

Proceedings of the Fourth Session of the First Assam Legislative
Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government
of India Act, 1935

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 11 a.m. on
Wednesday, the 16th February 1938

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(to which answers were laid on the table)

Establishment of a Dispensary at Baramchal

Babu LALIT MOHAN KAR asked :

11.(a) Is it a fact that the South Sylhet Local Board having received a voluntary promise of a donation of Rs.1,000 and a free grant of land from Babu Dwaraka Nath Choudhury, a retired Extra Assistant Commissioner, for a dispensary at Baramchal within the jurisdiction of Kulaura police thana, decided to establish a dispensary there and approached Government for a grant ?

(b) Is it also a fact that no money could be had from the Government for want of funds ?

12. Are Government aware that the South Sylhet Local Board keenly feel the necessity of establishing a dispensary at Sagarnal within the jurisdiction of Kulaura police station but cannot do so for want of funds ?

13. Do Government propose to place money at the disposal of the South Sylhet Local Board, sufficient for the purpose of establishing two dispensaries, one at Baramchal and the other at Sagarnal, as stated above ?

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY replied :

11.(a)—So far as Government are aware the Board were desirous of establishing such a dispensary, but had not the requisite funds.

(b)—Yes.

12.—Government have no information on this point.

13.—No. Government have no funds for the purpose, nor would the Board be in a position to maintain the dispensaries.

Measures to protect the lives and properties of the people living
near the forest reserves

Srijut JADAV PRASAD CHALHA asked :

14.(a) Is Government aware that annual damage to crops, cattle and human lives of people living close to Government forest reserves and other forests is considerable ?

(b) If so, what steps Government are taking to protect the life and property of these people ?

15. Do Government propose to consider the desirability of taking the help of the Military authorities to shoot rogue elephants and tigers, in view of the fact that suitable firearms are not plentiful anywhere ?

The Hon'ble Babu AKSHAY KUMAR DAS replied :

14.(c) —Government are aware that damage is occasionally caused.

(b)—Rewards are paid by Government for killing dangerous wild animals, doing damage to crops, cattle and human life. Permits are also granted to approved sportsmen to shoot *goonda* elephants.

15.—The point will be examined.

Addressing Officers of the Provincial Services as "Mister" and "Esquire"

Mr. BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE asked :

16.(a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a letter dated the 26th January 1938 from the Chief Secretary to the Government of the United Provinces to the effect that in future the Officers of all Provincial Services in the United Provinces will be addressed as Mister and Esquire in all official correspondence ?

(b) If so, do Government of Assam propose to take similar steps in respect of the Provincial Service officers in this Province ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

16.(a)—Yes.

(b)—Not unless the service associations ask for the change.

Dismissal of Babu Kailash Chandra Das

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY asked :

17. Will Government be pleased to state whether there is any procedure other than those laid down in the Police Manual in respect of an enquiry under a departmental proceeding drawn up against a police officer ?

18. Is it a fact that a police officer complained against, must be allowed to be present at the enquiry and be afforded every reasonable opportunity for the preparation and submission of a full explanation in reply to the charge or charges and should he desire to examine any witness in his defence, their statement shall be recorded in his presence and he must also be given a personal hearing in accordance with rule 66 of Police Manual, Part III ?

19. Is it a fact that Babu Kailash Chandra Das, an *ex-Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police*, Sylhet, at present a practising Muktear at Sunamganj town, was charged under section 342, Indian Penal Code, under a Departmental proceeding and an enquiry was held by a Deputy Superintendent of Police ?

20. Is it a fact that the said Babu Kailash Chandra Das was dismissed as a result of an *ex parte* enquiry on 18th March 1929 by the then Superintendent of Police, Sylhet ?

21. Is it a fact that the man who was alleged to have been wrongly confined by the dismissed *ex-Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police* did not implicate him in any way with the offence charged ?

22. Is it a fact that Babu Kailash Chandra Das was not given reasonable opportunity for the preparation and submission of his explanation in reply to the charges made against him and that he was not allowed to examine witness in his defence and a personal hearing ?

