

CONTENTS
BUDGET SESSION

Volume—II

No. 1

Dated, the 5th June 1972

	Page
1. Questions And Answers	1—33
2. Adjournment Motion	33—36
3. Calling Attention	36—39
4. Announcement by the Speaker —Panel of Chairman	—40
5. Report of the Committee on Estimates and the Committee on the Petition (Point of order)	40—42
6. Re : Members' Contact with the Ministers	42—43
7. Presentation of the Budget for the year 1972-73	43—107
8. Obituary References	103—110
9. Adjournment.	—110

the

DEBATES OF THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1972

Monday, June 5, 1972

The House met at ten of the Clock in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong with Mr. Speaker in the Chair.

STARRED
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(To which oral replies were given)

Re : Omission in the voters' list

Sreemati Renuka Devi Barkataki asked :

*1. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) What are the reasons for omitting a huge number of voters from the voters' list in the last Assembly election?

(b) Whether Government have taken any steps to include those voters whose names were omitted from the list?

Shri Sarat Chandra Sinha (Chief Minister) replied :

(a)—There was no large scale omission of names from the Electoral Rolls. This will be evident from the fact that in the electoral rolls prepared in 1970 for use in the last General Elections to the Lok Sabha the total electorates in the State (excluding Meghalaya and Mizoram) was 5701805 whereas the figure for the same area stood at 629,000 in the electoral rolls used in the last General Elections to the Assam Legislative Assembly. Thus there was an appreciable increase of about 10 percent voters as compared to 1970. However, there might be some omission here and there due partly to inadvertence and partly to

lack of consciousness and timely action on the part of the general public as well as the Political Parties to bring such cases to the notice of the Electoral Registration Officers concerned.

(b)—Section 23 of the Representation of the people Act, 1950, provides that any eligible person whose name is not included in the electoral rolls of an assembly constituency and who desires to have his name so included in the electoral rolls may apply to the Electoral Registration Officer of that constituency at any time for such inclusion in the form and in the manner prescribed under Rule 26 of the Registration of Electors' Rules, 1960. In the alternative the hon'ble Member may kindly furnish the particulars of the persons whose names are alleged to have been omitted from the electoral rolls for necessary action by the Government at the time of the next revision of electoral rolls which will be undertaken in accordance with the direction of the Election Commission of India.

Shreemati Renuka Devi Barkataki : Sir, the Chief Minister has stated that there was a significant increase in the voters list. According to the Chief Minister the increase is about 10 percent voters as compared to 1970. But according to the statistical figure the increase is about 12 percent and that too was due to the inclusion of new adults which is about 20 to 21 percent.. But what we find from our experience that a huge number of voters was omitted from the voters list.

Shri Sarat Chandra Sinha (Chief Minister) : What is the question, Sir ?

Mr. Speaker : What is the question. Mrs. Barkataki ?

Sreemati Renuka Devi Barkataki : Sir, I am coming to that. In a democratic country every adult has a constitutional right of voting. But we find a huge number of voters has been omitted from the list. In the last general election where a huge number of voters had been deprived from their constitutional right, may I know whether the Government feel that the last election was not a fair election ?

Shri Sarat Chandra Sinha (Chief Minister) : Sir, I do not agree with the Hon'ble Member that the last general election was very much fair and proper.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua : Sir, the Chief Minister has stated that if any case has been brought to the notice of the Government whose name is not included in the electoral rolls, the Government would take proper action. May I know, sir, what steps Government have taken in this regard ?

Shri Sarat Chandra Sinha (Chief Minister) : Sir, I have stated as soon as particular case has been brought to the notice of the Government the Government will take necessary action.

Sreemati Renuka Devi Barkataki : Sir, I think other members will also agree to the fact that a huge number of voters had been deprived during the last general election. Sir, the Mid-term-poll was conducted one year ahead to the general election of the Legislative Assemblies. If there was any mistake in the list of voters, the department could have rectified it within the one year as the general election of the Legislative Assembly took place after one year of the Mid-term-poll. Why there was such anomaly in the

voter list and such negligence on the part of the departmental officers? Whether the Govt. have taken any action against those officers who are responsible for this?

Shri Sarat Chandra Sinha (Chief Minister): Sir, in order to make the electoral rolls perfect I would seek cooperation from all political parties including those who are also interested in it.

Sreemati Renuka Devi Barkataki: Sir, may I know, what is the remedy when the names of persons of several villages have been omitted from the electoral rolls? Sir, now the Chief Minister is seeking cooperation from all the political parties when the names of voters have already been omitted. Sir, I want to know what is the remedy?

Shri Sarat Chandra Sinha (Chief Minister): Sir, I have stated already when any such case will be brought to the notice, Government will take necessary step.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua: Sir, may I know, whether Government have received any memorandum from the public of Dibrugarh that a huge number of voters had been omitted from the list? If it is so, what steps have been taken?

Shri Sarat Chandra Sinha (Chief Minister): Sir, this is a new question.

Shri Prabin Kumar Choudhury: Sir, I understand about 20 percent voters had been omitted from the list of voters in my constituency.

Shri Sarat Chandra Sinha (Chief Minister): Sir, this is also new question.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua: Sir, as the Chief Minister has stated that Government would take proper steps when a case has been brought to the notice of the Government May

I know, sir, what steps have so far been taken by the Government ?

Shri Sarat Chandra Sinha (Chief Minister) : Sir, I have already stated, when any case will be brought to the notice of the Government necessary steps will be taken.

**Re : Declaration of Sibsagar Subdivision
as a district**

Shri Promode Chandra Gogoi asked :

2 Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Chief Minister gave an assurance in the House on 25th October, 1971, that the question of declaring the Sibsagar Subdivision as a district is under examination of the Government ?

(b) If so the steps so far taken by the Government in this regard ?

Shri Sarat Chandra Sinha (Chief Minister) replied :

(a)—Yes.

(b)—The matter was examined. Government do not consider it necessary at this stage to declare the Sibsagar Subdivision as a District

Shri Promode Chandra Gogoi : Sir, the then Chief Minister assured in the House that necessary data were being collected by the Government. Whether Government, had already examined all the data and if so what were the data available at that time and on what basis. Govt. came to this conclusion.

Shri Sarat Chandra Sinha (Chief Minister) : Sir, the data are here but it is a long list which will take much time of the House if I am to go through the same, If the

Hon'ble member permits, I may discuss the same with him according to his convenience.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua : This may be placed on the table of the House, sir.

Shri Sarat Chandra Sinha (Chief Minister) : Yes, sir, I shall place the same on the table of the House,

Shri Ataur Rahman : Sir, may I know, whether Government propose to include or declare any other Subdivision as a district ?

Shri Sarat Chandra Sinha (Chief Minister) : Sir, there is no such proposal at present.

Re : Separate Subdivision for Majuli

Shri Mal Chandra Pegu asked :

*3. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Government has received any representation from the Majuli people demanding constitution of a separate Subdivision for Majuli ?

(b) If so, whether Government propose to constitute a separate Subdivision for Majuli ?

Shri Sarat Chandra Sinha (Chief Minister) replied :

(a)—Yes.

(b)—Government do not consider it necessary to constitute a separate Subdivision for Majuli.

Shri Mal Chandra Pegu : Sir, if a separate Subdivision for Majuli is not possible to be constituted by the Government then whether a separate administrative unit could be constituted for Majuli ?

Shri Sarat Chandra Sinha (Chief Minister) : Sir, that will be looked into.

Re: Co-operative Dairy Farming

Shri Dulal Chandra Khound asked :

*4. Will the Minister-in-charge of Co-operation be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that land was allotted in Malow, Jorhat Subdivision for a Co-operative Dairy Farming ?

(b) If so, the area of land allotted ?

(c) Whether the said Co-operative actually exists ?

Shri Gajen Tanti (Minister Co-operation) replied :

(a)—Yes.

(b)—200 Bighas of periodic Patta land.

(c)—Yes.

Shri Dulal Chandra Khound : Will the Minister please state what is number of cattle in the Co-operative and what is the average amount of milk-yield ?

Shri Gajen Tanti : That information is not with me.

Shri Dulal Chandra Khound : Whether it is a fact that the said land has been settled with the landless peasants by the office bearers of the Co-operative at the rate of Rs. 50 per bigha ?

Shri Gajen Tanti : No, Sir, that is not correct.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua : The Minister has said that the farm is in existence. But both the Minister and myself are hailing from the same place and he knows it well that the farm is not in existence. On what basis can the Minister could say that the farm is in existence ?

Shri Gajen Tanti : The farm was reorganised on 4.12.71.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua : Even day before yesterday the farm was not in existence. On what basis the Minister could say that the farm is in existence ?

Shri Gajen Tanti : The farm is in existence. Its membership on 18.5.72 was 68.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua : The land was not utilised for the purpose for which it was given. An enquiry was instituted by then Deputy Commissioner of Sibsagar and he submitted a report to the Government that the farm was not in existence. The land has been settled with some persons, as has been stated by the hon. questioner. May I know on what basis the Minister has given such wrong information to the House ?

Shri Gajen Tanti : The society was dissolved as per notification No. CZF. 62/62, dated 12.2.70, from the Zonal Deputy Register of Co-operative Societies, Jorhat. Against this order there was an appeal to the Government. The appeal was allowed and the Society was reorganised with effect from 4.12.70. Government also directed that steps should be taken to make the society economically viable.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua : Who are the office-bearers who preferred the appeal ?

Shri Gajen Tanti : The names are not available now.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua : This was a specific question and the Minister should have come prepared with all facts. We know that the farm was not in existence and there was a hue and cry on this issue. The Society was, therefore, formally dissolved by Government. At whose instance the society was reorganised and how can the Minister say that it is in existence now when we know that it is not in existence ?

Shri Gajen Tanti : I know the farm is in existence.

Shri Dulal Chandra Khound : Upto yesterday morning I

know there was not a single head of cattle. I want to know for what purpose the land is used.

Shri Gajen Tanti : There are cows, though their number is not with me now.

Shri Gauri Sankar Bhattacharya : It is not a fact that a Co-operative Dairy Farm was registered there at Malow Jorhat but actually there was no co-operative farming. The land which was taken in the name of the farm was sub-let at the rate of Rs. 50 per bigha with some unfortunate poor villagers. Because the farm was not in existence the Co-operative authorities there recommended dissolution of the Society. Thereafter those people who were making business out of this land submitted an appeal to the Government, and Government was pleased to allow the appeal so that those people might continue to make intermediary profits in the name of the Co-operative Farming Society. May I know whether this is a simple fact or not ?

Shri Gajen Tanti : I will examine this.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua : How is this, Sir ? Why should not the Minister have come prepared with all facts and figures ? He is aware of the fate of the Co-operative, we also know it. There is no farm in existence. Only one members of the party in power are enjoying the land in the name of the co-operative.

Shri Promode Chandra Gogoi : The Minister has admitted that the said Co-operative Dairy Farm was dissolved by the Co-operative Department. May I know on what grounds this Society was dissolved by the Department ?

Shri Gajen Tanti : The details are not with me.

Shri Promode Chandra Gogoi : There must be certain grounds on the basis of which this was dissolved.

Shri Gajen Tanti : According to the Deputy Registrar, the Co-operative was not functioning properly and there was a huge loss. So, he dissolved it and then there was an appeal to the Government.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua : The Co-operative is not in existence and if the Minister cannot give the relevant facts and figures to disprove it, it will be a breach of privilege of the House.

Shri Gajen Tanti : I will obtain all the details.

Shri Dulal Chandra Khound : Is the Minister prepared to make a thorough enquiry ?

Shri Gajen Tanti : Yes, Sir.

Shri Premadhar Bora : We want the date of registration of the society, the date of dissolution and the date of re-registration.

Shri Gajen Tanti : The date of registration was 1955, the dissolution date was 12.2.70 and Government again reorganised it. on 4.12.71.

Shri Dulal Chandra Khound : This co-operative society was formed with the expressed motive of supplying milk to Jorhat town. May I know from the Minister whether at any time any amount of milk was supplied to Jorhat town during the whole period ?

Shri Gajen Tanti : Not at present.

Shri Dulal Chandra Khound : At any time during the whole period ?

Shri Gajen Tanti : I will give the details later.

Re : Pending cases in the Lower Courts

Sreemati Renuka Devi Barkataki asked :

*5. Will the Minister-in-charge of Law be pleased to state—

(a) the number of cases pending in the Lower Courts in Assam at present ?

(b) The steps taken by Government for expeditious disposal of such pending cases ?

Shri Syed Ahmed Ali (Minister, Law) replied :

(a)—There are 63,694 pending cases in the Lower Courts in Assam as on 29th February 1972.

(b)—After separation of Judiciary from Executive, there is no scope for the Government to take any step for expeditious disposal of the cases pending in the Courts. The Government will bring this fact to the notice of the High Court for appropriate steps.

Sreemati Renuka Devi Barkataki : This Government have spoken of new schemes, new plans and have given thousands of promises. Now they say that since there has been separation of the Judiciary from the Executive, they are helpless in this matter. But they have a responsibility for expeditious disposal of these cases. May I know what concrete steps, except asking the High Court, Government propose to take for speedy disposal of these cases ?

Shri Syed Ahmed Ali : I have already replied that we will bring this to the notice of the Hon'ble High Court, because under Articles 227 and 235, the superintendence and control of the district courts and the subordinate courts are vested in the High Court.

Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya : The Minister has said that after separation of the judiciary from the executive

Government has become helpless in the matter of speedy disposal of the cases in the lower courts. May I ask the Minister whether Government is helpless in bringing investigating officers as witnesses to the Courts ? Is the Government helpless in bringing the witnesses in G.R. cases to the witness box ? Is the Government helpless in bringing Government doctors who issue medical certificates to the witness box ? Is it not because of these Government officers' absence that the cases prolong for inordinate time ?

Shri Syed Ahmed Ali (Minister Law) : It is admitted that some Government officers do not appear on the date fixed due to some reasons or other. In this respect we can bring this matter to the notice of different departments, viz the Medical Department, Police Department etc. As regards early disposal of the pending cases it is left with the High Court.

Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya : Is the Government in the know that the delay in disposal of cases is mainly due to the delay in prosecution and investigation and this matter was highlighted in the report of the Police Commission that the cases could be disposed of within half the time than they take normally if the investigating and prosecuting officers were more alert, who are under the control of the State Government ?

Shri Syed Ahmad Ali (Minister, Law) : This might be one of the facts.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua : It seems from our experience that the cases are delayed not because of the separation of judiciary from executive but because of negligence on the part of the Government officers. May I know from the

Minister what are the definite steps so far taken for expeditious disposal of the cases in the lower courts ?

Shri Syed Ahmad Ali (Minister, Law) : I have already replied this in reply to a question put by Mr. Bhattacharyya. We will bring this to the notice of different departments so that the officers may appear on the fixed dates.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua : Are we to understand from the statement given by the Minister that the delay is caused not for the separation of judiciary from executive but because of the negligence on the part of the Government officers ?

Shri Syed Ahmad Ali (Minister, Law) : That may be one of the reasons. But it is not the only reason.

Shrimati Renuka Dev Barkataki : Is it also a fact that the delay is caused due to frequent transfer of Magistrates from one Court to another ?

Shri Syed Ahmad Ali (Minister, Law) : That is also done by the High Court.

Shri Mal Chandra Pegu : What is the total number of cases pending with the Executive Magistrates, who are under the control of the Government ?

Shri Syed Ahmad Ali (Minister, Law) : All cases are being dealt with by the Judicial Magistrates and the Munsiffs after the separation and some other miscellaneous cases are done by the Executive Magistrates. I am concerned here with the cases which are lying pending with the Judicial Magistrates, District Judges and the Assistant Judges.

Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya : If the cases pending with the Executive Magistrates are taken into consideration the number will be much more ?

Shri Syed Ahmad Ali (Minister, Law) : Yes.

Re : Term of Anchalik Panchayats, Gaon Panchayats and Mohkuma Parishad

Shri Probin Kumar Choudhury asked :

*6. Will the Minister-in-charge of Panchayat be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the term of Anchalik Panchayat, Gaon Panchayat, and Mohkuma Parishad is over ?

(b) If so, when do the Government propose to hold the election ?

Shri Syed Ahmed Ali (Minister, Panchayat and Community Development) replied :

6. (a)—Yes, the term of present Gaon Panchayats, Anchalik Panchayats and Mohkuma Parishads is due to expire on different dates during this year.

(b)—As the introduction of a new Panchayat bill is under active consideration, Government do not propose to hold the elections now and the term of these bodies has been extended by one year from the date of expiry or till the bill is passed by the Assembly and enforced whichever is earlier.

Shri Biswanath Upadhyaya : In view of the assurance given by the Government to extend the Panchayat Act to the Tea garden areas do the Government propose to do it now ?

Shri Syed Ahmad Ali (Minister) : This is under examination.

Shri Prabin Kumar Chaudhury : Do the Government propose to abolish the Mahakuma Parishads ?

Shri Syed Ahmad Ali (Minister) : Off hand I cannot say that. In the new Bill which will be introduced in the Assembly what will be its character and shape it is very difficult to say now.

Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya : During the last Assembly Session, Government had brought a Bill and the Government wanted to pass that Bill in that session itself. Then there was a suggestion in this House that the Bill should be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon. I think, Government has received opinions from various sections of the public. In view of this, do the Government not feel that a Bill should be piloted in this very session and get it through ?

Shri Syed Ahmad Ali (Minister) : As I have said a bill will be introduced in this very session. Unfortunately, the Bill which was introduced in the last session lapsed due to dissolution of the House.

Shri Prabin Kumar Chaudhury : I want to know from the Chief Minister whether it is proposed to delegate more power to the Mahkuma Parishads. If so, why it is not given to the Mahkuma Parishads now ?

Shri Sarat Chandra Sinha (Chief Minister) : It is under consideration.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua : May I know whether the suggestions received from various quarters have been examined ?

Shri Syed Ahmad Ali (Minister) : These are being examined.

Re : News letter on scarcity of Cement
in Assam

Sreemati Renuka Devi Barkataki asked :

*7. Will the Minister-in-charge of Supply be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to news letter written by the Trade Adviser, Assam Government Calcutta in Assam Tribune in connection with cement scarcity and allotment of Railway wagon ?

