we should be given some other grants also to enable us to take up development projects. All other States of India are marching ahead of us. States like Orissa and Bihar are also marching ahead of us in the matter of development of their States. In our case, Sir, we have been confronted with very serious difficulties for financing our development projects, though being a frontier State, we should have got consideration of priority. Our demand is for a grant of 5 crores besides the amounts allocated from income-tax and jute duty to enable us to take up development works besides running the administration. That is our case, Sir, and we are presenting our case in this way. Our case is presented in the simplest way. I am glad that this case presented by the Government of Assam has got the support of all sections of the House. It is a very happy sign that all sections of the House have become unanimous in this matter.

My hon. Friend, Mr. Goswami in the course of his speech has stated that unless some adequate pressure is given Government of India is not expected to yield to our request. According to him, ours is a pious hope. He has therefore advocated that we should start non-co-operation that was taught to us by Mahatmaji. In my opinion adopting of such a course, Sir, will not be justified. I feel that without adopting such an attitude of non-co-operation justice should be obtained by us and I feel that it will surely be done this time. He then referred to sending a delegation of Members of this House, if possible. I want to make the point clear, that the Commission will examine only those



persons who will submit memorandum. So it will not be possible for the whole House to submit a memorandum and to send a delegation. I have already directed my Department to issue demi-official letters to all the hon. Members of the House requesting them to submit individually or in groups memorandum before the Commission and to appear as witnesses before them, and that will very much strengthen our case. They are at liberty rather to increase their demand than what we have done, if they deem fit and we would not object to that. When the Commission is coming to Assam we should take this opportunity in the best way possible. In this respect we want the co-operation of all sections of the House and the people outside. In this matter, Sir, I may emphasise, we are very sincere. We will take all possible co-operation that will be given to us by anybody and it is why this Resolution has been brought forward by my hon. Friend, Srijut Bimala Kanta Borah, before the House and we have agreed to its discussion even by change of the normal programme of the House. We have agreed to the publication of the Memorandum that has been submitted so that we may get the co-operation of all section of people of this House to enable us to get the financial justice. One word more, and I finish, Sir. That is with regard to the observation of my Friend, Shri Ranendra Mohan Das. He takes opportunity whenever he stands to speak something in the House, without caring for relevancy of the subject to reiterate that there is plenty of waste land in Assam. On several occasions I found him to make such observations.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Is it relevant ?

**The Hon'ble Shri BISHNU RAM MEDHI:** He is not relevant.

**The Hon'ble Shri MOTIRAM BORA:** To-day also he made an observation in course of his speech. Sir, instead of helping the State and the people of Assam, it may do immense mischief to all of us. Why does he make such an observation, we do not know, Sir ? He has made a part of his habit to say that there is enough of waste land in Assam which can be distributed to people. Sir, literatures, he can see that there is no land for such purposes. We have got lakhs of landless people who are in dire need of land. What is his motive in he should not have done things which may go against the interest of the people of Assam.

With these observations, Sir, I close my speech. Again I sincerely thank the hon. Member for the appropriate Resolution brought before the House and commend this Motion for the acceptance of the hon. Members unanimously.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The question is : "That this Assembly do now proceed to consider the Memorandum submitted to the Finance Commission by the State Government and express its full support and approval to the principles suggested therein for the distribution of revenues and determination of grants.

This Assembly is further of the view that the divisible pool of income-tax should be raised to 60 per cent. and that this State's share of that pool should be fixed according to the principles suggested in the Memorandum at 4.6 per cent., and that the grant in lieu of the share of jute export duty under Article 273(1) of the Constitution should be determined on the basis of the restoration of the original 62½ per cent. as provided under the Niemeyer Award, and that in view of the general backwardness of the State and particularly of the extreme backwardness of the Tribal Areas of the Hills and the Plains, further



accentuated by the disruption of the economic structure resulting from the Partition and natural calamities like Earthquake and floods, and the pressing urgency for the development of the backward areas and the rehabilitation of the shattered economy of the State, the grants-in-aid payable under Article 275, be fixed at a sum not less than Rs.5 crores a year."

The Resolution was adopted.

**Motion re Food and cloth situation of the State of Assam.**

**The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the food and cloth situation of the State of Assam be taken into consideration.

Sir, in moving my Motion I shall try to give a complete picture to make the position crystal clear, so that without indulging in unnecessary criticism, hon. Members may give constructive suggestions for helping the Government to solve the burning problems of food and cloth.

Sir, Assam's population according to the 1951 census is 98,43,707 including un-administered areas and refugees from East Pakistan as against the 1941 Census figure of 75,93,037 excluding the estimated population of 7,40,740 of the present North East Frontier Agency. Thus during the last decade the population in Assam has shown a high rate of increase of 18.1 per cent. taking into consideration the North East Frontier Agency Areas or 19.1 per cent. excluding them.

The population in Assam is entirely rice-eating and paddy is the sole cereal crop grown in Assam. I am giving the acreage under paddy and yield in the year 1942-43 and 1951-52.

