

Assam Legislative Assembly Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

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

BUDGET SESSION

VOLUME I

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The 21st June 1957



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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 1-30 P.M., on Friday, the 21st June, 1957.

PRESENT

Shri Dev Kanta Borooah, B.A., LL.B., Speaker, in the Chair, eight Ministers, seven Deputy Ministers and sixty-seven Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Representation against the location of a brick-kiln on land covered by Patta No.480 of Tezpur Town

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) asked:

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that after securing some industrial loans from the Government, Shri Joynewar Sarma Barthakur of Holeswar Debalaya of Tezpur has located a brick-kiln on the land covered by patta No.480 within the Municipal area of Tezpur ward No.I (Kamarsubari) ?
- (b) Whether the inhabitants of that locality have lately made representation in this regard to the local Deputy Commissioner, Municipal Authority, Commissioner of Plains Division and Minister-in-charge of Health ?

- (c) Whether a certain neighbour of the said brick-kiln lately made repeated request to the Government against location of this brick-kiln ?
- (d) Whether Government are aware that Shri A. C. Barua, Assistant Director of Public Health visited the said kiln on 20th and 21st February, 1957, being accompanied by District Medical Officer and found particles of coal and smoke in the house of a neighbour, Shri Dandadhar Das ?
- (e) If so, what step Government have taken to close down the kiln to save the life and maintain peace of the people concerned ?
- (f) If not, why ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical)
replied:

14. (a)—This does not concern the Medical Department. However, on enquiry from the Director of Cottage Industries, this Department has been apprised that an Industrial Loan of Rs.20,000 was sanctioned to the party in June, 1956 for the purposes of brick manufacture and that the party concerned has started their construction of the kiln on the lands covered by periodic Patta No.480 of Tezpur town.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—The Chairman, Municipal Board, Tezpur, has been informed by the Medical Department that the brick-kiln must not be allowed to function at Kamarsubari, Ward No.1, Tezpur town. The Deputy Commissioner, Darrang, has also been requested to take appropriate steps to remove the complaints of the public.

(f) —Does not arise,

**Survey of Dhubri and Goalpara Subdivisions by the
Officers of the Revenue Department**

Maulavi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara)
asked:

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the officers of the Revenue Department are making survey of the villages of Dhubri and Goalpara Subdivisions from some time past ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that they are surveying without any consultation of the Estate records and without giving any information to the owner of the land ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that no proper announcement of survey of any particular village was made by beat of drum in the locality where survey was made ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) re-
plied:

15. (a)—Yes.

(b)—It is not a fact. According to Rules under the Goalpara Tenancy Act, 1929, the proprietors of the estates were first asked to demarcate the villages on the ground according to their records. The villages are then traversed and cadastrally surveyed. At this stage there is no provision for formal notices (giving information) to the owners. But for the sake of convenience, owners are consulted in practice.

(c)—According to rules an announcement, as suggested, is not necessary at this stage.

But at a later stage before attestation of draft records, a proclamation is issued in the villages concerned enabling owners to put in objections, if any.

Establishment of an office of Revenue Officer in Dhubri Subdivision

Maulavi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara)
asked:

*16. Will the Revenue Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that office of the Revenue officer is still at Goalpara town ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the people of Dhubri Subdivision are facing great hardship and inconvenience in the matter of submitting petitions and appeals before the said authority ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the Dhubri Bar and local M. L. As. represented the matter to the Government for immediate arrangement for an office of the Revenue Officer ?
- (d) Whether Government propose to make necessary arrangements to receive petition at Dhubri immediately ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied:

16. (a)—Yes.

(b)—It is a fact that the people of Dhubri Subdivision were facing certain amount of inconvenience in the matter of submitting petitions.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Yes, an Assistant Revenue Officer has already been posted at Gauripur and construction of a branch office at Dhubri has also been sanctioned.

Maulavi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister-in-charge of Revenue be pleased to make arrangement to receive petitions at Dhubri now ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: This point will be considered, Sir.

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Cattle Loan for different Districts and Subdivisions in Assam during 1956-57 and 1957-58 (Upto 12th June, 1957).

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) asked:

*18. Will the Revenue Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) What sum of money was granted to different Districts and Subdivisions as cattle loan during this financial year and the preceding year ?
- (b) If it is a fact that no amount was granted for Sibsagar Subdivision as cattle loan in the above years ?
- (c) If it is a fact that Government issued certain instructions to the local authorities not to put any demand for sanction of cattle loan as the same was granted to Co-operative ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied:

18. (a)—A statement showing the cattle loan sanctioned during this year upto 12th June, 1957 and the preceding year is placed on the Library Table.

(b)—During 1956-57 no cattle loan was sanctioned for Sibsagar as no demand for the same was received from local officer. But during this financial year (upto 12th June, 1957) a sum of Rs.10,000 has been sanctioned.

(c)—It is not a fact.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA : চৰকাৰে যিবিলাক Cattle Loan দিয়ে সেই বিলাক সাধাৰণতে Credit Society ৰ জৰিয়তে দিয়ে তাৰ উপৰিও কিছুমান চৰকাৰে ইয়াৰ পৰাই পোনে পোনে দিয়ে। এনেদৰে দুয়ো ফালৰ পৰা ধণ দিয়াত Co-operative movement ত Hamper নকৰিবনে? এই বিষয়ে চৰকাৰে কিবা নিৰ্দেশ দিছেনেকি?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : চৰকাৰৰ তৰফৰ পৰা তেনে কোনো নিৰ্দেশ দিয়া হোৱা নাই।

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA : চলিত বছৰত অৰ্থাৎ ১৯৫৭ চনত চৰকাৰৰ তৰফৰ পৰা কিমান 'কেটল লন' দিয়া হৈছে?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): প্রশ্নৰ উত্তৰত কোৱাই হৈছে যে, চলিত জুন মাহৰ ১২ তাৰিখলৈকে দহ হাজাৰ টকাৰ দিয়া হৈছে।

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra): এটা চাপবিত প্ৰায় ৪১ লাখ বান বিশ্বস্ত আৰু গৰু ন'হ নোহোৱা মানুহ আছে তেনেস্বৰত তেওঁলোকৰ কাৰণে মাত্ৰ দহ হাজাৰ টকা কম হোৱা নাই নে?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: ১০ হাজাৰ টকা অকল Cattle Loan হিচাবেহে দিয়া হৈছে।

Mr. SPEAKER: It may not be replied.

Shri RAJENDRA NATH BARUA (Golaghat-East): May I know, Sir, what amount has been given to Golaghat?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: That has been given in the list placed on the Library Table, but for the information of the hon. Member, I would like to supply the information. This year for Golaghat Subdivision, a sum of Rs.10,000 has been sanctioned as cattle loan.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi): May I know, Sir, what amount has been sanctioned for Jorhat?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order.

When the list has been placed on the Library Table giving therein the district-wise detailed figures, it is not customary to make any individual references to the same thing in this House. Hon. Member will please consult the list placed on the Library Table.

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance): May I, Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, add that this year also there was no demand from the Subdivisions, but knowing the difficulties of the people in purchasing cattle, the money has been pushed up unasked for as, perhaps, the Hon'ble Revenue Minister is of the opinion that the people should be helped as best as the Government can possibly afford to do.

Shri HARESWAR DAS: It is at the instance of the Hon'ble Finance Minister that this was done, Sir. (Laughter).

Shri RAM NATH SARMA (Lumding) : People submit their petitions to the Deputy Commissioner, but if the the Deputy Commissioner does not submit proposals accordingly to Government, what can the people do ?

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is obvious and the reply also is obvious.

Shri GAURI SANKAR ROY (Katlichera) इस ऋण की ज्यादा से ज्यादा रकम क्या है ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : No maximum has been fixed, Sir. It is given according to the demand of the people.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) : Is it not a fact, Sir, that sometimes the amount of the loan given is so insufficient that it can hardly cover the price of even one cattle ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Finance) : No, this time minimum of the loan given is Rs.1,000.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Tarabari Protection Work

Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari) asked:

48. Will the Public Works Department Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Since when Tarabari Protection Work was started ?

(b) When the work had to be completed ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Public Works Department) replied:

48. (a)—The actual execution of the Tarabari Protection Works was started in the third week of March, 1957.

(b)—By 31st May, 1957. (But due to difficulties in land acquisition, procuring materials and unexpectedly early floods, the work could not be completed as programmed. It is expected to be completed in early next winter.)

Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari) : Are Government aware that some of these spurs have been washed away by the flood this time at Tarabari ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Public Works Department) : No information has been received by Government as yet.

Improvement and reconstruction of Ladaigarh Ali in Holongapar Mauza in Jorhat Subdivision

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon) asked:

49. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that it has been proposed to improve and reconstruct the Ladaigarh Ali in the Holongapar Mauza in the Subdivision of Jorhat during Second Five Year Plan by the Assam Public Works Department ?

(b) If so, whether the works have been started and when it is likely to be completed ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Public Works Department) replied:

49. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Work has not yet been started. Arrangements have been made to take over the road from the Local Board and start the work. The works are expected to be completed by March, 1959.

Srimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA: Will the Minister-in-charge be pleased to state when the proposal was taken ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Public Works Department): The reply is there—the road has not yet been taken up. As stated in the reply, arrangement has been made to take over the road from the Local Board and start the work.

Mr. SPEAKER: The reply is that work has not yet been started.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA: Generally works are taken up in winter. In this case also the work will be taken up in this winter.

Amount sanctioned for improvement of Nalbari-Dhamdhama Public Works Department Road in 1956

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS [Rangiya (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] asked:

50. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department be pleased to state—

(a) The amount sanctioned for the improvement of Nalbari-Dhamdhama Public Works Department Road in the year 1956 ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that almost the whole grant is surrendered annually without making improvement of the road ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Public Works Department) replied:

50. (a)—No amount was sanctioned for improvement of Nalbari-Dhamdhama Public Works Department Road in the year 1956, as it was not included in any improvement programme.

(b)—Does not arise.

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS : Are Government aware that due to the bad condition of the road, people are suffering immensely ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Public Works Department): This relates to 1956.

Mr. SPEAKER: He said about the suffering of the people.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : This relates to 1956, one year back. The road must have been repaired in the meantime.

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS [Rangiya (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Are Government aware that vehicular traffic on this road is closed ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : Government have no information.

Persons registered as Indian Citizens in Jowai Sub-division in 1956-57

Shri LARSINGH KHYRIEM [Jowai (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] asked:

51. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) How many people have taken a declaration of Indian Citizenship in the Jowai Subdivision in 1956-1957 ?
- (b) The community or communities they belong to ?
- (c) Whether the names of those persons were entered in the Electoral Roll ?
- (d) Whether those people who have taken Indian Citizenship have got (i) houses of their own ; or (ii) living in rented houses ?
- (e) If answer to (d) (i) above be in the affirmative, who granted them a building site ?
- (f) If the answer to (d) (ii) above be in the affirmative, who are the owners of the houses ?

Shri †MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home) replied:

51. (a)—724 persons were registered as Indian Citizens in Jowai Subdivision during 1956-57.

(b)—Bengalee Hindus.

(c)—The names of 422 adult persons were entered in the Electoral Roll. The others are still minor and not qualified for enrolment under the Representation of the People Act; 1950.

(d) (i)—Only few persons have got houses of their own.

(ii)—Most of them are living in rented houses.

(e)—By taking settlement of land from the local land owners.

(f)—Rented houses belong to different local people.

Shri LARSINGH KHYRIEM [Jowai (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Will the Hon'ble Minister give the names of people who have rented their houses?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home): It is not possible to give the names now. If the hon. Member wants, I will give them afterwards.

Mass Food Poisoning at Sengeli Gaon in Charigaon Mouza

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) asked:

52. Will the Medical Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government are aware of a mass food poisoning at Sengeli Gaon of Charigaon Mouza, at a distance of 2 miles from Jorhat town on 4th May, 1957 in which about 60 persons have been affected?

(b) Whether it is a fact that Public Health Department was informed in due time?

(c) Whether it is a fact that only Health Assistants were deputed to the place, who could not bring the situation under control?

†Answer was given by the Home Minister in absence of the Chief Minister.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical)
replied:

52. (a)—Yes, the total number of persons attacked was 93.

(b)—The Department was informed in the evening of 4th May, 1957 when two deaths had already occurred.

(c)—No. The Civil Surgeon, Assistant Director of Public Health, Assistant Surgeon and one Compounder visited the place of occurrence.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar): My question was whether it is a fact that Public Health Department was informed in due time? The reply is that the Department was informed in the evening of the 4th May, 1957 when two deaths had already occurred. But my personal information is.....

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order. I have made it clear times without number that the purpose of a question is to get information from the Government and not to give information.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI : My question is whether it is a fact that the Public Health Assistants went to the spot just in the afternoon and if they got the information in the evening, how could they go there in the afternoon?

Mr. SPEAKER Order, order.

