

Assam Legislative Assembly Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY ASSEMBLED AFTER THE FIRST
GENERAL ELECTION UNDER THE
SOVEREIGN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN
CONSTITUTION OF
INDIA

DECEMBER SESSION

VOLUME III

No. 24

The 20th December, 1956



सत्यमेव जयते

1957

PRINTED AT THE ASSAM GOVERNMENT PRESS
SHILLONG

Price 10 annas,

Proceedings of the eleventh session of the Assam Legislative Assembly Assembled after the First General Election under the Sovereign Democratic Republican Constitution of India.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 10 A.M. on Thursday the 20th December, 1956.

PRESENT

Shri Kuladhar Chaliha, B.L., Speaker, in the Chair, the nine Ministers, the four Deputy Ministers and seventy-three Members.

General Discussion on the Vote on Accounts Budget for the year 1957-58

Mr. SPEAKER : Mr. Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya, do you think it will be difficult for you if you move the Cut Motions and speak generally on the points of the Cut Motion ?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, yes, there are difficulties. Firstly, I have not the Cut Motions before me and secondly, perhaps, Ministers concerned are not prepared with the replies.

Mr. SPEAKER : They should be able to give you their replies. The difficulty is not with them, I am sure.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Sir, there are some difficulties with us also. The Motions are not with us and we require some time to study them.

Mr. SPEAKER : We will give you a copy.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : I will see if it will be possible in the second half.

Mr. SPEAKER : It will be very cold in the second half.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Sir, I would suggest that it may be taken up by the first half to morrow.

Mr. SPEAKER : But there are others to speak also.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : We have no objection before we know the fate of the Cut Motion, but, Sir, may I suggest that we have the general discussion today in the first half without sitting in the second half and tomorrow in the first half we will take up the Cut Motions?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : We have no objection, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER : Alright then Mr. Bhattacharyya, go on.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the Finance Minister has correctly stated extraordinary measures of presenting some sort of a make-shift budget for the 3 months of the financial year, 1957-58 do not warrant us to make a detailed study of the policy of the Government which would be envisaged in that budget because after all, this is a make-shift arrangement. Yet as the Finance Minister has made a speech and has given out certain opinions it will perhaps not be improper if we also make a few observations. We quite realise, as the Finance Minister has said, that the present Government need not initiate new policies or commit the House to any expenditure on new services at this stage and that this should be left to the House after the next General Election. We find that here in this "Budget Speech" is some sort of a chronicle of events and achievements of the Government. Or it may be some sort of a "swan song". I do not know whether it is a swan song or a chronicle of events and achievements. In the midst of these observations there are some very healthy remarks and some good gestures as well. But there are certain opinions on which we cannot agree, and I shall confine myself only to these points. As I have already stated, we quite appreciate the limitations under which this

speech has to be made and estimates to be prepared only for a few months. And there was also some sort of simple arithmetical calculation. We appreciate the reasons for those difficulties. But at the time of assessing the First Five Year Plan which was the main thing in this period of 5 years, there had been stated of certain correct facts and at the same time, there had been made not very correct calculation. It has been stated at page 3 of the Finance Minister's speech that the State Draft Plan was of Rs.31.5 crores. But then, when it came to actual operation, we find that even when its ceiling was raised, it came only to Rs.17.3 crores. So we find that even the meagre and inadequate Draft Plan of the State was not reached and particularly when the background is noted, as stated by the Finance Minister, of the underdeveloped character of State's economy, there ought to be a greater emphasis on the speed of development of this State. As such, the expenditure on the First Five Year was much below than what was estimated at the beginning. Therefore, there should be no reason for complacency. Further, we find that even when we take into consideration the schemes development financed from the State Revenues, the expenditure came only to 603.74 lakhs that is to say less than $6\frac{1}{2}$ crores. So even if this is added to the Plan of 17.3 crores, it remained short of what was originally drafted for the State Plan. Therefore we cannot say that we have achieved up to our expectation, or even near our expectation. Now even in going to do this we have had to tax the people. Of course, the Finance Minister has stated that this could be done without adding to the suffering of the poorer section of the people. I cannot agree with this remark of the Finance Minister. Also I find that subsequently he himself has stated certain facts which do not agree with this remark.

For example I refer to his remark at page 4, where he he says, "the Sales Tax alone contributes nearly 11 per cent. of the receipts from State taxation". Then at page 5, we find, "keeping the existing economy of the State in view we, in Assam, have also gone in our tax effort as far as practicable". So, there have been some tax efforts and there have also been some enhancement and imposition of new taxes. At the beginning of paragraph 5 of Finance Minister's Budget Speech, it has been stated that there has been some enhancement of existing taxes and also some new taxes have been imposed, for example, tax on carriage of goods. So, there has been some new burden, some kind of new suffering for the poorer sections of the people, because so far as indirect taxes are concerned, like sales tax,

the burden ultimately shifts to the purchaser. The seller acts like a tax collector. It is not the seller, but the purchaser, who pays the tax. Therefore, this is a burden on the common people. It will, therefore, not be proper to say that whatever has been done, it has been done without adding any additional burden on the common man. As a matter of fact, the common people have been taxed to the maximum limit possible, to the saturation point, I should say. But, Sir, I would not have grumbled against this if the development works were progressing with equal speed and on even ratio. But, there we find certain very serious lapses. The Finance Minister himself admits at page 7 of his speech that in the First Five Year Plan "there was no provision for large and medium scale industries and provision for cottage industries was not adequate". This he himself admits. Now, an economy which is essentially agricultural and which essentially serves as the supplier of raw materials for others cannot be said to be an advanced economy. Therefore, even if we agree for the sake of argument that there has been some development of some importance in the agricultural sphere we have no reason to be satisfied with the progress of the First Five Year Plan, because there has been no actual development of any industry in the Plan period. The only industry that we had in the plan was the Umtru-Hydro Electric Project and we were told at the very first Session of this Assembly that this would be completed within the lifetime of this Assembly. But the life of this Assembly is going to be over and yet the Umtru-Hydro Electric Project is not supplying power anywhere. Therefore, we find that even the solitary instance in the industrial sphere has not been successful (*A Voice*—It is going into operation soon). Very good. Let us hope it will come out someday. But my point is that it has not yet come out and I can definitely say that it will not come out before the next General Election, that is to say, not within the life time of this Assembly. We might get power during the Second Plan period. My point is that we have not got it during the First Plan period and so this is not much an advancement.

Then, Sir, I have nothing to say about the chronicle of events like the great earthquake of 1950, or the achievements like the Acquisition of Zamindaries, or the improvement of cattle wealth, and so on. But one thing I would like to say with regard to paragraph 12 of the Finance Minister's speech. Firstly, it has been said that the "Assam Medical College, Dibrugarh, was firmly established". I do not know what the Finance Minister means by "firmly established". If he means that it has been recognised by the Indian Medical Council, then it is

all right. But if he means that all the paraphernalia and all the requisites which were demanded by the Indian Medical Council for such an institution have already been provided, I cannot agree with him, because I know many things are still lacking in our Medical College and they have got to be provided if we want to bring it to the level of expectation of the Indian Medical Council. So, though our Medical College has been recognised by the Indian Medical Council, many more things in many spheres have got to be done in order to bring it to the standard envisaged by the Indian Medical Council. Unless and until we can do that, we cannot say that it has been firmly established. We have also been hearing—I do not know how far it is a fact—that a move is on foot for starting another medical college at Gauhati. As a man from Gauhati I would very much like the idea. But I should say one thing ; I never encourage localism and unless and until we can make our Medical College at Dibrugarh fully equipped, there is no meaning in starting another incomplete or inefficient medical college even in my home town. What is required at present is greater and better hospital facilities at Gauhati and other big towns of Assam. Simply providing doctors will not do ; doctors we can have from other medical colleges, but hospitals we must have all throughout the State. We find that even the hospital attached to our Medical College is far from satisfactory. The House Surgeons and House Physicians serving there are not getting the emoluments that they can reasonably demand. The nurses and trainees in the training course are living a hard life. It is better to improve their condition and to equip the hospital better. It is much better to have a first class hospital at Gauhati like the Presidency General Hospital or the Irwin Hospital. Let us first have such a hospital at Gauhati before we yield to any sort of local feeling for starting another college there.

Then, Sir, in this connection I want to suggest that the Assam Medical College should immediately have another wing for treatment of cancer and for research in that sphere for which there is at present no adequate provision there. Unless and until all these things are done, we cannot say that our Medical College has been firmly established. Then, Sir, with regard to the nursing service, it has been said by the Finance Minister that the nursing services have also been improved. Now, this is a very general remark. If we are to go hundred paces and if we go only two paces, one might say that there has been some improvement. After all, we are not where we were ; we have gone two paces. Where we have to cover

100 paces, we have covered two paces. But this is not any real improvement. Now, with regard to nursing services in our State, I can say that the position is far from satisfactory. It is rather miserable in most of the hospitals as the patients have to depend mostly on the nursing service of brand new trainees in the hospitals. There is no good number of trained nurses in the Hospitals. The patients have to go unheard in the hutments of the hospitals. There is actually no looking after. Therefore, unless and until the nursing services are really improved, we cannot say that we have achieved what we ought to have achieved.

Then, Sir, I want to speak something with regard to the Ayurvedic College at Gauhati. Some students have been receiving training in the Ayurvedic College at Gauhati. But their standard is not up to the mark. My father is not a Kaviraj, and he is not an Ayurvedic practitioner and yet he can teach the text books meant for the Ayurvedic training course. At present, I do not think, the position of the Ayurvedic College at Gauhati is much better than that of an Ayurvedic Tol. For example, when the Government of India has started the Post-Graduate Training Course for giving higher training in Ayurvedic to the Ayurvedic students throughout India, none of the existing teachers from the Ayurvedic College at Gauhati has been deputed to that Post-Graduate Ayurvedic Training Course started by the Government of India. Now if there is not a single teacher in the Ayurvedic College at Gauhati with any Post-Graduate training in Ayurvedic, I do not think that we can say that this college has come up to the expectation, and the required standard.