Kharif year	Acreage	Yield (in terms of rice and tons)
1942-43	38,16,214	13,06,660
1951-52	39,41,800	12,76,400

It will thus appear that the production of rice and paddy in Assam has not been able to keep pace with the heavy increase in population; in fact there has been a drop in production between the years 1942-43 and 1951-52. The increase in population during the last decade is due to influx of Muslim immigrants during the pre-Partition years and rush of Hindu refugees from East Pakistan during the post-Partition years. The production has gone down principally because of the diversion of paddy lands for growing cash crop like jute, mustard, sugar-cane, etc. and considerable areas having become unfit for cultivation due to natural calamities like earth-quakes, floods, etc. Under the stress of high prices prevailing during the war period and still more so during the post-war years, the producers have been emptying out their stocks with the result that, generally speaking, there is a very little reserve stock in Assam taken as a whole. Taking the aforesaid total population of 98,43,707 as at present and the totaled yield at 12,76,400 tons in terms of rice during the year 1951-52, it would appear that the *per capita* daily availability, taking 86 per cent of the population as the adult equivalent to account for lesser consumption by the minors and non-consumption by the infants and deducting 12½ per cent. for seed and wastages, would be approximately 12 oz. which is exactly what is prescribed under the ration scale for ordinary consumers, the heavy manual workers being entitled to a daily ration of 16 oz. Nearly 13 lakhs of the population in the State are labourers and their dependents are entitled to increased ration as heavy manual workers.



Nearly 70 per cent. of the total population of the State are completely independent of Government supplies and no restriction whatsoever applies in their case as regards consumption. It is well known that the people particularly in the rural areas, do consume at a much high rate than that fixed for the heavy manual workers. Due to the heavier consumption by manual worker and the vast population in the rural areas independent of Government supplies, the average per capital daily availability should be much less than 12 oz. In order to cover up the gap between local production and requirements this Government pressed the Government of India to allot for Assam a minimum quantity of 2 lakh tons for 1952 including the prescribed reserved stock equivalent to six week's requirement. The *per capita* daily availability would have gone up from 12 oz. to 15 oz. if the Government of India allotted 2 lakh tons, but the Government of India have actually allotted to the State of Assam 1 lakh 47 thousand tons of foodgrains for the calendar year 1952, which together with local production would mean a per capita daily availability of about 14.6 oz, which is dangerously low. Against this extremely low availability of foodgrains in Assam, we have to examine the question of Government procurement and its commitment in respect of deficit areas both urban and rural, and the huge industrial population, particularly those in respect of tea, oil and colliery industries. As the *per capita* daily availability out of local production is going down from year to year, the Government commitment naturally has gone up proportionately.

This will appear from the figures I am just quoting :—

Year	Commitment
1942-43	68,200 tons
1943-44	1,04,982 "
1944-45	1,06,850 "
1945-46	1,12,000 "
1946-47	1,10,902 "
1947-48	1,25,305 "
1948-49	1,90,000 "
1949-50	1,90,800 "
1950-51	2,25,000 "
1951-52	2,50,000 "

A VOICE:—Export commitment or what ?

**The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Commitment for the rationed and non-rationed areas and for the industrial concerns.

At present the firm commitment of the Government of Assam exceeds 25 per cent. of the total population while several deficit rural and urban areas are under modified rationing in respect of which the number of people involved and the extent of Government commitment fluctuate from season to season attaining the peak during rains.

The figures I am just giving will show the Government procurement and commitment for the years 1949-50 to 1951-52 upto 15th March 1952.

Kharrif year	Total procurement in terms of rice and tons.	Government commitment in terms of rice and tons.
1949-50	1,66,067	1,90,800
1950-51	69,199.2	2,25,000
1951-52 (upto 15th March)	33,090.2	2,50,000



In our forward estimate for the Kharif year 1951-52 submitted to the Government of India we estimated our maximum local procurement at 70,000 tons. Thus to enable us to meet our annual commitment of 2½ lakh tons as also to build up the requisite reserve stock as stated above, we made a demand on the Government of India to supply us with a minimum quantity of 2 lakh tons, half in rice and half in whole wheat so as to enable us to issue a composite ration, the rice quantum being 50 per cent. On that basis we require 1,37,500 tons of rice and deducting 70,000 tons from the estimated local procurement we have got to secure from the Government of India a minimum amount of 67,500 tons of rice besides the other half of 1,37,500 tons of whole wheat. This has been repeatedly and very strongly urged on the Government of India both by correspondence and by personal contacts during the last Basic Plan Conference. The Government of India assured us that they might be in a position to allot to Assam more than the Basic Plan allotment of 1,47,000 tons by meeting additional commitments from the Central reserve, but they could not give any assurance whatsoever as to what would be the proportion of rice in the allotment. In fact they gave a clear warning that very little rice would be available as the contracted quantity of rice between the Government of India and the rice-producing countries was very little. It is for this reason that the Government of India desire maximum efforts to procure as much as possible of local rice. But our total procurement, as will appear from the aforesaid figures, is only 33,090.2 tons upto the middle of the current month, clearly indicating that there is no chance whatsoever of procuring 70,000 tons locally. The month to month allotment for the first 3 months by the Government of India during the current calendar year is given below and it will appear that the rice quota is less than 20 per cent. of the total allotment. For the month of January 1952, 3,000 tons of rice and 15,000 tons of wheat, total 18,000 tons, were allotted; in the month of February, 2,000 tons of rice and 15,000 tons of wheat, total 17,000 tons, were allotted; for the month of March 5,000 tons of rice and 15,000 tons of wheat, total 20,000 tons, were allotted.

