

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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 10 A.M. on Saturday, the 1st April, 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-six Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Cultivable lands of Dakshin Saru Bansar Mauza and Pub-Chamaria Mauza

Shri RADHACHARAN CHAUDHURY asked :

35. (a) Are Government aware that some thousand bighas of cultivable land of Dakshin Saru Bansar Mauza and Pub-Chamaria Mauza of Kamrup District are still under water on account of stoppage of the mouth of the river Kulsī ?
(b) If so, do Government propose to take steps for necessary redress ?

The Hon'ble Shri MOTI RAM BORA replied :

35. (a)—We have no information, Deputy Commissioner has been asked to submit a report. The information will be submitted on receipt of the report.
(b)—Does not arise.

Scholarships for Plains Tribal Students

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS asked :

36. (a) Is it a fact that all the scholarships from Lower Primary up to the Matriculation allotted to the Plains Tribal Students of Assam for their educational improvement were cancelled with effect from 1951 ?
(b) If so, why ?

The Hon'ble Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS replied :

36. (a)—No.
(b)—Does not arise.

Training Schools in Tribal Areas

Shri RADHACHARAN CHAUDHURY asked :

37. (a) Do Government propose to open new Training Schools in Tribal areas ?
(b) If so, do Government propose to consider the question of opening a Guru-Training, or Normal Training School in the tribal areas of south bank of Kamrup District ?

The Hon'ble Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS replied :

37. (a)—There is no such proposal at the moment.
(b)—Does not arise.

Land Colony for *Ex*-servicemen

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA asked :

38. Will Government be pleased to state whether it proposes to establish any Land Colony in the State for *Ex*-servicemen as in other States of India ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister) replied :

38.—The position of this State is not similar to those of other States of India. The number of *Ex*-Service people willing to take up cultivation is very small in this State and they desire to have lands near about their homes, so that they may live with their own men. In view of this it was considered not worthwhile to start any Land Colony. Government, however, in order to provide land to all *Ex*-service people instructed all the Deputy Commissioners to rehabilitate them suitably on land in their respective districts wherever there be any such demand and actually land has been so provided.

Ruins of "Chand Sadagar"

Shri RADHACHARAN CHAUDHURY asked :

39. (a) Are Government aware of the existence of some ruins of "Chand Sadagar" near at Chhaygaon ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to take proper steps for its research and safeguard of these ruins ?

The Hon'ble Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS replied :

39. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The matter is under active consideration of Government.

Flood-affected areas of the North Bank of Dibrugarh Subdivision

Shri KARKA CHANDRA DOLEY asked :

40. (a) Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner of Lakhimpur district never visited the earthquake and flood-affected areas of the North Bank of Dibrugarh Subdivision after that great earthquake ?

(b) Are Government aware that no relief, practically has been given to the people of Dhemaji and Sissi Mauzas of Dibrugarh Subdivision who were affected by the last earthquake and flood ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the number of distressed families at present in the North Bank of Dibrugarh Subdivision caused by the last earthquake and flood ?

(d) What kinds of reliefs have been given to these earthquake and flood-affected people of that area and to what extent ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister) replied :

40. (a) to (d)—A report was called from the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur but it has not yet been received. The hon. Member will be informed when the report is received.

Shri KARKA CHANDRA DOLEY : ইয়াত দিয়া হৈছে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে কোনো খা খবৰ পোৱা নাই বুলি। যিবিলাক ভূমিকম্প আৰু বানপানীত পীড়িত লোক আছে তেওঁলোকক যথেষ্ট relief দিয়া হৈছে নে নাই এই বিষয়ে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে অবগত আছেনে ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister) : আমি লোকল কমিটিৰ পৰা তেনে কোনো report পোৱা নাই।

Shri KARKA CHANDRA DOLEY : ইয়াৰ পৰা বুজা গৈছে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে এই বিষয়ে কোনো interest নলয়।

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister) : এইবোৰ চাবৰ বাবে সেইবোৰ ঠাইত লোকল কমিটি আছে। তাৰপৰা report আহিলেহে আমি বিবেচনা কৰিব পাৰো।

Shri KARKA CHANDRA DOLEY : লোকল কমিটিবোৰে এই বে লাখে লাখে মানুহ মৰিছে এই বিষয়ে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টক জনোৱা উচিত নহয় নে ?

Shri DALBIR SINGH LOHAR : The reply to questions (a) to (d) is—A report was called from the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur, but it has not yet been received. মই গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টক এই কথা শুনিব পাৰোনে আজি ৬ মাহ ১ বছৰেও মানুহবিলাকৰ একো ব্যৱস্থা নহল কিয় আৰু আন কোনো ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব নোৱাৰেনে ? অন্ততঃ ৬ মাহে বা বছৰেক এই ৰিপৰ্টবিলাক নাহেনে ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister) : এনেকুৱা আন কোনো ব্যৱস্থা নাই। Report আহিলেহে কব পৰা যাব।

Shri DALBIR SINGH LOHAR : মই Government ক জনাব পাৰোনে—ইয়াত উল্লেখ কৰিছে যে Deputy Commissioner সেইবিলাক ঠাই লৈ যোৱা নাই এইটো সঁচানে।

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister) : এইটো ধৰি লব নোৱাৰো। Report আহিলেহে জনা যাব।

Court House at Goalpara

Shri HAKIM CHANDRA RABHA asked :

41. (a) Are Government aware that there is much congestion in the Court House at Goalpara for want of sufficient space and that officers of different branches are huddled together to the detriment of efficient work and health ?

(b) Do Government propose to undertake extension of the Court House at Goalpara immediately ?

724 ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE ASSAM EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE. [1ST APL.]

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister) replied :

41. (a)—Government have no information.
(b)—Does not arise.

Re non-receipt of replies to certain Questions

Shri ANANDA CHANDRA BEZBARUA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I sent some questions before I came to Shillong but it appears that those questions have not been answered. May I know, Sir, what happened to those questions ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The date for reply to those questions has been fixed on the 3rd April, 1952 and if the House continues you will get the answers. The Ministry have received 149 unstarred questions out of which 119 have already been replied to and out of 3 starred questions received 2 have been replied to.

Election of Members to the Public Accounts Committee

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I shall now announce the result of election to the Public Accounts Committee. As a result of voting held on the 31st March 1952, the following hon. Members are declared elected :—

1. Shri Harihar Choudhury ;
2. Shri Hem Chandra Chakravarty ;
3. M. Moinul Haque Choudhury ;
4. Shri A. Alley ;
5. Shri Mal Chandra Pegu ; and
6. Maulavi Muhammad Umaruddin.

Election of Members to the Assam Embankment and Drainage Works Advisory Committee

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The following hon. Members are hereby declared elected to the Assam Embankment and Drainage Works Advisory Committee :—

From the Plains Districts

1. Shri Rai Chand Nath ;
2. Shri Kamala Prasad Agarwalla ;
3. Shri Mahendra Hazarika ;
4. Shri Jatindra Narayan Das ;
5. Shri Ananda Chandra Bezbarua ;
6. Shri Manik Chandra Das ;
7. Shri Dandi Ram Dutta ;

From the Hills Districts

Shri Aaran Sangma being the only candidate from the Hills Districts, is also hereby declared elected unopposed.

Further Debate on the Motion re: Food and Cloth situation of the State of Assam

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The time allotted for each hon. Member is 15 minutes. Mr. Umaruddin, will you be able to finish within the time limit?

Maulavi Md. UMARUDDIN: Sir, I shall try to finish my speech in 15 minutes but if I can make it worthwhile I may kindly be given a few minutes more in order to finish my speech.

Sir, we are discussing a very important subject, *viz.*, the Food and Cloth situation of our State. We cannot have an adequate and complete idea of the gravity and magnitude of the food problem, unless we take into consideration the overhaul food position of India.

Sir, it is known to every body that since the last War, I mean, since 1942-43, there has been food shortage in India and this has become a serious problem. Bengal was one of the worst victims of famine, unknown in the History of the World. The total casualties, it was said, was far in excess of the casualties of the last World War. After that we had a rude shock to the consciousness of the fact that we are short of food to the tune of over 2 million tons. So, immediately Government of India undertook an ad hoc Grow-more-food production Scheme. There was not enough effort in the country to implement it though certain schemes were introduced here and there. But in 1947 the Partition of the country and secession of Pakistan from the rest of India, made the food situation in the country far worse than what it was and at that time, the shortage of food was estimated at about 4.8 million tons. If we examine the problem from the point of view of population, we have a population of 325.2 millions and about 75 per cent. of our population depend for their maintenance on agriculture. Therefore, Sir, the Government of India has been able to realise that the salvation of our country lies in the improvement of agriculture and the augmenting of food production. Sir, our agriculture is the poorest in the world. Though we have got one of the most fertile lands in the world, the average yield of crop per acre is not only the lowest in the world but the figures are actually very tragic. I would here quote some figures with regard to rice. In India the average yield per acre in terms of rice is only 9 maunds *i.e.*, per Bigha 3 maunds; in U. S. A. it is 18 maunds per acre or about 6 maunds per Bigha; in Japan it is 29 maunds per acre or about 9 maunds per bigha; and in Egypt and Italy the yield is 36 maunds per acre or 12 maunds per bigha. The yield in terms of paddy will be proportionately higher.

So, Sir, our yield per bigha of land is the lowest, and it is not possible for us to wait any longer and unless some special measures are taken to improve our agriculture we can have no escape from the dire consequences. With the increase of our population, the question of feeding them is becoming daily acute. Every year we are adding 50 lacs of hungry mouths to our already heavy population which is the second largest in the world. That is why the agricultural problem

has become the most important problem in India. So the Government of India has introduced certain measures to tackle all the problems relating to agriculture to promote the cause of food production. The poor yield of our land is not only due to the growing lack of soil fertility but also due to the medieval technique of agriculture and lack of capital to be employed in it and there are other contributory factors such as fragmentation of lands and Zamindary system etc.

The Government of India introduced the Grow-More-Food Campaign on an integrated basis from the year 1947, but in 1949 it was realised that the tempo of the campaign must be increased otherwise it would be impossible for us to cope with the daily increasing population. Therefore in 1949 the Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru drew pointed attention of our countrymen to the food problem and stressed the need of solving the problem and assured that India would attain self-sufficiency in food by 1951 and after that there would be no food imports from abroad. But unfortunately, Sir, due to natural calamities and other causes not only we failed to attain the self-sufficiency but in the year 1951 we faced the worst situation in our history so far as food was concerned. Actually our import in that year rose to 7 million tons and this year it is estimated to be 5 million tons. Now we are placed in this desperate position and we do not know what may happen in the future. Upto the year 1949-50 Assam used to export in the average one lakh tons of food grains to the rest of India.

Therefore though the Government of India spent some money for the Grow-More-Food Campaign and our Government had a share of it, still there was little visible activity or result. The position was further aggravated by the devastation caused by the great earthquake in the year 1950, resulting in the tremendous shortage of foodstuff in the province. Sir, that brought us face to face with a very serious food situation and today the total shortage is estimated at something like 2,50,000 tons. So, Sir, it seems that a province which was once self-sufficient in food and which also after fulfilling local commitments used to export a big quantity of rice to other parts of India, is now faced with a heavy deficit. Therefore if we want to meet this deficiency, if we want to keep our people in body and soul together, we must adopt measures in such a way and implement them in such a way that we can avoid the disaster that lies ahead. Sir, the Hon'ble Minister of Supply in his speech yesterday said that though the Government of India has promised to supply us 1,47,000 tons of food grains there is no certainty that the whole quantity will be available and there is also no certainty either that our required quota in terms of rice will be available. Last year rice was selling at Rs.120 to 130 per maund and there was terrible distress in the countryside. Sir, with such a grave situation facing us today, we must see what measures we can adopt so that we can at least arrest the deterioration in our food situation if not succeed in attaining self-sufficiency. In the long speech delivered by the Hon'ble Supply Minister yesterday he only gave certain facts and figures to enable us to judge to what extent the deficit of foodstuff will be in the future. But there was no mention of the plan so far pursued by Government in meeting the food shortage, there was no mention of the various schemes pursued by Government in this respect and no mention of what has been the result during the last few years. It has been said that they want concrete suggestions from all sections of the House and members of the public, but till now we do not know what plan and programme Government are following in the various directions. In the absence of that, Sir, how can we make our suggestions? The Government should have placed a copy of the detailed plan of the activities in various spheres of agricultural improvement,

as for instance, irrigation, land improvement, manuring, fertilisation, seed production, etc. But nothing has been done. So we cannot judge actually what our Government has been doing during the last 5 years with the fund which was provided by the Government of India in the interest of the Grow-More-Food Campaign.

Sir, only we are told from time to time through some sort of press communiques which are issued by the Assam Publicity Department, of the various activities of the Government and their so-called achievements. But we have no information of the Government and their so-called achievements. But we have no information of the Government and their so-called achievements. But we have no information of the whatsoever actually what has been done and what are the actual results of the various schemes introduced by the Government. Sir, I find that the Grow-More Enquiry Committee set up by the Government of India will be visiting the State of Assam in the beginning of May next and the Ministry of Food has issued a certain set of questionnaire in a book not only to the State Governments but also to individuals and non-official bodies for eliciting opinion on the various problems affecting the Grow-More-Food Schemes. Sir, this book of questionnaire has again been issued by the Director of Information and Publicity Department of the Government of Assam. This book is full of information. So, if this book had been circulated among the Members of this House, we would have offered our suggestions to them and thereby not only they but this Government also would have been benefitted—on the basis of our suggestions. I do not know, Sir, whether our Government have sent their replies to the questionnaire, the last day for which was the 15th March. But it is a matter of real disappointment

The Hon'ble Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY: For the information of the hon. Member, Sir, the last date for sending replies to the questionnaire has been extended to 7th April next. So, if the hon. Member wants to give any suggestions in this behalf, he can do so even now.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: My point is, Sir, that this book of questionnaire was not circulated among the Members of this House. As a matter of fact we are not aware of this.

The Hon'ble Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY: Sir, it has been circulated among the public through the Deputy Commissioners and the Subdivisional Officers with Assamese rendering of it. It has been circulated among the hon. Members of this House also.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: I think the circulation should have been given effect to long before this food situation came up for discussion.

The Hon'ble Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY: As soon as we received the book of questionnaire we made our efforts to circulate it among the Members of this House.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: But the time for submission of our replies is about to expire, Sir.

The Hon'ble Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY: The time has been extended up to the 7th April next.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: Even then, Sir, this extension of time is going to expire soon. I am surprised to see the apathy of the Government in this vital problem.

The Hon'ble Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY: It was received by the second fortnight of March and we made every effort to get them published here as early as possible.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Supply Department will reply in this connection in due course.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: Sir, in this connection Government should have placed all their cards on the table. This problem is so big that without the co-operation of the whole House and the public in general it is impossible for the Government alone to solve it. Here I may quote a certain observation made in the book of questionnaire: "The targets of additional production under the Grow-More-Food Programme are, at present, framed at the headquarters of the State Governments without carrying out local surveys of food production possibilities and at this stage there is no close consultation with the interests concerned with the actual production. The system of imposing the target from the top might have the effect of rendering it unrealistic. For this reason, the Planning Commission has suggested the formation of Village Production Councils, who would draw up the production programme for each season and also the targets of additional production for the village." It seems, Sir, that there are certain directions given by the Centre and to carry them out is the responsibility of the State Governments. It is necessary that the Government should take the House into confidence and tell them what are the plans in this connection and what are the projects started and where they have been started, so that every Member of this House, in his respective constituency, could give his co-operation and help, if sought, in achieving success.