Then something has been said about the University. The University has shifted to its new buildings at Jhalukbari, but more funds are necessary for its further improvement. My submission is that not only more funds are necessary for its improvement, but there should also be proper control of funds placed at the disposal of the University authorities. In this connection on a previous occasion in this House I had to make a sharp criticism about the expenditure incurred by the Gauhati University, and also had to point out to the Education Minister that a lot of fund had not been properly utilised while the Government had been providing fund at the disposal of the University authorities. Many people say that the affairs of the Gauhati University relating to expenditure side have become family affairs. If we do not take steps here and now, then it will not be possible to control the funds placed at

the disposal of the University authorities. So we should be alive to the problem of controlling the fund.

I have already said about the Umtru Hydro-Electric Project. It is mentioned in paragraph 16 at page 12 of the Budget Speech of the Finance Minister. We have been taking up this scheme for the last five years and yet we are to see what we have been doing during the last five years in this regard.

Then there have been some sums of money spent for certain welfare activities of labour and others. I do not know exactly for whose welfare these funds have been spent. I hope and expect that these sums were not improperly utilised.

Now another thing about the policy which is sought to be continued is regarding prohibition of liquor by Government on which I want to speak a few words. In paragraph 19 at page 14 of the Budget Speech of the Finance Minister it has been said that the State of Assam have adopted a policy of gradual prohibition. It is a good idea if our people are made free from liquor habit. But from the experience gained in the Kamrup district, Government should make an assessment of the achievement made in liquor prohibition, and whether there are certain rooms for improvement. I do not see the Excise Minister in the House, at any rate, the Government will agree and admit that after the total prohibition in Kamrup district, the sale of liquor in the Jagiroad liquor-shop which is on the border of the Kamrup district has gone high.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Sir, the Jagiroad liquor shop is closed now.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Then, Sir, it may be Nellie liquor-shop which is close to the Kamrup district border. The sale of liquor in Nellie liquor shop and in Chaparmukh liquor shop, has been increased. These shops are in the Nowgong district—the home district of our Finance Minister. In the preceding years the quantity of liquor used to be sold in these shops was about 1,000 gallons, but now it has gone up to about 1,500 gallons.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the total quantity of liquor consumed?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Sir, I cannot say that exactly. But it has increased particularly the

sale of liquor in the liquor-shops of the adjoining areas in the Nowgong district. I think quite a lot of it is being smuggled to Kamrup district. From the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills district also there has been some amount of illicit liquor going to Kamrup district. The Excise staff of the Kamrup district have not been able to check the smuggling of illicit liquor carried by motor truck which have been running from Nowgong and the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills districts, because the trucks generally run at a great speed. This is one of the reasons that has made the trucks, etc. to be speedy, because many of these trucks carry illicit liquors. Therefore, I think the Government will not be able to make the prohibition policy a successful one unless and until special attention is given to this. There are so many cases in the courts where the owners or the drivers of trucks have been accused for carrying liquor and for running at a very high speed from the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills district from the constituency of the Excise Minister, and from Nowgong district from the constituency of our Finance Minister. So, unless and until we can stop this sort of illicit smuggling of liquor and allow such smuggling to flourish in this State, the State will lose revenue, but prohibition will not be successful.

Then another thing, which is also very important, is with regard the Pay Committee constituted in July, 1955. The Finance Minister has dealt at some length about the achievement of the Pay Committee and it appears that he is very much satisfied with these achievements. Well, it is quite natural that he should be so; because he was the president of the Committee, and nobody likes to think that his own achievement is any way small. One big achievement of the Committee, according to the Hon'ble Minister is that a "Government servant of the lowest category will earn a tax free income of Rs.58-8-0 as against a taxable income of Rs.1,500 by the Government servant of the highest category which after paying income-tax, professional tax, etc., come to about Rs.1,350. The ratio of the income of the lowest and highest paid Government servant after October 1956 will be 1:23 which is less than the ratio considered reasonable by the Planning Commission. So, according to our Finance Minister, we have exceeded the limit set by the Planning Commission. That means that we have rather become more than socialistic, we have become *ultra* socialistic. One thing, I think, our Finance Minister will agree, that due to the backward economic condition of our State, or due to our backward social and industrial conditions, or due to all these factors put together, disparities in the living conditions of our people were very much

less in pre-Independence days also. The pay scales of the top officers in many other States were much higher than that of our State. Now, if we consider that point, then one need not have any reason for so much satisfaction as our Finance Minister has. For example, like a very astute lawyer he has argued on behalf of the top-most officials. "Of course, the top-most officials will get Rs. 1,500 a month, but you see they have got to pay income-tax. So, after paying the income-tax it comes actually to about Rs. 1,350 only." Well, he could as well have said that the top officials have got to send their sons and daughters to Public Schools while those of the labourer can be sent to "পাচি খবাহি" স্কুল which are known as Basic Schools. Then again, these top officials have to send their grown-up boys and girls to America and England, while low paid officials will send them only to the field and to the plough. So considering all these things, Rs. 1,500 is only too small to meet his expenses. All these things could have been said. Well, if top-most officers are liable to make certain extra expenditure—after all income-tax is a tax on income—because a man is a high officer, therefore he does not take 4 pawas of rice. Every man must have his minimum fooding and clothing, he must pay sales tax. I therefore, say that Government has no right to deprive anybody of his minimum necessity for fooding, clothing, shelter, etc. Taking these things into consideration I feel tempted to ask the Finance Minister if he is himself satisfied that this paltry increase of Rs. 3 in case of Class IV staff, or this small increase of Rs. 5 in the case of some others will bring these poorly paid officials to the level where they can have their food; clothing, shelter and other things. Unless and until that is given, there is, Sir, in my opinion, no room for complacency or satisfaction. What according to the Finance Minister will the Class IV staff get? Those who formerly used to get Rs. 25, they will now get Rs. 28. Now taking this into consideration including the allowances, in the Plains districts where the bulk of these people are, their monthly income comes to Rs. 58-8-0. That is the total emolument—Pay and allowances, everything. That is to say, less than Rs. 2 a day. We feel, Sir, that for our fooding, for our daily expenditure at Shillong, we require a very "modest" sum of Rs. 22-8-0 per day as Members of the Assembly, and for Class IV staff at Shillong we think that Rs. 2 is enough. Is this very good logic? Is this the socialistic logic at all? So there is no room for complacency or satisfaction unless and until we can bring up the minimum pay at least to the limit of Rs. 100. The Finance Minister may report "suppose you are given the charge, will you be able to give it

within the present economy of the State. Well, placed as we are, can we give it here and now?" It may not be able to give effect to my suggestion here and now, but then, I should be the last person to be satisfied and happy with the present state of affairs and gloating over our achievements. Sir, it is a question of out-look and policy.

Mr. SPEAKER: Do you mean to say that they have no such objective?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Sir, in spite of all their professions, I fear, they have have not. They are speaking of Welfare State, socialistic pattern of society, classless society, but what classless society, what socialistic pattern it is which seems to be remaining content and happy in a state of affairs where one will get only Rs.28 while the others will get Rs.1,500?

Mr. SPEAKER : What is the disparity in China or Russia ?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Sir, I have not been to either China or Russia, nor have I read much about the affairs in these countries. Most probably some of the Cabinet Ministers who have read much more about these countries than myself as many of their leaders have gone there and made very good friends with mangoes, Jelapis and other things, might be able to say better. But from what little I have read about these countries, I have heard from our *ex*-Minister who is now the General Secretary of the Congress, that they have assured certain things. Even in China which was liberated after India, four things have been assured for every body, food, clothing, shelter and education. Apart from these four things, one more thing is assured, and that is medical facility. I have heard also from no less a person than Pandit Sundar Lal that in China there are only 4 or 5 officers who are provided with State cars. For example, you will be surprised to hear that the Chief Justice of Shanghai is not provided with a State Car. Pandit Sundar Lal said that when he asked as to how the Hon. Chief Justice would come to the Court, the reply received by him was that the Chief Justice would come in the common bus. And we have heard from our Finance Minister that some new cars are coming for use of our Ministers. I do not mind that, because our Ministers need cars.

Mr. SPEAKER: Chief Justice is more or less a static person, he can come and sit down in the Court ; but what about those who have to move about? Our Ministers have to be very much mobile.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: That is quite correct, Sir.

In the meantime some of our leaders and some important members of the Government of India visited China and examined the agricultural condition and also the progress of the co-operative movement and other things there. They have since submitted their reports wherein they have recommended certain agrarian reforms. I think our Ministers have got copies of the reports. From these we have seen certain things and that is the minimum requirements for a civilised existence is assured there. No doubt there is disparity. In Soviet Union it is said there is disparity to the extent of 8:20. But nobody can say that there is a pay equivalent to Rs. 28 per month. That is not there. My whole submission, my whole contention is that it is very wrong to give only Rs. 28 per month to anybody. Of course if necessary somebody may be given Rs.3,000 per month or even more, but the point is that because we have not been able to give a living wage to the worker in the lowest rung, we should try to improve their condition. This increase of three rupees is a mockery. It does not anyway help. We all know about the capricious economy of our country. The other day at Port Saiyid a few bombs were dropped and as soon as that news was heard, at Fancy Bazer, Gauhati price of mustard oil went up by annas eight per seer. That is the sort of economy we are living in our country. The Government cannot control this class of people for obvious reasons. I need not go into these things now. When we have a capricious economy, when we are at the mercy of these black-marketers there should be some assurance, some surety to the low paid Government officials' existence, and I can submit to this House and also to the Finance Minister that in spite of this satisfaction of the Finance Minister, the Government employees, specially of the lower rung, are not at all happy. They expected much better deal than what has been given. So while I am grateful to the Members of this House for a patient hearing that has been given to me, I should like to make this request to the Government that even within the frame-work of the present policy, the policy accepted by this House, the Government should see that within the next three months there is a real and honest

effort to implement this policy because in the district level, we find there is a lot to be achieved. Now for example, we find that for the development of the Co-operative, there is good effort at the top, but we find that when in some villages some co-operatives are going to be started, the Co-operative Inspector will simply be satisfied with one visit. We know what is the cultural development of our people in the villages. Unless they are taught as to how to run a co-operative, how to keep the book of accounts, etc., it is not possible for them to run such an institution properly. Simply one lecture for a few minutes or for a hour will not do. The result is that inspite of the emphasis that has been given by the Government for the development of the co-operative, it is far from satisfactory. In actual operation there has not been sufficient development. I think that the Minister in charge of Co-operative will jump up and say that his position is very envious if it is considered on an all India basis. It may be that there are other States in the country where the progress in this sphere is much less than what is obtainable here. But we should not compare our State with some other States who are lagging behind ; rather we should compare only with those who are ahead of us. In this sphere also there is room for development.....