23. (a) Is it a fact that just after the order of dismissal of said Babu Kailash Chandra Das (*ex-Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police*) some more enquiry was made by the enquiring Deputy Superintendent of Police under the direction of the Superintendent of Police ?

(b) If so, why and under what authority ?

24. (a) Is it a fact that the same Superintendent of Police who ordered the dismissal of the said *ex-Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police* was the Personal Assistant to the Inspector General of Police at the time of disposal of the appeal preferred to the Inspector General of Police by the said *ex-Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police* ?

(b) If so, did he in his official capacity as the Personal Assistant submit notes against the said Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police in connection with the disposal of the appeal ?

25. Is it a fact that the said *ex-Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police* submitted the following memorials to the Government of Assam with reminders after the disposal of the said appeal by the Inspector General of Police and that these memorials have remained undisposed uptill now ?

(i) Memorial to the Government of Assam through the Superintendent of Police and Inspector General of Police with advance copies to His Excellency the Governor in Council and to the Hon'ble Judicial Member dated the 25th November 1929, with a reminder dated 7th October 1930.

(ii) Memorial to His Excellency the Governor in Council through the Hon'ble Judicial Member dated 12th December 1931 with a reminder dated 6th January 1933.

(iii) Memorial to His Excellency the Governor in Council through the Hon'ble Judicial Member dated 3rd September 1935 with a reminder dated 29th October 1935.

26. (a) Is it a fact that these memorials were withheld by the authorities concerned ?

(b) If so, has the said Babu Kailash Chandra Das been informed of the grounds of withholding ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA replied :

17.—There is no procedure except that prescribed in rule 68, Volume III, Police Manual.

18.—Yes.

19.—Yes.

20.—The Assistant Sub-Inspector was dismissed on 18th March 1929 as a result of proceedings drawn against him. He was present during the enquiry.

21.—No.

22.—No.

23. (a)—There is no record of this.

(b)—Does not arise.

24. (a)—Yes.

(b)—There is nothing on record, but the usual procedure was probably observed in the case, *viz.*, that the Personal Assistant is not to express any opinion in appeal cases but only to see that the records are complete.

25. (i), (ii) & (iii)—Records are not available as appeal records are destroyed under the rules, two years after the disposal of the appeal.

26. (a) and (b)—Records are not available.

Babu KARUNA SINDHU ROY: Will the Government consider his case if a fresh memorial is submitted to the Government ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I am afraid I cannot promise that. The Assistant Sub-Inspector was dismissed on the 18th March 1929. He submitted an appeal which was dismissed. The records of the appeal have been destroyed and I do not see how I can re-open the case after such length of time.

Time limit for budget speech by Members

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I asked hon. members to supply me with lists of the names of the members who want to take part in the general discussion of the budget. I have got three lists, but I have not as yet got any list from the Congress party. It appears from the list that for to-day only 6 members have been put down, but we shall have more than three hours to-day for the general discussion of the budget.

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: May I interrupt for a moment, Sir? We have 25 demands down and I think we shall have to take up about 12 to-day.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: For to-morrow we have got a list writing the names of 17 members, and we have got only 3 hours to-morrow. Of course all the 17 members who want to speak to-morrow may speak, but the time will have to be shorter than 15 minutes—or even shorter than 12 minutes. Then for the last day 15 names have been put down, but we shall get only one hour, that day, and the Hon'ble Ministers should be given time to reply. Therefore, it will be desirable that as few hon. members should speak on the last day as possible. I do not know how I can accommodate all the members who want to speak on the general discussion, but I may say this that to-day more members than six ought to speak.

The general discussion of the budget may commence now.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Is there any time limit?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I shall fix 15 minutes for each member to-day.