Sale of Siloche Fishery Mahal

Dr. SHRIHARI DAS (Barpeta) asked:

53. Will the Minister, Revenue, be pleased to state—

(a) Who has taken the Siloche Fishery Mahal this year and for what amount?

(b) Whether it is a fact that some other lessee offered and is also now offering more amount than that of the lessee who has taken it on bid this year?

(c) Whether Government has received any representation not to confirm the sale but to resell the same ?

(d) If so, whether the Government will resell the same ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied:

53. (a)—The fishery was sold by Subdivisional Officer to Shri Harinath Das, a caste Hindu, at Rs.20,100 per annum. The sale was not confirmed by the Commissioner, Plains Division, as the Subdivisional Officer did not give option to Shri Bharat Chandra Das, the next highest bidder, who was reported to be an actual fisherman by caste and profession, to take settlement at the highest bid as required by Fishery Rule 13. The Commissioner directed the Subdivisional Officer to give the option to Shri Bharat Chandra Das. Shri Harinath Das has since filed a mandamus petition before the High Court against this order. The matter is now pending before the High Court which has stayed further action.

(b)—No one offered a higher bid than Rs.20,100.

(c) & (d)—No such representation has been received and Government are not the authority either to confirm or order resale of the fishery.

Cases of Murder and Dacoity reported in each Police Station of Barpeta Subdivision during 1955 to 1957

Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari) asked:

54. Will the Minister-in-charge of Home be pleased to state—

(a) How many murder and dacoity cases were reported in each police station of Barpeta Subdivision during the years 1955 to 1957 ?

(b) How many of them were charge-sheeted and how many of them have ended with conviction (information to be supplied Thana-wise) ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home) replied:

54.

	Year	Names of Thanas			
		Shor- bhog	Barpeta	Tara- bari	Pata- char- kuchi
(a)(i)—No. of murder cases reported.	1955	6	2	7	2
	1956	7	6	4	1
	1957	2	1	4	1
(ii) No. of dacoity cases reported.	1955	3	4	4	1
	1956	Nil	4	Nil	Nil
	1957	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b)(i)—No. of murder cases pending investigation.	1955	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	1956	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	1957	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
No. of murder cases charge-sheeted.	1955	6	2	4	1
	1956	5	4	3	1
	1957	1	1	3	1
No. of murder cases pending trial.	1955	5	Nil	3	1
	1956	5	2	Nil	1
	1957	Nil	1	3	1
No. of murder cases ended in conviction.	1955	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
	1956	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	1957	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

	Year	Names of Thanas			
		Shor- bhog	Bar- peta	Tara- bari	Pata- char kuchi
(ii) No. of dacoity cases pending investigation.	1955	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	1956	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	1957	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
No. of dacoity cases charge-sheeted.	1955	1	3	2	Nil
	1956	Nil	2	Nil	Nil
	1957	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
No. of dacoity cases pending trial.	1955	1	3	2	Nil
	1956	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
	1957	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
No. of dacoity cases ended in conviction.	1955	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	1956	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
	1957	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Cases of Motor accidents in Barpeta Subdivision during 1955 to 1957

Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari) asked:

55. Will the Minister-in-charge of Home be pleased to state—

(a) How many motor accident cases took place in Barpeta Subdivision during the years 1955 to 1957 ?

(b) How many persons are injured and how many persons died due to these accidents ?

(c) What are the reasons of these accidents ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home) replied:

	Year		
	1955	1956	1957
55. (a)—No. of motor accident cases reported in Barpeta Sub-division.	3	7	4
(b)—No. of persons injured	...	2	7
No. of persons died	...	1	3

(c)—These accidents occurred due to rash and negligent driving.

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta): Do Government propose to take action against those persons concerned for rash and negligent driving ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA : Action has been taken. They were tried in the court of law. Sometimes they have been convicted and sometimes not.

Cases of Theft and Dacoity under Barama Police Station

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS [Rangiya (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] asked:

56. Will the Minister-in-charge of Home Department be pleased to state—

(a) The cases of theft and dacoities committed in the year 1956 and upto the month of May, 1957 under Barama Police Station of Kamrup District ?

(b) How many of them have been detected ?

(c) In how many of such cases the accused have been convicted ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister, Home) replied:

	Year 1956	Year 1957
56. (a)—No. of theft cases committed !..	20	3 (upto the month of May).
No. of Dacoity cases committed	3	1
(b)—No. of theft cases detected/charge-sheeted.	11	3
No. of Dacoity cases detected/charge-sheeted.	2	Nil
(c)—No. of theft cases ended in conviction.	6	Nil
No. of dacoity cases ended in conviction.	1	Nil

One dacoity case is under investigation. Three theft cases and one dacoity case are pending trial.

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS [Rangiya (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Is there any proposal for opening a Police Beat House under Barama Police Station ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA : There is no such proposal.

Fire-affected Families of Barpeta Subdivision

Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari) asked:

57. Will the Revenue Minister be pleased to state—

(a) How many families were affected by fire in Barpeta Subdivision in the years 1955 to 1957 (information should be given year by year) ?

(b) Whether Government has given any help to the fire-affected people of this State ?

(c) If so, in what way and what is the amount (answer should be given district-wise) ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied:

57. (a)—1955—30 families.

1956—30 families.

1957—56 families.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Government have rendered relief to the fire-affected people by way of granting gratuitous relief and loan. The amounts sanctioned are given below:

District	1955-56					
	Gratuitous Relief			Loan		
	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
Lakhimpur	Nil			Nil		
Sibsagar	1,700	0	0	Nil		
Nowgong	4,970	0	0	1,000	0	0
Kamrup	1,120	0	0	12,000	0	0
Darrang	Nil			Nil		
Goalpara.. ..	1,500	0	0	7,500	0	0
Cachar	Nil			300	0	0
Khasi and Jaintia Hills ..	200	0	0	3,000	0	0
Total	9,490	0	0	23,800	0	0

1956-57

District	Gratuitous Relief			Loan		
	Rs.	a.	p.	Rs.	a.	p.
Lakhimpur	10,200	0	0	70,000	0	0
Sibsagar	350	0	0	27,000	0	0
Nowgong	550	0	0	1,000	0	0
Kamrup	638	8	0	Nil		
Darrang	350	0	0	1,400	0	0
Goalpara.. ..	1,480	0	0	12,500	0	0
Cachar	500	0	0	Nil.		
Khasi and Jaintia Hills ..	Nil			30,500	0	0
<hr/>						
Total	14,068	8	0	1,42,400	0	0

Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari) : Why no loan was given to the Kamrup district in the year 1956-57 ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : Because there was no report of fire from Kamrup.

Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED : Is it not a fact that more than 300 families have been affected by fire this year in the Barpeta Subdivision ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : I am not aware of it.

Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED : Will Government enquire into it ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : Surely.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [**Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)**]: In regard to Khasi-Jaintia Hills the reply is nil. In 1956-57 nothing in shape of gratuitous relief was given although there were fire-affected persons who applied for relief.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (**Minister, Revenue**): Because nothing was given, so it is shown as nil.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : No gratuitous relief was given at all ! May I know what was the reason ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : Because there were no demands.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : My knowledge is that there were demands. (*Loud laughter*).

Demands for Grants

GRANT No.2

"7—Land Revenue"

Mr. SPEAKER : Now we come to Demands for Grants.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (**Gauhati**): Before we proceed to the next item, may I make a submission ? We have to-day finished the questions long before the question hour is over, and we have two very important subjects in the agenda to-day. So, my submission is that so far as Grant No. 7 is concerned, the rest of the question hour may be appropriated therein and we may sit for half an hour more at the end, *i.e.*, upto 4-30 p.m., so that Grant No. 52 instead of being finished in 15 minutes, the time may be extended to 45 minutes, because this is a very important subject—industrial policy of the Government.

I may further submit that we have as many as 9 Cut Motions under Grant No.7—Land Revenue. We propose to move only 2, one by Rev. Nichols-Roy which is of specific

nature and one general. That will save a few minutes. Rev. Nichols-Roy will move his Cut Motion first and either myself or Shri Barbaruah will move the general Motion next.

Mr. SPEAKER: Does the Hon'ble Minister agree to this suggestion ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Major Industries): Yes, I agree.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am thankful to the hon. Member from Gauhati who has brought this to the notice of the House and I am equally thankful to the Hon'ble Minister for Major Industries who has agreed to the suggestion.

Now I will request the Revenue Minister to move his Motion.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.1,50,88,700 (Rupees one crore, fifty lakhs, eighty-eight thousand and seven hundred) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1958 for the administration of the head "7.—Land Revenue".

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that a sum of Rs.1,50,88,700 (Rupees one crore, fifty lakhs, eighty-eight thousand and seven hundred) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1958, for the administration of the head "7.—Land Revenue".

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS -ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.3,04,000 under Grant No.2, major head—7—Land Revenue, minor head—A—General Establishment, sub-head—1—Pay of Officers (total) at page 6 of the Budget be reduced by Re. 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,50,88,700 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, the question of dispute of the boundary line between the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills District and Sylhet District was an old one and it has had a history at the back of it, which is very interesting. Now we are not in greater possession of the land than what we were in pre-Partition days. It may be

interesting for the House to know that in pre-British days the boundary was from the Surma river, and that was the boundary according to a report by the Government at that time.

“That at the time the British first came to Assam it was found that the river Surma was the boundary between the Khasi and Jaintia Hills and Sylhet District and that the lands north of the Surma River was in the occupation of the Khasis.” This fact was mentioned in a book entitled ‘A Brief History of the Survey of the Sylhet District’ by T. Shaw, retired Deputy Superintendent, Survey of India, and published by the Government of Assam in 1917, where, at page 1 it says, “Sylhet proper came into the possession of the Company when they acquired the Dewani of Bengal in 1765. The earliest record of the limits of the district as then known to the British is the Map prepared in 1777 under Major James Rennell, Surveyor General of Bengal. This map shows that the Khasis were then being in the virtual possession of a considerable area (about 300 square miles) between the foot Hills and Surma River.”

Then afterwards, the British encroached on the land of the Khasis, and there was a kind of settlement between the Government at that time and our forefathers. There was a map drawn—which was written in Urdu, Bengali and English—wherein a boundary line was drawn somewhere between the foothills of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills and Surma river, and our forefathers were assured that the British would not encroach any more north of the line. When the partition of India came into effect, the Khasis submitted to the Redcliff Boundary Commission through the Government of Assam, a claim of the lands included by the British in Sylhet District, and represented that the boundary line was far below the present boundary line and that the land belonged to the Khasis. Before the Partition, there were disputes in certain localities but during those days the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet District, and the Deputy Commissioner of Khasi and Jaintia Hills who were two British Officers used to settle the disputes locally. But gradually the boundary line was moved towards the hills as they thought that from the Khasis no land revenue could be got for the land, and gradually almost all the plains lands which used to belong to the Khasis went to Sylhet District.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): Sir, is there any relevancy to the subject of the Cut Motion? My hon. Friend has been giving the background of what happened in the past between the British Government and the Khasi people.

Mr. SPEAKER: Well, I am not quite sure that it has no relevancy to the Cut Motion. I think the background of the problem would be relevant.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): But, Sir, the object of the hon. Member is to get the information.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Now, Sir, I want to get the information from the present Government of Assam what had been done about this question with the present Pakistan Government.

In 1946-47 the Government of Assam had the boundary surveyed and that boundary was put in the map, and that was done in the year of Independence. At that time the Assam Government had a very efficient surveyor, and he surveyed the boundary and that boundary map is still with the Government of Assam. But the Khasi people objected to that map, as according to that map also the land which was in possession of the Khasi people, went to Pakistan. The Khasi people wrote to the Government about this and the Government made the Khasis to understand that the boundary was not settled and the boundary was being surveyed. Now the survey has been made about one and a half years. The Hon'ble Minister will get the information regarding the time when the boundary would be settled. Objections as to the present survey has been raised from different parts of the Khasi Hills that large areas of land belonging to the Khasis have, according to the survey, been made to fall within Pakistan. Anybody who goes to Dawki side will see that by the side of Dawki Bazar, there is a river and all the people from Darangi village ply their boats on that river. According to the survey made, this river also has been taken to Pakistan, I am told. The boundary line has been made to fall right up to Dawki Bazar. The river and the land on the foothills which used to be inside the Khasi Hills was also made to fall within Pakistan. Sir, that is a great loss to the Khasi people. We want to know from the Government what they have done in this matter. We have been told by our Khasi people who followed the Surveyors that the Surveyor of the Assam Government is not a capable man. Mr. Creed who was an expert and experienced Surveyor who laid the line in 1946-47, should be deputed to see whether the line has been properly put or not. Unless an expert man is put there, Sir, we are bound to lose much. We are compelled to abide by the decision of the Government that the map that

was drawn up in the season from 1941 to 1947 is to be taken as the map that has given the boundary line. But even in that map, some lands of ours have been taken to Pakistan ; and now, as I have said, much more land has been taken to Pakistan. Therefore, I would like to know from the Government what has been done in regard to this. Representations regarding this matter have been sent to Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved is that the provision of Rs.3,04,000 under Grant No.2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, Minor head—A.—General Establishment, Sub-head—1.—Pay of Officers (total) at page 6 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs .1,50,88,700 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.1,50,88,700 under Grant No.2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, at page 3 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,50,88,700 do stand reduced by Re.1.