Sir, I will deal with the schemes that have been taken up by the Government under various heads, as for instance, major irrigation, minor irrigation, land improvement, manuring, fertilisation, miscellaneous, price and control, administration, land reforms, general, etc. We found some time ago a Press Report in the *Hindustan Standard* giving a complete picture of the activities of the Assam Government in the field of grow-more-food. I think the figures quoted therein were taken from the Government of Assam, because I find that the same figures have been quoted in the speeches of the Hon'ble Finance Minister as well as of His Excellency the Governor of Assam. I therefore think that these figures have official sanction. It is said that 36 Grow-More-Food schemes were taken up by the Government and the heads under which the activities were concentrated are Major Irrigation, Minor Irrigation, Power Irrigation, Mechanised Cultivation and Seed Multiplication, etc. It was stated that in 1951 the total number of minor irrigation schemes undertaken were 954 and the target of area to be covered was 2,36,000 acres and the target of additional produce was 32,000 tons in the same year. But the result either in terms of the acreage actually covered and of the out-turn received was not made available. It was also said that Government introduced the Power Irrigation Scheme particularly for Boro cultivation and the area to be covered was 12,600 acres. Under the Major Irrigation Scheme in 1951, 13 projects were completed and the area to be covered was 55,500 acres. By mechanised cultivation 15,000 acres of land are said to have been reclaimed. What is more interesting is that under the Seed Multiplication Scheme, the Government distributed 11,032 tons of seeds which is equal to 2,96,000 maunds, but the area to be covered was only 15,000 acres. These figures if correct, are absolutely fantastic. How can such a large quantity of seed can be distributed in the area indicated. That is why, Sir, in my speech on the Motion on Agriculture I said that whatever we see in the newspapers and Government Communiques cannot be accepted as true, without verification, of course. We do not see in the country-side any visible sign of any effort by the Government to promote the Grow-More-Food Campaign. Then again for the year, *i. e.*, 1952-53, the total area to be benefitted under Major Irrigation schemes is 3 lakhs 58 thousand acres. We have got some 16 Major Irrigation projects to be started at the cost of 38½ lakhs of rupees and the area to be benefitted is one lakh

40 thousand acres and the additional yield is estimated at 31 thousand tons. Then the estimate prepared for 13 more schemes will cost 29 lakhs 36 thousand rupees and the area to be benefitted is one lakh acres and the extra yield is estimated to be 22 thousand tons. Again there are 18 more projects of which survey has been taken up, and they are estimated to benefit one lakh 18 thousand acres. So, Sir, we find that under these schemes about 3,58,000 acres are going to be benefitted. Then again we find at page 10 of the Budget speech of the Hon'ble Minister of Finance that since 1946 rupees 12 lakhs have been spent for drainage and embankment schemes and the area reclaimed is claimed to be 66,000 acres.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : You have got two minutes more.

Maulavi Md. UMARUDDIN : Then, Sir, since 1949-50, 45 Embankment and Drainage Schemes to cost 120 lakhs of rupees to benefit a total area of 3,60,000 acres have also been undertaken. These are the various schemes and these are the amounts of money which the State Government have been spending on the various schemes for the Grow More-Food Campaign, and inspite of the tremendous cost, what is the net result we find ? We find that we are still short of 2 lakhs 50 thousand tons of food. Sir, the Government have totally failed to impress the people—to draw their sympathy and to catch their imagination towards this vital matter and have thus failed to enlist their co-operation in the implementation of these various schemes which are costing huge sums of money. We find that in the village nobody knows anything about the Grow-More-Food Campaign. All that we find is that there are some sign boards hung in some places throughout the length and breadth of Assam Access Road but not in the interior of the villages. All these are being done without taking into consideration the potentialities of the areas where these schemes are being operated. Sir, it has been clearly laid down in the instructions of the Government of India that the places to be selected under the Five Year Plan for such schemes should be of assured and regular water supply or rainfall. They should be concentrated in places where the results may be assessed due to the success of the schemes operated under such favourable conditions. But no such consideration has been given by Government while selecting the places. Sir, if we cannot solve the food problem quickly with some extra ordinary efforts then we shall lose the sympathy and co-operation of the masses. I think the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Food should take into consideration all these points. He should visit the interior of the State and inspire the people to come forward and co-operate with the Government in implementing the various schemes designed to increase the food production. He should place himself at the vanguard of the attack on the problem of food shortage. In this connection, Sir, my suggestion is that there should be a Central Food Committee at the State level formed with the hon. Members of the House as well as others who can really render help to solve the most vital problem with their suggestion and co-operation. I think, Sir, this Committee should visit the places where these schemes are being executed and see for themselves whether these schemes are being executed properly and whether they are going to yield the desired result. The Agriculture Department as it is constituted is not capable of implementing the various schemes which they have taken up. We find a lot of talk in the paper and a lot of propoganda for this campaign but they have not reached the masses in the interior. We should go to the interior and tell the villagers that unless they contribute towards the solution of this most vital problem of food shortage, we shall be no where.

Sir, the Government have now come to realise the immense harm created as a result of diversion of land from paddy cultivation to growing cash crops. The Hon'ble Shri Munshi has now come to realise this wrong policy. We must be

very careful in such matters and see that diversion of land to other cash crop does not in any way affect our Grow-More Food Campaign. It was a serious mistake to have fixed the price of paddy at Rs. 9 to Rs. 10 per maund while jute was selling at Rs. 60 to Rs. 70 per maund, mustard at Rs. 28 to Rs. 30 per maund and pulses, etc., at Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 per maund. This has resulted in diversion of land from food to cash crops. There must be proper co-relation of price between food crops and cash crops and any artificial fixation of price for food crops is bound to adversely affect food production.

Sir, in order to increase the production of paddy, we should encourage the cultivation of Boro and Dumahi paddy. They are not now grown all over the State. We should also encourage the production of Aus in those parts of Assam where it is not grown now. At the same time we must also introduce double cropping. Along with the cultivation of paddy some other kind of pulses can also be grown simultaneously. Sir, the immigrants have been doing this with good result. If the same crop is grown on the land every time it takes more out of the soil nutrient but if some other kinds of crops—such as pulses, etc., or similar crops of leguminous varieties are grown by rotation or through mixed or inter-cropping, some kind of nutrient is again added to the soil and the fertility of the land is not lost thereby. These are simple methods and by following them we can solve our problem to a great extent. We all know, Sir, Sylhet which was once deficit in food could make up that deficit by the intensive cultivation of Boro. The yield of Boro is also high in comparison with other varieties of paddy—about three times more than other kind of paddy. As Boro is cultivated in the winter months, it does not interfere with other crops. There are large number of *beels* and swamps where Boro can be grown. We should also increase the out-turn of Sali cultivation. It requires assured water supply. This can be done by power pump or digging wells where no flowing streams can be harnessed for canal irrigation. Sir, in U. P. thousands of wells have been excavated. We can also grow more Sali by providing water by means of power pumps and digging wells. I myself have been thinking of experimenting on this method in some selected places. If the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Food desires, I may show him how this can be done where the cultivation of Sali is suffering due to drought or lack of rainfall.

So what we need is this: we want to be immune as far as possible from the uncertainties of rainfall. If we can irrigate with the aid of streams, with the aid of power pumps, etc., we shall to a great extent be relieved from the vagaries of Nature and our food production will not suffer much. Then, Sir, Aus and certain other crops suffer for want of manure. The manure supplied by Government is insignificant. Compost must be produced on a large scale and efforts in this direction intensified.

(The bell rang again)

I had to say something more on other aspects of food production but as I have no time, towards the end I would only suggest to Government to set up a Central Food Committee at State level and try to solve the food problem with their advice and co-operation as early as possible.

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to make a few observations on the food problem of the State.

Sir, this food problem is a very great problem and its solution requires the co-operation of all of us. On my part, I can say this much that I am an agriculturist and I will do my little bit to produce what I can and I would also ask people in my side of the country to do the same. One thing to which I want to draw the attention of the Government is this: many people in Upper Assam who

were uprooted from their homes by the devastating floods and the earthquake and who are going landless and homeless, must be given settlement of land. They are mostly agriculturists and they will help in the production of more food if land and agricultural loans are timely given. Then, Sir, many *ex-tea* garden labourers are settled in the country side of Upper Assam. They have been asking for land since a long time but they have not got any land as yet. They are as good cultivators as the Muslim immigrants or the peasants of Lower Assam, and if they get land they will produce food. Then, I find in Upper Assam some refugee people who are settling in the villages and many of them have taken shelter with the Assamese householders and are helping them in their cultivation. I think these people also should be given some land for cultivation; that will increase food production. Sir, the Hon'ble Minister may say that this comes under the head "Land Settlement". But food grows on land and the question of land settlement will come along with the question of growing of food.

Another thing which I find, Sir, that there are many poor cultivators who are so poor that they cannot buy seeds, bullocks and other implements. These people must be provided with agricultural loans in good time, so that they may undertake their cultivation. I know many such people applying for loans and their applications were returned from the office on the plea that they were not submitted in proper forms. Often they have to wait for 6 or 8 months after submission of their applications but still they do not get any loan. They find it easier to go to the Mahajans who advance money at a high rate of interest. I would therefore ask Government to give agricultural loans to such people and that promptly.

Sir, after all the food that can be grown in the country will be grown. I feel even then there will be shortage because lakhs of people working in the tea gardens do not produce food; they produce only tea and people cannot sustain on tea alone. If Government finds it difficult to procure food for these people, I would suggest that the Indian Tea Association should be given a chance to import food from outside and should be given all facilities to do so. They have got an efficient machinery and they will be able to do so.

Then, Sir, I would like to make a few observations about cloth and yarn. I would ask the Hon'ble Minister to see that a liberal quota of yarn between the counts 20 and 60, be imported and made available to our womenfolk who produce hand-woven cloth in our country. If a liberal quota of yarns could be made available to them, the cloth situation would to a great extent be eased. If yarns cannot be secured in India, I would suggest that steps should be taken to import it from Japan and other countries as well. As regards other textile products, Government should make every effort to bring in medium and coarse varieties so that common people may get plenty of them. Sir, it is the bounden duty of Government to provide people with food, cloth, house and education and if Government fail in these respects, the miseries of the people will be untold and the reaction for the failure will be very grave. So I would ask Government to do all that is possible, to take stock of the food situation and try to meet the deficit by importing food from outside.

Sir, there is seething discontent in the country. The people in our State have given absolute power to the Party, on the other side of the House and so they have got the absolute responsibility of solving this problem. I, of course, do not say, that we, on this side of the House, shirk our responsibilities; we will do whatever is possible, but the main task is on the shoulders of our Friends, opposite.

Sir, I will not take more time and with these few observations I resume my seat.

Shri ROBIN KAKATI: মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, যোগানমন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে আমাৰ দেশৰ খাদ্য আৰু বস্ত্ৰ সমস্যা সম্বন্ধে এই সদনত যিটো আলোচনাৰ অবতাৰণা কৰিছে, সেই প্ৰসঙ্গত ময়ো দুঘাৰ কও বুলি ঠিয় হলো।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, দেশৰ অনু আৰু বস্ত্ৰ এটা বৰ ডাঙৰ সমস্যা। এই সমস্যা সমালোচনা কৰি সদনৰ বিভিন্ন দলৰ সদস্য সকলে তেখেত সকলৰ মতামত ব্যক্ত কৰিছে। দেশৰ খাদ্য আৰু বস্ত্ৰৰ সমস্যাৰ সমাধানৰ ওপৰতে দেশৰ শান্তি, শৃঙ্খলা আৰু প্ৰগতি নিৰ্ভৰ কৰে। এই সমস্যা সমাধান কৰাৰ ওপৰতে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ কৃতকাৰ্য্যতা নিৰ্ভৰ কৰিছে। সেই কাৰণে এই সমস্যা কেনেকৈ সমাধান কৰিব পাৰি তালৈ বিশেষ মনোযোগ দিব লগা হৈছে।

মহোদয়, একালেদি যেনেকৈ দেশৰ উৎপাদনৰ মাত্ৰা হ্রাস হৈ আহিছে, আনফালে তেনেকৈ নানা কাৰণত লোক সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি পাইছে। একালেদি এটা সমাধান কৰাৰ লগে লগে আনপিনে অইন এটা আকস্মিক দুৰ্ব্বটনাই দুৰবস্থা বঢ়াই দিয়ে। এনে ক্ষেত্ৰত আমি কেবল চৰকাৰৰ ওপৰতে সকলো সমস্যা সমাধানৰ ভাৰ দি হাত সাৰতি বহি থাকিলে নহব। আমি সকলোৱে এই সমস্যাৰ সম্মুখীন হব লাগিব যেতিয়া, একালেদি ইয়াৰ সমাধান কৰাটো চৰকাৰৰ যেনে কৰ্তব্য, আনফালে আমাৰ জনসাধাৰণৰো এই বিষয়ত কৰ্তব্য কম নহয়। গতিকে মই ভাবো যে বাস্তৱ দৃষ্টিকোনৰ পৰা চালেই দেখা যাব যে এই ভীষণ সমস্যাৰ প্ৰকৃত সমাধান কৰিবলৈ চৰকাৰ আৰু জনসাধাৰণৰ ফালৰ পৰা চেষ্টা হব লাগিব। সেইটো নহলে এই সমস্যাৰ সমাধান হব নোৱাৰে। জনসাধাৰণে এই সমস্যাতো দুই ফালৰ পৰা চাব লাগিব। এটা হৈছে, বৰ্তমান আমাৰ খাদ্য নাটনি আৰু দ্বিতীয়টো হৈছে আমাৰ ভবিষ্যতৰ খাদ্য সমস্যা।

তাৰ পিছত হৈছে, আমি আমাৰ কেনেকৈ জনসংখ্যা অনুপাতে খাদ্যৰ উৎপাদন বঢ়াব পাৰো, তালৈ বিশেষ চকু ৰাখি আমি এটা নীতি গ্ৰহণ কৰি কামত আগ বাঢ়িব লাগিব, আমাৰ যোগান মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে তেখেতৰ বিবৃতিত কৈছে যে, অহা বছৰলৈকে আমাৰ ৰাজ্যত ২,০০,০০০ টন খাদ্য ষাটি পৰিব। এই ষাটিৰ ১,৪৭,০০০ টন বাহিৰৰ পৰা আমদানি কৰিব পৰা হব। এতিয়া প্ৰকৃততে ষাটি পৰিব বাকী ৫৩,০০০ টন, এই ষাটি খিনি আমাৰ ৰাজ্যৰ অতিৰিক্ত উৎপাদনৰ পৰা সংগ্ৰহ কৰিব লাগিব। যোৱা বছৰ আমাৰ ৰাজ্যত যি খেতি হৈছে, কৃষক সকলৰ সেই উদ্বৃত্তৰ পৰা সংগ্ৰহ কৰি যে এই ষাটি পূৰাব পৰা হব, সিও এটা সমস্যা হৈ পৰিছে। আনহাতে এই ষাটি যদি আমি পূৰাব নোৱাৰো তেনেহলে দেশত এটা ভয়ঙ্কৰ আকালৰ সম্ভাৱনা আছে। সেই কাৰণে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে আগৰ বছৰত যিটো সমস্যাৰ সম্মুখীন হবলগীয়া হৈছিল, এই বছৰো যাতে তেনেধৰণৰ সমস্যা আহি নপৰে তাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগিব। অৰ্থাৎ আমাৰ আগৰ অভিজ্ঞতা আছে যে কেন্দ্ৰৰ পৰা খাদ্য দুব্যাৰ যি সাহায্য পাব লাগে সেই খাদ্যদুব্যাৰ সাহায্যও নিয়মিত সময়ত পোৱা নাযায়। এই বছৰো যিখিনি কেন্দ্ৰীয় সাহায্যৰ আশ্বাস পোৱা হৈছে সেইখিনি যাতে নিয়মিত সময়ত আহে তাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে আৰু জনপ্ৰিয় সংগ্ৰহ নীতি এটা লৈ, সৰ্বসাধাৰণ ৰাইজেও যাতে দেশৰ খাদ্য সমস্যা উপলব্ধি কৰে, সেইমতে সংগ্ৰহবিভাগে কাম কৰিব লাগিব। নানা ঠাইত যিবিলাক খাদ্য সমিতি আছে, সেই খাদ্য সমিতি বিলাকেও যাতে কাৰ্য্যকাৰী হিছাবে কাম কৰে তাৰ কাৰণে নতুন অনুপ্ৰেৰণা দিব লাগিব।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, যোগান সমস্যাৰ এটি নতুন অধ্যায়লৈ মই গভৰ্ণ মেণ্টৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰো। বৰ্তমান খাদ্য পৰিস্থিতিতলৈ চাই এইবাৰ আমাৰ গাৱলীয়া অঞ্চলত বেচিকৈ খাদ্যৰ যোগান দিব লাগিব। কাৰণ যোৱা বছৰত বহুতো ঠাইত ধান খেতি একেবাৰেই কমি যোৱাত এনেকুৱা সঙ্কট অবস্থা এটাৰ উদ্ভৱ হৈছে যে আনকি বিহুৰ লগে লগে বহুতো মানুহৰ খাবলৈ নোহোৱা হব, যোৰ বোধেৰে সেই বিলাক ঠাইত যোৱা বছৰতকৈ দুগুণে খাদ্য দিব লাগিব। এই বিলাক বিষয়লৈ চকু ৰাখি যোগান সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিবলৈ গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে চেষ্টা কৰিব লাগিব।