Mr. SPEAKER: I think you are concluding.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Yes, Sir, Now take for instance of Khadi Board. Under that Board, for the husking of paddy there is a very good scheme. But the Minister-in-charge has himself seen how far this scheme has been implemented. There was a talk in this House itself that there should be some check on examination on the running of the offices and also for that purpose two posts of Commissioner of Divisions were created, but inspite of this creation of these two posts, the standard of the work in the district offices is far from satisfactory. As the common people are required to come in contact with the Assistants and the Constables as the case may be in their every day life, and not with our Finance Minister and hard working Chief Minister who is reported to work from 3 a.m. to 11 p.m. at night, it is most necessary that the standard of the work of the people in the district level must improve. Now if an assistant comes to office at 11 a. m. in place of 10 a. m. and leaves office at 3 p.m. in place of 4 p.m. and also whistles away two or three hours of his work, how can the common people have any satisfaction ! It seems after the independence these Officers and

these Assistants think that they have the independence to go their own way. Whether he works or not he will get his pay all right. If any Officer takes any action for the dereliction of his duties, he may come to the Minister concerned and manage to get that order cancelled. Therefore, we find that the controlling officer cannot control. Sir, without any malice, I am saying that we are passing through a trying time. Many people will try to take advantage of this election, will try to get loaves and fishes and in the meantime they may try to blackmail the Ministers and others during this trying time. Sir, we do not live for election alone. We live for a greater cause—the cause of the betterment of our country. We should refuse to be blackmailed, refuse to be victim of localism, parochialism, for these coming few months. We should work in a spirit of idealism, the idealism for the betterment of the country before us. Nothing than this.

Shri JADAV CH. KHAKHLARI: মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমাৰ বিত্তমন্ত্রী ডাঙৰীয়াই যি বাজেট দাঙি ধৰিছে তাৰ বাবে তেখেতক ধন্যবাদ জনাইছো। আজি ৫ বছৰে দেখিলো প্ৰতিবাবেই ঘাট পৰা বাজেট হলেও ঘাটৰ মাজেদিও দেশৰ উন্নতিমূলক কামবোৰ আগ বঢ়াই নিছে। যদি ভবিষ্যত কোনো অমঙ্গল নঘটে তেনেহলে পানীযোগান, স্কুলঘৰ নিৰ্মাণ, বাস্তা পদলী তৈয়াৰ, শিক্ষা বিস্তাৰ আদি কাম সুন্দৰ ভাৱে হব বুলি আশা কৰিছো। বাস্তা পদলীৰ কামত এনেকুৱাও হব পাৰে যে কিছুমান হাবি জংঘলৰ ঠাইতো পিচ দিয়া বাস্তা হৈ যাব, কিন্তু তাত মটৰ চলাবলৈ হয়তো মটৰৰে অভাৱ হৈ যাব পাৰে। আলি যে নতুন নতুন ওলায়েই থাকিব বা সুন্দৰ সুন্দৰ আলি তৈয়াৰ হয়েই থাকিব সেইটো ঠিবাং কথা। কিন্তু জনসাধাৰণৰ আৰ্থিক অৱস্থাৰ বিষয়ে কিমান দূৰ উন্নতি হব সেইটোহে ঠিবাং কৈ কোৱা টান যেন অনুমান হৈছে।

আমাৰ দুখীয়া বাইজৰ আৰু খেতিয়ক সকলৰ আৰ্থিক অৱস্থা কেনেকুৱা সেইটো আমাৰ সকলো সদস্যই আশাকৰো ভালদৰে জানে।

(At this stage the Speaker left the Chamber and Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya, Chairman, presided.)

সেইকাৰণে মই এইটোকেই কও যে আজি আমাৰ দুখীয়া বাইজৰ আৰ্থিক অৱস্থানো কেনেকৈ ভাল হয় তাৰ হে এটা বিশেষ ব্যৱস্থা হাতত লব লাগে। এই বিষয়ত মই বিশেষকৈ আমাৰ গাঁৱলীয়া খেতিয়কসকলৰ বৰ্তমানৰ অৱস্থাকেই কও। এই খেতিয়ক লোকসকলৰ অৱস্থা একেবাবে শোচনীয়। কিয়নো তেওলোকৰ লৰা-ছোৱালীসকলে আজি কালি ঘৰুৱা কামত মাক-বাপেকক সমূলি সহায় নকৰে। ময়ো এজন দুখীয়া খেতিয়ক-এনে কথা মোৰ গাতো ফলিয়াইছে।

অৱশ্যে তেওলোকৰ আৰ্থিক অৱস্থা ভাল কৰিবলৈ গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে বহুতো আচনি হাতত লৈছে। বহু আচনি অতি সুন্দৰ হৈছে বুলিও কও।

আজিকালি সমবায়ৰ জৰিয়তে গাঁৱৰ সকলো কাম কৰিব লাগে বুলি আচনি এটা আছে। মইও কও যে সেই আচনি যাতে সুব্যৱস্থা সম্পন্ন হয়, যাতে তাৰ জৰিয়তে খেতিয়ক সকলক জগাই তুলি তেওলোকৰ দ্বাৰা ৰাজ্যৰ উৎপাদন বঢ়াই লগতে তেওলোকৰো ব্যৱসায় আদি সুচল কৰিব পৰা হয় তাৰ চেষ্টা গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে কৰিব লাগে। বহুতে কব পাৰে যে মই গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ কাৰ্য্যৰ সমালোচনা কৰিছো—কিন্তু মই সমালোচনা কৰা উদ্দেশ্যেৰে কোৱা নাই। মই মাত্ৰ দুখ পাইছো যে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে যি আচনি লৈছে তাৰ সুফল একো হোৱা নাই। দুখীয়া খেতিয়কৰ অৱস্থা যেনিবা আগতকৈও অচল হৈছে। খেতিয়ক সকলে দিনৰ দিনটো পৰিশ্ৰম কৰি কেইদৰামান শাক পাঁচলি আদি কৰি দুবেলা দুমুঠি কোনোমতে ভাত যোগাৰ কৰিব পাৰে। লৰাছোৱালীৰ পৰা সহায় নাপায় এজন মানুহৰ পৰিশ্ৰমৰ ওপৰত ৩৭ জনে পোহপাল পায়। তাৰ উপৰি লৰাছোৱালীসকলৰ স্কুলৰ খৰচ। সুন্দৰ সুন্দৰ পোষাক লাগে দুখীয়াৰ লৰাছোৱালীয়েও ধনীসকলৰ সমানেই পোষাক পিন্ধিব। তাৰপিচত স্কুলত পঢ়িব।

লগতে মই এঘাৰ Text Book Committee ৰ কথাও কও—ইয়ো এটা আছকালৰে কথা। পাঠ্যবোৰ এনেদৰে বাচে যে লৰাছোৱালীয়ে পৰীক্ষাত পাচ কৰিলেও নতুন কিতাপ কিনিব লাগিব আৰু ফেইল কৰিলেও পুৰনা কিতাপ বিলাক নচলাত নতুন কিতাপ হৈ কিনিব লাগিব। সেই ফালৰ পৰা এই দুখীয়া গাঁৱলীয়া মানুহৰ লৰাছোৱালী পঢ়োৱাত কিমান আছকাল হয় তাক সদস্যসকলে ভাবি চাব। দুখীয়া খেতিয়ক গাঁৱলীয়া সকলৰ ওপৰত সকলো ফালৰ পৰা চাপ পৰি তেওলোকৰ ৰাজহাৰ্ড ভাঙি গৈছে। উপায়ান্ত হৈ টকা ধাব কৰিবলৈ মহাজনৰ ওচৰলৈ যায়। তাতো স্ত্ৰ দিব লগা হয় চক্ৰবৃদ্ধি হাবত। এনেকৈ নানাৰকমে ক্ৰমে তেওলোকৰ অস্তিত্ব লোপ পাই আহিছে। যেতিয়া গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে সমবায়ৰ জৰিয়তে ধান আদি দিবলৈ বুলি আশ্বাস দিলে তেতিয়া খেতিয়কে ভাবিলে যে মহাজনক চক্ৰবৃদ্ধি হাবে স্ত্ৰ দিয়াৰ পৰা বেহাই পালে। সেই আশা বুকুত বান্ধি মানুহে সমবায়ৰ কাৰ্য্য আৰম্ভ কৰিলে।

তাৰপিচত সমবায় ভাবে খেতি কৰিবলৈ কিছুমান Society গঠন কৰিবলৈ বুলি মই নিজেই সদীয়াতৈ যাও বুলি এজন কোপাৰেটিভ ইন্সপেক্টৰক লগধৰাত তেও কোনদিনা যাবলৈ সক্ষম হব তাৰ এটা তাৰিখো আনকি মোক দি সময়ত তেখেত নগল। কিন্তু তেখেতলৈ বাট নাচাই মই সদীয়াতৈ গৈ এখন মিটিং পাতি বহু ইচ্ছুক মানুহৰ এখন লিষ্টকৰি সেইখন Society Register কৰিবলৈ কাগজ পত্ৰ সকলো কৰ্ত্তৃপক্ষক দিয়া হল। ফলত তাৰ কোনো খা খবৰ আজিলৈকে পোৱা নহল।