(b) If so, what action Government has taken in the matters raised by the Trade Adviser ?

Shri Mahitosh Purkayastha (Minister, Supply) replied :

(a)—The attention of Government has been drawn to a letter to the Editor from the Trade Adviser and Director of Movements, Government of Assam, Calcutta as published in the 10th April issue of the Assam Tribune.

(b)—The matter of movement of cement in larger quantities into Assam has been taken up with Government of India at the highest level with the result that 51 block-rakes of cement have been allocated to the State for the month of May, 1972.

Shrimati Renuka Devi Barkataki : The Minister, in his reply has said that 51 block-rakes have been allotted to the State. May I know how many wagons have been received by now ?

Shri Mohitosh Purkayastha, (Minister) : According to the latest report about 50% of the block-rakes have moved. In order to see that the rest of the block-rakes are expedited I have sent the Secretary, Supply to Delhi to take up the matter with the Government of India.

Shrimati Renuka Devi Barkataki : Government has asked the Railway authority to lift the consumer goods viz : foodstuff, medicines, cement etc. May I know whether

the Government has recommended any priority ? If so, what is the list of priority ?

Shri Mohitosh Purkayastha (Minister) : We have given first priority to foodstuff and second priority to cement.

শ্রীমহেন্দ্ৰ বৰুৱা : ইমানেই যদি চৰকাৰৰ চিমেণ্ট প্ৰভাৱ হৈছে, তেন্তে বস্তাত ২২ টকা দৰত বজাৰত কেনেকৈ কিনিবলৈ পায় ?

শ্রীমহীতোষ পুৰকায়স্থ (মন্ত্ৰী) : এইটো অনুসন্ধান কৰি আছে আৰু কোনোবাই তেনে খবৰ দিলে তাৰ বিহিত ব্যৱস্থা লোৱা হ'ব।

শ্রীদুলাল চন্দ্ৰ বৰুৱা : অনুসন্ধান যোগান বিভাগৰ বিষয়ই কৰিছে নেকি ?

শ্রীমহীতোষ পুৰকায়স্থ (মন্ত্ৰী) : হয় যোগান বিভাগৰ বিষয়ই কৰি আছে আৰু ময়ো ব্যক্তিগত ভাৱে অনুসন্ধান কৰিছোঁ।

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua : Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has mentioned about the quantity of commodities. My question is-the Government might have asked for priority of wag-
ons, If so, what are the numbers of wageons the State
Government has received so far from the railway authority ?

Shri Mohitosh Purkayasthya (Minister) : We have received
about 50%. 51 block-rakes have been allocated for the
State Government.

Shrimati Renuka Devi Barkataky : Whether, the Govern-
ment of Assam is satisfied with their requirement of wagons
and placing of wagons by the Government of India.

Shri Mohitosh Purkayasthya (Minister) : We are not satisfied.
That we have deputed our Secretary, Supply to Delhi for the
purpose, and prior to his visit, I have personally visited
Delhi and have taken up the matter with the Minister for
Industrial Development and also with the Railway Minister.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua : What reply they gave ?

Shri Mohitosh Purkayasthya (Minister) : They assured us that
our full requirements would be met. I can assure you

that so far as the cement is concerned, there would be no scarcity in Assam.

Shri Probin Kumar Choudhury : What is the price of cement in the open market.

Shri Mohitosh Purkayasthya (Minister) : The price of cement is controlled by the Government and its price is Rs. 12.62p

Shri Probin Kumar Choudhuri : But the cement is sold at Rs. 20/- per bag.

Shri Mohitosh Purkayasthya (Minister) : That is black-market price and I hope the hon. Member will not encourage this.

Sreemati Renuka Devi Barkataki : Sir, the contents of the letter published in the Paper show the sad state of affairs in the government and it also shows as to why they have failed to procure wagons.

Shri Mohitosh Purkayasthya (Minister) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this letter relates to the period from January, February and March. After March, the situation has considerably improved, I personally visited Delhi twice and I have discussed this matter with the Industrial Development Minister as well as with the Railway Minister, and things have improved to a great extent, If not to our entire expectation ; but it has definitely improved since then. Our Chief Minister has also written a letter to the government of India and at the official level, our Supply Secretary has also gone to Delhi for the purpose. The situation has improved.

Shri Promode Chandra Gogoi : The Hon. Minister has said that during his visit to Delhi, the Government of India assured to give more cement for Assam ; may I know whether that has been implemented by the Government of India till now ?

Shri Mohitosh Purkayasthya (Minister): That assurance is being implemented ; all the wagons could not be moved.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua: My question is the letter published in the Paper mentions about the priority of wagons and therefore commodities were to be brought to the State on priority basis. If the wagons are not allowed to move, what is the meaning of this kind of assurance ?

Shri Mohitosh Purkayasthya (Minister) : Sir, I have already said that since April, the situation has improved but not to our expectation. We are persuing this matter vigorously and we hope in the next 3 months there will be no scarcity of cements in Assam.

Re: **Clinical Bus for the Veterinary College Gauhati**

Shri Mal Chandra Pegu asked :

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

(a) Whether a clinical bus has been placed at the disposal of the Veterinary College at Gauhati ?

(b) If so, for what purpose ?

Shri Upendra Das (Minister, Agriculture) replied :

(a)—Yes.

(b)—For movement of students to the rural areas for attending various clinical cases and for study under field conditions.

Shri Mal Chandra Pegu: Do not the Government know that this bus is utilised by the Principal for marketing etc ?

Shri Upendra Das (Minister) : Sir, the bus is utilised for the movement of students to the rural areas for attending various clinical cases and for going to the villages for doing

investigation and other official purposes and also to examine the cattles. The vehicles is not by the Principal for his own purpose ; it is utilised for the students only.

Shri Mal Chandra Pegu : Will the Minister enquire as to how this bus is utilised by the Principal ?

Shri Upendra Das (Minister) : I will enquire into the matter.

বিঃ মোজাদাৰ সকলৰ বাজনীতিত অংশ গ্ৰহণ

শ্ৰীপিটসিং কোঁৱৰে সুধিছে :

*৯। মাননীয় ৰাজহ মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে অহুগ্ৰহ কৰি জনাবনে—

(ক) মোজাদাৰ সকলে কোনো দলীয় বাজনীতিত সক্ৰিয়ভাবে অংশ গ্ৰহণ কৰিব পাৰে নে নোৱাৰে ?

(খ) তেওঁলোকৰ কাৰ্য্যসমূহ কোন বিধিৰ দ্বাৰা পৰিচালিত হয়।

ৰাজহ মন্ত্ৰী শ্ৰীপৰমানন্দ গগৈয়ে উত্তৰ দিছে :

(ক)—মোজাদাৰ সকলে বাজনীতিত অংশ গ্ৰহণ কৰিব পাৰে।

(খ)—তেওঁলোকৰ কাৰ্য্যসমূহ অসম ভূমি ৰাজহ নিয়মাৱলী কাৰ্য্যকৰী নিৰ্দেশৰ দ্বাৰা পৰিচালিত হয়।

শ্ৰীপিটসিং কোঁৱৰ : মোজাদাৰ সকল বিধানসভাৰ প্ৰতিনিধিৰ বাবে উঠিব পাৰে নে নোৱাৰে ?

শ্ৰীপৰমানন্দ গগৈ : সেইটোত নোৱাৰে।

শ্ৰীপিটসিং কোঁৱৰ : তেন্তে কেনেকুৱা বাজনীতি কৰিব পাৰে জনাবনে ?

শ্ৰীপৰমানন্দ গগৈ : বিধান সভাৰ সদস্য হোৱাই কেৱল বাজনীতি কৰা বুলি মই নাভাবো। অন্য ভাৱে সাধাৰণ সদস্য আদিও বাজনীতিৰ ভিতৰত পৰে।

শ্ৰীপিটসিং কোঁৱৰ : মোজাদাৰ সকল চৰকাৰী চাকৰিয়াল বুলি ভবা হয়নে নহয় ?

শ্ৰীপৰমানন্দ গগৈ : হয়।

শ্ৰীপ্ৰেমধৰ বৰা : পঞ্চায়তৰ সভাপতি টাউন কমিটিৰ চেয়াৰমেন হব পাৰেনে নোৱাৰে ?

শ্ৰীপৰমানন্দ গগৈ : মোজাদাৰ সকল নিয়োগ কৰা নিৰ্দেশাৱলী আছে। তাত আছে

A mouzadar can own a tea garden and other landed

properties.....and may also engage in trade or politics but if one of his existing profession interferes with the primary duties of mouzadar, the Deputy Commissioner shall consider in consultations with the Commission whether the mouza should be retained in his office.

শ্রীপিটসিং কোঁৱৰ : মৌজাদাৰ সকলে ধন সংগ্ৰহ কৰি অফিচাৰৰ বিৰুদ্ধে অভিযোগ লৈ সজাতি দল আনিব পাৰেনে নোৱাৰে ?

শ্রীপৰমানন্দ গগৈ : ৰাজনীতিত সাধাৰণতে আনিব পাৰে বুলি কব পাৰে।

শ্রীতুলাল চন্দ্ৰ বৰুৱা : চৰকাৰৰ ৰিমোনাৰেচন লৈ সক্ৰিয় ৰাজনীতিত অংশ গ্ৰহণ কৰিব নোৱাৰে মৌজাদাৰ সকল সেই কেটেগ'ৰিত পৰে। গতিকে কেনেকৈ ৰাজনীতিত কৰিব পাৰে ?

শ্রীপৰমানন্দ গগৈ : চৰকাৰী চাকৰীয়া সকলৰ যি বিধি আছে সেই মতে মৌজাদাৰ সকল সম্পূৰ্ণ ভাবে সেইটোৰ ভিতৰত নপৰে। সেই কাৰণে মৌজাদাৰ সকল নিৰ্বাচিত হৈ ৰাজনীতিত অংশ গ্ৰহণ কৰিব নোৱাৰে। সাধাৰণ ভাবে ৰাজনীতিত কৰাত বাধা নাই।

শ্রীগোবী শংকৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য : চৰকাৰে জানেনে নাজানে যে, যিটো বিধি তেখেতে শিটি দিছে সেই বিধিৰ সন্দৰ্ভত মৌজাদাৰ সকল চৰকাৰী চাকৰীয়া অৰ্থাৎ 'পাবলিক চাৰভেণ্ট' হয়নে নহয় ? এই বিষয়ে হাইকোৰ্টত এটা কেচ হৈছিল আৰু এই কেচ 'চুপ্ৰিম কৰ্ট' পৰ্য্যন্ত গৈছিল। আৰু এইটোৱেই সিদ্ধান্ত হৈছে যে অসমৰ মৌজাদাৰ সকল 'পাবলিক চাৰভেণ্ট' অৰ্থাৎ চৰকাৰী চাকৰীয়া। গতিকে অইন চৰকাৰী চাকৰীয়াৰ তুলনাত মৌজাদাৰ সকলে কিবা শিথিল ব্যৱস্থা পাইছেনেকি ?

শ্রীপৰমানন্দ গগৈ (মন্ত্ৰী) : মৌজাদাৰ সকলক চাকৰীয়া বুলি ভাবিবৰ থল আছে। কিন্তু আচলতে তেওঁলোকে দৰমহা নাপায়।

শ্রীগোবী শংকৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য : চুপ্ৰিম কৰ্টত সিদ্ধান্ত হৈছে যে, অসমৰ মৌজাদাৰ সকল 'পাবলিক চাৰভেণ্ট'। যদি পাবলিক চাৰভেণ্ট হয় তেনেহলে তেওঁলোকক ৰাজনীতিত অংশ গ্ৰহণ কৰাৰ বাহিৰেও অন্য কিবা কিবি কৰিবৰ বাবে অধিকাৰ দিয়া হৈছেনেকি ?

শ্রীপৰমানন্দ গগৈ (মন্ত্ৰী) : নাই। কিন্তু তেওঁলোকক পোনপটিয়া ভাবে বানচ দিয়া নহয়।

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua : They are termed as Government servants, how Government can define it otherwise ?

শ্রীপৰমানন্দ গগৈ (মন্ত্ৰী) : এইটো মই খবৰ কৰি চাব লাগিব। যদি আমাৰ কাৰ্য্যবিধি পৰিবৰ্তন কৰিব লগীয়া হয়, তেতিয়াহলে আইন সংশোধন কৰিব লাগিব। শ্ৰীগোবী শংকৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য : মৌজাদাৰ সকলৰ পক্ষৰ পৰা কোৱা হৈছে যে, আমি দৰমহা নাপাও। আমি কেৱল কমিচনহে পাও। চৰকাৰৰ ফলৰ পৰা কোৱা হৈছে যে, তেওঁলোকক 'এপইনমেণ্ট' দিয়া হয় আৰু ডি, চিয়ে তেওঁলোকক 'বিমোভ' কৰিব পাৰে। আৰু তেওঁলোকে কিছুমান বিধিৰ মাজত থাকিব লাগে। ইয়াৰ বাহিৰেও তেওঁলোকে ৰাজহ বিভাগৰ কিছু কাম কৰিব পাৰে। তেওঁলোক অকল চৰকাৰৰ খাজনা আদায় কৰা এজেন্ট নহয়, চৰকাৰৰ অফিচাৰো। হাইকৰ্ট আৰু চুপ্ৰিম কৰ্টৰ দিয়াৰ পাছত মৌজাদাৰ সকলে ৰাজ নীতিত অংশ গ্ৰহণ কৰিলে চৰকাৰৰ অন্যান্য চাকৰিয়ালৰ মাজত বৈশম্যৰ সৃষ্টি হ'নে নাই ?

শ্রীপৰমানন্দ গগৈ (মন্ত্ৰী) : এই সন্দৰ্ভত এইটো পৰীক্ষা কৰি চাব লাগিব আৰু প্ৰয়োজন হলে আইন সাল সলনি কৰিব লাগিব।

শ্ৰীদুলাল চন্দ্ৰ বৰুৱা : এইটো চুপ্ৰিম কৰ্টৰ বায়ৰ কথা। বিষয়া সকলে নাজানে নেকি ?

শ্রীপৰমানন্দ গগৈ (মন্ত্ৰী) : বিষয়া সকলে নিশ্চয় জানে। বৰ্তমানৰ কাৰ্য্যৱলী কিছুমান আইন মতে পৰিচালিত হয়। হাইকৰ্টে কলিং দিয়াৰ পিছত আমাৰ চৰকাৰে কাৰণ দৰ্শাই আপত্তি কৰিছিল; এই কথাটো মই পঢ়ি দিছো। তাৰ পিছত পৰিবৰ্তন হোৱা নাই। তেওঁলোকে পোনপটীয়া ভাৱে ৰাজনীতি কৰিব নোৱাৰে। তেওঁলোকে ৰাজহ সংগ্ৰহ কৰিব পাৰে।

শ্ৰীৰেভুকা দেৱী বৰকটকী : চুপ্ৰিম কৰ্ট আৰু হাইকৰ্টে দিয়া বায় জনাৰ পিছতো বিষয়া সকলে এই বিষয়ে জনা স্বত্বেও মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে কোৱা মতে এই চৰকাৰে মৌজাদাৰ সকলৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত এই বিধিৰ শিথিল কৰি বখাৰ কাৰণে মৌজাদাৰ সকলক কংগ্ৰেছ চৰকাৰে তেখেত সকলৰ এজেন্ট হিচাবে নিৰ্বাচনত ব্যৱহাৰ কৰিব পাৰে।

শ্রীপৰমানন্দ গগৈ (মন্ত্ৰী) : এইটো কথা সত্য নহয়। হাইকৰ্টে যিটো কলিং দিছে সেই সন্দৰ্ভত আমি আকৌ পৰীক্ষা কৰি চাম।

শ্ৰীদুলাল চন্দ্ৰ বৰুৱা : পাচ বছৰৰ আগতেই কলিং দিছে আৰু সেইটো চৰকাৰৰ বিধিয়ে কভাৰ কৰিছে বুলি ধৰি লৈছে নেকি ?

শ্রীপৰমানন্দ গগৈ (মন্ত্ৰী) : এইটো মতামতৰ কথা। পাচ বা চাৰি বছৰৰ আগতে যি কলিং দিছে সেইটো পুনৰ পৰীক্ষা কৰি চাব লাগিব।

শ্রীসোনেখৰ বৰা : চুপ্ৰিম কৰ্টে কলিং দিয়াৰ পাছতো আমাৰ এনে কোনো মৌজা দাব আছে নেকি যে, যি জনে নিৰ্বাচনত প্ৰাৰ্থী হিচাবে প্ৰতিদ্বন্দিতা কৰিছে নাইবা তেনে কোনো আসন দখল কৰি আছে ?

শ্রীপৰমানন্দ গগৈ (মন্ত্ৰী) : তাৰ সংবাদ মোৰ হাতত নাই। মাননীয় সদস্যই নিৰ্দিষ্ট ভাৱে জনালে মই অনুসন্ধান কৰিব পাৰিম।

শ্রীসোনেখৰ বৰা : ডেবগাৱৰ টাউন কমিটিৰ চেয়াৰমেন সেই ঠাইৰে মৌজাদাৰো। এই কথা মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে জানেনে নাজানে ?

শ্রীপৰমানন্দ গগৈ (মন্ত্ৰী) : এইটো অনুসন্ধান কৰি চাব লাগিব।

শ্রীসোনেখৰ বৰা : অনুসন্ধান কৰি ইয়াৰ কিবা ব্যৱস্থা লবনেকি ?

শ্রীপৰমানন্দ গগৈ (মন্ত্ৰী) : অনুসন্ধান কৰি চাই ইয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা গ্ৰহণ কৰা হ'ব।

শ্রীবদন তালুকদাৰ : নলবাৰীৰ মৌজাদাৰো তাৰ প্ৰাথমিক শিক্ষা বৰ্ডৰ সদস্য সেই কথা মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে জানেনে নাজানে ?

