

**Proceedings of the Twelfth Session of the Assam Legislative
Assembly assembled after the Third General
Elections under the Sovereign Democratic
Republican Constitution of India.**

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong at 10 A. M. on Saturday, the 5th March, 1966.

PRESENT

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY, B. L., Speaker in the Chair, eight Ministers, two Ministers of State, two Deputy Ministers and forty-two Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Re: Labour Officer of Dhubri

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora) asked :

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Labour Officer of Dhubri was granted leave for two months with effect from 5th January 1966 to 5th March 1966 but no substitute has been posted?
- (b) If so, why and how the present Labour Office is functioning without a Labour Officer?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture)
replied:

17. (a) & (b)—The Labour Officer, Dhubri, who was suffering from hernia applied for Medical leave from 5th January 1966 and apparently under medical advice left the station without waiting for Government orders. His leave application was received in the Department and the question of placing a substitute in his place was duly examined. A substitute, however, could not be placed there immediately for the reason that a notification sanctioning leave to the Labour Officer, Dhubri was required to be issued first. For non-receipt of leave admissibility report from the Accountant General, Assam, the leave could not be notified. Meanwhile, the Labour Officer, Gauhati has been looking after the urgent and important works of the Dhubri Office. The Labour Officer, Dhubri is due to resume duties on 5th March 1966.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: For how many times the Labour Officer attended the Office of Labour Officer, Dhubri?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: That I cannot say.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister why alternative arrangement could not be made in view of the urgency of the matter?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, I have given the reasons during the course of my reply.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: Who was looking after the day to day work.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Office staff was there. They were looking after the day to day work. Also the Labour Officer, Gauhati was made in-charge of this office so he must have attended to the urgent work.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir our question is that who was supervising the day to day work?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Labour Officer, Gauhati.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: Is it not a fact that many very important work could not be taken up in absence of the Labour Officer?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: No such report is before us.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabor): Sir, was there any labour unrest during the period of absence of the Labour Officer?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: To my knowledge there was none.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: Is it not a fact that due to the absence of the Labour Officer, office was closed totally?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: We have no such information.

Re: Master Plan for Jorhat Town

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) asked:

*18. Will the Minister-in charge of Town and Country Planning be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that Government has already prepared a Master Plan for Jorhat Town?

(b) If so, when the said scheme will be implemented?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) replied:

18. (a) & (b)—The Project for preparation of Master Plan for Jorhat has been approved by the Government of India. Necessary steps have been taken to start the preparation of Master Plan for Jorhat Town.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, may I know whether any committee has been set up to carry on the work?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: The work was already taken up and the Government of India has sanctioned a sum of Rs.5 lakhs for 1965-66 for this purpose. Similarly, another amount will be forthcoming from the Government of India during the year 1966-67.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: Whether any officer was posted for this task?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I cannot say this.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabor): Sir, will the Jorhat Town be taken up during the 4th Five Year Plan?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Preparation of Master Plan has already been taken up.

Mr. SPEAKER: Can you give a probable date of completion of the survey?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: It is difficult, Sir.

Re: Receipt of Representation from the Shillong Traders Employees' Union

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) asked:

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

- (a) Whether Government have received any representation from the Shillong Traders Employees' Union for redressing their grievances?
- (b) If so, when it has been received and what are their grievances?
- (c) Whether Government have taken any step to redress their grievances and if so, how?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) replied:

19. (a)—No.

(b) & (c)—Do not arise.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora): Is it not a fact that representations were handed over to the Minister himself.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: The Minister himself approved this answer and no such information is available here.

Re: Construction of Sarapani Project

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabor) asked :

*20. Will the Minister-in-charge of P. W. D. (F. C. & I.) be pleased to state—

- (a) In which year the construction work of the Sarapani Project was started ?
- (b) When the Project will be completed ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Flood Control, etc.) replied :

20. (a)—The work of the Sarapani Project was started in 1964.
- (b)—The work is in progress and expected to be completed by the end of 1966.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora): What is the total amount that will be required for the implementation of the project ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: That I cannot say.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Irregular settlement of land in greater Gauhati

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked :

29. Will the Revenue Minister be pleased to state—
- (a) What is the total area of land in greater Gauhati detected to have been irregularly settled by the Revenue Officers ?
- (b) Whether these settlements have been declared invalid and possession resumed by Government ?
- (c) What steps have been taken against the officers at fault ?

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

29. (a)—8,102B—4K—11L.
- (b)—The settlements detected to have been irregularly made can be declared invalid only after regular proceedings according to law in each case. Altogether 1400 proceedings have been started, of which 300 have been disposed of where settlement orders have been declared invalid. Possession has not been resumed yet.
- (c)—Departmental proceedings have been drawn up against the officers and staff at fault.

Cancellation of allotment order of Lands at Gauhati Subdivision

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked :

30. Will the Revenue Minister be pleased to state—
- How many land settlement orders allotting Government waste land in Gauhati Subdivision have been cancelled so far?
 - What is the total area of land involved in these allotments?
 - What is the area of land involved in these cases in different S. D. C. Circles of the Subdivision?
 - What steps have been taken against the officers who were responsible for these irregular settlements?

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

30. (a)—In Gauhati Subdivision, so far 1922 settlement orders have been detected which appear to be *prima facie* irregular and 1400 proceedings were started meanwhile out of which 400 cases have been disposed of—300 involving land in Gauhati Circle and 100, relating to Chaygaon Circle.

(b)—13,950B—1K—15L.

(c)—The total area involving irregular settlement orders is as follows:—

Gauhati Circle—8,102B—4K—11L.

Chaygaon Circle—5,847B—2K—4L.

(d)—Departmental proceedings against the officers and the staff at fault have been started.

Issuing of licence to a Private Company for starting a Cement Factory at Bokajan

Shri NARENDRA NATH SARMA (Bokakhat) asked:

31. Will the Minister-in-charge of Industries be pleased to state—
- Whether it is a fact that Licence was issued to a Private Company for starting a Cement Factory at Bokajan in Mikir Hills recently?
 - Who is the Licence holder of that Cement Factory?
 - When it will start operation?
 - Whether Government has fixed any time limit in this behalf?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Industries) replied:

31. (a)—No Licence has been issued up till now to set up Cement Factory at Bokajan either in Public or Private Sector.
- (b), (c) & (d)—Do not arise.

Small and Medium Irrigation Projects at Golaghat

Shri NARENDRA NATH SARMA (Bokakhat) asked :

32. Will the Minister of P.W.D. (E. & D.) be pleased to state—
- How many small or medium irrigation projects are taken up by the E. & D. Department at Golaghat Subdivision?
 - What are these projects?

- (c) Whether these projects are completed ?
- (d) Whether the public of Bokakhat approached the Department several times to take up Hakuma, Kaziranga, Mathoni Sala bill and Rajabari bill of Bokakhat in Golaghat Subdivision as irrigation projects ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that plan and estimates of these projects have already been prepared ?
- (f) Whether Government will take up these projects and reclaim those bills during this financial year ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY [Minister, P.W.D. (Flood Control)] replied :

32. (a)—Three minor irrigation schemes have been taken up in Golaghat Subdivision.

(b)—There are (1) Fallangani Irrigation Scheme in Morongi Mouza, (2) providing Irrigation facilities in Amguri Kharikatia Mouza, (3) providing irrigation facilities in Bokakhat Mouza from Kankochang river.

(c)—No. These schemes are under execution and are expected to be completed by the end of March 1966 except Amguri Kharikatia.

(d)—Public of Bokakhat has so far approached for drainage of Rajabari bill.

(e)—Only a rough project has been prepared for drainage of Rajabari bill.

(f)—No.

Allotment of Trucks for the Transport of Border products

Shri ENOWELL POHSHNA (Jowai, Reserved for Scheduled Tribes) asked:

33. Will the Minister-in-charge of Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) How many trucks have been allotted for the transport of border products for the months of December, 1965 to 15th February, 1966 ?

(b) What are the names of the individual traders and the Co-operative Societies who utilised the trucks ?

(c) Number of trips per day and the amount paid as freight charges by each ?

(d) Whether it is a fact that some Co-operative Societies have not paid the freight charges for the trips undertaken by the trucks ?

(e) If so, what are the names of the societies ?

(f) What is the total amount due to be paid by these Societies up to 15th February, 1966 ?

(g) Whether it is a fact that firewood was also carried by the trucks ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) replied :

33. (a)—In December, 1965 the Department began providing Transport facilities with a fleet of Three Trucks, Four Jeeps with Trailers. By first week of January, 1966 the strength of the Transport fleet has been increased to 6 trucks and 7 jeeps with trailers.

(b)—Name of individuals and Co-operative Societies:—

Individuals:—

1. Lalchand.
2. U Jro.
3. U Holip.
4. U Nolirai.
5. U Bronsley.
6. Shrimati Dross.
7. U Ordip.
8. U Badrik.
9. Shrimati Twin Lyngdoh.

Co-operative Societies:—

1. District Marketing Societies.
2. War Jaintia Marketing Societies.
3. Border Marketing Co-operative Societies.
4. Mawkyrwat Primary Marketing Societies.
5. Raid Mawja Marketing Co-operative Societies.
6. Khadarblang Marketing Co-operative Societies.
7. Producer Marketing Societies, Mawsahew.
3. Mawriang Co-operative Societies.

Some of Co-operative Societies grouped with individual merchants in utilising the transport facilities for lifting Border produces. The total numbers of individuals will be much more than in the list as most of them avail transport facilities casually for a trip or two during the period, and therefore are not included in the list.

(c)—Detailed information on the numbers of trip per day, and amount of freight charges paid for each trip by each user are yet to receive from the interiors of the Border areas from the respective Officers. However each truck normally gives one trip from roadhead to Shillong per day; and from collection centres to roadhead each jeep trailers give four trips per day.

Therefore about seven trips by trucks from roadhead to Shillong and 28 trips by jeep trailers from collection centre to roadhead each day have been made.

Rupees 8,956.16 paise has been realised on account of truck fare from individuals and Co-operative Societies.

(d), (e) & (f)—The United Khasi and Jaintia Hills District Co-operative Societies has made part payment of transport bill. An amount of Rs 3,517.50 is outstanding against this Society. And the Society has requested for extension of time for payment till first week of March, 1966.

(g)—It is not permissible to use any vehicles for transport of firewood. There is no such complaint received by the Department, so far.

Food Production during the Emergency by Indian Tea Association, Bharatiya Cha Parishad and Assam Tea Planters' Association

Shrimati LILY SENGUPTA (Lahowal) asked:

34. Will the Minister, Labour be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Indian Tea Association, Bharatiya Cha Parishad and Assam Tea Planters' Association have taken food production scheme during the emergency?
- (b) If so, what is the total area of land cultivated or brought under the Scheme?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour)
replied:

34. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The Tea Industry proposed to bring under cultivation all fallow and waste lands as far as possible as a measure of production drive and some success have already been achieved. It is however, not possible to indicate the area brought under cultivation as no survey has been undertaken.

Price of Paddy purchased by the Government from growers

Shri DEBENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) asked:

35. Will the Minister of Supply be pleased to state—

- (a) What is the fixed price per maund at which paddy is purchased by Government from the growers.
(b) What is the fixed price per maund at which rice is sold to the Consumers by the Co-operative Stores or the Supply Department?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Supply) replied:

35. (a) — Government have fixed the minimum price per quintal of different varieties of paddy at assembling points under Rice and Paddy (Assam) Price Control Order, 1965 as follows:—

					Rs.P
Winter red grain paddy	...	...	...	...	33.18
Winter coarse (sali) paddy	...	...	...	...	35.00
Winter fine (sali) paddy	...	...	...	...	36.93
Winter superfine (Joha/Sahabali)	...	...	...	...	43.73
Autumn (Ahu) coarse paddy	...	..	...	...	30.24
Autumn (Ahu) Ekra paddy	...	...	...	..	31.77
Autumn (Ahu) fine/terabali	...	..	...	...	31.77
Boro paddy	..	...	...	...	30.24

When Winter paddy of any grade is purchased in the month of November, December, January, and February of any year a cut on account of moisture is imposed at the rate of 12%, 7%, 5% and 2½% respectively on the price payable for that grade.

When Autumn (Ahu) paddy or Boro paddy of any grade other than Ekra paddy is purchased in any area within the State, except areas falling within the District of Cachar, in the months of June, July, August, September and October of any year a cut on account of moisture is imposed at the rate of 7½% during June and July, 5% during August, 2½% during September and October on the price payable for that grade of paddy.

When Autumn Ahu paddy or Boro paddy of any grade other than Ekra is purchased in any area falling within the District of Cachar in the months of June, July and August of any year a cut on account of moisture is imposed at the rate of $7\frac{1}{2}\%$ during any such month and where such paddy is purchased in that area in the months of September and October in any year a cut on account of moisture is imposed at the rate of 5% , $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ respectively on the price payable for that grade of paddy.

When Autumn Ahu Ekra paddy of any grade is purchased in the months of October, November, December of any year a cut on account of moisture is imposed at the rate of $6\frac{1}{2}\%$ during October and 4% during November and December on the price payable for that grade of paddy.

(b)—Government have fixed the *Ex-Mill* price of different varieties of rice both Arua and Ushna under the Rice and Paddy (Assam) Price Control Order, 1965 per quintal as follows:—

			Rs.P.		Rs.P.
Winter red grain rice	...	...	60.46	Arua	58.71 Ushna
Winter coarse Sali rice	...	...	63.34	,,	61.11 ,,
Winter fine (Lahi) rice	...	...	68.15	,,	65.75 ,,
Winter superfine (Ioha/Sahabali)	...	...	83.84	,,	81.18 ,,
Autumn (Ahu) coarse rice	...	...	62.63	,,	59.96 ,,
Autumn (Ahu) Ekra rice	...	...	62.29	,,	60.62 ,,
Autumn (Ahu) fine Terabali	..	..	68.38	,,	65.34 ,,
Boro rice ..	...	...	62.63	,,	59.96 ,,

To arrive at the price at which rice is sold to consumers the following items are added to the *Ex-Mill* price:—

1. In case of Government issue—
 - (a) Delivery charge at the rate of 27P. per quintal.
 - (b) Government Administrative charge at $6\frac{1}{4}\%$ per cent.
 - (c) Cost of gunny bags at Rs.2.38P. per quintal in case of new bags, Re.1.19P. per quintal in case of old serviceable bags.
 - (d) Reasonable Transport charge according to distance of Co-operative Store or Government Fair Price Shops from the Supply point as fixed by the Local Officers.
 - (e) Profit margin of 5 per cent over *Ex-Mill* price plus (a), (b), (c), (d) above allowed to the Shop-keeper selling rice to Consumers.
2. In case of Trade issue—
 - (a) Delivery charge at 27 paise per quintal.
 - (b) Cost of gunny bags at Rs.2.38P. per quintal in case of new bags, Rs.1.19P. per quintal in case of old but serviceable bags.
 - (c) Margin of profit at $1\frac{1}{2}\%$ per cent on the *Ex-Mill* price.
 - (d) Reasonable Transport charge according to distance as fixed by the Local Officers.
 - (e) Profit margin of 5 per cent over the *Ex-Mill* price plus (a), (b), (c) & (d) above allowed to the Shop-keeper selling rice to Consumers.

Announcement by the Speaker re: Questions Position

Mr. SPEAKER: Before we go to next item I want to apprise the House about the questions position. Up till now we have admitted 163 Starred Questions and 390 Unstarred Questions. So far we have received replies to 18 Starred Questions and 26 Unstarred Questions. The progress is not very satisfactory. I request the hon. Ministers to take a personal interest.

**Calling Attention to a matter of urgent public importance—
Train accident near Furkating with 27 deaths and
injuries to many others as reported by the
Press on the 17th February, 1966.**

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on 16th February, 1966 at about 9-10 p.m. the Assam Mail met with an accident between Furkating and Kamarbandha stations in Lumding and Tinsukia Section of the North East Frontier Railway in which about 36 persons died and more than 50 persons were injured. Sir, in one of the compartment of that train live bombs were placed by some Naga hostiles which ultimately was exploded and killed so many people. Sir, such incidents are very rare. Sir, it is to be noted that when the Naga Delegation went to Delhi for talks with the Prime Minister this incident coincided with the talk. Sir, this matter was discussed in the Parliament also and during the last two years it was stated that as the border of Naga hills are full of jungles, the Naga hostiles are getting advantage. So, it proposed to clear the jungles so that the Naga hostiles may not take advantage and attack the train. The passengers do not feel secured when they travel the Nagaland Border because nobody knows at what time the Nagas may attack them. So many of the passengers are abandoning the train travelling. The Government should, therefore, take urgent steps to curb out the activities of the Naga hostiles so that the people at least may feel secure. Therefore, Sir, we have drawn the attention of the Chief Minister to give the details of the incident which took place on 16th February last.

***Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):** Sir, on 16th February 1966 at approximately 9-10 p.m. soon after the 3 up Assam Mail had left Furkating junction and proceeded three miles towards Mariani there was an explosion in the Third Class compartment of a bogey. As a result of this explosion there were a number of casualties but the exact number could not be assessed because of extensive dismemberment of the bodies. About 45 minutes later another explosion took place in the front compartment of the same bogey. The passengers then got out of the train and it was found that 30 persons had been killed outright in the two explosions. Approximately 52 persons received injuries of whom 40 were moved to Goiaghat and the rest more seriously injured sent to Jorhat and Lumding hospital for treatment. According to latest reports the death toll now has mounted to 38 and the total injured to 51. Of the injured persons

44 are in Golaghat hospital and the rest in Lumding Railway hospital and Jorhat. The Deputy Commissioner, Sibsagar, the Subdivisional Officer, Golaghat, and the Superintendent of Police, Sibsagar, arrived shortly after the explosions. They stayed there the whole night and left only in the early hours of the next morning. After his return the Deputy Commissioner received information that another live bomb with fuse wire attached and wrapped in plastic cloth was discovered in an unclaimed black steel trunk in a coach next to the wrecked coach. The information was immediately passed on to the military authorities to deal with the matter. The impression seems to be that the time bombs must have been planted inside the bogey because no railway track was blown up. This also accounts for the delay in the second explosion. It appears that after the first explosion the passengers in that particular bogey had not vacated the compartment and there were therefore more victims as a result of the second explosion. After the second explosion the passengers were vacated from the train. The passengers were then sent by a special relief train to their respective destinations. It also appears that almost all casualties are Behari labourers originating from Barauni area and going to Tinsukia. Necessary precautionary measures have been taken and tightened up. The Government greatly deplore this distasteful and senseless act which has resulted in the death of so many innocent persons and injuries to so many others. The usual enquiry under the Railway Act will also be held.