বাগানৰ বনুৱা সকলক যি চাউল দিয়া হয় সেই চাউল বিলাকত শতকৰা ৩০ ভাগেই ধান আৰু তুঁহ মিহলি থাকে। তেওঁলোকক ৫১৬ সেৰ চাউলৰ সলনি মাত্ৰ ৩১৬ সেৰ চাউল হে বৰ্তমান দিয়া হৈছে। অবশ্যে এই ৩ সেৰৰ ভিতৰত আতা আৰু Milo দিয়া হয়। যি হওক,

মোটিব ওপৰত যি খিনিকেই দিয়া হয়, সি যাতে ধোৱাৰ উপযোগী হয়। নহলে মিছাকৈ অপব্যয় হয় আৰু সৰ্বসাধাৰণবোৰে কষ্ট হয়। এনেকুৱা বেমেজালি যাতে নঘটে, তাৰ প্ৰতি যোগান মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে চকু বাধি সেই বেমেজালিটো দূৰ কৰিবলৈ যত্ন কৰে যেন।

তাৰ পিচৰ কথা হৈছে, আমাৰ বৰ্ত্তমান বছৰৰ সমস্যালৈ চাই কেন্দ্ৰৰ পৰা ধান চাউলৰ সাহায্য নিয়মিত ভাবে পাবলৈ যত্ন কৰাৰ উপৰিও, যিখিনি আমাৰ ইয়াত আছে, তাক ভালকৈ ব্যৱহাৰ কৰিবলৈ যত্ন কৰিব লাগিব। আমাৰ বহু খিনি খাদ্য বস্তু এনেয়ে অপব্যয় হয়। আমাৰ গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ যিটো প্ৰচাৰ বিভাগ আছে, সেই বিভাগৰ জৰিয়তে এটা জনমত গঠন কৰিব লাগে আৰু জনমত সজাগ কৰি যাতে এই অপব্যয় বন্ধ হয় তাৰ কাৰণে আমি চেষ্টা চলাব লাগিব।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় আৰু এটা বিশেষ মনদিব লগীয়া কথা হৈছে এই যে, Mill বিলাকে যি চাউল আৰু খাদ্য বস্তু তৈয়াৰ কৰে, বহুত ক্ষেত্ৰত দেখা যায় যে, সেই খাদ্য দ্ৰব্য বিলাকৰ সৰহ খিনিয়েই খাদ্যৰ উপযোগী নহয়। তাৰ উপৰি বৰ্ত্তমানে Mill বিলাকে যি পদ্ধতিত আৰু যেনে-বকমৰ চাউল তৈয়াৰ কৰি দিয়ে তাত বহু ধান এনেয়ে পেলাই দিয়া হয়। তেনেকৈও আমাৰ শতকৰা ১০ ভাগ ধান চাউল কৰোতেই নষ্ট হয়। এই Mill বিলাকৰ তেনেকুৱা কাম বিলাক বন্ধ কৰিবলৈ গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে যিটো নীতি লৈছে সেই নীতি ভালকৈ অনুসৰণ কৰিলে আমাৰ এই অপব্যয় হোৱা ১০ ভাগ খাদ্য বাহি হব। ইয়াৰ উপৰিও গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে এনেকুৱা এটা পৰিকল্পনা আগত বাধি যোগানৰ কাম কৰিবলৈ যত্ন কৰিব লাগিব যাতে বৰ্ত্তমান আমাৰ যিটো খাদ্য সমস্যা সেইটো সমাধান হোৱাৰ লগে লগে আগৰ বছৰতো আমি এনেকুৱা খাদ্য সৰুটৰ পৰা সম্মুখীন হব লগা নহয়।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমাৰ মাটিৰ সমস্যা সম্বন্ধে যোৱা কালি কেইজনমান মাননীয় সদস্যই কৈছে যে আমাৰ বহুতো মাটি এনেয়ে পৰি আছে। মোৰ ব্যক্তিগত অভিজ্ঞতাৰ পৰা মই কব পাৰো যে আমাৰ শিবসাগৰ মহকুমাকেই যদি উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে ধৰা হয়, তেন্তে তাত একেবাৰেই পতিত মাটি নাই। আনকি বহুতো চৰকাৰী জঙ্গল আৰু চৰনীয়া পথাৰকে আদি কৰি বহুতো দৰ্কাৰী মাটি বিলাকো খুলি দিব লগীয়া হৈছে। তেখেত সকলে কৈছে যে বাগান বিলাকত ১৪ লাখ একৰ মাটি আছে। মোৰ বোধেৰে মাননীয় সদস্য সকলে বোধকৰো নাছানে যে ৪,০০,০০০ একৰ মাটিত চাহ খেতি হয় আৰু বাকী ২,০০,০০০ একৰ মাটিত বাগানৰ বনুৱা সকলে খেতি কৰে। তাৰ পিচত গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে যি ভূমি দান নীতি লৈছে, সেই নীতি অনুসৰিও বহুতো ভূমিহীন লোকক বাগানৰ মাটি দিয়া হৈছে। এই বিলাক কৰা সত্ত্বেও মাটিৰ সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিব পৰা নাই! আনকি এতিয়াও বহুতো খনুৱা ভূমিহীন লোকেই মাটি পোৱা নাই। এনেস্থলত বাগানত থকা মাটিৰ বিষয়ে আমাৰ বহুতৰে ভুল ধাৰণা আছে। বাগান বিলাকত থকা ৪,০০,০০০ একৰ মাটিত চাহ বাগান আছে, ২,০০,০০০ একৰ মাটিত বনুৱা সকলে খেতি কৰে। ইয়াৰ বাহিৰেও চাহ শিল্পৰ বৃদ্ধি আৰু চৰনীয়া পথাৰৰ কাৰণেও মাটি আচুতিয়াকৈ বাধিব লগীয়া হয়। তাৰোপৰি যি বিলাক মাটি আছে সেই বিলাক বাম মাটি, আৰু তাত আমাৰ অসমীয়া মানুহে কোনো খেতি কৰিব নোৱাৰে। সেই কাৰণে মই ভাবো যে আমাৰ চৰকাৰে এটা নীতি লব লাগে যে বাগান বিলাকত যিবিলাক উপক্ৰমা বনুৱা আছে, সেই বনুৱা বোৰৰ দ্বাৰাই বাগানৰ মাটিত খেতি কৰাব লাগে। যদি বাগানৰ সেই উপক্ৰমা বনুৱা বোৰক বাগানৰ মালিক সকলেও ধান আদি উৎপন্ন কৰিবলৈ সুবিধা দিয়ে, তেনেহলে মই ভাবো বহুত বাগানত খাদ্য বস্তু উৎপন্ন কৰিব পৰা যায়। বাগানত খাদ্যৰ যোগান দিয়াটো এটা ডাঙৰ কথা হৈছে। গতিকে যদি বাগানৰ উপক্ৰমা বনুৱা বিলাকৰ দ্বাৰা বাগানতে খাদ্য বস্তুৰ উৎপন্ন কৰিব পৰা যায়, তেনেহলে বাগানৰ খাদ্য সমস্যা সমাধান কৰাটো এটা ডাঙৰ উপায় হব। সেই কাৰণে আমাৰ চৰকাৰে এই কথা ভাবি চাব বুলি আশা কৰিলো, আৰু বাগানৰ মালিক সকলে বাজি হব বুলি আশা কৰিব পাৰি।

চৰকাৰৰ প্ৰচাৰ বিভাগৰ পৰা প্ৰচাৰ চলাব লাগে যে আমাৰ মানুহে যাতে শাক-পাচলী আৰু বিভিন্ন ফল-মূল আদিও খাবলৈ লয়। আমাৰ মানুহে চাউল যিমান খায় তাৰ লগত যদি শাক-পাচলী, ফল-মূল আদিও খাবলৈ লয়, তেনেহলে চাউলৰ অভাৱ বহুত কমিব। আমাৰ অসমীয়াত এই কথা আছে—“এজোপা জাতি লাওঁৰ গছ হলে এহালিচা মাটিৰ ধান বাহি হয়”।

সেই কাৰণে চৰকাৰে প্ৰচাৰ বিভাগৰ পৰা আৰু অধিক শস্য উৎপন্নৰ বিভাগৰ পৰাও যদি প্ৰচাৰ কাৰ্য্য চলায় তেনেহলে খাদ্য সমস্যা সমাধানত বহুত সহায় হ'ব। তাৰ লগে লগে মাছ, মগুহ আদিৰ উৎপন্নৰ কাৰণেও চেপ্টা কৰিব লাগে। পাহাৰত যদি মাংস উৎপন্ন কৰিবৰ কাৰণে ভেৰা পোহা যায় আৰু গাৰ্খীৰ উৎপন্নৰ কাৰণে গাই আদি পোহা যায় তেনেহলে ভৈয়ামত খাদ্যসমস্যাৰ বহুতখিনি সমাধান কৰিব পৰা যাব। তাৰোপৰি যি অঞ্চলত যি বস্তু বেচিকৈ উৎপন্ন হয় বা সহজে উৎপন্ন কৰিব পৰা যায়, সেই অঞ্চলত তেনে শস্যৰ উৎপন্নত বেচিকৈ জোৰ দিব লাগে। এই হিচাপে বৈজ্ঞানিক প্ৰণালীৰে কাম কৰিবলৈ ললে, সমস্যাৰ সমাধান হোৱাত সহজ হ'ব।

বস্ত্ৰ সমস্যা সম্বন্ধে কওঁ যে, মাননীয় মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে স্মৃতা অহা আৰু কাপোৰ অহাৰ যিটো বিবৃতি দিলে, মই ভাবো চৰকাৰে যদি আৰু অলপ তৎপৰতাৰে কামটো হাতত লয়, তেনেহলে এই সমস্যা আৰু ভালদৰে সমাধান কৰিব পৰা যায়। বিশেষকৈ বাগানত কাপোৰ সমস্যাটো বৰ জটিল। যদিও তেওঁবিলাকৰ কাৰণে এটা কাপোৰৰ 'কটা' আছে, তথাপি বাগানৰ বনুৱাবিলাকে যথেষ্ট পৰিমাণে কাপোৰ পোৱা নাই। আমাৰ চৰকাৰে প্ৰথমে সমবায় অনুস্থান স্থাপন কৰিছিল এই ব্যৱসায়টো চলাবৰ কাৰণে। চৰকাৰে এটা নীতি লৈছিল যে এই সমবায় অনুস্থান বিলাকৰ যোগেদি আমাৰ দেশৰ বেপাৰ বাণিজ্য আৰু অন্যান্য কাৰ্য্যবাবৰ বৃদ্ধি কৰা; কিন্তু সেয়ে হৈ নুঠিল। এই সমবায় অনুস্থান বিলাকৰ অৱস্থা দিনে দিনে বেয়াহে হৈ গৈছে। কিয় এনে হৈছে মই ক'ব নোৱাৰো। সেই কাৰণে এই সমবায় অনুস্থান বিলাকৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে এটা ভাল ব্যৱস্থা হাতত ল'ব বুলি আশা কৰিলো।

Shri KHORSING TERANG: মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই অন্য মাননীয় মেম্বৰ সকলৰ দৰে কোনো পৰামৰ্শ দিব নোখোজো, মাত্ৰ আমাৰ মিকিৰ বিলাকৰ অৱস্থাৰ বিষয়েহে কেইটামান কথা ক'বলৈ ওলাইছো।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: সেই কথা নহয়। এতিয়া হৈছে খাদ্য সমস্যাৰ কথা।

Shri KHORSING TERANG: খাদ্যৰ বিষয়েই কম। যেতিয়া আমি গোলাঘাট চ' ডিভিজন আৰু নগাওঁ জিলাৰ ভিতৰত আছিলো তেতিয়া আমি কোনো বস্তুকে নেপাইছিলো বুলি কলে বেছি কোৱা নহ'ব। গোলাঘাটে কম নগাওঁৰে দিব আৰু নগাওঁৰে কৈছিল গোলাঘাট চ' ডিভিজন দিব। এনে অৱস্থাৰ মাজতে আমি হাহাকাৰ কৰি মৰিছিলো। চেনি, আটা আদি একোকেই কৰো পৰা নেপাওঁ। আজি মিকিৰ হিল জিলাৰ উদ্ধোধন কৰা প্ৰায় চাৰি পাচ মাহ হৈ গ'ল কিন্তু যোগান বিভাগৰ পৰা কোনোও মিকিৰ জিলাৰ কাৰণে চাউল চেনি বা আটা ময়দা আদি যি দিব লাগে এই কথা বিবেচনা কৰা নাই। মিকিৰ বিলাকক যে কিমান অন্যান্য কৰা হৈছে এই কথা দ্ৰশ্যৰ বাহিৰে আনে ক'ব নোৱাৰে।

আমাৰ মিকিৰ বিলাকে চেনি দেখিবলৈ নাই পোৱা বুলিলেও হয়। যেতিয়া টাউনলৈ যায় তেতিয়াহে চেনিৰ চাহ খাবলৈ পায়। আৰু এটা কথা যে যোৱা নবেম্বৰ মাহত মাননীয় মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে যেতিয়া মিকিৰ হিল জিলাৰ উদ্ধোধন কৰিবলৈ গৈছিল তেতিয়া অন্যান্য বহুটো মানহক সেই অনুস্থানত যোগান দিবলৈ নিমন্ত্ৰণ কৰা হৈছিল। তেওঁবিলাকৰ চাহ জলপান খুৱাবৰ কাৰণে এৰুৱা চেনি আৰু কিছ আটা আৰু ময়দাৰ কাৰণে নগাওঁৰ ডেপুটী কমিছনাৰলৈ দৰখাস্ত কৰা হৈছিল কিন্তু দুৰ্ভাগ্যবশতঃ তাৰ একোকে নেপালোহঁক। ডিফুত ডেপুটী কমিছনাৰ Staff ক বেছন দিয়া M/S Mikir Hills Trading Syndicate বেছন দোকানৰ পৰা অলপ ময়দা আৰু চেনি ধাৰ কৰি কোনো মতে কাম চলোৱা হ'ল। কিন্তু আজিলৈকে সেই ধাৰ সুজিব পৰা নাই। কাৰণ এতিয়ালৈকে আমাৰ সেই অঞ্চলত আটা ময়দা চেনি পোৱা নাই।

Shri MOHENDRA HAZARIKA: মিকিৰ পাহাৰত কহিয়াৰ খেতি বেছিকৈহে হয় ।

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: সেইটো সুকীয়া কথা ।

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY: The size of the hon. Member does not indicate so much scarcity of maida and sugar in Mikir Hills, Sir (Laughter).