শ্রীপৰমানন্দ গগৈ (মন্ত্ৰী) : মই অনুসন্ধান কৰি চাম।

শ্রীপ্ৰেম বৰা : মই আগতেই এটা কথা উল্লিখাই থৈছো অৱশ্যে সেইটো প্ৰশ্ন সম্পৰ্কিত নহয়। ৰাজহ বিভাগ সংশোধন কৰা কথা উঠিছে। এতিয়া দেখা গৈছে যে, লোক তান্ত্ৰিক ৰাষ্ট্ৰৰ মৌজাদাৰ সকলে অযথা মেল মিটিং পাতি আছে। তাহানিৰ দৰে বংশানুক্ৰমে তেওঁলোকে পদ দখল কৰি থকাত কিবা যুক্তি যুক্ততা আছে নেকি ?

শ্রীপৰমানন্দ গগৈ (মন্ত্ৰী) : আমাৰ এনেকুৱা ধৰণৰ কথা আছে যে, পুতেকে বাপকৰ পদ দখল কৰিব পাৰে।

Re : Election of representative to the Gauhati Municipality

Sree-mati Renuka Devi Barkataki asked :

*10. Will the Minister-in-charge Municipal Administration be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government has taken any step to hold Election of the representative to the Gauhati Municipality ?

(b) If so, when the Election will be held ?

(c) Whether the voter list has been prepared ?

Shri Syed Ahmed Ali (Minister, Municipal Administration) replied :

(a)—No. Because it has been proposed to set up a Municipal Corporation at Gauhati.

(b) & (c)—Do not arise, in view of reply to (a) above.

Shrimati Renuka Devi Barkataki : Sir, there was an One Man Commission appointed by the Chaliha Government. May I know whether that Commission has submitted its reports and what is the financial involvment on that Commission

Shri Syed Ahmed Ali (Minister) : Sir, I could not follow the point.

Mr. Speaker : He wants to know about the One man Commission.

Shri Syed Ahmed Ali (Minister) : If the hon.member give a fresh notice I shall be able to give the details.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua : We want to know whether a Commission was instituted ? If so, what is the financial involvment ? Whether any report has been submitted by the Commission to the Government ?

Shri Syed Ahmed Ali (Minister) : These things are not with me now.

Shrimati Renukadevi Barkataki : Whether the representative are elected or nominated ?

Shri Syed Ahmed Ali (Minister) : They are elected.

Re : Positing D.I. of Schools

Shri Mal Chandra Pegu asked :

*11. Will the Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to state—

(a) The names of the Deputy Inspector of Schools staying in their circles for more than three years ?

(b) Why they were allowed to remain in the same circle for more than three years ?

Shri Harendra Nath Talukdar (Minister, Education) replied :

(a)—The names of the Deputy Inspector of Schools staying in one circle for more than 3 years are given below—

(1) Shri Chakbul Kayung, Deputy Inspector of Schools, Majuli.

(2) Shri D. P. Chakravarty, Deputy Inspector of Schools, Dhubri.

(3) Shri Nagen Ch. Das, Deputy Inspector of Schools, Tinsukia.

(4) Shri R. K. Barpujari, Deputy Inspector of Schools, Golaghat.

(5) Shri Tilak Ch. Das, Deputy Inspector of Schools, Goalpara.

(6) Shri Joshua Rongpi, Deputy Inspector of Schools, Haflong.

(b)—In the interest of public service, they were allowed to remain in same circle for more than 3 years.

Shri Mal Chandra Pegu : How long each of them are there in their respective services ?

Shri Harendranath Talukdar (Minister) : Shri C. Kayung at Majuli from 25.1.65. Shri R. K. Barpujari at Golaghat from 13.3.69, Shri J. Rongpi at Haflong 25.10.65, Shri Tilak Das at Goalpara from 5.11.68, and Shri M.C. Das at Tinsukia from 5.11.69.

Shri Mal Chandra Pegu : What is the special consider-

ation for which they were kept in a place for more than 10 years ?

Shri Harendranath Talukdar (Minister) : It has already been replied in answer to question (b).

Re : Demand made by the State Transport Workers' Union

Srreemati Renuka Devi Barkataki asked :

*12. Will the Minister-in-charge of Transport be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Assam State Transport Workers' Union has demanded to set up an enquiry Committee to go into the alleged corruption in the Assam State Road Transport Corporation ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that the Corporation has incurred huge loss this year ?

(c) If so, whether Government has agreed to set up enquiry Committee to go into the allegations ?

Shri Harendra Nath Talukdar (Minister Transport) replied :

(a)—No such demand has been made to Government by the State Transport Workers' Union.

(b)—Government have no information as the audited balance Sheet and the profit and loss account of the Corporation for this year has not yet been finalised. A net loss of Rs. 1,07,25,801 was, however, sustained by the Assam State Road Transport undertaking in the year 1969-70.

(c)—The State Government have already ordered an enquiry into activities of the Assam and Meghalaya State Road Transport Corporation.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua : What is the terms of reference ?

Shri Harendranath Talukdar (Minister) : It includes all activities.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua : There must be some terms of reference. We also want to know under what act or provision the Enquiry Committee was constituted ?

Shri Harendra Nath Talukdar (Minister) : Under clause 36 of the Road Transport Organisation Act, 1950.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua ; What are the terms of reference ?

Shri Harendra Nath Talukdar (Minister) : I have already said that it includes all activities.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua : The Minister has said that there was no demand from the employees' side. Is Government aware of the fact that there are two organisations namely State Transport Workers' Union and State Transport Workers' Association and they submitted a memorandum to the Government and adopted a resolution demanding immediate enquiry into the affairs of the Corporation.

Shri Harendranath Talukdar (Minister) : I have already stated here that no such demand has been made by the Workers' Union.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua : At whose instance the Commission was instituted ?

Shri Harendra Nath Talukdar (Minister) : It is Government.

Shri Atul Chandra Saikia : Whether the Commission can make recommendation under the existing terms of reference ?

Shri Harendranath Talukdar (Minister) : Yes sir, when they can submit report they can submit recommendation also.

Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya : The reply given by the Minister require a little clarification. Firstly, the loss which

the Minister has reported is Rs. 1.7 crores/and odd. This loss was incurred not when the Organisation was a Corporation but prior to that when it was a Department of the Government. Section 36 of Corporation Act under which the present Enquiry Commission has been appointed that cannot go into the affairs only of the Corporation. Whether Government has involved any ways means so as to bring in the earlier period also in the purview of the Government and without that probably the Commission is not in a position to give correct and helpful picture to the House and to the Government.

Shre Harendranath Talukdar (Minister) : Sir, I think in courses of the enquiry they will take into account that point also.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua : But they cannot go beyond the frame work of the Corporation that is why I am asking about the terms of reference.

Shri Harendranath Talukdar (Minister) : I have stated that all the activities of the Corporation will be enquired into.

Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya : The Corporation came into being on 31st March, 1971 but the loss occurred earlier to that. Moreover, though the Corporation has stepped into the shoes of the department from the 31st of March, 1970 yet so far as the actions of the Government department is concerned they are not covered under section 36 of the Transport Corporation Act.

Shri Sarat Chandra Sinha (Chief Minister) : Sir, as the hon. Members have referred to the terms and reference etc.

saying whether it covers all the cases or not, we shall look into the matter.

UNDISPOSED STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers of question Nos. 13, 14, 15 & 16 were not called for want of time. However written answers deemed to have been laid on the table as follows)

Re : Employees in the office of the Sibsagar Regional Transport Authority at Jorhat

Shri Mal Chandra Pegu asked :

3. Will the Minister-in-charge of Transport be pleased to state—

(a) How many office Assistants serve in the office of the Sibsagar Regional Transport Authority at Jorhat ?

(b) If so, who are they ?

(c) How long they are in the office of the said Regional Transport Authority ?

(d) Whether their posts are transferable to the other branches of the Deputy Commissioner of Sibsagar District ?

(e) Whether Government propose to hold an enquiry as to the property acquired by these office Assistants in different names during the period of their serving in the above office ?

(f) Whether Government propose to hold an enquiry to ascertain the property acquired by the present District Transport Officer, Jorhat and the present Motor Vehicle Inspector of Jorhat in different names ?

(g) Harendra Nath Talukdar (Minister, Transport, etc.)

ed :
There are 4 (four) Assistants in the office of the Secretary, Regional Transport Authority, Jorhat.

(b)—1. Shri Ashraf Hussain, U.D.A.

2. Shri Kanta Das, L.D.A.

3. Shri B. Kr. Saikia, L.D.A.

4. Shri G. C. Dutta, L.D.A.

(c)—1. Shri Ashraf Hussain, U.D.A., since 1972.

2. Shri Kanta Das, L.D.A., since 1972.

3. Shri B. Kr. Saikia, L.D.A., since 1969.

4. Shri G. C. Dutta, L.D.A., since 1969.

(d)—No.

(e)—Government have no proposal at present to hold such an enquiry.

(f)—Government have no such proposal at present.

Re : Veterinary Sub-Centre at Panbesha

Shri Promode Chandra Gogoi asked :

*14. Will the Minister-in-charge of Veterinary be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Government have decided to establish a Veterinary Sub-Centre at Panbesha in Sibsagar Subdivision which is flood-affected area with high cattle mortality ?

(b) Whether the construction of the said Sub-Centre will begin during this budget session of the Assembly ?

Shri Joy Bhadra Hagjer (Minister, Livestock and Veterinary) replied

(a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

Re : Withdrawal of Motor Accident Claim Cases from District Judges

Shri Dulal Chandra Khound asked :

*15. Will the Minister-in-charge of Transport be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Government has withdrawn the Motor Accident Claim cases from the District Judges?
- (b) The name of the authority who takes up accident claim cases?

Shri Harendra Nath Talukdar (Minister, Transport) replied :

(a)—Yes.

(b)—The Member, Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal, who is also acting as the Presiding Officer, State Transport Appellate Tribunal.

Re: Issue of Fitness Certificates for Vehicles

Shri Mal Chandra Pegu asked :

*16. Will the Minister-in-charge of Transport be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that unless extra remuneration are paid to the D. T. O. and M. V. I. by the owner of the Vehicles fitness certificates are not furnished to the owners of the vehicles?

(b) If so, whether Government propose to conduct an enquiry in this regard?

(c) Whether any other agency other than D. T. O. and the M. V. I. can be entrusted upon to issue fitness certificates to the vehicles?

Shri Harendra Nath Talukdar (Minister, Transport) replied :

(a)—Government have no information.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—There is no provision in the Rules at present.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(To which replies were laid on the table)

Re : মঙ্গলদৈ জেইল

শ্রীলক্ষীকান্ত শইকীয়াই স্মৃতিছে :

১' মাননীয় জেইল বিভাগৰ মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে অনুগ্রহ কৰি জনাবনে—

(ক) চৰকাৰে মঙ্গলদৈ জেইলটো বৰ্ত্তমান ঠাইৰ পৰা স্থানান্তৰ কৰাৰ প্ৰস্তাৱ এটা বিবেচনা কৰিছে নেকি ?

(খ) যদি বিবেচনা কৰিছে কেতিয়া হব ?

(গ) যদি বিবেচনা কৰা নাই, নতুন প্ৰস্তাৱ লবলৈ চৰকাৰে ভাবিছে নেকি ?

শ্রীজয়ভদ্ৰ হাগজৈৰ (জেইল বিভাগৰ মন্ত্রীয়ে) উত্তৰ দিছে :

(ক)—Yes. হয় ।

(খ)—Not decided. এতিয়াও স্থিৰ হোৱা নাই।

(গ)—Does not arise. এই প্ৰশ্ন বুঠে।

Re : Motor Accident Claim Cases

Shri Mal Chandra Pegu asked :

2. Will the Minister, Transport be pleased to state—

(a) Whether there has been public resentment throughout the State for withdrawal of the Motor Accident Claim Cases from the respective District Judges ?

(b) Whether the Government propose to retain the existing arrangement of entrusting all the Motor Accident Claim Cases upon the respective District Judges instead of the same being entrusted upon the One Man Tribunal at Gouhati ?

Shri Harendra Nath Talukdar (Minister-in charge of Transport) replied :

(a)—The Government have received some representations particularly from the Bar Associations complaining against

withdrawal of the Motor Accident Claim Cases from the respective District Judges.

(b)—The matter is under examination.

Adjournment Motion

Shri Promode Chandra Gogoi : Mr. Speaker, Sir, under rule 56 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Assam Legislative Assembly, we beg to move the following motion for the adjournment of the House. This House do now adjourn to discuss the situation arising out of the demonstration in front of the Assembly by the workers, peasant, woman, students and youths of Assam demanding implementation of the peoples' mandate in the election. অধক্ষ্য ডাঙৰীয়া আজি অসমৰ বিভিন্ন ঠাইৰ পৰা হাজাৰতকৈয়ো অধিক প্ৰতিনিধিয়ে যোৱা নিৰ্বাচনৰ আগতে চৰকাৰে দিয়া প্ৰতিশ্ৰুতি বিলাক কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰিবলৈ চৰকাৰৰ ওচৰত দাবী জনাবলৈ আহিছে। আৰু ইতিমধ্যে আমাৰ বিধী মতেও সভা স্থগিত প্ৰস্তাৱ স্থগিত কৰিব পাৰি, প্ৰশ্নমতে আজিৰ ভাৰিখত এটাতকৈ অধিক সভা স্থগিত প্ৰস্তাৱ উত্থাপন কৰা হোৱা নাই। হয়তো যিবিলাক বিষয় লৈ এই সভা স্থগিত প্ৰস্তাৱ উত্থাপন কৰা হৈছে তেনেকুৱা কোনো বিষয়েও আলোচনা হোৱা নাই আৰু সেই কাৰণেই আজি আমাৰ বিধী মতেও এই সভা স্থগিত প্ৰস্তাৱটো সংস্থাপন কৰিব পাৰো। বিশেষকৈ এইটোও আমি জানো যে মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰীয়ে আজি বাজেট উত্থাপন কৰিব সেই কাৰণেই যিবিলাক বিষয় লৈ বিক্ষুব্ধ প্ৰদৰ্শন কৰা হৈছে সেই বিলাক বিষয়ে চৰকাৰে বিবেচনা কৰাৰ কাৰণে আৰু যিবিলাক প্ৰতিশ্ৰুতি নিৰ্বাচনৰ সময়ত দিয়া হৈছিল আৰু যিবিলাক প্ৰতিশ্ৰুতি কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰাৰ কাৰণে যোৱা নিৰ্বাচনত বাইজৰ মতামত প্ৰকাশ কৰিছিল সেইবিলাক সম্পৰ্কে কাৰ্য্যকৰী ব্যৱস্থা কৰিবলৈ চৰকাৰক আমি দাবী কৰিছো আৰু আশা কৰিছো যেন মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই চৰকাৰৰ প্ৰতিনিধি হিচাবে অসমৰ বিভিন্ন ঠাইৰ পৰা অহা প্ৰতিনিধি সকলৰ স্মাৰক পত্ৰ গ্ৰহণ কৰিব আৰু গোটেই বিষয়টো বিশেষকৈ যিবিলাক বিষয় লৈ উত্থাপন কৰা হৈছে সেইবিলাক বিষয় আলোচনা কৰাৰ কাৰণে এটা সভা স্থগিত প্ৰস্তাৱ গ্ৰহণ কৰে।

শ্রীকেহোবাম হাজৰীকা : অধ্যক্ষ ডাঙৰীয়া এই সভা স্থগিত প্রস্তাৱ সংক্ৰান্তত মইও দুঘণ্টা মান কব বিচাৰিছোঁ। নিৰ্বাচনৰ আগতে জনসাধাৰণৰ আগত যিবিলাক প্ৰতিশ্ৰুতি ডাঙি থকা হৈছিল আৰু জনসাধাৰণৰ সেই প্ৰতিশ্ৰুতি কাৰ্য্যকৰী।

Mr Speaker : Motion টোৰ admisibility ৰ বিষয়ে কব।

শ্রীকেহোবাম হাজৰীকা : আৰু সেই প্ৰতিশ্ৰুতি বিলাক কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰিব কাৰণে চৰকাৰে যিবিলাক কাৰ্য্য পন্থা ইতিমধ্যে হাতত লৈছে সেই বিলাকৰ লগত এই প্ৰতিশ্ৰুতি বিলাকৰ কিবা সামঞ্জস্য আছে নে নাই তাক আলোচনা কৰিবৰ কাৰণে এই সদনত বিশেষভাবে এটা session বহুৱাব লাগে আৰু এই ধৰণৰ প্ৰস্তাৱ ইয়াৰ আগতে আলোচনা হোৱা নাই আৰু এই ধৰণৰ প্ৰস্তাৱ দিছে বুলি আমি নাজানোঁ। গতিকে আমাৰ বিভিন্ন জিলাৰ পৰা যিবিলাক পুৰুষ মহিলা ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰী আহি সমবেত হৈছেই তেখেতসকলৰ সমস্যাবোৰ আলোচনা কৰিবৰ কাৰণে এটা সভা স্থগিত প্ৰস্তাৱ আলোচনা কৰা হওক।

Shri Syed Ahmed Ali (Minister Parliamentary Affairs) : Sir, as regards the admissibility of the motion I would like to submit that the ingredients which may justify the moving of the adjournment motion is wanting. The adjournment motion may be discussed if the matter is definite. But here what is the matter and how it is definite ? And, again, the matter must be very specific. Now, the Hon'ble Member in moving the adjournment motion has said that the people's mandate

Mr. Speaker : The first thing to be seen is whether there is a demonstration outside.

Shri Syed Ahmed Ali (Minister Parliamentary Affairs) : I am coming to that. That must be very specific. But what the Hon'ble Member has said is not definite - it is very vague. There was one election manifesto no doubt but in moving the adjournment motion this is not definitely discussed here. Now, what are these election mani-

festos? That must be discussed. We also do not know what is this election manifesto. It was mentioned as people's mandate. We do not know of any people's mandate, only we know of Party mandate. What does the Hon'ble Member mean by saying people's mandate that is also not mentioned.

Mr. Speaker : Mr. Gogoi, my information is that there is no demonstration here as you have said. Can you say definitely that there is a demonstration?

Shri Promode Chandra Gogoi : Sir, all the demonstrators have arrived in Shillong and somebody have already arrived in front of the Assembly. The others are coming.