That is rice allotment for these 3 months is 10 thousand tons whereas wheat allotment is 45 thousand tons. Out of these only 1,000 tons of rice have reached *ex-Calcutta*. Another 1,000 tons to be despatched soon and 4,000 tons are under movement from Orissa. Movement started on 20th March 1952.

The Government commitment for the current year is as follows:—

Category	Population	Quantity (in tons)
(a) Statutory rationed areas (Urban) ... ..	4,86,000	54,000
(b) Modified rationed areas in non-statutory urban and rural areas.	10,31,000	52,000
(c) Tea Industry ... ..	12,88,000	1,20,000
(d) Other Industries and Railways including Defence Department.	1,84,000	24,000
Total ... ..	29,89,000	2,50,000 tons

It will thus appear that we can only hope to reasonably meet the food situation in the State during the current calendar year issuing a composite



ration consisting of 50 per cent. rice and 50 per cent. *atta* provided we are also able to secure 70,000 tons of local rice and minimum quantity of 67,500 tons rice and 1,37,500 tons wheat from the Government of India. But as already stated there is hardly any hope of procuring 70,000 tons local rice or getting any substantial quantity, not to speak of 67,500 tons rice from the Government of India. Therefore, in any case, the rice position in the State of Assam during the current calendar year will be difficult and the Government may not be in a position to maintain 50 per cent. rice in the cereal ration. Then again, there is that chronic difficulty of transport from Calcutta to Assam destinations, which as in the past, may continue to be grossly irregular and inadequate despite stock being made available in Calcutta by the Government of India. The present indications are that the Government of India should be in a position to more than fulfill their commitments in wheat ; but chances of getting reasonable quantity of rice from the Government of India are receding day to day.

Pursuant to the recommendations of the Foodgrains Procurement Committee, I mean Rao Committee, which visited Assam in the beginning of 1950, a "Levy-Cum-Monopoly" procurement scheme was adopted in Assam with smaller and compact procurement unit, each unit having a single Government Procurement Agent. The Foodgrains Control Order was modified to suit the scheme. But, if necessary, we have the right to add one or more agents to infuse a sense of competition. For the purpose of intensive procurement, Government have the power of requisition and acquisition of hoarded stocks of foodgrains under the Assam Foodstuffs (Foodgrains) Control Order, 1951 which has also undergone radical changes on the lines of the recommendations of the Rao Committee so far as the right of the producers and the consumers to move, store, dispose of or to acquire foodgrains is concerned. For proper implementation of the above mentioned scheme Government has the right to directly purchase paddy and rice from the producers and does so wherever possible.

For the purpose of procurement, the State is divided into seven main areas, each under one Deputy Director of Procurement with headquarters at Dhubri, Gauhati, Tezpur, Nowgong, Jorhat, Dibrugarh and Silchar. There are in addition five other sub-areas which are under Assistant Directors of Procurement with headquarters at Badati, Sibsagar, Tangla, Hailakandi, and Karimganj. The bulk of the Government procurement in each such area is generally done through the rice millers (holding valid licenses under the Assam Foodgrains Control Order) which enter into contracts with the Deputy Directors of Procurement, Assistant Directors of Procurement for supply of each ten day period in a month. Procurement into Government godowns is also done from producers wherever possible. Every person has to take out a licence to deal in rice and paddy. Movements of foodgrains by air, rail, road and water from or to one administrative unit (*e. g.*, District or Subdivision) to another or from or to notified cordoned areas to outside without permit are banned under the law. There are special restrictions in the Pakistan bordering areas of the State for the purpose of preventing smuggling of foodgrains to East Pakistan for which purpose such areas are declared as "Notified" areas where a special levy scheme is in force. In order to prevent smuggling to Pakistan as also to protect our supply and procurement staff against Pakistan marauders, a Border Security Force has been trained up and being maintained by the Supply Department. This Force also assists in maintaining important check-gates in the interior of the State and in conducting large scale seizure operations.

A separate rice control staff in the bordering districts of Goalpara and Cachar is being maintained for the aforesaid purpose of preventing smuggling outside Assam under two Assistant Directors of Rice Control, one stationed at Dhubri and another at Karimganj.



A small Enforcement Branch has been recently created under the disciplinary control of the Inspector General of Police for enforcing the various Supply Department and Textile Department Control Orders. Its reorganisation is under contemplation. This Branch is also being maintained out of the Supply Department Funds.

In order to increase Government Procurement by affording better transport facilities to the producers, the Supply Department has undertaken construction of all weather procurement feeder roads at a cost of nearly Rs. 24 lakhs out of its own funds. The total length of their roads is 225 miles, under Public Works Department—108 miles and under Local Board—117 miles.

Monthly procurement for the last 3 years will show how our present procurement is dwindling down:—

Months	1949-50	1950-51	1951-52 (current)
November ... ..	21,909	7,899.5	3,553
December ... ..	12,439	6,653	9,575
January ... ..	30,190	10,921.8	7,208
February .. ...	22,245	11,129.8	7,338
March ... ..	26,153.5	9,222	1869.3 (upto 1st week).

I have not mentioned about the procurement for the years 1949-50 and 1950-51 from April to October which I shall do now for the comparison of the hon. Members.