About the other question mentioned by the hon. Member, viz., clearance of jungles, the jungles had been cleared. As a matter of fact, a road all along the railway line from Neojan to Dhanasiri has been completed, and the portion from Dhanasiri to Diphu is under construction. Here, during the rains particularly, jungles grow very quickly and they have to be cleared again.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: May I know whether the relief given to the victims has been given from the Government of India's side or from the State Government's side?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: The question now is about identity of the persons and that is being ascertained.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): May I know whether the figure given by the Chief Minister of the persons who died is the exact figure?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: This is the figure according to our reports and to the best of our information.

Shri NILA KANTA HAZARIKA (Dergaon, Reserved for Scheduled Castes): এই Time bomb কোনে দিছিল, সেইটো উলিয়াব পৰা হৈছিলনে?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: Of course, it is difficult to prove anything now. But my impression is that it was the work of a section of Naga hostiles who were against the peace move, because of the coincidence of this incident and the leaders going to Delhi.

Shri NILA KANTA HAZARIKA : মই আক.....

Mr. SPEAKER : আপুনি মাত্ৰ এটা প্ৰশ্নহে কৰিব পাৰে, দুটা নহয়।

**Statement by Minister Education re: Educational Benefits
for the Students of the other Backward Classes
of the State**

***Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH (Minister, Education) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem of providing special educational benefits for the children of the weaker section of the nation has attracted the attention of Government of India as well as the State Government from the very beginning. Along with the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the other Backward Classes who are socially, educationally and economically backward, constitute the overwhelming bulk of the toiling masses of the country. For a Government dedicated to the policy of democratic socialism as this Government is, the accelerated advancement of these classes is bound to receive top priority in its welfare measures. Some time ago, the policy of special educational facilities for the students belonging to the Other Backward Classes underwent modifications at the instance of the Government of India and the emphasis was placed on economic rather than social backwardness. This new policy while giving substantial benefits to students belonging to communities other than Other Backward Classes has resulted in reducing the benefits available to the students of Other Backward Classes. The Chief Minister in his reply to the Debate on Governor's Address indicated to this august House that this aspect of the question was receiving the sympathetic attention of the Government. The Government has now formulated a new policy which will provide Re 1 crore in the Fourth Five Year Plan for educational benefits to students of Other Backward Classes, including children of tea garden and ex-tea garden labourers and Mizo community. The details of this scheme are being worked out and it is expected that these benefits will be available from the next academic year. I would like to make it clear that these new benefits would be in addition to the benefits given to students on the basis of economic backwardness, with which the question of merit is also linked.

(Applause)

**Statement by the Chief Minister re: incidents at Mizo
Hills District**

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding the time which you have fixed for discussion of the motion in respect of the situation in the Mizo Hills, it will be better if we start the discussion from 2 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER : If the House agrees, I have no objection.

*Speech not corrected

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Parliamentary Affairs): In that case, the time for discussion of the Budget will be reduced to that extent.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: We can make it up on Friday next.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: We have got other business on Friday.

Mr. SPEAKER: We have taken out some time from the Budget discussions to discuss this important matter. I have accordingly fixed the discussion from 3 p.m. to-day. But if the House wants to start discussion from 2 p.m. I have no objection.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: We have no objection, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The discussion will take place from 2 p.m.

RESOLUTION No. 1

"50—Public Work—State (Excluding Establishment Tools and Plant)"

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.3,39,430 under the head "50.—Public Works—State (Excluding Establishment Tools and Plant)" for the items showed in the copy of the Resolution circulated to the hon. Members.

Mr. SPEAKER: Resolution moved.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.3,39,430 under the head "50.—Public Works—State (Excluding Establishment Tools and Plant)" for the items stated in the Resolution which has been circulated to the members.

(The motion was adopted)

RESOLUTION No. 2

"103—Capital Outlay on Public Works outside the Revenue Account."

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.1,01,600 under the head "103.—Capital Outlay on Public Works outside the Revenue Account" for the items mentioned in the copy of the Resolution circulated already to the hon. Members.

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved.

(After a pause)

The question is that this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs.1,01,600 under the head "103.—Capital Outlay on Public Works outside the Revenue Account" for the items stated in the Resolution which has been circulated to the hon. Members.

(The motion was adopted)

Resolution Regarding the Warehousing Corporation (Supplementary) Act, 1965

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH (Minister, Education): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that: "Whereas Parliament has passed the Warehousing Corporations (Supplementary) Act, 1965 [20 of 1965],

And Whereas, it is desirable that storage of commodities other than those covered by the Warehousing Corporations Act, 1962 (58 of 1962), in Warehouses run by the Corporations established under the Act shall be regulated in the State of Assam by the said Warehousing Corporations (Supplementary) Act.

Now, therefore, in pursuance of clause (1) of Article 252 of the Constitution, this Assembly resolves that the said Warehousing Corporation (Supplementary) Act be adopted in the State of Assam in respect of the storage of commodities other than those covered by the Warehousing Corporations Act, 1962 (68 of 1962)".

The purpose of this Resolution is very simple. The Warehousing Corporation Act is a Central Act of 1965. Its scope was to include certain articles like tobacco, cement, etc., some of which are under the concurrent list of jurisdiction. Under the Central Act it is necessary that the State Assembly should pass a resolution enabling the Warehousing Corporation to function to the extent of expanded work. Therefore this resolution is necessary.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is whereas Parliament has passed the Warehousing Corporations (Supplementary) Act, 1965 (20 of 1965),

And Whereas it is desirable that storage of commodities other than those covered by the Warehousing Corporations Act, 1962 (58 of 1962), in Warehouses run by the Corporations established under the Act shall be regulated in the State of Assam by the said Warehousing Corporations (Supplementary) Act.

Now, therefore, in pursuance of clause (1) of Article 252 of the Constitution, this Assembly resolves that the said Warehousing Corporation (Supplementary) Act, be adopted in the State of Assam in respect of the storage of commodities other than those covered by the Warehousing Corporations Act 1962 (68 of 1962)".

(The motion was adopted).

Motion for Election to Legislature Committee (i) Committee on Public Accounts

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Parliamentary Affairs): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do elect seven Members in accordance with the provisions of rule 242 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly to the Committee on Public Accounts to function from the 1st April, 1966.

Mr. SPEAKER: The motion moved. The question is that this Assembly do elect seven Members in accordance with the provisions of rule 242 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly to the Committee on Public Accounts to function from the 1st April, 1966. The Secretary will notify the date, time and place for holding the election, if necessary.

(The motion was adopted).

Motion for Election to Legislature Committee (ii) Committee on Estimates

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Parliamentary Affairs): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly do elect ten Members in accordance with the provisions of rule 244 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly to the Committee on Estimates to function from the 1st April, 1966.

Mr. SPEAKER: The motion moved. The question is that this Assembly do elect ten Members in accordance with the provision of rule 244 of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly to the Committee on Estimates to function from the 1st April, 1966. The Secretary will notify the date, time and place for holding the election, if necessary.

(The motion was adopted).

General discussion of the Budget

Shri AKSHOY KUMAR DAS (Sarbhog): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset I congratulate the Chief Minister on placing a well-balanced Budget before the House for the next year. I call it well-balanced, instead of a surplus one, because the surplus is nominal. I mean, in view of the heavy amount of outstanding to be cleared, this amount of surplus should not be called anything else than nominal. I for myself find a tone of sincerity running throughout the Budget speech and also through the provisions of the Budget. Sir, both economically and politically Assam is running through a very difficult period—a period in which we seem to be dragged into more and more economic difficulty by daily occurrences. Sir, the recent occurrences in the Mizo areas is known to us all, and probably some of us are getting a lesser conception of the reality and importance and some are getting an exaggerated conception of the reality also. At any rate the people cannot but feel a sense of uncertainty on these occurrences. No doubt, Army, as we understand, has been sent there and we believe and hope that they will be able to master the situation very early. But still these occurrences themselves are very very disheartening when specially we are to meet a heavy deficit in all quarters.

Sir, I would like to point out that to balance the Budget in this period we cannot avoid new taxation, that is quite sure, but this also must be confessed that people are feeling difficulties in bearing more taxation. While we are mindful of development we must be prepared to bear taxation burden also, that is quite true. In this respect, the people could have been made to agree to bear additional burden of taxation if we could succeed in lessening the anxiety of the people about food supply. There have been several references during the discussion on the Governor's speech to the

food situation. It is heartening that the people have taken up the challenge as it seems they are taking to new methods like application of manure. But mere taking up these methods towards more food production or the readiness to adopt new methods also will not solve the problem. It is clear that over and above everything else, for successful agricultural production we must be assured of water supply, I mean irrigation. The system current till now of small schemes do not seem to be very successful. There have been some large scale irrigation also but probably the result out of these has not been satisfactory. In this connection I would suggest that arrangements for Lift Irrigation should be taken up without any loss of time. Sir, the other day the Minister for Electricity gave a very lengthy analysis of the power position of the State. He spoke many things, but we feel that whatever may be the difficulties, for agricultural purposes at least power production should be taken up more seriously than now. Sir, if we succeed in getting water supply for agricultural fields in proper time then only we can be sure of meeting the food deficit; without meeting the deficit in food it will not be easy to keep our people satisfied with the daily increasing taxation burden.

Next, Sir, regarding the overall financial position I would like to point out that the education budget is, in a sense very encouraging for the people. I call it encouraging because big sums of money are being provided for education. This is very much wanted. Sir, for the last two years one aspect we have to consider in this connection. I do not think any new primary schools have been taken up. Personally I am not very much concerned about this problem in my constituency. But still I find that round about, there are schools which are waiting to be taken up. Again the standard of examinations also has got to be improved. The programme which has been taken up for this improvement, in principle, is correct, but in magnitude, it is insufficient till now.

Unless and until we improve primary education first, college education cannot improve. So I would suggest that Government may please direct its attention to pruning the college education, as possible. I would suggest that research studies in college education should not suffer. It should be kept in tact because research must be allowed to proceed. Some scientific studies must also be allowed to proceed; but beyond this, as possible, there should be some pruning in college education budget so that school education may receive greater attention from the Government. I am not in a position to give details, but I hope, Sir, that the Government will pay some attention to this point.

Next, Sir, as to Panchayati Raj our Chief Minister has rightly stated in his Budget Speech that 'To enable the Panchayati Raj Bodies to discharge their responsibilities, necessary powers for preparation and formulation of development schemes have been delegated to them. It is expected that these measures will help them formulate schemes suitable to the needs of individual localities.' That is very heartening, Sir. In fact the working of the Panchayats up till now has not been very encouraging. Of course, we must be aware of the state in which the working of the Panchayats started. We cannot afford to ignore it. We have started practically with an unprepared mass of people to take up the work of the Panchayats. So under those circumstances the working of the Panchayats cannot be possibly better than what it has been now. A lot of thought should be bestowed upon further improvement of the Panchayati Raj. Sir, an oft repeated vice in the society—probably throughout the world is corruption. We must be very careful to see

that this vice does not creep into the lowest strata of the society too; I do not mean higher or lower, but the strata at the bottom. Sir, this vice is still now prevalent among the more intelligent or more educated sections or the institutions connected with these people; but it is about to enter into the Panchayati administration too. So, I hope that when there is still time to check it, the Government will see that proper amendment of the Panchayat Act be forthwith taken up. We were given to understand some months back that some amendments were ready but as it appears these amendments are not coming before the House even during this Session, So, I hope Government will bestow special care on this point. We feel that unless and until the working of the Panchayats is improved problems of the country as a whole cannot be met satisfactorily. Often times, Sir, we associate the name of Gandhiji with the Panchayati Raj. This is not unnatural because it was Mahatmaji who years back mentioned that his dream was to see India governed by Panchayats. Sir, in a sense he was the greatest of political revolutionaries. So for him such a dream was quite possible. But if we go to him these Panchayats amongst sections and rules probably a lot of formalities will creep in to these Panchayats, and with these formalities are they expected to work out Ramraj in the country? That is a matter which should be thought seriously. Personally I feel that such provisions should be introduced in the Panchayat Act as will provide an insight to utilisation of man power which is daily wasting in the country. Till now the attention of Panchayats has been mostly to funds and finance. They seem to be thoroughly negligent of the man power which are at their disposal. So by all means therefore, our efforts should be to organise this vast man-power so that in all fields we may be assured of better success without loss of time.

Sir, regarding General Administration, I have already mentioned at the outset the situation in the Mizo Hills. The House even during these few days of the Session has been discussing the law and order situation created by the Nagas and now it has entered into our own State, the Mizo Hills. One thing I would like to suggest is that when such a serious development could take place in the Mizo Hills it must have been a preparation for some months past; otherwise such an organised breach of law and order could not have taken place there. We do not know how far the Government was kept informed of these preparations or the possibilities, but it is probably not wrong to suppose that some preparations were going on from some months past and the House will naturally like to hear something on this point when the debate will start on the Chief Minister's speech of yesterday. Sir, the law and order situation as a whole is satisfactory in the country, there is no doubt; but when such breaches of law and order as in the Mizo Hills are seen then naturally apprehensions creep into our minds that there may be other spots also wherein we may be faced with similar situations. This is not a question of simple fear, but it is also justified to a certain extent seeing the environment in which Assam is situated.

Sir, I again refer to the power supply situation. The Minister for Power speaking before the Assembly the other day referred to some River Valley Projects also. We hope that when a former Member of this House, and a very able Minister of this Cabinet also, has fortunately taken charge of Power and Irrigation at the Centre we hope that by co-ordination and by negotiations the Government will be able to include some River Valley Projects without loss of time from Assam into the Centre's programme. As I have stated at the outset, Sir, without arrangements for Lift Irrigation we cannot be assured of success by other methods of irrigation for effective increase in

food production. Without proper water supply whatever quantity of manure we may consume in the fields I do not believe that agricultural production will increase up to requirement or expectation. Sir, regarding communication there seems to be almost lull in the Government. By communication I mean Road communication. We are aware of the financial stringency, but still in some cases roads proposed to be taken up under the Third Five Year Plan programme have not been taken up at all, not to speak of being completed. I hope when we will enter into the Fourth Plan the roads which were to be taken up under the Third Plan will be taken up without further loss of time. Sir, we have already seen a lot of improvements in this regard but it is clear that without proper communication our disadvantages will continue, and so I cannot resist the temptation of referring to communication.

Sir, some items of taxation specially Motor vehicle tax may indirectly touch the poor class also, but it cannot be avoided and therefore, when the Government has taken it up we must bear with it. But I want to draw the attention of the Minister for Transport that we feel that a lot of money has still got to be collected even under the existing taxation measures. Those amounts are not being properly heeded to. If the enforcement branch were more energetic and more mindful of their duty, we believe that a greater amount would have been collected even under the existing scale of taxation. So, we hope that the Minister would be pleased to direct his attention to this matter.

Sir, regarding revenue administration land has been the crying need of the people even now. The present land settlement policy of the Government, has been to meet the demands of the river eroded people first. I do not deny the wisdom of this policy, but I do assert that those people who had been continuing to be landless for years should also get consideration. Suppose, for instance, I had 10 or 20 or 30 bighas of land and I was in possession of this holding and I was reaping the benefit out of it. Now, if my land is eroded to-day and tomorrow if some land is available for settlement I will get preference whereas a man who is continuing to be landless for say, 30 years and he is tilling the land of others on Adhi system, will not get preference in the matter of settlement of land. The policy seems to be that the man who had land will get land again, and the man who had no land will not get any land. I do not think it is the desire of the Government and I hope Government will consider this aspect and the cases of the otherwise landless people will be given equal consideration with those who are river-erosion affected. In this connection, Sir, the scarcity of land has succeeded in raising some anxieties in our minds and some of us, often times, are giving exaggerated figures also. Sometimes we say that there are lakhs of acres of land in the State available for settlement. But we all know that there are no lakhs of acres of land in this State available for settlement. Land available for settlement is very small, but still whatever area is available for settlement at whatever time, we hope that it should go to the landless people, whether they became landless as a result of erosion or otherwise.

In this connection, Sir, the refugee problem has got to be mentioned. In some areas, on moral consideration, Government has been pleased to accommodate the refugees even by opening reserves. We all support this and we cannot but support this. But still I would request the Government that whatever reserves are left in the State they should not lay hands on these areas any more for such purpose.

Sir, regarding Medical Department, little had been left to be spoken after the discussion in the House during the last few days. Sir, there are needs for Doctors, there are needs for dispensaries. In this connection I would like to mention one incident, rather one statement by our hon. Chief Minister and that is while giving thanks to Shri Tarlok Singh the other day when the latter was addressing the Members of this House. Our Chief Minister was pleased to mention that he and for the matter of that the Government was very thankful to Shri Tarlok Singh and his team for coming here and entering into an enquiry in the hill areas as to their demands. Sir, there he also stated that they have found out the wants and grievances and, therefore, it is natural for all to expect that their wants and grievances will be met and properly attempted to be met by the Centre; otherwise the after-effect becomes very very unpalatable for all. I wholeheartedly join with that remark of the Chief Minister. Sir, analysis is always good but analysis should be with a view to be followed with synthesis. During the course of our analysis we make the people realise their wants and grievances which otherwise they would not have thought of. If afterwards we fail to meet their grievances then discontentment arises in the minds of the people and that is a very serious matter. So, I hope the Medical Department will be more mindful of the defects and short-comings in health measures. Sir, in places where there are dispensaries there also the Doctors are not doing their duty properly. We feel that real inspection, I do not mean visits, of dispensaries and hospitals has been very rare now-a-days. I do not know how many inspections of the dispensaries and hospitals are undertaken by our Civil Surgeons. And I hope the Health Department will please direct their attention to this matter. With proper inspection, even this short supply of stocks, may be made to meet the grievances of the people or wants of the people. For want of inspection, there has been so much of misuse. Sir, I do not mean to proceed more. We are very happy that when the people will bear taxation measures cheerfully or willfully there should be no laches on the part of the Government to see that every pai that will be collected from the people will be spent for the benefit of the people and expenditure will be economised. Every pai I say because in our standard we cannot afford to be lavish and that every pai requires attention so that there will be wasteful expenditure and if we can tangibly show that we are effecting economy like this then the people will surely and wilfully bear this taxation measures also. Thank you.

Mr. SPEAKER: Then Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami will speak.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamulpur): Sir, at the very outset, I congratulate our Chief Minister for presenting this Budget for the year 1966-67. This budget as has already been stated by the Hon. Member, Shri Das, is a balanced budget and herein we find that from the total revenue account and also the outside revenue account receipts together come to a little surplus of Rs. 5,12,000. But if we consider the closing balance and also the ways and means advances then we find that the financial position of the State is not a comfortable one. From this year revenue receipts and expenditure a little surplus is obtained, but from the overall financial aspect of the State finance

we find that there is still a heavy deficit to the tune of about 17 crores of rupees or so and including the ways and means advance it will be much more. However, Sir, we are very happy that in the budget there is no proposal for fresh taxation except in case of the Motor Vehicles and this Motor Vehicle Tax will bring in a total amount of about Rs. 55 lakhs to the State Exchequer. This 55 lakhs is not a good amount and therefore, we can say that the people have been relieved of fresh taxation. But at the same time, Sir, as this tax has been levied on the motor vehicles, we are afraid that there may be consequent rise in the freight and fare for the goods and passengers also and so on. I only hope that as the freight and fare have recently been increased, and Government will not allow any fresh rise in the fare and freight for passengers and goods.