শ্রীশংকর চন্দ্র সিংহ (মুখ্যমন্ত্রী) : অধ্যক্ষ ডাঙৰীয়া, যিটো সভাস্থগিত প্ৰস্তাৱৰ ইয়াত উত্থাপন কৰাৰ কথা কৈছে সেইটো Not in order কাৰণ এইটো এটা definite বিষয় হ'ব লাগিব people mandate ৰ কথা কোৱা হৈছে। Sir, it is not in order. It is not a definite subject, people's mandate covers a wide range of subject, that is not one subject, one specific subject, it has no recent origin, therefore it is not in order.

সেই কাৰণেই প্ৰস্তাৱটো উল্লেখ কৰা বিভাগটো এটা specific বিষয় হ'ব লাগিব আৰু এইটো Recent origin নহয়। এই বিলাক নানা কাৰণতে প্ৰস্তাৱটো Not in order সম্বল টোৱে যিবিলাক স্মাৰক পত্ৰ আদি দাখিল কৰিবলৈ বিচাৰিছে সেই বিলাক আমাৰ অধ্যক্ষ ডাঙৰীয়াই অনুমতি দিলে মই গ্ৰহণ কৰিব পাৰো, তেতিয়া হ'লে মাননীয় সদস্য প্ৰমোদ গগৈ ডাঙৰীয়াৰ সভা স্থগিত প্ৰস্তাৱ টোৰ উদ্দেশ্য সফল হ'ব।

শ্রীপ্ৰমোদ চন্দ্র গগৈ : প্ৰথম কথা হৈছে মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰীৰ মতে এইটো definite matter হ'ব লাগিব আৰু হয়তো people's mandate definite নহয় There may be different issues and different programmes,

গতিকে এই Motion টো এটা people mandate. In people's mandate there may be 100 items. There is a definite matter to implement those promises given during the election

and what is the particular issue ? The issue is the demonstrations of all sections of the people of Assam in Shillong.

That is the definite issue

That is the definite issue and we have moved this Adjournment Motion on that definite matter and definite issue. Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding the suggestion made by the Chief Minister we agree with the Chief Minister that he should receive the memorandum to be submitted by the demonstrators at 12.30 P. M. because he will have to place the budget, and on that assurance we may not press our Adjournment Motion.

Mr. Speaker : The Adjournment Motion is not placed.

Calling Attention

Shri Promode Chandra Gogoi : Mr. Speaker, Sir, under Rule 54 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly I call the attention of the Minister, Industries, to the news item appearing in the Assam Tribune dated 15th May, 1972, under the caption, "Bongaigaon Project deprivation of local candidates", which is a matter of urgent public interest and needs immediate intervention of the House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I only request the Minister that he will give his statement that the proposed headoffice of the Bongaigaon Petro Chemical Project is established at Bongaigaon itself. The proposed head office is at present at Gujarat. The Government of Assam should persuade the Government of India to establish the head office of that particular project within the State of Assam. On that issue also I want a clear stand and a clear statement from the Industries Minister.

*Shri Md. Idris (Minister, Industries) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the newspaper report mentioned by the Hon'ble Member as also the various other reports, letters, comments etc., about this matter of employment in the Bongaigaon Project, published in the newspapers in this State from time to time, have been receiving your serious consideration.

We took up this matter with the Indian Petro-Chemical Corporation Ltd. and on the basis of the reply received from it, issued a press statement on 17.5.72, which was as follows :

"In the context of various reports in the newspapers in this State about the employment policy of India Petro-Chemicals Corporation Limited in respect of the Refinery-cum-Petro Chemical project at Bongaigaon, the State Government took up this matter with this Corporation.

This Corporation has now clarified that the advertisement issued Project and the interviews held by it so far relate to only the Gujarat Project. It has also assured the State Government that it would follow both in letter and in spirit the guidelines laid down by the Central Government in the matter of recruitment for the Bongaigaon Project.

It is hoped that this would clarify the present position about this matter."

Sir, both myself as well the Chief Minister have also taken up this question of employment as also the related questions of location projects head office within Assam and advertisement of jobs in local newspapers with the Government of India.

I assure the Hon'ble Minister, this August House as

also our people, that the Government share their anxiety and concern about this vital matter of employment, and would continue to take all possible steps for protecting the legitimate interests of the people of this State.

Shri Promode Chandra Gogoi : Mr. Speaker; Sir, may I know from the Minister whether the Government of India has agreed to set up the Head office of Bongaigaon Refinery-cum-Petro Chemical Project within the State ?

Shri Md. Idris (Minister) : I have already stated that we have taken up this matter with the Government of India, but so far we have not received assurance from the Government of India. But shall pursue this matter.

*শ্রীগোবীশংকৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য : অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ৰ পৰা এটা স্পষ্টীকৰণ বিচাৰিছো, সেইটো হৈছে যি কেইটা ডাঙৰ ডাঙৰ চাকৰীৰ বাবে কৰা বিজ্ঞপ্তিৰ কথা তাত উল্লেখ কৰিছে সেই বিজ্ঞপ্তি গুজৰাট অঞ্চল, দিল্লী অঞ্চলৰ বাতৰি কাকততহে দিয়া হৈছে। সেইবোৰৰ খবৰ আমাৰ পূৰ্বাঞ্চলৰ বাহিৰে নাপায়। কিন্তু আমাৰ অসমৰ কোনো বিষয়ৰ বিজ্ঞপ্তি দিবলগীয়া হলে সকলোৰে খবৰ পায়। অসমৰ কাৰণে সেইবোৰ আচুতীয়াকৈ ৰাখে আৰু অসমৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত সকলোৰে তাৰ ভাগ পায়। এই নীতিটো চৰকাৰে মানি লবলৈ ৰাজী আছে নেকি ?

*শ্ৰীমহম্মদ ইদ্ৰিচ (শিল্প মন্ত্ৰী) : সদস্য গৰাকীয়ে যি পাৰ্থক্য আঙুলিয়াই দেখুৱাইছে সেই কথাটো আমিও ভাবি নোচোৱা নহয় আৰু এই বিষয়ে ইণ্ডাষ্ট্ৰিয়েল লিয়াচন অফিচাৰক কোৱা হৈছে। সৰ্বভাৰতীয় যিবিলাক নিয়োগ সেইবিলাকৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত অসমৰ কোনো এখন বাতৰি কাকতত বিজ্ঞপ্তি দিয়া নহয়, ফলত অসমৰ চুকে কোণে যিবোৰ শিক্ষিত আৰু কাৰীকৰী শিক্ষিত যোগ্য ডেকা লৰা আছে সেইসকলে সেই সুবিধা নাপায়। মেট্ৰ'পলিটান চহৰবিলাকৰ বাতৰি কাকতত সেই বিজ্ঞপ্তি বিলাক দি আহিছে। সেইটো কেবল গুজৰাটৰ পেট্ৰ'কেমিকেলৰ কাৰণে বা বিভিন্ন অল ইণ্ডিয়া আণ্ডাৰটেকিংৰ কাৰণে যিহেতুকে আমাৰ দেশৰ নিবন্ধুৱা সমস্যাই এক গুৰুত্বৰ অৱস্থা পাইছেগৈ কাজেই ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াই যি কথা দৃষ্টিগোচৰ কৰিছে আৰু ময়ো তেখেতৰ লগত একমত। মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে

নিজে সেই কথা হাতত লৈছে। বঙাই গাঁওৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত আমাৰ ইয়াত বিজ্ঞপ্তি হব আৰু আমাৰ বিলাকৰ নিয়োগ হব লাগিব। এই ক্ষেত্ৰত হেড্, অফিচ বঙ্গাইগাঁওতে হব লাগে। কিন্তু এতিয়াই হব বুলি কোৱা অধিকাৰ মোৰ নাই।

শ্ৰীপ্ৰমোদ চন্দ্ৰ গগৈ : বঙ্গাইগাঁও প্ৰজেক্টৰ হেড্, অফিচ হব লাগিব অসমৰ ভিতৰত।

শ্ৰীমহম্মদ ইদ্ৰিচ (শিল্প মন্ত্ৰী) : মোৰ কথাও সেইটোৱেই। বঙ্গাইগাঁও প্ৰজেক্টৰ হেড্, অফিচ বঙ্গাইগাঁওতে হব লাগে। আমাৰ উদ্দেশ্য সফল হব লাগিব। তেনেধৰণৰ office এটা যাতে বঙ্গাইগাঁওতেই হয় তাৰ বাবে আমি দাবী কৰিছো।

শ্ৰীগোবীশস্বৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য : আপুনিও জানে একো নহয়। তথাপি দাবী কৰিছে। বঙ্গাইগাঁওত এটা petro chemical complex আছে আৰু ২।৪ টা হয়তো কৰবাত হব। এই সকলো বিলাক সামৰি এটা Head office হৈছে কিন্তু সেই Head office ৰ যিটো paraformalies সেইটো আমাৰ পৰা বহু দূৰত হলে, যেনে লাগিলে সি গুজৰাটতেই হওক বা মহাৰাষ্ট্ৰতেই হওক তাৰ ভাগ আমি নাপাম। এই Head quarter বঙ্গাইগাঁওতেই হবলগিয়া হলে তাত অকল বঙ্গাইগাঁওৰেই কামখিনি নহব। যি বিলাক independet unit নাইবা বিভিন্ন ধৰণৰ project আছে বা হব সেই সকলো বিলাকতে, নিয়োগৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত উচ্চষ্টৰৰ পৰা সাধাৰণ পৰ্য্যন্ত সকলো বিলাক কাম কৰাত তাত এটা সুবিধা হব।

মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ : এইটো আকৌ ভাবি চাওক।

*শ্ৰীমহম্মদ ইদ্ৰিচ (মন্ত্ৰী) : মাননীয় সদস্য ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াৰ কথাটো মই নিজেই অনুভৱ কৰি লৈছে কৈছো যে ভাৰতবৰ্ষত Petro-Chemical Complex হলে তাৰ নিশ্চয় এটা Head quarter হব। Supretendent, Sub-centre আদিৰ কাৰণে বেলেগ বেলেগ ঠাইত হব পাৰে এই বিষয়ে বঙ্গাইগাঁওতে তাৰ সুবিধা পাব লাগিব তাৰ উপৰিও যাতে সৰ্ব্বভাৰতীয় অন্যান্য Chemical Refinery আদিত যিবিলাক খা-খবৰ বা বাতৰি ওলাই সেইবিলাকো যাতে এই office ৰ যোগেদি পাব পাৰি তাৰ সুবিধাৰ কাৰণে আমি নিশ্চয় চেষ্টা চলাইছো।

*শ্ৰীতুলাল চন্দ্ৰ বৰুৱা : এনে ধৰণৰ কথা আমি বহুতো শুনিছো, আগৰ চৰকাৰৰ পৰাও শুনিছো আৰু এতিয়াৰ চৰকাৰৰ পৰাও শুনিছো। একেই চৰকাৰ কেৱল নামটোহে বদলি হৈছে। মই মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰীক জনাব বিচাৰিছো যে অসমৰ বাইজে দাবী কৰা Petro-Chemical Complex ৰ Head quarter টো ইয়াতেই হব

লাগিব। নিয়োগৰ সুবিধাৰ পৰা আৰম্ভ কৰি সকলোবিলাক সা-সুবিধা বাহিৰত হ'লে, আমি নাপাম। সেই একেদৰে Regional Research, Laboratory, Gas Company সাৰ কাৰখানা Oil India ৰ আদিৰ Head quarter পতাৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত আমি কিছুমান discrimination দেখিবলৈ পাইছোঁ। আমাৰ চৰকাৰৰ ফালৰ পৰা দাবী কৰি অহা হৈছে Head quarter পতাৰ সংক্ৰান্তত কিন্তু কেনেধৰণৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিবলৈ ওলাইছে সেই বিষয়ে মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰীৰ পৰা জানিব বিচাৰিছোঁ।

Shri Sarat Chandra Sinha (Chief Minister) : আমি চেষ্টা কৰিয়েই আছোঁ, Head quarter ৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিবৰ কাৰণে আমি চেষ্টা কৰিছোঁ।

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua : কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰৰ লগত আলোচনা কৰি আমাৰ মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰীয়ে কি উত্তৰ পালে ?

শ্ৰীশৰৎ চন্দ্ৰ সিংহ (মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰী) : এই সম্পৰ্কে আমি জোৰ দি আছোঁ আৰু আলোচনা চলাই আছোঁ কিন্তু আমি যদিও কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰৰ পৰা জবাব পোৱা নাই আমি আমাৰ ফালৰ পৰা দাবী এৰি দিয়া নাই।

Announcement by the Speaker—Panel of Chairman

Mr. Speaker : As regards item No. 4, I shall now announce the names of the nominated members :

Under rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Assam Legislative Assembly, I nominate the following Hon. Members to constitute the Panel of Chairmen for the current Session of the Assembly :

1. Shri Md. Umaruddin.
2. Shri Ataur Rahman.
3. Shri Soneswar Bora.
4. Shri Pitsing Konwar.

Report of the Committee on Estimate and the Committee on the petitions (Point of order)

(The Secretary, Assembly, rose to lay the reports)

Shri Dulal Chandra Baruah : Mr. Speaker Sir, on a

point of order Under rule 220 (1) of the rules of procedure and conduct, of business of the Assam Legislative Assembly the report of a committee shall be presented to the Assembly by the Chairman or in his absence by any member of the Committee. Here in no way it should be layed by the Secretary of the Committee on behalf of the Committee.

Mr. Speaker : I will look into this.

Shri Md. Umaruddin : Mr. Speaker Sir, under rule 221 of the rules of procedure and conduct of business of the Assam Legislative Assembly, the Speaker may, on a request being made to him and when the Assembly is not in session, order the printing, publication or circulation of a report of a Committee although it has not been presented to the Assembly. In that case the report shall be presented to the Assembly during its next session at the first convenient opportunity.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua : This cannot cover.

Mr. Speaker : I shall place it tommorow.

Shri Dulal Chandra Baruah : Sir, you have been given an exalted position, but there is something going on in our Assembly Secretariat which is not convenient for functioning the democratic form of Government. Sir, I want if you kindly allow us to have a full scale discussions about the Assembly Secretariat.

শ্রীপ্রমোদ চন্দ্র গগৈ : অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মাননীয় সদস্য শ্রীবৰুৱা ডাঙৰীয়াই যিটো কথা কৈছে, বিশেষকৈ বিধান সভা সচিবালয় নিয়ন্ত্ৰণৰ ভাৱ আপোনাৰ ওপৰত। এই সম্পৰ্কে ব্যক্তিগত ভাবে মই আপোনাক কেইবাবাৰো কৈছিলো। তথাপিহে এতিয়া এনেকুৱা এটা অৱস্থা হৈছে। মই ভাবো এই সম্পৰ্কে

আপুনি ততালিকে কিবা এটা ব্যৱস্থা গ্ৰহণ কৰিব লাগে। কাৰণ সচিবালয়ৰ এনেকুৱা [বিশৃংখলতা হৈ থাকিলে এই সদনৰ কাম কেতিয়াও ভাল ভাবে চলিব নোৱাৰে।

Mr. Speaker : I will discuss it in my chamber.

Re : Members' Contact with the Minister

Shri Dulal Chandra Baruah : Sir, I want to draw the attention of the hon'ble Chief Minister to very Important matter concerning to the administration officialy genearly we feel that we should not interfere or intervene in the affairs of the administration. Sir, at least we must get a reply from the Minister to whom we submit our representation. On matters of Public importance the Minister has no courtesy even to do it. From this we can well imagine how the administration is functioning. So, I request the hon'ble Chief Minister to look into this matter because we expect something constructive from the Ministers. But they even do not care to reply to the representation made by the hon'ble Members.

Sreemati Renuka Devi Borkataki : When we write letters to the Ministers or Chief Minister, we do not find the reply in time. On the other hand, Sir, we are humiliated in the public eyes due to the publication of a statement of the Chief Minister in the newspaper. It has been stated in the newspaper that Chief Minister did not find time to attend his office works due to the visits of M. L. As to request him for transfer, promotion etc. of the officers.

Mr. Speaker : You will get ample time in the budget discussion to participate in such discussion.

Shrimati Renuka Devi Barkataki : Sir, we want a categorical reply.

Mr. Speaker : As I have told, you will have ample scope to discuss the same in budget discussion.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua : Sir, what action the Chief Minister proposed to take ? I want a reply,

Mr. Speaker : Let the Budget Speech be distributed.

(Budget speech was then distributed).

Presentation of the Budget For The Year 1972-73

Mr. Speaker, Sir,

Before presenting the Budget estimates for the year 1972-73, I would like to mention with great sorrow the irreparable loss due to the demise of some illustrious and worthy sons of our country who left us during the previous year. Shri Sri Prakasa, an educationist, journalist and politician was a former Governor of Assam who would be long remembered for his great services to our State. He was a Member of the Constituent Assembly and also the High Commissioner for India in Pakistan. He was also a Union Minister for two terms. A great freedom fighter, Shri Sri Prakasa was imprisoned four times. We also mourn the sad demise of Prof. D. R. Gadgil, former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Shri G.M. Sadiq, former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir and Dr. Binodanada Jha, former Chief Minister of Bihar. A great scientist of our country, Dr. V. A. Sarabhai, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, also left us when the country was in the greatest need of his services. It was his devoted work that brought India into the map of space research. The passing away of Shri Tara San-

kar Bandopadhyaya, a noted Bengali writer, is a great loss to the literary world.