General discussion of budget

Maulavi GHYASUDDIN AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the budget for the year 1937-38 gave us a surplus of about 2 lakhs, but the present budget casts a gloomy picture before us. Perhaps we all realise why it is so. The reason is not very far to seek. The present Government have given some relief to the tenants of the temporarily-settled area by way of reduction of land revenue, and therefore the income on that head has considerably fallen down. As for ourselves, who hail from the permanently-settled area, have gained nothing by the reduction of land revenue, rather our demands for grants to Dhubri and Goalpara Local Boards have been withheld on account of the deficit budget of the province. To quote the Hon'ble Chief Minister who said in his budget speech yesterday that "It is the avowed policy of the Ministry to rouse this spirit of self-help.....". I may tell him that the Dhubri Local Board long ago showed their spirit of self-help when it voluntarily increased the local rate by one pice more in the rupee to meet its growing demand. If I remember aright, the Hon'ble Minister for Local Self-Government while expressing the policy of Government in the last Assembly session as regards Government grants to each Local Board said definitely that Government help those Local Boards who help themselves. The Dhubri Local Board is an instance, but unfortunately this principle has not been applied in their case. There are as many as 125 venture schools under the Dhubri Local Board, and provision has only been made for 25 such schools out of the allotment of Rs.50,000 for primary education in the current budget. I myself and on behalf of my Goalpara friends in the

Assembly voice a note of disapproval on this issue, and bring it to the notice of the newly-constituted Cabinet, the case of the ill-fed Goalpara, and hope that the present Government will give her a chance to co-operate with them.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister has rightly said in his budget speech "It is a matter of great concern that the fell disease *kala-azar* is beginning to re-appear in two districts of the Brahmaputra Valley. I think, Sir, out of the two districts, he has referred to, Goalpara is one. In his last visit to our place I had the privilege of showing certain figures of the cases of *kala-azar* within Golakganj Thana to the Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. Nichols-Roy, Minister in charge of Public Health, who personally went to Golakganj and saw things. So far as I have been informed there are several localities in our district where *kala-azar* is reappearing. Before it is too late the Public Health Department must muster strong to face the situation. At present the District Medical Officer insists on the Local Board doctors to tackle this problem of *kala-azar*, but I think it is the primary duty of the Public Health Department to combat this fell disease and I request the Hon'ble Minister in charge to issue instructions accordingly.

I think, every one admits that Goalpara suffered terribly by the earthquake of 1930 and the tenants are still groaning under poverty. We are grateful to the Government that after the earthquake the Government advanced agricultural loans to the tenants and those who could pay, paid up their debts but those who could not are still in a position not to pay. On the plea that in the Goalpara Tenancy Act there are provisions for realising interests on arrears of rent the Goalpara zemindars and the *jotdars* are strictly following every letter of the said provision and the result is that the backbone of the tenantry is shaken and they cannot make their both ends meet. We would have appreciated more remission instead of only 50 per cent. in the matter of outstanding agricultural loans in the district of Goalpara where the tenants amongst whom these loans have been advanced have no opportunity of getting remission of rent as is done in the case of tenants residing in the temporarily-settled areas unless the zemindars come forward and give the remission. Here I must bring a very important matter for a decision of the House,—a decision which will take several lakhs of tenants residing in the permanently-settled areas of Goalpara one way or the other. Perhaps all the hon. members of the House know that myself and some of my M. L. A. friends from Goalpara introduced some amending Bills to amend certain harsh and penal sections of the Goalpara Tenancy Act in the last Assembly session. But unfortunately for us, those Bills were disallowed by His Excellency the Governor on the ground that they aimed at shaking the principles of the permanent settlement. The Government have admitted the necessity of amending the Sylhet Tenancy Act and such other Acts of the province according to the wishes of the people, *vide* the *Assam Gazette* of 12th January, pages 39 and 40. I need not tell the present Cabinet what the sister province of Bengal and other Congress provinces have done towards amending the tenancy law there. If it is the desire of the present Government to do something in that direction, they should be prompt in their action. Otherwise they should allow us the private Members to introduce such Bills for the acceptance of the House. The electorates have sent us here with high hopes and if we fail to meet their reasonable demands we must either resign or choose some other course; because we know our fates are interwoven with those of the tenants.