April quota procurement was, in 1949-50, 18,011 and in 1950-51, 7,096. Then May 1949-50, 9,944.5, in 1950-51, 4,914.6; in June 1949-50, 6,681, in 1950-51, 3,906.5; July 6,246 in 1949-50 and 1,546 in 1950-51; August 1949-50, 4,893 in 1950-51 August, 2,228; in September 1949-50, 4,746 and 1950-51, 2,149; October 1949-50, 3,609 and 1950-51, 1,623 Total Procurement for 1949-50 was 1,66,067 for 1950-51, 69,199.2 and for 1951-52 upto 7th March was 29,540.6. I have received figures for another week and quantity procured upto the 15th March, 1952 is 33,090.2 tons of rice. Now, Sir, these facts indicate that the wealth of the State is being very speedily drained out due to purchase of foodgrains from outside; but this heavy import is imposing a heavy strain on the very meagre transport facilities available to the State of Assam to get its essential requirements from outside. It is with extreme difficulty that import of foodgrains into Assam is being somehow maintained, but if it snaps or if adequate quantities of foodgrains be not available from outside, Assam is bound to face a disaster. It is, therefore, the responsibility of Government to speedily increase the production aiming at least at self-sufficiency and meanwhile to make all possible efforts to secure and transport the maximum quantities of foodgrains from outside. Under these circumstances, and rice being very scarce, the entire rice eating population in Assam have to content themselves by consuming a composite ration with not more than 50 per cent rice. It has also to be realised that availability, *i.e.*, production *vis-a-vis* requirement, is the key to the food situation in the country and Government procurement is entirely dependent on it. The position with regard to other foodstuffs, namely, sugar, mustard oil, *gur*, *dal*, salt, etc., is not unsatisfactory.

Now, Sir, I shall take up the question of cloth and yarn and in doing so, I shall give a very brief history of the State Trading Scheme which has been



the target of attack on several occasions in this very session. State Trading Scheme in textile introduced with the reimposition of control came into operation in October 1948. It was devised to set in motion the then extensive State Plan of rural development which itself was to be built around a reformed and rejuvenated Co-operative system. State Trading in textiles was the means of bringing the Trading Co-operative network, through which all distribution was to be canalised into being.

Government purchased in all 38,333 bales of cloth and yarn worth Rs. 3,48,20,399 and the scheme was progressing not unfavourably when in June 1949 the Government of India's decision to relax control compelled this Government to abandon the scheme and to revert to procurement through trade channels.

The 17 months, *i.e.*, July 1949 to November 1950 which followed was a lax period so far as control was concerned. There was a vast accumulation in the State of Government textiles worth two crores of rupees to be disposed of, Trading Co-operatives as well as dealers held huge stocks and, with mills selling freely to one and all, there was a glut of textiles on the market.

In these circumstances procurement was practically at a standstill. Quotas for many months lapsed as no agents were available. Allocation of quotas was done away with and any party wishing to procure any quantity of cloth and yarn for any area was allowed to do so and also to distribute at will.

The bulk of the accumulated stocks was disposed of at the end of this period and scarcity began to be apparent as no fresh supplies in adequate quantity were coming in. The Government of India also warned us at this stage that in view of limited production, relaxation measures should be withdrawn. It was therefore decided in November 1950 to arrange for regular procurement of all quotas and to re-impose strictly controlled distribution.

A period of comparative scarcity continued from about November 1950 to March 1951. With the tightening up of control, however, and insistence on full procurement the situation underwent rapid improvement.

#### Cloth Procurement From 1951-52.

The minimum requirements of this State are about 4,000 bales monthly. The fixed State allotment on a per capita basis is 3,133 bales. The average monthly allotment was 3,108 bales. The average monthly liftings against this were 2,732 bales. Short lifting was due to non-availability from the "non-selected" mills category.

In addition to the above basic allotments 'advance' or 'ad hoc' quotas amounting to 7,46 bales were released to the State in the period May 1951 to September 1951, against which 5,105½ bales were actually lifted.

				Allotment	Liftings
January 1951	...	...	...	2,958	2,156 $\frac{1}{2}$
February 1951	...	...	...	1,403	1,776 $\frac{1}{2}$
March 1951	...	...	...	2,121	1,829 $\frac{1}{2}$
April 1951	...	...	...	2,786	2,333
May 1951	...	...	...	3,004	2,317
June 1951	...	...	...	3,071	1,515
July 1951	...	...	...	3,481	1,929 $\frac{1}{2}$
August 1951	...	...	...	3,638	2,567 $\frac{3}{4}$
September 1951	...	...	...	4,092	3,443 $\frac{1}{2}$
October 1951	...	...	...	3,443	2,817 $\frac{3}{4}$
November 1951	...	...	...	3,086	2,718 $\frac{3}{4}$
December 1951	...	...	...	3,641	2,846 $\frac{1}{2}$
January 1952	...	...	...	3,686	3,374 $\frac{1}{2}$
Average allotment	...	...	...	3108 — average liftings	2732.



## AD HOC CLOTH

				Allotment	Lifting
May 1951	...	...	...	2,500	1,506
June 1951	...	...	...	1,478	1,046½
July 1951	...	...	...	2,488	1,638
September 1951	...	...	...	1,000	915
				7,466	5,105½
			Total		

The cloth position regarding allotment for the months of February, March and April for the current year is stated below, but the figures for lifting are not yet available because the February quota is still in transit and of the March quota, as I have already stated, only 50 per cent has been lifted, but as regards April quota, I cannot say what will happen:—

The allotment of cloth for February 3,545 bales, for March 3,693 bales and for April 2,946 bales.