We also mourn the death of Shri S. M. Dev and Shri Durgeswar Saikia, former Ministers of Assam, who rendered valuable service to the people of our State in different spheres. We miss from our midst to-day a popular leader and a former M.L.A., Shri Ram Prasad Choubey, who was associated with many labour activities. Shri Ghanashyam Das, a noted Kabiraj, a freedom fighter and a political worker, who was a Member of this Assembly is no longer with us. Shri Wilson Reade, a leading Khasi leader and a former Member of this Assembly passed away during this period and we deeply mourn his loss. The passing away of Prof. P. C. Roy, a leading educationist, who was associated all his life with the Cotton College, Gauhati is a matter of great sorrow for all of us. Shri Chandra Phukan, who was well-known in the cultural field as a great dramatist and popular actor of the stage and screen and Shri Sarbeswar Chakrabarty, another well-known artiste of the stage and screen left us prematurely during this period. Shrimati Chandra Prabha Saikiani, who was a distinguished social worker and who was recently honoured with the award of Padma Shree in recognition of her valuable service to society also left us during the period. Reference may also be made to the unexpected and premature demise of Shri D. Sanjivaya, who was President of the Indian National Congress and who served the country in different capacities as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Union Minister for Labour and Em-

ployment, etc. The loss of this dynamic and able politician who rose to national fame by dint of his hard work from the Scheduled Caste community is not only a loss to that community but to the whole country.

We pay our respectful homage to the memory of these great departed Souls.

As is known to the House, the Budget Estimates for 1972-73 are being presented under great financial difficulties. The ways and means position of the State has deteriorated recently to such an extent that the State Government had to severely restrict the expenditure from the Consolidated Fund. This has naturally caused great misapprehensions and serious difficulties to the people. It will therefore be necessary to briefly indicate the nature and genesis of this unprecedented situation which is a matter of such vital concern to the people and this House.

Our State has always been recognised as comparatively under developed with inadequate and inelastic sources of revenue but with very large obligatory commitments. The fact that the State is located in one of the most strategic regions of the country has added to its economic, political and administrative burdens. Because of its geographical location and consequent economic backwardness the State does not get a large share of the divisible pool of Central taxes and duties under the Scheme for devolution of financial resources. It is in recognition of all these factors that successive Finance Commissions have been recommending special grants-in-aid to the State under Article 275 of the Constitution to make up the

shortfall between the revenue gap assessed by the Commission themselves and the share of the divisible pool that would accrue to the State. Unfortunately, the grant-in-aid being a fixed amount, the entire burden of finding additional resources to cover the under-assessment of the revenue gap by the Finance Commission falls on the State Government whose ability to raise the additional resources by increasing receipts from elastic sources like Sales Tax and other Taxes is severely limited due to the prevailing high rate of taxation and the general backwardness of the State.

As the Hon'ble Members are aware the revenue gap as assessed by the State Government is never fully accepted by the Finance Commission who make their own assessment on the basis of certain assumptions regarding receipts, realisation of arrears, etc., on an All India basis. In fairness to the Finance Commission it has to be admitted that it is difficult for the Commission to prescribe different standards for different States. Still we cannot help feeling that the Fifth Finance Commission have not given due recognition to the unique problems of Assam and have not done full justice to us they have recommended devolution of only Rs. 195 crores to Assam as against our estimated requirement of Rs. 321 crores. The State Government have as a result been compelled to reduce investment in the Plan on vital sectors like flood control, roads, education and health. We have been compelled also to undertake economy measures to reduce non-plan expenditure even though this has meant a lower standard of maintenance of developmental

schemes financed from the non-Plan Budget. Further measures of economy are under examination. It is obvious however, that economy measures cannot by themselves make good even a significant part of the gap of about Rs. 125 crores between the revenue gap as assessed by the State Government and the Finance Commission.

After the Fourth Plan had started, the financial resources of the State vis-a-vis its obligatory non-plan expenditure came under regular review by the Ministry of Finance and the Planning Commission. The Central Government and the Planning Commission after thoroughly examining our resource position vis-a-vis unavoidable revenue expenditure, came to the conclusion that the additional revenue gap of the State during the entire Fourth Plan period would be of the order of Rs. 115 crores. In order to enable the State Government to meet that obligatory expenditure, the Central Government also agreed to give to the State a special accommodation in the shape of a long-term loan, recovery of which is scheduled to start from the beginning of the 5th Plan period.

The budget estimates of the State were further reviewed in August, 1971 and it was found that the actual deficit during entire Fourth Plan period would be of the order of Rs. 165 crores and not Rs. 115 crores as originally estimated. The Central Government however, did not agree to raise the level of special accommodation to the State from Rs. 115 crores to Rs. 165 crores mainly on the ground that the additional revenue gap arose due to short-fall in estimated receipts by the State Government

and expenditure on interim relief and flood control and irrigation schemes,

It may be mentioned that grant of interim relief to the State Government employees has been more or less imposed upon the State Government by the Central Government's grant of similar relief to their employees earlier on two occasions. Again, in the conditions prevailing in our State increased expenditure on Irrigation and Flood Control measures, should reasonably be regarded as unavoidable expenditure calling for special accommodation to the State in all fairness.

In the context of these broad circumstances, it was inevitable that the State's non-Plan budget should show a deficit from the very start of the Fourth Plan. The Fourth Plan started with an initial deficit of Rs. 18.17 crores. The year 1969-70 ended with a deficit of about Rs. 16.27 crores. The year following i.e. 1970-71 had a deficit of Rs. 15.80 crores. The estimated deficit in 1971-72 is of the order of Rs. 32.41 crores.

The deficit prior to the Fourth Plan used to be covered with over-drafts on the R.B.I. During the Fourth Plan period the deficit was to be covered by the special accommodation from the Central Government as mentioned earlier. But since the special accommodation did not cover the actual revenue gap as explained earlier a fairly large amount of over-draft amounting to Rs. 41.65 crores accumulated on 1st April, 1972. Due to expenditure in the month of April, 1972 this figure went up to Rs. 45.50 crores on May 1, 1972 from which date a new scheme for adjust-

ment of over-drafts from the Reserve Bank of India was brought into operation.

Ways and means advances from the Reserve Bank of India have always been permitted to the States to provide for the imbalance in the flow of receipt vis-a-vis expenditure. For Assam the authorised ways and means advance to meet such imbalance was fixed at Rs. 3.20 crores comprising of the ordinary ways and means advance of Rs. 0.60 crore and special ways and means advance of Rs. 2.60 crores. Shortfall in excess of this authorised amount used to be covered by over-drafts on the Reserve Bank of India which practice has been in operation all over the country over the years. The total amount of over-drafts taken from the Reserve Bank of India by various States reached the figure of about Rs. 640 crores which caused serious concern to the Central Government as it tantamounted to an indirect form of deficit financing with all the consequential inflationary pressures on the economy. It is in that background that the Central Government decided to bring into operation the Scheme from 1st May 1972 based on complete stoppage of any over-draft by a State Government from the Reserve Bank of India and limiting their drawals to the prescribed ways and means advances only. The limit of our authorised ways and means advance was refixed at Rs. 5 crores as against the original limit of Rs. 3.20 crores and free over-draft facilities from the R. B. I. according to need was totally stopped. The immediate repercussion of such a drastic change in a long-established system of meeting budgetary requirement may easily be imagined.

In addition, a scheme was also started for adjustment of accumulated over-draft on extremely difficult terms and conditions. In the case of Assam, it has been contemplated that out of the accumulated over-draft of Rs. 45.50 crores as much as Rs. 17 crores would be straightway deducted from the receipts payable to the State on account of its share of Central taxes and duties and plan assistance. Fifteen percent of the balance amount of Rs. 28 crores would also be similarly deducted in addition. This would mean that the State Government will not only not have the facilities of drawing money from the R. B. I. to meet their immediate pressing requirements due to any imbalance between receipts and expenditure—specially during the first few months of the financial year but also that the amount payable by the Central Government to the State would stand reduced additionally to the extent of about Rs. 21.50 crores.

Our State which has been running with a deficit budget all these years was as a result, placed in an extremely difficult position in meeting even its immediate requirements for maintaining day-to-day administration and minimum service to the people. During the month of May, 1972 the State Government had inevitably to limit its maximum expenditure to the authorised ways and means advance of Rs. 5 crores, as no amount came from the Government of India towards the State's share of receipts and revenue collection during that part of the year was extremely small. It is in that background that the extreme step of limiting expenditure to the barest essential minimum only had to be resorted to.

✱ The State Government fully appreciate the serious difficulties created for the common people by such a drastic step but they had no alternative in the matter since due to the rigid operation of the new system of adjustment of accumulated over-draft and stoppage of all facilities for temporary accommodation from the R. B. I. the actual ways and means position did not permit any additional expenditure.

✱ The State Government at the highest level took up with the Government of India the question of some additional temporary accommodation to overcome the serious difficulties created by the enforcement of the new scheme from 1st May 1972. With the greatest difficulty the State Government could obtain a temporary accommodation of Rs.5 crores only comprising of Rs. 3 crores against expenditure earlier incurred in dealing with the Mizo Hills disturbances and Rs.2 crores out of the quarterly payments for meeting plan expenditure for which the State Government is entitled to central assistance. The major part of the State's dues on account of plan finance had been adjusted against the recovery of the over-draft.

The State Government have strongly brought to the notice of the Government of India the unreasonableness of adjusting as much as Rs. 21.50 crores against the total over-draft of Rs. 45.50 crores in one year as this may throw the budgetary situation of the State Government completely out of gear. The Central Government have been pressed instead to adopt a system of recovering annually only 15 per cent of the deficit. It is confidently hoped that the

Central Government will find no difficulty whatsoever in re-scheduling the recovery of the accumulated over-draft. The budgetary estimates for 1972-73 have been prepared on that basis.

I may add for information of the Hon'ble Members that our over-draft as on 1st May, 1972 was Rs.45.50 crores of which Rs. 28.05 crores was an inevitable over-draft, being part of the total gap of Rs. 165 crores during the 4th Plan period according to the reappraisal made by the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance. Out of the balance of about Rs. 17.5 crores, it appears that an amount of Rs. 9.24 crores was debited twice against the Government of Assam by mistake due to some confusion in the adjustment of bills drawn on the Shillong Treasury and appropriate action has been taken in consultation with the Accountant General and the Reserve Bank for recrediting an amount of Rs. 9.24 crores to our account.

It will thus be seen that the actual unauthorised over-draft amounted only to about Rs. 8 crores.

The State Government have to depend for meeting their non-plan budgetary requirements on collection of their own taxes and duties, receipts from the Central Government on account of the State's shares of the Central taxes, market borrowings, and loans from the Central Government against specific programmes. The limits of public borrowings are fixed from time to time by the Central Government in consultation with the Planning Commission and the Reserve Bank. On that account, the State Government have had an outstanding public debt of Rs. 33.67 crores. Repay-

ment of that loan together with interests is an obligatory item of non-plan expenditure. The interest on loan from the Central Government for non-plan schemes is also obligatory item of revenue expenditure and the amount of such loan stands at Rs. 107·00 crores. Repayment of interest and principal of the plan loans is also reflected in the non-plan budget.

The main part of the Plan assistance to the State Government comes as loan from the Central Government. A part of this Plan loan has already been paid according to schedule, but a substantial part of this amount has been reflected in the total loan of Rs. 401·00 crores outstanding against the State Government. Out of the total outstanding loan of Rs. 401·00 crores, about Rs. 200·00 crores is on account of Plan loan and Rs. 107·00 crores on account of other central loan; Rs. 33·67 crores is on account of the authorised market borrowings; Rs. 15·10 crores represent the unfunded debt of the State Government on account of the Provident Fund, etc., Deposits; Rs. 5 crores represent the authorised Ways and Means Advance from the Reserve Bank and Rs. 38 crores are on account of Reserve Bank over-draft; the balance consists of small items due to L. I. C., etc.

On account of the interest charges on all the outstanding loans, a sum of Rs. 18·00 crores had to be paid in 1971-72 from the non-Plan budget.

The State Government fully appreciate the urgency, from the national point of view, of enforcement of strict fiscal discipline. Although the complete stoppage of any

over-draft facilities from the Reserve Bank might have caused^a serious immediate difficulty or hardship, it is conceded that in the long run this is sure to prove a blessing in disguise. As already explained, the State Government only hope that the Central Government will find it possible to suitably re-schedule the recovery with a view to ensure that recovery within a limited period does not cause any serious dislocation in the State's budgetary situation vis-a-vis development and welfare activities.

In that connection it has also to be accepted that there is utmost need for the State Government to tighten its belt and look forward increasingly to progressive development their own resources for meeting their obligatory constitutional responsibility towards the people. It will be necessary in that context to make a determined effort to raise the State's own resources and to plug all possible sources of leakage of public revenue. Very serious efforts would also have to be made to quickly and progressively reduce the total arrears on account of various State taxes and duties. The arrears stood at about Rs. 13.05 crores on 31st March 1971.

The State Government have already taken necessary measure to drastically reduce all avoidable expenditure on any account. The question of deferring expenditure which does not require any immediate priority will also have to be taken up rationally. The main objective would be to match expenditure with actual receipt so that a balanced budget may become a reality and the question of desperately trying to cover deficits may not actually arise. A suitable

priority would have to be fixed in allocating funds for expenditure under different heads so that urgent schemes and programmes for development and assistance to the people may not have to suffer for lack of resources and the rate of economic growth is not impeded.

On account of various loans and advances a total amount of Rs. 14.59 crores remained outstanding on 31st March 1971. Out of this amount Rs. 5.81 crores represent loans to displaced persons from erstwhile East Pakistan which had been disbursed by the State Government as agent of the Central Government. The recovery of such loans and advances will be credited to the Central Government. The State Government have already taken a decision to write-off small agricultural loans given to cultivators during periods of distress on account of natural calamities which have become irrecoverable. After taking into account all these developments, whatever loans and advances remain to be realised will have to be considered for quick realisation to provide necessary assistance to the seriously strained budget of the State Government.

The State Government, look forward to utmost co-operation from the people towards the fulfilment of this objective in the larger interest of the State's economy. I would also humbly request the hon'ble Members of this House to exercise their good offices in creating a suitable atmosphere all around in which people may readily come forward to discharge their liabilities to their own Government in the ultimate interest of the State's progress and development.

As the House may be aware, the Sixth Finance Commission is likely to be set up shortly to take into consideration the financial requirements of the State Governments during the 5th Plan period within the overall scheme of devolution of financial resources. Considering the economic backwardness of the State, the immensity of the social obligations and the need to take up a dynamic socio-economic programme for the early removal of poverty and unemployment, it will be necessary to place the State's point of view before the Commission with utmost care. The strategic location of the State which imposes certain special responsibilities and obligations in the larger interest of the country would also have to be borne in mind in placing the views and requirements of the State Government before the Finance Commission.

I shall look forward to the valuable assistance and guidance of this House in dealing with this important matter in due course.

It is needless to mention how profoundly the general political and law and order situation in our State has been influenced by the emergence of Bangladesh as a sovereign, independent Republic on our borders. We have watched with great interest the determined efforts now being made by the Bangladesh Government towards rehabilitation of their shattered economy and restoration of normal political and social life. The State Government have readily come forward to extend maximum assistance to the Bangladesh Government in their great task of rebuilding their country and resettlement of the large number of eva-

■ **Issues.** Bangladesh required immediately some building materials available in the bordering districts of Assam. In the same way certain essential commodities like kerosene, petroleum products, salt, mustard oil, etc., had to be supplied from our own resources to meet their immediate requirements pending long-term arrangements at the national level for regular supply through established channels.

■ The developments in Bangladesh are expected to considerably ease our economy in this area. Already a skeleton river transport service has been started between Assam and West Bengal operating through Bangladesh. With the development of a full-fledged river transport service the pre-1965 position of a relatively cheaper river transport service to Assam is expected to be re-established. It is also expected that through train communication between Assam and West Bengal via Bangladesh would be resumed shortly thereby materially helping to remove our existing transport bottlenecks.

■ Since the last session of this Assembly the law and order situation continues to be generally satisfactory except for minor and sporadic agitations, demonstrations, labour troubles in some areas on diverse issues.

■ The tension in the Assam-Nagaland border which has been a matter of serious concern for many years, has considerably eased following interim agreements reached between the two Governments as a result

of which a sizeable part of the State's Police Force could be withdrawn from the Assam-Nagaland Border thus enabling the State Government to return C. R. P. Battalions taken on loan from the Centre for general law and order duties in the State. The proposed exchange of delegations of legislators from both sides as earlier discussed in the House is expected to bring about a suitable atmosphere in which friendly and co-operative relations between the two neighbouring States could be further strengthened.

The year 1971-72 was one of the most crucial periods in the history of the country. The country was subject to acid test on the crucible of international events fraught with momentous consequences viz. the problem of hosting millions of evacuees from Bangladesh, the war with Pakistan and the sudden suspension of economic aid by some powerful countries. But the nation emerged therefrom proud and self-confident both economically and politically. The inherent strength of the economy built up with care and foresight with a strong agricultural base together with a wide, diversified and sophisticated industrial structure, made it possible to absorb the heavy burdens of the refugee influx, the war with Pakistan and the reduction in the flow of foreign aid.

At the same time some disquieting features also manifested themselves in the economy such as accentuation of the inflationary pressure, stepping up of deficit financing, acuteness of the unemployment

problem, a lower rate of growth in industries and a slight set-back in exports.

The national income of India at current prices stood at Rs. 31,174 crores in 1969-70 with per capita income of Rs. 589.3 according to provisional estimate prepared by the Central Statistical Organisation. The increase in national income based on 1960-61 prices in 1969-70 was 5.3 per cent compared to 2.4 per cent in 1968-69 and this was only marginally lower than the overall target of growth envisaged for the Fourth Plan.

The real national income in 1970-71 is expected to show an increase of 5 to 5.5 per cent over 1969-70. This encouraging growth rate is primarily due to higher agricultural production. The economy of Assam had also to share the stress and strain which the national economy had to bear.

The estimate of State income at current prices for the present State of Assam has been placed at Rs. 694.9 crores in 1968-69, Rs. 684.7 crores in 1969-70 and Rs. 751.2 crores in 1970-71 the corresponding per capita income working out Rs. 513.4, Rs. 491.1 and Rs. 523.1 at current prices. In 1970-71 the State income at constant prices (base 1948-49) increased by only 1.8 per cent over the previous year. This being below the population growth the per capita income fell by 1.2 per cent over 1969-70 even though the total income and the per capita income at current prices increased over the previous years.

During 1971-72 the index of general wholesale prices in Assam (base 1953=100) was 1·4 per cent higher than the previous year. Compared to this the average consumer price index rose by 3·1 percent from 230 in 1970 to 240 in 1971.