আমাৰ যিটো খাজনা লোৱা প্ৰথা আছে এইটো সামন্ত যুগৰে নিয়ম। এই প্ৰথমতে মাটিৰ কালি অনুপাতে খাজনা লগাইছিল। কিন্তু সামন্ত যুগ এতিয়া নাই। বৰ্তমান গনতন্ত্ৰৰ যুগ। সেই যুগত পৰিবৰ্তন দৰকাৰ। এই গণতন্ত্ৰৰ যুগত মাটিৰ খাজনা উৎপাদনৰ ভিত্তিত ধাৰ্য কৰা উচিত। যি সকলৰ খাবলৈ নোজোৰে, যি দুবেলা দুমুঠি ভাতৰ কাৰণে হাঁহাঁকাৰ কৰিব লাগে, সেই গৰীব মানুহৰ ওপৰত খাজনা লগোৱা উচিত নহয়। যি সকল লোকৰ লাভজনক মাটি (*profitable holding*) আছে অৰ্থাৎ যি মাটিৰ পৰা যথেষ্ট লাভ হয় সেই মাটিৰহে খাজনা লোৱা উচিত। আমাৰ দেশত বহুত মানুহৰ খাবলৈ নোজোৰে; এই খাবলৈ নোজোৰা মানুহবোৰৰ খাজনা উঠাই দি কৃষি আয়কৰ (*Agricultural Incom-tax*) হিচাপে সাৰাণ্য কৰ লব লাগে। বৰ্তমান খাজনা প্ৰথাৰ দ্বাৰা দৰিদ্ৰ জনসাধাৰনৰ ঘোৰ অন্যায় কৰা হৈছে। গতিকে মই পৰামৰ্শ দিও যে কেৱল লাভজনক মাটিৰহে খাজনা আদায় কৰিব লাগে, খাবলৈ নোজোৰা দৰিদ্ৰ জন সাধাৰনৰ পৰা খাজনা লোৱা উচিত নহয়।

দ্বিতীয়তে জমিদাৰী উচ্ছেদ কৰা মাটিৰ সন্মুখে কওঁ যে বায়তসকলে জমিদাৰক অতি সামান্য খাজনা দি মাটি খাইছিল। কিন্তু নতুন যুগত নতুন পিয়ল হোৱাৰ পিচত চৰকাৰে সেই বায়তসকলৰ ওপৰত বেচি খাজনা ধাৰ্য কৰিছে। কাৰণ বৰ্তমান খাজনাৰ পৰিমাণ মাটিৰ পৰিমাণৰ ওপৰত ধাৰ্য কৰিছে উৎপাদনৰ ওপৰত ধাৰ্য কৰা নাই। মই আগতেই কৈছো যে খাজনা উৎপাদনৰ ওপৰতহে ধাৰ্য কৰিব লাগে পৰিমাণৰ ওপৰত নহয়। গতিকে যি মাটিত যি দৰে খেতিয়কে জমিদাৰক খাজনা দিছিল সেইদৰেহে চৰকাৰে খাজনা লগোৱা উচিত।

তাৰ পিচত কওঁ যে চৰকাৰে যেতিয়া কোনো অঞ্চলত মাটি দিয়ে তেতিয়া প্ৰিমিয়াম লোৱাৰ প্ৰথা আছে। আমাৰ আমগুৰি অঞ্চলত বৰুৱা পুখুৰী নামৰ এক সমবায় সমিতিক মাটি দিছে। কিন্তু তাত হাজাৰ-হাজাৰ টকা দুখীয়া বাইজৰ পৰা প্ৰিমিয়াম আদায় কৰিছে।

যদি তেওঁলোকে প্ৰিমিয়াম দিব পাৰে তেনেহলে তেওঁলোক দুখীয়া নহয়েই। বাধ্য হৈ দুখীয়া কৃষক সকলে প্ৰিমিয়াম দিব লগা হৈছে—আৰু এইদৰেই দৰিদ্ৰ কৃষক সকলক সৰ্ব্বশান্ত কৰা হৈছে।

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) : অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমগুৰিত মাটিৰ প্ৰিমিয়াম লোৱা হৈছে নে Compensation দিয়া হৈছে ?

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) : মুঠতে আমগুৰিৰ মানুহে টকা দিব লগা হৈছে আহাৰ মাহত মাটি দিলে অন্ততঃ আধা আধা মাফ হ'ব লাগে। কিয়নো জঙ্গল ভাঙি সেই বছৰ খেতি কৰা সম্ভৱ নহয়। অন্ততঃ দুখীয়া বাইজক আধা মাফ দিব লাগিছিল। কিন্তু ৰাজনাত মাফ দিয়া নাই আৰু প্ৰিমিয়ামো মাফ দিয়া নাই।

Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding) : May we know, Sir, whether that Co-operative is registered or not ?

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH: Registrar-
ed হয়নে নহয় খাটাত চাই লব।

আৰু এটা কথা কওঁ যে চৰকাৰে পাঁচ টকা ৰূপ লৈ এক চনীয়া মাটি ম্যাদী কৰি দিয়ে। এইটো অন্যায়ে কৰি টেক্স লগোৱা হৈছে। আশা কৰো ইয়াৰ যথেষ্ট ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব।

১৯৫৫ চনৰ ১৪ চেপ্টেম্বৰৰ আসাম গেজেটত আছে যে শিৱসাগৰ, যোৰহাট আৰু গোলাঘাট মহকুমাৰ দূৰদূৰণীৰ গাওঁবোৰতো বাইচাইকেল, টৰ্চলাইট আদি দেখা যায় ইয়াৰ মানুহৰ অৱস্থা দিনক দিনে ভাল হৈ আহিছে।

***“But there is no doubt that the average Sibsagar ryots now wear better dress, eat better, at least in the sense of taking more variegated food and moved in a better way. His standard of living has definitely increased leading to expenditure on new things and some articles which were considered as luxuries in 1927 are now fast becoming necessities. The character of the village houses has improved. The old ‘chakis’ and ‘piras’ have been replaced by chairs and table..... (laughter)..... Washing soap has become an article of common use. Masur dal is being purchased from market for consumption by the sale proceeds of Matikalai while mustard oil is more in common use. Torches and bicycles have penetrated even in the far off villages and perfumes and toilets are also making headway. The mobility of the ryots has at the same time increased and he now travels by bus and rail”

চাইকেলৰ ওপৰত বেলেগ টেক্স, টৰ্চৰ ওপৰত বেলেগ টেক্স—এইবিলাকটো আছেই, তাৰ উপৰিও শিৱসাগৰ জিলাৰ ওপৰত কেনেকৈ চকু পৰিছে মই কব নোৱাৰোঁ। এইবাৰ নতুন এছেম্বলিৰ কাৰণে কংগ্ৰেছে বাইজক কংগ্ৰেছ প্ৰাৰ্থীক ভোট

দিবলৈ কৈছিল আৰু বাইজেও তেখেত সকলক ভোট দিলে। বাইজে আশা কৰিছে যে এইবোৰৰ পৰিবৰ্তন হব আৰু খাজনা বৃদ্ধি নহব, সেই কাৰণেই আপোনালোকে জিকি আহিছে।

Sir, আমাৰ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ Land policy একো নাই। Landless মানুহ কাক বোলে একেবাৰেই যাৰ মাটি নাই বা যাৰ অলপ মাত্ৰ মাটি আছে তেনেকুৱা মানুহকে Landless বোলে নে কি এই সম্বন্ধে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ কোনো নিৰ্দিষ্ট Policy নাই। জেবেঙ্গা পথাৰৰ মাটিৰ গুণগোলৰ মীমাংসা আজিলৈকে নহল। তাত কিছুমান ধনী মানুহেও মাটি পালে। দুখীয়া মানুহক মাটি দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছিল হয়, কিন্তু দুখীয়া মানুহৰ মাটি নাইকিয়াহে হল। জেবেঙ্গা, জকাইচুক, চবাইদেও আদি কোন ঠাইৰ মাটিৰ গুণগোল চৰকাৰে নিষ্পত্তি কৰিব পাৰিছে, তাৰ কাৰণ হল চৰকাৰৰ কোনো Clearcut policy নাই।

Sir, এইবাৰ ছব্ডিপুটীৰ সংখ্যা বেচি কৰিছে। কালি কৈছোঁৱেই যে আমাৰ শাসন যন্ত্ৰ Top heavy হৈছে। ছব্ডিপুটীৰ সংখ্যা আছিল ১১৫ জন এতিয়া ১৩৬ জন কৰিছে অৰ্থাৎ ২১ জন বঢ়াইছে। ছব্ডিপুটীৰ সংখ্যা বঢ়ালেই দেশৰ উন্নতি হবনে? ইয়াৰ দ্বাবাই কেৱল top heavy হে কৰা হৈছে। এই ছব্ডিপুটী বিলাকক Land settlement ৰ ক্ষমতা দিছে। মাটিৰ মোকদ্দমা বা আপত্তি নিষ্পত্তি কৰিবৰ কাৰণে এই ছব্ডিপুটী বিলাকক Land revenue officer হিচাপে ধৰা হৈছে। তিতাবৰৰ আধিয়াৰ সকলৰ মোকদ্দমা আজিলৈকে নিষ্পত্তি কৰিব পৰা নাই। এনেকুৱা বিবাদ নিষ্পত্তি কৰিবলৈ হলে মাটিহীন যি মানুহে আধি খাইছে তেওঁলোকৰ প্ৰতিনিধি আৰু জমিদাৰৰ প্ৰতিনিধি লৈ এটা Democratic Board কৰিব লাগে। Democratic country ত Democratic ভাবে চলিব লাগে। জমিদাৰক ক্ষতিপূৰণ দিবলৈ ৪০ লাখ টকা ধৰা হৈছে। বৰ্তমান আমাৰ দেশ গঠনৰ কামত বহুত টকা ব্যয় কৰাৰ কথা উঠিছে। সেইকাৰণে মোৰ মতে জমিদাৰক টকা দিয়া স্বগিত বাধি সেই টকা আমাৰ দেশৰ মানুহৰ উন্নতিৰ নিমিত্তে খৰচ কৰিব লাগে।

Sir, নতুন জৰীপত বহুত বেমেজালি ঘটিছে। ৪০।৫০ বা ১০০ বছৰ খাই থকা মানুহৰ মাটি নতুন জৰীপত আনৰ দখললৈ গৈছে। এই গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ তলত এবাৰ জৰীপ কৰাৰ এমাহৰ পিচত যদি আকৌ জৰীপ কৰা হয় তেন্তে তাতো গুণগোল হব আৰু এই গুণগোল কোনো কালেই সমাধা নহব। এনে বিলাক বেমেজালিৰ কাৰণেই মই এই Cut motion দাঙি ধৰিছোঁ। আশা কৰোঁ আন আন সদস্য সকলেও এই প্ৰস্তাৱ সমৰ্থন কৰিব।

Mr. SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved is that the total provision of Rs.1,50,88,700 under Grant No.2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue at page 3 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,50,88,700 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Mr. Speaker, Sir, while supporting the Cut Motion moved by my Friend, Shri Khogendra Nath Barbaruah, I would like to go into the original Motion of the Revenue Minister himself, that is, with regard to the policy underlying this demand.

Sir, in the hand-book of Agriculture and Community Development of the Planning Commission itself it is said: "The future of land ownership and cultivation constitutes perhaps the most fundamental issue in national development. To a large extent the pattern of economic and social organisation will depend upon the manner in which the land problem is resolved. Sooner or later, the principles and objectives of policy for land cannot but influence policy in other sectors as well." This is more so as by far the overwhelming majority of our people are peasants or dependents on agriculture.

Now, the Report of the Congress Agrarian Reforms Committee will give us some light as to what the ruling party say in this matter. As this is a Congress Government which is ruling in our State, the people naturally expected that at least the report of the Congress Agrarian Reforms Committee would be followed by the Government. It was as early as 1947 that this Committee was appointed and the recommendations of this Committee were placed before the Congress President as early as 1949. In this report it is said that the elimination of all intermediaries between the State and the tiller is imperative. It is also said thus, "The Committee is strongly of the opinion that in the agrarian economy of India there is no place for intermediaries and land must belong to the tiller. **** The Committee has, therefore, recommended that, in future, subletting of land will be prohibited except in the case of widows, minors and other disabled persons". It is further said, "Only those who put in a minimum amount of physical labour and participate in actual agricultural operations would be deemed to cultivate land personally." So, that was the directive of the Agrarian Land Reforms Committee of the Congress itself and when our country embarked upon a planned development we found the primary aim laid down in the Draft Outline of the First Five-Year Plan at page 39 thus, "The Primary aim of the Plan is to improve agricultural production". Then, Sir, to achieve a consolidated Agrarian Reform, a basis also was laid down and this basis we find in the publication of the Planning Commission known as "Our Plan". Here the basis laid down is like this — "How is land owned and cultivated? This question has a close bearing on agricultural progress. The cultivator has no incentive to work hard unless he owns the land he tills. If he cultivates another man's land, he must have security of tenure and a fair return for his labour. Hitherto, the existence of numerous intermediaries between the State and the cultivator, insecurity and high rents have tended to cramp the cultivator's initiative and enterprise. The

structure of our rural society must change if our economy is to develop appreciably. The land policy suggested by the Commission will lay the foundations of a new order in the villages”.