Then as regards the law and order situation of the State, we are rather happy that in comparison with those of other years and to other States the law and order situation of the year under review was normally good, but due to very recent disquieting happenings in the Mizo Hills over which we are all deeply concerned, the situation has been deteriorating to a great extent and we also apprehend that if this situation in the Mizo Hills is not tackled firmly very soon then it may encourage fissiparous tendency to grow in other parts of the State also. Therefore, we feel that Government should take every possible step so that the disturbance and armed rebellion in the Mizo Hills district may be suppressed at a very early date so that it may not spread to other parts of the State. We are to a considerable extent relieved of border troubles with Pakistan due to Tashkent Declaration recently because Assam was directly troubled in Chatrasal area in Goalpara district and in Karimganj area of Cachar district with bullets from Pakistan, and while the guns of Pakistan have been silenced due to the historic Tashkent Declaration, new disturbances have taken place even inside our own State and also in the Assam-Nagaland border. So, it is rather a disquieting feature for all of us and we are all deeply concerned about it and we hope that the situation will be brought under control and right sense will prevail over all sections of our people.

Then Sir, as regards the most important problem, that is food problem, we are rather happy that while other parts of the country have been facing acute shortages of foodstuff, we in this part have not yet experienced this food shortage in our State. The procurement was quite good last year and last year we had a very good harvest. But this year the crop was not fairly good as we expected earlier and there was failure of crop specially the sali crops due to drought condition and as such, we are not very much hopeful that we shall be able to reach the target of procurement that has been fixed. But, Sir, I feel that our State will not face the shortage of food provided we can plug the loopholes and check the draining away of food from our State by unauthorised routes. Though we have got zonal restrictions and so on, but as the

surrounding territories are facing shortage of food grains paddy and rice have gone out through different avenues to other parts of the country. So, Sir, I feel that when the country is facing food shortage and when we may help other States with some quantity of food grains that we can possibly spare, our Government should see that this food grain goes out of our State through proper channel and through authorised routes and we should not allow the foodgrains to be taken out by unauthorised routes or being smuggled out to other parts of the country. Therefore, I feel very strongly that our check-gates should be strengthened and we should guard that food grains do not go out by unauthorised routes to other parts of the country where there is great food scarcity. We should help those States and the Centre as far as we can and this should go only through proper channel and by authorised routes.

Then, Sir, as regards the food production, we are given a very good assessment on production of food, I mean the agricultural production and we are very happy that with the appointment of the Commissioner for Agricultural Production there has been a very great tempo of Grow More Food Drive in the Panchayat areas and the Panchayats have taken up food production drive in right earnest. But, Sir, along with the production of food we should also see that the produce of the agriculturists find a good market. As regards the articles of food which generally deteriorate at the earlier time, they may not be stored up but as regards the production of the cultivators specially the rabi crops which are mainly perishable in nature, if these food articles do not get ready market and if the cultivators do not get price of their yield, they will not be encouraged to grow more food crops or vegetables and so on in future. On the other hand, we have not been able to drive this home to the cultivators namely that this increase of rabi crops and so on may not only be for sale, but it is also for their consumption, and if these vegetables and other such articles of food are consumed more there will be less pressure on cereals and we can save our cereals for the lean months. But we have not been able to drive this idea home to the cultivators. Whenever we go we find this complaint from the cultivators that according to our advice and our direction they have cultivated so much of vegetables but the price has gone so low that they do not find any market for these vegetables. But at the same time if we could have made them realise that this production of vegetables is also meant for their own consumption and if we consume more and more vegetables then we can save a lot of cereals for the lean months. The excess should find market. Sir, I feel that in the production centres the price of these vegetables is very low, for instance, cabbage, cauliflower and other vegetables cost not more than 5 annas, 4 annas or 2 annas and so on. But in the towns specially Gauhati and Shillong the price has not gone down and more or less the same high price is maintained. If the Agriculture Department can make some arrangement to see to the transshipment of vegetables from the production centres to the towns, then the people living in towns can get those vegetables at cheaper prices and the cultivators would have also got some price out of their production. This aspect may also be examined.

Then, as regards other perishables, I mean those which are not perishable immediately but which cannot be stored up for a long time, there should be Cold Storage. As has been said in the Governor's Address, there should have been three or four Cold Storages for storing potato and other seeds so that at the time of need these may be utilised and given to the cultivators at proper time. Then, we have given much

emphasis on paddy cultivation only. But we should give equal emphasis on horticultural produce also. Horticulture should be encouraged and so also pulses. Now, Sir, I am not sure but it has been said that some direction was issued that this Khesari dal is not good for health. But, Sir, we the Assamese people are habituated to take this Khesari dal along with 'Khar'. The effect of this Khesari dal is neutralised by using Khar, and I feel, Sir, that cultivators should not be discouraged to cultivate Khesari dal because on account of this activity the soil gets very good fertilizer and thereby the next crop becomes a bumper crop. Therefore, we should not discourage the cultivation of Khesari. Then, Sir, we are happy that in the agriculture budget this year, there has been an increased allocation. There has been also a good amount earmarked for minor irrigation schemes. That is out of 4.26 crores an amount of 2.6 crores has been allocated for minor irrigation schemes. As has been said by my friend, Shri Das, that mere utilisation of fertilizers will not produce good results, unless we give water to the fertilise used fields. Therefore, minor irrigation schemes will be more useful which is an urgent necessity. Sometimes indiscriminate use of fertilizer without facility for watering may do harm and it brings a deterrent effect on the cultivators. Sir, whenever we ask the people to use fertilizers, without ascertaining the proper dose and because of the non-testing of the soil, it gives a wrong result. Then it becomes a deterrent factor on the cultivators and they are not agreeable to use the fertilizers next time. Therefore, I think that fertilizers should not be encouraged unless there is sufficient arrangement for water supply in the field. Sir, you know that unless there is sufficient water in the field, the mere use of the chemical fertilizers will not do any good. It will yield wrong result. Then, in the Panchayat areas, we have encouraged the use of more power pumps. In some cases, the Panchayats have purchased the power pumps, tractors and so on. But I have seen that in most of these Panchayat areas, due to non-availability of technicians these power pumps and tractors whenever they go out of order become difficult for their repair, and it is not possible for every Panchayat or every Block to maintain adequate staff to look after them. I therefore suggest that there should be one miniature workshop in each zone covering 5 or 6 Anchalik Panchayats. Thereby some sort of a mobile workshop in which the tools and plant of the Blocks can be repaired immediately could be had. This mobile van, with the minimum number of tools required and with two or three mechanics, can go from Block to Block for repair of those machineries, tools and plant. This will not be costly and at the same time, the services will be good indeed and will serve the purpose.

Then, as regards, the Gram Sevaks, Sir, I feel that the extension services which are expected of them are not up to the mark because the Gram Sevaks cannot disseminate the scientific knowledge to the agriculturists. Therefore, I feel that the Gram Sevaks should be brought again to some centre of training, and the technical personnel like the Agricultural Officer should go to the villages and arrange personal contact with the actual agriculturists, so that they may acquire new knowledge, and in their turn, that knowledge may be disseminated to the cultivators.

Sir, I am happy that this year the highest allocation is given to Education. In General Education we find Rs.13,93,95 thousand and in

Technical Education Rs.57,29 thousand are allotted and thus the total allotment for Education is Rs.14,51,24 thousand. So, rightly Education has been given the top priority.

Sir, I feel that we need certain improvement in the education system, specially in Secondary Education, because in recent years there has been some dissatisfaction among the Managing Committees and the authorities of the institutions of Secondary Education. I, therefore, feel that we should give more emphasis on Secondary Education. Unless we improve Secondary Education, education cannot be improved as such, because Secondary Education is the pivot—both for Primary Education and University Education. The Secondary Education, on one hand, produces students for the University and on the other hand, it supplies teachers to the Primary Schools. Unless we have improved system of Secondary Education, we cannot expect to get good students and unless the students are well-equipped, they cannot do well in the Higher Secondary School or in the University. Therefore, we should give more emphasis on the Secondary Education. Sir, now-a-days we find a large number of High and Higher Secondary Schools and there has been a tremendous rush of students to these schools. Generally we find that whenever a new school is opened, the next year the school reaches the stage of fulfilling the condition of getting all the recommendations that is required for grant-in-aid. This is because there has been enthusiasm among our people to educate their children. That is why there is a heavy rush. Sir, here we find certain difficulty. For instance, with the introduction of deficit system of Grant-in-aid, schools are not at liberty to appoint new teachers and to open new sections. Therefore, whenever enrolment of any school rises, the school is not allowed to appoint new teacher or to open new section; thereby there is a handicap in the advancement of learning. These schools have to take the sanction of the Inspector or the Director to open new sections and to appoint new teachers. For instance, in the case of Puthimari Higher Secondary School which is near my home and I am also the President of the Managing Committee of that school, Sir, here in Class VII, there are 127 students this year. They are to be accommodated in two sections. So, in one section there are 64 students. Sir, there cannot be teaching in such a class. As a matter of fact, according to departmental rule, maximum 40 students can be accommodated in a section. Therefore, that number of students require three sections. Similar is the case with other schools also. So, these schools are getting trouble. They are neither in a position to open new section, nor to appoint new teachers without the approval of the authority. Therefore, I feel that some latitude should be given at the Inspectorate level so that according to the necessity, they may open new sections or appoint new teachers as and when required.

Here, again, Sir, the deficit system of grant-in-aid is, more or less, fixed on the basis that there is a collection of fee-income at the usual rate and the amount excluding the reserve fund of 25 per cent is taken for fixation of the salaries of teachers. But only the deficit amount is given to the schools as grant-in-aid. Whenever a new teacher is to be appointed, he cannot be appointed out of their own resources. But a school cannot appoint a new teacher unless the salary of that teacher is also included in the grant-in-aid and thereby the school is not in a position to entertain new teachers as a result of which there is difficulty in teaching.

Then, Sir, regarding selection of Headmasters of schools, we find some anomaly. If a Headmaster is not selected by the State Selection Board, the Managing Committee is instructed to appoint a Headmaster from the list

prepared from the selected teachers by the State Selection Board. But, Sir, at the time when a particular teacher is selected as a Headmaster from a school which is enjoying the deficit system of grant-in-aid, he is not entitled to get the pay which was previously enjoyed by him in the previous school. His last pay drawn is not protected in the new appointment as Headmaster. For instance, if an assistant teacher or Headmaster of one school who is drawing, suppose, Rs.400 in his present scale of pay and if that particular teacher or Headmaster is appointed as Headmaster by the Managing Committee in some other school, he will only be given the minimum *viz.* Rs.300 of the pay scale of the Headmaster. His last pay drawn will not be protected in the new school where he is appointed as new headmaster. Therefore, teachers are scared of going to new school and thereby the very purpose for which it is created seems to be defeated. That is why some teachers and Headmasters of other schools who joined as Headmasters in some new school are disappointed and there is grumbling.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): Is not the scale of the Headmaster higher than that of other senior teachers?

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI : Yes, Sir, it is. The scale of a Headmaster is Rs.300 to 800 and the scale of a teacher is Rs.200 to 500. As he is a senior teacher he must have at least 20 years' experience to be a Headmaster, and he must have crossed the initial pay of the Headmaster. He is somewhere between the initial and ceiling. But his last pay drawn during 20 years was not protected according to new schedule. I think this should be revised.

Then, Sir, as regards scholarship, specially for Middle English schools we find that scholarships are not paid in time. As a matter of fact the result of Scholarship Examination of Middle English schools of 1964 is not yet out. The Department has not been able to declare the result of the examination which was held in December, 1964. Sir, 1965 is past and it is middle of 1966, yet the result is not out. Those students who are going to be awarded scholarships, if they do not get in time, what purpose will it serve? And what incentive those students will get from these scholarships?

Sir, there was a proposal for the establishment of a Hindi Training College at North Gauhati. But it has not yet come out. From the schedule of new schemes, we find that it is not included this year also. Sir, we want to know what is the fate of the scheme?

The College teachers did not submit memorandum to the Pay Committee and, therefore, the Pay Committee was not in a position to consider the pay of college teachers of Government aided colleges. These teachers hoped that the scale of pay to be recommended by the University Grants Commission would be accepted and as a matter of fact, the State Government is committed to pay that scale of pay. But, Sir, the scale of pay recommended by the Pay Committee is much higher than that of these college teachers, *i. e.*, the recommended pay scale of the University Grants Commission for the aided college teachers they will get much lower scale of pay than those of the Government college teachers and even of the teachers of Higher Secondary Schools, given on the recommendation the Pay Committee. Therefore, the Government should give a scale of pay to these teachers befitting their status and equal to the pay scale given to Government college teachers.

As regards Lower Primary school, I have already spoken about them in my speech on the discussion of Governor's Address in this House. As regards distribution of grants to the Lower Primary schools, I think that these schools should be given a grant in order to maintain the minimum standard, because, Sir, there are Lower Primary schools where buildings are in name, their walls are not there or the buildings themselves are tottering, whereas some schools in towns, etc. are getting much higher grant. I think, minimum benefits or amenities should be provided for these schools.

Then, Sir, regarding providing additional teachers to those schools having a student of strength of 100 where there is only one teacher. How can we expect to maintain the minimum standard in teaching by one teacher only for 100 students? Recently a circular has been issued by Government that grants to each school will be dependent on the results, but, Sir, in this it should be considered how a teacher with 100 students in a school can produce good result in comparison with a school having say, 100 or 150 students with 3 or 4 teachers. This aspect of the question should be especially considered in giving grant to different Lower Primary Schools. I feel also that there should be a survey of the Lower Primary schools to assess the requirement of additional teachers and provision should be made in the grants-in-aid for the additional teachers.

(The bell rang).

Sir, I may be given 10 minutes more.

Mr. SPEAKER: 5 minutes.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI: As regards taking over of venture schools, for last two or three years Government is not taking over any venture school, but there are some very deserving schools and I hope, this year in the budget there will be some provision for taking over of some of the venture schools.

As regards the Sub-Inspectors of Schools, I feel strongly that in order that they can visit regularly the schools—they cannot be expected to do so by remaining in towns, so quarters should be provided in each Block Development headquarters for one Sub-Inspector of Schools.

For accommodation of students in hostels for colleges in towns there has been very much congestion and for want of accommodation in hostels, espically, for students reading in aided colleges, students have to live in very unhygienic and unhealthy houses and there they cannot study properly and, therefore, last year also I said about cheap Hostel Scheme that there should be buildings constructed by Government so that these students can be accommodated with the minimum amenities where they will cook their own food and live a simple manner of life.

Then, coming to Medical, I feel, Sir, that something should be done by Government to see that the dispensaries in rural areas are run properly. At present, doctors are not very much willing to go and work in rural areas so the Medical Graduates should be compelled to work for a particular period of years to serve in rural dispensaries, and as a matter of fact there was a proposal that medical graduates must put in a few years in rural dispensaries. Sir, unless we compel the fresh graduates to serve for some years

in rural areas, they cannot have real practical experience and if we can do so our rural people also will be benefited as at present there are many dispensaries in rural areas going without doctors.

Then, Sir, regarding subsidised dispensaries Government do not take the responsibilities of doctors, buildings, etc. ; the villagers are to construct the buildings for the dispensary and the doctor and to find out the doctor themselves. It is a very sorry state of affairs. Besides, Sir, I want to give an instance. In my own area the dispensary committee appointed a doctor but to their surprise this doctor was given and appointed by the Government and transferred to some other place with the result the doctor without even giving charge left the place to join his new appointment. I want to bring this point to the notice of the Government, that in future, Government, I hope, will not appoint a doctor working in a rural dispensary appointed by its dispensary committee without prior consultation with the committee. If the doctor leaves suddenly a dispensary the medicines and furnitures of the dispensary are at stake as there is no Chaukidar also. Whenever the people approach Government, Government do not want to take responsibility of the dispensaries but when they appoint doctors of their own such doctors are given appointment by Government and transferred without their approval; this has created great resentment in them.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI: One minute more, Sir.

Then coming to P. W. D., I feel very disappointed about the unfinished roads taken in the Third Five Year Plan in my area. I think, the same is the condition in other areas also. Some of the roads have just started. I would request the Government that in this year another 1½ months are still left of the working season within which at least the bridges and culverts of these roads are completed so that people can pass over them and especially, of the proposed road projects of Bejera-Balukaji, Kendukona Sansari, and Sansari, Jalimura, etc.

Then, Sir, with the opening of the Saraighat Bridge, the buses from northern side of Brahmaputra passing through the Saraighat Bridge to reach Gauhati are to come through Pandu and Mashkhawa, which is a longer route resulting in payment of higher bus fare by the passengers, so I would suggest that some buses from Puthimari, Kamalpur and such other places be allowed to terminate at North-Gauhatighat, which would mean shorter distance to Gauhati and lesser bus freight and the passengers can cross the Brahmaputra in the ferryboats, fare of which is a small amount.

I have many more things to say but I would conclude for want of time referring to another point as regards Panchayat about which my friend, Shri Das, has spoken at length. Sir, Panchayat has been looked upon by the people as a replica of defunct Local Boards but unless we bring the real concept of Panchayati Raj, Panchayati Raj seems to be construction of roads, bridges and so on. Unless some of our leaders and Government give especial efforts in bringing home the real concept of Panchayat Raj the people are not benefited.

Shri GOURI SHANKAR ROY (Katlicherra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I like my stand to congratulate the Chief Minister who has presented the budget for the year 1966-67. Sir, the budget shows a small surplus of Rs.5.20 lakhs, and the budget for the year opens with an amount of overdraft of more than 17 lakhs. Apart from that we found that there are other arrear

expenditures to be paid, for instance removal of anomalies in revision of pay scales of the officers and employees will require a huge amount of money. So, ultimately, though the budget seems to be one with small surplus, the Government will require huge amount of money to meet the urgent needs of the State. I think, Sir, it is not possible to meet the financial necessity from the income of our State and so I hope the Central Government will come forward to give us financial help in our extreme needs.