খেতিয়ক সকলক চৰকাৰে যি আলুৰ সঁচ দিয়ে সেইবিলাক বেপাৰী সকলৰ পৰা খৰিদ কৰি দিয়ে। সেই বেপাৰীসকলে চৰকাৰৰ দিয়া আৱশ্যকীয় Size নিদি তাৰ ঠাইত ডাঙৰ ডাঙৰ আৰু বহুত সময় পচা আলু দিয়ে যিটো সচৰ কাৰণে অনুপযোগী। তাৰ উপৰি বতৰত নিদি স্ত্ৰবিধা অনুসাবে পলম কৰি দিয়ে। এইকাৰণে খেতিয়কে চৰকাৰে দিয়া সঁচৰ ওপৰত অনাস্থা হল। আৰু মহাজনৰ পৰা অধীক দাম দিও ধাবত লবলৈ বাধ্য হয়। মহাজন সকলে সেই সুযোগতে ৩০।৩৫ টকা দামত বাকীকৈ আলুৰ সঁচ দিয়ে। এনেকুৱা কাৰণতেই খেতিয়ক সকলে লবলৈ বাধ্য হয়। এমোণ আলুত ১০।১২ মোনটক আলু উৎপন্ন হয়। আৰু সেই আলু মোনে ৬।৭ টকাত মহাজনক বিক্ৰি কৰিবলৈ বাধ্য হয়। এই ফচল হওতে যি ৩।৪ মাহ লাগে তাৰ স্ত্ৰে মূলে মহাজনক দিয়াৰ পিচত খেতিয়কৰ কি লাভ থাকে আপোনালোকে হিচাব কৰি চাওক।

তাৰ পিচত চৰকাৰে Short Term আৰু Long Term ত ঋণ দিয়াৰ যি আচনি হাতত লৈছে তাৰ উদ্দেশ্য অতি মহান কিন্তু কাৰ্য্যক্ষেত্ৰত তাৰপৰা খেতিয়কৰ কি সুবিধা হৈছে সেই বিষয়ে অলপ উনুকিয়াও।

আমি চৈখোৱা মৌজাত তিনিখনমান Credit Society খুলিলো। বাইজে তাত আগহেৰে অংশ আদি লৈ যথাবিহিত কাম কৰিবলৈ উদ্যত হল। কিন্তু দুখৰ বিষয় সেই ঋনৰ টকা আজি এবছৰে বাইজে নাপালে। তাৰ পিচত চৈখোৱা মৌজাৰ ধলা গাঁৱত ২১ নভেম্বৰ ১৯৫৬ তাৰিখে বাইজে এখন সভা পাতি চৰকাৰৰ এনে কামৰ আচনিত অনাস্থা প্ৰকাশ কৰিছে।

তাৰ পিচত আহিল Long Term ঋনৰ কথা। এই আচনিৰ মৰ্ম হ'ল এই যে এজন খেতিয়কৰ মাটি নাই আৰু মাটি খেতিৰ সজুলী আদি কিনিবলৈকে টকা নাই। চৰকাৰে ব্যৱস্থা কৰিলে যে Land Mortgage Bank ৰ জৰিয়তে আৱশ্যকীয় মাটি আৰু খেতিৰ সজুলি কিনি মাটিখিনি Mortgage বাধি খেতি কৰিবলৈ দিলে তাৰ ১০ বছৰৰ পিচত চক্ৰবৃদ্ধি সুদ নোহোৱাকৈ টকাখিনি ফিৰাই দিয়াৰ পিচত মাটিখিনি খেতিয়কজনৰ নিজা হল এনে এটা আচনি সচাকৈ মহান।

কিন্তু ডিব্ৰুগড়ত মই নিজে আৰু বহুতো খেতিয়কে দৰ্কাৰী ফৰ্ম আদি fill up কৰি fee আদি দি পাম পাম বুলি আশা কৰি কেৱল লৈ থকাহে হৈছে কামত আজি লৈকে একো হোৱা নাই। চৰকাৰে সুন্দৰ আচনি লৈছে। কিন্তু তাৰ ফল দুখীয়া-খেতিয়ক বাইজে আজিলৈ নোপোৱাৰ বাটত কি কেৰোণ আছে তাক গুচাবলৈ মই চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰিছো।

(At this stage Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya, Chairman, vacated the Chair and Deputy Speaker occupied it.)

তাৰ পিচত যিবিলাকে ডাঙৰ ডাঙৰ ঋণ পাইছে, যেনে কুটিৰ শিল্প ঋণ আদি, সেই ঋণ, যিবিলাকৰ সম্পত্তি আছে সেইবিলাকেহে দৰখাস্ত কৰিছে, ঋণ পাইছে আৰু চহকীও হৈছে। দুখীয়াবোৰ দুখীয়া হৈয়ে আছে, ঋণে পোৱা নাই।

খেতিয়কে খাজনা দিয়াটোও এটা ডাঙৰ সমস্যা হৈছে, বিশেষকৈ চৈখোৱা মৌজা বুৰিদিহিং মৌজাৰ খেতিয়কে। ১৯৫০ চনৰ ভূমিকম্প আৰু বানপানীৰ পিচৰ পৰা খেতিয়ক সকলে খাজনা দিব পৰা নাই। যি খেতিয়কে ২০ টকা দিব লাগিছিল তেওঁৰ এতিয়া ১০০ টকা হৈছেগৈ। তাগিদা দিছে হয় দিয়ে কৰ পৰা? কৃষক সকলে সভাপতি ডেপুটি কমিচনাৰক দৰখাস্ত দিছে বাকী খাজনা মাফ দিবৰ কাৰণে। কাৰণ যি কৃষকে কুৰি টকা দিব পৰা নাই এতিয়া এশ-চকুৰী কেনেকৈ দিব আৰু কৰ পৰা দিব? অৱশ্যে এই খাজনা দিব নোৱাৰা বোৰৰ লগতে দিব পৰাবোৰ সানমিহলিহৈ গৈছে। সেই কাৰণে মই এটা সমাধানৰ উপায় দিও তাক অফিচাৰৰ দ্বাৰা বিচাৰ কৰি চাওঁক। খেতিয়ক সকলৰ অৱস্থা চাৰ্ভে কৰি যিবোৰে দিব পাৰে সেইবোৰক instalment কৰি দিবলৈ দিয়ক আৰু যিবোৰে দিব নোৱাৰে সেইবোৰ writeoff কৰক।

দ্বিতীয় কথা হৈছে কৃষক সকলে যদি মাটি বন্ধক দিব খোজে তেতিয়া দিব নোৱাৰে। কাৰণ একচনীয়া মাটি বন্ধক দিব নোৱাৰে। বন্ধক দিবলৈ হলে ম্যাদী কৰিব লাগে। ইফালে মাটি ম্যাদী কৰিবলৈ হলে বিখাত পাঁচ টকাকৈ Premium দিব লাগে।

কিন্তু দুখীয়া কৃষকে ইমান বেচি টকা কেনেকৈ দিয়ে। সেই কাৰণেই এই Premium কম কৰিব লাগে। মৰুৰিলে ডাঙৰ অন্যায় কৰা হব। কৃষক সকলে কৃষক সভাপাতি প্ৰস্তাৱ দিছিল কিন্তু কৃষক সভাৰ সভাপতিয়েও গ্ৰহণ নকৰিলে। সেই কৃষকসকলে ভাবিছে যে তেওঁলোকেই নিৰ্বাচন কৰি মেম্বৰ সকলক ইয়াতলৈ পঠাইছে আৰু তেওঁলোকৰ প্ৰস্তাৱকে গ্ৰহণ কৰা নাই।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have already taken more than 10 minutes. I hope you will now shorten your speech.

Shri JADAV CHANDRA KHAKHLARI: অনুগ্ৰহ কৰি মোকা অলপ সময় দিয়ক। মই ৰাইজৰ ভালৰ কাৰণেহে কৈছো। এতিয়া জনজাতি সকলৰ কথা কওঁ। জনজাতি সকলক free education দিয়াৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰক ধন্যবাদ দিছো। আৰু ব্যৱসায়ত জনজাতি সকলক যি সুবিধা দিছে তাৰ কাৰণেও ধন্যবাদ দিছো। ডিব্ৰুগড়ত এইবাৰ বহুত জনজাতিৰ লোকে Forest Corp আদি ব্যৱসায়পোৱাৰ কাৰণে Forest Minister ক ধন্যবাদ জনাইছে। কিন্তু Public Works Department ত সেই অনুসাবে জনজাতিয়ে সেই সুবিধা লব পৰা নাই। যেনে চৰকাৰৰ Procedure মতে Lowest Tendererক ঠিকা দিয়া হয়। ধনীসকলে ২৭।২৮ টকা দৰত Tender দি কাম নাপায়। কাৰণ ধনীসকলে তাৰ ঠাইত ১৯।২০ টকা দি ধনী ঠিকাদাৰে সেই কাম লয়। তেতিয়া ১৯।২০ টকা লব পাৰে কাৰণ বহু টকা খৰচ কৰি বিহাৰৰ পৰা মানুহ আনি অতি কম খৰচতে কাম চলায় কিন্তু দুখীয়া সকলে স্থানীয় লোকক বহুতো দিব লগা হয়।

সেই কাৰণে সকলোৰে বাবে এটা Flate rate কৰিব লাগে, অৰ্থাৎ ১০ মাইল বাস্তাত কাম হলে ১০ জনক সমানে ভৰ্গাই দিব লাগে। তেতিয়া ধনী দুখীয়া সকলোৰে পাব, আনকি তাত কাম কৰা মজুৰ সকলেও লাভৰ ভাগ পাব। অৱশ্যে চৰকাৰে কব পাৰে যে সেইটো Procedure নহয়। কিন্তু Procedure Minister এ কৰা বস্তু সেইটো নিশ্চয় সলনি কৰিব পৰা হব। তাকে কৰিলে দুখীয়া মানুহক মৰম কৰা হব।

মাদক দ্ৰব্য নিৰাৰণ কৰাত ৰাইজৰ সহযোগ নহলে চৰকাৰ কেতিয়াও সফল হব নোৱাৰে। আজিকালি মটৰত যাওঁতে চুৰট খাব নোৱাৰে আৰু Overload নিব নোৱাৰে। কিন্তু দেখিব যে যি পুলিচে ধৰিব লাগে সেই পুলিচেই গাড়ীত যায় আৰু চুৰটো খায়, আৰু Overload ও সেই গাড়ীতেই লৈ যায়।

ইয়াকে কৈ মোৰ বক্তব্য সামৰিলো।

Maulavi TAZUDDIN AHMED: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not like to discuss all the items of the provisional budget placed by the Finance Minister before this Assembly but I want to know only from the Revenue and Finance Minister or the Government why step-motherly affection has been shown

to the Barpeta Subdivision and to the Madrassa Education of this State. I shall prove how step-motherly affection has been shown to the Barpeta Subdivision and to the Madrassa Education.