Plan

The total outlay for the Fourth Plan of Assam was initially fixed at Rs. 261·75 crores and this was reduced to Rs. 206·00 crores with the creation of Meghalaya. This outlay is composed of Rs. 182·80 crores as Central assistance and Rs. 23·20 crores as the State's contribution. Due to separation of Mizoram this amount will be further reduced.

The Annual Plan for 1971-72 stood at Rs. 41·61 crores—Rs. 35·30 crores General, and Rs. 6·31 crores Hills—most of the programmes and schemes included therein being continuation of activities undertaken earlier. The State Government have taken up preparation of district-wise and subdivision-wise plans for the fifth plan. For this purpose compilation of data regarding economic conditions and geo-political conditions prevailing in the different regions of the State is being done so as to achieve rational planning.

For 1972-73, an Annual Plan outlay of Rs. 40·43 crores is proposed—Rs. 36·68 crores being for General areas and the balance of Rs. 3·75 crores for the Hill Areas comprising Mikir Hills and North Cachar Hills Districts. The corresponding outlay for these Hill Areas during 1971-72 being Rs 3·28 crores, the current year's outlay shows an increase of about

14 per cent over last year's outlay. Central assistance to the extent of Rs. 32.96 crores and State contribution of Rs. 7.47 crores will make up the requirements of the Annual Plan for 1972-73.

It is proposed to constitute a Planning Board for the State mainly with a small body of experts. It is expected that a standing experts body like a Planning Board all the time attending to problems of plan formulation and evaluation will considerably help in according desired priorities to those sectors in the economy which have a direct bearing on the hopes and aspirations of the common man and in giving due emphasis of the fulfilment of their basic needs in life within prescribed time limits.

Agriculture

The agricultural sector accounts for half the State's income and provides livelihood for about 72 per cent of the population. Naturally, therefore, top priority has been assigned to this sector.

The Government of India have started a five thousand acre State Farm at Koklabari in Barpeta Sub-division on land made available by the State Government. This will produce improved varieties of seeds for use in the State. Small Farm Development Agencies have started functioning in the districts of Kamrup, Goalpara, Nowgong, Sibsagar and Mikir Hills. This will provide small farmers and marginal farmers with irrigation facilities, credits, marketing assistance, etc. Kisan Vidyapiths have been set up in

all the Subdivisional towns for imparting training in modern agricultural methods.

Special programmes for increasing jute production are continuing in 14 Blocks in four districts. In addition, a special programme covering twenty-six thousand acres of land for intensive jute cultivation is under way in the Nowgong District. Steps for introduction and popularisation of new cash crops, like cotton, soyabean, ground nut, etc., have also been taken up. The Assam Seeds Corporation and the recently equipped Seeds Testing Laboratory have been making progress in quality control and introduction and marketing of high quality seeds.

The State Government also propose to directly set up some Small Agricultural farm units to give employment to educated youths by associating them with their implementation for training and experience and making over the units to them in due course on easy terms and conditions.

The agricultural sector after suffering slight set back in 1969-70 when there was a decline in total production by 1.6 per cent due to extensive damages caused by floods and unfavourable weather conditions staged a recovery in 1970-71 registering 5.1 per cent growth. This increase was mainly due to 12 per cent rise in the production of food grains which rose to 2.07 million tons from 1.86 million tons in 1968-69. But the production of jute dropped from 10.8 lakh bales in 1969-70 to 9.37 lakh bales in 1970-71.

During 1971-72, production of food grains is expected to be maintained at the same level as 1970-71 despite drought and flood conditions. In respect of jute the production has increased from 9.37 lakh bales to 11.4 lakh bales.

To raise agricultural productivity it is considered imperative that the cultivators are provided with all inputs and services like fertilizer, quality seeds, irrigation facilities, etc., together with adequate credit. For full development of agriculture in a local area like a C.D. Block it is proposed to set up a service unit which may have branches in different areas of operation. The Service Units will associate with their work as many unemployed youngmen as is possible at different levels. It is proposed to meet the full financial requirements of the service units by drawing funds from the Nationalised Banks to which the crops grown would remain hypothecated. The advances made to the farmers would be guaranteed by the State Government.

A detailed scheme in these lines is under preparation for taking up as a Pilot Project as early as possible. It would be extended to other areas according to experience and fund availability.

It is also proposed to set up a large number of Small Service Centres with unemployed educated persons who could be provided with necessary equipments like tractors pumps, etc., either by Government or by financial institutions with guarantee, if necessary from the State Government.

Co-operation,

The Co-operative movement has registered some expansion in the field of credit, marketing, processing and farming, etc. In the year 1971-72 Co-operative credit showed a considerable increase in share capital deposits and in membership. At present 136 marketing Co-operatives are functioning. In the field of processing 30 rice mills, 4 oil mills and one fruit processing unit had been set up.

The Assam Co-operative Jute Mills Limited, and the Co-operative Sugar Mill at Barua Bamungaon have been functioning satisfactorily. Under the Co-operative Handloom Development Scheme, 4 housing colonies have been set up in addition to a number of weavers' sheds, sales depots, designing and dyeing centres and 13 weaving factories of industrial weavers. It is proposed to strengthen the base of the Co-operative sector to ensure its greater and fuller participation in the sound and steady development of the Rural economy.

Panchayat and
Community Development,

The Community Development programme has already covered the entire rural population in the State, with 121 Blocks in the general areas and 9 in the Hill Areas. In the general areas, funds have been mostly transferred to the Panchayats for direct implementation of the Schemes. In the hill areas, funds have been placed at the disposal of the District Councils. The applied Nutrition Programme sponsored by the Union Government in collaboration with UNICEF and WHO covered in 1971-72, 32 C.D. Blocks, 27 being in the general areas and 5 in the hill areas. It is

expected that the programme will cover another 5 Blocks during 1972-73. The Special Nutritional Feeding Programme has been in operation in the State since the middle of 1970-71. During 1971-72, the Scheme covered 66,000 beneficiaries and in 1972-73 it is proposed to further expand the scheme.

With a view to develop higher powers of local autonomy and its effective exercise with a greater sense of participation, it is proposed to amend the Assam Panchayat Act and bring about major structural changes therein.

Fishery

The State is deficit in the production of fish to the tune of about 25,000 MT per year. In order to augment production of fish and improve fish supply, a number of Schemes have been taken by the Department. The Schemes relate to intensive pisciculture, production and distribution of quality fish seeds, development of beel and riverine fisheries, assistance to private pisciculturists and fishermen Co-operatives, applied nutrition programme, marketing and transport of fish, etc. Establishment of private fish farms have also been encouraged by giving assistance in cash and kind.

With the recent developments in Bangladesh, it is expected that due to free flow of border trade and through rail, road and river communication, the position of fish supply in many areas in the State will register steady improvement.

Animal
Husbandry and
Veterinary-

To improve the nondescript cattle of the State two intensive cattle development projects have been taken up. The main object of the schemes is to ensure supply of semen of exotic bulls for Artificial Insemination work in selected areas covering about 2 lakh breedable cows. By the end of 1971-72, seventy five thousand cows have been covered by the Artificial Insemination Programme. For cattle improvement, the farmers have been assisted either in cash or in kind for rearing improved cattle and purchase of milch animals. To support cattle development programme fodder farms for multiplication of improved varieties of seeds have been set up. For sheep and goat development, improved breeding goats like Betel, Barbary and Jumnapari have been introduced.

The Animal Health Centre engaged in speedy diagnosis and investigation of various diseases has been expanded by establishing District Diagnostic Laboratories.

The milk supply schemes of Gauhati and Jorhat have been consolidated and works on similar schemes for Tezpur and Dibrugarh have been taken up. The State Government also propose to establish Poultry and Dairy Units which will be developed departmentally and handed over to young entrepreneurs who will be associated with the development from the very beginning.

Industry

The year 1971-72 witnessed some progress in the field of industrialisation. The momentous dec-

laration of the Prime Minister in the Parliament about the comprehensive crash deal generated new aspiration. Our policy to industrialise our State is being pursued and the Government have been trying to set up industries in both public and private sectors. Based on local raw materials a few major industrial projects are in the process of implementation and they are expected to go into production in the next three years. The foundation of the proposed refinery at Bongaigaon and the Associated Petro-Chemical Industry had been laid by the Prime Minister in January, 1972.

The Assam Industrial Development Corporation has floated a Company known as the Assam Petro-Chemical Limited which will set up an adhesive plant at Namrup based on natural gas. The plant will also produce methanol and plastic moulding powder. The Assam Industrial Corporation has also obtained a letter of intent for a Nylon Filament Plant with an estimated capacity of 2,100 metric tonnes per year which requires an investment of the order of Rs. 8 crores. Feasibility studies of industries, such as melamine methylmetacrylate and petro chemicals based on the by-products of the Bongaigaon Refinery are being conducted by the department of Industries.

On the basis of Naptha and LSHS produced in the Bongaigaon Refinery, ancillary petro-chemicals can be developed. It is proposed to produce 35,000 metric tonnes of DMT additionally and it would be

possible to produce therefrom 29,000 metric tonnes of polyester fibres. This will open up new possibilities for textile industries in blended yarns. The Bongaigaon Refinery is expected to go into production by 1975.

The F. C. I proposes to start a Petro-Chemical Unit at Namrup based on natural gas produced by Oil India Limited. The Project is designed to produce Methyl-Metacrylate which have export market.

In view of the immense possibilities of further employment, etc., that will accrue to the State from such a sophisticated project, the State Government has extended all support to this venture and the F.C.I. has already approached Government of India for necessary licence. The Oil India is also examining the feasibility of setting up a fairly large L.P.G. Plant in the area.

The work on the Ashoke Paper Mill Ltd. at Jogi-ghopa is in progress. Financial institutions, like the Industrial Development Bank of India and the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India have agreed to provide a loan of Rs. 15 crores. Local technical personnel are being trained to man this project. With raw materials available in the State, the Hindusthan Paper Corporation proposes to set up two Paper Mills in the districts of Nowgong and Cachar. The State Government

are rendering every possible assistance for speedy establishment of these major projects.

The continued closure of the Associated Industries has been a matter of great concern to the State Government and every endeavour is being made to re-open the Mill. The Central Government had set up a Committee to investigate the textile unit of the Associated Industries and the Committee's report is currently under examination by the Government of India. The State Government have also taken up with the Government of India the question of taking over the Associated Industries.

The Assam Industrial Development Corporation has received a letter of intent for establishment of a Power Tiller Factory in Assam. Two prototype power tillers have been imported from West Germany. They are now under full-scale test and examination to determine the type that will suit local conditions. The project would involve a cost of about Rs. 8 crores. Successful implementation of this project is expected to help modernising agriculture.

Work on the Bokajan Cement Factory is in progress.

The Tea Corporation set up by the Assam Government with an authorised capital of Rs. 2 crores has already been registered and is currently studying the possibility of acquiring some tea gardens.

The Government of India has also agreed to the establishment of a Second Jute Mill in the State.

To meet part of our current requirement of about 1,00,000 tonnes of sugar per year, a Sugar Mill with crushing capacity of about 1,250 tons per day will be established in the district of Cachar.

The State Government have taken up schemes to promote development of natural talents among the educated unemployed. Selected unemployed youths have been given incentives and facilities required for running small-scale industries. The products manufactured include paints, varnishes, rubber moulds, reeled threads briquettes, fabricated steel, Hawai chappals, inks, office and school equipments, electrical accessories and handicraft products. It is expected that those young entrepreneurs will promote entrepreneurship currently in shortage in the State.

The Government of India have initiated a scheme of transport subsidy on raw materials and finished goods produced by the local Industrial Units in respect of movement east of Siliguri. The Central Government have also sponsored a scheme of 10 per cent subsidy of the capital cost of industrial units with an investment of not more than Rs. 50 lakhs in Goalpara and Mikir Hills districts.

In addition the State Government have decided to develop some industrial units departmentally associating therewith educated young men with a view to developing their talents, set them up in the field and thereafter hand over the units to such entrepreneurs on easy terms and conditions.

Assam is famous for a large variety of cottage industries including sericulture and weaving. It is proposed accordingly to take up a large-scale programme for regeneration of these industries and make them viable economical units. Besides providing necessary equipments, loans, etc., Government propose to undertake direct responsibility for marketing of the products at economic prices so that the producers may be relieved of uncertainty and risk of marketing and can, as a result, concentrate on improving their techniques and efficiency to suit modern tastes and standards.

Forest

The management of the State forests has been intensified and 2 additional forest divisions have been created, one in Lakhimpur District and a working plan division for the Western Assam Region. The replacement of poorly wooded areas with manmade forests has increased by nearly 100 per cent within the last decade. An increased outlay in Natural conservation marks another development in the forest sector.

Improved protection works as well as tourists facilities have been provided in Kaziranga, Manas and other sanctuaries that have attracted attention of world wild life bodies which have come forward to provide funds and other assistance for their development.

All forestry activities are labour intensive and provide employment to a large number of persons

in primary and secondary activities in both rural and urban areas. Though seasonal in its primary activities a considerable number of people are employed in creation of plantations, construction of roads and buildings, extraction, transportation and sale of various forest produce. Industries based on forest produce employ a large number of skilled and semit-skilled works on a regular basis. Industrialisation of the State would require more and more of forest materials.

The State Government accordingly propose to take up programmes of forest plantation on a commercial basis which while helping the development of various industries, will substantially enlarge the scope of gainful employment and promote economic growth. The feasibility of obtaining adequate financial assistance from institutions like the Agricultural Refinance Corporation, the I. D. B. I., etc., to take up worth while programmes in that direction will be considered.

Soil Conservation

The main programmes of the Soil Conservation Department relate to land development, terracing of hill slopes and reclamation of valley bottom lands. The schemes are being operated mostly on subsidy basis. In addition, anti-erosion measures such as construction of spurs, bunds, afforestation, Grass-land development, etc., have been undertaken in badly effected areas. In areas not suitable for ordinary

agriculture, the Department has been sponsoring cash crops such as Coffee, Black Pepper and Rubber.

Horticultural Development and afforestation schemes have been taken up in suitable hill areas to wean tribal villages away from jhum cultivation. Soil conservation works have great employment potential for the rural unemployed as they can afford help to people in interior rural areas who are otherwise unable to earn enough to maintain even a minimum subsistence. The hill district of Assam contain large tracts of land which are generally unsuitable for permanent cultivation. Such lands and the local climate are excellent for perennial cash crops like coffee and the State Government propose to take up therein large-scale programmes of cash crop cultivation.

Power
and
Electri-
city

During the Fourth Plan, the activities of the Assam State Electricity Board extended to new generation projects, drawal of a number of high tension transmission lines, drawal of substantial length of medium and low voltage distribution lines and electrification of small towns and villages. The Board has made a perspective plan for increased generation of electricity for the decade upto 1980-81. A number of new projects are proposed to be taken up by the Board within the ambit of that perspective Plan.

In order to promote rapid economic growth it is vitally necessary to take electric power to all the villages in the State. Government is th-

erefore examining the feasibility of taking power to all the villages in the State so that rapid economic growth can be ensured and maximum employment potential generated in scientific agriculture, industry, handicrafts, etc.

Housing During the year under review 90 houses were constructed under Low Income Group Housing Scheme and 14 under Middle Income Group Housing Schemes. Total advance given on these two accounts comes to Rs. 12,27,000. In addition, the Department has advanced Rs. 5,62,000 for construction of houses for labourers. In Hill areas also Housing Loans have been given to individuals and local bodies.

To ease the problem of housing in the urban areas, the State Government propose to take financial assistance from the L. I. C and other institutions for undertaking a large-scale construction programme for cheap housing. The question of setting up a suitable Housing Board to take up large-scale housing programme is also under active consideration.

**Health,
Family
Planning
and Water
Supply.**

The Health Department continues to maintain steady progress in providing medical coverage and improving the quality of services. It is expected that by the end of the Fourth Plan there will be at least one Primary Health Centre in every C. D. Block in the State.

As is known to the House, there are still a large number of villages in different parts of the

State which are suffering from lack of suitable drinking water sources. In order that every village may be provided with adequate drinking water facilities, the Central Government have initiated a Centrally Sponsored Scheme outside the Plan ceiling so that no village may continue to suffer on that account after a specified period of time. The State Government propose to take full advantage of this Scheme and other existing schemes with a view to implement a time bound programme to provide suitable drinking water facilities to all the villages in the State.

Flood Control and
Irrigation.

The Flood Control and Irrigation Department took up irrigation schemes from the beginning of the Third Plan. Many minor irrigation schemes have been completed and others are in progress. A number of lift irrigation schemes have also been taken up. The lift irrigation schemes at Jagiroad and Khetri have been completed and the Kaliabor Lift Irrigation Scheme is in progress.

Jamuna is the only medium irrigation scheme which has been completed so far. The Barak Valley Dam Construction Scheme could not so far been taken up as the Scheme if given effect to, would submerge 86,000 acres of land of which 40 per cent will be in the Manipur State. Investigation for an alternative site to avoid or reduce submergence of territory is going on.

The Brahmaputra Flood Control Commission which has been functioning as a separate organisa-

tion has taken a number of measures for controlling the Brahmaputra river and its tributaries according to availability of fund. The amount of expenditure necessary for the control of Brahmaputra and its tributaries is beyond the resources of the State. The State Government has been pressing the Government of India to take over the responsibilities for the Brahmaputra Flood Control Commission.

labour

Except, for a few strikes and lockouts, the general industrial relation, in the State may be considered as peaceful. Efforts have been made to enforce all the Labour Legislations in letter and spirit during 1971-72. The welfare activities undertaken by the Department continued to progress. They are proposed to be intensified in 1972-73.

The welfare schemes for the large body of workers in the Tea Industries like Provident Fund, Insurance, Pension, etc., have been making steady progress. The Tea Industry workers have been brought under a more beneficial pension scheme under a programme sponsored by the Central Government. The scheme covers 4,87,000 labour members and 9,000 staff members and provides a family pension of Rs. 40 per month and a lumpsum of Rs. 1,000 to the family of a member if the member dies while in service and had put in two years membership in the fund.

Employ-
ment

The problem of unemployment is growing more and more acute despite growth of the economy in diverse directions. In Assam the problem has been aggravated by a high rate of population growth and inflow of job-seekers from outside the State. While the precise unemployment situation, among the rural population, has not so far been adequately assessed, the Employment Exchange statistics provide some broad indication of the size of the problem.