Sir, if we come to the allocations made in the budget we find that these have been made fairly and distinctly. Agriculture, Power, Road Communications, Welfare of Backward Classes, Flood Control, Education, etc., are given due importance and so we feel that our Government is taking all possible attempts to build up a Welfare State. Sir, without going into details I would like to make some observations here and there. First of all I would like to speak a few words about labour. Sir, it is known to all that labour is the backbone of the country. The progress of the country depends to a great extent on the improvement of conditions of labour. The sum allocated under the head Labour and Labour Welfare is very small. Here I like to mention the condition of Tea labour in the district of Cachar which will give you a clear picture about the condition of Labour. The Managements are gradually retrenching the labours under different pleas and at the same time they are not filling up the vacancies which is causing shrinkage in the employment of the labour in the tea gardens. Sir, in many gardens due to change in the standard of work and increase in volume of work the labourers cannot earn the minimum wages and practically it has not come to the benefit of the labourers in major cases. In many gardens there are no proper medical facility, housing facility, water supply and thus they are being deprived of such essential services. The Plantation Labour Act is still not implemented by many, as ought to have been done. Sir, due to the shrinkage of employment and also due to the increase of population the unemployment position in the tea gardens has been increasing day by day. Sir, some ways and means must be found out to employ these surplus people. They must be provided with some employment for earning their livelihood so that they can live in this world as human being. According to me garden lands should be made available to these labourers. Some cottage industries should also be started in the gardens so that these labourers get can get alternative employment to maintain their families.

Sir, in Cachar tea gardens there are about 80,000 people working on the roll and there might be a total population of about 3½ lakhs. There are many who are dependent on the earning members only. There are many non-workers, helpless and distressed, and they do not get any medical facility from the garden authority. So I suggest that our Government should establish in the tea belt some dispensaries to extend medical facilities to these non-working people.

Sir, then I come to the Panchayat Raj. Sir, this is the lowest level of democracy or democratic Government. But we see that some sections of the people in our State are still deprived of the actual benefit of the Panchayat Raj. Sir, Panchayat has not yet been formed in the gardens and in the forest villages. The light of independence is still lacking in these areas. So, Sir, this discrimination should be done away immediately and Panchayats should be established in the tea gardens and forest villages. Sir, the dream of the Father of the Nation has come into practice to

develop the country and to rule the country through Panchayat Raj. I believe that if we do the real work, if we work hard and sincerely through the Panchayats with proper planning of the small areas of Gaon Panchayats, surely 7 lakh villages of our country will be happy and prosperous. But, Sir, I observe one thing that the Gaon Panchayats are more dependent upon the share of revenue which they receive from the Government and it is necessary that propaganda should be made and a feeling should be created among the Panchayats so that they may draw up their Schemes and may take up such programmes which may make them to be self-sufficient and with their resources they can develop their respective areas. But this is not being done.

Sir, Mahkuma Parishad is the supreme body in the subdivision, but practically it is deprived of its deserving power. There is no fund in its head for any important expenditures if and when necessary. So, I suggest that separate fund should be placed at the disposal of the Mahkuma Parishads in all subdivisions. Sir, Forest villages, as you know, are situated in the interior jungle areas where in most cases people do not get the necessary medical facilities, water supply benefits, road communication and also proper education. Therefore, I suggest to Government to take special care for these people living in the forest villages.

Sir, Agriculture has been a very important subject especially when there is food scarcity and I am glad to express my pleasure that Cachar has been taken under the Package Programme and people are greatly responding to the scheme and they are gradually taking up methods for improved cultivation and production is thus increasing. But, Sir, one thing is lacking in this programme. There is no marketing arrangements under the Package Programme. Production is increasing, but by producing some crops the cultivators have not received the fair price, as for example I would like to cite that just a few days ago under the Lala Development Block, and Anchalik Panchayat abundant cauliflowers were grown and the market went down so low that it was sold at Rs.2/3 per maund. How then the cultivators can be encouraged by this scheme to take to such cultivation in future? The Anchalik Panchayat President and the Deputy Commissioner later on arranged supply of this vegetable to some other subdivisions and for this the price was a little raised. So I give more stress on this point that the Package Programme authority should arrange marketing facilities for the increased products of agriculturists, so that they get the deserving price and they may be encouraged to work hard in future to grow more.

Sir, I cannot but mention here about the best work done by the Lala Anchalik Panchayat and its President and the Block Development Officer in the whole of my district. I think, Sir, Lala Anchalik Panchayat has done abundant works for food production and also for the benefit of the people. As regards use of manures this Anchalik Panchayat will have the first place in the district if population and area are taken into consideration and if any regard is given to any Anchalik Panchayats in the district I recommend Lala Anchalik Panchayat in Cachar which deserves it.

In Agriculture another thing I would like to impress upon is the agricultural loan and seeds are given to the cultivators, but these facilities sometime reach the cultivators late and therefore, this cannot give them actual help and benefit. So, Government should see that these are supplied in time. Sir, unemployment among the agriculturists are also increasing day by day. When we go to villages we see that the people having small holdings are really in difficulty. Programme for improved cultivation under the scheme of Package Programme has given some help to them but that is not

sufficient. So cultivable land without damaging forest property should be found out in forest areas for allotment among these landless agriculturists and I already pointed out the lands in the past. Sir, for some time past the Mizo people have entered into the south of Hailakandi area starting from Gharumura Forest village to Dhalcheria Forest village, about 10/12 miles, and occupied the forest reserved land and gave allotment to other people also. They have been cutting and clearing the jungles forcibly and declared the area to be their own. Sir, this is a very serious problem arising in the south of Hailakandi and Government should deal with it very strongly. Another suggestion I would like to put forward is that landless people from Forest village and outside should be allotted land in that border areas to prevent further encroachment and Government should take further action to secure the life and property of that area.

Sir, power is the most essential thing for the development of the country. Development of the country depends upon the expansion of power because the growth of industry is linked up on the development and expansion of power. I am glad to see that topmost priority has been given to power. I suggest the Government to provide more money in this regard, so that the State can be more benefited. We want expansion of power because we have to establish industries to solve the unemployment problem in our State. And to use it in agriculture and other purposes. Sir, there are many tribal people in my Hailakandi subdivision in the southern area. They are in a very distressing condition, half-clad, half-fed, many are settled and many more from one place to another in search of food like a nomadic tribe. So, a plan should be made to settle these people in one part of the hill areas by forming a tribal belt for which proposal is lying with the department.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Supply): May I know, Sir, who are those tribes?

Shri GOURI SHANKAR ROY The tribes are Lushai, Khasi, Riang, Tripuris, etc.

Mr. SPEAKER : Please try to conclude.

Shri GOURI SHANKAR ROY: One thing, Sir, the agricultural produce of these tribal people are purchased in advance at cheap price by the monied men. So the Government should see that the marketing societies are formed in those areas so that they could get adequate price for their produce.

As regards education, Sir, I see that importance has been given for general education as well as for technical education. Our country requires technical personnel, and expansion of technical schools and colleges should be given more importance. One technical school a few years back was sanctioned for Hailakandi but I do not know what happened to it and where it had gone. I request Government to reconsider this matter and to establish the school at Hailakandi. At the same time I shall request the Government to consider financial assistance to the "Lala Rural College" in Hailakandi subdivision, a college which has come into existence in the village area. Sir, there are many venture Lower Primary Schools in Hailakandi Subdivision which are awaiting

Government grants for a few years last and many of them are very deserving. Government should see how funds could be made available to these schools and how existing building of many Lower Primary Schools which are in a deteriorated condition can be repaired or reconstructed. I am glad that the Government is going to take up tea garden schools as early as possible and I hope the matter will not be delayed further.

Sir, as regards road communication I shall suggest only a few roads in Hailakandi Subdivision. "Hailakandi-Katlichera-Gharmura road which is the only main road in the whole of Hailakandi Subdivision" should be taken up for black-topping as early as possible with priority. Another road that is Gaglachera-Rupachera road should be extended to Bhairabi, the Aijal border on the eastern bank of the Katakhal River, as alternate Aijal Road in Cachar at least for use in emergency like present situation.

Sir, flood control is a very essential subject. Whatever programme we take up, whatever scheme we draw, if our production is washed away by floods we gain nothing. Up till now whatever we see, Sir, in Hailakandi Subdivision, flood control measure has not been given due importance up till now and Government should see to it.

About procurement, Sir, I would suggest that the present machinery should be made stronger, co-ordination should be established between the Supply and Co-operative Departments for smooth procurement of paddy. The Primary Co-operative Committees which procure paddy have practically no funds, and due to want of funds they feel difficulty to procure paddy rapidly. Government should see how the Primary Committees can be given funds as and when necessary. Sir, whatever we do, whatever scheme we take up, whatever programme we introduce in our country those according to me, cannot be successful unless co-operation of all is availed and family planning becomes successful. The main hindrance has been the increase in population. If we cannot check this problem of growth, of population, all our programmes will be failures, the national income cannot increase, the *per-capita* income would also be checked by the increase of population. So, I think, Sir, the main part should be played, in this regard, by Shri Mookerjee, our Health Minister. He, I hope, will give more and more stress on family planning, so that every house, every man and woman of Assam could feel that success of all our programmes, all our schemes depend on family planning.

With these suggestions, Sir, I resume my seat.

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS (North Salmara, Reserved for Scheduled Castes): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the Chief Minister for placing the Budget wherein he has given a broad account of the achievements of the Government as well as the future programmes to be taken up. Sir, every time we hear of taxation but fortunately this year there is not much taxation. Of course, only one item has been taken up just to have some revenue income to meet certain expenditure. But we are disappointed to see that an amount to the tune of Rs.17 crores which has been taken up as overdraft, has been shown as deficit. Here in this connection I would like to point out to the Government that raising of more money by taxation is not enough. Government is well advised to look to the wastage that is being done every year. We will have to see how we can save certain amounts from various sources. I would like to cite an instance here. There are huge amounts of arrear revenue to be

collected. Of course, very recently due to strenuous efforts of the Government there has been some improvement in this regard. Here I would like to say that these huge arrears of revenue are due to the default of the Mauzadars and negligence of some of the officers. I am told that in one district alone there are more than 10 cases of defaults by Mauzadars. It is my personal experience also that if strict measures were taken the Mauzadars could have collected the arrears and there would not have been so much arrears. Therefore, I would like to suggest that Government should consider the question of abolishing this Mauzadari system. If revenue collection is entrusted to the Government Officers under Tahsil system then the expenditure will be far less, because in Mauzadari system, it is said that 19 per cent of the expenditure is incurred to the Mauzadars whereas if this system is abolished then I think that an expenditure of 10 to 11 per cent will be required for collection of revenue. Therefore, this factor should be carefully examined so that we may save a lot of expenditure.

Again, Sir, in certain departments a lot of amount can be saved in purchases. Here I would suggest one instance. In Shillong wherever we go we find a lot of carpets purchased by Government but when we go outside we do not find so many carpets. Therefore, minimum number of carpets required should be purchased. I hope Government will look to this and realise that this is a not very essential item to be purchased. In other Departments also if the expenditure and purchase side are carefully planned then perhaps we can save lakhs and crores of rupees. I would cite an instance as to how in the purchase money can be saved. Sir, when our Medical Minister is here I think I should give an instance of his Medical Department. Sir, in a single item, in giving contract for supply of fish to the Medical College Hospital, Gauhati, it is found that about Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 40,000 is wasted or unnecessarily paid to the contractor. We are also purchasing fish for our T. B. Hospital. Whereas we purchase fish at Rs. 6 per Kg. Medical College is purchasing fish at Rs. 9 to 11 per Kg. They purchase fish for 600 patients whereas we purchase for 140 patients. We are purchasing Magur and Koi fish at Rs. 5 per Kg. whereas they are purchasing at Rs. 11 per Kg. Therefore, if we calculate this figure we will find that a lot of amount is being paid in excess, and this is because of the defective procedure. In the T.B. Hospital, we seven members sit in a Committee of giving contracts and enquire the market price of food commodities and negotiate with the Contractors and settle the price. But their procedure is that they call for quotations and then the quotations are sent to Shillong for approval and approval is given without considering the market rate. Similarly, in pulses also when the market price goes down their price goes up and they pay about 50 per cent more than the market price and paid by the T. B. Hospital. Therefore, if you take all these things into account and calculate it will be seen that in one particular item about Rs. 30 to Rs. 40 thousand is paid in excess and in this way if you calculate you will find that lakhs and lakhs of rupees could have been saved. Similar is the case with other Departments. In the Public Health Department huge amounts are spent in installing tube-wells and sinking wells for water supply. I can cite an instance here. Even in the Speaker's own constituency so many tube-wells were installed and almost all of them have gone out of order. Therefore, the amount has been wasted. In this way if other departments are examined then perhaps it will be a wonderful reading.

Then I come to the Forest Department. In this Department also a huge amount could have been saved by checking illegal felling of trees. Illegal felling of trees is going on all over the State.

Now let me come to the Agriculture and Supply Departments. The hon. Minister for Agriculture has said that there will be no food shortage in the State, but still we are apprehending about the future of the food situation in the country. The Minister has shown that our requirement will be met by the food available but he has not calculated the loss that occurs. More than 10 lakh maunds of rice is wasted every year by illegal distillation and country liquor and nothing has been done to check it. There are other losses also. Rat menace accounts for 8 to 10 per cent loss of food-grains. If these things are carefully checked then there will be saving.

Sir, nobody from the Department has said about changing the food habit which is so essential. Now-a-days the nutritionists all over the world have shown that by changing the habits of taking cereals good results are obtained. Cereals can be supplemented by other stuffs like sweet potato, potato, banana, etc., and all these things, and by supplementing the cereals with those items, they have said, it would be possible to have a balanced diet and maintain calorie for every people. Sir, for growing sweet potato, banana, etc., not much of land is necessary for a family, only a small plot of land will be required for growing those articles and vegetables. By this one not only gets a balanced diet but also one can save a lot because the average price of say sweet potato or potato is 6-8 annas per Kg. where the price of rice per Kg. is say 12--14 annas. People should be educated how to save a good sum of money by taking to this balanced dietary practice—by supplementing cereals with those items of food-stuff. For this purpose also it is essential that our Publicity system should be improved. Therefore, I come to the Publicity Department of the Government and the Health Education Section of the Health Department. They should propagate these things and educate our people as it is very essential to check the consumption of cereals which are in short supply now-a-days. So I hope Government will look into this thing.

Sir, I will now come to the development programme because the Governor in his Address as well as in the Chief Minister-in-charge of Finance have given more stress on the development of hills areas which is so essential particularly at the present moment, and this is of course very encouraging. But at the same time I would like to say that some of the plains areas also need equal attention for their development. Some plains districts have not been attended to the extent it should have been because some of the districts having more or less the same population have not been given fair amounts of money for development. So far as the district of Goalpara is concerned from which I come, Sir, even this district with the same population of Cachar and other districts, we find that even $\frac{1}{4}$ th of the money spent for those of the districts have not been paid for development of Goalpara district during the last 18 years or so. So I hope that the development activities should be extended equally to all the districts—plains or hills—which is still backward in this respect. Of course, there are certain areas which should be given preference and which should be given special attention as they are very backward and as they were neglected so long. Therefore

Sir, more stress should be given for those areas. But at the same time, the district of Goalpara and such other backward areas should also get due attention and proportionate share of developments funds. Sir, people say that because the Goalpara M. L. As are not very vocal, the district of Goalpara is being neglected, whereas the M. L. As of other districts who are very much vocal, those districts are enjoying more and more of funds and more and more of development expenditure are being incurred in those districts. Therefore, Sir, certain amount should have been allotted for the district of Goalpara. But from the budget we find that even for my own constituency not a single farthing has been earmarked for the development of roads this year. Sir, some roads have been constructed in my district 11-12 years back, but they have not been made useful for the vehicular traffic. There are breaches here and there in a road of about 4 miles in distance and within that distance there are 3 or 4 breaches where temporary ferries have been maintained, but I find that no amount has been earmarked for the improvement of this road and removal of those breaches and other repairs. Even this is the position in case of a border district, and I would like to impress upon the Government to give more attention to the development of the border districts so that border communication which is very essential from the security and other points of view, may be developed. The border communications, Sir, should be developed very rapidly also for the purpose of checking smuggling of foodgrains out of the State. The practice of smuggling of foodgrains is going on in the Assam-Bhutan border areas in Goalpara district and also in the border of Cachar district, and it is essential that checking of smuggling should be strengthened. Some of our hon. Friends and also a member of the Council of Ministers have said that it is very difficult to cordon or control the whole border area and to effect full checking throughout the whole border. It may not be possible but at least the vulnerable points of roads, river routes and national highways can be checked and proper check-gates can be installed and thereby at least some check can be made.

Sir, I am now coming to another subject which seems to be very simple but at the same time, very essentially necessary. That is about fuel. You will realise, Sir, that fuel has become a problem now-a-days. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you will yourself appreciate the difficulty that is arising out of the fuel problem even in your own subdivision where the people are purchasing fuel at Rs. 3-4 per maund. That is also not easily and regularly available to the people, and this problem is gradually getting worse. The price is gradually rising up. I feel that the Forest Department should come forward with proper scheme and should take up plantation of trees which can in course of time be used as fuel and such schemes should be taken up urgently in places where they are very feasible. This will not only help our people in respect of supply of fuel but also they can cut down certain amount of expenditure on this account. Another factor also comes up in this connection. That is petrol. Government can save a lot by economising the use of petrol thereby in turn saving a lot of foreign exchange. Nowadays Sir, it is noticed that petrol is being wastefully used by Government officials and others. Often time it is noticed that some Government officers very often go down to Gauhati for a simple matter and come back to Shillong on the same day and next day go down to Gauhati and thence to some other areas and thus, they are drawing T. A. and other allowances and consuming more of petrol rather unnecessarily and wastefully. Some Government officials send their children to schools by their Government vehicles and thus more of petrol is

being used up. I do not mind for one or two cases, but in general I want to say that if more careful attention is given, a lot of petrol fuel can be saved and that wasteful consumption of petrol be avoided as far as practicable. Again, Sir, we are looking forward to the availability of fuel gas, that means, the gas originating from the by-products of the refinery. When we give pressure for having this supply of gas fuel, we were told that we will be getting gas early not only for industrial and commercial purposes but also for domestic consumption which the Government has not been able to provide for even in 1965. Then we thought that probably we will be getting this gas next year. But in the Gas Company's report, nothing has been mentioned about getting supply of gas. How it happens we do not know. Again it is very difficult to understand how Barauni where the refinery was started later on, could produce gas while our refinery at Gauhati cannot produce gas even now when it was started much earlier, which is on the other hand wasting gas to the tune of 2 crores by burning. Why should it not be utilised purposefully? In this way also, Sir, a lot of resources is being wasted. If this gas can be utilised, people will be benefited and at the same time Government will be able to earn a considerable amount of revenue. I hope the Government will consider this very seriously and take appropriate steps.

Then I come to Family Planning. Sir, I have taken up certain subjects for discussion. There are so many things to be stated regarding finance, food, forest, fuel, family planning and so on. About family planning I want to say that there is certain progress made in towns only but very little has been done in rural areas where this activity of family planning is more needed because there the people come from the poorer section of our society, and they are hard hit. That is why our family planning activity should be concentrated more in rural areas than in town areas where people know much about it and where less propaganda is necessary.