For instance, intermediate rights are to be abolished forthwith. And this means that eviction of cultivators must be banned by law.

Then, Sir, about doing this and as to what would be the measures and standards of Agrarian Reform, the Planning Commission itself made certain observations in the Progress Report for 1953-54, at page 106. It is laid down thus, “Measures for Agrarian Reform can be judged by two standards, *viz.*, the extent to which the land system become capable of promoting an economic development and yielding increased production and the extent to which it serves the objects of social justice by securing to the cultivator permanent rights in the land and a fair reward for his labour” and with that end in view, during the first phase of the First Five-Year Plan, *viz.* April, 1951 to September, 1953 certain targets were set and this we find in the report styled as “The Progress of the Plan.” Here in pages 112 to 128 these objectives are laid. Now what are these objectives? They are—abolition of intermediaries, reform of tenancy ceiling on holdings, consolidation of holdings and re-organisation of agriculture. Now with this background, with these directives, objectives, standards and measures laid down, we are to see whether and how far we in this State have achieved that objective and instead of myself saying something which might be taken by the Government as irresponsible criticism, let me again refer to the reports of the Planning Commission itself. I refer to pages 108, 109 of the Book known as the Progress Report for the First Five-Year Plan. Here about Assam, very good remarks are given and the Minister-in-charge would do well to put his back after hearing this. It is said at page 108, “Legislation for the abolition of intermediaries has not yet been implemented in Assam (*laughter*), West Bengal, Mysore, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi.”

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): It has been given alphabetically.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Even if it is placed at the last, the fact remains, as stated by the Government of India, that the Government of Assam

had not done anything in this respect, I mean—in respect of having a legislation for the abolition of the intermediaries. Then again at page 109 it has been said that legislative measures have yet to be undertaken in the temporarily-settled districts of Assam. That is to say, it has not been undertaken in the following areas and tenures, namely, in Assam, and in respect of temporary-settled areas. It is very well known to this House that in Assam temporary settled areas are by far the most. Not only that. It is further said at page 20, that a number of important States like Assam do not have regulation on ceiling and some of them have not even adopted the necessary legislations.

Sir, after this, should I give any more criticism about the great achievement that we have made in this respect, I mean, with regard to land reform, with regard to the progress in the reform of land tenure achieved during the last five years? Now, what is the objective set for the Second Five-Year Plan? If we are to do anything substantial during the Second Five-Year Plan, we must fulfil what has remained unfulfilled during the First Plan period, here and now, otherwise we shall be crying in the wilderness. If we think that the Second Plan will bring anything in this State. Sir, in the shape of building up an industrial super structure which the Second Five-Year Plan envisages, we must have the agrarian basis solid. While other States have done something in this respect, this State—this 'Pandab Barjit Desh'—has lagged far far behind and that also under the regime of a Congress rule! The Congress ideals, as laid down at page 109 of the Congress Agrarian Committee's Report, remains unimplemented. Who can expect, Sir, that we shall achieve the purposes set out in the Second Plan if we hesitate, if we become conservative in this matter of land reform? With all respect to the Minister-in-charge of Land Revenue about whose knowledge, wisdom and sympathy to the people I have no doubt, I must say, that in spite of his erudition, there is a lot of conservatism in him. The time has come when this conservatism has to be shaken off. We must do sweeping land reforms, otherwise all our hope of industrial superstructure will vanish. Sir, the task before us is great. The achievement of socialistic pattern of society has been accepted as the objective of our economic policy. This means that the basic criteria is determined on the lines of advancement we make in the matter of distribution, consumption and investment. The benefit should not be confined to the few privileged classes of people of the society; there should be progressive reduction of economic disparity. All economists

in the world support this view. Now, the system of collecting land revenue which is prevalent in many parts of India including Assam is not of a progressive pattern. Now, I quote a few lines from the forecast report as published in the *Assam Gazette*, September 14, 1955 wherein it is stated—“****it is clear that the prices of commodities that the ryot has to purchase have gone up at least three times since 1927.” From this it appears that the condition of the peasantry has become worse.

Sir, Shri T. T. Krishnamachari has admitted that due to the halting manner of land reforms in several States, and I may say including Assam, the real purpose of the First Five-Year Plan has failed. So, in spite of the programme of Community Development and other projects where so much money has been spent, the real purpose has not been achieved, Sir. On the contrary, the rich has become richer and the poor poorer. The Union Deputy Finance Minister the other day said on the floor of the Lok Sabha that the gap between the rich and the poor has widened instead of being narrowed. So, when we are faced with such a stupendous task of narrowing the gulf and making the difference between the higher income group and the lower income group as narrow as possible so as to upgrade those at the bottom, we must not be conservative and we must not be wavering and undecided like Shakespeare's Hamlet “To be or not to be, that is the question”. We find the Government at present eternally questioning, ‘To be or not to be’, and nothing substantial has been made in the matter of land reform. We have seen, as I have read out just now, that the Planning Commission directed that eviction should be stopped. The Prime Minister of India had said in his usual emotion that to evict a peasant from his land is a crime. But what do we find in Assam? Under the present benign rule or merciful rule, as many as 30,000 people have been evicted in one year in the State of Assam. What for? Because they are termed as encroachers. They have encroached upon the reserves of the Government, the so-called grazing reserves, village grazing reserves and some forest reserves. I may submit, Sir, that there have been some cases of encroachment which are quite unjustified. But in many places there have been encroachments upon places which could easily have been settled with peasants and as a matter of fact Government ultimately submitted to the pressure. For example, in my own constituency, there is one Reserve called Malobari Reserve which originally had 9,995 bighas of land. Government would have done well to make planned settlement of this land. This is an ideal place for cultivation and it has some swampy lands also and

Government could start ideal agricultural farm here. But what has been done ? Some people from Hajo, Palasbari and Rampur applied for this land and some people were forced to go into this reserve due to erosion. When at first encroachment took place and when our present Chief Minister was the Revenue Minister, for reasons best known to him, he allowed some of them to have temporary settlement for three years. Now, Sir, temporary settlement for three years means in fact giving eternal settlement, because once the people are placed there, it would be inhuman to evict them. Gradually more and more people began to settle there and about 5,000 bighas of this had to be settled with the encroachers. This shows that the Government ultimately submitted to the settlement of this Reserve. But this had to be done under pressure. What earthly reason was there for the Government for not taking up planned settlement earlier ? I am giving only one instance. There are many other instances also. There are also lands under the temples, under Satras and also under other intermediaries where evictions are taking place. Even the Adhiars' Protection Act instead of helping the Adhiars, has created difficulties for them. It is being flouted in many places by the landlords and thus the Adhiars' Act has become quite ineffective. The land ceiling legislation has been passed, but it has not been implemented and the result is that the trend of social legislation remains only on paper. There have in the meantime taken place a lot of Benami transactions. I have been told that even one of the Ministers himself has done this sort of Benami transaction taking advantage of this ineffective legislation. So, even after these five years of the First Five-Year Plan, the peasants, for whose benefit these legislations have been enacted, have got no benefit at all. This shows that passing of legislations should not be for the sake of passing only. The Government appear to show to the Planning Commission that through passing such legislations, we had done something for the people. If such legislations are not implemented, what is the good of passing them ? The landlord class is as powerful as the Bengal tigers and as a matter of fact the Land Ceiling Act, the Adhiars' Protection Act, etc., are only pin-pricks to them. Sir, we had the privilege of sending you as one of the representatives of the Indian Delegation to our great neighbouring country, China, and there our Delegation, those accredited leaders of India, saw things for themselves. In China which is a thickly populated country and where the land problem is as acute as in India, they have solved the problem through democratic means and not through totalitarianism as the Finance Minister insinuated. Even in India, the new Kerala Government

has banned eviction and it is a fact that with promptness that Government has been able to tackle their land problem also. If some State Governments in India and if our neighbouring country China can solve such a problem, why not our Government take lessons from them ? I have great respect for the patriotism of our Ministers. Yet I feel that they are even now under the pressure of indecision. I beg to submit that they should rise to the occasion and they should bring about land reform as suggested by the Planning Commission. If that is done, and that also very quickly, we can take certain steps as envisaged by the Second Five-Year Plan.

With these few observations Sir, I support the Cut Motion moved by my Friend, Shri Borbaruah.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minister will give his reply at 3 P.M. Therefore further observations that are going to be made by other hon. Members will have to be limited.

***Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara):**
I shall try to be very brief, Sir. I would like to speak about land reforms in our district of Goalpara where Zamindari has been abolished and a survey is going on. Sir, I would like to mention only one point, after the abolition of Zamindari, in the Act a provision has been made under Section 4(6) that the rights of the tenants will remain as before. But, Sir, I understand that the Government have taken action to abolish the *san ban* tax which the tenants of the Goalpara district used to pay to the Zamindars for collection of thatch, fire-wood and such timber as could be carried by a single man on his shoulder for construction of their houses. By abolishing this tax Government have violated the rights of the tenants and have gone against the provisions of the Act. There is of course a proviso to the section I just mentioned that if the tenants of any area by a resolution express themselves in favour of abolition of some of their rights, only that area will have its rights abolished. But I do not know, Sir, whether any area in the Goalpara District passed any resolution or informed Government in any

other way that *san ban* tax should be abolished. So far as I know, the Congress people of one area, *viz.*, Chapor, passed a resolution for abolition of *san ban* tax. Even if it is taken as the expression of opinion of the people of the area, it would have been better to abolish the tax in that area only.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): Is it the hon. Member's contention that *san ban* tax should be retained ?

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara):
Yes, Sir, because on payment of this tax the tenants used to get some benefits, *viz.*, they could collect their thatch, fuel-wood and also such timber as could be carried on the shoulder of a single man for construction of their houses. All these things the tenants had been getting on payment of the *san ban* tax.

Then, another thing I would like to mention is the right to trees given by the Goalpara Tenancy Act. The tenant had the right to use or sell trees, even Sal and Sisum trees, grown in their homes. But, Sir, now the tenants cannot sell even mango trees without taking permission from the Forest Officer. I do not know why this right has been taken away when the Goalpara Tenancy Act is still in force. Then, Sir, during the last Session of the Assembly, the Goalpara Tenancy Act had been amended to stop ejection of tenants. Under the Act, as amended, no tenant can be ejected on any ground. Even if they encroach on Khas land, that land should be settled with them on receipt of rent upto five years. And, Sir, once a tenant gets settlement it becomes his permanent property. Now the Zamindari system has been abolished and we apprehend that the provisions of the Land Revenue Regulation will be enforced in our district also. This Land Revenue Regulation was the creation of the British masters for their own benefit and if this is applied to our district many rights of the tenants will be taken away. I would suggest that the rights which our tenants are now enjoying should be extended to the tenants in the temporarily-settled areas. I understand Government are going to abolish annual Patta settlement. Of course, the periodic patta settlement in the temporarily-settled districts gives some rights, but even then it is not preferable to the system of settlement obtaining in our district, which gives a permanent right to the tenants. I understand the Congress Reforms Committee also recommended that the tenants should be given a permanent right over their holding.

Then, Sir, I would like to point out certain difficulties which the people are experiencing with regard to the survey that is going on in our district. The Mandals and Kanungoes who are serving there are not at all conversant with the Tenancy laws of our district. Then, sometimes these Mandals and Kanungoes, on getting some benefit for themselves, alter the ownership. Sometimes the owners are not informed and so they cannot be present at the time of settlement and put objection to the alteration in their ownership. And, Sir, I understand also that sometimes these people do not consult the Zamindars' records when they go for settlement. Sometimes Sir, when two Mandals go to survey, they measure the land of one person into two blocks. There are various difficulties and our people are not accustomed to this kind of survey in Goalpara district. Also there is no proper place for the people to file objection to this kind of survey. The people come from distant places of Dhubri Subdivision to file their objections at Goalpara. To avoid the difficulties of the people in the matter of filing objections, I hope, Sir, the Minister-in-charge will kindly see that such objections are atleast received in Tahsil office and these may be disposed of afterwards in a better way.

With these few words, Sir, as my time is up, I beg to resume my seat.