Shri KHORSING TERANG: তাৰ পিচত কাপোৰৰ কথা কব খুজো যে মিকিৰ পাহাৰত ৪।৫ মাহৰ আগতে কাপোৰ নাছিল। এতিয়া মিকিৰ পাহাৰতৈ যি কাপোৰ নিয়াইছিল সেইবিলাকৰ দাম বৰ বেচি আৰু নিচেই সাধাৰণ কাপোৰৰ দামো বৰ বেচি। আমাৰ মিকিৰ মানুহবিলাকে সাধাৰণতঃ সাধাৰণ কাপোৰেই ব্যৱহাৰ কৰে কিন্তু মিহি কাপোৰৰো প্ৰয়োজন আছে। তেনে স্থলতো নিচেই সাধাৰণ কাপোৰৰ দাম বেচি হোৱাই মানুহে লব নোৱাৰে। আজি প্ৰায় ২ মাহৰ আগতে যোৱা নবেম্বৰ মাহত তালৈ যি টো 'কটা' গৈছিল তাৰ 'বেট' কম আছিল বুলি শুনিছিলো আৰু সেই কাপোৰ যিনি কোনো 'হলচেল'ৰ অথবা Deputy Commissioner ব লগত consult বা অফাৰ নকৰাকৈ Procuring Agent এ শ্বিলঙলৈ আহি মুৰবিসকলৰ লগত ফুচু কাচ কৰি Free Sale কৰিলে। এনেবিলাক অসুবিধাৰ কাৰণেই আমাৰ মানুহ বিলাকে কাপোৰ লবলৈ পোৱা নাই। মই আগতেই কৈ আহিছো যে, আমাৰ মানুহৰ কাৰণে, মিহি কাপোৰ, যেনে, 'সেনগুপ্ত' ধুতি বা তেনেকুৱা অন্যান্য আৰু মিহি কাপোৰৰ ধুতি, শাৰী কম পৰিমাণ দামী মাফিন আৰু ছাৰ্টিং আৰু আইন মোটা কাপোৰ যথেষ্ট পৰিমাণে দিব কাজেই এই ধৰণৰ কাপোৰ যাতে, আমাৰ গাৱত সোমাই থকা মানুহবিলাকে পায় তাৰ কাৰণে যেন চৰকাৰে দৃষ্টি ৰাখে।

তাৰ পিচত, ধান চাউলৰ সম্বন্ধে মাননীয় সদস্য সকলে সকলোয়েই জানে যে, এই মিকিৰ পাহাৰ অঞ্চলটো সকলো বিষয়তে পিচপৰা। ইয়াৰ মানুহ বিলাক দুখীয়া; খেতি-পথাৰ কৰি খাবলৈ খেতিৰ আহিলা-পাতিৰ অভাৱ। এনে অৱস্থাত তেওঁলোকে যি খেতি কৰে তাৰে মাত্ৰ তেওঁলোকে বছৰটোৰ ৬ মাহ খাবলৈ নোজোৰে, বহুতো সময়ত ৩ মাহ মানহে যায়। এনে অৱস্থাত নগাঁও জিলাৰ হোজাই, লক্ষা আদি অতিৰিক্ত উৎপাদন অঞ্চলৰ পৰা আমাৰ খাবলৈ নোহোৱা মানুহবিলাকক, তেওঁলোকৰ প্ৰয়োজনীয় ধান, চাউল অনা-নিয়া কৰিবলৈ সুবিধা দিব লাগে। মই এই কথা কৈছো এই কাৰণেই যে, খাবলৈ নোহোৱা মানুহবিলাকে তাৰপৰা, ৫/১০সেৰ ধান, চাউল আনিলেই লামডিংত, পুলিচে জব্দকৰি দিয়ে। আৰু সময়ত মানুহকো জব্দকৰি মানুহ বিলাকক অসুবিধাত পেলাই। সেই কাৰণে মই যোগান বিভাগৰ মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰো আৰু এই মানুহ বিলাকক কমহলেও গাইপতি একো মৌণ ধান অথবা চাউল অনা-নিয়া কৰিবলৈ সুবিধা দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰে যেন।

বৰ্তমানলৈকে মিকিৰ হিলৰ কাৰণে "consumer goods" অথাৎ টিন-পাত, চিমেণ্ট, আদি পোৱা নাই। যৰ সাজিবৰ কাৰণে টিন-পাত এই অঞ্চলত পোৱা কঠিন হৈ উঠিছে। আইনকি নতুনকৈ গঠিত হোৱা মিকিৰহিল জিলাই ডেপুটি কমিচনাৰ অফিচ সাজিবলৈ টিন-পাতৰ অভাৱত যৰ সাজি খতম কৰিব পৰানাই। ইয়াৰ যোগান ব্যৱস্থাৰ সম্বন্ধে যোগান বিভাগ মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে দৃষ্টি কৰে যেন।

তাৰ পিচত, বাটা-বাটৰ কথা নকলেও আপোনালোকে নিশ্চয় বুজিব পাৰিব যে এই অঞ্চলৰ সকলো ঠাইতেই খোজকাটি অহা-যোৱা কৰিবৰ নিমিত্তে আৰু মানুহ বিলাকৰ আৱশ্যকীয় খোৱা বস্তু অনা-নিয়া কৰাত কিছু কষ্ট লাঘব হ'বলৈ গড়-কাপ্তানি বিভাগৰ মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে যেন বাটা-পদূলিৰ অৱস্থা উন্নত কৰি দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা হাতত লয়।

ইয়াকে কৈ মই, এই পিচপৰা অঞ্চলটোৰ, সৰ্ব্বাঙ্গীন উন্নতিৰ ব্যৱস্থা হাতত লবলৈ চৰকাৰক অ নুবোধ জনাই সামৰণি মাৰিলো।

Swami KRISHNANANDA BRAHMACHARI:—“সত্যং পৰং ধিমহি”—মাননীয় ‘স্পীকাৰ’ নমস্কে, মাননীয় সদস্যগণ নমস্কে। আজি আমাৰ অনুবন্ধৰ জটিল সমস্যাৰ উদ্ভৱ হৈছে। “অনাৎ ভবতি ভূতানি”—এই অনুৰ ওপৰতেই সমস্ত প্ৰাণীৰ জীৱন বৈ আছে। এই অনুবন্ধৰ যি অনাটন সমস্যা তাৰ সমাধান কৰা চৰকাৰৰ প্ৰধান কৰ্তব্য। সেইবুলি, চৰকাৰৰ এই সহায়ী যি নীতি, তাৰ লগত, আমাৰ মাননীয়, সদস্য সকলে জনসাধাৰণৰ সংস্পৰ্শত আহি অধিক শস্য উৎপাদনৰ বহল অভিযান তেওঁবিলাকৰ মাজত প্ৰচাৰ কৰি আন্তৰিকতাৰে সৈতে কৃষি ক্ষেত্ৰলৈ নামিলেহে এই জটিল সমস্যাৰ সমাধান হব নহলে, জগতত, কেৱল বক্তৃতাৰ দ্বাৰাই একো কাজ হব নোৱাৰে। কাৰণ চৰকাৰ এটা ‘ইঞ্জিণ’—ইয়াৰ লগত জড়িত আছে লাখ লাখ নৰনাৰী। ‘ইঞ্জিণ’টোৰ সকলো অঙ্গই যদি, কাম কৰে তেহে ‘ইঞ্জিণ’টোৱে কাম কৰিব পাৰিব আৰু যদি সেই ‘ইঞ্জিণ’টোৰ এটা অঙ্গ অচল হৈ পৰে, তেন্তে—গোটোই ‘ইঞ্জিণ’টো অচল অৱস্থা প্ৰাপ্ত হয়। সেই কাৰণে এই খাদ্য-বস্ত্ৰৰ জটিল সমস্যাটো সমাধান কৰিবলৈ, প্ৰত্যেক সদস্য, প্ৰত্যেক নৰ-নাৰী সম্ভবদ্বাৰা কামলৈ সাজি পাৰি ওলাব লাগিব—কেৱল চৰকাৰৰ ওপৰত নিৰ্ভৰ কৰি বহি থাকিলেই নহব। এইটো মাননীয় সদস্য সকলে উপলব্ধি কৰি কাৰ্য্য ক্ষেত্ৰত পদাৰ্পণ কৰা একান্ত কৰ্তব্য।

১৯৪২-৪৫ চনত যি ঘোৰতৰ যুদ্ধ হৈ গ’ল সেই যুদ্ধত অসমত লাখে লাখে সৈনিক থকা স্বত্তেও অসমত অসমীয়া মানুহৰ মাজত দুভিক্ষত কাৰো প্ৰাণ হানি নহল অথচ সেই সময়ত বঙ্গদেশত দুভিক্ষ হৈ লাখ লাখ মানুহে প্ৰাণ এৰিলে। কিন্তু এতিয়া আমাৰ দেশত খাদ্য বস্ত্ৰৰ অভাৱ পৰিলক্ষিত হৈছে। ইয়াৰ কাৰণ আমাৰ মানুহ বিলাক নিৰ্দ্ধনা আৰু বিলাসিতা প্ৰিয় হৈ পৰিছে। এই দোষ বিলাক বৰ্জৰ্জন কৰি, ‘কন্মপ্ৰিয়তা’ মনোভাৱ আনিব পাৰিলেহে প্ৰকৃততে কাম হব আৰু সকলো পিনে উন্নতি হব। অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, চৰকাৰে দেশৰ উন্নতিৰ হকে যি বিলাক পৰিকল্পনা হাতত নলওক অথবা আইন নকৰক তাত গাৱলীয়া সমাজৰ সহযোগীতা অত্যন্ত দৰ্কাৰ। তেওঁ বিলাকৰ এই সহযোগীতাৰ মূলত আমাৰ সদনৰ মাননীয় সদস্য সকলৰ আশ্ৰয় প্ৰচেষ্টাৰ প্ৰয়োজন আছে। সেই কাৰণে কেৱল গণপ্ৰশ্নৰ ওপৰত নিৰ্ভৰ কৰিলেই আমাৰ কাম নহব। আমাৰ লোক সকলৰ প্ৰতিনিধি সকলে এই জটিল সমস্যাৰ গুৰুত্ব উপলব্ধি কৰি কেৱল এই সদনৰ বক্তৃতাতেই আৱদ্ধ নাথাকি নিজৰ ঠাইত গৈ নিজ নিজ অঞ্চলৰ গাৱলীয়া কৃষক ৰাইজৰ মাজত খাদ্য, বস্ত্ৰ অনাটন আদি সমস্যাৰ কাৰণ আৰু তাৰ সমাধানৰ উপায়ৰ নিৰ্দ্দেশ দি কৰ্মলৈ প্ৰবৃত্ত কৰাব পাৰিব লাগিব। কৃষিক্ষেত্ৰৰ উন্নতি সাধন কৰি অধিক উৎপন্নৰ দ্বাৰাই জাতীয় সম্পদ বৃদ্ধিকৰিবলৈ উৎসাহ উদগনি দিব লাগিব। এই বিষয়ত মই বিৰোধী দলৰ সদস্য সকলক বিৰোধী বুলি কব নোখোজো। তেখেত সকলেও অসমীয়া পিচপৰা ৰাইজৰ দেশৰ জনসাধাৰণৰ স্বৰ্বাঙ্গীন উন্নতিৰ হকেই চেষ্টা কৰি আহিছে। কৃষি আৰু উৎপন্ন বৃদ্ধিৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে যিমানেই যি নকৰক অসমীয়া মানুহ বিলাকৰ নিজৰ অকৰ্মন্যতাৰ হেতু কৰিব পৰা নাই। অসমীয়া মানুহ এই বিলাক বিষয়ত উদাসীন আৰু অলস। অসমীয়া মানুহৰ বাহিৰে, অন্য দেশৰ মানুহ যি বিলাক আমাৰ ইয়াত আহিছে তেওঁবিলাকে, ইয়াৰ মূল বুজি কৃষিকাৰ্য্যৰ দ্বাৰাই তেওঁবিলাকৰ জীৱনৰ উন্নতি কৰিছে। অসম দেশ কৃষি পুধান। এই কৃষিপুধান অসমৰ জনসাধাৰণে কৃষি উৎপন্ন বৃদ্ধি কৰি, জাতীয় সম্পদ বৰ্দ্ধন কৰিবলৈ প্ৰয়াস নকৰি, কেৱল চৰকাৰ আৰু চৰকাৰী ব্যয়ৰ ওপৰত নিৰ্ভৰ কৰি বহি থাকিলে অচিৰে জাতিটোৰ স্বৰ্বনাশ হব। সেই কাৰণে মই মাননীয় সদস্য সকলক অনুৰোধ কৰো যেন তেখেত সকলে নিজ নিজ ঠাইত গৈ জনসাধাৰণক কৃষিকাৰ্য্যলৈ মন দিবলৈ আপ্ৰাণ চেষ্টা কৰেগৈ।

—নমস্কে—

Shri GAURI SANKAR ROY:—মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়। বৰ্ত্তমান খাদ্য ঔৰ বস্ত্ৰ পৰিস্থিতি কে বাবেমই মই ভী য়’হা ২।৪ বাতৈ কহনা চাহতা হ’। আসাম সন্দৰ দেশ হয়। য়হ প্ৰাকৃতিক সন্দৰতামে ভব পৰ হয়। হামাৰা অৰ্থ নৈতিক জীৱণ কৃষিৰ

নিৰ্ভৰ কৰতা হয়, কেওঁকি আসাম কৃষি প্ৰধান দেশ হয়। অব হ'মে, য়হ সোচনা চাহিয়ে কি হম কৈসে অপনে সুন্দৰ আসামকো অন্য ওউব বস্ত্ৰ সমস্যাসে ভি সুন্দৰ বনা সৰুতে হেয়। হম কৈসে আসামকো আওব সমৃদ্ধিশালী বনা সৰুতে হেয়। কৈসে হম আপনী জমীন কো উন্নত কৰ সৰুতে হেয়। মাননীয় মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়নে ইস বাবেসে জো বৰ্ণন কয়া হেয় ইসমে য়হ মালুম হোতা হেয় কি হমাৰী সৰকাৰ হমেশা য়াহ কোশিশ কৰ বহী হেয় কি হম কৈসে জ্যাডাসে জাদা খাদ্য দুব্য উৎপন্ন কৰ সৰুকে।

পিছলে কই সালোমে হম দেখ বহে হেয় কি প্ৰাকৃতিক দুৰ্যোগ, জৈস কি বাঢ়, সুখা ভুকম্প, সাম্প্ৰদায়িক দঙ্গা আদিনে হমাৰে দেশমে ইস অবস্থাকী সৃষ্টি কী হেয়। আউব আখিৰমে Refugee কে আগমনভী, হমাৰে দেশমে ইস অৱস্থা কী সৃষ্টি কী হেয়। ইসমে হমাৰী সৰকাৰ কা কোঈ হাত নহী হেয়, আউব আজ কেসী দুসবে দলকে হাথনে ভী বাজশক্তি বহতী তো রে ভী কৈছে বোক নহী সৰুতী। কয়া, কোঈ বাঢ়কো বোক সৰুতা হেয়। ভুকম্পকো বন্দ কৰ সৰুতা হেয়, সুখা মে বাবিঘ দিলা সৰুতা হেয়? হম দেখ বহে হেঁ কি প্ৰাকৃতিক দুৰ্যোগকে ফলাফল স্বৰূপ হী ইস বিকট পৰিস্থিতিকা উদ্ভব হয়া হেয়। আব হমে য়হী সোচনা চাহিয়ে কি কৈসে হম সব লোগ একসজ্জ মিলকব ইস সমস্যাকো হল কৰ সৰুকে, দেশকো সন্তাল সৰুকে। কৈসে হম সব লোগ সুখ শান্তিয়ে বহ সৰুকে। হামে অপনে দেশকী পৈদাইশকো বঢ়ানেকে লিয়ে হৰেক ইন্তজাম কৰণা হোগা, নহৰ বনানা হোগা। বৰবাদিকো বোকনেকে লিয়ে প্ৰবন্ধ কৰণা হোগা। কৃষি Loan দেকব কিসানোকো মদদ দেনী হোগী, নয়া জমিন আবদ কৰনা হোগা। ইসতবহ ইমে অপনে দেশকো আগে বঢ়াণা হোগা। ইসকে লিয়ে হম সবকো Government কে সাথ সহযোগ কৰনা চাহিয়ে।

আজ হমাৰে দেশমে Procurement চালু হেয়। কন্ট্ৰলভী ব্যবস্থাকী জাৰী হেয় কেবল হমাৰে দেশমে হী নহী, বন্ধি, য়ুবোপ, আমেৰিকা আদি সভী দেশমে Control চালু হেয়। য়হ ইসলিয়ে চালু হেয় কি হমাৰে দেশমে খাদ্য বস্ত্ৰওঁকী কমী হেয়। ইসকা উদ্দেশ্য য়হ হে কি খাদ্য দুব্যকো ধনী দুখী সব কোঈ সমান ৰূপমে, উচিত মূল্য পব পা সৰুকে। কল মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়নে বতয়া থা কি হমাৰে দেশমে ২৫ লাখ টন খাদ্য বস্ত্ৰ কী কমী হোগী। উসমেসে কৰীব ৭৫ লাখ টন Central Government সে মিল জায়গা অব হম হব Member, হব আদমীকো এক সাথ মিলকব ইস কমতীকো পূৰা কৰণে কে লিয়ে সৰকাৰ কে সাথ সহযোগ দেনা হোগা আউব Central Government কো Pressure দেনা হোগা।