I hope to be excused for the frankness of my expression in a matter which vitally concerns the interest of Goalpara people. Some hon. members of the last Council put in some interpellations asking the Government to lay on the table the names of all the heads of the clerical officers in the offices of the Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent of Police, Civil Surgeon, Executive Engineer and the Divisional Forest Officer and it was disclosed that not a single man of the district occupy such post. The result has been that the interests of Goalparians are much jeopardised in the hands of such officers who play a great roll in the district administration. It is most unfortunate that some such officers take parts in party politics and we as representatives of the people are put to great inconvenience. The Goalpara District Association has been crying hoarse and requesting the Government to change their policy in the matter of putting officers at Dhubri. This Association voices the feelings of Goalpara people and recently it has passed a resolution and requested the local Members of Legislative Assembly to ventilate the grievances of the Goalpara people and I have just expressed above the views of the Goalpara District Association.

In the last Assembly Session, some hon. members put in some interpellations regarding the tackling of unemployment question and requested the Hon'ble Minister in charge to request the Railway, Steamer and Digboi Oil Company, to employ local people. I had the privilege of requesting the Hon'ble Minister to send letters of request to the Goalpara zemindars to employ local people as their employees. I do not know if such letters were sent. Almost all the controlling and supervising authorities of the zemindars of Goalpara except the Court of Wards are staffed with men from Bengal. The result has been that some such officers are responsible for the dissatisfaction and litigation amongst the tenants. Let me read a few lines from the judgment in an appeal before the Assam Valley District Judge who has rightly remarked in that case between the tenants of the Chapar estate. The learned Judge says amongst other things "In fact, the zemindar's men came badly out of the whole affair. It appears that a new Inspector who only knows that locality from the *Asvin* before the *Magh* which was in the middle of May, has really been responsible for the trouble". Then again, "The zemindars have little reason in this case to be proud of their newly acquired Manager...". It is high time that the zemindars should come forward to help the Government in the matter of solving unemployment questions in the province.

I think the Dhubri Government High School accommodates the largest Muhammadan boys in the Brahmaputra Valley and the Anglo-Persian teacher is managing the classes with great strain. The want of a second Anglo-Persian teacher is a long-felt want and the Government have also admitted this. But I do not find in the list of new schemes included in the Budget for the year 1938-39 any provision for this teacher. If this is an omission, I hope the Hon'ble Minister for Education will now kindly make such provision.

The provision of Rs. 12,000 included in the list of new schemes for the expansion of primary schools is scanty as compared with the growing demands of each local board of the province.

The Hon'ble Chief Minister in his budget speech has emphasised the need for increasing the equipment and staff of the Government Press at Shillong. In the old Council there were lots of questions as regards the working of the Press and even now we have been receiving various complaints against the Superintendent. I think before the staff is increased the real cause of dissatisfaction amongst the workers in the Press must be

investigated into. If there is a defect in a part of the whole machinery for which there is mis-management that defective part should be removed so that without any additional cost the work may be smoothly done.

It is a matter of regret that the activities of the Co-operative Department are not what they should have been. The Co-operative Department has done wonders in the Punjab. It has solved many problems there but here we are still contemplating what to do. The Officer who is the Registrar of the Co-operative Credit Societies has no special training in this line and so we cannot expect things much from him. I do not know what policy he is enunciating in order to make this movement acceptable to the people of the province. I understand he had sent some new graduates to the Punjab for training who on their return would educate the Assam staff and those non-officials who have taken active parts in the co-operative movement in Assam. Instead of doing this the Registrar should have himself taken training in the Punjab and then applied his experience in the province. The tour programme of the Registrar till recently showed that he was out of Assam for several months and I do not know what touch he had with this movement in Assam. If the Government think that this is not an important department then the post of Registrar should be abolished at once.

I do not know what the Assistant Registrar, Assam Valley District, is doing. It is his only duty to check accounts and superaudit some town banks or to transmit the official papers from the Registrar to the district officers. The Hon'ble Minister in charge of this Department should set out a well thought out plan of work so as to make this movement a popular one in the province which will mean a great help to the mass.