Sir, the unkindly flood in some parts of the Barpeta Subdivision not only washed away some of the standing crops but damaged many holdings; and many families living on the river were eroded. In the portions where there was no damage the rat damaged almost all the crops and as a result the people of m Subdivision have been placed in a very bad situation and they are now on the point of starvation and death. I find no reason why sufficient loan or help was not given to these helpless people though they are approaching the local authorities and also placing the matter before the Government. Also the Government has not made any plan for the rehabilitation of the river eroded people of that Subdivision. Next I come to the protection schemes. As I have seen from the budget, while protection schemes have been made for the protection of Dibrugarh, Palasbari, Sualkushi, Goalpara, Dhubri, Nowgong and so on and so forth, I find no reason why nothing has been done to protect Tarabari, which is a business centre of the State.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Tarabari is included in the Protection Schemes.

Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED: During the last session of the Assembly I made it clear that unless Bahari-Baghbar Embankment is extended at least by five miles, a vast area of the Subdivision would be affected.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): That is also in the Plan.

Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED: Upto this time nothing is done and no plan is taken to extend the embankment upto five miles. If it is done, I thank the Minister for that.

Regarding medical help to the people by the State Government, I like to say that a part of my Subdivision measuring about 1,000 sq. miles with a population of about 75,000 has been left without any medical help. There is neither a hospital nor a dispensary, nor any provision for medical facilities in Bagaribari, Titapani, Baghbar and Mondia Mauzas. I want to know why step-motherly treatment has been shown to the people of my Subdivision.

Next I come to Madrassa Education. I have seen that no provision for recurring grant is made for the Middle English Madrassa education since a few years. I want to know why step-motherly affection has been shown to the Madrassa education of the State. In this connection I like to say that step-motherly affection has been shown also to the primary education of my Subdivision. There are some Lower Primary Schools in my Subdivision established some 12 or 15 or rather 20 years ago, but the Education Board has not taken over the schools. The schools are situated mostly in the immigrant Muslim areas. Regarding rehabilitation of the displaced Muslims, I like to inform the House that the Rehabilitation Department of the Government has totally failed to rehabilitate the displaced Muslims. During the communal riot many immigrant Muslim from my Subdivision left their hearth and homes and when peace prevailed they came back and took shelter in their *bustis* themselves. Of course some loans were given by our State Government as rehabilitation loan. The Government could not rehabilitate them upto this time. There are some families who are roaming hither and thither without any homestead. Government could not restore their Patta land and dwelling house though they came in time and claimed their property timely. In this connection I like to mention only one case. Sir, one Mafijuddin Sarkar of Nij-Barala, Mauza Paka was displaced from his home and patta land in 1950. He returned in time and claimed the land and the *busti*. His land was allotted to one Shri Abhi Ram Deka of Barpeta. Though there are orders from the Department concerned that Abhi Ram Deka should be evicted and the land should be restored to Mafij Sarkar, upto this time eviction is stayed. The Pattadar, Shri Mafijuddin, is crying in the wilderness. There are innumerable such cases within my Subdivision. So I like to draw the attention of the State Government to this matter and urge that immediate and proper steps should be taken for the restoration of the Patta lands to the displaced Muslims. Sir, I like to point out another matter. In my Subdivision there are some villages, particularly in the Char area of Mauza Bagaribari, Bagbar and Titapani completely eroded by river since many years back. They are very much trying to save their families from starvation. Though the villages are not in existence, their land revenues are not remitted upto this time. They are approaching the local authorities again and again. But the local officers could not help them in any way. They only told the villagers that only Government can give the remission. The villagers of the eroded villages are passing their days in distress and are now helpless for their

2-1912

properties have been attached for land revenue, though their land are not in existence. Sir, I like to draw the attention of the Government and also of our Revenue Minister that something should be done to save them. At least they should be exempted from paying the land revenue, as the lands for which land revenue is taken are not in existence. With these few words I draw the attention of the House and also of the State Government not to show step-motherly affection to my Subdivision.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister, Finance has presented before the House a statement showing the financial position of the State so that this House might vote on accounts of certain expenditure for three months of the next financial year, and he made it clear that this voting does not commit the House to any new policy. It will be upto the new Legislature to revise the entire Budget in the light of the policies that may be adopted by the coming Government, and that this expenditure will be subject to the demand that may be passed eventually by that House. Now, Sir, I must thank him that in presenting this provisional budget before the House he has thought fit to present a brief survey of the achievements of the Government during the last year as well as of certain specific development activities during the First Five Year Plan period. Now, it is for the House to agree to the vote on the account he has asked for. Mr. Bhattacharyya has called in question certain claims of achievements which have been stated in the Finance Minister's speech. Nowhere it is claimed that the achievements made by the Government during the last year are all-round and perfect. Although this Government has been trying to bring about certain achievements, we must bear in mind certain limiting factors in making the assessment. We have on the floor of this House from time to time discussed the various difficulties with which the Government is confronted. The first thing—the limitation of resources of the Government; then the dearth of the necessary technical personnel; and then again the transport bottle-neck from which this State has been suffering chronically. These are some of the fundamental obstacles the Government have had to face in implementing the various development schemes. Then, Sir, this Government prepared the Draft First Five Year Plan to the tune of Rs.31·5 crores but the Centre, or rather the Planning Commission reduced it to 12·5 crores, but the actual expenditure incurred is Rs.20·8 crores. The excess of Rs.8 crores was obtained after a lot of efforts. That was the money which we actually spent for our development activities and it cannot

be said that the level of expenditure is insignificant. During the First Plan period, therefore, there was a much larger amount, I mean about Rs.8½ crores over the original target of Rs.12.5 crores. Sir, my Friend knows that immediately before the First Five Year Plan began from the year 1951-52 there was the great earthquake of 1950. We know also that as a result of the Great Earthquake, great geophysical changes were brought about in the State which completely upset our agricultural economy. We have had also several floods which devastated large areas of the State and agriculture as a whole was put in great jeopardy. Therefore, attention had to be diverted towards protection works and the total expenditure on this account is to the tune of Rs.4 crores. Therefore, Sir, when we have had to incur this large expenditure for purposes of the highest priority, we had also to cut down our programme in other respects. Therefore, for the basic development of agriculture, all that was necessary to be spent could not be spent. But even then, a good deal of money was spent towards agricultural improvements and it has been stated that 60 per cent of the total expenditure was devoted to agricultural development programmes. With this Rs.4 crores spent, about 7 acres of land have been made immune from the effect of floods and I must say this activity should continue for some time more. In a sense, therefore, unless and until we can make the agricultural economy stable, it will be of no use spending money for the other aspects of development of agriculture, *e.g.*, better seeds, teaching the people the technique of using manure, improved cultural practice, etc. This work must however, continue in areas which are immune from flood, but we must protect the areas which are liable to inundation every year at any cost. How far we can succeed in this sphere is very difficult to say and nobody can give a guarantee for the results of the efforts because it is a question of fighting with nature and yet I think Government will give top priority to all the protection works that are still to be completed. Now, Sir, my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, has objected to the Finance Minister's statement that "without adding to the sufferings of the poorer sections of the people, the result was achieved mainly by the enforcement of strict economy and by diverting savings to meet the expenditure on development schemes". Here the difficulty was how to reach the target of Rs.20.84 crores for the First Year Plan programmes. We could not have reached this target without having additional resources as the Centre is not giving us all the money. The balance of resources has got to be raised by the State and the only possible means is taxation. I do not understand how

we can spend more money for development purposes without taking recourse to taxation. The question now is how the taxation measures are to be designed so as not to touch poorer section of the people. Mr. Bhattacharyya knows that we are trying to raise the incidence of taxation on luxury goods and such other non-essential articles not generally consumed by the poorer section of the people. Essential commodities have been kept out of the purview of taxation by States by the Central Government by an Act—The Essential Commodities Act. Therefore, all those commodities which are essential for the life of the community have been kept out of the purview of taxation by State Governments and that being the case, I do not understand how the poorer people are being affected. Our whole object has been to tax the richer people more and more. Now, Sir, with a view to get the extra resources to implement the Second Five Year Plan, the Planning Commission has directed that additional resources to the tune of Rs. 400 crores should be raised by States all over India and we must be prepared for it. Otherwise, we cannot implement the ambitious schemes which we are trying to fulfill. Then again, the Central Government has also recently introduced certain measures by which the richer section of the people will be taxed more than the poorer section. These include death duty, heavier rates of income tax for the higher strata of income, capital gains tax, etc. This money from the rich will be utilised for development purposes so that we can ameliorate the lot of the poor. Therefore, I do not find any sense from the argument that the taxation we have introduced has touched the poorer people. The poorer sections have been completely left out of the scope of the taxation as far as possible. Now, Sir, one thing which I find in page 4 of the Finance Minister's speech is that he has given the rates of increase of non-development expenditure. I think a corresponding figure for development expenditure should have also been given for purposes of comparison. I know that our development expenditure has increased substantially, but while increasing our development activity, there must be a corresponding increase in non-development expenditure—because the two are in a way inter connected. Expansion of development activities invariably place an additional burden on the general administration, the expenditure on which is of a non-developmental character. Therefore, it would have been better in my opinion if the *per capita* increase in the expenditure of purely development activity could also have been indicated in the Statement. Now, Sir, the next point to which

Mr. Bhattacharyya has referred is about the Medical College. Here, the Minister has stated that the Medical College "was firmly established". By this, I think he means that this institution has been put on a secure and stable footing. This College was most essential to provide us with the necessary qualified medical personnel to man our hospitals and dispensaries. I know in my own district for want of doctors several dispensaries remained unstaffed with the result that the people for whose benefit these institutions have been established are not benefitting from them. Our first and foremost duty is to turn out doctors, nurses, etc., We must have properly trained staff and properly equipped hospitals so that the different hospitals and dispensaries in our State can give the maximum benefit to our people. Now there are other wings which are necessary to properly equip our Medical College and hospitals so as to make them complete in all respects. Though it is necessary to add certain specialised branches of medicine to develop the Medical College to its full stature we must not lose sight of the fact that our main task at present is to turn out doctors, compounders and nurses. But take for instance the profession of nursing which is so honourable but girls from among the plains people are not coming to take it up in adequate number. It is only the tribal girls to whom this nursing profession has a greater attraction. If sufficient number of girls do not come forward to take up the profession of nursing it is very difficult to turn out trained nurses also for which there is great demand. Therefore, these are some of the difficulties which cannot be overcome in a day. We hope in the near future we shall be able to make up that leeway and better medical service will be available to our people.