কপড়েকী সমস্যা কে বাবেমেভী চন্দ বাটে মই কহনা চাহতা হুঁ। ভাৰত কে বটৰাবে কে বাদ য়হ সমস্যা উৎপন্ন হুদ হেয়। আপ জানতে হেয় কি কপড়ে কী মিলে, কল কাৰখানে বগৈবহ হমাৰে দেশমে হেয়। লেকিন বটৰাবে কে কাৰণ কপাস কী বহত ম্য খেতি পাকিস্থান মে চলী গয়ী। ইসীসে কাপড়ে কী কমী হোনে লগী হেয়। অৱ হমে ভী কোশিশ কৰনী চাহিয়ে জিসমে, হমাৰে য়হা ভী কপাস কী খেতি বঢ়ে। অৱ কপড়েকী সমস্যা বহত কুছ সুধবনে বা বহী হেয়, য়হ ভী খুশী কী বাত হেয়। কপড়েকে বাবেমে এক আউব বহত মুজে কহনা হেয় বাত য়হ হেয় কি বগানমে জো মজদুৰ কাম নহী কৰতে, মেবা মতলব হেয় জো Surplus Labour আউব নিৰ্ভৰশীল বেৰমলা হেয়, উছে কপড়ে কহী সেভী নহী মিলতে। ইন Surplus Labourওঁ কো ন কিসী দুকান মে কপড়ে মিলতে হেয় আউব ন কিসী Co-operative Stores সে। ঐসী অৱস্থামে ইনকী হালত অতি বিকট হো জাতী হেয়। উসে বহত কঠোকা সামনা কৰণা পড়তা হেয়। মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয় সে অনুবোধ হেয় কি রে ইস মজদুৰ ভাঈকোকো কাপড়া আউব খাদ্য দুব্য দিলানে কে লিয়ে ইন্তজাম কৰে।

আখিব আউব এক বাত কহকব মই আপসে বিদা লেনা চাহতা হ'। আজ হমলোগ জনতা কী ভলাই কে লিয়ে ইহা আয়ে হয় মগব হম সবকুছ জনতা কী ভলাই চাহতে হেঁয় তো হমে উছে ইস পৰিস্থিতি কো বাবেমে সমবানা চাহিয়ে আউব যল ভী সমবানা চাহিয়ে কী হম কৈসে জ্যাদা উৎপণ কব সকেঁ আউব ইস পৰিস্থিতিকা সামগ্যা কব সকে। অব হমে অপনে অপনে কেন্দ্রোমে জাকব জনতাকো যহী সমবানা চাহিয়ে হম সবলোগ সবকাবসে সহোযোগ কবে। তভী হমাবী সমস্যায়োঁ বীবে বীবে হল হো জায়গী।

Maulavi Md. PAHAR KHAN : মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমাদের দেশের খাদ্য সমস্যা দিন দিন জটিল হইয়া যাইতেছে, এই খাদ্য সমস্যা বড় জটিল সমস্যা। বিশেষ করিয়া, গত তিন বৎসর যাবৎ ইহা জটিলতর হইয়া উঠিয়াছে। খাদ্যাভাবে আমাদের দেশের জনসাধারণ যে কত দুর্ভোগ ভুগিতেছে, এমনকি বহু অঞ্চলে অভাবের তাড়নায় অখাদ্য খাইয়া রোগাক্রান্ত হইয়া ককালসার হইয়া জীবিকা নিবর্বাহ করিতে বাধ্য হইতেছে।

মহোদয়, সদাশয় গবর্ণমেন্ট খাদ্য বিষয়ে যে বাজেট বরাদ্দ করিয়াছেন ইহা খুবই সুখের বিষয়। ইহা স্বত্বেও, যে খাদ্যাভাব দেশে পরিলক্ষিত হইয়াছে ইহার কারণ কি অথবা এই খাদ্য বস্ত্রের অভাব কি ভাবে বারণ করা যায় সে বিষয়ে বিশেষ ভাবে চিন্তা করিলে দেখা যাইবে যে এই অভাবের কারণ হইয়াছে প্রধানতঃ তিনটা। প্রথম হইয়াছে, ১৯৫০ সনের দাঙ্গাহাঙ্গামার দরুণ লোকসংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি, দ্বিতীয়তঃ চাষীদের হাতে চাষের জমির অভাব এবং তৃতীয়তঃ প্রাকৃতিক দুর্ভোগ যেমন বন্যা, ভূমিকম্প ও ব্রহ্মপুত্র নদী এবং অন্যান্য বিলগুলির হাওর। যদি দেশের এই অভাব দূর করিতে হয়, বিশেষ করিয়া এই তিনটি বিষয়ের প্রতি যদি গবর্ণমেন্ট দৃষ্টিপাত করেন, তাহা হইলে শীঘ্রই এই সমস্যার সমাধান করিতে সক্ষম হইবেন। ইহাতে কোনও সন্দেহ নাই।

এই তিনটি সমস্যার সমাধান করিতে হইলে, যে সমস্ত অঞ্চল প্রাকৃতিক দুর্ভটনায় একেবারে নষ্ট হইয়া গিয়াছে, সেইগুলির আপাততঃ উপশম করিবার চেষ্টা করা জমিহীনদের জমি দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা করা অথবা যে সমস্ত কৃষক গৃহহীন হইয়াছে তাহাদের পুনর্ব্বসতির জন্য সুবিধা সুযোগ প্রদান করিয়া চাষ করিবার সুযোগ দেওয়া এবং যারা জমি ফেরৎ পায় নাই তাদের জমি ফেরৎ দেওয়া এবং সহায় ও উৎসাহ দিয়া অধিক শস্য উৎপাদন করা এই সমস্যাগুলির সমাধান করিতে পারিলেই আমার বিশ্বাস অচিরে আমাদের খাদ্যাভাব দূর হইবে এবং দেশেও শান্তি আসিবে। আমি গবর্ণমেন্টকে অনুরোধ করিতেছি যে বিশেষ করিয়া যে সমস্ত অঞ্চল ভূমিকম্প ও নদী, বিল প্ৰভৃতি হাওরের ফলে কৃষিক্ষেত্রাদি নষ্ট হইয়া গিয়াছে, সেই সমস্ত অঞ্চলকে দ্রুত আবাদের উপযোগী করার সম্ভবতঃ চেষ্টা করা। আরও যে সমস্ত লোক আজ খাদ্যাভাবে অথবা জমি নাহওয়ার দরুণ, বিশেষ করিয়া যে সমস্ত উৎপাদনোক্ষম কৃষকলোক জমির অভাবে, উৎপাদন করিতে সহায় সুযোগের অভাবে পথহারা হইতে কিন্না দিন মজুর খাটিতে বাধ্য হইতেছে, তাহাদের সুযোগ দিতে আমি গবর্ণমেন্টকে বিশেষ ভাবে অনুরোধ করি।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমি নূতন লোক, এর চেয়ে বেশী বলিবার যোগ্যতা আমার নাই। আমি এই কয়টি বিষয়ের প্রতি গভণ মেন্টের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিয়াই আমার বক্তৃতা শেষ করিলাম। (হাসি)

Maulavi MUKHTAR ALI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the statement on food and textile situation made by the Hon'ble Minister, Supply yesterday is plain, but, to me I think the whole Government machinery is not functioning properly. The shortage of these commodities are to some extent natural, heavenly, I admit ; but to the greater extent it is man-made ; it is artificial. Sir, I am told that there is no want or shortage of such commodities to rich men. There is real shortage to the poor only. The rich can buy or procure any amount they want Sir, I have said that these shortages are due to some artificial means. I must cite some example at least. The riot, the last riot was responsible to the greater extent. Sir, Barpeta was some years back a surplus area. Now it has become a

deficit one. It is perhaps known to the House that this Subdivision is vastly populated by Muslims. These Muslims are most active cultivators. They used to produce much more than they consumed. But the last riot gave them a great blow. They have been paralysed. Some of them have returned some two years back yet they have not got back their landed property. How and where they can plough and produce and make up the deficiency, Sir ?

Sir, the refugees from Bengal are our friends and we must not allow any quarrel between the indigenous people and the refugees. But I find Government is taking no action to settle such quarrels, at least in my subdivision. (*A Voice*—what quarrels?). Quarrels over Tauzi Bahir lands. Of course the law has not given any rights regarding Tauzi Bahir lands but by usage our people have been cultivating those lands for the last 20 years.....

Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: On a point of information, Sir. What does the hon. Member mean by "our people" ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: "Our people" means our people! (*laughter*).

Maulavi MUKHTAR ALI: Sir, I would like to mention another point for the consideration of the Government. Kaimari is a big Profession Grazing Reserve surrounded by some 20 villages and annually some 50,000 maunds of foodcrops, not to speak of money crops, are being regularly destroyed by the buffaloes of that reserve. Sir, this should be stopped. Calamities, both natural and artificial, must be fought as far as practicable. Sir, the southern six mouzas of the Barpeta subdivision have practically been rendered a desert by a big haor. If Government would construct a bund at the mouth of the haor Purua-Baraghol these mauzas can be saved. Otherwise, this year about 1½ lakh of people will die of starvation. (*A Voice*—How does he know?).

Sir, I now come to textiles. I said that the statement made by the Hon'ble Minister was angelic but the working machinery is something else.....
(*Interruptions*).

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: He should be allowed to go on uninterruptedly.

Maulavi MUKHTAR ALI: The working machinery is something else than angelic. I do not like to utter another word which the hon. Members can easily imagine. Sir, the mill-owners stamp coarse cloth as fine and fine cloth as medium cloth as the circumstances arise.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Probably this Government is not responsible for this.

Maulavi MUKHTAR ALI: I will allude to it, Sir. With the relaxation of control on fine cloth circumstances have arisen for such stamping. The mill-owners do it in collaboration with the Government officers, of course not our officers but Central Government's officers.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Mr. Ali, do you know of a single instance ?

Maulavi MUKHTAR ALI: Sir, let it go. Our Government have no power over the mill-owners. But our Government do not appoint local procuring agents. Perhaps our Ministers and some Members of this House have got some relatives, directly or indirectly connected with these agents and that is why

Government cannot appoint local agents. Then, Sir, in subdivisions the Superintendent of Distribution and the Secretary, Central Trading Co-operative, is the same person. He very often gives up such quotas as the procuring agents wish and so we do not get the medium cloth, which we want, in our subdivision. We get only fine cloth but not medium. But medium cloth can be had abundantly in the open market.

Our Inspecting staff do not detect cases now a days, because black-marketing has become an open secret. If they sometimes detect some cases these cases are hardly given hearing.

Sir, as my time is up I do not like to tease you any longer. But I say the calamities which are natural which God has bestowed upon us must be endured. Artificial and man made scarcity should not be tolerated.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I was listening to the long and exhaustive speech of the Hon'ble Supply Minister my mind went to the villages. There, Sir, when people get hungry, when children cry, mothers unable to feed them make them sleep. Yesterday as I was listening to the speech and having a glance at the House, I remembered this thing. It was more or less like a lullaby; it did not contain the things we wanted. Hon'ble the Supply Minister stated figures. Perhaps if the figures are compiled it will be book on statistics. But we do not get the correct picture of what the position is. He outlined the food position and efforts made by the Government to solve it. During these three years Government has failed mostly to tackle the food problem. They have taken a plea of ability and says that there are natural calamities. I also have seen that enough money has been spent on Grow-More-Food but we hear of chronic food shortage in the State. F. A. O. has given certain figures regarding deficiency in our food. In cereals this deficiency is 11 per cent., in roots it is 62 per cent., fats and oils it is 70 per cent., pulses 47 per cent., fruits and vegetables 244 per cent., meat and beaf 224 per cent., and in milk 28 per cent. I am not demanding here that we should be given a substantial balanced of diet which will enable us to withstand various diseases. It is a fact that because of the deficiency in protective food the health of the people is very much deteriorating. We hear of new diseases, we hear of infant mortality. I do not want to go into that question today. Food means only rice. There has been no sincere attempt to increase the production of alternative food matters; In basic schools, there is an attempt to increase the production of alternative or substitute food but it is negligible. Yesterday the Hon'ble Finance Minister said that there are two villains in the whole drama namely—one natural calamity and the other transport bottleneck. The Hon'ble Finance Minister went on to say that there was a chronic deficit in our food supply. That deficit according to the Hon'ble Finance Minister is to the tune of about 2 lakhs tons. That means in acreage if about 9 lakhs bighas of land can be cultivated—then two lakh tons can be produced here and we can remove the deficit. We have heard that Grow-More-Food Campaign is going on well. Lots of land have been brought under the plough, *i.e.*, to say we find in these 3 or 4 years we have not been able to till 9 lakh bighas of land to write out this deficit. If we go into figures—I know this House does not want to listen to these figures—just now Mr. Kakati said that these figures are not true. Yesterday the Hon'ble the Finance Minister also criticised these figures. I have obtained these figures from the Agricultural Statistics of Assam and Tea Report for 1949-50. When the Treasury Bench cannot give us more authentic figures we must go by these figures.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Have you seen the communique from the Hon'ble Chief Minister ?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: I have not, Sir.

The Hon'ble Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI: There are published documents explaining these figures. These figures have been calculated and have been explained in various publications. If my hon. Friend wants them he may have them.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: But the fact remains there is enough land and whatever land there is should be allotted to these land hungry people. This has not been done and wherever it is being done the progress is very slow. These should be settled with landless people and that has not been done in the tea garden as well as in the case of other cultivable waste lands. We cannot stop the economic law from operating. If these lands are not settled with our people, other people cannot be stopped from coming.

Adjournment

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

After lunch

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I begin my speech I want to correct a mistake which I had committed, *i.e.*, about the figures. I said that for meeting a deficit of 2 lakh tons of food, we need only 60 thousand bighas. That is wrong, Sir, it should be about 9 lakh bighas. I am sorry for this, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: If you say that land available is 7 lakh bighas, there are about 1 lakh and 6 thousand landless families.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: The figures about land available as given in the Agricultural Statistics excluding the Hills lands, Forests and Grazing Reserves will be about 35 lakhs acres. But I do not know the correctness about these figures and so I do not want to speak on them now.

Sir, I was speaking about the magnitude of the problem. The problem cannot be washed out by taking the plea of our having natural calamities and other things. As a matter of fact the occurrence of these unfortunate events cannot be denied. But it is exactly for such emergencies the Government which should provide for and it is this ability to provide that justifies its existence.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Mr. Goswami, you have got 20 minutes more.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Thank you, Sir. As I said, Sir, its ability to do so would justify the existence of the Government. But, Sir, if we go again into these figures and if we take 15 seers of rice per month as the necessary quota we will find that we are not in a position to give food to about 24 lakhs of people and this is the state of affairs in a State that used to export rice to other States. We may say that because the outsiders have come to the province therefore the problem has become so acute. I cannot agree, Sir. In any case the problem is a serious one and if we do not tackle it wisely we cannot expect to come to the end of it. Sir, during these years rations are again being continually decreased and

we are depending for our food on imports more and more. I do not know how long we can go on in this way. I have been saying in this House that the whole approach to the food problem appears to be wrong because, Sir, it is not a problem of filling the gap between our requirement and our supply. It should be tackled on a long-term basis. If we want to do that, then we must also tag it to the land problem.

Sir, we know also the existence of black market in this matter. We have seen that rice is being sold in one shop say, at Rs. 20 per maund and at the next shop it is being sold at Rs. 30 or Rs.40 per maund. We cannot understand it. Had there been a scarcity of rice there should be scarcity at the prevailing price. But that is not so because we find that if we can pay more money, rice comes out as if from rat holes and there is no scarcity and we can get enough of it. In Shillong and other places we find the best quality rice is easily available. If you can pay Rs.70 or Rs.80 per maund you can have as much as you want. I do not know what steps are being taken by Government to stop this sort of black-marketing of such essential commodities. Sir, I remember an incident last year in Dibrugarh after the last earthquake when our Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru visited Assam and while he addressed a meeting there he exhorted the people specially the industrialists and capitalist traders not to resort to black marketing in such vital commodities and there was a general applause. On that day the market price of rice was Rs.45 (I was then in Dibrugarh myself) and the next day after the speech I found the price went up to Rs.65 per maund—that was the reaction to the speech of the Prime Minister. Sir, it is not that rice is not available in Assam. Rice is there and black-marketing is done but there was no one to stop it or black-marketing was not treated in the way it should be treated. Sir, we get always the official excuse that the law is not there or that there is no sufficient evidence to punish these black marketers; but we are in a critical stage. We are in an emergency and in this emergent period there should be emergency laws also and not only that these emergency laws should be there in paper, these laws should be implemented most ruthlessly on the section of the community who violate these things.

Sir, I would like to say once more that the food policy cannot be treated as an isolated problem or an isolated policy; it must be taken as part and parcel of our country's greater economic policy or problem. Today we have not been able to enthuse our cultivators to cultivate more because we have not been able to bring about the psychological revolution in their outlook. They still do not feel that the interest of the country and the interest of the cultivators are the same. The cultivators feel that even if they grow more, their share in the production will not come to them but will go to somebody else. Unless we can bring about the psychological change in the minds of the cultivators by passing legislations, if necessary, and if we do not implement these legislations ruthlessly, then we shall not be able to produce more.