The cloth position as will be illustrated by these figures improved considerably in the past year. In addition to quota cloth, "free sale" cloth on an average of about 500 bales monthly was imported. Imports of all categories of cloth therefore averaged 3,654 bales monthly thus falling little short of actual requirements. Ample stocks were available in most Subdivisions. In fact, free sale had to be allowed in some cases to relieve periodic congestion and local accumulations. Some scarcity in certain varieties such as Dhut's, Saris, and Markin was felt due to a drop in mill's production of the same. This, however, was made good by a special *ad hoc* allotment of 1000 bales of these particular varieties on strong representation being made to the Centre. The mills were also compelled to increase their production on these lines. Owing to this comparative plenty, black-marketing in cloth was practically unknown. Procurement therefore as a whole was fairly satisfactory both as to quality and quantity. An unusually large quantity of fine and superfine cloth had to be accepted because of the increase in production of these varieties.

Unlike the previous year a regular and steady flow of cloth to the State was maintained because of the provision of adequate transport by the all-rail route from the procurement centres of Ahmedabad and Bombay. This was secured only by the personal efforts at Delhi of the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Agents for procurement throughout the year were readily available except for hill areas and Political areas. Because of difficulties in arranging supply to Political areas, the North East Frontier Agency made their own separate arrangement for procurement and distribution.

The March's economic depression and consequent slump in textile prices give indications of having calamitous effects on procurement. Although this Government have taken substantial control relaxation measure in order to help the Procuring Agents with speedy disposal and have enjoined full lifting, it is feared that the bulk of the March quota will be lost to the State.

The relaxation measures have been taken on the following line:

"All superfine and fine cloth has been allowed to move freely within the State and to be sold without restrictions except for price control until further orders. Intimation of arrivals and disposals of such cloth should, however, be given to Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers concerned.

All medium and coarse cloth must, as usual, be offered to Central Trading Co-operatives on receipt of invoices who should select and lift within seven days from date of receipt of intimation of arrival. Central Co-operatives



retain the right of selectivity as usual. All such cloth rejected by Central Trading Co-operatives or unlifted within the prescribed time of seven days may be sold freely by agents to any licenced dealers including Primary Trading Co-operatives within respective centres of allocation. Details of all such sales should be reported to local Textile authorities. Provided that if the Deputy Commissioner or Subdivisional Officer concerned in consultation with the Textile Advisory Boards, wherever they exist, consider at any time that the stock position is such that it is necessary in the interest of equitable distribution to specify the retailers or Primary Trading Co-operatives to whom textiles should be sold and the quantities thereof, he may take such action under advice to Government.

Same relaxation as prescribed for medium and coarse cloth as mentioned above will apply to *Ad hoc* yarn quota also. No general relaxation to existing procedure for distribution of basic yarn quotas will be allowed."

These are purely temporary measures designed to meet the present emergency. Restrictions will be restored as soon as the circumstances warrant it and particularly if scarcity should develop as a result of poor lifting. Panic is still prevalent and in the disturbed market conditions, the prospects for lifting the April quota are not good. What the full effect of this crisis will be on procurement it is difficult to say. Present stocks of cloth are fair. Dealers in some Subdivisions complain of congestion and disposal difficulties due to the dull market. If procurement by Government agencies continues to be bad, however, stocks must run low, but there is every likelihood of some compensation from "free sale" cloth which is now on the market in very large quantities.

Government have under consideration the overhauling of the procurement policy with a view to obtaining the maximum efficiency in procurement.

Cloth distribution was arranged by the respective Textile Advisory Boards in plains Subdivisions. In the Hills, the Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers, as usual, were responsible for distribution. Every effort was made to ensure that the Trading Co-operatives should form the back bone of the distribution system. They were given the pick of all textiles imported. In many Subdivisions, however, the volume of lifting and distribution by the Co-operatives was comparatively poor. The reason for this is probably because the Primary Trading Co-operatives were unable to make adequate financial arrangements. All cloth rejected by the Central Trading Co-operatives was sold direct to retailers and Primary Trading Co-operatives nominated by the Textile Advisory Boards in quantities decided by them. Some exceptions were made, however, in order to get rid of stock-congestion. Primary Trading Co-operatives that were moribund or not functioning properly were, as far as possible, replaced by trade retailers.

Generally speaking the distribution of cloth was equitable and well arranged. Quantitative rationing was not found to be necessary except in some Subdivisions for certain varieties for which temporary and local scarcity existed. Distribution in such case was on cloth ration cards. Sufficient cloth was available on the occasion of all big festivals and for special purposes (such as marriages, funerals, etc.)

In order that agents may not be victimised by falling prices in the present economic depression and to bolster up procurement, Government have allowed agents certain concession in disposal as a temporary measure as stated before. It is not improbable that, with a dwindling foreign market in textiles and internal large scale free sales arising out of heavy accumulations in the mills, a period of glut may again be encountered. On the other hand production may drop sharply compelling us to conserve our existing stocks. Government will watch future developments carefully and will take such steps as appear necessary.



*Yarn.*—After the abolition of State Trading in June 1949, yarn passed through the same vicissitudes as cloth except that owing to the sharp and progressive fall in production yarn availability was, at all times, far less than for cloth.

From July 1949 to November 1950 all control except for price was lifted for yarn as well as for cloth. In November 1950 controlled distribution of yarn was vigorously reimposed.