Shri TARUNSEN DEKA (Nalbari): অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মোৰ মাননীয় বন্ধু শ্ৰীখগেন বৰবৰুৱাই যি কৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাৱ দাঙি ধৰিছে মই সেই প্ৰস্তাৱটো সৰ্বান্তঃকৰণে সমৰ্থন কৰিছো আৰু লগতে চৰকাৰৰ দুৰ্বল নীতিৰ প্ৰতিবাদ কৰিছো। মাটি বন্দবস্তি সম্বন্ধে চৰকাৰৰ নীতি একেবাৰে দুৰ্বল, বিশেষকৈ টাউনত যিবোৰ মাটিৰ বন্দবস্তি দিয়া হৈছে তাৰ বেচি ভাগ ক্ষেত্ৰতে সুবিধাবাদী, আচ্যৱস্ত বা ধনবান লোকেই মাটি পাইছে। কিন্তু টাউনৰ দিন মজুৰ, পিয়ন, কেবানী বা শিকক সকলৰ বেচি ভাগেই মাটি পোৱা নাই অথচ এই মানুহবোৰে গোটেই জীৱন টাউনত অতিবাহিত কৰিব লাগে। উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে কব পাৰি—গুৱাহাটীত মাটি বন্দবস্তি দিয়া হৈছে সুবিধাবাদী বা আচ্যৱস্ত লোকক; হাইকৰ্টৰ জজকো মাটি দিছে চৰকাৰে। এওঁ মাহেকত চাৰে চাৰি হেজাৰতকৈও বেচি দৰমহা পায়। অথচ গুৱাহাটীৰ বহুত স্থানীয় লোকক ঘৰ সাজিবৰ বাবে মাটি দিয়া হোৱা নাই। ঠিক সেইদৰেই ছিল টাউন, অসমৰ ৰাজধানীত, যি মাটি বন্দবস্তি কৰা হৈছে সেই মাটিও অৱস্থাপন বা ধনবান লোকেই পাইছে, নাইবা কংগ্ৰেছৰ লগত সম্বন্ধ থকা লোকেই পাইছে। ইয়াত চাকৰী কৰি থকা কেবানী বা অন্যান্য নিম্ন শ্ৰেণীৰ লোকৰ ভিতৰত খুব কম লোকেহে মাটি পাইছে। চৰকাৰী ছাপাখানাত ধৰ্ম্মঘট চলি আছে তাত চাকৰী কৰা নিম্ন শ্ৰেণীৰ চাকৰীয়াল সকলে ২০।৩০ বছৰ কাম কৰিছে

ভাৰা ধৰত থাকি। কিন্তু তেওঁলোকক আজিলৈকেও চৰকাৰে চিলঙত ধৰ সাজিবৰ কাৰণে মাটি দিয়া নাই। মাটি দিছে ধনবান লোকক বা মুখীয়াল লোকক কিম্বা চিলঙত চাকৰী নকৰা লোকক। ঠিক সেইদৰেই যিবোৰ খাছীয়া বা অন্যান্য পাহাৰী লোকে মাটিৰ বাবে দৰখাস্ত দিছে তেওঁলোকৰ বেচি ভাগকেই মাটি বন্দ বস্তি দিয়া হোৱা নাই। ইয়াৰ ফলত আজি পাহাৰী সকলৰ লগত, বিশেষকৈ খাছীয়া সকলৰ লগত মনোমালিন্যৰ ভাব সৃষ্টি হৈছে।

অন্যান্য যিবোৰ ঠাইত চৰকাৰে মাটি পট্টন দিছে সেইবোৰ ঠাইতো পাবলগীয়া মানুহে মাটি পোৱা নাই। যিবোৰ মানুহে কংগ্ৰেছৰ নীতি সমৰ্থন কৰে বা কংগ্ৰেছত যোগ দিয়ে সেইবোৰকহে মাটি দিছে। এইটো দলীয় নীতি। এই নীতিৰ দ্বাৰা আমাৰ উন্নতি হ'ব নোৱাৰে। আমি জানো যে মাটি অসীম নহয়, ইয়াৰ সীমা আছে। কিন্তু আমি বিচাৰিছো ইয়াৰ সুবন্দবস্ত হোৱাটো। এতিয়াৰ দৰে এদল মানুহ যি পাবলগীয়া নহয় সেইবোৰে পাইছে আৰু যি পাবলগীয়া সেইবোৰে পোৱা নাই। এইবোৰ কাৰণতেই আজি জনসাধাৰণৰ মাজত বিদ্বেষৰ সৃষ্টি হৈছে। সেইকাৰণে চৰকাৰে ভবিষ্যতে মাটি পট্টন দিওঁতে যাতে অকল ধনবান বা কংগ্ৰেছী লোকক মাটি পট্টন নিদি যিবিলাক প্ৰকৃততে মাটি পাবলগীয়া লোক সেইবোৰক দিয়ে। তাৰ কাৰণে অনুৰোধ জনালো।

চৰকাৰৰ আৰু এটা নীতিৰ সমালোচনা নকৰি নোৱাৰো। গৰাখহনীয়াই যিবোৰ মানুহৰ মাটি একেবাৰে নাইকীয়া কৰিছে সেইবোৰ মানুহে চৰকাৰৰ পৰা মাটি পোৱা নাই। অথচ যিবোৰ মানুহৰ মাটি খহাই নিয়া নাই সেইবোৰেই আকৌ চৰকাৰৰ পৰাও মাটি পাইছে। চৰকাৰৰ এই বিভেদ নীতি কোনো বকমেই সমৰ্থন কৰিব নোৱাৰো। চৰকাৰৰ এই নীতি সলনি কৰি উপযুক্ত লোকক মাটি পট্টন দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে।

আন হাতে শুনিবলৈ পাইছোঁ যে নতুন Settlement ত খাজানা বাঢ়িব। Settlement officer ৰ লগত মোৰ ঘৰুৱা ভাৱে কথাবাৰ্তা হওতে তেখেতে কলে— “কামৰূপত Settlement হলে নতুনকৈ Assessment কৰিম আৰু টকা প্ৰতি 10 অনাকৈ খাজানা বঢ়াম।” যদিও চৰকাৰে বাজেটত এনে ধৰণৰ ইঙ্গিত দিয়া নাই তথাপি বাজেটৰ কেইটামান কথা মন কৰিব লগীয়া। 1956-57 চনৰ Revised estimate ত 1,20,89,000 টকা ধৰা হৈছে; কিন্তু 1957-58 চনৰ বাজেটত ধৰা হৈছে 1,65,98,000 টকা। অৰ্থাৎ প্ৰায় 85,51,000 টকা বেচি ধৰা হৈছে। অৱশ্যে এটা কথা কৈছে—“Provision in the Budget has however been made on the basis of anticipated better collection and also collection of arrears.” মই এইটো কথা বুজি নাপাওঁ যে এইবাৰ যেতিয়া খেতিয়ক সকলৰ অৱস্থা বেয়া হৈছে, এইবাৰ যেতিয়া বানপানী আৰু খৰত খেতিয়কৰ দুখপূৰ্ণ অৱস্থা কুলাই পাচিয়ে নধৰা হৈছে এনে অৱস্থাত Ordinary land revenue ৰ শিতানৰ ধন কেনেকৈ বেচিকৈ চৰকাৰৰ হাতল আহিব যদিহে চৰকাৰৰ খাজনা বঢ়োৱা উদ্দেশ্য নহয়। যদিহে নতুন Settlement ত টকা প্ৰতি 10 অনাকৈ খাজানা বঢ়োৱা চৰকাৰৰ উদ্দেশ্য নহয় তেনেহলে 1956-57 চনৰ Revised estimate তকৈ এই বছৰ 85,51,000 টকা অধিক Revenue হ'ব নোৱাৰে। ইয়াৰ পৰাই স্পষ্টকৈ বুজিব পাৰি যে চৰকাৰৰ খাজানা বঢ়োৱাৰ উদ্দেশ্য আছে। মই ইয়াৰ প্ৰতিবাদ কৰোঁ। যেতিয়া দেশৰ খেতিয়ক জনসাধাৰণৰ অৰ্থনৈতিক দুৰৱস্থাই দেখা দিছে তেনে অৱস্থাত যদি চৰকাৰে খাজানা বঢ়ায় তেনেহলে খেতিয়ক বাইজৰ অন্যায়ে কৰা হ'ব আৰু তেওঁলোকৰ অৰ্থনৈতিক জীৱনৰ ওপৰত আঘাত কৰা হ'ব। সেই কাৰণে মই চৰকাৰক হুচিয়াৰ কৰি দিব খোজো যে তেওঁলোকৰ যদি খাজানা বঢ়োৱা উদ্দেশ্য হয় তেন্তে সেই নীতি পৰিত্যাগ কৰক।

Mr. SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved is that the total provision of Rs.1,50,88,700 under Grant No.2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue at page 3 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 1,50,88,700 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rev. Roy has raised a different point and that is by way of eliciting information. I would like to supply him the information first.

The question of demarcation of boundary between Khasi and Jaintia Hills and the East Pakistan is no longer a matter for this Government only. This is an international boundary. There are two parties, *i.e.*, two countries, involved in it. The entire agreement is a bi-partite agreement. The Pakistan Government and the Assam Government, *i.e.*, the Indian Government agreed to certain principles. They agreed to abide by certain maps and they are demarcating the boundary and surveying boundary according to these maps. I have full sympathy with Rev. Roy and the Khasi people, but inspite of that, it is regrettable that Government cannot help them much. Unilaterally this Government cannot discard that agreement. Boundary disputes had been there from a long time. It was a question of boundary dispute between two districts, Khasi and Jaintia Hills and the district of Sylhet then. Due to these disputes, there was survey and preparation of maps. For the disputed portion between Tharia Ghat to Garo Hills survey was made and map was prepared and in 1886 Government by notification accepted that boundary. Then in 1892-93 another survey was made for the portion East of Tharia Ghat. In 1893 there was a notification accepting that boundary as the boundary of these two districts for that portion. Now in the present survey both Pakistan Government and the Assam Government on behalf of the India Government, accepted these two maps as the basis according to which the boundary will be demarcated. So, the surveyors are demarcating the boundary according to these maps. Now, the Khasi people and Rev. Roy want that the boundary should be demarcated according to possession. That cannot be done. This is an international boundary which cannot be demarcated according to possession.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: May I rise on a point of clarification, Sir ? That is not altogether our contention. Our

contention is that hair's breadth differences in possession can be settled to mutual satisfaction if the survey is conducted by expert surveyors.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): That may be so. But the 1893 survey, which was a theodolite survey, there were fixed pillars. According to these fixed pillars the demarcation is being done. It is very difficult for one surveyor to mislead another. That is not possible.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes) : Between the pillars which are situated probably 7 or 8 miles away from one another, there may be some differences. That is appreciated. But there may be points between which the difference may be so negligible, that such differences can be settled in such a way that these possessions can be provided for by proper survey on both sides. Otherwise, the people possessing lands between these pillars may lose their lands, however, small it may be.

Shri HARESWAR DAS : That is by implication to say that our surveyors are not trained. I am not prepared to accept that our surveyors are not trained.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY : Surveyors are all trained but the man who is placed there as surveyor seems to be a very young person. That is the experience of the people who follow the surveyor.

Shri HARESWAR DAS : Young people trained in modern method of survey are rather good. They may not follow the old antiquated method and be led by others.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : (Karimganj-North) : On a point of information, Sir. May I know the position of survey in Karimganj Subdivision in Pathoria as to whether it is going on ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : I am sorry, Sir, I cannot reply to the point raised by the hon. Member off hand.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [**Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)**]: I want to know, Sir, whether Government has got the report of the survey that has been completed, whether the boundary has been fixed according to this survey and whether Government have agreed to this survey or not ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (**Minister, Revenue**): We have not received it, but we cannot go beyond the bi-partite agreement.

Now, my Friend, Jahanuddin Saheb, raised another point. I propose to reply to this just now because it is not a very major point. I am surprised somewhat, Sir, that my Friend wants to retain the 'sonban' tax. The people had to pay this tax under the Goalpara Tenancy Act. Now, we did away with this tax only for the benefit of the tenants. But my Friend wants to retain it. I do not know what is his objection. He says that if a tenant pays the 'sonbon' tax, then he can carry certain trees for construction of his house. It is absolutely incorrect. There is no provision in the Goalpara Tenancy Act by which a tenant by payment of 'sonbon' tax can cut any Sal tree and take away the same for construction of his house. 'Son' means thatch and 'bon' means fuel. We considered this imposition of tax on thatch and fuel, which are commodities of essential use to the people, and so we have done away with it. I do not know how the people in the constituency of the hon. Member will receive him if this point as raised by my hon. Friend is brought to their knowledge.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (**Bilasipara**): On a point of clarification, Sir. The idea of the people of my constituency is that abolition of the 'Sonbon' tax has deprived the people of their right to collect thatch and fuel.

Shri HARESWAR DAS : My Friend, who is a lawyer, is there to explain the right thing and tell them that they are not so deprived.