The number of job-seekers in the State registered on 30th June, 1971 was 82,366 as against 68,717 on 30th June, 1970. Out of this educated job-seekers, i. e., matriculates and above, accounted for 24,591 on 30th June, 1971 compared to 19,625 on 30th June, 1970.

Total employment in the organised sector increased from 7.50 lakhs on 30th June 1970 to 7.62 lakhs on 30th June, 1971. This increase was mainly due to increased employment opportunities in the public sector.

Government is anxious to ensure that against all employment opportunities generated either in the public or private sector, the claims of the local unemployed are given topmost consideration by all concerned. The Employment Review Committee of the Assembly visited various industries and undertakings and impressed upon the employers the need for giving maximum employment benefits to the local unemployed youths. Though the rate of job

opportunities has been less as compared to the increase in the number of unemployed, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of local unemployed persons absorbed against jobs in different parts of the State.

The need to appreciably increase job opportunities through employment oriented development schemes has been kept in view in formulating Government's economic programmes.

Craftsmen
training

Institutional training facilities for training of craftsmen have been progressively increasing from 1416 in the First Plan to 3756 seats at the commencement of the Fourth Plan.

Under the Apprentice Training Scheme, 488 seats were allocated upto December, 1971 in different public sector undertakings in the State. 397 short-term and 172 full-term apprentices have so far successfully completed the prescribed course of training facilities so as to achieve a target of 500 seats by the end of the Fourth Plan.

It is proposed to conduct extensive studies on technologically advanced work patterns in employment oriented operations so that more and more local young men can be involved in remunerative work programmes suitable to their aptitude, physical conditions, and employment expectations.

Educational

Education at all levels has been progressing steadily. At the primary stage more and more schools have been taken over every year so that free

primary education can be available to all children in the State. This programme is expected to be completed in about four years. In pursuance of a Government policy, schools in Tea Garden areas are being progressively brought under the Elementary Education Board.

Education has been made free upto the end of the middle stage for both boys and girls. Training facilities for teachers of both primary and secondary schools have been increased. Besides, teacher's workshops and seminars are being organised by various agencies like the State Institute of Science, the State Institute of Education and the Board of Secondary Education.

While the State Institute of Education was started quite sometime ago, the State Institute of Science has been established only recently and is now functioning in full swing making arrangements for better Science education in the Schools of the State. The two Universities have been given appreciable funds for running the postgraduate departments and for facilities of higher research. A Post-graduate Department in Physics has been opened in the Cotton College as well.

The Government do not encourage unplanned growth of Colleges and other educational institutions. Government have decided in principle to bring over to the deficit system, some of the non-deficit col-

leges in the phased manner but the progress will depend on availability of funds.

Another important project taken up is the preparation of the Assamese encyclopaedia by the Publication Board, with financial assistance from the State Government.

The crash programme on evaluation of text books has already been duly completed. A Corporation called the Assam State Text Book Production and Publication Corporation Limited has been set up by the Government to take over assets and liabilities of Board of Text Book Production and Research and prepare, print, publish and sell text books up to the Higher Secondary Stage of Education.

Other Pilot projects taken in hand are the Farmers' Functional Literacy, the battery of projects on a comprehensive programme and the UNICEF pilot project on Science. Spade-work on these projects has been completed, and it is expected that substantial progress will be achieved during 1972-73.

To ensure that talented children are enabled to easily get the best education, the feasibility of opening model schools in each subdivision is under examination. These institutions will have to be provided with all amenities for both teachers and students. Scholarships would also be provided in adequate numbers so that poor talented students can continue their education unfettered.

During the 4th Plan the approach to Technical Education has been changed from expansion to consolidation. The work on the establishment of a Regional Engineering College at Silchar is progressing.

During 1971-72, the Department had arranged practical training to as many as 157 Degree-holders and 94 Diploma-holders who passed out from the State Engineering and Technical Institutions.

The admission situation in the Engineering Colleges and Polytechnics showed a marked improvement in 1971-72 as compared to the previous two years.

Welfare
of Tribal
areas
and
Back-
ward
Classes

The implementation of the development schemes since the delegation of powers to the District Councils of Mikir Hills and North Cachar Hill districts has been satisfactory. This has given a element of participation and belonging to the District Councils concerned in the implementation of the development schemes. Further delegation may be contemplated as we go along in the process of implementing the development schemes formulated by the State Government in consultation with the District Councils.

The Planning Commission has been attaching a great deal importance to the development of the Hill area. It has been increasingly felt that unless special efforts are devoted for the development of the Hill areas these

would continue to remain backward compared to the adjacent plains areas. Undoubtedly priority will have to be assigned for the accelerated development of the hill areas in view of their backwardness and geographical disadvantages.

The Advisory Council for Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes continued functioning satisfactorily and have advised Government on a number of important matters concerning their welfare and advancement.

The State Government have also taken up schemes for the extension of education facilities to the Other Backward Classes in the State.

**Social
welfare**

The Social Welfare Department has been maintaining State Homes for vagrants, destitute women, helpless widows, orphans and destitute children. The Training-cum-Production Centre at Jalukbari has been making steady progress. A Balbhawan at Happy Villa, Gauhati, and the Deaf and Dumb School at Gauhati, has been doing considerable work for the welfare of children and deaf and dumb persons. The Department has also been executing a scheme for providing nutritious food to the children and expectant mothers.

Revenue

The resettlement operations in the districts of Dibrugarh and Lakhimpur are expected to be over soon, while that of Nowgong was closed in 1971. The Darrang resettlement operation was started in 1968 and the progress is satisfactory. Resettlement is also in progress in Silchar town.

Till recently the Government land settlement policy spelt out in 1968 was being acted upon by devoting special care to ensure that only genuine landless people were given settlement of land. Reserves were opened up where necessary on the recommendations of the Land Settlement Advisory Committees. In 1971 Government also decided to settle lands contained in semi-permanent "char" areas with landless agriculturists on annual patta basis. Cases of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were given due consideration and attempts were made to provide land to unemployed youths on co-operative basis.

The land settlement policy has been re-examined taking into consideration the land reforms measures already initiated, the total availability of cultivable lands and the problems of genuine landless cultivators. It has been felt that there is increasing pressure on agricultural land not only because of economic need to obtain a means of livelihood but also because of its property value. The latter aspect has often been in the forefront and tended to distort the efforts of Government to settle lands. The Government have therefore decided to revise the land settlement policy.

It is proposed not to give settlement of Government land in rural areas on individual, co-operative and any other basis except for homestead purpose. All available cultivable Government lands in each circle, subdivision and district are proposed to be made available to all the landless cultivators of such

circles, subdivisions, district on a total basis by forming agricultural farming corporations in which the Government will be a majority share holder providing the value of the land as Government share. Genuine landless cultivators of the area will be admitted as share-holders of the Corporation and allowed use of the land for agricultural production without any heritable or transferable right in the land. The corporation will also attract and utilise funds available from financial institutions for development of the land by providing irrigation and other facilities. Profits accruing to the Government from the corporation will be ploughed back for further development. The various departments of Government in the agricultural sector would render all necessary assistance to ensure that these agricultural farming corporations put all such cultivable lands to optimum use and add to the economic development of the State. Other Government lands which are capable of reclamation would similarly be taken up for agricultural farming, after suitable reclamation at Government cost. This policy would also be extended to surplus lands available after the Land Ceiling implementation.

In the sphere of land reforms Assam was abreast of developments in other parts of the country. The Assam (Temporarily Settled Areas) Tenure Act, 1971 which provides security of tenures and rights of ownership will be carefully implemented.

is expected to bring about an agrarian revolution.

Government have decided to bring down the ceiling on rural agricultural lands to 50 bighas and a legislation for this purpose will be introduced in this session. Government also propose to extend the Assam Land and Revenue Regulations and the Assam (Temporarily Settled Areas) Tenancy Act to the erstwhile permanently settled areas of Goalpara District and Karimganj Subdivision by repealing the Goalpara Tenancy Act and the Sylhet Tenancy Act.

The Records-of-Rights of tenants including adhiars which have not been updated in the districts of Goalpara, Kamrup and Sibsagar and a part of Cachar will be updated as soon as possible. With these changes, we expect to obtain updated records of ownership and tenancy rights in all districts and the primary land reforms measures viz, the Ceiling on Land Holdings Act and the Tenancy Act could be proceeded with in full swing.

Bhoodan and Gramdan movements have been encouraged by Government. The Bhoodan Board has so far collected 9752 acres of land as Bhoodan while 213 villages have been declared as Gramdan villages.

Due to recurrence of natural calamities land revenue arrears have accumulated. It is necessary to persuade all persons owning land in the State to pay up their dues to Government so that not only revenue earnings do not show a shortfall but the Government can also implement schemes relating to improve-

ment of land and agrarian structures without any impediment.

The Government have with effect from 1st July, 1971 enhanced the rate of commission for Mouzadars for collection of land revenue in a bid to accelerate the progress of Revenue collection.

Urban
Ceiling

Government has accepted in principle the necessity to impose ceiling on the value of urban property and are introducing suitable legislation in this connection.

Prohibition.

Total prohibition of liquor has so far been enforced in the districts of Kamrup, Nowgong and Goalpara. In other districts some restrictive measures have also been initiated with a view to discourage consumption of liquor.

In order to generate a suitable climate for the progressive promotion of prohibition it is proposed to strengthen the non-official prohibition organisation to enlist greater public support and co-operation to the cause,

Municipal Administration.

The year 1971 witnessed a further increase in the number of local bodies in the State. Some proposals for constitution of more Town Committees are also under consideration. In order to provide amenities in various towns, specific earmarked grants for construction and improvement of roads and drainage, improvement of play-ground, construction of parks, improvement of working and living conditions

of Harijans, etc., are being given besides the usual grants and loans for water supply scheme.

The Gauhati Municipal Corporation Bill passed by the Assembly is now awaiting assent of the Governor and consideration of the President. Meanwhile arrangements are proposed to be made to take care of all preliminary works like demarcation of boundary constitution of wards, etc.

Town
and Co-
untry
Planning

Several new schemes have been taken up during the Fourth Plan in addition to the schemes for Town and Country planning in Gauhati, Tezpur and Tinsukia. Schemes like the Jorhat Municipal Market and the Stadium Complex at Tezpur have been taken up for implementation during 1971-72. For Urban Development Schemes, a sum of Rs. 11.40 lakhs had been distributed for improvement and construction of drains, burial places, etc. Satisfactory progress has also been made with regard to the execution of the Pub-Sarania and Lakhtakia Drainage and sewerage schemes.

Supply

In 1971-72 the Assam Co-operative Apex Marketing Society Limited was entrusted with procurement of paddy in the districts of Darrang and Lakhimpur excluding Dhemaji Subdivision. Rest of the State was within the procurement area of the Food Corporation of India. The target for procurement for the whole State has been fixed at 15 lakh quintals in terms of rice. Progress of procurement by both the agencies has been satisfactory.

The State is almost entirely dependent on the Government of India in so far as wheat is concerned as local production is still small.

Sugar was decontrolled with effect from 25th May 1971. The Government of India have again introduced control over 60 per cent of the sugar production for distribution through fair-price shop from 1st January, 1972.

Assam is dependent on outside supplies for many essential commodities and the position was quite satisfactory till July, 1971. Due, however, to movement restrictions on Railways, the national emergency and transport dislocation because of floods, normal movement of many essential commodities practically came to a standstill during the national emergency. Special arrangements in consultation with the Railway Board had to be made to rush minimum supplies to counter the evil effects of scarcity and price rise on the State's economy and to minimise hardship to the public. It took considerable time to clear the backlog of earlier shortfalls in supplies and movements.

Even after the national emergency transport restrictions and bottlenecks continued to effect adversely regular movement of some essential commodities like cement, iron materials including C. I. Sheets, in particular. The problem of cement scarcity created serious difficulties for the public for a long time and many development programmes were also very

adversely affected. The State Government took up with the Government of India at the highest level the question of special movement programmes to cover these commodities and the position to some extent has started easing. Even so difficulties continued to be experienced due to inadequate supply of cement and iron materials and the State Government is constantly endeavouring to bring about improvement therein as early as possible.

For a long time G.C.I. Sheets did not move to the State for various difficulties and great hardship had been caused to the public. The position became still more acute due to extensive damage caused to a large number of public and private building during recent periods of serious storm in parts of the State.

The State Government have arranged for the special supply of 2,000 metric tonnes of G.C.I. Sheets for meeting the immediate requirements of the public. A part of that special quota has started moving and it is hoped that the position will improve to some extent within a short time.

The State Government have also taken up with the Government of India the question of meeting the State's requirement of salt from the West Coast instead of the current practice of linking Assam with sources of supply in Calcutta. It is expected that direct movement of salt from the West Coast will not only ensure regular supply but would also have some impact on the price of this basic necessity.

Trans-
port
and
Com-
muni-
cation.

The Transport Department has been formulating their policies according to the principles laid down by the All-India Transport Development Council and recommendations of the State Advisory Committee.

The Government of India is currently engaged in exploring the possibility of early resumption of a regular river transport service from Assam to Calcutta via Bangladesh in the larger interest of development and economy of this region.

The Assam and Meghalaya State Road Transport Corporation established in March 1970, has been operating motor transport services on about 3,299 kms. of road with a fleet of about 732 vehicles.

District Transport Officers have been given powers to act as Bakijai Officers to ensure quick realisation of arrears on account of motor vehicle taxes. Enforcement measures have been tightened to check evasion of taxes and illegal plying of vehicles.

The Directorate of Inland Water Transport have taken up schemes for hydrographic survey, crew training, bottom panelling, construction of approach roads to ghats, terminal facilities at ferry ghats and construction and purchase of ferry vehicles, etc., with a view to develop Inland Water Transport facilities in the State.

Tourism

Number of tourists, both foreign and indigenous, has been steadily on the increase. Arrangements for their suitable accommodation and other services are

much less than what is reasonably needed. A number of schemes have therefore been drawn up to improve tourist accommodation and develop some more tourists resorts to attract more and more tourists to the State. Two Tourist information counters have been started in Calcutta and Bombay. It is proposed to open a similar counter at Delhi as well. Three luxury mini-buses have been acquired to provide transport facilities to tourists visiting various places of tourists interest. Steps have been taken to provide additional accommodation facilities at Manas.

Two Centrally sponsored schemes for tourist bungalows at Gauhati and Kaziranga have already been sanctioned.

Relief and Rehabilitation Department.
Of the refugees, who came to Assam in 1964, 8722 families have been rehabilitated under agricultural schemes and 4103 families rehabilitated under non-agricultural schemes. 4309 families with a population of 11,971 remained to be rehabilitated and these families are still being looked after in different camps.

All the camp refugees from erstwhile East Pakistan have since been completely repatriated to Bangladesh. Out of the total of 66,265 East Pakistan refugees who stayed with their friends and relations 58,566 refugees have since been repatriated to Bangladesh. Steps to complete the process within a short time are being taken in conformity with in-

structions received in that regard from the Government of India. It is hoped that all such refugees will return to Bangladesh within a short time.

Reports have been received regarding movement of new migrants from Bangladesh into the bordering districts of the State. As desired by the Government of India all concerned authorities have been duly alerted with regard to this new influx and security measures tightened all along the border. The reports regarding some earlier evacuees from East Pakistan trying to remain permanently without returning to Bangladesh are under investigation and necessary steps will be taken to ensure their early return to Bangladesh as per decision taken in that regard at the national level.

Public
Works
Depart-
ment.

Against requirement by 1981 of 35,406 K.M. of motorable roads in Assam and Meghalaya, there has been only 18,675 K.M. of roads by 1971. A lot therefore remains to be done to meet the communication needs of the State.

During 1971-72, 20 K. M. existing P.W. D. roads has been improved, 60 K.M. metalled and black-topped and 245 K.M new road constructed. The work on the National Highways as an agency of the Central Government has been more or less completed together with construction of new bridges thereon.

The Government of India have recently declared the road from Nowgong to Dimapur via Doboka as

a National Highway No. 36. The State P.W.D has already submitted the project report amounting to Rs. 4 crores with regard to the work of improvement and development of this new National Highway. Detailed survey work has also been taken in hand.

The State P.W.D. has since taken up metal-ling and surfacing of the road from Dimapur to Mahur via Lumding with financial assistance from the Border Roads Development Board, Government of India.

The Border Roads Development Board has also agreed to finance the improvement of the road from Garampani to Haflong and funds have already been placed for taking up detailed survey and investigation. The Border Roads Organisation has also agreed on principle to take up a new road from Haflong to Silchar via Jating-Detekcherra.

Jail A full-time Inspector General of Prisons has been appointed with effect from 11th May 1971 to look after the Jails. Administration is expected to improve.

Over population in the Jails continue. To meet the situation partly, it has been decided to take up essential works of construction estimated at Rs. 3 lakhs. Last year a sum of Rs. 1 lakh was spent.

The overcrowding was further accentuated by the arrest and detention of a large number of anti-

social elements suspected of sabotage, and other subversive activities at the instance of a hostile country, infiltration of persons whose credentials were not known and P. O. Ws (Rajakars).

Reformatory Jails namely open Air Agricultural Colonies at Jorhat and Gauhati are functioning under a trained Officer. Two Social Welfare Officers of the Social Welfare Department have been posted at Gauhati and Jorhat Jails.

Police The Hon'ble Members are aware that the Assam Police Commission made several recommendations of which the Scheme on modernisation of the Assam Police Force has been given top most consideration by Government. In a nutshell, the following actions have been taken by the Government in spite of a very tight ways and means position of the State.