In 1950-51 the all-India yarn position went from bad to worse necessitating a drastic all round cut in State quotas. Assam's quota was then cut from 1800 to 1,200 bales monthly. The actual availability, however, for the second half of 1950-51 was only 25 per cent. of the allotment or 300 bales monthly. In the early part of 1951 the Government of India again revised the State quotas reducing Assam's monthly quota to 922 bales as against the actual requirements of the State of 2,000 bales monthly. In 1951-52 there was an improvement from the preceding year, but the yarn position was still unsatisfactory. Many professional weavers were idle and amateur handloom production was poor. Availability at the mills was an average of 714 bales monthly against an average allotment of 946 bales. The scarcity was eased, however, by vigorous representations at the Centre which brought *ad hoc* allotments of 5,146 bales of yarn of which 4,296 bales were lifted. Short lifting was due to rejection of unsuitable counts offered by some mills. The average monthly receipts therefore from all sources were 1,198 bales as against requirements of 2,000 bales. The position of allotment and lifting is as follows:—

	<i>Allotment of yarn</i>	<i>Lifting of yarn</i>
January 1951	1,433	678
February "	1,433	682
March "	922	676
April "	922	608½
May "	922	788
June "	858	839
July "	882	746
August "	822	796
September "	822	712
October "	822	673
November "	822	769
December "	822	790
January 1952	822	733
Total	12,304	9,290½
<i>Ad Hoc</i> yarn		
May 1951	1,500	1,152
During 1951 in other months	5,146	4,296
Total	6,646	5,448

*Procurement.*—Great difficulties were and are still being experienced in obtaining agents to lift the subdivisional yarn quotas of the State. The problem is really one of transport. Our yarn all comes from the Southern India Mills by rail to Calcutta and from thence by steamer to Assam. Owing to the very limited steamer space available for textiles, yarn is subject to long hold-ups in Calcutta, sometimes protracted to as much as six months. The minimum period for the arrival of a full month's quota is 3 months and the inflow comes as a thin sporadic trickle of a few bales at a time. This fragmentary and delayed dispersal to the different consuming centres greatly complicates the yarn supply problem.



The question of arranging an all rail-route for yarn was taken up with the Government of India, but was turned down by the Railway Board. In order to compensate agents for additional expenditure due to transit delays, their profit margin was increased by 2 per cent. This, however, did not altogether prove sufficient inducement and to prevent *ad hoc* yarn allotments from lapsing, agents were promised direct sale to retailers and Primary Trading Co-operatives thus giving them the wholesaler's margin as well of 2 per cent.

Because of the formidable transport difficulties, yarn procurement in the light of the present slump conditions will, it is anticipated, suffer more than cloth. There has been heavy lapsing in March and little improvement is expected for April. In order to ensure procurement, it may be necessary to still further increase the Procuring Agents profit margin either at the expense of the consumers or at the expense of the wholesaler-Central-Trading-Co-operatives which may have to be by-passed. As in the case of cloth, separate yarn procurement and distribution was allowed to the North East Frontier Agency.

The present stock position of yarn is not very bad due to unusually large fresh arrivals of quota and *ad hoc* yarn. As in the case of cloth, however, if procurement is not kept up, acute scarcity must follow particularly as there is no alternative source of supply such as "free sale" yarn.

Distribution of basic yarn quotas, as for cloth, was made through the Trading Co-operatives and retailers under the direction and supervision of the Textile Advisory Boards.

Mahila Samities also were entrusted with local distribution when stock permitted. Yarn was and continues to be woefully short for factories, professional weavers and the host of handloom weavers.

A proposal for revision of State quotas on the basis of handloom census is being pressed with the Government of India which, if accepted, would mean a substantial increase to the present quota.

I hope and trust, Sir, that I have been able to give a complete picture of the whole situation to my hon. Friends and to convince them that the Government is the victim of circumstances and not guilty of any negligence or lack of far sightedness.

Sir, we do never claim that our actions and procedures are infallible and beyond improvement. We are after all human beings and to err is human. So if our Friends kindly give us practical suggestions, remembering our limitations, we shall be grateful to them.

If we fail to discharge our duties for any avoidable reasons, we shall be held responsible before men and God, and our Friends will not also be able to escape their responsibilities. They may have a sigh of relief by putting all the blames on the soldiers of the Government, but if they neglect their duties, God will not spare them. So let us all co-operate whole-heartedly to serve the people of the State who are looking at us—their elected representatives—for the amelioration of their unsatisfactory condition. All of us have got a duty to perform. If we ungrudgingly try our best to serve the people, I am sure we shall overcome the difficulties, and a day will soon come when we shall be in a position not only to meet our demands, but to help others in their needs. Sir, before I resume my seat, once again I appeal to my Friends to rise up to the occasion, forgetting the party alignment and to assist us in solving the food and cloth problems of our State.

**Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was hesitating whether I should be seeking the permission to speak, but as we were threatened by the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Supply, in the name of God (*laughter*), I was prompted to speak to-day.