Now, Sir, I want to clarify one simple point raised by my hon. Friend. According to the Goalpara Tenancy Act, tenants who occupy their own land is entitled to cut trees from it, but in Khas land where none has any tenancy right, a tenant cannot cut trees. There are mango trees in khas lands. To prevent illegal felling the permit system is enforced. There are innumerable mango trees in Khas land which are property of the Government. The permits are given without any charge.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara) :
Sir, what is the necessity of this permit ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) :
Sir, as I have already stated the mango trees in the Khas land are Government property and to prevent their illegal felling permit is given.

Now as regards the points raised by my hon. Friend, Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya I would like to say that he delivered quite a nice speech, but in a pessimistic view. I request him to have a more optimistic view. What he wants us to do we also want to do. Mere legislation cannot bring in land reform. We are to carry the people with us. If we cannot carry the people with us, law will remain only in statute book. It is very difficult to change the practice connected with land, by merely passing laws. The Adhiars Protection Act is there, in the present shape from 1954. In some areas it has acted well and in some areas it has not done any good to the Adhiars. Unless the co-operation of the people is forthcoming the Act will remain merely an Act on paper. The co-operation of the people is wanted. The Adhiars are mostly illiterate and ignorant. The land-owners are mostly intelligent. So it is the land owners who are to co-operate. But they are to Co-operate to liquidate themselves. This they have not done. So the Adhiar Act is there without doing much good to the Adhiars. We cannot have any land reform in our State unless the people co-operate with the Government. The Planning Commission also wants that we shall follow a phased programme in land reform. I shall state what steps we are taking in this regard. The First Five Year Plan laid stress on the abolition of intermediaries, and Security of tenancy and fixation of rent, so that intermediaries cannot indiscriminately increase the rate. Land system of our State differs from other States in India. In our State we have about 15 lakhs acres of land in Goalpara district and 1,82,000 acres of land in Karimganj under Permanent settlement, and the rest of the land in the State is under Ryatory system. But in other States like West Bengal the position is otherwise. The entire State is under Permanent Settlement. In our State the abolition of Zamindaries is not a great problem, though that has to be done, as all sorts of intermediaries are to be done away with but we have to do it through legislation.

Now, Sir, our approach to the question differs from the hon. Member's approach. We have to do it through legislation, and then the Constitution comes with its funda-

mental right and the Law Courts. The State Acquisition of Zamindaris Act, which was passed by this House in the year 1949 for abolition of Zamindaries in the State could not be enforced so long, because of the cases in that connection pending before law Courts. Only this year we have been able to fully enforce the Act; consequently there was some delay in acquiring the Zamindaries.

Captain WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA [Phulbari (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Sir, on a point of information, What about the Garo Hills ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): Sir, about Garo Hills, the right of acquisition of the Zamindaries remains with the State Government. But the District Council of Garo Hills are administering the Zamindaries in the Garo Hills.

Captain WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA : Sir, I do not know in what way the Hon'able Minister could say that the District Council of the Garo Hills has forcibly took possession of the Zamindaries there.

Shri HARESWAR DAS : I do not mean force. My hon. Friend, knows better how the Mahal of Mechpara Court of Wards Estate which falls in the Garo Hills is being administered by the District Council. So the abolition of Zamindaries in that district is not a pressing problem. That is the position in the Garo Hills.

Captain WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: Sir, for the information of the House, I would like to say that we are managing a portion of the Mechpara Estate under an agreement which was made in the year 1878. The Government agreed to the arrangement that 25 per cent would go to Government and the 75 per cent to the autonomous District Council of the Garo Hills. That is the position. According to the agreement reached between the Government and the Garo Hills District Council that the management should be under the District Council of the Garo Hills.

Shri HARESWAR DAS : I have no objection to that, Sir. Now as regards intermediaries in Goalpara district, those who hold land above 1,000 bighas, in three

estates these intermediaries have been abolished this year. There are two estates where we could not do it for want of figures. In two other estates the cases were pending before the Supreme Court and only the other day forwards last part of last March judgment was passed. . Next year all intermediaries will be abolished.

Now Sir, in Karimganj the Act could not be enforced. This is a peculiar subdivision. The land under Zamindary system is 1 lakh, 82 thousand acres. In Goalpara we have 15,000 acres of land and there are six families of Zamindars though in the register there are 19 names ; but in Karimganj for 1 lakh, 82 thousand acres there are 5,063 Zamindars and the names of the Zaminders are not there (*laughter*). For the last 150 years or so the register has not been corrected, and for acquisition we have to serve notices on the Zamindars. We appointed a Special Officer just to collect names and after about 5 months he came and reported that he had collected about one lakh names and that too is not correct. We asked him how did he collect these names ? He replied, "by searching all revenue records, sale deeds, etc." Now, some people had gone to England, some to Pakistan and some were dead and so his list was not correct. We had to amend the Act. Besides, there the Zamindars have no papers. They cannot tell who are their tenants or how many tenants they have. Nothing can be known for want of papers. In that peculiar state of things if we abolish these Zamindaries then everybody will enjoy the land free of rent. We cannot realise as we do not know, who are our tenants. For that reason we ordered for survey and preparation of records of rights.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):
For how many years this has been going on ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): I think this is the third year ; possibly it will take another three or four years.

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]: আর চার বছরেও পারবেননা ।

Shri HARESWAR DAS : We want to finish it, but if we fail we cannot help it, but our intention is to finish it. As a matter of fact the majority of Zamindars

in Karimganj are very small landholders, holding even 5 bighas of land—it is only the idea of being a Zamindar but no land (*laughter—loud and prolonged*). By abolition of these Zamindari no land will be available to be given to the poor because the Zamindars themselves are poor.

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [**Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)**]: ইতি নব্যে জমিদাররা প্রজাদের উচ্ছেদ করে দিবে।

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): There may be some cases. So long there is land and there is encroachment on it, there will be evictions—who can prevent that ?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA] (**Gauhati**): Has not the Planning Commission directed that these should be regularised ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: Yes, the Planning Commission wants us to regularise it. We inherited the anomalies left by the British for the last 150 years these records were not corrected—this is not our creation.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj—North): When the British failed to prepare the records of rights let us see how the Assam Government can ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : Then my Friend may bring some Britishers to do the job, we will welcome that. (*laughter*). Sir, that is the position with regard to permanently settled areas.

Now regarding temporarily settled areas the ryotwari system is there ; except some 'lakhiraj land' and 'nispikhiraj' land there is no other intermediaries. In the past I assured my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, to abolish these 'lakhiraj' and 'nispikhiraj' lands. Generally these lands are occupied by Temples and Satras. Actually we intended to bring in a Bill for this in this Session. The Bill was drafted, but that Bill was found repugnant to the Constitution. So we discarded it and drafted another. It was sent for being vetted by the Legal Remembrancer but he suddenly fell ill, and it was not vetted. So we could not introduce it in this Session. I shall introduce it in the next Session and I hope my Friend

will support it, I mean this abolition of the 'lakhiraj' and 'nispikhiraj' lands. With this abolition, intermediaries in temporarily settled areas also will go.

Another point is that in temporarily settled areas all lands are ryotwari : owners hold lands directly under Government. The direction of the Planning Commission is that intermediaries in between Government and tenant should be done away with and tenants brought directly in touch with Government. This condition almost prevails in temporary settled areas. But there are some big landowners. To do away with these big landowners we have passed the Fixation of Ceiling Bill last year and it has received President's assent. But while giving assent the Planning Commission gave some suggestions in the line of which the Act was to be amended and then enforce it. So we have an amending Bill.....(*A voice*: from the Treasury Benches—fixation of ceiling ?)—Yes, fixation of ceiling. Now 150 bighas is fixed as a ceiling. With regard to annual lands we have already issued instructions that annual lands above the ceiling should be cancelled. Here we differ from other States. In other States this annual land system does not prevail. For this we have not to give compensation.

Now, the main object of that Act is not to keep the land ceiling of 150 bighas for all time to come. The main object is to transfer the land into the hands of the tillers and to attain that object we have made provisions. In this amending Bill this year, you will find that we have kept a minimum of 10 bighas in the hands of the actual tiller while resuming land for personal cultivation. This is a point, which was stressed by the Planning Commission.

Sir, some Friends read a passage from book that some qualification should be put on personal cultivation, and that it should not be unrestricted. Sir, we have put that restriction; for resumption agriculturist must be his main source of livelihood, there must be personal supervision by the man and he must reside in that village or in the neighbouring village for the major portion of the cultivation season and if he can satisfy all these conditions he can resume the land and in resuming he will have to keep an area of ten bighas in the minimum with the tenant. If he has got hundred bighas.....

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):
But the Congress Agrarian Reforms Committee wanted that he must put in minimum amount of physical labour. Why that has been omitted in our proposed Bill ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): The Agrarian Reforms Committee report is a valuable document. Now, we follow the direction of the Land Reforms Panel of the Planning Commission.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Land Reforms Panel of the Planning Commission also requires physical participation ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : We have examined that point and we find that that is the definition given to a cultivator. Cultivating means cultivation by himself, by his servants or by his family members, provided there is supervision by him, that is the wording given. Even in China that definition has been accepted.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : No, no.

Shri HARESWAR DAS : I have read what was in force in 1950.

Mr. SPEAKER: Within this 7 years there has been lots of change.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Much water has passed down in the Yangtse in the meantime.

Shri HARESWAR DAS : Anyway, that is the definition of the Planning Commission and we have simply accepted that definition. If a man resides in a town and holds land in rural areas, he will lose that land. The main provision in our Act is that after 5 years no one can resume any land; if he resumes he must do so within 5 years from the enforcement of the Act.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : May I get a little light from the Minister about this adverse remark in the Progress Report of the Planning Commission ? I refer to pages 108 and 109 regarding abolition of intermediaries in the temporary-settled areas and with regard to the completion of the task earmarked for the first phase of the First Five-Year Plan, that is, April 1951 to September 1956. Why the Assam Government has failed to do so ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): I am giving the explanation that from 1951 till 1957, this matter was pending before the Court. We had two Acts, one State Management Act which was passed in 1951 and there was a case, in the High Court we won. The Zamindars went to Supreme Court and when we found.....

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): That is about permanently-settled areas. I am speaking about temporary-settled areas or temporary-settled ryotwari areas.

Shri HARESWAR DAS : In the ryotwari areas they have committed some mistakes. They thought that like other States the system of land is the same in Assam. That is not so. There are only some Lakheraj and Nisf-kheraj owners. Their area of land is not much. Only there are 1 lakh 82 thousand acres under Lakheraj and similar quantity under Nisf-kheraj. There are no other intermediaries in temporary-settled areas. These lands are occupied by temples and Satras. When we pass the Act for acquisition of the Temple lands, this class of intermediary will disappear. If that be so, we complete the direction of the First Five-Year Plan.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : So, we should make haste.

Shri HARESWAR DAS : We hope to with the co-operation of the hon. Members.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Always.

Shri HARESWAR DAS : As regards permanency of tenure, we have tried to do this by amending existing laws. It is the lawyer Friends, who give all laws the greatest publicity but some how they are not doing it though it is a remunerative business (*Laughter*). We have the Temporarily Settled District Tenancy Act in vogue. There formerly tenants had no security of tenancy and tenants could be evicted indiscriminately. We have amended it. Now eviction has been controlled. So the security of tenure is there. In the Adhiar Protection Act, if the Adhiar is in occupation for one year paying due share to the land owner he cannot be evicted. In Goalpara Tenancy and Sylhet Tenancy Acts, the tenants cannot be easily evicted.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): May I know whether a homestead land in rural area, the piece of land which is not used for cultivation, will be excluded under that legislation ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : My Friend is a lawyer. He is the best person to give his opinion. Sir, the rural areas except shop sites, all lands including the homestead land are regarded as agricultural land. But I am no authority.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Sir, in some recent cases we have seen the judgments are on the contrary. May I know whether the Government is thinking to make proper amendment of the Act in this respect ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : Sir, this has not yet been brought to our notice. If there is any necessity we shall make necessary amendments.

Sir, in the Second Five-Year Plan these are the recommendations, *viz.*, fixation of ceiling on agricultural holdings and that I have dealt with ; resumption for personal cultivation, that also I have dealt with.

Sir, with regard to the question of consolidation of holding, I must say that so far as this State is concerned, it is a bit difficult to implement it. It is due to the peculiar topographical situation of the State. Say for instance, in a sub-montane area if there are 15 bighas of lands, some high some low, and there are three brothers who are owners, all share high and low in equal proportions—how to prevent fragmentation ? That is the difficult point, but we shall have to deal with it. Our point is that after completion of the other measures, we shall consider this complicated matter. Sir, there are provisions in the Panchayat Act that no holding below 12 bighas should be fragmented. If there are three brothers, one brother may hold the entire land and the two brothers may be compensated for the land. But Panchayats have not been formed in all parts of the State and this measure has not been implemented. We intend to come to this point after finishing the other things in connection with land reform.