Hopes held out and demands met are two different things. We are apt to hold out hopes to the electorates but we are late in fulfilling the just and reasonable demands of the masses. The spirit of socialism is gaining ground amongst the mass and it is no wonder that one fine morning the hungry masses will crush into smithereing the whole constitution. We have not yet got any definite programme which will be placed before our respective constituency. We must not forget that the real strength of the autonomous Government is not on us—the individual members of Legislative Assembly—but on the voters living in the furthest corners of villages. Let them realise that the autonomous Government is the Government of the people, by the people and for the people.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:
Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a general custom either to congratulate or to condemn the Hon'ble Finance Minister for the surplus or deficit budget. I want to break the old tradition and beg to review the whole budget from a different outlook. The big additions and multiplications which are characterised by some as a mathematical jugglery only terrify me. I consider this opportunity as a great privilege to criticise the policy and principle of the Government and mould the future policy of the present administration. To me the standard of our success as humble servants of our country is to be measured by the amount of relief we have given to the poor of our country and how far we have redressed the grievances of the public.

In this connection I beg to suggest that in primary education some amount of money should be earmarked for the Maktabas under the Local Bodies. There is a great demand for the old scheme Madrasas, in this province. Reduced and un-aided Madrasas, both new and old schemes, should also receive the due attention of the Government.

The programme of taking model village should be outside the village authority where the villages are most backward.

The cases of the competent Muslim teachers in class I and II in the School Service should be considered on communal line. In our Sunamganj subdivision in the district of Sylhet, Muslim students are suffering great inconvenience for want of accommodation in the hostel and I hope the Hon'ble Minister for Education will kindly look into the matter.

Now, Sir, if we take a review of the activities of other provinces of India and make a comparison of Assam with other Congress provinces we are glad to find that our Assam does not lag behind in any way, rather in some respects it goes ahead of some other advanced provinces. It is this. Assam has taken a bold step and has shown an example to the rest of India by abolishing the establishment of the Commissioners of this province. Moreover, the Local Rate (Amendment) Act of 1937, remission of revenue in temporarily settled areas, clearance of the agricultural debts and the passage of the Money-lenders' Bill in this Assembly clearly indicate that the members are true to their pledge and are earnest to give relief to the poor. One of the leading organs of this province, I mean the *Jugabheri* of 27th December 1937, sincerely voiced the opinion of the whole province when it said that—

হইয়াছে আসাম মহাজনো (সংশোধন) আইন। মহাজনের কবলে পড়িয়া যে সকল কৃষক সর্বশাস্ত হইতে বসিয়াছিল, তাহাদিগকে একটু স্বস্তির নিশ্বাস ফেলিবার সুযোগ এই আইনে দেওয়া হইয়াছে।

Sir, it will be unfair and I shall be failing in my duty if I do not make reference to the bold step taken by Hon'ble Sir Saiyid Saadulla, the Chief Minister, regarding the presentation of a further demand for grant before the Assembly for the Commissioners' establishment for the period from 1st January to 31st March 1938. The Leader of the Opposition who always finds fault with the Hon'ble Chief Minister ought to have come forward with a true heroic spirit and offered him his heartiest congratulations on his bold steps. But he was conspicuously silent on this issue. However, though a little late, I on behalf of our popular Assembly offer our heartfelt thanks and congratulations to the Hon'ble Chief Minister on his bold stand to safeguard the prestige of this House and lend him our whole-hearted and sincere support.

Babu HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURY: Is the hon. member thanking the Hon'ble Finance Minister in advance?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: There is no harm in thanking in advance in anticipation of what is coming.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Sir, now about the future programme of our work in Assam. The three great problems of Assam according to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the President of the All-India National Congress, that need immediate solution are, poverty, struggle of culture and immigration. That great Pandit only diagnosed the symptoms of the disease, but could not prescribe any remedy. He knew full well that Line System is a piece of lawless law in Assam, but did not dare lose his popularity in this North Eastern Frontier of India and thought it wise to take a non-committal attitude over it. The resolution of the All-India National Congress and Government of India Act clearly support the immigration in Assam. Congress party in our Assembly owe their loyalty to the All-India National Congress and I do not know how they could go against the letter and spirit of the Congress. Both Congress and India Act are at our back. You cannot disallow our people to enter the boundaries of this province.