Therefore, I would request the Minister of Health to give more stress on these lines so that the whole State is covered through Blocks with the Lady Social Education Organisers or Organisers who may be trained so that in every block this subject is educated. More stress should be given on the dispensaries being supplied with necessary facilities for family planning. Sir, I find in the Governor's Address and in the Chief Minister's budget speech also the question of combating cholera has been mentioned. But, Sir, unfortunately, we find that cholera has been taking thousands of lives and we should take lesson from this. The Governor's Address has mentioned that mass inoculation is going on and huge amount has been spent on this. But I would suggest that control of cholera should be taken in the same line as malaria eradication programme. But, Sir, more stress should be given on disinfecting water in the rural areas as the efficacy of the inoculation remains only for six months, and also all people cannot be inoculated, at the same time inoculation means huge expenditure. But disinfection means less expenditure. So we can control water supply by regularly disinfecting it through the agency of the para-medical workers with the help of the Gram Sabhas in the Blocks who will see that the water supply is regularly disinfected. Then the germs of this fell disease like cholera or gastro-enteritis will be killed. Not only cholera but others water borne diseases also can be checked up, thereby it will not only minimise the expenditure but will help the people to keep them free of such disease. This is one of the most important subjects. Sir, we have seen the purchase of some vaccine or other similar biological products efficacy of which is going to expire within three or four months. So, instructions should be there to see that the Department

purchase the vaccine and other products which should be fresh because it is the tendency of the suppliers or the dealers to dispose of their products in this way so that they can earn money even by selling these the date of which is going to expire. This should be attended to.

Sir, one word more and I will finish. Of course, this is as regards the settlement of land on which my hon. friend Mr. A. K. Das has already referred to-day. I also endorse his views. I find at the time of allotment of lands to the landless and flood-affected people that the scheduled caste people have been given very little land. I have been receiving a good number of complaints and I have forwarded those cases to the Government.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Minister of State, Revenue): A lot of scheduled caste people have been given land.

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS: So, I requested the Government to find out percentage of landless scheduled caste people of the State and also to find out how many landless scheduled caste people who have been given land in Gauhati. Sir, there are instances where during the last ten years the lands have been given to encroachers in the name of settlers' association. But those landless people who are indigenous who have been applying for land since Chief Minister Shri Medhi's time and who have been told by him to wait, have till now not been given any land. Similarly in the rural areas when the applications are enquired into from the office, you will find that a number of applications are lying their unattended to. Sir, another point of which one of my friends mentioned here is about scholarships of the Scheduled Caste. Sir, the scheduled caste students were given special scholarships. But the Government is taking back the scholarships in the form of realising the school fees. So if they are to pay fees, then there is no meaning in helping them with the scholarships. I hope the Government will see that they should be exempted from paying fees. If they are given free education that is good. But those, who are given scholarships should not be asked to pay fees. I mention this because a large number of students who are getting scholarships complained to me that they are to pay fees. Sir, I hope the Minister will take all these points into consideration. With these few words I conclude my speech.

Shri SURENDRA NATH DAS (Barama, Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মহাজয়জয়তে মাননীয় মুখ্য মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ক বর্তমান বছর আয়-ব্যয়বহিচাব খন দাঙি ধরার বাবে ধন্যবাদ জনাইছো।

Mr. SPEAKER: আপোনার সময় পাঁচ মিনিট।

Shri SURENDRA NATH DAS: এলপ বেচি সময় লাগিব। মাননীয় মুখ্য মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে বাজেটখন বচনা কবোতে আমাৰ ৰাজ্যৰ উন্নয়ন-লক কাৰ্যৰ কাৰণে যথেষ্ট টকা পয়চা বৰিছে আৰু এই ফানে বিশেষ চকু দিয়াৰ কাৰণে পুৰণি ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন কৰিছো। আমাৰ দেশখন কৃষি প্ৰধান দেশ—আৰু কৃষি আমাৰ জাতিৰ মেৰুদণ্ড। সেই কথা তেখেতে উপলব্ধি কৰিছে আৰু কৃষি উন্নয়নৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত আগতকৈ এইবাৰ বেচি টকা ধৰাটে, প্ৰশংসনীয়। ইয়াৰ ফলত আমাৰ শস্য উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি হব আৰু অনাটনমুখী দেশখনৰ খাদ্য অনাটন সমস্যাৰ সমাধান হব আৰু দেশৰ কল্যাণ হব। গতকৈ আজি আমাৰ দেশখনত কৃষি উৎপাদন নোহোৱাকৈ থকা নাই। মাত্ৰ কিছুমান প্ৰাকৃতিক যুগোণে

সময়ে সময়ে বেতি নষ্ট কৰিছে আৰু ইয়াৰ ফলত আশানুৰূপ কৃষি উৎপাদন পাবলৈ আমি অসমৰ্থ হৈছো। এই ক্ষেত্ৰত যদি আমি উন্নত ধৰণৰ আহিলাপাতি-সা-সজুলি আৰু পানী যোগানৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব পাৰো, মোৰ বিশ্বাস আমাৰ উৎপাদন আৰু বাঢ়িব আৰু এই সম্পৰ্কত চৰকাৰে লোৱা আঁচনি ব্যৱস্থাই আমাৰ আশাৰ সঞ্চাৰ কৰে। কৃষিৰ শিতানত অধিক টকা ধৰা আৰু কৃষি উন্নয়নৰ কাৰণে পঞ্চায়তৰ হাতত আৰোপ কৰা দায়িত্বই চৰকাৰৰ ক্ষমতা বিকেন্দ্ৰীকৰণক বুজাই আৰু তাৰ দ্বাৰাই চৰকাৰ ৰাইজৰ শ্ৰদ্ধাভাজন হৈছে। বিশেষকৈ আঞ্চলিক পঞ্চায়তৰ অধীনত দিয়া ১২ জনীয়া গ্ৰাম সেৱকৰ 'টীমে' এই ক্ষেত্ৰত অবিহনা যোগাইছে। তাৰ লগে-লগে পঞ্চায়ত প্ৰেচিডেণ্ট চেংক্ৰেটাৰী আদিয়েও এই কামত সহায়তা কৰে। এইবিলাক ৰাইজৰ মাজত উন্নীপনাৰ সৃষ্টি কৰে আৰু আশা ভৱসাৰ সমন যোগায়। আমাৰ আঞ্চলিক পঞ্চায়ত এলেকা সমূহ আৰু সজীৱ কৰি তুলিব লাগে আৰু কৃষি প্ৰদৰ্শক (Agricultural Demonstrators) সকলৰ ওপৰত এনে ভাৱ বাৰ্তামূলক ভাবে দিব লাগে যাতে চৰকাৰী আদৰ্শ পাম বিলাকত উন্নত ধৰণৰ ধানৰ সঁচ উৎপাদন কৰিব পাৰে। দুই তিনিখন গাওঁ সভা লগলগাই—উন্নত প্ৰণালীৰে কৃষি কৰি বিষাই প্ৰতি কৰ পক্ষেও ৫০ মোন ধানৰ উৎপাদন কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে। আমি জানিব পাৰিছো যে, চৰকাৰে কিছুমান উন্নত ধৰণৰ গুলাম কৰিবলৈ হিব কৰিছে; আশা কৰোঁ সেইবিলাক হৈ উঠিব আৰু সেইবিলাকৰ পৰা ৰাইজৰ উপকাৰ হব।

Adjournment

The House then adjourned for lunch till 2 P.M.

(AFTER LUNCH)

Motion that "This House do now take into consideration the statement made by the hon. Chief Minister on the floor of the House on 3rd March, 1966 regarding the armed rebellion Mizo Hills after midnight of 28th February, 1966"

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am taking my stand here today to discuss a very important and serious matter concerning the security and integrity of the State and the country as a whole. This is with regard to the armed rebellion which is going on in the Mizo Hills. Sir, I would like to discuss this matter by moving the motion that—"This House do now take into consideration the statement made by the Honourable Chief Minister on the floor of the House on 3rd March, 1966 regarding the armed rebellion in Mizo Hills after midnight of 28th February, 1966" Sir, while moving the motion, I want to make certain observations. Sir, rightly you have given your opinion that it was a very serious matter and also unprecedented in the annals of the Indian History. It is first of its kind not only in the frontier State of Assam but in the country as a whole. Sir, the situation that has been created by the armed rebellion in Mizo Hills after midnight of the 28th February, 1966 is a shocking, discreditable one in which they have given stubborn attack while from our Government side there is practically no resistance at all. Sir, Mizo Hills is a vital border district between Pakistan and India. So, the trouble in that border is not desirable. Moreover,

Chinese are knocking at our door and they are also intimidating us from the North. At this stage such a situation that has taken place in Mizo Hills which has threatened the integrity, security and solidarity of our State, is really very serious. It has also great reflection on the State as well as Central Government for their weak policy in respect of hill administration.

Now, Sir, it is due to the weak and wrong policy adopted by the Government for the Hill people that such a serious situation arises. Now, the situation seems to have gone out of control. Sir, there is no question of entertaining such an anti-national element in Mizo Hills which has disrupted, in this way, the law and order situation of the State. Sir, you are fully aware of the fact that the massive attack that has been launched by the Mizo rebellion has caused a heavy loss and damage to the Government property as well as captivity of so many Government personnel who are in Mizo Hills. Sir, it is surprising how such a sudden attack on Government machinery took place and still our Government was not aware of the fact or they did not take proper care in this direction and that is why even within a single day the Mizo rebels could capture almost the major portion of the entire district.

Sir, now the question arises—"Who is responsible for this?" "For what reason such a serious situation has taken place in such a vital frontier district?" Sir, you are fully aware of the fact that the Mizo Council was formed about five years back and their demand was to have a separate and independent Mizo Land.

Shri MUHAMMED UMARUDDIN (Dhubri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of information. It was Mizo National Front and not Mizo Council.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, I am coming to that. Sir, a few years after, the same was changed into Mizo National Front. They have reiterated their demand for an independent Mizo Land and just wanted to secede from the Indian Union. Sir, this is result of giving indulgence given by State Government to these anti-social activities of Mizos from a long time. Sir, there is a forcible collection of money in the border areas for strengthening the Mizo National Front. Apart from that, you are fully aware of the fact that some of the agitators of a separate Mizo Land went to such an extent that they are prepared to fight with the Government of India batch after batch. Sir, it is a well known fact that one batch of rebel Mizos had been to Pakistan under the leadership of Mr. Laldanga, the self-styled President of the Mizo National Front for arms training. He was once arrested in Indo-Pak border while he was returning from Pakistan, but subsequently released with an understanding which is best known to the Chief Minister. Sir, in this connection, I would like to say that in the last Budget Session we brought a calling attention notice in this regard. In his reply the Chief Minister said that "all relates to is that two persons were arrested with locally manufactured guns" but subsequently these persons were released. But, Sir, you will be surprised to hear that in spite of our repeated requests and appeals to the Chief Minister and the Government for taking necessary timely action against this anti-social activities of the Mizos, the Government did not pay any heed to our requests. In this connection I would like to draw the attention of our Chief Minister and the Government to the proceedings of the last Budget Session, specially to the last para

of page 230 of the Official Report of Budget Session, where I wanted to have a definite answer from the Chief Minister about hostile activities of Mizos. The Chief Minister said that he did not think that these people wanted to go out of India. Sir, regarding law and order situation when we asked the Chief Minister he replied that in respect of law and order, the situation in Mizo Hills was excellent.

Last year many hon. Members of this august House repeatedly requested the Government to take proper measures against the subversive and anti-national elements there who were jeopardising the safety and independence of our country. But the reply was that the law and order situation in the Mizo Hills was satisfactory.

Sir, the Honourable Chief Minister is a good man, he has a good heart and we have told him on several occasions that his goodness will be exploited by these elements. But the Chief Minister did not listen to us. These elements were going to him with different pleas and he had been giving money to them with an open heart. By undertaking development measures the Government had also been indirectly helping the Mizo National Front. These elements have got relations with the elements living in the India-Burma border. They frequently go there but Government did not take any pre-cautionary measure.

Sir, everyone is agreed that the development of hill areas should be taken up, but at the same time it should be seen that the security and the independence of the mother country is maintained at all costs. On the other day while taking part in the Debate on Governor's Address we have pointed out to the harassment made on certain innocent people by arresting them under Defence of India Rules. The Chief Minister in his reply stated that "nothing was more precious than the security of the country. For this all sacrifices have to be made, even if it means hardship to some". I fail to understand why security measures were not tightened and the situation allowed to drift in this way even when the hon. Members of this august House drew the pointed attention of the Chief Minister to the danger which was developing in the Mizo Hills. Last year, in his reply to the debate on the Governor's Address, the Chief Minister said "the Mizos have got certain problems. Their movement is a democratic movement" (page 329 of the Debates). My question is if it was democratic movement why such things are taking place now? I admit, Sir, that certain demands have to be fulfilled and certain development measures taken in the backward areas. But should development take place at the cost of the security and independence of the mother country? Government were quite aware of the reaction of the Mizo National Front in respect of the Pataskar Commission. They totally boycotted the commission and, at the same time, reiterated their demand for an independent Mizoland. Even the Mizo Union, who are in the majority in the District Council, boycotted the Pataskar Commission and closed down their offices during the visit of the Commission. This closing down of offices was a serious thing, but the Government took no action against those elements. Therefore, my contention is that by its inactivity the Government has encouraged these disturbing elements to go to this extent.

Sir, my friend Shri Tarapada Bhattacharjee the other day, on 25th, February, clearly warned Government that it should not try to create another Nagaland. One of the ex-members of Mizo National Front

was murdered in Lungleh. Government, therefore, cannot say that they were not conversant with the situation developing in the Mizo Hills. But, Sir, in the Governor's Address no mention was made about the situation there, neither there was any mention about it in the Chief Minister's reply. It is surprising, Sir, that on the 28th, when the Chief Minister, in his reply to the debate on the Governor's Address, stated that the law and order situation was satisfactory, that very day this serious and unprecedented development took place in the Mizo Hills. It reminds me of the saying "When Rome was burning Nero was fiddling". It reminds me of the recent developments in Ghana. When President Nkrumah was in Peking, he was overthrown. We can easily term our Chief Minister as a second Nkrumah.

Sir, our Chief Minister was kind enough to explain to us the implications of the Defence of India Rules and its applications on the other day very eloquently.

But while the subversive elements in the Mizo Hills were freely organising themselves, the Defence of India Rules were not applied against them but they are expert in applying the same on innocent persons, again it was applied to suppress the legitimate movement of the Ministerial Officers' Association, they applied the same to drag two hon. Members from this House to Silchar and Jorhat overnight, but, Sir, they were not used where they should have been used.

Then, Sir, another fact is very clear, viz., that the Government intelligence branch have totally failed to collect the information about the development in Mizo Hills. We do not know where we stand. No one, including yourself, Sir, is secure in this State if things are allowed to continue like this. From the statement given by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, we learn that the entire thing had been well-organised in the Mizo Hills. Sir, organisation on such a scale cannot take place in one day. These elements must have been organising for this action for a pretty long time. When they were organising to create such kind of havoc, what were the intelligence officers doing? Where were they? They were busy in this House, they were busy in following us. Specially the Opposition members.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): I am sorry to intervene, Sir. I feel I should explain the position of the Government. No instructions have been issued either to the Intelligence Department or any other Department to pursue the hon. Members.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Anyway, that is why I am saying that they have been given certain jobs but to earn their good name they are following the Members of the Opposition.

Now, the Government is also aware of the reaction of the Mizo people to the Pataskar Commission, but since then this unfortunate development has taken place and why Government did not take any action about this development and what the Intelligence Department was doing since then? I submit, Sir, the Intelligence Department totally failed to work out the thing.

Sir, so far as I know, it is also a fact that one officer, a most responsible officer, the erstwhile Deputy Commissioner misrepresented the Government in many ways and I may say also with emphasis that he has also misguided our hon. Chief Minister as well as the Chief Secretary. This information I have got from a reliable source, which I am not going to divulge.

Sir, it is strange that when a most important person belonging to party in power from Mizo District brought to the notice of the hon. Chief Minister and the Chief Secretary about this development, nobody paid any heed to it. He not only informed the Chief Minister and Chief Secretary but he informed the Government of India about this development but nobody gave any importance on his report.

Then, Sir, instead of taking actions against the persons who are doing anti-national activities, the Government is harbouring the elements. For instance, a newspaper report appeared the other day that at Shillong one Police Assistant Sub-Inspector had been arrested day before yesterday while he was carrying 950 rounds of ammunition, but what the Intelligence Department was doing? I am an insignificant man and my speech may go unappreciated, but what is true is that not only in the Police Department itself but in many other offices the Mizo National Front is having its own intelligence. Very recently, *i.e.* last year, one man was serving in the C. I. D. office in Shillong, he was made a Confidential Assistant and when he was asked to type one thing one day, instead of typing the same he typed some other important document to supply it to the Mizo National Front. Of course it was detected ultimately and he was discharged. He is from Mizo Land. My question is that knowing all these things, why Government did not take precautionary measures in time?

Sir, it will not be surprising to hear and I hope, it will not be unpalatable to our leaders, especially, hon. Members of the Government side in this House that Members who are representing Mizo Land and who are members of the Mizo National Front are best friends of our Chief Minister. What one of them has done? It appeared in the paper that on 27th February before this revolt had taken place, on 28th February, he disappeared stealthily from Shillong. Sir, this organisation is working not only in the Mizo Land but it is working very actively in our capital itself not to speak of other places.

Sir, I want to bring to your pointed attention to one very very important thing. The other day the Chief Minister said in the House that the number of people involved in the trouble in Mizo Land was not 10,000 as appeared in newspaper reports but would be between 500 and 1000. May I draw the attention of the Chief Minister to the fact that one battalion of the Assam Regiment was banned very recently by the Government of India and in this battalion of the Assam Regiment there were 70 to 80 per cent of people from Mizo Hills? Where they have gone? My information is that this organisation is mainly manned by these people. What the Government was doing? Was it sleeping? Why it failed to take action against these anti-social elements? Government of India also committed a greatest blunder by suddenly banning this battalion of Assam Regiment without considering the future consequence. The Government of India also failed hopelessly and they added only fuel to the fire by the act of discharging the military personnel without any rhyme and reason.

So far as my information goes, some men of Border Security Force as well as police and Assam Rifles helped this organisation with arms and ammunitions. They might have collected some arms and ammunitions from Pakistan or even from China but the main supply is from the Border Security Force, Police and Assam Rifles. The source of this information I am not going to divulge. Why Government did not take any precautionary measures early? Why no arrangement

was made to protect the life and property of the innocent people in time and why law and order situation was not enforced?