Lastly, my honourable Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, has referred to the various developmental schemes—particularly about the Hydro-Electric schemes. It is true that we have not been able to take up so many hydro-electric schemes or river valley projects. Such schemes require proper preliminary survey for collection of essential data. I understand preliminary surveys have already been undertaken in certain cases and I expect that in the course of a year or two we shall see that at least a few of such schemes are under execution.

Next, my honourable Friend has dwelt upon certain observations made by the Finance Minister in connection with the Pay Committee. My honourable Friend has stated that the emoluments which have been allowed to the 4th Grade

Government Servants or the lowest category of Government Servants have not been adequate and that their total emolument should have been raised to at least Rs.100 per month. While saying so, perhaps my honourable Friend has not taken into consideration that the Pay Committee had to work under certain limitations. First of all, the Pay Committee had to consider the question of over-all resources of the State and had to see that by their recommendations no undue strain is put on the financial resources of Government, and as such their hands were tied. The Pay Committee wanted to do their best with a view to raise the emoluments of the 4th Grade Government Servants. But unfortunately the Pay Committee had to bear in mind other factors while they were going to give benefit to the 4th Grade Government Servants by raising their pay scale. In raising the pay scales of the 4th Grade Government Servants certain criterion had to be kept in view, that is, how much an ordinary man in the village generally earns. We have found that *per capita* income per engaged person in the country comes to Rs.600 per month and this is what an ordinary man in the village generally earns, *i. e.*, about Rs.50 a month. Now our source of recruitment to the 4th Grade Government Servants is generally confined to the agricultural classes in the villages. In the village a villager generally earns Rs.50 a month, but when he comes to take up a job in the category of the 4th Grade Government servants he will get Rs.58-8-0 or Rs.59 per month which is considered quite reasonable. An ordinary peasant works practically the whole day and his work in the field is much more arduous than that of a 4th Grade Government servant who works in the office under far more comfortable conditions only for 5 to 6 hours a day. It is thus obvious that 4th Grade Government servant is better off than his fellow men in the rural areas. The State employs about 60,000 people in different categories of Government services, and if the people employed by various industrialists and enterprises are taken into account it will come to about 10 to 15 lakhs, and the rest of the population living in the State is mostly agriculturists. The Government has to discharge their responsibility with a view to raise their standard of living also.

With reference to the Government servants the State has also to discharge its responsibility in reducing the gap between the lowest and the highest paid Government servants. We have got big industrialists some of whom are earning Rs.10 lakhs a year and whereas an agriculturist earns Rs.600 or so. What is the ratio between these two categories of

people? The disparity is simply fantastic. What is the ratio that has been kept by the Government between the 4th Grade Government Servants and the highest-paid employees under the Government? Under the revisions recommended by the Pay Committee, it is 1 : 23. The State Government has not been absolved of its over-all responsibility to the people in this regard. We can reduce the gap between the lowest and the highest-paid employees under the Government but that is only small fraction of the general economic problem. There have been under contemplation steps to fix the ceiling on income. In addition, ceilings in agricultural lands and higher taxes are being levied to bring about an indirect ceiling in income of private persons. The time will come when we shall be able to bridge up further the gap between the lowest and highest paid Government Servants. Therefore, the Government has not absolved itself of its over-all responsibility in the matter of reducing disparity in income. The ratio of 1:23 in the case of Government Servants is quite reasonable in the existing set-up in view of the legal and practical difficulties in the case of some categories of Government Servants by reason of certain agreements or covenants for which no reduction in their salaries is now possible. In view of the financial limitations, the State Government could not raise the emoluments of the 4th Grade Government Servants to the optimum level. But it is to be understood that this matter of raising the pay scales of the different categories of Government Servants will come up again from time to time as the Pay Committee or the Government have not said the last word in the subject. If, in course of time, the financial position of the State improves together with a rise in the general level of income, the 4th Grade Government Servants will get their due share. The State Government in implementing their developmental activities will keep in view the socialist pattern of society and the objective of such a socialist pattern of society cannot be achieved in a day. It is something to be progressively attained, but the fundamental objective is always to the fore-front of consideration of Government.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hope you are concluding.

Shri MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: Sir, we have to keep these objectives in view, and even in spite of the financial limitations, the State Government has proposed to spend to the tune of Rs.75 lakhs being the immediate financial effect of the revision of the pay scales of different categories of Government Servants, though there is a budget deficit of Rs.2 to 3

crores. A couple of years back Government allowed some increase of salary of Government Servants drawing less than Rs. 100 per month and this has increased an expenditure of Rs.30 lakhs. In other words the total financial burden resulting from revision of pay scales of Government Servants is about Rs.1 crores which can by no means be called insignificant notwithstanding the budget deficit. Therefore, the Government could not immediately ameliorate the conditions of the lowest-paid Government Servants to the desired extent for the difficulties explained.

I have practically finished my observations on the various points raised by my hon. Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya. I think we need not go into the details that are given here. So the House will have no difficulty to lend their support to the "vote on account of demands which have been placed before the hon. Members."

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Budget speech of the Revenue and Finance Minister is like a stock-taking speech after the end of his tenure of Ministership. I do not say that he will not become a Minister again but so far as this Assembly is concerned and this Government is concerned, this will be the last session and the Government will have to be reconstituted after the General Election. Sir, coming to the Budget speech, it reads like a speech in retrospective rather than a speech in perspective, and it is bound to be so when this Government cannot commit itself to any future plan or policy. We are now in a melting pot and we do not know what will emerge after the General Election. Even then there is the coincidence the end of the First Five-Year Plan and the end of the tenure of this Government. Both these two have almost coincided. This Government was more or less responsible for the implementation of the First Five-Year Plan and also for drafting the Second Five-Year Plan. To-day we are fortunate to have a clear objective, *i.e.*, Socialism. When we speak of Socialism, we do not say that by means of a magic wand we can build socialism in a day. But with what we are concerned to-day is with the laying the foundation of a socialistic society and that is to be examined from all aspects, social; economic and political. When we do so, we have to examine the achievement of this Government, the activities of this Government during the last five years; whether that foundation has been laid in social sphere we do not want any barrier between one class of people and another so that there may be perfect social mobility. In the economic

sphere we want equality, equality not in the sense that two must be equal to two, but equality in the sense that there must not be any imbalance, there must not be disparity between one man and another, that one has to toil hard and starve and another has not to work at all but to enjoy his life. Similarly in the political field, we want democracy, perfect democracy where everyone will be able to speak out freely, where there would be no domination of one and another. Looking from these aspects we have to examine the achievements or the records of the Government during the last five years. Sir, so far in the economic field, I am constrained to say that we have not been able to lay the foundation of a socialistic society. True it is that some roads have been constructed, true it is that some buildings have been erected, bridges have been constructed and schools have been opened. All these things may entitle us to say that the foundation of a welfare society has been laid. But, Sir, there is a distinction between a welfare society and a socialistic society. I must say that we have to work more for the establishment of socialistic society which includes a welfare society. But a welfare society may not include a socialistic society. In America there is welfare society, but it is not a socialistic society. In Soviet Russia, there is a socialistic society which includes a welfare society. When I say that our Government has not been able to lay the foundation of a socialistic society, I come back to the deplorable condition of our peasantry. It may be said that we have enacted legislation fixing ceiling on land holding, regarding occupancy rights not only in rural areas but also in town areas, we have enacted legislation to curb the greed of Adhiardars, we have passed the Adhiars Act and so on and so forth. But even then when all these have been said and done, we find that the landless peasants have not been given their lands. To-day I am, at least, thinking within myself whether ceiling on land holding is the final say for the establishment of a socialistic society. I think we have given too much emphasis on the ceiling on land holding and not on the floor. Because we find even when we distribute lands, we have not been able to evolve a formula whereby we can say that this is the amount of land that has been fixed as economic holding, or by whatever name we may call it. We are distributing land at the rate of one or two bighas which is not at all sufficient to maintain a man. When we consider a family of five men, we have to find out what is the minimum amount of land to be given to such a family. It is true that we do not have sufficient lands to be given in sufficient quantity to each and every landless family. But yet steps should be taken to distribute lands

to the landless people enabling them to maintain a decent life. And therefore I say that it is time to think about a floor of land holdings because by bringing the ceiling on land holding at 150 bighas we do not quite help solve this problem for the simple reason that we do not have sufficient lands at our disposal to go round. It is however not deserved that our very attempt to fix a ceiling on land holding has a psychological effect but material benefit will not come unless we distribute land according to the number of persons in a family which will give every individual sufficient land to maintain a decent living. Sir, when I think these things I feel for those people who have suffered during the last erosion in all places, particularly in the South Bank in the Kamrup district. Similarly, Sir, it is also the time for us to set our mind to the problem of what percentage of the people can really be dependant on land. We are planning and no plan can be a really good one unless in a country like India and a State like Assam we can decide about this percentage, *i.e.*, as to what percentage of people should be kept on land and what percentage will be allowed to pursue other avocations of life. Till then our planning cannot be said to have attained reasonable amount of perfectness. The First Five Year Plan did not make any attempt to solve this problem. The Second Five Year Plan made no attempt as to what percentage of people we would like to keep dependant on agriculture and what percentage on other avocations of life, and unless this is done the most important things namely the distribution of land cannot be perfect. Anyone of our people who is without any employment to-day and who has nothing to fall back upon, takes to cultivation and somehow eke out a living which is not at all decent. This also has put excess pressure on land and do not yield good result. Sir, we have boasted about our achievement in the field of agriculture by saying that we have produced, during the First Five Year Plan, two lakhs, thirty thousand tons of additional food grain. Immediately it comes to my mind that to-day, if anyone goes to the rural areas in certain districts, he will find that the price of paddy in December has gone up to Rs.10 per maund, and even it may go up more. When we hear side by side that agricultural production has gone up and of this agricultural production 95 per cent of the additional food grain is reported to be paddy, then I wonder as to what has happened to the additional yield of paddy brought about through various means, such as by improving our agricultural methods, etc. Sir, it is known to the most of the Ministers also that in certain parts of the State during June and July the whole crop was damaged and in some places

people had to go without a meal a day. They had to give up one meal a day. At the same time if we have been able to produce so much then it is all the more necessary for the Government to arrange distribution of the additional paddy in the scarcity areas so that the prices could not jump to this figure. I still hope that in those areas where the prices have gone up, the Government will see even in their routine work that paddy is shifted to those areas and sold so that prices are brought down. It is a true phenomenon to see that our people are being taxed heavily to-day. Of course in the matter of sales-tax and stamp duties, our State is in a better position than some other States, but it has been admitted by our Finance Minister that the *per capita* income in our State is less than what it is in other States. The incidence of taxes will have to be considered with reference to the *per capita* income, and on that basis it will be found that the incidence of taxes is higher in our State.