Sir, as I have said, the food policy has two sides. It has the side of production as well as the side of distribution. When we are discussing these things in this House it appears that we are only interested in the distribution side: we must look to the production side also if we are to solve it effectively.

A few years ago the Food Grain Committee of the Government of India made certain tentative decisions regarding intensive cultivation, regarding double cropping and also regarding shifting land from the cultivation of cash crops to food crops. Sir, we find here in Assam in the side of production we have done very little, we have not been able to increase production. On the other hand, because there is disparity between the price of paddy and the price of jute

people are taking more and more to the cultivation of jute. Last year it came out in the papers that Government itself encouraged jute cultivation. One lakh acres of additional land was taken under jute and it was under Government patronage. Sir, this food problem has come to us in this shape not in course of this year. It has all along been taking an acute shape because of the mistakes committed by Government both in the production side and in the distribution side. Unless we take it seriously and unless we make that food for all is priority No.1 in our activities, I do not think we shall be able to solve this problem.

Then, Sir, we find in the Government the same red tapism prevalence of bureaucracy and their lack of community approach. They go to particular individuals. Agricultural loans are advanced to individuals and nobody knows what happens to the fate of those loans—whether they are actually spent or not. These loans should be advanced not to particular individuals but through village panchayats and such other bodies. If they are advanced to the cultivator through such bodies perhaps better results would have come to us. In this connection I find there is lack of understanding of the elementary principles of economy. These loans should be advanced in an economical way so as to adjust our limited resources for the fulfilment of the varied needs of the vast multitude of our people. Here we find Government is not doing that. These loans are mechanically given in homeopathic doses which come to say Rs.20 to Rs.50. From this we cannot expect better results.

Sir, there are also defects in the present system of control. The principle of control is not followed properly here. There should be an integrated system of control, but the whole system is an unintegrated one. We find control of paddy but there is no attempt to control the price of jute, oil seed and other things. Unless the whole system is integrated, unless the cultivators feel that the alternative is not a better one so as to switch off from one type of cultivation to another, they cannot be persuaded to grow more food. So the question of priority comes. If we do not give priority to agriculture we cannot do better. My whole point regarding this food problem is about both the sides. We find that procurement has failed. This year up to 15th of March only 33,102 tons has been procured. The harvest season is over and we shall have the cultivation season very soon. So we cannot expect better result from procurement. There are also reason for the failure of the procurement. We have seen the whole State has been divided into zones, but we find that paddy and rice that should have come has not come, mainly because I feel that we have allowed the rice mill association and other individuals to procure rice and paddy, and I think there is some leakage somewhere and there is some hoarding somewhere. Secondly, the procurement is also dependant on those people over whom there should have been very strict control. The richer cultivators are treated leniently and they are not harassed unnecessarily. There is no strictness in procuring from the richer community. Thirdly, I find by this system of procurement we shall not be able to effectively procure paddy and rice that is available to us. I believe in the system of compulsory levy. This system alone will be able to bring the amount of paddy and rice that is available in the country.

Next, Sir, I would like to speak about the textile policy of the Government. The textile policy as has been enunciated by my Hon'ble Friend Mr. Mookerjee can be divided into three phases. In the first phase we find that Government itself purchased textile goods, but then it proved a failure which has cost us to the tune of about 6 or 7 lakhs. Then an intermediate policy was followed where a few monopoly agents were allowed to purchase textile goods and they were allowed to sell them. Then in the third phase we find not only one or two agents but several agents are allowed to purchase textile goods, but they are not permanent agents.

Every month tenders are invited and every month agents are changed. Very often we find that the agents themselves do not purchase textile goods; they sell the permit to some one else who bring textile goods but nobody knows what happens to these textile goods. Sometimes it happens that the textile that is purchased is not checked properly. Even in Bombay it is not properly checked whether the goods have been lifted and secondly whether they have gone to the places where they should go. There is no supervision over it. Another thing I find is that as soon as the textiles are brought they are sold to the Central Co-operative and if usable then the agents can sell them in free market. It is also easy to obtain such wanted by the Central Co-operative immediately these goods find their channel to the black-market. So, Sir, the present system of changing agents every day should be stopped. Some permanent agents should be found and there must be strict supervision so that textile goods that are brought are really sent to the places of their actual destination.

Another very important thing which I want to mention in this connection is that today in the papers I read a Press Note relaxing control over super fine textile goods. In this connection I do not say that the step is a wrong one but we are discussing food and textile policy of the Government and when we are doing this, I think that it was not proper on the part of the Government to have taken the steps without taking the opinion of this hon. House when it was known to Government that we would consider the food and textile situation of Assam. It should have been brought to our notice before it was published. Otherwise the House loses all significance and all meaning.

Thirdly, about textile, again, I do not know how and why a Regional Superintendent was appointed at Gauhati when no such Regional Superintendents have been appointed in other districts also. The powers of the Deputy Commissioner have been transferred in this respect to the Regional Superintendent and naturally suspicion comes that perhaps to give more powers to a particular man, Government have created this post. By the appointment of the Regional Superintendent at Gauhati, I do not find that the textile position has improved in any way.

Food and cloth are essential to us. We won freedom not to be free politically alone but also to be free from starvation and hunger. To these matters we should have given top-most priority. It has become customary for this House to discuss food and textile every year. We are doing this now also. Every year suggestions are put forward in the House but these suggestions do not receive the attention of the Government and the Textile and Food polices of Government remained the same and the Governmental juggernaut moves the same way. If we cannot give food and cloth to the hungry million, the position will soon be worse still. There will be more restlessness. We cannot remove it by sweet words alone. I hope we will give top-most priority to food and cloth and see that in our country famine condition do not occur. We may say for our satisfaction that there is no famine condition in Assam, but if we go to villages we will see that people cannot purchase the essential commodities. They have not been able to get two meals a day and if this situation continues then we will be in a semi-starvation State. From 1948-49, we have been demanding that there should not be any export of food from this Province to outside. Yet this Government allowed a portion of our food quota to be exported. We allowed rice to be exported to Centre and other places. This has started the crisis and this is one of the most

important reason why we have not been able to feed our people. When there is the shortage of food to the tune of 2 lakhs tons, it means that we have not been able to feed 24 lakhs of our people. When we have such fertile lands and opportunities, why cannot we give food to our people at a reasonable price. I feel, Sir, that we take these things into consideration seriously and should try to solve the problems effectively.

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to those hon. Friends who have given some concrete suggestions, but at the same time, I am really sorry to say that some of my hon. Friends either willingly or unwillingly—as they did not care to hear my speech attentively—have criticised the Government. Sir, I wanted bread from them but they have given stones instead.

Yesterday, I tried to give a true picture to my Friends so that unnecessary criticism might be avoided and concrete suggestions could be given by my Friends but my appeal to some of my hon. Friends for taking the debate with adequate seriousness and not to indulge in unnecessary criticism, has gone in vain. My appeal was of no avail and it was like a case of casting pearls in the bush. I quoted figures to make the position clear but all these instead of pacifying them rather enraged. Sir, some of my hon. Friends were very much agitated to hear the comparative figures from me. I do not know why they were so much afraid of the figures. But on the other hand some of my Friends have suggested that I should have given a detailed information as to what Government was doing to augment the food production. I thought that these facts which are public properties and may be known to one and all if one cares to know need not be given. I gave only those figures which are not generally known to the general public and may not be known to my new Member Friends and also would give a vivid picture of the actual state of affairs.

Sir, some of my Friends criticised us that we were very much unmindful about production and had not taken proper steps to meet the present food and cloth situation, when our commitments were going up day by day our productions were coming down. I explained the reasons why in spite of increasing acreage the production is coming down. But who cares to hear all these reasons sitting in the Opposition Benches. We have been charged that though there are sufficient lands fit for cultivation in this Province, the Government willingly have kept the unclassed lands and reserves fallow lands and have not opened these for cultivation. The hon. Leader of the Opposition a little while ago said that we have not been able to create proper enthusiasm in the minds of the cultivators to cultivate more and to produce more. Sir, we are in the horns of a dilemma. Any stick is good enough to beat the Government. I shall give certain figures now and I hope, the figure phobia will not trouble some of my hon. Friends as in the past, so that the charges levelled against this Government may be removed; I do not know whether the biased notion will be removed from the minds of some of my Friends but I shall try to remove them with adequate facts and figures.

I shall take the question regarding availability of lands in our State. About this I shall give a complete and true picture of unquestionable character, and then I shall deal in detail with the question of Grow-More-Food Campaign, the activities of the Government and their achievements on this behalf. Sir, a memorandum on the position of cultivable waste land in Assam was prepared and published. The facts and figures were compiled by a most senior I.C.S. officer of the State, who retired some time back while serving this State as Chief Secretary, I mean Mr. S. P. Desai. I hope the figures collected by him will be acceptable by my Friends in

the Opposite and will not doubt the integrity of this officer in this respect, as he did not belong to our Province and had no interest whatsoever for not giving accurate figures as suspected by my Friend in the Opposition.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: On a point of information, Sir, there is no question of doubting the sincerity of an officer in giving figures. The figures were compiled on certain basis, but unless we know the basis of them it is difficult for us to accept them. We get figures from agricultural statistics. When anybody gives figures the basis of such figures should be given to us.

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, these figures were collected by Mr. Desai who was deputed as a Special Officer for this purpose and not as Chief Secretary, while sitting in his office room in Shillong. He gave the figures after he was deputed as a Special Officer to collect these figures. He got the necessary survey work done, checked them at random stayed in different places of operation for months and he submitted his reports. These figures were not compiled during the regime of the present Ministry, but were compiled a few years back under Muslim Regime Ministry. Now, I shall give the figures. The figures under the head "Other uncultivated land excluding current fallows" according to the latest available statistics in 1948-49 were 1,70,37,882 acres. This figure is distributed in different Districts as follows:—

Cachar	...	...	...	...	12,32,991 acres,
Goalpara	...	...	...	...	8,48,682 "
Kamrup	...	...	...	...	3,06,571 "
Darrang	...	...	...	...	5,19,486 "
Nowgong	...	...	...	...	12,21,048 "
Sibsagar	...	...	...	...	15,07,928 "
Lakhimpur	...	...	...	...	12,78,977 "
Total	...	...	...	...	<u>69,15,683</u>

From the above statements it is clear that out of the total area of 1,70,37,882 acres of 'Other uncultivated land excluding current fallows', 1,01,22,199 acres, Garo Hills 16,88,937; United Khasi and Jaintia Hills 10,46,726; Naga Hills 20,39,953; Lushai Hills 30,32,331; Sadiya Frontier Tracts 20,16,374 and Balipara Frontier Tract 2,97,878; total Hills—78,07,947 and Frontier Tracts 23,14,252 grand total Hills and Frontier Tracts 1,01,22,199 acres, are in the Hill Districts and Frontier Tracts, which are also like Hill Districts for all intents and purposes. Besides this in the plains districts also a large area is covered by hills. Like Nowgong, Cachar, Kamrup, Sibsagar in Goalpara also a large area is covered by Hills, viz., the Hills near Abhoyapuri, Bongaigaon, Botiamari, Jogighopa and the hills in the South Bank. There are hills here and there in the other districts as well. A total area of 51,02,720 acres is covered by the hilly portions of the seven Plains districts of Assam. Thus the total area covered by hills, in the entire State is approximately 1,01,22,199 plus 51,02,720=1,52,24,919 acres. It is needless to say that these areas are generally uncultivable except for the purposes of Jhum cultivation. So, by deducting this figure from the total area under the head 'Other uncultivated land excluding current fallows' we arrive at the figure of 18,12,963 acres. Again the total area covered by the Village Grazing Reserves and Professional Grazing Reserves in Assam is 5,54,120 acres, viz., 2,69,075 acres and 2,85,045 acres respectively. This area is also not available for cultivation. Subtracting this area from the above figure we have an area of 12,58,843 acres under the head 'Other uncultivated land excluding current fallows' and this is the area lying in the plains portions of the State.

Mr. Desai who had the best possible knowledge of the State after an elaborate enquiry came to the conclusion that the cultivable waste land in the Assam Valley Districts was about 6 lakhs of acres taking the most optimistic view. This is roughly 1/3rd of the area shown under 'Other uncultivated land excluding current fallows' for 1946-47 minus the areas covered by Hill districts, Frontier Tracts, hilly portions of the Plains districts, Village Grazing Reserves and Professional Grazing Reserves. On the basis of this proportion 4,19,614 acres of land will be cultivable waste. Almost the same figure will be obtained if we consider the figures published in the Agricultural Statistics for 1947-48.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: What is the availability of land ?

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE I am coming to that point, Sir. After these figures were collected a good deal of land was brought under cultivation and I shall give the figures in this connection, and also a complete picture of the Grow-More-Food Scheme. My hon. Friend Mr. Ranendra Mohan Das raised the question of availability of cultivable waste lands and accused the Government. Sir, I can understand his intention and motive, he knows very little about the availability of cultivable land in the State and moreover by raising this point he is trying to placate the refugees and pretending to champion their causes as their well wisher and condemning others. Sir, I may tell him boldly that there are many many others who are real and far better friends of the unfortunate refugees in this State. But, Sir, when Mr. Bhattacharyya and Mr. Goswami also accused us on this score, namely, that we are not throwing open lands for cultivation though we have got enough of them, I feel rather hesitant to believe my ears. How can they make such utterances, which are so very damaging to the State and are of dangerous nature. They are playing with fire, Sir, and are creating a poisonous atmosphere even outside the House by saying that 'Government have enough land at their disposal, but they are not ready to settle them with the landless people and people are suffering from scarcity of food. Such statements have created an ugly situation and a suspicious atmosphere in the outside world. Now I am going to remove the doubts from the minds of these hon. Members as well as all others by brass facts. When I have got the actual figures with me, Sir, I venture to say that the statements made by hon. Friends with regard to availability of enormous quantity of cultivable waste lands, are not correct. I am giving the true picture now.

Now, Sir, according to the figures published by the Agriculture Department for 1947-48, the area under uncultivated land, excluding current fallows, were 1,69,93,977 acres. Deducting the areas under Hills districts 61,69,130 acres and the area under Frontier Tracts—39,96,023 acres, total 1,01,65,153 acres, and also deducting the Hills portions in the seven Plains districts of Assam which is 51,07,720 acres, we get 17,26,104 acres; after deducting areas cover under Professional village grazing reserves we get 11,71,984—one-third of which is 3,90,661 acres. Now the area which is required to remove the food scarcity according to the estimate of my hon. Friend—the Leader of the Opposition, we require much more land than what is available at present. Moreover, the abovementioned land is also available at present, because much of it has already been thrown open by Government for extra cultivation. Now let us examine been and how these areas are situated. There are about 16,500 villages in the Plains districts of Assam. Under the land settlement policy of this Government, based on the Resolution of July 1945 which was adopted as a result of Settlement arrived at between the then League Chief Minister, Sir Md. Saadulla and the late lamented Lokopriyo Bordoloi, the then Leader of the Opposition, the Government proposed to settle the waste lands under a Planned Settlement Scheme.

For the purpose of this Planned Settlement the villages were classified under two categories—Developed Villages and Undeveloped Villages. Planned Settlement was to operate only in the undeveloped villages that is villages containing 200 Bighas or more of cultivable waste land.

Sir, Mr. Desai was appointed a Special Officer for the purpose in 1946-47. He found out that there were only 2,21,900 acres of cultivable waste land available in the undeveloped villages. It also appeared that major portion of this area lies in tracts predominantly inhabited by the Plains Tribal People. Sir, much has been said both yesterday and to day about the availability of land in tea gardens. I shall give some figures about the lands in tea gardens as well. This has been found from the Sample Survey of tea gardens made in August 1949 by the Department of Economic and Statistics, Assam, which has already been published at page 12 of the Annual Report of the Economic and Statistics Department, 1949-50. This is a public document. The areas actually under tea and tea nursery were 27.44 per cent. areas occupied by factories 0.18 per cent. areas occupied by quarters for Managers and Quarters for employees 0.26 per cent. play ground, etc., 0.16 per cent. areas under schools, hospitals and dispensaries—0.19 per cent. areas under roads 1.61 per cent. under tank and wells 0.18 per cent. Bazars and Hats—0.02 per cent. Fisheries—0.01 per cent. Fruits and vegetables—0.24 per cent. Gardens and Orchards—nil, Bamboo—5.44 per cent. Tung cent. area used for grazing—8.42 per cent. area under River, Streams, etc.,—1.64 per cent. area under juugle—33.07 per cent. area under sun-grass—2.86 per cent. others—0.14 per cent. Total 100.00.