Sir, it is well known to the Government that a small armour manufacturing unit was discovered in the deep forest of Mizo Hills in the border of Hailakandi, but still the Government was sleeping over the matter. It is questionable.

Sir, the most surprising thing is that these people not only demand the independence of Mizo Land but they want in it the entire Hailakandi Sub-division, major portions of the Silchar and Karimganj Sub-divisions up to Badarpur and you know, Sir, these people have started troubling in Hailakandi and Karimganj area also, just imagine! Sir, the Mizo raiders seem to have caught the administration totally unprepared both in the District headquarters and Subdivisional headquarters at Lungleh. The Treasury and armies were looted, Telecommunication disrupted, and number of Government officials including S. D. O., Lungleh have been kidnapped. All these quick works were smoothly executed in a single midnight. Therefore, it can be very well imagined that this unprecedented situation has taken place not overnight. But it was a pre-planned and well-organised thing from a pretty long time.

Sir, we do not know what is the total civilian population there and what action Government has taken to rescue them? My information is that all communication with Cachar i.e., road connections telephone connections, etc., have been disrupted and damaged and this was admitted by the Chief Minister himself. It is understood that till to-day the Army have not been in a position to arrive at the destination to quell the rebellion and that they have arrived at Colosib, on way to Aijal. Nothing was said by the Chief Minister about the civilian population and its fate, whereas he was arguing with the figure of persons taking part in the revolution as 500 to 1,000 and not 10,000. But, Sir, if there is no communication and telephone, wireless, telegraph and road communications which have been cut, how the Chief Minister was saying that his was the correct figure? We cannot accept his statement as correct. Many speeches were made by our Government leaders and many assurances were given in this House but in practice these remain only in papers and not in action. Now, the Chief Minister says that Government is going to declare the Mizo National Front as illegal. Sir, prevention is better than cure.

Why this anti-national organisation could not be declared illegal earlier? Sir, it is also a fact that these people installed clandestine radio in the Mizoland, that is, in the Indian soil which was relaying in Mizo language by declaring independence. They made the announcement of independence in Mizo language under the self-styled President Laldenga and asked the people to co-operate. Sir, for all this who is responsible? Sir, in what way our Government is going to defend the life and property of our people? Sir, in 1962 when the Chinese came to attack our country one of my friends jokingly said to me, you need not worry about the same as because our Government is having the section 144 to meet the situation. Similarly Sir, when our Government is in trouble under these peculiar circumstances the Government will have no other alternative but to declare that the movement was illegal. Sir, we do not get the clear picture about what is going on in the Mizo hills and what is the present development?

So, I feel, Sir, that the Government is mainly responsible for such kind of development specially in this frontier State. When our Chief Minister should lead us to the brightness in proper way, he is leading us towards the darkness.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up, Mr. Barua.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: One minute, Sir.

Sir, it has been mentioned by Press and in Platform that the Government of India did not give the proper importance to this problem as it deserved. These people of the Mizo hills have been very much charmed by the development in the Naga Hills because the problems of Naga hills have caught the eye of the world. In the meantime the Government of India has shown highest respect to the Naga underground leaders by discussion with them about the political solution of the Nagaland which enthused the Mizo National Front Leaders very much. That is one of the reasons, Sir, why this sudden rebellion has come up in Mizo Hills.

Now, Sir, by considering these aspects I want to say this is a complete failure on the part of our Government in so far as the Mizo Hills developments are concerned. Sir, our Chief Minister is a good man, no doubt about it, but he is not a good administrator. Sir, it is a fact that we are not in a position to oust him, because we are few in number here. But by his action, by his negligence these developments have taken place in Mizo hills. So what we feel, Sir, is that he can no longer guide us towards prosperity and integrity but he can guide us only to the confusion. The people of Assam have felt insecure under the leadership of the Present Chief Minister.

Therefore, I suggest, I urge upon the Chief Minister to follow the path of the erstwhile Prime Minister of India, late Lal Bahadur Shastri who could resign not on the ground of the security of life and property of the people but for some other reasons. Our people have no security and for this our Government is entirely responsible. At the same time I urge upon the hon. Chief Minister to leave the Gaddi to show if he has got any respect towards democratic principle and democratic set up of Government. Let the people of Assam decide their own fate because there is no security of life and property; there is no integrity in this frontier State. The Government is responsible for this holocaust. The hon. Chief Minister should resign and if necessary whole officialdom from top to bottom should be changed. Let the people decide their own course of action. If they are fortunate they will have security of life and security of property. We can no longer afford to be led to the darkness. Let the people decide their own fate.

With these observations, Sir, I move my motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: I want to remind the hon. Members that the hon. Chief Minister is going to make his statement at 3.30. So no Member should speak more than 10 minutes.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been listening the speech of Mr. Dulal Barua, colleague with attention. I was wondering whether the Mizo district has gone out of our country once for all. The way he has presented the situation of the Mizo hills, as if we have lost this district once for all. Sir this Mizo district is a symptom of a disease in our State specially since the Naga revolution. Sir,

(A voice : It has already gone).

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamarpur): *Rose to speak.*

Mr. SPEAKER: Order ! order !

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: Sir, when I was a Member of this House for the first time after independence, at that time I remember to have complained to the Government about the activities of the Missionaries in the Nagaland. Sir, there was a conspiracy made by a certain section of the people in this State so as to put the Government in difficulty as a whole. Therefore, the armed rebellion in Mizo hills is something not very peculiar to us, but the way the rebellion took place compels me to think whether the Government was in possession of any intelligence whatsoever with regard to the development which has taken place and which has been described by the Chief Minister in his statement as a systematic well-planned movement to overthrow the Government.

Sir, I do not understand why adequate steps could not be taken by the Government for security of the Officers there and the people who are opposed to this movement. I do not conceive that the entire Mizo people are behind this movement; only a recalcitrant section tried to create this situation who are trying to take the advantage of the international situation that has been faced by our country, namely, attack from China and unfriendly attitude of Pakistan. They have tried to fish in this trouble water. They have taken advantage of this situation. Sir, I am quite confident that this Government is capable of meeting a situation like this. We must not forget that ours is a democratic Government. Mr. Barua has said that the Chief Minister was all the time saying that it was a democratic Government and under the Constitution a democratic Government cannot function as desired by Shri Barua and it must be remembered that under a Democratic Government democratic rights cannot be curbed. He was also saying that Government was harbouring these people, but can you imagine that Government can harbour every people who are demanding separate State ? It is not that. It is the recalcitrant element that harboured it under the goodness of the Chief Minister. This goodness was misunderstood as weakness. Pakistan also misunderstood our goodness as weakness, but during the last conflict they could understand our strength and that our Jawans can gallantly accept the challenge. So, it is not that: it is because of the democratic set-up. We believe in the rule of law; and that is why we feel and believe that we belong to a party who believe in the change of hearts and that is the reason for which we always give a long rope so that they can come round. I do not blame on that account the whole Mizo population to that extent. But certainly, I would

say that when a section of the people of that district could go to that extent, no further trouble should be allowed to be created in this country and no such demand of a separate State outside India will be tolerated. At the time a formation of the Nagaland, I still remember I objected to this and I did not want Nagaland to be separated. They are our brothers and sisters and we want to live together. We shall never like any of our people to be separated from us and we shall try to meet their demand and difficulties. Sir, many of the people wanted to say that this is economic problem. Sir, every year our previous Finance Minister very apply indicated what amount of money we have been spending for the economic development of that region. So this is a political movement where some people wanted to get power. That is why I would say, Sir, that we have no sympathy for those people and at the same time, as I have already said, this movement of a section of the people who want to have power and want to create this sort of trouble should be dealt with properly. Sir, the most distressing part of the affair is that from Pakistan Radio this movement was supported by them and this has created a new dimension of the situation. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take a serious view of these facts and deal with the matter very promptly. At the same time, I request the Chief Minister to give immediate protection to the law-abiding people and our officers and the people living there, who, I think, are in great hardship due to disruption of communications. But, Sir, I am wondering since 28th February till today, I do not know what Central assistance has been given. Sir, every time we had to make speeches in this House regarding aid to this very poor State. The State Government has a limitation to its resources and if the Central Government do not come to the rescue in such a situation the people of Assam will feel very much neglected. Therefore on this score I urge upon the Central Government to come to immediate rescue of the State Government. I believe that better sense would prevail in the Mizo hills and we wish them well and at the same time I request the Government to be very vigilant and stern on those people who are trying to indulge in such affairs with foreign aids.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Baghmara, Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not happy about the situation prevailing in Mizo Hills at present. However, I am compelled to participate in this discussion, because I want to place before the House certain basic problems of the Hills. Sir, in the first instance I cannot but blame the Government entirely for what is happening in the Mizo Hills. Though I do not subscribe to the idea of Mizo Hills becoming an independent country yet I cannot but blame the Government for not being able to deal with the matter properly and for not finding certain solution for the political problem of that District. It appears to me Government always like to allow the problems to drag on for long without trying to find out proper solution. It appears to me that the Government is of opinion that if a particular problem of the hill areas is allowed to drag on for long, time itself will bring out the solution. Government should now realise that such a policy has failed and it is that attitude which is responsible for what is happening in Mizo Hills. Sir, in 1963 when we met the late Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, at Gauhati Air Port, we told him how due to frustration extremist elements have formed themselves into a new party, namely, M.N.F., and are demanding an independent Mizo State and actually

fought the bye-election on this issue and defeated our APHLC candidates. So we sounded a note of warning that unless political problems of the Hills were solved without further delay the extremists would be able to take upper hand. So we requested the Prime Minister to concede the demand for a separate State within India. If it was conceded to extreme demand would not have come. Even at that time if a solution could be found for the hill people, this situation would not have developed. Another thing, Sir, Government do not give proper heed to the demand of the hills people till they resort to violence. That was how the Nagas who resorted to violence got a separate State and the Nagaland has been allowed to be created in 1957. Then I said it was a pointer to what happen in respect of other hills. When we discussed the hill problems with the late Prime Minister, Mr. Shastri when he was holding the Home portfolio, we put a question to him straightway. When the Government of India is against creating small States and on that ground Government do not want to create a Hills State, how was it that the Government decided to create Nagaland?

He replied, 'The situation there is different because they have resorted to violence'. I put a question straightway, ; "Do you mean to say that we should also go the Naga-way to get a State of our own" ? He stated, 'No.' You know, Sir, very well while there was a demand that Assamese should be declared as the official language our Chief Minister opposed in the first instance and he made a statement : "Let such demands come from the minorities". But when the people resorted to violence he had to agree and the act was passed. That is why our friends in the Mizo Hills being very much disappointed to get the legitimate demand for a State within India, a group had been formed under the name of Mizo National Front (M.N.F.) and resorted to violence to achieve its objective. How can I blame the M.N.F. now because it is the Government which showed the way that if you want to achieve any objective it is only through violence you can get it. So they had resorted to violence. Elsewhere in the country also Government's policy has been always such that response to popular demand is given only when they resort to violence. Therefore, Sir, it may be a mistake on the part of the Government if they want to simply suppress by force. The basic problem must be thoroughly understood. It is no use saying that we have spent more than Rs.300 and odd per capita in the matter of development in Mizo Hills as against Rs.161 or so elsewhere. It is not that which will bring a solution. The Government thought at one time that the M.N.F. may be won over by spending more amounts and that was why the special programme was taken up. Only by throwing money for certain developmental programme in the Hill areas the Hill people cannot be satisfied unless they have a say in it. I am sorry the Government should have learnt this from the very beginning. Do we have any say at all in the formulation of the developmental programmes, in the matter of allotment of funds for various activities in the Hill Areas? We are allowed only to have post-mortem examination in such matters and when everything has been finalised only to be saved from certain constitutional obligation they are sent to us. Only spending money will not satisfy the Hill people. I was very very sure, Sir, if our legitimate demand was conceded much earlier this extremist movement in Mizo Hills could have been avoided, and the present situation could have been avoided if it was not for the wrong policy of the Government and the lesson given by the Government itself that anything demanded could be achieved only when the people resort to violence. Therefore, Sir, I am not very happy to learn the attitude of the Government through the press that the situation in the Mizo Hills would be suppressed by means of arms. It

will be very wrong, Sir. We have been told about the situation in the Nagaland for a long time. The problem and the situation of the Nagaland had been taken as one of law and order. But that was a political problem. It was always taken as a law and order situation. It would be a mistake on the part of the Government if the situation in the Mizo land is taken purely as a law and order situation. If it is taken as only a law and order problem then it will simply result in mass misery, mass killing, mass bloodshed but it would not solve the real problem. Let us learn a lesson from what has happened in Nagaland. I would, therefore, request personally our Chief Minister who is a lover of peace. Even after creation of Nagaland there the situation has not very much improved. There are certain groups who have not been satisfied with the creation of Nagaland. They wanted something more, and, I would congratulate Mr. Chaliha for his sincere attempt to find out a solution as Member of the Peace Mission in Nagaland. I request Mr. Chaliha to be a pioneer of peace in Mizo Hills. Instead of sending only armed forces there, instead of using ammunition alone I would request Mr. Chaliha to lead a Peace Mission. Sir, I appeal to the M.N.F. and other leaders of Mizo Hills to come forward and find a solution avoiding resorting to arms. I am definite if some assurance is given to the M.N.F. that to the extent possible their genuine grievances will be met, I hope such an attitude, such an offer on the part of the Government—not only by this Government but by Government of India also—will help solve the problem. But if we simply hand over the situation to the Army, as you have done, Sir, as in that case of Nagaland it will not bring a solution. Let us learn a lesson from that. Let us lose no time, let us make an appeal to the M.N.F. leadership to come forward. Give them time to come forward for a discussion both with the State Government and the Central Government and try to find a solution. Sir, lest it does not extend to some other hill areas I would also request this Government not to follow any more the policy of wait and see. It is not my stealing away some hill leaders that the problem could be solved. Try to persuade some of the leaders, particular groups then the problem will be solved. Mr. Sarma said that this must have been confined to a handful of people. I cannot agree to that. If it was confined to a few people in the 1962 bye-election the M.N.F. people could not have returned defeating two important leaders of the District who belonged to the present ruling party. Therefore, I am definite the mass are behind. If the mass were not behind this kind of planned attack or attempt at dislocation could not have taken place. Strength lies with the mass. If it was otherwise the civil population themselves would have opposed them. But they are not. We do not find any opposition from the civilian population, and as such it cannot be said that this activity is confined to a few people. Therefore, Government should not waste their time but should try to find out a solution to this basic problem which has resulted in this undesirable activity. It is not for looting money from the Treasury for their economic purpose, for their personal benefit but to keep something out of it by which they will be able to shape their own policy, their own destiny. In doing so I would suggest that we should not agree to the succession of the [district from our country] but within the Indian Union they must be able to set up some administrative unit which will enable the people of that area to have their say and run their own administration. It should be done immediately and it should be done in respect of other hill areas also. Sir, I am sorry to find the attitude of the Government to the Pataskar Commission. They think that the Pataskar Commission is to take initiative in this matter of re-organisation of administrative set-up for the Hill areas. It is not so, Nehru has already given a proposal and this Commission is to

implement that proposal. It is an expert body. Sir, as for example, certain financial powers are to be given to the hill representative and it is the duty of this Commission to find out what amendments should be brought about to the present financial rules of the State in giving effect to this proposal. Certain rules are already there and this Commission is to find out what changes should be brought about to these rules for implementation of Nehru Plan. In this way if you try to go back from what has been offered in the past, I am afraid, similar situation may also take place elsewhere. I am happy to learn from the reply of the Home Minister, Mr. Nanda, that Pataskar Commission report is coming out soon. I would request the Government not to belittle the problem of other districts on the plea that some of the leaders of my group have left the party and therefore, if something less is given it will be accepted. If that mistake is there then this Government will be inviting similar situation elsewhere. Therefore, my earnest request to the Chief Minister and the hon. Members of this House is that let us understand this problem in its true perspective and let us see what can be done to avoid a similar situation. Do not try to suppress the situation by arms but let us try to find out a solution to this basic problem.

Shri SHRIMAN PRAFULLA GOSWAMI (Nalbari-West):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, this incident in Mizo Hills is not an ordinary one but it is an extraordinary and unprecedented political revolution manipulated by some self-interested leaders of the gang aided by the foreign powers. I think after the independence, during all these years, such occurrence was nowhere in India. This is for the first time that an organised attempt has been made by a gang to overthrow the established Government, and to seize powers to establish an independent State outside India, probably under huge money of certain foreign powers. There are lot of reasons for such uprising, historical, political and others which I cannot narrate in this House mainly for want of time and also for other reasons which if necessary, I reserve to analyse in future. Sir, one thing pains me. I have read in the newspaper, I do not know how far they are correct, that some of the members of the Parliament have condemned our State Government and said that because the Government neglected the development of Mizo Hills such a thing has happened. This observation is not only unfair and far from the truth but it is unjustified. Our Union Minister Mr. Ali Ahmed who had a lot of experience as Finance Minister of this State has ably replied to that charge and the Union Home Minister Shri Nanda also replied. Sir, this revolution is not an outcome of frustration for development, but it is a political planning, a long-drawn planning, aided by some foreign powers and some of our traitors in the country. Under no circumstances we can allow any part of our country to be separated from India, more particularly Mizo Hills which is strategically and geographically very important. It is the bounden duty of the Government to see that no part of India is seceded and this area is maintained at all costs. We have no enmity with any people in India, not to speak of any tribes or community in Assam. But when it is the question of security of our State and the question of maintaining an established democratic Government in our State, we will have to fight with the rebel gangsters. We will not fight with the Mizo people; they are our brethren, our kith and kin. We know there are thousands of Mizo people who are helpless spectators in the gang regime, as has already been stated.