Sir, with regard to the question of land management legislation and development of Co-operative Farming, we have put due emphasis. We have brought an amendment to the effect

a Co-operative Farm may have more land than what has been fixed as the ceiling of land holdings. It can have any quantities of land provided they do cultivation. Even now over 55 thousand bighas of land have been allotted to Co-operatives. There are 120 Co-operative Farms functioning. But my own impression is that much propaganda is still needed to keep in abeyance the urge that the 'land is mine'. That urge is natural ; that urge will have to be kept in abeyance for the good of the community. It requires training and propaganda, and we hope with the spread of propaganda and training, we shall succeed.

Sir about land management legislation, I think no State has done much in this respect. We have provided a nucleus by providing a Land Development Board in the fixation of Ceiling Act and we hope in future it will develop into a Land Management Board.

These are the measures, Sir, the Government has taken and we hope with the co-operation of the hon. Members we shall be able to proceed and do the job as early as we can.

With these words, I request my Friend to withdraw his Cut Motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: There are two Cut Motions.
Rev. Roy. ?

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [**Cherrapunji** (**Reserved for Scheduled Tribes**)]: I am not pressing it, Sir.

(The Cut Motion was withdrawn by leave of the House.)

Shri KHAGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (**Amguri**): I want to put it to voice vote, Sir.

(It was put to voice vote and lost.)

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that a sum of Rs.1,50,88,700 (Rupees one crore, fifty lakhs, eighty-eight thousand and seven hundred) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1958, for the administration of the head "7.—Land Revenue."

(The Motion was adopted.)

GRANT No. 52

“72.—Capital Outlay, etc.—1—Investment in other Commercial concerns.”

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Major Industries): Mr. Speaker, Sir,

On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg Sir, to move that a sum Rs.28,05,000 (Rupees twenty-eight lakhs and five thousand), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1958 for the administration of the head “72.—Capital Outlay, etc.—1—Investment in other Commercial concerns.”

Mr. SPEAKER : The Motion moved is that a sum of Rs.28,05,000 (Rupees twenty-eight lakhs and five thousand), be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1958, for the administration of the head—“72.—Capital Outlay, etc.—1—Investment in other Commercial concerns.”

There is one Cut Motion.

Shri Nilmoney Barthakur.

Shri NILMONEY BARTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move, that the total provision of Rs. 28,05,000 under Grant No. 52, Major head—72.—Capital Outlay on Industrial Development, etc., at page 578 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 28,05,000 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

Sir, the purpose of this Cut Motion is to criticise the Industrial policy of the Government, rather, I think it would have been more apt to say, for the lack of an industrial policy of the Government. Here we find that a sum of Rs.60 lakhs was allotted under this head in the last financial year but out of this only Rs.18 lakhs could be spent. We do not know how this sum of Rs.18 lakhs was spent. Neither we know why a sum of Rs.42 lakhs could not be spent. In the explanation it is given that it was due to non-implementation of certain schemes. This explanation is very vague. It is not stated why the schemes could not be implemented. On the other hand we find that the Government is crying hoarse that Industries in Assam could

not be developed for want of funds. With this sum of money, I think, industries under the Government control could have been established.

Now, about this purchase of share by the Government in the jute mill, we do not know what are the conditions, what is the size and what is the total annual output and what quantity of hessian will be produced. Nothing has been given here. But only the head is given here about the purchase of shares in the jute mill. Before starting a jute mill, we should know, whether the jute production in the State is sufficient to justify its installation, because from the Government figures it is found that the total production of jute in the State has come down and we also find that even the yield per acre has come down. I will compare the total jute yield of 1948-49 and 1954-55 for the information of the House. In 1948-49 the total yield per acre was 2.74 and in 1954-55 it has come down to 2.66. If there is a proposal for establishment of a jute mill then emphasis should be laid on the exact quantity that will be required for it. But we find that the yield of jute production has come down.

During the discussion on the industrial policy of the Government, Government have not explained why they did not take proper steps for industrialisation. An explanation is given in the publication entitled "The Ninth Year of Freedom, Assam" issued from the Information and Publicity Department, Assam. There we find:—

"There has been no appreciable expansion in Assam in the industrial sphere for the past half a century or so. This is rather unfortunate, for, on the one hand, Assam has tremendous potential resources for industries in the shape of raw materials, and on the other hand, due to its isolated position, more so as a result of Partition, Assam has been hard-hit in the matter of supply of consumer goods needs, etc., which have to be brought over long distances from outside the State by and uncertain means of transport. As a result, the consumers have to pay very high prices for their needs apart from being denied adequate supply. The Partition of the country and the change in the policy of the Government of India in the matter of industrialisation during the First Five Year Plan period, affected the industrial growth of Assam very adversely. The earlier commitments made for the establishment of industries, *e.g.*, a cement factory by the Assam Cement Company in the Garo Hills area remained unfulfilled for the reason that railway

connections, etc., which was earlier envisaged to feed and to distribute the output of such factories fell in East Pakistan along with considerable potential markets. On the other hand, while during the post-war development period, Government of India's assurance about financial aid was forthcoming for industries, placed by the State Government in the nationalised sphere, as a result of the curtailment of post-war development assistance from the Centre.....”

Here we find that the Government of India made available necessary funds, but the explanation given by our State Government is quite different. Government, of course, has placed sufficient funds to encourage the private sector for industrial development, but at least one major industry could have been undertaken from the Government side, *i.e.*, either a cement factory, jute mill or textile mill. For the promotion of textile industry, India Government made available 1 lakh maunds of iron materials, besides 35,000 spindles.

We find also that one of the difficulties experienced by the Government in this respect is the transport difficulties and Government have admitted this. If Government realise that owing to transport difficulties much could not be done for development during the First Five-Year Plan, why then the Government do not lay much emphasis for the removal of this transport difficulties? If Government approached the Central Government properly for the solution of this difficulty then I think something could have been done. But I do not find any emphasis being laid by the Government in this respect. During the entire Five-Year Plan period, even an inch of Railway could not be added. Formerly there was a steamer service from Dhubri to Dibrugarh. Now this line ends at Disangmukh. This shows also that whatever transport we had before has been curtailed now. Unless the transport facilities are improved or developed, the manufacturing industries here cannot develop, as development of industries is vitally linked with the development of transport. To quote the words of the famous economist Marshall,—“The key to the development of modern manufacturing industries is the development of transport industries.” Unless the transport system of this frontier State of ours, which has only a slender railway link with the rest of India, is maintained in its proper and optimum level, not only shall the industrial development of our State be retarded, but the export of raw materials and the flow of consumer goods will not improve, but rather will tend to get disrupted which in its turn will bring untold suffering to the people.

Government have said in the publication of the "Ninth Year of Freedom."

"The Community Development Project and National Extension Service cover in all an area of more than 10,000 square miles with a population of over 20 lakhs in 6,500 villages. Thus about one-sixth of the area of the State, a little over one-fifth of its rural population and more than one-fifth of the number of villages have already come under the Community Development Programme. The actual achievements in these areas indicate that 1.17 lakh acres of land have been reclaimed, 3.39 lakhs acres benefited from irrigation, 357 new tanks have been dug and 2,396 old tanks renovated, 2,565 new wells constructed, 3,083 old wells renovated, 2,389 miles of new roads constructed and 2,317 miles of existing roads repaired." From this we read that the country is progressing. If this is correct then the proper condition for development of industries has been laid. If it is correct then of course we must say that the standard of living of our people has increased. That indeed ought to have been the case after an expenditure of nearly Rs.4 crores on Community Development Projects in four years. We surrendered about 1.37 crores which could not be spent. With this enormous amount Government could have encouraged the private sector to develop industries under different heads. So, the industrial policy of the Government in the First Five Year Plan has failed. But that failure must be made up; our transport should be developed and the money which has been allotted under different heads for industries and industrial development should be integrated and utilised for developing not small industries—like co-operative sugar mills but for giant industries. The cement and other major industries should be under Government control, the Government owning not less than 51 per cent of shares. I feel, Sir, that Government is going without a policy. Simply allocating some funds here and there will not do. Unless the Government can get hold of a good Sethji, nothing seems to materialise. The Government are proposing to buy shares worth Rs.28 lakhs and five thousand in the proposed jute mill, but we know, Sir, that the minimum amount required for setting up a jute mill is Rs.3 crores and by purchasing shares worth Rs.28,05,000 only, Government can have no effective control over the jute mill, to which the produce of the State will be sold. Government should have allotted more money under this head and get an effective control over the jute mill. Therefore, I say, Sir, a proper policy for industrial development should be laid down and worked out. Incidentally, Sir, I want to mention

one thing. I do not know the impediments which are retarding the growth of industries and whether attempts are being made to remove them. The hon'ble Minister -in-charge of Major Industries, during the course of his reply to the debate on Governor's address, referred to the attitude of the people and said that the people were opposed to industries. He referred to a representation made to him in Dibrugarh regarding establishment of a re-rolling mill there. He must have been referring to "Messrs. Agarwal and Agarwal Co" who were going to start a re-rolling mill at Dibrugarh. The people of Dibrugarh are not opposed to the setting up of a re-rolling mill. But their only objection is this: that they do not want the mill to be located in the heart of the town, particularly in the neighbourhood of educational institutions. On one side, there is an Asram, High School Hostel and other Educational Institutions. The people do not want the mill to be set up near those institutions in the heart of the town. If Messrs. Agarwal and Agarwal and Co. could invest a few lakhs of rupees for a re-rolling mill, the people think they can very well purchase two bighas of land just on the boundary of the Municipality where they can set up a good re-rolling mill. It should be the desideratum of any planning that industrial and residential areas in a town should be separated for reasons of health. This is also the opinion of the experts in Social and Medical Science. Therefore, to say that the people of Dibrugarh are opposed to the setting up of this mill is not correct. On the contrary, Sir, the people's urge for the refinery conclusively proves that our people want the development of industries. It is up to the Government to give shape to the wishes of the people. The vicious circle of whether transport first and industries later or industries first and transport later will never be broken. We have seen that industries come first and transport follows to link up the industries. We have found this in every country, Western or Eastern. If we have mineral oil, the railway will come here. If we have a good place, which can be developed into a harbour, a railway will have to be constructed to link it with hinterland. Once industries are set up, the difficulties of transport will have to be surmounted. Sir, Assam is very rich in mineral resources, which have not been investigated up till now. We also do not find any provision in the Budget for such investigation. I have been informed by some Geologists that our mineral deposits lie very deep, at a depth of 30 ft. below the surface of the earth and investigation is a difficult process. But till now, no attempt has been made in that direction except to find out the deposits of oil. Therefore, I would suggest that proper steps should be taken by Government to

survey the natural wealth of the State and to utilise them for the benefit of the people. The development of transport would follow automatically. When the question of establishment of the refinery in Assam was considered, it was stated that a permanent solution of the transport difficulties must be found. The Railways are not the permanent solution. The permanent solution lies in digging a canal from the Brahmaputra to the Ganges. Water transport is the cheapest, safest and surest means of transport because railways may be disrupted at any moment by floods, rains and things of this sort. Also, Sir, in our soil, particularly, the broad gauge system may not prove successful and it may be so expensive that it may not be economical to construct a broad gauge line. Therefore, Sir, I would appeal to Government to review their whole policy with regard to the development of industries and transport system. Even if we take the road transport system, our only life-line, the National Highway from Goalpara to Saikhowa, we saw that there were breaches in 14 places during the last rains. Therefore, we must know where we stand. Difficulties are there, but simply allocating funds under certain heads does not carry us far.

With these words, I would commend my Motion for acceptance by the House.

Mr. SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved is that the total provision of Rs.28,05,000 under Grant No.52, Major head—72.—Capital outlay on Industrial Development, etc., at page 578 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.28,05,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Major Industries): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I welcome this discussion raised by the hon. Member from Dibrugarh. He has initiated a very important discussion and I am glad he has done so. As a matter of fact, very few people in Assam do it. It is from this point of view the other day when I was making a few remarks, I made a categorical statement that there was an *anti-industry bias* in large section of the people of the State and that was one of the reasons why the State had not gone forward in the development of industries. Sir, you will realise that industries suddenly do not arise as out of nothing. Suddenly big major industries arising out of the countryside, such a phenomenon is rare. May be, if we have some petrol, suddenly some big company comes from outside to dig and work the

petrol and an industry grows up suddenly. But generally what happens is this: the industrial calibre of a people goes on working, from minor industries to small industries, from small industries to big industries, from big industries to major industries and so on and so forth. This is the real process of industrial development of a country. What has happened in Assam? We find that apart from the petrol refinery, which was installed in Digboi so many years ago, and apart from coal industry situated near Margherita, nothing important happened except the Tea Industry. As a matter of fact, the House will remember that when for the first time it was proposed to promote the Assam Railway Company in Dibrugarh the shares floated in London did not fetch any contribution. Then the people who are floating the company hit upon idea of working coal, which was found in Margherita. As soon as it was said that coal had been found in Margherita and the Company was going to work coal, the shares began to sell and ultimately the Assam Railway and Trading Company came into existence. So, the existence of coal was the reason why the railway came and not merely for tea, although tea had come before. So, I was saying that it was necessary for us, including my Friends in the Opposition, to change the psychology of our people, so that they may look with favour upon new industries. It has been said by my Friend from Dibrugarh that I had formed my impression from the difficulties about setting up a re-rolling mill at Dibrugarh. He said, "We are not against the re-rolling mill but it is proposed to be established in the centre of the town and so we are against it." Now, my Friend does not know what is exactly called a city or a town. We cannot convert rural areas into cities or towns so easily. In other parts of the world cities and towns are made in a planned way. I have had the chance of going to other cities of the world and I have seen how cities and towns are made there. I had been to a certain city Woolwich and I found that—that city was divided into three parts—residential, industrial and commercial parts and now you can imagine how in other parts of the world the cities and towns are made. As for Dibrugarh town, it is rural in character, the very atmosphere is rural. Now taking all these things into consideration, you will find that you cannot change the character of an undeveloped town suddenly into an industrial town. I am not, speaking here against planned cities, I am merely saying that even Gauhati with some industrial units has not yet become a city. If there is a Rolling Mill in the heart of the town of Dibrugarh and if it causes inconvenience to the town dwellers and if the people object, certainly we would like that it should not be there.