Immigration is the burning topic of the day. The three problems mentioned by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru though apparently appear to be three separate problems are really one and the same. It is a purely economic problem, but thanks to the mischievous propaganda of some leaders it has now taken a communal colour. The reasons are not far to seek. The immigrants being chiefly Muslims, the Hindus of Assam are afraid lest it should be converted into a Muslim province and so they oppose the abolition of the Line System. I do not like to believe how the leader and organs of Pan-Bengalee movement in Calcutta—I mean Dr. Rabindra Nath Tagore...

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member should speak to the budget.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: পঢ়ক, পঢ়ক!

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Order, order.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:

Sir, the immigration question forms a part of the budget. Is it because the immigrants happen to be Muslim? In the words of the *Star of India*—"The Hindus cannot very well declare openly their real reasons for disliking the immigration of Bengalee Muslims in their province, for then their brazen communalism will luridly be revealed. They therefore have invented a convenient and plausible excuse which is that the incursion of these Bengalee cultivators into Assam constitutes a menace to Assamese culture and civilisation. This is an absolutely false cry and even Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has felt constrained to condemn the mentality behind it" (*Laughter from opposition benches*).

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru is not here.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY:

Sir, we are apt to say that Assam is poor. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister in his budget speech truly said "The income from ordinary land revenue can be considerably increased if the vast quantity of waste land awaiting the plough is thrown open to settlement". Sir, give me the dictatorial power of a Hitler or a Mussolini, and I shall by a single stroke of pen convert this deficit province into a surplus one. (*Loud Laughter from the opposition and independent blocks*). Abolish the Line System and like the rubbing of Alauddin's lamp, Assam in one day will become rich and fertile and thus we can easily have High Court and University of our own. Those who oppose the abolition of the Line System are doing unconsciously a great disservice to the cause of this poor province. (Mr. Naba Kumar Dutta:—Quite, quite.)

Srijut Debeswar Sarmah in his learned address at Silchar, has invented a new disease which has been characterised by him as 'valley jealousy'. I heartily appreciate the sentiment expressed by him. I like to quote his words in my speech. He said—"Besides being a very small and poor province, Assam has very intricate and peculiar problems of her own. Sound team work on broad and patriotic lines alone can save her from rank degeneration. Unfortunately for us all concerned, valley jealousy is an important factor which considerably disturb harmonious and satisfactory solution of many vital matters of the province..... In the interest of our country, that is to say for the greatest good of the largest number, we ought to be able to overcome this pettiness and work resolutely towards our goal. What is needed at the moment is better understanding and a feeling of comradeship between the people of both the valleys".

Sir, now I come to the question of unemployment. Unemployment is one of the most vital problems of the country. We are very glad that our Hon'ble Finance Minister tried to remove the unemployment of educated youths by granting an increased number of stipends for training in metal working, glazed pottery, umbrella making and the boot and shoe industry.

Budget 16/2/38

Mr. A. G. Clow, Secretary to the Labour Department of the Government of India, also addressed a letter to Provincial Governments inviting their views thereon. He tried to solve the problem by holding a pre-University age examination. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of Calcutta has characterised it as a baffling problem. We know that our Government are making their best attempts to solve this problem and we also know that it is beyond their power to solve it. The United Provinces Unemployment Committee said that "We may say at once that we have no radical remedy to propound." The Madras Committee also in bringing its deliberations to a conclusion said that "the Committee would repeat that the problem of middle class unemployment is one not capable of immediate solution" Mr. J. R. Cunningham, the learned author of Assam University Enquiry Committee again said that—"It is plain that the Committee have been prevented by motives of political expediency from carrying their enquiry as far as they might have done into causes and consequences of inaction and presenting the public with the ultimate issues". Mr. J. R. Cunningham in the course of his report also remarked that the unemployment problem is both economic and social. I want to go a step further and say that it is not only economic; but in India it is also a political problem. Politics and economics are the twin brothers.

We know that at present a great controversy is going between the Congress and the Socialist party regarding the economic freedom of India. Political freedom or Swaraj is the goal of India; but Swaraj is a meaningless term and it cannot stand without economic freedom.