Sir, when there was mautam in Mizo Hills our Government did a lot and saved the life of the Mizo people. It is not by grace that the Government saved their lives; it was our duty to save these people. When any part of the country is threatened with starvation, it is

the moral duty of our people and the Government to save them and that is why our Government under the leadership of Shri Chaliha did so much for the Mizo people and they were saved from mautam. When the mautam took place Mizo people thought that thousands of them would die without any food. Even our Chief Minister was panicky as to what would happen, but by the maximum effort put forward by the Government these people were saved. At that time I was deputed from the Pradesh Congress Committee to go and stay there. I stayed there for 10 days and met people there. I could know their mind and they were happy, they were saved. Not only that, I remember that throughout Assam the Congress Organisation gave a call to voluntarily offer rice and money to save Mizo people and it was a very inspiring scene that not to speak of adults alone but even small children of L. P. Schools came forward and collected rice etc., for the Mizo people in distress. The voluntary collections made by the little children were not much but its significance of common brotherhood and feeling of oneness is inspiring and an example of our love towards the Mizo people who were in distress. That was our brotherhood, that was our feeling, Sir. But that does not mean that we shall support those rebellious Mizo people under the so-called leadership of the Mizo National Front in their revolt and in their attempt at taking away one part of our country and establish a separate State outside India with Pakistan's government. No Government can tolerate, more so a democratic government. So I welcome the Chief Minister's statement. He has said, "I would like to assure the House that violence will be suppressed; that the Mizos would understand the implication of this type of activities and would disassociate from this and would help the Government in restoring law and order". I welcome this assurance and I am confident that our Government will be able to curb this rebellion in the shortest time and I hope that in a short time this lawlessness will be curbed and law and order will be established to protect the loyal citizens of Mizo district and also the officers and employees of our Government who are discharging their duties faithfully. To me, Sir, it is not economic under-development which is a cause of this problem, this is a political revolt organised by the Mizo National Front. I would say there are political reasons. Only economic development cannot stop this lawlessness without curbing the political gangsters who secured foreign help. In addition to the economic development, there must be political consciousness, ideological consciousness, national urge in the minds of our Mizo brothers who have gone astray. I feel, Sir, there is something wrong. We may develop the area; we may give more money to be spent, but if we do not inspire the people with our ideology, patriotism and fellow brotherhood for common well being of our whole country the situation created by the Mizo National Front cannot be overcome. Mizo National Front's false propaganda and disorder must be met with organised political plan along the rapid development and removal of backlog which we have inherited from the British Imperialism. We must spread the ideology of Democracy and Socialism, to the people of that area and to whole countries. Some roads or some high offices or patronage shown to some selected persons of this area will not solve the problem. We can make somebody a Minister or a Member of the Public Service Commission but what about the other mass people who are isolated from us for century or so? Their general condition must be improved also. When we have heard some Members saying that because of under-development such occurrence has taken place, it is nothing, but self-deception or ignorance. Sir, there are many

parts not only in Assam, but even in the whole of India particularly which are very backward still, very much under-developed. There are some tribal living in some of the States of India who are still more backward in education and deprived of modern amenities and are remaining in primitive standard of living, but there is no such discontent not to speak of a rebellion because there are no such politicians to pollute their mind of the unsophisticated people. But I never support or justify the backwardness or backlog of any part or any population in any part of India, more so with the condition of Mizo District. They must be given weightage, given every help even at the cost of our plains. I do not grudge that. When the Mizo people will get more of funds and more of development, they will realise our sincere efforts. They must get maximum because they have been neglected for a long time. And it should be the policy of our Government to pay more attention to those areas and those people who are remaining backward. What the British Government gave the Mizo people during their rule? Not the development, but a religion, that is the religion of Christianity. I like that religion and of course I have great respect for all the religions, particularly the Christian religion. British gave the religion to some people and also some education but the area and the people were kept isolated in a planned way and they were never allowed to come in contact with Indian Nationalism or National movement. But, Sir, today it pains me to see that followers of Christianity have resorted to violent rebellious activities to overthrow an established Democratic Government. How is it possible? Because they were misled, they were given wrong ideas by those foreigners; to feel different from the other Indian people. Therefore, Sir, without political consciousness and feeling of nationalism and urge for democratic socialism we cannot rouse the mass people and bring to our common fold. We cannot remove the misconception or frustrations whatsoever by only bringing about economic development. Economic development must be there speedily and for such speedy development India Government must help liberally in addition to the State Government's maximum help and assistance. The creation of a separate State of Nagaland and negotiation with hostile Nagas who want to secede from India by the Union Government has given some encouragement to resort to such violence in addition to foreign help and 5th Columnists activities. Therefore this problem will require many more cautious attempts and well thought out economic and political planning. But first of all, Sir, the lawlessness must be curbed without any hesitation. If we encourage this kind of lawlessness, if we encourage those anti-national elements and rebellious people to dominate in the Mizo Hills, then this will spread to other parts of our State also. It has been already reported in the newspaper that Prof. Swell, M. P. belonging to the opposition from Hills constituencies has already given a very exciting lecture in the Parliament and made false allegations. Further, he is reported to have said that this kind of happening might occur in other parts also. When also we have heard from a man like Capt. W. Sangma, who was once a Minister under the leadership of Shri Chaliha, our Chief Minister and under the fold of Congress—saying that similar happening may take place in other parts also if there is any attempt to suppress.....

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: Mr. Speaker, the hon. Member is quite wrong. I have never said anything like that Sir. I have only said.....

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, Order.

Shri SHRIMAN PRAFULLA GOSWAMI: Sir, I am very glad to hear that he has not said so. But this must be protested here Sir. If we do not protest such thing, we cannot stop violence—be it in Shillong, or Gauhati, or even be it in Baghmara or whatever area, we should not say anything which may encourage such kind of violent activities elsewhere. When we have an established Government, specially a democratic Government. I do not say that they have no right to say anything against the Government. I do not mean that; rather they have every right to make demands, to launch a movement for a separate Hills State and so on. They have every legitimate right to put forward their demand for a separate Hills State or whatever it is through peaceful and democratic method, but surely they have no right to resort to violent action against the State and if there be any violent action, this must be suppressed. Therefore, I appeal to Mr. Chaliha, our Chief Minister,—I know of his determination, of his firmness, of his experience in the administration. But I also know that he is a kind hearted man. Now he will rise to the occasion and he will successfully curb the violent anti-State treason at the earliest time. I do not support the idea of a Peace Mission going to Mizo Hills now (as suggested) for a solution and negotiation with traitors to the country, I mean the present leaders of Mizo National Front. I cannot support this. In Mizo Hills so long there is lawlessness, so long civil administration is restored there, and so long he remains as Chief Minister, he cannot go to lead the Peace Mission in Mizo Hills. First duty of our Chief Minister is to restore the civil administration in Mizo Hills and suppress the anti-State anti-national rebellion organised by the Mizo-National Front.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora): মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমি অত্যন্ত দুঃখের সহিত জানাতে চাই যে ভারতবর্ষের স্বাধীনতার ১৮ বৎসর পরে আজকে যে পরিস্থিতির সম্পর্কে আলোচনা করা হচ্ছে তার ফলে আমাদের সমস্ত চিন্তাধারা, আমাদের ভারতবর্ষের ঐক্য এবং সংস্কৃতিতে, আমাদের জাতীয়তাবোধে আঘাত পড়েছে এবং সেটা আজকে আলোচনা করতে আমি দুঃখ বোধ করছি।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, লুসাই পাহাড় আমাদের আসাম প্রদেশের একটি জিলা এবং এই জিলা দীর্ঘদিন ধরে আসামের সঙ্গে ওতপ্রোত ভাবে জড়িত। ইংরেজী ১৯৪৭ সালে প্রথম যখন মিজো ইউনিয়ন গঠিত হয় এবং তখন ভারতের প্রধান মন্ত্রী নেহরুর কাছে মেমরেন্ডাম অর্পণ করে—তাদের দাবি পেশ করেছিলেন ‘সেই দাবীতে ভারতবর্ষ থেকে বিচিছিন্ন হওয়ার কোনরূপ স্বপ্ন ছিল না। তারা ভারতবর্ষের একটি প্রদেশ হিসাবে ভারতের ঐক্য এবং সংস্কৃতি রক্ষা করে থাকতে পারে—তখন একটি মেমরেন্ডাম দাখিল করছিলেন; কিন্তু ১৯৬৬ সালে মিজো নেশ্যনাল কাউন্সিল প্রধান মন্ত্রীর কাছে যে মেমরেন্ডাম দাখিল করলেন তাতে আমরা অবাক হয়েছি।

মিজো নেশ্যনাল ফ্রন্ট ভারতবর্ষের প্রধানমন্ত্রী, বৃটিশ প্রধানমন্ত্রী এবং Secretary General U.N.O. কে ১২ জানুয়ারী ১৯৬৫ সালে একটা মেমরেন্ডাম জানিয়েছিল যে তারা ভারতীয় নয়। সেই সময় আমাদের রাজ্য সরকার, কেন্দ্রীয় সরকার চুপ করে থাকলেন। ১৯৫৭-৬০ ইংরাজীতে বেদুতিক হলো তার মধ্যেই জন্ম হল Mizo National Front এর একটি Relief কাজের সংগঠন হিসাবে। তার দুই বছরের ভিতর সমস্ত মিজো সম্প্রদায়ের মধ্যে অসন্তোষ ক্রমশঃ ধুমায়িত

হয়ে পড়লো। আশ্চর্যের বিষয় ভারতবর্ষের অন্যান্য জিলাগুলিতে মাথা পিছু ১৪৭ টাকা খরচ করা হয় কিন্তু মিজো জিলাতে মাথা পিছু খরচা করা হয়েছে ৩৬৭ টাকা। এই ভাবে সাহায্যের হস্ত প্রসারণ করা সম্ভব কিম্বা মিজো জিলায় এই ভয়ঙ্কর বিদ্রোহ হলো কেন? আমাদের C. I. D. র লোক সেখানে ছিল কি না এবং তারা সরকারকে জানিয়ে ছিল কি না? এবং যদি C. I. D. থেকে সরকারকে জানান হয়েছিল তাহলে সরকার কি ব্যবস্থা করেছিলেন? ইং ১৯৬৪ তে দেখলাম লালডেঙা পাকিস্তানে গেল এবং ভারতে আসার পর গ্রেপ্তার করা হলো কিন্তু মুখ্যমন্ত্রী তাকে শিলঙে এনে আলাপ আলোচনা করলেন। ঠিক হলো যে উনি সুবোধ বালকের মত থাকবেন। খাদী দরবার হলে লালডেঙা সকল মিজো যুবক ও ছাত্র-ছাত্রীদের সামনে বক্তৃতা দিলেন যে নাগারা ভুল করেছিল কারণ তাহারা আক্রমণের পূর্বে অস্ত্র সংগ্রহ করে নি; আমরা সে ভুল করব না। আমরা যে ব্যবস্থা করছি তার দ্বারা আমরা সশস্ত্র আক্রমণ করব এবং সেই আক্রমণকে কেউ রোধ করতে পারবে না। আমাদের C. I. D. কি এই কথা জানত না? ১৯৬৫ সালে তাদের দাবি জানিয়ে আবার Memorendum দাখিল করলো কিন্তু তখনো আমাদের সরকার বলে থাকলেন। আসার বন্ধু দুলাল বরুয়া বলেছেন যে গত বছরও আমাদের মুখ্যমন্ত্রী এখানে ঘোষণা করেছিলেন যে *excellent situation in Mizo district* কিন্তু ইং ২৮-২৬৫ তাং একটি *Adjournment motion* দিয়েছিলাম এই ঘটনা আশঙ্কা করে। কিন্তু *opposition* এর *motion* বলে তাতে কোন গুরুত্ব দেওয়া হল না। তারপর আমরা অবাক হয়ে গোলাম যে ইংরাজী ১ মার্চ তারিখে রাত এই ঘটনা ঘটল এবং মুম্বাইয়ের পর দেখলাম আমাদের একটি অংশ চলে গেছে।

মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, গত ২৮শে ফেব্রুয়ারি দিনের বেলা বাহারা মিজো জেলা থেকে এসেছেন, তাঁরা বলেছেন মিজো পাহাড়ের রাস্তায় রাস্তায় M. N. F. এর লোক টহল দিচ্ছে এবং M. N. F. Volunteers কেপ্টেন, জেনারেল এর প্রতীক চিহ্ন নিয়ে রাস্তার মোড়ে মোড়ে জড় হয়েছেন। তদুপরি মিজোদের যে সমস্ত গাড়ী শিলচর বা কাছাড়ে ছিল ঐগুলি ২৮ তারিখের মধ্যে তারা তাদের জেলায় নিয়ে গেছে এবং ভাঙ্গা গাড়ীগুলি মেরামত করেছে; প্রচুর পেট্রোল কিনে নিয়ে গেছে। আমরা ২৮ তারিখেই এই খবর জানতে পারলাম; কিন্তু আমাদের C. I. D. Department এই খবর না জানবার কারণ কি? এই অপরাধের জন্য সরকারের একদিনের জন্য গদিতে থাকার অধিকার নাই; এবং যদি এই কথা মুখ্যমন্ত্রী জেনেও কোন ব্যবস্থা না করে থাকেন, তাহলেও আমি বলব যে তাঁর মন্ত্রীদের আসন অধিকার করে থাকার কোন অধিকার নাই। কারণ তিনি অপদার্থতার পরিচয় দেখিয়েছেন গত ২৮শে তারিখে মিজো লোকদের যেগুলি গাড়ী ছিল সব গাড়ী ওরা নিয়ে গেল। ২৭ তারিখে দিনেই আমাদের M. L. A. র মানলিয়ানা এখান থেকে চলে গেলেন। একজন মিজো লোক এসে মানলিয়ানাকে খবর দিয়ে যাবার পরই উনি চলে গেছেন বলে প্রকাশ। এই বিষয়ে আমরা একবছর ধরে বার বার সরকারের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করে আসছি কিন্তু সরকার আমাদের কথায় কোনো গুরুত্ব দেন নাই।

মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমি দেখিতে পারি আর আমি একটি মেপও নিয়ে আসছি-তারা কাছাড় জিলার একটি বিরাট অংশ তাদের অংশ বলে মেপে অন্তর্ভুক্ত করেছে। এবং তাদের এই দাবি জানিয়ে মুখ্যমন্ত্রীর কাছে একটি *resolution* এর কপিও পাঠিয়েছে। ২৮ তারিখ লঙাই করেষ্টের ভিতর ২০ জন মত মিজো লোক বন্দুক নিয়ে এসেছিল। রাঙামাটি গ্রামে গত ৪১৫ বছর ধরে তাদের লোক *training* নিয়ে এসেছিল। তাদের পোষাক দেশী পোষাক নয়। সেইগুলি অত্যন্ত দামী বিদেশী পোষাক, সেইগুলি ভারতীয় পোষাক নয়।

একজন S.D.O., P.W.D. র সঙ্গে আমার সাক্ষাত হয়েছিল। তিনি বললেন রাত্রে শুয়ে আছেন পরিবার এবং ছেলেমেয়ে নিয়ে এবং রাত্রে ১২টায় কয়েকজন Mizo লোক এসে বললেন: Quit Mizo Land এখনই যেতে হবে। তখন তিনি wife and children আছে কিছু সময় না দিলে কি রকম, যাব এই বলে request করা স্বপ্নেও কিছু মানল না। রাত্রির মধ্যেই আসতে হল এবং তার জীপ গাড়ীটাও আনতে দিল না। (সময় সঙ্কেত বাজে)। শিলচর D.F.O. অফিস থেকে জানতে পেরেছি কাছাড়ের বর্ডারে যেগুলি ফরেষ্ট রিজার্ভ আছে সেখানের রাজস্ব দাবী করে মিজোরা রাজস্ব আদায়ের চেষ্টা করেছে; এবং সেখানকার জনসাধারণে মনে এটাই আসে সৃষ্টি করেছে।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমাদের মুখ্যমন্ত্রী জানেন কি এক বৎসর আগে এই M. N. F. American type Government গঠণ করে। তা স্বপ্নেও আমাদের সরকার কোন ব্যবস্থা করলেন না। আজকে নিজের ঘরে যখন আগুন লেগেছে তখন নিজের ঘরের আগুন না নিবিয়ে অন্যের ঘরের আগুন নেবানোর জন্য আমাদের মুখ্যমন্ত্রী সময় ব্যয় করছেন। নিজের ঘরের আগুন নিবান দরকার প্রথমে; অন্যের ঘরের আগুন নিবানোর কাজ পরে করলেও চলবে। অত্যন্ত দুঃখের বিষয় যে আমাদের এই আসমে Nagaland হারিয়েছি এবং Mizo land ও যেতে বসেছে। আশা করি আমার মুখ্যমন্ত্রী সেই খবর নিশ্চয় জানেন কিন্তু তার ব্যবস্থা করলেন না। এটা সরকারের মস্ত ভুল হয়েছে। ইহার আশু সমাধান দরকার।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আজকে পত্রিকায় যে রিপোর্ট বের হয়েছে সেই রিপোর্টের প্রতি আপনার দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করি।

Our correspondent at Hailakandi adds: Chhuan Vawra with six other Mizos of Kolasib of Mizo Hills, while proceeding in a car towards Barunchera, a Mizo inhabited area of Southern Hailakandi, were arrested yesterday evening on suspicion and detained for interrogation by the Hailakandi Police. It is learnt that a good amount of money was recovered from them.

The car which they used, it is reported belongs to one S. D. O. of P. W. D. who is placed under suspension for Matijuri bridge disaster.

“Assam Tribune”, 5th March, 1966.

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, একজন S. D. O. কে suspend করা হয়েছে মাটিজুরী bridge collaps র জন্য। তার জীপ গাড়ী থানা শুনেছি anti-State কাজে লিপ্ত হয়েছে। আমি বলতে বাধ্য যে উক্ত অফিসার আমাদের জনৈক মন্ত্রীর নিকট আত্মীয়। আমাদের State এ এরকম anti-State কাজে লিপ্ত অফিসার থাকার অভিযোগ উঠলে এর বিশেষ তদন্ত হওয়া প্রয়োজন। জরুরী অনুসন্ধান করা দরকার। (সময় সঙ্কেত বাজে)।

Shri ENOWELL POHSHNA (Jowai, Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): Mr. Speaker, Sir. I am afraid, I may not be qualified to discuss this serious problem arising out of the armed rebellion in Mizo Hills, and it is not the time for us to say what is the reason for the rebellion. Sir, I do not agree that our members of House should make the matter more complicated at this stage by mentioning this problem and that problem. We have got plenty of time to say about our problems in future, but at this moment we should think of this burning problem as to what shall we do at

this moment? We know that many innocent people are there in the Mizo Hills. They are expecting rescue and we are to give them food and water. All our people are suffering there. What about their protection and security? On the other hand we as civilians are not in a position to protect them at this time of danger. Many innocent people are suffering now and there are many who are not in favour of the rebellion.

Sir, I do not know whether Criminal Investigation Department people have reported anything to Government of the situation before it occurred. If they have not reported, it is a serious matter on the part of the Criminal Investigation Department people. But, Sir, if they had submitted, we have to blame the broad-minded and large hearted attitude of the Government of India as it was with the Naga problem, why we cannot think it also in that light? As far as I am concerned, my friends who are with this row used to tell me that they demanded a separate Mizo Land and unless and until they get it there will be no cease-fire. I hope the cease-fire will come soon. I do hope, our Government at this moment should consider what is going to be done for the innocent people who are not involved in this rebellion.

With these few words, I appeal to the Chief Minister and I do hope, he has taken serious action in this matter how to render immediate relief to these innocent people who have become the victim of this trouble.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, before proceeding with my speech dealing with the various points raised by hon. Members, I consider it to be my duty to give an account of the situation in the Mizo District according to the information which we have received so far.

Sir, I had occasion to tell the House of the serious situation in the Mizo District according to the information which was available upto the 3rd March, 1966. Since then, the Mizo National Front have continued to exert pressure, both at Aijal and Lungleh, and also on the Outposts manned by the Border Security force and the Assam Rifles on the Pakistan and Burma border.