Just now my Friend, Shri Umaruddin, said that we are taxing cigarettes, Biris and other non-essential articles. Sir, I agree that if we are to finance our Second Five Year Plan, if we are to go ahead with the various development activities, taxes will have to be levied. But in a State like Assam, which is peculiarly situated and when because of communication difficulties prices are generally higher than any other State of the country, to levy a tax means shifting the burden of taxes to the consumer in the shape of indirect taxes and lead to further rise of prices. Now if the direct taxes are taken into consideration with the indirect taxes which comes to the people in the form of higher prices and higher prices are due to various reasons, such as communication difficulties, non-availability of goods, then in our State, I am bold to state that the incidence of taxes is higher than in any other States of our country. When we levy a tax even on cigarette, or sugar, etc., and if we take into consideration the prices prevailing in Calcutta and Assam, the prices are certainly higher in Assam and if we deduct the cost of transport even then the price in Assam is higher and over that price if even one pice is levied as sales tax it is a greater burden to the consumer. So my humble submission to the Minister-in-charge, and I do not know who will be the Finance Minister next time—is that these things should be taken into consideration in reference to the question of taxation. Not only should we take the question as to how much taxes we are paying in comparison with other States, but also we should take into consideration the prices of things prevailing between our State and other States. Sir, one of the principles of taxation is that it should not only bring return but it must also be equitable.

Then after agriculture the next important thing is industry. It is an admitted fact that during the First-Five Year Plan we have not been able to develop a single industry. We have got the Umtru Project which we call a big venture in our State, but that is still in the womb in the sense that it has not yet been delivered. I do not know when power would be generated.

Shri RAM NATH DAS (Minister): By April next.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Even when there is electricity in Gauhati, we find that very often there are breakdowns. In important towns like Shillong and Gauhati we find that the voltage is very poor and the way these concerns work causes inconveniences to the consuming public. If these things are considered, then the Minister in charge of Electricity should not take any credit.

Shri RAM NATH DAS (Minister): I am not taking any credit, Sir.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: In the Second Five Year Plan we are told about many industries. I only hope that these will come true. I also wish God-speed to the Government in bringing them into reality. Sir, when we spoke about any development even when we were speaking about our difficulties regarding communication etc., I remember what we were told; once we were told about our financial difficulties also. But to-day, Sir, we have enough finance. Thanks to the Minister, Finance, that he has been able to find out new avenues of getting finance. Sir, but when these things are taken into consideration, we find here these difficulties have not been solved. Sir, it is true that these things are Central responsibilities, but we have failed to impress upon the Centre; even if we have succeeded in impressing the Centre, we have failed at least to get the desired result in these spheres. Sir, on the top of it, we hear about the location of the Oil Refinery outside the State. Sir, we are really sorry that our State is destined to be an agricultural State, destined to be the hewer of the wood and drawer of water only. Sir, even in the field of agriculture, for almost all the essential articles of food we are depending on outside. Must we have to bring food from outside? Sir, even, mustard oil we are importing and the prices have gone up, and this high price has caused great inconvenience to the people. Sir, even

if we want to make our State a prosperous agricultural State, this prosperity should not be confined to cultivating paddy only; we should take steps for proper cultivation of pulses and other seeds also so that our State may prosper, and geographically situated as we are to-day, we may have a balanced economy of all these things in our State.

Sir, coming to the question of income, the Pay Committee went into the question. The Finance Minister has stated that the disparity is now not very much glaring; it may be so, but to-day the ratio is still 1:23 and as in the case of land-holding similarly in the case of income at Rs.58-8-0 as the bottom; when we take into consideration the price of rice at Rs.21 per maund, price of mustard oil at Rs.3 per seer, when house is not available, even in the town a single tenement is not available for less than Rs. 15, so Sir, this bottom income is not something for which we can boast. We can wait for the top but so far the bottom whereon the primary employees are concerned we must raise their scales if we have to establish a socialistic State, otherwise the poor people will have to go without food and shelter and unless this is done we cannot say that the foundation of a socialistic State has been laid. Sir, this is very important. Sir, my Friend Shri Umaruddin has compared Rs. 58-8-0 with the income of the cultivator. This is not a very happy thing. We are to look ahead, we are not to look behind. When these cultivators are properly set up and are given proper land holdings, their incomes will also grow, we should try to raise their incomes. Knowing that our cultivators are ill-fed, ill-employed and poor we must not compare their income with their income of Rs.58-8-0, that a 4th class employee gets. We should see that we give the maximum emphasis to increase their income. Shri Umaruddin has said that the fourth grade employee is illiterate and so he should be compared with the cultivator. But it is not true Sir, and now-a-days even for a 4th grade job category it is difficult for a matriculate to get employment. I know there are peons in the fourth grade who have read up to class VIII or IX, and they get only Rs.58-8-0. They are sons of cultivators as many of us but not illiterate. Sir, I do not want to take much time of the Minister, Finance for we will get occasion to criticise and generate heat on this matter. But this has been formally placed before us and it is our duty to express our opinions on the speech. Sir, I am glad that Minister, Finance has not concealed anything and he has stated all facts clearly before us. I would request the Minister whatever may have

happened in the past, let us now look with hope and courage for the future and let us lay the foundation of a socialistic State. We want that our State will at least lay the foundation of true democracy where every body will be free to express his opinions freely, so that in the days to come there will be no influence brought on any body so that the voice of the people may be reflected in this Assembly.

Shri MOTI RAM BORA (Minister): Sir, my Friend Shri Umaruddin has almost replied to all the points raised by my Friends, Shri Goswami and Shri Bhattacharyya. He has thereby lessened my task, therefore, I will not reply to all the points, but I will confine to broad aspects of policy.

Sir, so far as the Pay Committee is concerned, the recommendation of the Pay Committee has been accepted by the Government. Sir, I have never stated anywhere that we have reached the objective so far the pay scales of our employees are concerned, neither I have tried to create an impression in this House or the people outside that the task in respect of the pay scales of our employees is over, but what I want to make clear to this House and the public outside is that we have within our limits, made honest and sincere efforts to do some justice to our employees who are very much hard pressed and that is why, Sir, within a course of 5 years there have been two revisions of the pay scales and the amount proposed to be spent is over a crore and in a small State like that of ours it is not a small amount. Sir, I think the effort made by the Government is not insignificant. That is what I am trying to make out before the House, and I believe the House will agree with me that we are making sincere and honest effort in this direction. Of course the pay scale that has been provided by the recent review is not adequate and I agree to this. But we have also got our limitations and our hands are tied by so many considerations. Whether within our limits we have done our best or not that is for the House to consider. My Friend, Mr. Umaruddin, has also stated certain facts before the House about what considerations weighed with the Pay Committee in making the recommendations which were accepted by the Government. The main considerations as explained by my Friend, Mr. Umaruddin, were not properly appreciated by my Friend Mr. Goswami. The fourth grade employees in the plains are as a matter of fact getting Rs.58-8-0 per month as the minimum and the number of hours they are

required to work per day is not more than 6 to 7 hours. Besides, they have so many holidays. They are also generally not required to stay in the town. Most of such employees come from the neighbouring rural areas to work in the towns and they return to their village homes in the evening. From these considerations they are given this amount of Rs.58-8-0 per month. I do not say that this is quite enough. But we must consider the income of our peasant class in the rural areas from which this fourth grade employees are mainly drawn. We must look from that point of view also and consider what this class of people is earning now on an average. If we compare this amount with the average earning of a peasant in the village we find that this pay given to a fourth grade employee is no small and in this way we tried to come to our conclusions after examining all aspects of this case. Of course, if as a result of the development activities undertaken by the Government the economic condition of our people improve, then automatically the position of such employees will also improve, and as I have said, it is not the last review of the Government, as the pay scale will have to come up before the Government for consideration, in future as well. Therefore, Sir, what the Government has done for those people cannot be considered as inadequate in view of our limited resources and in view of other considerations that are prevailing in the country.

My Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, has stated that certain section of our employees are getting higher pay. Supposing all the higher pay is brought to the level of Rs.1,000 per month and the excess amount that will be derived is to be distributed among the lower class employees, I think thereby we cannot give an increase to the lower class employees even at the rate of 4 annas out of that amount that will be derived in this way. Sir, for fixing the pay limit at Rs.1,500 per month certain other considerations do come into this mind. For instance, the pay scale of I. C. S. or I. A. S., I. P. S., and such other services cannot be fixed by this Government, as such pay scales of these services are fixed by the Government of India. The pay scale of such categories of officers selected by the Government of India cannot be fixed by this Government though they serve here in Assam. Therefore, Sir, in fixing the pay scale of our other officers, we have to consider the pay scale of such categories of officers I have mentioned above because almost similar conditions of service govern both the categories. It is quite reasonable that pay scale of our high officers must have some relation with the pay scale fixed by the Central Government

and that is why, Sir, we have fixed the maximum of pay scale at Rs.1,500, and for that we should not have any grouse.

My Friend, Mr. Goswami, says that if really Assam is producing surplus food as a result of our development activities or as a result of our Five Year Plan then why the price of food-stuff is increasing in our State ? Sir, the reason is quite obvious. The price of paddy depends also on other conditions other than production. There are economic reasons for such rise in price. After all we are not only producing surplus for our own State only. We are sending the same to outside Assam also and that shows that we are capable of producing our own requirement in the State. It is also admitted by all that there has been surplus food production in our State. But prices rise for reasons beyond the control of this Government in some cases. The price of paddy rises generally as a result of inflation not to speak of other reasons and not as a result of production itself. Therefore, my Friend Mr. Goswami's contention is not very sound.