It may be pointed out that the sample survey covered 21 gardens (15 Europeans and 6 Indians) and was selected by the method of random sampling for the purpose of the enquiry. There was no fixed plan that such and such gardens should be surveyed but it was taken out one from this district and the other from the other district and so on and it comprised of both European and Indian owned gardens. Now, Sir, as the charge is made not so much against Indian owned gardens, but against the European owned gardens because of the fact that the these people had enough land, they cultivated under tea certain portion of it and used to keep enough fallow land which were of no use to the Estate. Now, Sir, I shall give certain figures which will prove that the present position with regard to these waste lands in tea gardens is quite different from what it was before the Congress Government was formed in 1946. In 1949 the land held by Member gardens but many big Indian owned Gardens are members. I am giving the classification of land, the acreage and then the percentage. Registered acreage under tea was 3,54,832.72 acres percentage of area under tea is 26.59 per cent. Nurseries and areas reserve for extension—6.16 per cent. Total area under tea is 32.75 per cent. or 4,37,049.54 acres. Area cultivated by labourers—15.43 per cent. Area cultivated by Estates—0.42 per cent. area of unused land which may be brought under cultivation—3.05 per cent. Area under grazing—7.87 per cent. Total area under food and fodder—*i.e.*, under the head mentioned above—3,57,376.91 acres—26.77 per cent. Area under buildings, etc.,—9.65 per cent. under Forests—15.67 per cent. Area under Bamboo—3.51 per cent. area under thatch—3.76 per cent. Total under other uses was 4,60,327.31 or 34.50 per cent. Area impossible to use for any of these purposes, that means gorges and places suffering from continuous land-slides, etc.,—5.98 per cent. or 79,803.80 per cent. So, Sir, there is not much land lying fallow in the tea gardens that can be cultivated. Of course there is some scope that is—3.05 per cent. of the total or

40,744.79 acres which may be brought under cultivation and this Government is trying to bring it under regular cultivation. My hon. Friend, the Leader of the Opposition said that time has come for passing emergency laws to meet the situation which is urgent. Yes Sir, the time has really come to meet many emergent situation that has been created by many irresponsible persons and from various other sources. I am quite one with him if he means all that. Sir, when Government wants to acquire some land there are certain procedure which must be followed. Government cannot override or violate the laws which they have framed. The Party must be given sufficient opportunities to represent their case whether the land is absolutely necessary for the maintenance and improvement of the gardens should also be considered. This should be considered first.

And this consideration and hearing require some time. Notices were served on many gardens for acquisition of land and many owners have gone to the law courts. In this way the matter is being delayed but Government are very alert on this point and they are trying to bring as much land as possible under plough which are at present lying fallow in the tea estates and can be spared without seeing the future prospects of the gardens.

Now, Sir, I would like to give a brief sketch of the Grow-More-Food Campaign and the results obtained thereby and then I shall touch the points raised individually by my Friends of both sides of the House. Sir, the Grow-More-Food Campaign was started during the year 1942-43. I must apologise at the very outset that my sketch may not be very lucid as.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : No comments on your remarks or figures are necessary.

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : No, Sir, my figures are all right. What I want to say is this: when this morning the point was raised of Grow-More-Food, I thought it would be better to give an accurate estimate of the actual state of affairs, so I have collected these figures in a hurry, and the description of the whole campaign may not be as full as it may be expected but the figures are all right, (Interruptions) (Referring to the Member making it). My Friend Bhattacharyya is unnecessarily interuping me. A leopard never changes its spots, Sir.

The Grow-More-Food Campaign was started during the year 1942-43 with the financial assistance of the Centre which shared two-thirds of the cost of the scheme, as the food position became difficult during the War with the fall of Burma. In this connection I must touch the point raised by my hon. Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, who is unfortunately absent now. He blamed the Government why they did not, and do not even now, procure rice from Burma. That shows the colossal ignorance of my hon. Friend. We are not at liberty to import or export anything and everything from and to any place. It cannot be done according to our desire.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : This is not within your province.

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Yes, Sir, it is beyond our jurisdiction. It was also questioned by some hon. Friend as to why we were purchasing other varieties of cloth than dhutis, sarees and markin. Here also we have got no option. Certain quantity of cloths are allotted to us which we are either to take or reject. I agree, Sir, that sometimes cloths unsuitable for us are procured, as for example, our womenfolk do not use 18 cubits sarees. But we have no choice in the matter as we are to buy according to the allotment made

by Government of India. So long as our people do not establish a cotton mill, we have to take mixed varieties of cloth which are produced in Bombay or Ahmedabad. If we have a cotton textile mill in our State, for the establishment of which Government have offered all facilities, we may make a request to the mill to produce more varieties which we require. But now if we do not lift our quota it lapses. Not only cloth, but also a certain quota of yarn lapsed as we refused to accept it which contained certain counts of yarn that we could not use under any circumstances.

Now, reverting to the Grow-More-Food Campaign, when the campaign was started funds were made available for all projects connected with agriculture and animal husbandry which were expected to increase production and raise the general level of the people. In Agriculture all crops embracing oil seeds and money crops like sugarcane and fruit crops were included. In Animal Husbandry Schemes relating to cattle improvement, fodder production and poultry rearing were started. Among the most popular of the schemes was minor irrigation which from year to year has gained momentum since its inception. The Horticultural Scheme was started in the beginning of 1946 and has now made considerable progress. Most of the schemes relating to Livestock improvement were started between the years 1946-48. Mechanised cultivation scheme was also started towards the end of 1948-49. While the schemes were getting under way the whole basis in which the grants were being sanctioned by India was suddenly changed in the middle of 1949-50 with retrospective effect from the 1st April 1949. Under the new rules all livestock schemes including schemes relating to money crops like sugarcane became ineligible for subsidy. Very recently the livestock scheme known as the Key Farm Scheme has, as a special case, been made eligible for subsidy. Mechanised cultivation became no longer eligible for subsidy but was to be worked from a loan. This was done by India primarily to conserve the small amount of funds available for increasing the production of cereals and staple foods which became difficult in the country. The Government of India desired that food production should be given high priority and put on a war footing at the instance of the Hon'ble Prime Minister. States were asked to appoint Food Commissioners with large powers to ensure co-operation and coordination between departments which could result in food production. Pursuant to that, Sir, a Food Commissioner was appointed... (*A Voice* :— Who was the Food Commissioner ?). The first Food Commissioner was Mr. Desai. The present Food Commissioner is Mr. Mehta. We are now thinking of appointing a Food Commissioner who will not be connected with Secretarial work and will, therefore, be able to devote more time for the purpose.....

Maulavi Md. UMARUDDIN : After we have had a famine ?

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Seems to be a famine-stricken remark ! Always dreams ill.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I hope the Hon'ble Minister would not hear these side remarks. They are made in a lighter vein, but the Hon'ble Minister is in a serious mood !

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : My difficulty is that I want to make my Friends also serious. I wish them to come to their senses.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Minister must withdraw this.

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : If you say, Sir, I will withdraw. But you said, that they are not serious as they pass remarks in a

lighter view. So I said so. It was not my fault, Sir, as you remarked about their lighter view, I also made the remark in all seriousness. They are not serious and will never be so.

Towards the end of 1950 the Government of India decided that there should not be any dispersal of efforts in the food production drive—the food drive should be concentrated in selected areas where conditions were most favourable for increasing food production. Accordingly last year the districts were divided into intensive and non-intensive cultivated areas—the Grow-More-Food Staff and assistance being concentrated in these intensive areas and the normal staff of the Department in the non-intensive areas, which was achieved by a re-organisation scheme put into effect during the year.

The 7 points integrated programme is given below under which as many as 19 schemes sanctioned by India are now operating:—1. Irrigation. 2. Manure Production and Distribution. 3. (a) Production and distribution of improved seeds which also included the establishment of seed farms. (b) The production of plants and grafts was included in a Horticultural Scheme in progress. 4. Plant Protection. 5. Utilization of waste lands through—(a) Mechanised Cultivation, (b) Opening out waste lands by the Revenue Department, (c) Tea Estate and large farmers and Co-operatives, (d) Shellatang Army Farm. 6. Double Cropping assisted by provision of Ahu seeds and oilcake manure and 7. Better cultural practices.

In addition provision has been made for the training of our subordinate staff through two Agricultural Schools.

To ensure that the field work had been done on a sound basis during 1950-51, a Scheme for assessing the results of the Grow-More-Food Campaign was initiated with the assistance of the Statistics Department at the instance of the Government of India.

A Fishery Scheme for encouraging pisciculture was also started during 1950-51 when a Fishery Department was created with the Additional Director as Director of Fisheries.

1. *Irrigation*.—The greatest progress was achieved under Irrigation which can be divided into three groups:—(i) Projects having Irrigation as their objective, (ii) Food protection through bunds, (iii) Drainage projects which was worked through three schemes given below:

(a) *Major Irrigation Projects*.—Executed through the Navigation Embankment and Drainage Section of the Public Works Department with funds from the Grow-More-Food grants. Altogether 47 Major Irrigation Projects have been selected for implementation in three groups of 16, 13 and 18. The first group was started in 1949-50 and the second group was undertaken for survey and started in 1950-51 and the last group is being surveyed. These projects on completion is likely to benefit 3,59,500 acres which will result in an additional yield of 81,012 tons. Of these seven projects have been completed by June 1951.

(b) *Minor Irrigation Projects*.—These relate to projects costing less than Rs.10,000 which are executed by the Agriculture Department. In the year 1950-51, 971 Minor Irrigation projects were completed against a target of 954 projects sanctioned for the year. These projects will ensure better water supply to 1,36,828 acres (old and new) which is likely to give an additional yield of 33,507.10 tons. These bring the number of projects completed under the Scheme, since its inception to a total of 2,727, which are 511 from 1943-46, 94 in 1946-47, 184 in 1947-48, 316 in 1948-49, 651 in 1949-50 and 971 in 1950-51.

(c) *Power Pump Irrigation.*—This Scheme provides for the increased production of spring paddy in lowlying areas to serve as an insurance against scarcity of rice due to floods through the use of power pump except which there are no other means of irrigation practicable or feasible in such areas. The Scheme is in operation from the year 1947 and up to the end of 1950-51, 1,998 acres have been irrigated by Power Pump at a cost of Rs.1,47,540 and additional yield obtained is 1,891 tons of clean rice.

2. Increased Production and Distribution of Manure

This Scheme provides for the increased utilisation of the available manurial resources in the State with a view to increase the yield of food crops by manuring. The Scheme has been divided into 4 parts as detailed below :—

- (i) Village Compost.
- (ii) Town Compost.
- (iii) Bonemeal.
- (iv) Oilcake.

Compost.—There has been considerable increase in compost production over the previous year. Over 72 thousand tons of village compost and about 2,030 tons of urban compost have been produced and applied during the year 1950-51, against a target of 50 thousand and 5 thousand tons respectively.

Bonemeal and Oilcake.—During the year 1950-51, 525.5 tons of bonemeal and 301 tons of oilcake were distributed at concessional rates.

3. Increased Production and Distribution of Improved Seeds

The objects of the Scheme is to issue paddy seeds of improved varieties on a large scale to take the place of ordinary varieties, to increase the cultivation of Boro paddy and to encourage cultivation of pulses and wheat.

Since from the execution of the Scheme 4,461 tons of paddy, 709 tons of pulse, 2,006 tons of potato, 23 tons of oilseeds, 59 tons of wheat and 4.02 tons of Maize seed have been distributed at a cost of Rs.82,08,288.

Six District Seed Farms have been recently established to provide the basic nucleus seeds for our seed multiplication work. The total area of these farms is about 800 acres and the annual yield estimated is 11,000 maunds.

4. Horticulture

The Horticultural Development Scheme has been operating in the State from December 1945 as an integral part of the Grow-More-Food Campaign with the joint financial assistance of the State Government and Government of India. The Schemes aim at increasing the overall fruit production in the State both by increasing the area under all classes of fruits, especially the quick yielding varieties and by improving the standard of yield in the existing gardens by inducing the growers to take to better cultural and manurial practices. In order to achieve this 3 Fruit Nurseries have already been established, one in each district.

These fruit nurseries are the first essential steps taken in the organisation of the fruit plant industry in the State where there is not a single well organised privately owned nursery to cater to the need of the people. The demand for fruit plants from all over the State is increasing and it is expected that when all district nurseries function properly, they will be in a position to fully meet the demand for fruit plants of all varieties.

Since from the inception of the scheme 14,80,102 numbers of pineapple suckers, 2,27,283 numbers of banana suckers, 66,866 numbers of grafts and plants and 52 pounds of papaya seeds collected from private plantation and Government nurseries were distributed to fruit growers of the State. Further, 7,877 units of jam, jelly, etc., were manufactured in the Departmental Fruit Technological Laboratory. The amount spent since inception of the scheme is Rs.3,08,971.

Now Sir, regarding protection of plants and other foodcrops, this scheme is designed to control diseases and insect pests of food crops both in the field and in storage. Plant diseases and insect pests on an average bring a loss of about 25 to 30 per cent. The main object of the scheme is to control this loss as far as possible and practicable and to increase food production. The scheme, which was launched at the beginning of the year 1950-51 made very good progress. Fourteen thousand nine hundred and fifty acres of different crops were treated against pests and diseases. In addition 13,54,989 maunds of paddy, pulse and potato during storage were also treated. Further 976 acres of oranges were treated against diseases and insect pests in the different districts. The benefits of plant protection are being increasingly realised but our present supplies of equipments are already proving inadequate, and we are trying our best to increase the same, Sir.

Regarding utilisation of waste lands through mechanised cultivation this scheme provides for the cultivation and extension of the waste and fallow lands by mechanised cultivation which was started in 1948-49 originally on a subsidised basis, the cost being shared by both India and Assam on 2/3rd and 1/3rd basis. Later when the subsidy was discontinued it had to be run on a loan from the Central Government. The object of the scheme is to reclaim areas which cannot normally be reclaimed with country ploughs where there is a scarcity of bullock power. This scheme will be linked up with the scheme for reclamation in backward areas. The present tractors strength will be increased as far as possible and we are trying our best to increase the number, Sir. From this it is evident that the Government is not sleeping or sitting tight here in Shillong but they are trying their best to increase food production.

Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: On a point of information, Sir, the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition is not paying any attention.

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Never mind my Friend need not bother about that.

Shri DHARA IDHAR BASUMATARI: What is the use of taking so much trouble when he is not paying any heed. He is reading a book.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister's statement is meant for you all. He might be reading a book which is relevant to the subject matter of the discussion otherwise it is not consistent for any hon. Member to read books in the House. So I presume Mr. Goswami is reading something that will help us in more production of food.....(laughter).

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: As you have noticed, Sir, I was really serious but my Friends disturbed me. Now, Sir, while discussing this subject yesterday Mr. Bhattacharyya went 12 years back to strengthen his case by quoting some incidents. He thought that the present day criticism was not enough to hit hard this Government so that he had to travel 12 years back. He said that the military ate our cattle and there was none to plough the fields... (Laughter) and we were made responsible for that. I am sorry he is not here so

I shall not touch the points raised by him. Again, the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition said that we were seeing everything through green glasses.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: I did not say so, Sir.

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Then who it was that said so. I am rather sure that my Friend remarked like that. However, when a man suffer from Jaundice he sees everything yellow.....(Laughter). Everything is yellow to a jaundiced eye.

Another point I should like to touch now, Sir, is that some hon. Friends desire that the Reserved Forests, if necessary, should be dereserved for cultivation. Sir, from experience we can say without any fear of contradiction that deforestation is a very dangerous procedure to adopt. It is not only my opinion but it is the opinion of the experts that if certain areas is deforested there is every likelihood of that area being flooded. It checks the flow of rain water. It is not only necessary for the purpose of preserving the timbers but also to protect certain areas from being flooded. Sir, my Friends sometimes accuse us of being unmindful about these facts and suggest that landless people should be given land; and before the election it was said by some Parties that if they come to power they would give 30 bighas of land to each person in the State. When I went to my Constituency I was told of this and asked whether we will be able to do the same. I could not give any reply for sometime and then after a little while, I said that I was not in a position to promise the same. I came home and began to calculate what amount of land would be required if 30 bighas of land were given to each man but after the calculation I found that if we allot land at this rate in that case the whole of the Indian Ocean will be necessary to meet that demand. (Laughter.)