On the Pakistan border, there have been attacks on Tuipuibari and Marpara and which have been repulsed, but the Mizo National Front continued to keep both these posts as well as Changte and Vaisetlang under pressure. At Demagiri also on the Pakistan border, the Assam Rifles and the Border Security Force posts are also under heavy pressure and all civilians are reported to have fled to the nearby jungles. The local Police Station has also been occupied by the Mizo National Front and the whereabouts of the Staff is not known. At Lungleh, barring a small area where the Assam Rifles are holding out gallantly, the entire town, including the water point, is under Mizo National Front domination. The situation became very critical yesterday due to the depletion of ammunition and lack of water, but both these have been air-dropped to the posts in the afternoon yesterday thereby giving some relief to the beleaguered personnel. The Border Security Force's cook, who escaped from the Mizo National Front headquarters and reached the Assam Rifles camp on the night of 3rd March, reported that Shri Pillai, Subdivisional Officer and some other Government personnel who are being held by the Mizo National Front have been kept under guard, but have suffered no physical harm.

On the Burma border, the Assam Rifles Post at Dargawn was under very ferocious attack and attempts to reinforce and supply the post on the 3rd March, were unsuccessful as the helipad was under hostile fire. This post also like Lungleh was in difficult position at one stage as the ammunition

stocks were depleted and the water supply had run out. I am glad to be able to say that this post was also provisioned by air-drop yesterday which has greatly heartened the defenders. It has also been learnt that the Assam Rifles Posts at Sangau and Vaphai on the Burma border are under pressure from the Mizo National Front who have been seen collecting arms from local population obviously with a view to attack this post.

The situation in Aijal deteriorated after the third of March. On that day, some Assam Rifles reinforcements were landed by helicopter in the town and more landings were planned for the following days, but on the same night the Mizo National Front hostiles made a very determined attack on the town with the Police Station and the Assam Rifles headquarters as their particular targets. All non-Mizo civilian officials and their families had been brought from other parts of the town and given shelter in the Assam Rifles lines. Some families and injured persons of the ambush of the night of 2nd March, were evacuated on the 3rd in the returning helicopters. As it was becoming increasingly difficult for the Police personnel on the Thana hill to hold out on their own, it was decided yesterday to bring them to the Assam Rifles area. This task has been successfully completed. While keeping the Police Station and the Assam Rifles under attack on the night of the 3rd March, the hostiles were able to capture the local Jail and set all the prisoners free. The Jail staff, however, are learnt to be safe. The position at Aijal at the moment is that in the remaining defended locality all Police personnel, as well as other Government officials have been harboured. As the Mizo National Front occupied certain high ground, including the southern water reservoir from which they could bring fire to bear upon the parade ground and the other areas, it was not considered safe to attempt any air landings yesterday. The Assam Rifles launched an attack and cleared one area near the local Cinema on the 4th March, reportedly inflicting heavy casualties on the hostiles. The defenders at Aijal were last reported as facing some difficulties at Lungleh and elsewhere due to water shortage, but action is under way to reach water to them.

The column which left Silchar on the 3rd March, reached Cwhimluang on the evening of the same day without meeting any armed resistance, but encountering severe damage to the road at frequent intervals. It again left Cwhimluang in the early hours of yesterday and finding the road badly damaged after proceeding about 3 miles, marched on foot and reached the outskirts of Kolosib at about five in the evening. Here, they met armed resistance and after an exchange of fire, the hostiles fled. Early this morning the whole of Kolosib town has been combed out and some quantities of arms and ammunition recovered. I am glad to be able to inform the House that 62 non-Mizos, including Police Officers and other Government officials, who were being held by the Mizo National Front as hostages, have been released by the advancing column, which is now beyond Kolosib on the way to Aijal. Repair of the Silchar-Aijal road has been taken up with the progress of the column in order to restore surface communications as early as possible. Action is also in hand to relieve the defenders in Aijal town.

Sir, the earlier report and the present one which I am giving to the House, are no doubt, enough to show that the situation there is a very serious one. Certainly the responsibility for whatever happens in the State and even for this particular situation, I cannot escape, responsibility nor do I want to shirk my responsibility but I am going to relate to the House the line which Government has pursued with a view to inform the hon. Members.

Sir, the Mizo National Famine Front, was an organisation actually born at the time of the Mautam in Mizo Hills in the year 1959-60. The hon. Members are aware that at that time when this district was faced with a serious type of famine because of the flowering of bamboos then colleague Shri Williamson Sangma was holding the portfolio of Tribal Affairs Department in my cabinet and with a colossal expenditure and with very hard work on part of the Government officials the Mizo people could be saved from a complete disaster. This Mizo National Famine Front was born at that time and its object was to help the famine-stricken people. Later on this organisation took the name of Mizo National Front and developed into an organisation with political objective. The political objective is that all the Mizo people living in Mizo district, areas contiguous where Mizo people are living in the East Pakistan and Burma as well as in other parts of Assam with all of them there should be one unit of a free State of Mizo people. This was their aspiration or objective of their organisation. Whether you want it or not, such an organisation with such line of thinking was formed.

Now the question arose how do we tackle this problem? Shall we tackle it at political level or on administrative level or start police action? Therefore, Sir, we as believers in democracy we feel that we should tackle this problem on a political level. I had a serious discussion with the Mizo National Front leader and with their M. L. A. and others on this subject and briefly the position which was presented to me by the President of Mizo National Front was like this. He said: Look here, the idea of separation has been in the Mizo district since before the independence and after independence this idea still persists because of a sense of frustration in the Mizo people on account of the difficult economic problem. Sir, the Mizo hills has a large number of problems. There is difficulty in agriculture, there is difficulty in rainfall and there is difficulty in water; so on and so forth. Therefore he said that either these problems should be solved or the Mizo people should be allowed to secede. I from my side said Look here, what for the Government exists? We exist here to serve the people. to remove the difficulty of the people and to bring about development of the people. Therefore, you can take it for granted that we are here to solve your problems but it will take some time. With regard to the joining up of other areas in the foreign countries, if at all it takes place, it has to be with the consent of the Government and in due course. This matter cannot be hastened. You do not expect Government of India to wage war against these countries for securing these areas. Sir, this was more or less the context of my talk with them and I received assurance from the Mizo National Front that they would fully co-operate with the Government for the development of that district. In the meantime I received report that Shri Laldenga and others went to Pakistan without valid documents. They were arrested. I do not remember the exact date of their arrest. Then Shri Laldenga started sending series of representations to me and the people from Mizo hills came on deputation to meet me times without number. I was told that Laldenga was innocent; I should give him a hearing to verify the whole position. I thought it would be better to concede to a request like this and so they were granted parole and they came to meet me. I confronted him with various allegations received against him and his party. Then he assured me that he and his party are always

loyal and would cooperate with Government for development of the Mizo district. I asked him to put everything in black and white which he did. Sir, his original letter is here and I am reading out a copy of his original letter. Sir, this is dated the 14th February, 1964.

"My dear Chief Minister, -

We are very grateful to you for having given Pu Lalnunmawia, Vice-President of the Mizo National Front and me an opportunity of meeting you and explaining the position which has resulted in the unfortunate situation in which we find ourselves. We know, Sir, that on the basis of the reports received by you, action to detain us has been taken. We understand that this action was because we were suspected to have gone over to Pakistan and consorted both with the military and civil administration there. In fact, we fully realise that particularly in the context of relationship between the two countries it would be entirely wrong for any one of the Mizo National Front or otherwise to meet or discuss political matters with the Pakistani authorities. We can ensure you that we did not do so. We have written earlier and we beg to confirm that it was our intention to meet our Mizo brethren in Pakistan on the border, but not in any circumstances to meet or discuss matters with the Pakistani officials. Why we wanted to meet the Mizo brethren in Pakistan was also because we had received reports of some harassment to them and we also wanted in the general line of our thinking of ultimately having a vast Mizo Brotherhood, of taking to our people and finding out their grievances. We realise, Sir, that this intention and desire of ours was not correct. It was also, we now realise, a violation of the Passport Rules and travel restrictions between the two countries. For this technical violation we are sorry and would seek to be excused. We can, however assure you and reiterate that we have not met or discussed matters with Pakistani military personnel or other officials nor will we ever do so in future.

As our motive may, in the circumstances, have been liable to be misunderstood and considered as activity against the interests of the Indian Union, we wish to state that the programmes and policies of the Mizo National Front are not anti-State and we would not take a course of action which is against the Constitution of India. We hope, Sir, that you will accept this statement and assurance on our behalf and by releasing us from detention, give us the opportunity of playing a constructive role in the development of our beloved Mizo District.

I, Pu Laldenga, had met you on more than one occasion earlier and discussed about development of our District and I hope I could impress upon you that I and my party are very much interested in the development programmes of the Mizo District. We would like to continue this association and co-operation in the cause of development of the Mizo District.

Yours Sincerely"
Sd/- LALDENG, A,
President
Mizo National Front
The 14th February, 1964.
Sd/- LALNUNMAWAI, A,
Vice-President.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA,
Chief Minister, Assam,
Shillong.

Sir, when I received this undertaking and assurances they were released.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, on a point of information. Whether this was sent by post or given personally?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): This was delivered to me personally by Shri Laldenga. A question may be raised why other actions were not taken instead of taking this line?

Sir, the question is that what are the other actions—other actions may be arrest, detention, police operation and all that. For that purpose hon. Member might know that the area of Mizo district is 8,000 square miles and is thinly populated and even if we want to take such action we would require a big force to do so. Besides that, the action of this nature if initiated from our side would have given a handle to the M.N.F. and the Mizo population to blame the Government for initiating violence in that district. In this connection, Sir, I would like to recall that the period through which we have just passed through was not an easy time. There was the conflict with China and then there was the war with Pakistan and internal peace was very necessary. The action which the Mizo National Front is now taking in spite of such a letter from the persons no less than the President and the Vice-President of the Mizo National Front is nothing but complete betrayal; they are betraying not only the Government but I say the Mizo people (*Applause*). The M.N.F., its leaders, are all betrayers and betrayers will have to be dealt with in appropriate manner (*Applause*). They started violence and the violence has to be quelled if necessary, by calling out the Army and we have done so in the interest of the Mizo people, in the interest of Assam and in the interest of the whole country; and what it means, it means. We have asked the Army to stop the violence and they will do it, no doubt (*Applause*). Sir, it is our duty to face a situation, whether it is a situation created by Pakistan or by China, or now by the Mizo National Front; is our duty. We have faced situations in the past and we will face the situation now and we will face situations in the future also.

A question has been raised as to whether Government had any information about these activities. We had information and our information was that the Mizo National Famine Front was converted into the Mizo National Front from a social organisation to a political organisation with the object of having an Independent Mizo State of the Mizo people living in the Mizo district and the contiguous areas. We had also information that volunteer training was going on. We had also information that they brought some arms from Pakistan. But in order to deal with a situation like this, as I said, one has to take steps at the appropriate time. It is true that we did not anticipate these foolish actions will be started by the Mizo National Front on the 28th February midnight. I must say frankly that we did not anticipate it.

I would now attempt to reply to the points raised by the hon. Members in this debate. Sir, whether our policy is strong or weak, cannot be judged from statements alone. The hon. Members criticized me even in this debate that the Chief Minister has made firm statements but action was inadequate. Therefore, Sir, I would like to inform the House that our policy is neither weak nor strong, our policy is a reasonable policy. What is that policy? The policy of this Government towards the people whether

of the hills or of the plains is one of respect. We are respecters of freedom and democracy. The hon. Members have mentioned about the use of D. I. Rules. Let them collect information from the Government of India and let them compare to what extent this Government exercise the D. I. Rules. We are believer in Democracy and we have made the least use of D. I. Rules.

Hon. Member Shri Dulal Chandra Barua has said that the Chief Minister is a good man and he helps the Mizos. I do. It is my duty. When in 1959 the Mizo students living in Shillong could not get remittance from their homes and were not getting food, it became my duty, not necessarily as the Chief Minister, but as a human being, as a man having a family to see that these boys and girls living hundred miles away from their home do not starve. I did help them, I fed them at my home and I helped financially from Government funds and at times from my own pocket. By doing so I do not think I have done anything wrong.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Sir, what I meant was that they exploited the goodness of the hon. Chief Minister.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD GHALIHA : Sir, I do not believe that goodness can be exploited and goodness always brings good results. The hon. Member has mentioned some of the questions and replies. His question was not about the Mizo National Front but it was in respect of the Mizo Union.

I am referring to page 231 Vol. I No. 7 of the 2nd March, 1965. This is what I have replied: "Now a days not only this demand is made but there are various demands also on various subjects. But every demand has its own implication, not necessarily the Mizo demand; in a democracy there are various demands from various people on various matters but as I have said, every demand has its own implications."

The hon. Member has raised one question about boycotting the Pataskar Commission by Mizo Union. When the Mizo District Council closed their offices to boycott the Pataskar Commission what action was taken against the District Council? I would refer the Hon'ble Member to the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution. He will see that very little power is there for the Government to take action against a District Council. In order to take any action against the District Council we cannot do it without first appointing a Commission. We do not think that this is a fit case for appointing a Commission. When the Pataskar Commission itself was examining the question of working of the District Councils, Sir, I must say in fairness to the Members of the Opposition that they have been drawing the attention of the Government to this situation in the Mizo District from time to time, and, I have also stated before the line of working which the Government thought fit to pursue. The Hon'ble Member stated that one Deputy Commissioner misguided the Government. Sir, this is a view which may be shared by some other people also, but so far as Government is concerned we do not think that any Deputy Commissioner had at any time misguided the Government. They have given their best advice, and, it was up to the Government to take its own decision. Therefore, I do not blame any

Deputy Commissioner for whatever has happened in the Mizo District, but for that I take the full responsibility. The Hon'ble Member mentioned that Mizo National Front Members of Legislative Assembly are the best friends of the Chief Minister. Sir, I suppose I am the most abused man by the Hon'ble Member Shri Dulal Chandra Barua, at least in this House. Whatever may be his behaviour towards me in this House, can he tell me on any occasion when he visited me in my house or in my office whether he found—did he find courtesy wanting in me towards him? Sir, I feel that as the Chief Minister or the Leader of the House it becomes my duty to deal with every Member particularly the Members of the Opposition respectfully. That is what I am doing. If you call it friendship, well, you can call so; but I can tell you that I have no friend as such anywhere. Therefore, I would say that true, the Mizo National Front Members of Legislature when they come to me with problems I try to solve them. I think it is my duty to extend courtesy and where possible to offer them a cup of tea. The hon. Member has given some warnings about possible illegal work of the Mizo National Front in the capital itself and elsewhere and I fully agree with him that in view of the present development we have to be careful at every level.

Sir, hon. Member Shri Tarapada Bhattacharjee read out one report about some arrest at Hailakandi. The information which I have got just now from the S.D.O. Hailakandi reads: "The Katlichera Police arrested some Mizos under D.I. Rules on suspicion on the 3rd evening. No P.W.D. S.D.O's jeep was involved. A taxi from Silchar was apparently used". This is the information which I got just now. Sir, a question has been raised why Mizo National Front had not been declared an illegal organisation? Sir, in absence of legal provision, in absence of any provision of law no organisation can be declared illegal. The Hon'ble Members may be aware that the particular section of the law under which organisations were used to be declared illegal was made *ultra vires* of the Constitution by the Supreme Court. Therefore, after examining when we found that there is no legal provisions, we have requested the Government of India to make suitable provision.

The Hon'ble Member, Capt. Williamson Sangma, has raised some questions about the problems of the Hills. Sir, we are quite seized of the problems. The difficulty is that there are problems not only in the Hills, there are problems in the plains as well. Therefore, I suppose we should try to work together to find a solution to these problems. I fully agree with him that the problems should not be allowed to drag on. Because of the very nature of the problems it takes time, and these are taking time. But I can assure all that they will never find us wanting in accepting any reasonable solution which would be ultimately good for the whole country. He mentioned about taking up additional programmes in the Mizo Hills. Additional programmes for Mizo District were taken up on merit of the district. The hon'ble Members know that because of the backlog of development, comparatively the problems of that district were much more than elsewhere. That is why some efforts were made to take some special programmes and, now of course, we are trying to take up programmes for under-developed Hill areas as a whole.

Hon. Member Shriman Prafulla Goswami has mentioned that it is not by development programmes alone that we solve the problem, it is necessary to bring awakening, political and social, that the various problems that we see to-day could be solved. Sir, I am quite inclined to agree with him. Although we live very close to each other yet we know very little about each other and that gives rise to various suspicion and mis-understanding. The hon. Members have criticised me for saying at one time in 1964 or so that the law and order situation in Mizo Hills was excellent. It is true. At that time the law and order situation in Mizo Hills was excellent. If you look at the crime figure, you will find that it was really excellent. But that does not mean that the political problems were not there.

Sir, about Naga Peace Mission various people hold various views. But I would request the hon. Members to look at it and examine this question from one point of view. Sir, you all know that the people of Nagaland have been suffering from disturbances for a pretty long time. When the Nagaland people came forward and asked a man of a neighbouring State to help them in their peace efforts and if such request had been refused then I believe, Sir, that refusal would have been taken not as a refusal of Bimala Chaliha but of the people of Assam as a whole. If I have joined the Nagaland Peace Mission, it is not for any other purpose or personal ambition but as a duty to the people of Nagaland.

Shri Pohshna has mentioned about relief for the loyal people in that area. Sir, this is a time when we have to restore law and order first and that work is going on. Although it is difficult for me to give a precise date by which the law and order will be restored in that district I can certainly hope that it will be a question of days. Sir, I would like to repeat that the Mizo Hills situation of to-day is the result of betrayal. Let the Mizo people, the people of India and the people of the world know that the Mizo National Front leaders are betrayers.

Sir, the hon. Members have mentioned that because of this situation I should resign. I would give due weight to this remark but at the same time there are other views also and whatever decision will be taken, it will be taken according to my conscience. I am sorry that these disturbances have taken place.

With these few words, I conclude my speech.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Sir, we have heard attentively the statement given by the hon. Chief Minister in reply to the debates. I hope the promise he has made on the floor of the House will be kept in view by maintaining law and order in the Mizo Hills, and by doing so he will show an example to others. He has stated that the Mizo National Front Leaders have betrayed. The betrayers of the country should not be allowed to escape. With these few observations I would request the

Chief Minister again to rescue those people who are held up there and made captives, specially those families of that particular area who are considered to be the topmost enemies. I would request the Chief Minister to make special arrangement to bring those people from that area to a safer place.

Thank you, Sir.

Adjournment

The Assembly then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Thursday, the 10th March, 1966.

Shillong,

The 15th July 1966.

R. C. CHAUDHURI,

Secretary,

Assam Legislative Assembly.