But if the inconvenience is only imaginary, I am not saying that it is imaginary, then what? The complaint was—there is smoke. I found that there was no smoke. Secondly the complaint was—iron filings were flying in the air. I found that no filing operation was undertaken in the factory at all. I will quote another example from the Khasi and Jaintia Hills district in which there was an interesting scheme drawn up by Government for the purpose of development of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills district but that scheme was torpedoed because of the objection of the people. So here also you find that same anti-industrial attitude from the people. Industry will be for the advantage of the people, but if the people do not want it, how can you industrialise?

Mr. Barthakur has said that the people of Assam have no anti-industrial bias to prove by the fact they have been demanding the refinery. I think mere demand for a refinery is not sufficient to establish industrial bias in the psychology of the people, especially when the demand for refinery has got linked up with the national aspirations of the people. But if we realise this, however, if we put our heads and shoulders together, I have no doubt that we can create the necessary bias in the psychology of the people.

Now, Sir, the questioner has relevantly asked why is it that Assam is behind in industrialisation? The questioner himself has answered lack of transport facilities. That is true. You know that the construction of the railway link was completed in two years' time. Experts said that it would require seven years to complete it, but due to the urgency arising out of the Partition, it was completed in two years; so as the work was done hurriedly there must have been some mistakes. The line is vulnerable to floods year after year and for nearly three months in the year the Link is kept out of order, and as a result of this our State has to suffer constantly. I remember in 1950 rice had to be flown from Calcutta costing about Rs.80 per maund to feed the labour in the tea gardens, so we have suffered very greatly. As a result of Partition, the greatest sufferer was no doubt Assam and this fact has not been fully realised by the Government of India or the rest of India.....

Shri JAHAN UDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara): Why that was not realised?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Major Industries): We have been trying to impress upon the Government of India the gravity of the situation. I am merely

making the statement of fact that the gravity and intensity of the situation was not sufficiently realised by the Government of India, perhaps there is truth in this adage that the wearer knows where the shoe pinches. The Government of India ultimately realised the situation and have come to the conclusion that stabilisation of the existing link was the first primary important thing, because if the link was not stabilised, what was the use of having the second or third link, because if the first link would be washed away by flood the second and third links would be in the same manner washed by the floods. So unless the link itself was stabilised, there was no point in having the second and the third links. The first demand we made on the Government of India was to stabilise the link.....

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS -ROY [**Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)**]: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the most important thing is to have the bridge across the Brahmaputra—why did we not press that point to the Government of India for construction of a bridge across the Brahmaputra from Jogighopa to Pancharatna? This question has been hanging on for a very long time.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (**Minister, Major Industries**): I will be coming to that bridge business. At present I am still far away from the Brahmaputra in the link region. I am trying to come down to that matter gradually. Stabilisation of the link was a predominant desire of Assam Government. So the Government of India set up a Committee to find out what would be done, and in the meantime, the Government of Assam and the Government of West Bengal gave their suggestions for an alternative link and that was also considered by the Government of India, and the report of the Committee appointed by the Government of India was that an alternative link should be constructed.

Now, the Government of India has set up a high-power engineer in this area for the purpose of stabilisation of the link. As soon as we get a stable link, I think we begin to be out of the woods. Now my Friend has stated that water transport is cheaper.

Shri KHAGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (**Amguri**): I want to know the steps taken by Government to stabilise the link. Our Government has failed to represent our case to the Centre properly.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Major Industries): That is what I have been all along discussing. You see, failures and success, though they are by words in the lips of the hon. Member, are not easy things. It is easy to say, difficult to do. Things particularly in Engineering field are not achieved in a day. Now the Government of India has already got the report of the Committee and an engineer has been placed there. At one time an alternative link was thought of. Government was thinking of a small diversion. Now the experts say that a small diversion is not enough, a larger one is necessary. So, in this way, the Government of India is proceeding on making one change after another and then again abandoning it and then again making another change before coming to a final decision. It is a highly technical matter.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: May I know, Sir, what is the alternative proposal of the Government of India? What I understood from the Minister-in-charge of the Public Works Department the other day is that the point regarding bringing the Brahmaputra from Jogighopa to Pancharatna has already been decided upon. They have already asked for survey of the bridge there. That is what I understood from the Public Works Department Minister, if I understood him a right.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY: Yes, Sir, but slow mover as I am, I will come to that later on. Now, what I was saying is about the Link. The river called the Torsu flows in a south-eastern direction, and all the other rivers flow from the North. If we can have the link line below Torsu, our transport problem will be better solved. Now which of the suggestion will find favour with the experts, and with the Government of India, I do not know. Now, even if we can have the big Brahmaputra bridge, and our Link is snapped at Torsu, then what will happen to us? So, the link is the first essential thing for Assam. If the Link is not stabilised, our problems will not be solved. Now let us look to the problem from another key point. What is the primary problem for Assam in matter of getting her get her goods either from Calcutta, Bihar or Uttar Pradesh?

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri): When are we going to have the bridge?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Major Industries): That is another matter. My Friend seems to be more in love with the bridge which does not exist rather than with the link which exists.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: But the Link is already there. What we want at the moment is the bridge over the Brahmaputra.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : But the Link has not yet been stabilised.

Mr. SPEAKER: But the Hon'ble Minister will have to finish his speech at 4-30 P.M. for which only a few minutes left. He need not give way in that manner.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : Therefore, the Link is still now a great problem to us. Now a question about the Brahmaputra Bridge has been asked. This bridge site is under survey. We could not get it included in the Second Plan. We now all hope that it would be included in the 3rd Plan.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara): If you have not been able to get it included in the Second Plan, then please resign.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : My Friend seems to be an escapist. There is in the English language a phrase called 'escapism' which means running away from the post, but this does not solve any problem.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri): The Prime Minister of India stated that the Bridge will be constructed towards the latter part of the Second Five Year Plan.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Many people may say many things. But my point is that this Bridge has not been included in the Second Five Year Plan. I am only making a statement of fact. Now in the Third Plan, I was suggesting that it should be there. Now a point has been raised about the sum of Rs. 60 lakhs which we provided last time but could not

spend. Yes, it is true that we provided money for many other things but we could not spend. It has been pointed out to us on many a occasion that you provide fund but you cannot spend and make the luxury of telling that we do not have any industry at all. Well, Sir, this is very unfortunate that we have not been able to actuate private industrialists to set up industries in Assam. Obviously, our primary difficulty is transport. Then we are short of power. No scheme for developing power existed in Assam before. While the whole of India went ahead, we lagged behind. Now we have tried to promote power and the Umtru Hydel Project is going into production very soon. As soon as it goes into production, we shall at least be able to give power to Gauhati and Palasbari areas. We have now in hand several electrification schemes in rural areas. At Umtyangar we have thermal power scheme. Another most important thing for Assam would be the cement factory there. That is also being held up for certain objections raised by the Khasi people. Cement and coal are also available in the Garo Hills. But in Garo Hills we do not have as yet a railway line. In the Garo Hills, Khasi Hills and also in the Mikir Hills we are in search of places where we will be able to go forward with our schemes for establishing cement factories. It, however, requires power and thermal plants. Then we have the rope-way scheme from Cherapunji to Gauhati. If we can go ahead with our schemes.....

(A Voice—Only 'ifs' and 'buts' !)

Yes, our life exists on 'ifs' and 'buts'. He is, indeed, a happy philosopher who does not come across 'ifs' and 'buts' in his life.

A sum of Rs. 28.5 lakhs has been provided for a jute factory, and in fact, the license for the jute factory was given to a party long ago. But unfortunately the party has not yet been able to make much head-way due to certain reasons. We have agreed to help the party financially. But if for certain other reasons Government find that the party will not be able to go ahead still, this Government will think over the matter and if necessary change the licensee in order that we might have a jute mill very soon. Now the whole difficulty has arisen due to drying up of the resources, particularly the foreign exchange resources of the country at this hour. I hope the hon. Members will realise the foreign exchange shortage which is a national crisis, and I have no doubt the hon. Members who are very learned and intelligent Members, will appreciate

our difficulties. I am not responsible for the past, nor do I possess much information about the past. But I may assure the House that it will be our earnest endeavour to bring forward some industry so that we may not have to face the discredit of providing funds, but being unable to spend.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [**Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)**]: Hon. Minister referred to Khasi Hills industry. Pepole of the Garo Hills have now produced more coal than they are able to sell for want of buyer, and as a result coal trade in Khasi Hills to-day is at a stand-still.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (**Minister, Major Industries**): I know, the position of the Khasi coal is very serious. As I understand, the Khasi coal gets Rs.12 out of the coal which is sold to the industrialist at the rate of Rs.56 or so. Therefore, I have already taken steps, and I have requested the Transport Minister to look into the matter, and I have also requested the Regional Coal Controller to come here and discuss matters with the Transport Minister. This is the best I could do in the matter. Ultimately even if this does not act like Penicilin, I do not know what further step we shall have to take in the matter.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: Sir, more tangible steps should be taken for the Khasi coal.

Mr. SPEAKER: Does the honourable Member for Dibrugarh press his Cut Motion for the vote of the House?

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (**Dibrugarh**): Sir, I am not satisfied with what the Honourable Minister has stated just now in his replies. So I propose to press the Cut Motion for the vote of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that the total provision of Rs.28,05,000 under Grant No.52, Major head—72.—Capital Outlay on Industrial Development etc., at page 578 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 28,05,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(A summary division was ordered to be taken inside the Home by asking the Members to rise in their places.)

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (**Gauhati**): Sir, under the rules the names should be recorded.

Mr. SPEAKER : That is so. But the time is short, so, I am doing this. The names of those hon. Members who are in favour of the Cut Motion will be recorded.

(After a few minutes' pause).

Ayes

19

Noes.

41

1. Shri Bishwanath Upadhyaya.
2. Shri Brojo Mohon Roy.
3. Shri C. Thuamluaia.
4. Shri Emerson Momin.
5. Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya.
6. Shri Ghanashyam Talukder.
7. Shri Gopesh Namasudra.
8. Shri Hamdhon Mohan Haplangbar.
9. Shri Harrison Momin.
10. Maulavi Jahan Uddin Ahmed.
11. Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy.
12. Shri Khogendra Nath Barbaruah.
13. Shri Larsingh Khyriem.
14. Shri Mathias Tudu.
15. Shri Nilmoney Borthakur.
16. Kumar Prokritish Chandra Barua.
17. Maulavi Tajuddin Ahmed.
18. Shri Tarun Sen Deka.
19. Capt. Williamson A. Sangma.

(Ayes being 19 and Nos. 41, the Cut Motion was negatived.)

Now I put the main question. The question is, that a sum of Rs. 28,05,000, (Rupees twenty-eight lakhs and five thousand) be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1958, for the administration of the head—"72—Capital Outlay, etc.,—1.—investment in other commercial concerns".

(The Motion was adopted.)

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): This process does not save time at all.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is another way also, that is by simply writing the names ; it is not necessary to check the signatures.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Names of the other side have not yet been recorded.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not necessary actually.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : But the Rules clearly says Sir, that names of either side should be recorded—either side means both sides, not 'either of'.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think so; this is left to the discretion of the Speaker. I have noticed both in Parliament and also in the House of Commons that the names of the Members in the majority are not recorded at all. It is only a question of ascertaining facts and facts in this case are very clear—19 in favour and 41 against.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): In that case I beg to submit, Sir, that the Rules may be amended.

Mr. SPEAKER: That may be done by a Motion only.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Saturday, the 22nd June, 1957.

Shillong,

R. N. BARUA,
Secretary,

Legislative Assembly, Assam.

The 10th January, 1958.

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. Law 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 Mokshaua 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).