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: For the people of Assam ?

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: No, for all.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Then I will have to learn new calculations.

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Yes, it seems so. Now, Sir, Mr. Goswami suggested that those commodities which have not as yet been controlled should also be controlled and it should not include only rice and paddy. But on the other hand some of my Friends from the Opposition stated that controls should altogether be abolished whereas their Leader opined that control should be imposed on more commodities. As I have already said, we are in the horns of a dilemma. It is just like the saw which is used for cutting the conchshell. If we do not give effect to the suggestion of the hon. Leader of the Opposition then he will be annoyed, on the other hand if we do not give effect to the suggestions of some of his followers that controls should be abolished then they will be annoyed. This means that we are following the right path. (Laughter.) This proves our *bonafide* of purpose and straightforwardness.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Console yourself.

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Many people have many sources of having consolation but my poorself have none, it seems. Not even the consolation of satisfying my learned hon. Friends. Sir, I have touched some of the points raised in course of the debate. Some hon. Members treated me rather unkindly. (Laughter.) They did not care to hear what I said yesterday and gave certain suggestion which they need not as we are already moving

in that direction and I made mentions of them. However, I am sure, they will not be able to complain that I have not given adequate attention to their suggestions as I have touched almost all of them. May I have some consolation in this respect? What does the Leader of the Opposition say?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Will you conclude?

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Yes, Sir, I will do so soon.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: You have already given a very good picture.

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: My Friends should not mind if I have not touched any stray point raised by them but I can assure that I have heard all and remember their suggestions and I also assure that I shall bear in mind the suggestions which are constructive but in some cases as I have already mentioned that it has been found the suggestions which are under consideration of the Government have also been mentioned. It might be that either my Friends were absent minded or absent from the House when I was delivering my speech, but however, that makes our case stronger and proves that we are sincere and quite mindful.

Lastly, Sir, though some of my hon. Friends were unkind to me in their criticism and blamed us for nothing but for party propaganda, yet I hope, a time will come when they will realise their mistakes and openly appreciate our actions and admit our difficulties and will pay heed to our appeal in the right spirit. The appeal is simple when my Friends go back to their Constituencies they will kindly try their best to induce the people to take to their proper avocation of life in right earnest, *i.e.*, our cultivators should be requested to take up their profession of producing more food with all seriousness, and whatever assistance is necessary from Government, I on behalf of the Government give the assurance that Government will render all possible assistance. Sir, We are here to serve that people and I hope, that this Government will get adequate co-operation from our hon. Members in order to solve the burning problem of the day. Whenever there is any *lacuna* detected anywhere my hon. Friends are requested to bring them to our notice immediately and we will immediately take action requested by making proper enquiry or by passing necessary order straightway so that there cannot be any unnecessary murmur that the demands of the people have gone unattended. Sir, when it is the aim of all of us to serve the people, unlike of course the proverbial phrase, *viz.*, "Your most obedient servant" used for ruling the people in the British Regime, I do not understand why we will not be able to solve this problem. Sir, where there is a will there is a way. I am certain that with our sincere co-ordinated action we shall succeed. We shall not solve this burning and very vital problem. Sir, I hope and trust that my appeal will not go in vain even if it goes I shall carry on relying on God's blessings.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: So the Debate comes to a close. We pass on to the next item.

Motion on the breach of privilege

Shri RAJENDRA NATH BARUA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assembly is of opinion that the Article under the Caption 'The Governor's Address' published in the *Assam Tribune* on 10th March 1952 pertaining to reflections on the conduct of the Hon'ble Mr. Speaker constitutes a breach of privilege and that such action be taken as may be decided upon by the House.

Sir, before I take up the Motion in question, I think, it would be in the fitness of things to know the difference regarding Privilege of the old Assemblies under the Constitution of 1935 and the present Constitution which we have now after India has attained Independence. The old Constitution did not give this House any power of self-vindication if there was any breach of the privilege of the House by any comment on a Member or its Speaker or Chairman by any outside agency. But now under section 194(3) of the Constitution of India, "The powers, privileges and immunities of a House of the Legislature of a State are declared to be such as those of the House of Commons of the Parliament of the United Kingdom".

Section 194, sub-sections (1), (2) and (3) read like this:—

"(1) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution and to the rules and standing orders regulating the procedure of the Legislature, there shall be freedom of speech in the Legislature of every State."

"(2) No member of the Legislature of a State shall be liable to any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said or any vote given by him in the Legislature or any committee thereof, and no person shall be so liable in respect of publication by or under the authority of a House of such a Legislature of any report, paper, votes or proceedings".

"(3) In other respects, the powers, privileges and immunities of a House of the Legislature of a State, and of the members and the committees of a House of such Legislature, shall be such as may from time to time be defined by the Legislature by law, and, until so defined, shall be those of the House of Commons of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, and of its members and committees, at the commencement of this Constitution".

Sir, it would be better if we have an idea of those powers, privileges and immunities which obtain in the British House of Parliament. Privilege is defined in Wharton's Law Lexicon as "An Exemption from some duty, burden or attendance to which certain persons are entitled, from a supposition of law, that the stations they fill or the office they are engaged in, are such as require all their care and that therefore without this indulgence it would be impracticable to execute such office so advantageously as the public good requires". Erskine May says "Both Houses of Parliament enjoy various privileges in their collective capacity, as constituent parts of the High Court of Parliament, which are necessary for the support of their authority and for the proper exercise of the functions entrusted to them by the Constitution. Other privileges, again, are enjoyed by individual members, which protect their persons and secure their independence and dignity". He further says, "Some privileges rest solely upon the law and custom of Parliament, while others have been defined by Statute. Upon these grounds alone all privileges whatever are founded". But although either House may expound the Law of Parliament and vindicate its own privileges, it is agreed that no new privilege can be created. At the same time Parliamentary privileges have been left intentionally indefinite, because if they were defined or set down it would have been easy for the Judiciary to devise some new case not within the line of privilege and under pretence thereof to harass any refractory member and violate the freedom of Parliament. All the same the privileges can be classed under three categories according to Hatsell that the House of Commons secure to themselves—

- (i) their right of attendance in Parliament, unmolested by threats or insults of private persons;
- (ii) their thoughts and attention undisturbed by any concern for their goods and estate" and
- (iii) their personal presence in the House, not to be withdrawn, either by the summons of inferior courts, by the arrest of their bodies in Civil cases, or what was of more importance, by commitment by orders from the Crown, for any supposed offences.

It would be illuminating to note how the justices held the power of Parliament as supreme in the point of determining its own privileges. In the Speaker's Thorpe's case in the reign of Henry VI, Thorpe, who was the Speaker of the House of Commons, was sued by Richard, Duke of York in the recess of Parliament. The plaintiff obtained a judgment and Execution, upon which Thorpe was arrested and committed to the Fleet prison. After the recess the whole Houses of Commons on presenting a petition to the Lords got his enlargement. The Lords brought this question before the Judges and Sir John Fortescue replying in the name of the Judges declared in the following words "they ought not to make answer to that question ; for it hath not been used aforetime that the justices should in any wise determine the privileges of the High Court of Parliament. For it is so high and mighty in its nature, that it may make a law: and that which is law, it may make no law: and the determination and knowledge of that privilege belongs to the Lords of Parliament, and not to the Justices".

There are innumerable cases in which the judges have been giving such verdicts. It is not beyond dispute that in the matter of privileges the judgments or findings of the Parliament are always supreme and they are not liable to be questioned by any power of the Crown.

Now amongst the categories I have mentioned the present case of impugning impartiality of the Speaker comes under the first category, *viz.*, (1) the right of attendance in Parliament, unmolested by threats or insults of private persons. Within the right of attendance unmolested by threat or insult, comes the question of criticism, or libels on the Speaker. Instances are numerous when the question spoken against the House were resented and the House used their power to punish. On the 15th of April 1559 one named Trawer, a servant of the Master of Rolls was committed to the Sergeant's keeping for certain evil words spoken by him against the House. In 1586 Bland a Courier was brought to the bar for using what were adjudged contumelious expression against the House. On 21st of February 1628 one Burgess, who had called some of the Parliament men "Hell-hounds Puritans" is ordered to be presently sent for by the Sergeant. On the 11th February 1774 H. S. Woodfall a Printer was committed to the custody of the Serjeant-at-arms for publishing a letter highly reflecting on the character of the Speaker to the dishonour of the House and in violation of the privileges thereof.

On the 31st July 1911, the attention of the House was directed to a letter written by a member to his constituents attributing party partiality to the Speaker. Instances too innumerable to mention of the breaches of privileges abound in the journals of the Parliament, which end in fines, commitment, reprimand and apology or contrition by the offenders. It is the present practice, says Erskine May, when a complaint is made, to order the person complained of to attend the House, and on his appearance at the bar, or if a member, in his place, he is examined and dealt with, according as the person complained of conduct are satisfactory or otherwise, or as the contrition expressed by him in his offence conciliates the displeasure of the house." It is the general practice now to send the cases of breaches of privileges to the Privilege Committee for a *prima facie* case is made out ; but if there be any special circumstances, when not unusual to refer the matter to a Select Committee to enquire into the matter and till its report comes to the House to suspend its judgment.

Sir, the Speaker's position in India now is almost the same as in England with the inauguration of the Sovereign Democratic Republic of India. He has the same powers as the Speaker of the House of Commons, in virtue of section 194 (3) of the Constitution, which I have already mentioned. He is subject to the provision of our Constitution. As regards the neutral character of the Speaker's office, the Speaker in England ceases from the moment of his election to the Chair to be a party man. His severance from party ties is so complete that he

does not enter the portals of any political clubs of which he may happen to be a member. The same convention has almost been followed in India except in the case of the Hon'ble Sri Purushotomas Tandon, the then Speaker of the United Provinces Legislative Assembly. The Speaker knows no distinction amongst members and parties in the House. So the impartial status of the Speaker is viewed with sanctity and reverence. The law is even so that he can give only his casting vote ; that is also absolutely in consonance with the impartial status of the Speaker.

Now, Sir, a castigation on the impartiality of the Speaker in the columns of the *Assam Tribune* can in no way be justified. Your speech, Sir, cannot, by any stretch of imagination, be construed as leaning towards any party. You rather said, Sir, "In the discharge of my duties I shall always be a non-party man." You said further "I am glad to welcome the Socialists here, the Communist and other independent members who have brought in a vast amount of knowledge and experience of a newer world and a new current of ideas of their own. I trust that when you apply those ideas to our practical problems you will probably yourselves scale down your ideas on you will improve those of the rest." This is significantly the portion of your speech which the correspondent of the *Assam Tribune* has sought to explain as savouring of partiality. I do not know if such an interpretation can be given reasonably to this sentence. All that can be said is that you would like the House to strike the golden mean. How can it be said that the impartiality of Mr. Speaker was overstepped by the speech ? How can it be said that the speech of the Hon'ble Speaker is likely to create an impression that the Speaker is a *partisan* ? This I should say an uncalled for reflection on the conduct of the Chair.

Sir, I could not refrain from quoting from the speech of the late lamented Hon'ble V. J. Patel of hallowed memory who as President of the Central Legislative Assembly in 1926 remarked when certain reflections were cast against the Chair. He said "The attention of the Chair has been drawn to the writing under the heading from our Special Correspondent" appearing in a certain newspaper. There is no doubt that the statement contains an insinuation of partiality directed against the Chair and the publication of such an insinuation constitutes, in the opinion of the Chair, a grave condemnation.

If the matter is again mentioned by any Member of this House at a later date complaining that the newspaper in question is unpenitent, the Chair will pass such orders against it as are permissible. The Press must know that no suggestion of partiality, however remote, directed against the Chair will be tolerated. At the same time the Press is fully entitled to criticise the conduct of the Chair as much as it pleases without casting or suggesting any reflection on its partiality. The Speaker must guard and maintain his reputation for impartiality of all things at any cost, and he cannot do so if he allows such suggestions or insinuation to pass unnoticed".

The present practice of the House of Commons is that in case of commitment the offender is released with the prorogation of the House. The fine is seldom imposed now, as a matter of fact it has ceased since the last two centuries. It has also been the practice in recent years to declare a certain offence as breach of privilege without further action as in Lady Mellor's case, who criticised the ruling of the Chair as "very deplorable" in 1951 and the "Daily Worker" which described the attitude of the Speaker as "disgracefully" in 1938.

The measures this Hon'ble House may take now are abundantly clear. If the House finds that reflections on the impartiality of the Chair have been imputed they may recommend any of the measures consistent with.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Assembly is of opinion that the article under the Caption 'The Governor's Address' published in the *Assam Tribune* of 10th March 1952 pertaining to reflections on the conduct of the Hon'ble Mr. Speaker constitutes a breach of privilege and that such action be taken as may be decided upon by the House."

Before the hon. Members discuss it, I should like to make a few observations.

The Legislature under the Government of India Act, 1935, suffered from one disability, namely that under sections 28(3) and 71(3) of the said Act, it had no power to commit for contempt. But under Articles 105 and 194, our Constitution by adopting the privileges of the House of Commons in toto, till the Legislature defines them confers this power of a Court on an Indian Legislature too.

It would be difficult to attempt an enumeration of every act which might be construed into a contempt, the power to punish for contempt being in its nature discretionary.

It may be added that any act which has a tendency to obstruct or impede directly or indirectly in the performance of the functions of the House may be treated as contempt even though there is no precedent of the offence.

To print or publish any book or libels reflecting on the proceedings of the House is a high violation of the rights and privileges of the House and if it has been made wilfully and reported malafide the publishers of newspapers are liable to punishment.

There is no doubt that it is a breach of privilege of the House to cast reflection on it or the Chair. The modes of punishment which may be imposed are :—

1. *Admonition*.—The offender may be asked to attend the House to be rebuked by the Speaker.

2. *Reprimand*.—The offender may be brought to the House by force to be rebuked by the Speaker.

3. *Imprisonment*.—Authorities have held that *Habeas Corpus* does not lie if the warrant issued by the Speaker expresses the commitment to be for contempt.

Some legal authorities like Anson however have held that if the House gives reasons for the contempt and the reasons are arbitrary and contrary to principles of justice the Court may interfere. The consensus of legal opinion is that the imprisonment may continue till the prorogation. But there is nothing to prevent the House from imprisoning the offender in the next Session.

The right of commitment has been repeatedly recognised by the Courts to law. Its usefulness also cannot be questioned as it enables the House to protect its privileges without taking recourse to any dilatory process at a law Court.

This shows the magnitude of the power of this House. But occasions arose to use such power by the House of Commons only in the 19th century.

In recent years whenever any body has violated the privileges of the House of Commons in any heat and fervour it has always been followed by a frank withdrawal and apology which the House receives with magnanimity, a typical way in which the House of Commons manages, unruffled to take this kind of incident in its stride.

Moreover we have certain other difficulties. There is no Committee of Privileges of the Assam Assembly which can examine whether there has been a contempt of the House ; of course a House decision as to contempt is conclusive, but a small committee can always examine a matter more minutely than a big body like the House.

The Supreme Court has recently allowed the *Habeas Corpus* petition of Mr. Mistry, Deputy Editor of *Blitz* on the ground that the detention is invalid as it violated Article 22 of the Constitution.

The present Session is coming to an end today possibly. Before it meets at the next Session some State Legislature or Parliament may define the privileges ; and the position may be clarified.

If an offence has been committed the offender will also have an opportunity to withdraw the statement and apologise if the matter is taken up at the next Session.

It is up to the House to decide if it has been a contempt and if so what action should be taken in the light of what has been stated. In the next Session if it is thought desirable the Motion can be brought again.

I think in that case the Press concerned will exercise its mind properly and will be in a better position to judge the facts. I hope the hon. Mover of the Motion will act in the line of my suggestion.

Shri RAJENDRA NATH BARUA : I have no objection, Sir.

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Please withdraw it.

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

Prorogation

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I now read the order of prorogation.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by clause 2(a) of Article 174 of the Constitution of India, as amended upto date, I, Jairamdas Doulatram, hereby prorogue the Assam Legislative Assembly at the conclusion of its sitting on the 1st April 1952.

SHILLONG :
The 31st March 1952.

JAIRAMDAS DOULATRAM,
Governor of Assam."

The Assembly was then prorogued.

DATED SHILLONG :
The 5th July 1952.

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