**The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** The other day you said that you believe in God.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** Even if I don't, the Hon'ble Minister does. (*Laughter!*) As a matter of fact, on this vital subject when we in this side of the House are deeply concerned, we gave a notice of Motion on this very subject, and we were told that we would be getting an opportunity of discussing the matter because there was already a Motion in the name of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Supply. Sir, we were very glad to know that there was a Government Motion on the subject. The Motion is beautifully vague. The Motion is to take into consideration the food and cloth situation of this State. That is a very vital subject. We hope that in the long essay that the Hon'ble Minister read, we would get an actual picture of the food and cloth position of the State and we also wished that we would get some way out for the future; but after listening very carefully to the long essay read by the Hon'ble Minister, we have only heard a lot of figures, but as a matter of fact we have not got a compact picture of the situation and we have not at least got any idea as to what is the proposal of the Government to solve the problem. The Hon'ble Minister has said that the Government is only a victim of circumstances, that Government did whatever was possible within its powers, and it was only the circumstances that brought whatever failure there was. I wish the circumstances were better and that we were better off to-day.

Sir, without going into the long array of figures which is perhaps compiled by the Statistics Department of the Government, we have tried to understand the compact meaning of the speech. But what we find in the speech with regard to the problem of food? The Hon'ble Minister gives us to understand that the food situation in this State has been going from bad to worse every year. Sir, in 1942-43, Assam Government's commitment was something like 68 thousand tons. Then, in 1945-46 it rose to one lakh 12 thousand tons and in 1951-52 it is two lakh 50 thousand tons, that is to say, the commitment of the Government is rising every year. On the contrary, the procurement of the Government has gone down year after year, and now the situation is, as the Hon'ble Minister has himself said, we are not in a position to procure the food that we need, and we also cannot expect to get from the Government of India the necessary subvention in the matter of food. Whatever subvention or help we have been getting, is not the type of food to which our people are used. We are generally called "ভতুৰা অসবীয়া" or "ভেভো বান্ধনী". The Hon'ble Supply Minister perhaps is not happy with the epithet. So, Sir, by feeding us Atta imported by the Supply Department, it is perhaps the intention of the Government to make us sturdy martial Punjabis! Sir, even that supply is not adequate. The Hon'ble Minister himself has admitted that this is far from adequate. Sir, in this connection, in another speech the Hon'ble Finance Minister was pleased to say that some hon. Members in this side of the House have formed a habit to say that in this State we have got surplus land which could be brought under the plough and thereby the food problem could be solved. He has expressed indignation at this kind of remarks. Now, Sir, we find from the statistics of the Agricultural Department of the Government that whereas the total requirement of foodgrain is about 15 lakh tons, the available quantity is only about 12 lakh 76 thousand tons, and then, the total area under cultivation in this State is about 56,69,918 acres and the fallow lands in the plains districts are about 17,39,011 acres. There are in the Tea Estates 14,29,950 acres of land of which only about 4,00,000 acres are under actual cultivation of tea. So, if after seeing these figures, one says that there are not only a few thousands but a few lakhs of acres of land lying fallow which could be brought under the plough, shall one be wrong?



Will it be doing injustice to the cause and will it be only a wrong and pernicious propaganda? We shall very humbly request the Hon'ble Minister to explain this position and to say whether there are actually several lakhs of acres of land lying fallow in this State or not? And if there are, whether Government are really making any effort to bring this land under the plough so as to lessen the acute food shortage in our State? Sir, this food shortage is not quite a new phenomenon in our country. It has not arisen only in the course of a year or two. This food crisis began as early as the War years. So far as we remember, there was no food scarcity in our State before the War; because apart from the indigenous production of food in our State, there used to come imported food from other parts of the world like Burma and we used to get that at a rather cheap rate. But as a result of the War and the consequent factors arising therefrom, came the abnormal food crisis to the State where there was no food crisis before. There were several factors responsible for this. Some of these factors have been mentioned by the Hon'ble Minister, but there are also some other factors which he did not mention. Firstly, the import from Burma and other parts of the world was stopped during the War. Secondly, there was an influx of new population, not only Muslim immigrants, as the Hon'ble Minister mentioned, but also people connected with the War, soldiers and others. The State was not prepared for this sudden influx and then, our State having been in the War area quite a good number of peasant youths was drawn either as soldiers or as workers in different war industries and concerns. So, a good number of people from the peasantry was drawn away from actual cultivation to other vocations. Then there was also a sense of insecurity among the peasants. The Japanese armies were knocking at our doors and our leaders were kept behind the prison bars. As a result, there was on the one hand a great amount of agony and resentment on the part of the people and on the other hand there was a sense of insecurity. So, the peasants did not feel sufficiently encouraged to grow more food. Further, due to Military demand, a good number of our cattle was taken away and eaten up. Then, Sir, some of the very important nation-building departments like Agriculture and Veterinary were neglected. No efforts were made to improve those departments and to raise the quality and number of our livestock. Then, there were also floods just after the War. These floods were caused not only due to circumstances beyond our control, but also due to circumstances which were within our control. For example, there was a lot of wanton deforestation, the railway lines and roads which were constructed often times did not take sufficient notice of the natural water-ways and water was in several places unnecessarily blocked and the areas which in usual circumstances were not inundated went under water. Then the poor and impoverished peasants became poorer still. Due to inflation, there was rise in prices and everyone knows that the agricultural labourers and poor peasants had not sufficient stock to keep their body and soul together for the whole year. The rice which they had after giving the share of the intermediaries could carry them only for a few months and for part-time work in other people's concerns. As a result of inflation, these poor peasants became poorer and many of them had to sell their lands. If the registration records during the years immediately following the War are seen, it will be evident that during those years a good number of land sales took place and it was the poor section of the peasants who had to sell their land. There were ready purchasers too. They were War contractors, sub-contractors and others who got some liquid money from some sort of war business. As we are in a colonial country, they could not invest their liquid capital in any business concern or industry. What they did was to purchase lands from the poor peasants and thereby the number of intermediaries grew. So, we find that just after the war years, there was a very great crisis in our agricultural life and this crisis could



have been solved only if the Government had adopted a realistic policy. But Government at that time did not take a far-sighted or realistic policy. The policy pursued was not at all sympathetic to the actual tillers of the soil and as a result, we find that every year our condition is going from bad to worse.