(At this stage the Speaker re-entered the Chamber and Deputy Speaker vacated the Chair.)

He says if there is enough food in our State why should we not rush these to the scarcity areas. It is true that we have scarcity areas in our State, and that scarcity is caused by flood and such other similar catastrophes. When such catastrophes had occurred, not only we rushed food to the scarcity areas but also we opened hundreds of grain shops throughout the entire State. The fact that we opened hundreds of cheap grain shops in our scarcity areas and throughout the entire State itself shows that we have been trying to alleviate the difficulties of the people, and that fact itself is the answer to the point of my Friend. Hence Shri Goswami's contention is not sound. My Friend, Shri Goswami, says that we have not been able to lay the foundation of a socialistic pattern of society. Not to speak of establishing a socialistic State, we have not been able to lay the foundation even of a socialistic pattern of society. I have never claimed that we have been able to establish a socialistic pattern of society. It is a very difficult thing and it will take years together. To establish a socialistic pattern of society is the objective of our country. All the parties in our country have agreed to that that we must establish a socialistic pattern of society in our country, and the entire

country is making an effort to move towards that direction. Our First Five Year and Second Five Year Plans are meant for taking the State towards that end. The point is now whether we are making certain move towards that direction. The achievement of the First Five Year Plan itself speaks that at least we are making a move towards that direction. For instance in regard to agriculture we have been able to make the State a surplus one. In the matter of education and public health also we are having more schools and dispensaries under the Five Year Plans. I have never claimed that we have actually reached that end—what I am trying to make out is that we are at least moving towards the direction of a socialistic pattern of society, though our move may be slow or may not be as quick as my Friend desired. But the fact remains that we are making a move.

My Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya says that election is coming and during this election certain undesirable people will try to exploit the situations or making advantage of the election may try to get favour from the Ministers. I can assure him that we are very much conscious about that. We have not allowed this kind of exploitation to be made by unscrupulous people in the past. Of course without our knowledge some undesirable persons can take advantage in certain things or matter, but that does not mean that we will allow unscrupulous persons to take advantage of the coming election. Government is very conscious about that. As regards the Government Officers, there is standing orders of the Government debarring Government servants from taking part in politics. We could have also used our officers in our interest. But we do not do that. Government officers are never used in our election activity.

Sir, my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya agrees with the Government policy on prohibiting liquor in our State. He also agrees that we have done well in extending prohibition to the district of Kamrup. But he has asked Government to make an assessment of the success that has been achieved by Government in that direction. My Friend has cited some example of a liquor shop at Chaparmukh and another at Mukoria near Neli, situated in the Nowgong district, from which illicit liquor is said to be coming to Gauhati. I consulted the Excise Commissioner about this fact. From him I found that before prohibition in Kamrup, the liquor shop at Chaparmukh sold about 1000 L.P. gallons of liquor upto November and during the period of prohibition it has come down to 900 gallons. It is evident therefore that there has been no increase in that shop.

So far as the other shop is concerned the consumption has increased by about 75 per cent in Mukoria. But it is a small shop. The actual consumption has come to only 744 L. P. Gallons instead of 486-487 L. P. Gallons in the last year. The increase in consumption may be due to the heavy concentration of labour populations in Jagiroad due to Public Works Department works there. If we take this point into the consideration, the increase of 75 per cent is not unnatural.

Mr. SPEAKER : What was the consumption in Jagiroad ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : It was near about 600 gallons. Government has, however, kept watch on this matter. My Friend has also raised another point that there is probability of some people carrying illicit liquor from Khasi and Jaintia Hills District or from Nowgong in trucks playing at break-neck speed. This point has been taken note of by Government and the Department concerned will see to it. I can give that much assurance to him. That is a good suggestion from him .

So far as the Gauhati University is concerned, My Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya has stated that he agrees that funds are needed for the University. But he says that the question of better control of funds should also be looked into.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not your matter.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Gauhati University is an autonomous body. It is governed by its own set of rules. This Government only makes a contribution of Rs.5 lakhs to the funds of the Gauhati University. My Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, has stated that there should be better control of funds. It is not a matter which concerns Government directly. However, this is a matter which is taken note of by the Education Minister.

He has also thrown a rather uncharitable observation that the Gauhati University has become something like a family affairs. I do not know, Sir, how can it be a family affairs. The Chancellor of the University is our Governor who comes from Bihar, the Vice-Chancellor belongs to the Ahom community and the Registrar comes from another community. There are

5 Members of the Governing Body who are not related to one another. One is a lady, one is a Muslim, third is the Education Minister, the fourth is the Vice-Chancellor and the fifth is Mr. Barua. They are not related to one another in any way. How the University can be called a "family affairs" is not known to me, Sir. Now, Sir, so far as the Medical College is concerned, I have never made any statement anywhere about the establishment of another college at Gauhati and why my Friend has gone into that matter is not known to me, Sir. I do not like making a statement on this subject of having a college at Gauhati because our attention is all concentrated on the development of the Medical College at Dibrugarh. What I said is that the Dibrugarh College is firmly established. By that I mean it is put on a secure foundation. I did not mean anything more than that. I do not mean to say that everything that has to be done was done for that college. I must admit that I had been there myself. I passed 3 weeks of my time as a patient in that college and I learned that many things were still to be done for the college. But then, this college has been put on a stable foundation. A lot of things have to be done and they will be done in future. That is not denied by the Government. As a matter of fact, we have spent a large amount for the improvement of that college in order to bring it up to the standard of other colleges in our country and the House may be glad to learn that the standard which our Medical College has reached is not unsatisfactory. It is one of the first three colleges in India. Within so short a time we have been able to put this college to such a position—*i.e.*, one of the first three colleges in the entire country. That is a very creditable achievement of the Government. Another point he mentioned is that our Ayurvedic College is nothing but an Ayurvedic Toll. But so far as our college is concerned, it is definitely a college where we have got some professors and some teachers whose pay scales can be compared with the pay scales of all other such professors and teachers in other States.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: What is the number of students ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : It will be roughly 35 or 40, but can my Friend ascribe anything to Government for that? Say for instances, the number of students in the college is not large, does the blame lie with the Government ? Or say, we have a College but it does

not attract students, does the blame lie with the Government ? When students do not go there but prefer to go to the Medical College, the blame cannot be put on the Government. Sir, so far as Mr. Bhattacharyya's next contention is concerned, *i. e.*, that the standard of District Administration has deteriorated to a considerable extent, I want to say that Government is not unaware of this fact. I agree with my Friend that the standard of administration in the districts have gone down and has become worse than what it was before. This has been a headache to the Government and we are taking all possible steps to improve the standard of administration. At the same time, there are also many difficulties on the way. All these difficulties cannot be removed in course of a short time, but after the appointment of Commissioners and after other steps having been taken by the Government, there has been some slight improvement perceptible in the standard of administration and if that pace of improvement be maintained, I think in a course of 5 to 7 years, the administration standard in the district will come to the desired level. My Friend, Mr. Khaklari, made mention of certain difficulties in the matter of getting loans from the Co-operative Societies and has also made certain recommendations to the Government that those people who have not been able to pay their revenue for 5 years should be given a write-off of the dues. All this is being noted by me and I will see what can be done in this matter. I cannot understand how a step-motherly treatment was shown by Government towards Barpeta. This statement is vague and uncalled for. Had he given me figures spent in Barpeta and had he compared with the amount spent in other subdivisions, then he will see for that really there has been no step-motherly treatment of Barpeta.

Mr. SPEAKER : "Step-motherly treatment" is a phrase.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Why should he think that he is a step son. He is not a step son of the Government. (*Laughter*) However, some suggestions made by him have been noted by me and will be looked into by Government in due course. So far as the question that Government has ordered certain land to be restored to the Lokra Mauza and on account of certain manoeuvre in the District Office, this could not be done I will look into this question also.

Mr. SPEAKER: Individual cases should have been referred to you.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): With these observations, Sir, I wish to request my Friends here to accept my votes-on-account.

Adjournment

(The Assembly was then adjourned till 9 A.M. on Friday the 21st December, 1956).

SHILLONG :

R. N. BARUA,

The 8th May 1957.

Secretary,
Legislative Assembly, Assam.

AGENTS IN INDIA

1. Messrs. Thacker Spink & Co., Calcutta.
2. Messrs. W. Newman & Co., Calcutta.
3. Messrs. S. K. Lahiri & Co., Calcutta.
4. Messrs. R. Cambray & Co., 6 and 8/2, Hastings Street, Calcutta.
5. Messrs. D. B. Taraporevala Sons and Co., 103, Meadow Street, Fort, Post Box No.187, Bombay.
6. The Indian School Supply Depot, 309, Bow Bazar Street, Calcutta.
7. The City Book Company, Post Box No.283 Madras.
8. The Director, The Book Company, Limited, Book Sellers and Stationers, 4/4A, College Square, Calcutta.
9. The Manager, The Imperial Publishing Co. 99, Ry. Road, Lahore.
10. Messrs. Chapala Book Stall, Shillong.
11. Messrs. Sirbhumi Publishing Co., Calcutta
12. The Proprietor, 'Graduates Union,' Gauhati.
13. Mr. Banwarilal Jain (Book Seller), 1719/2002, Mati Katra, Agra (India).
14. Messrs. Low Book Society, 65/3, Harrison Road, Calcutta.
15. The Director, Benares Corporation, University Road, P.O. Lanka.
16. Messrs. Law Book Society, 4A, Wellington Square, Calcutta.
17. Messrs. Bodh Raj Marwah, Booksellers, Shop No.63, Pusa Colony Market, Delhi-Karol Bagh, New Delhi.
18. The Oxford Book and Stationery Co., Scindia House, New Delhi/17, Park Street, Calcutta.
19. Messrs Mokshada Pustakalaya, Publishers and Book Sellers, Gauhati.
20. Messrs Popular Book Depot (Regd.), Book-sellers, Publishers etc., Lamington Road, Bombay.7
21. Messrs B.H.U. Press Book Depot, Book-sellers, Publishers, etc., Banaras-5 (India).