- (i) Vehicles worth Rs. 24.5 lakhs were purchased during the year under review with a view to equip the force with an adequate fleet.
- (ii) Wireless Transmission equipments and Wireless Vans worth Rs. 19 lakhs were purchased for the Assam Police Radio Organisation.
- (iii) Scientific equipments worth about Rs. 6 lakhs were purchased to equip the Forensic Science Laboratory at Gauhati. In addition, out of 22 technical posts in the Laboratory 14 have so far been filled up on

the recommendations of the Assam Public Service Commission. Also we had sought for foreign exchange to the tune of Rs. 6 lakhs for importing some scientific equipments for the Laboratory for which clearance from Government of India has been received recently. Over and above, an amount of Rs. 2.4 lakhs is being released by Government of India for purchase of imported equipments directly by the State Government for which we have applied for Import Licence,

- (iv) The Police Commission laid emphasis on the requirement of Housing facilities. The State Government received a loan assistance of Rs. 7.5 lakhs from Government of India to which a matching grant of Rs. 7.5 lakhs was contributed by State. In the State Budget for 1970-71 an amount of Rs. 30 lakhs was provided works to be executed by the P. W. D. In addition, an amount of Rs. 33 lakhs was spent departmentally which also included office accommodation.

The overall financial implication of the implementation of the recommendations of the commission being very heavy, it is bound to take a long time and more so in the context of the present financial condition of our State.

Another even of historic importance has been the separation of the Meghalaya Police from Assam Police during the year under review. With effect from 21st January 1972 the autonomous State of Meghalaya was raised to a full State and Police functions were transferred to them. The 7th Assam Police Battalion, whose Headquarters were in Shillong, was handed over to the Government of Meghalaya on 1st May 1972, which now is christened as the 1st Meghalaya Armed Police Battalion.

General
Admini-
stration

With Meghalaya becoming a full-fledged State, the all India Services of the State formed Joint cadres with Meghalaya with effect from 21st January 1972. Consequent on this, the number of duty posts in the State has been reduced from the original 58 to 45 although because of separation of Meghalaya and Mizoram there was actual reduction of only 3 duty posts. The total strength of the I.A.S. cadre has also become 97 as against the original strength of 118.

Account
1970-71.

The revised estimates for the year 1970-71 were anticipated to close with a minus balance of Rs. (—) 3902.85 lakhs. During that year Government of India sanctioned special accommodation of Rs. 25.41 crores to the State Government to cover the gap in the non-plan expenditure and the State Government's over-draft with the Reserve Bank of India stood at Rs. 20.29 crores on 31st March, 1971. As a result of this, the year closed with a balance of Rs. 449.35 lakhs.

In the revised estimates for 1970-71 the receipts on the Revenue Account had been placed at Rs. 107,87.14 lakhs and the actuals stood at Rs. 101,19.35 lakhs. The shortfall of actual receipt over the revised estimate is due to non-reimbursement by the Government of India of additional expenditure incurred in Mizo Hills (Rs. 226.18 lakhs), and accrual of less receipt under Taxes on Agricultural Income (Rs. 171.57 lakhs), Land Revenue (Rs. 80 lakhs), Sales Tax (Rs. 156.44 lakhs), Other Taxes and Duties (Rs. 21.79 lakhs), Miscellaneous Departments (Rs. 6.98 lakhs), Education (Rs. 8.41 lakhs), Medical and Public Health (Rs. 14.10 lakhs), partly counterbalanced by increase in receipt under other heads.

Actual expenditure in the Revenue Account stood at Rs. 120,93.01 lakhs against the revised estimate of Rs. 119,18.24 lakhs representing an increase of Rs. 174.77 lakhs. This is mainly due to excess expenditure incurred under Brahmaputra Flood Control (Rs. 158.91), P.W.D. (Road and Building) (Rs. 912.26 lakhs) counterbalanced by decrease in Interest (Rs. 330.45 lakhs), Miscellaneous, Social and Developmental organisation (Rs. 375.84 lakhs), Administrative Service (Rs. 199.80 lakhs), Detailed variation have been explained in the Explanatory Memorandum.

In the Capital Budget the actual receipt stood at Rs. 189,80.33 lakhs against the revised estimates of Rs. 119,29.10 lakhs. This is mainly due to sanction of Special accommodation of Rs. 25.41 crores by the

Government of India and more Ways and Means Advance sanctioned by the Government of India and the Reserve Bank of India.

The Capital Expenditure during that year stood at Rs. 168.34.60 lakhs against the Revised Estimates of Rs. 150,22.31 lakhs. The excess is mainly due to excess expenditure incurred under State Trading (Rs. 120.08 lakhs) Appropriation to C.F. (Rs. 500.00 lakhs), Public Debt (Rs. 1,608.81 lakhs). Counter-balanced by decrease under Irrigation (222.87 lakhs). Public Works (Rs. 106 lakhs) and investment heads (Rs. 47 lakhs).

In the Public Accounts there is a net surplus of Rs. 10,54.48 lakhs against a net surplus of Rs. 10,98.62 lakhs anticipated the Revised Estimates.

Revised
1971-72

At the time of presenting "Vote on Account" for 1972-73 in the month of March, 1972, I have stated that the year 1971-72 will close with a minus balance of Rs. (—) 44.81 crores. In order to cover non-plan gap Government of India sanctioned Rs. 16.49 crores during that year and advised State Government to make economy in non-plan expenditure to the extent of Rs. 0.27 crore leaving a balance of Rs. 28.05 uncovered. But according to latest accounts the State's closing balance stood at Rs. (—) 32.41 crores which means a further deterioration of State's financial position by Rs. (—) 4.36 crores; this takes into account the rectification of the double debit of

Rs. 9.24 crores already referred to in my speech.

During the later part of the month of April, 1972 both the Reserve Bank of India and Government of India communicated the decision to stop State's unauthorised over-draft with the Bank with effect from 1st May, 1972 and Government of India cleared the State's over-draft as on 30th April, 1972 by granting Ways and Means Advance and advance release of the State's share of Central Taxes and Duties and a part of Plan assistance.

In the revised estimate, total revenue receipts stood at Rs. 130,68.03 lakhs against the Budget estimates of Rs. 114,35.73 lakhs. The increase is mainly due to grant of an assistance of Rs. 983.50 lakhs by Government of India for Bangladesh evacuees and Rs. 538.93 lakhs towards adjustment of expenditure incurred by Defence Ministry for Development of Border Roads. It may however be stated that the amount provided in the detailed estimates of revenue receipts under LVI-Grant-in-aid is Rs. 7,119.36 lakhs. But due to non-receipt of grants for Mizo Hills Disturbances (Rs. 286.32 lakhs) and arrear grants under Police (Rs. 300.00 lakhs) the receipts under this head have come down to Rs. 65,33.04 lakhs and a result total revenue receipt have also come down to Rs. 1,30,68.03 lakhs from Rs. 136,47.85 lakhs as earlier placed.

The Revenue expenditure has also gone up to Rs. 143,38.73 lakhs as against Rs. 120,30.36 lakhs in

the original Budget estimates. The increase is also mainly due to expenditure incurred for Bangladesh evacuees (Rs. 983.50 lakhs) and adjustment of expenditure incurred by Defence Ministry for Border Road development (Rs. 538.93 lakhs). Increased expenditure was also incurred under interest (Rs. 237.11 lakhs), Medical and Public Health (Rs. 97.43 lakhs), Irrigation and Flood Control (Rs. 45.24 lakhs), P.W.D. (Rs. 98.00 lakhs), Ports and Pilotage (Rs. 13 lakhs).

The Capital receipts have been placed at Rs. 133,02.09 lakhs against the original budget estimates of Rs. 11,91.17 lakhs. The increase is mainly due to grant of special accommodation of Rs. 16.49 crores by the Government of India.

The Capital Expenditure stood at Rs. 154,14.91 lakhs against the budget estimates of (Rs. (131,49.47 lakhs). The increase is mainly under Flood Control (Rs. 153.26 lakhs) and under Public Debt (Rs. 1,477.61 lakhs) counterbalanced by decrease in other heads. Detailed variations have been explained in the explanatory memorandum.

In the Public Account there will be a net deficit of Rs. (—)3,06.92 lakhs.

As a result, there will be an overall deficit of Rs. (—) 36,90.44 lakhs. Together with the opening balance of Rs. 449.35 lakhs the year will close with a minus balance of Rs. (—) 32,41.09 lakhs.

a minus balance of Rs. (—) 32,41.09 lakhs, the opening balance in the Budget for 1972-73 has been shown as nil in view of the fact that the liabilities have already been cleared; necessary adjustments have been made under the concerned heads in the Budget to include the relevant receipts and outgoings.

Revenue Receipts are placed at Rs. 113,83.56 lakhs and anticipated expenditure at Rs. 119,52.24 lakhs. There will, therefore, be a deficit of Rs. 568.68 lakhs in the revenue account. The revenue receipts include the accounts of Rs. 11.24 crores of State's share of Income-tax in advance and Rs. 6.20 crores Central assistance for Plan sanctioned by the Government of India to clear the State's over-draft with Reserve Bank of India.

The anticipated Capital receipts for the year have been placed at Rs. 144,88.54 lakhs and the Capital expenditure at Rs. 152,49.26 lakhs.

In the Capital receipts an amount of Rs. 28.05 crores has been provided as Ways & Means advance from Government of India, which the State Government have already received to clear the over-draft with the Reserve Bank of India. Another amount of Rs. 19.70 crores has been provided as loan from the Government of India to meet the State's Budgetary deficit for the year 1972-73.

In the expenditure side, an amount of Rs. 4.21 crores representing 15 per cent of the above Ways & Means advance of Rs. 28.05 crores has been

provided for repayment and another amount of Rs. 32.41 crores already repaid to the Reserve Bank of India to clear the over-draft has also been provided.

As shown in the Budget Estimates the year 1972-73 is expected to close with a minus balance of Rs. 11,80.77 lakhs. Efforts will be made to reduce this gap by economy measures and vigorous collection of arrear taxes and loans as well as sustained efforts to obtain full reimbursement from the Government of India of expenditure incurred initially by the State on reimbursable items. Additional resources are also proposed to be raised by taxation to finance the Plan for which necessary legislation will be introduced in due course.

Government is conscious of the immensity of task that lies ahead to bring about appreciable improvement in the economic conditions of the people particularly in the lowest strata of the society. They also fully appreciate the gravity of the State's problems created by a very unsatisfactory financial position. There is, however, no reason why, with goodwill and determination, sizeable progress should not be quickly achieved in fulfilling the basic needs of the poorer sections of our people provided suitable priorities are fixed, efficiency in execution of programmes achieved and maximum economy observed in public expenditure in a spirit of a austerity. With an enormous debt burden, the State will have

to concentrate on quick and fruitful implementation of imaginative economic programmes so that the financial imbalance can be rectified and economic progress quickly achieved.

Government fully appreciate their great responsibility to the people who, despite distress and suffering, have manifested so much trust in their elected representatives in the hope of early improvement of their lot.

I would, in all humility, appeal to all sections of this august House to extend their understanding support and co-operation to Government in their determined bid to effect quick economic progress so that all of us, in unity and strength, can address ourselves unreservedly to this great task that lies before us.

JAI HIND

ANNEXURE A

(In thousands of Rupees)

Heads	Actuals, 1970-71	Budget, 1971-72	Revised, 1971-72	Budget, 1972-73
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
RECEIPTS—				
Opening Balance	(-)7,77,20	(-)39,02,85	(+)4,49,35	
Revenue Receipts	1,01,19,35	1,14,35,73	1,30,68,03	1,13,83,56
Capital Receipts	1,89,80,33	1,17,91,17	1,33,02,09	1,44,88,54
Receipts under Contingency Fund.	6,59,65	77,27	8,57,40	
Receipts under Public Accounts	1,22,55,73	1,51,78,69	1,28,10,16	1,32,90,52
Total-Receipts	4,20,15,06	3,84,82,86	4,00,37,68	3,91,62,62
GRAND TOTAL	4,12,37,86	3,45,80,01	4,04,87,03	3,91,62,62
EXPENDITURE—				
Revenue Expenditure	1,20,93,01	1,20,30,36	1,43,38,73	1,19,52,24
Capital Expenditure	1,68,34,60	1,31,49,47	1,54,14,91	1,52,49,26
Expenditure under Contingency Fund.	1,75,42	...	12,14,80	91,34
Expenditure under Public Accounts.	1,16,85,48	1,37,81,32	1,27,59,68	1,30,50,55
Total-Expenditure	4,07,88,51	3,89,61,15	4,37,28,12	4,03,43,39
Closing Balance	(+)4,49,35	(-)43,81,14	(-)32,41,09	(-)11,80,77
GRAND TOTAL	4,122,37,86	3,45,80,01	4,04,87,03	3,91,62,62

(In thousand of Rupees)

Heads	Actuals, 1970-71	Budget, 1971-72	Revised, 1971-27	Budget, 1972-73
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Net Results—				
Surplus (+)				
Deficit (—)				
(a) On Revenue Account	(—)19,73,66	(—)5,94,63	(—)12,70,70	(—)5,68,68
(b) Outside the Revenue Account	(+)32,00,21	(+)1,16,34	(—)24,19,74	(—)6,12,09
(c) Net excluding the Opening Balance.	(+)12,26,55	(—)4,78,29	(—)36,90,44	(—)11,80,77

ANNEXURE B

Annual Plan for 1972-73—Sectoral Allocations

Head of Development	(Rs. in lakhs)
	Provisional outlay for 1972-73
(1)	(2)
1. Agricultural Production	222.00
2. Minor Irrigation	229.00
3. Soil Conservation	21.00
4. Ayacut Development Programme	3.00
5. Animal Husbandry	63.00
6. Dairying and Milk Supply	18.00
7. Forests	54.00
8. Fisheries	19.00

Head of Development	(Rs. in lakhs) Provisional outlay for 1972-73		
(1)	(2)		
9. Warehousing and Marketing	4.00	
I. Agricultural Programmes:	638.00	
10. Co-operation	68.00	
11. Community Development	47.00	
12. Panchayats	10.00	
II. Co-operation and Community Development:	125.00	
13. Irrigation	110.00	
14. Flood Control	524.00*	
15. Power	700.00	
III. Irrigation and Power:	1,334.00	
16. Large and Medium Industries	265.00	
17. Mineral Development	15.00	
18. Village and Small Industries	110.00	
IV. Industry and Mineral:	390.00	
19. Road	260.00	
20. Road Transport	85.00	
21. Inland Water Transport	21.00	
22. Tourism	5.00	
V. Transport:	371.00	
23. General Education	318.00	
24. Technical Education	32.00	
25. Cultural Programme	10.00	
26. Health including Water Supply and Sanitation...	...	224.00	

*includes Provisions for Brahmaputra Flood control.

Head of Development

(Rt. in lakhs
provisional
outlay for
1972-73

(1)

(2)

27. Housing and Town Planning	57.00
28. Welfare of Backward Classes (Plains Tribals, and Other).	107.00
29. Social Welfar ...	10.00
30. Labour and Labour Welfare ...	15.00
VI. Social Service: ...	<u>773.00</u>
31. Statistics ...	4.00
32. Publicity ...	4.00
33. Hills and Border Areas ...	375.00
34. Others ...	29.00
VII. Miscellaneous: ...	412.00
GRAND TOTAL ...	<u>4,043.00</u>

Obituary Reference to the demise of
Shri Damadoram Sanjivayya,
Ex-President of the All India
Congress Committee

Shri Sarat Chandra Sinha (Chief Minister) :

Shri [Damadoram Sanjivayya, Ex-President of the All India Congress Committee, who died on May 7, 1972 after a heart attack had a chequered political career.

He was born on February 14, 1921 in Peddapadu village in Andhra Pradesh.

Shri Sanjivayya received his elementary education in his village Peddapadu. For his higher school education, he had to go to Kurnool town to study in the Municipal High School there.

After completing his school career in 1938, he joined the 'Caded District' College at Anantapur, from where he graduated in 1942. He studied law at Madras Law College from 1946-48. After graduating in law he was enrolled as an advocate of the Madras High Court in 1950.

As a student, Shri Sanjivayya participated in All activities in the case of the nation's freedom struggle.

He was elected to the Madras Legislative Assembly from Kurnool district and became Minister for Cooperation and Housing in Shri Rajagopalachari's Ministry in 1962. He had been a Minister without a break till he was chosen as the President of the Indian National Congress in 1962. On the election of Shri Sanjiva Reddi as Congress President Shri Sanjivayya was elevated to the High Office of Chief Ministership of Andhra Pradesh and he continued to hold the office till March 12, 1962.

In 1964 Shri Sanjivayya was sworn in as a Minister in the Union Cabinet. He continued to hold the office till the midterm poll to the Lok Sabha last year. He succeeded Shri Jagjivan Ram as Congress President, when the latter became a Minister in the Union Cabinet.

We have lost in his death a most dedicated and inspiring leader. His life was dedicated to the cause of social and economic justice for our people.

The Assembly places on record its sense of deep and profound grief at his death, offers its homage to the departed leader, conveys to Mr. Sanjivayya and to the members of his family its feeling of deep sympathy in their bereavement.

Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya : Sir, I on behalf of this side of the House express our full support to the condolence resolution moved by the Chief Minister.

Shri Promode Chandra Gogoi : Sir, I on behalf of my party fully appreciate the sentiment expressed by the Chief Minister.

Shri Sonowar Bora : মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই আমাৰ দলৰ ফালৰ পৰা সজীবৰেডি দেৱৰ মৃত্যুত শোক প্ৰকাশ কৰিছো আৰু তেখেতৰ শোকসন্তপ্ত পৰিয়াললৈ সমবেদনা জ্ঞাপন কৰিছো।

Mr. Speaker : I whole-heartedly associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the House at the premature death of Shri Damodaram Sanjivayya, President of the Indian National Congress.

Shri Sanjivayya shaped his life from a very humble beginning and toiled all through to rise to one of the most exalted positions in the whole country. He was the first Harijan to become the Chief Minister of a State and also

the President of the National Congress. He had a chequered political career and his contribution towards the country as a leader and administrator is immense. His life and work should be a source of inspiration for all of us. He was greatly loved and respected through out the country. In his death India has lost a very able parliamentarian and a true leader of down-trodden humanity.

We mourn his loss and convey our heartfelt sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

I now request the hon. Members to rise on their feet and observe two minutes' silence as a mark of respect to the departed personality. (The House rose and observed two minutes prayerful silence).

ADJOURNMENT

The Assembly then adjourned till 10 A M on Tuesday the 6th June 1972.

Shillong

The 5th June 1972

U. Tahbildar

Secretary.

Legislative Assembly Assam