Sir, it is of course a fact that there have come from outside the State immigrants and displaced persons. But are those people really a liability to us? Are not the Muslim immigrants, to whom the Hon'ble Minister referred, very efficient and capable cultivators and are they not producers of foodstuffs and other money crops? (*A voice*:—That does not decrease the population.) Of course they increase the population to a certain extent, but they also increase the productive capacity of the State, because if we take the average Muslim immigrant peasant, we find that he does produce more than he eats. As a result of their coming to our State, our food problem ought rather to have been solved to a certain extent. Therefore I beg to submit that I do not agree to the suggestion of the Hon'ble Minister that these immigrants have only created a problem and that they are not assets. These immigrants can produce more than they actually consume. Secondly, with regard to the displaced persons of whom I have had stated in my previous speech, these persons should not be regarded as a liability. I submit that our Hon'ble Minister is one sided when he has referred to the accentuation of the problem due to the immigrants and the displaced persons.

**The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE**: On a point of personal explanation, Sir, I think that my hon. Friend has forgotten that there is a word like 'truth'. I mentioned that the population has increased beyond natural increment. There were two things—influx of refugees and Muslim immigrants. I did not say that these people were a liability.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA**: I beg to submit that our Hon'ble Minister while referring to the background of the situation referred to the increase of population. He was trying to prove that the food crisis is not due to the omission and commission of the Government. This was due to the circumstances over which the Government had no control. He had declared that the Government was a victim of circumstances. One circumstance according to him was the increase of population due to influx of immigrants and refugees. There were several other factors working. Some new people were born in this world. He however had mentioned specifically that there was an influx of immigrants and then there was the influx of refugees. I say that with the increase of population there has also been increase in productive force. Increase in man-power should in congenial circumstances naturally mean increase in production. Instead of deficit, there would have been surplus of food production if the Government had properly engaged this man-power in production. If you take the Muslim immigrants, they could and would produce not only their own food, but food for many others.

**The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE**: He will produce everything.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA**: I understand the suggestion of the Hon'ble Minister. Yes, apart from foodcrops, he also produces money crops and also produces children, who should be regarded as a national asset. (*Laughter*).

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY**: Whether geometrically or arithmetically.



**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA**: I am not going to deal with the discredited Malthusian theory of population. (*At this stage he was directed to stop by the Hon'ble Speaker*). I have not yet finished, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER**: You have had enough time. Try to close it.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA**: If I am not allowed sufficient time, I cannot finish my speech. At any rate, let me say this. From the long array of figures, from the long array of comparative statistics of the Hon'ble Minister, we cannot come any where near the actual state of things. We have not been able to get a picture of the real food and cloth situation of the State. There is nothing new in the long essay of the Hon'ble Minister, because everybody knows that there is actual shortage of food in this country. Everybody also knows this naked truth that there are vast tracts of land which can be brought under the plough to give opportunity to peasants of Assam for cultivation. The cultivators, if they were given land, implements and adequate help would have helped the solution of the problem of food in this country. Everybody also says that this Government's policy either with regard to food production or procurement, is a very short sighted and wrong one; because so far as production is concerned, Government has not given adequate, sufficient and timely help to the peasants. They not only do not get land, but also they do not get cattle, seeds, etc. They are always neglected and under such circumstances there cannot be more food production in this country.

Secondly, as regards the Procurement Department of the Government—The department has become one of the most hated departments of the State. They have become a terror to the peasants. They do not appear to help the peasants. They do not take voluntary co-operation of the peasants. They are regarded by the peasants something like looters, because the Government has taken a very wrong and oppressive policy with regard to procurement. In the matter of procurement, sufficient and necessary steps to help the peasants through this Procurement Department have not been taken. Otherwise, they could have procured the surplus stock of paddy. Lastly, with regard to the distribution, we have seen that the Government has shown no willingness to give food materials to the actually needy people whether in urban or rural areas. So, the sum total of the Government food policy comes to be a wrong and suicidal policy. Now, with regard to cloth.....

**The Hon'ble Shri MOTIRAM BORA**: On a point of information, Sir. The hon. Member has referred to the whole staff of procurement as looters—Is it happy or Parliamentary?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER**: Certainly it is not happy. There remains still two minutes. May I know whether the House will continue till 4 P. M..... (*Voices: No.*)

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA**: May I be given those two minutes, Sir?

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

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN**: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have been pleased that the Hon'ble Minister on behalf of the Government moved this Motion for consideration of the food and cloth situation in the State because we are here, Sir, to examine the various problems which are afflicting our State and offer solutions.

#### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A. M. on Tuesday, the 1st April, 1952.

SHILLONG  
The 3rd July, 1952.

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