In the last winter Session of our Assembly when the hon. member opposite, Mr. Debeswar Sarmah raised the question of unemployment (dated the 18th December, 1937) he only confined his ideas to educated middle class problem. When I asked him to explain the term "educated unemployed," he only ridiculed me and asked me to open the dictionary and understand. He may forget the poor masses, but as a humble servant and representatives of the poor peasantry I cannot do so. I cannot forget the vast millions of poor Indians who have been rendered poor and unemployed by industrial revolution and foreign exploitation. My intention is to draw his attention to the lots of the poor unemployed peasantry. In reply to the ridicule of Mr. Sarmah I like to quote the words of Mr. Jatindra Mohon Roy, the President of the 36th session of the Bengal Provincial Conference which was held at Bishnupur, Bengal.

Babu HARENDRA NARAYAN CHAUDHURI: The hon. member is straying too far.

Maulavi Dewan MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: Mr. Roy said "If you scratch the Congressmen you will find in a vast majority of cases the same old tendency to fatten themselves by exploiting the poor and illiterate countrymen of theirs. Scan the rank of the Congressmen and you will be stunned by their sickening insincerity by the hopeless inconsistency between their profession and practice."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I have so long allowed written speeches to be read; but I think it would be better if hon. members deliver their speeches *ex ore*. They may have written notes; but they may speak in such a way referring to the notes as would make the speech appear to be *ex ore*.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir. The various subjects covered by the Budget have been divided among the members of my party. I will only touch with the general aspects of the Budget as a whole. Going through the pages of the Budget and the introductory speech delivered by the Hon'ble Chief Minister yesterday, it pains us to find that the

Budget Estimates for the ensuing year carry us no farther than where we were. We were in a rut and we continue to be in the rut—in the same stagnation.

During the last year, there was no statement of policy from the Cabinet, no plan of action was laid out; nor has any plan of action been drawn up for the ensuing year. We find ourselves in no better plight. The Budget Estimates this year make a little addition here and a little alteration there without any material contribution towards the enhancement of the prosperity or the progress of the province.

Then, Sir the task that is being taken up by the present Cabinet can well be taken up by the Head Assistant of Departments or the Registrars. Or in other words, the members of the Cabinet have by doing what that they have done, place themselves in no better position than those of Head Assistants and Head Clerks of the several Departments. They have only added something here or subtracted something there. But we are in the same rut. How, then, can they justify the heavy salaries they are drawing?

Looking to the world outside we find that the civilised and progressive nations are following a clearly chalked out plan for development. In poor India herself we find that other provinces have been following a clear cut policy a well laid out plan for development—big or small. We find elsewhere that there is a definite policy of Government and they follow that policy. In our province we do not find anything just to show that the Cabinet have been contemplating any development of the resources of the province. The development of the province in the shape of cement industry—that chapter is well nigh closed for a long time to come that mineral future has been bartered away, at any rate for sometime to come and I do not see if the Government gains any appreciable revenue thereby. The forest resources of the province are said to be the very vast. If these are exploited on the lines that are being followed in other countries where they get a large revenue from the forest wealth this Government can have considerable revenue which may be allotted to nation building projects. Here we do not find that Government is contemplating to develop the resources of the province in the way of forest wealth. Rural indebtedness is in the same moribund condition and nothing has been done and nothing is contemplated to be done. Under such circumstances, how can we congratulate the Cabinet or ourselves. Being representatives of the people if we find that no policy for progress and prosperity has been adopted, then it is our painful duty to criticise it here. As regards the Budget the sum total of the whole comes to this, that money has been extorted from the people in the old way and that it is being spent in the old way without devoting sufficient attention to the welfare of the people. Only yesterday, Sir, the Hon'ble the Chief Minister stated in connection with the adjournment motion that the rules regarding the conduct of the public servants were the same as in old days—it was a continuation only and that therefore no new occasion arose. I do not dispute that. But what I want to emphasise is that this clearly indicates the mentality of the old bureaucracy. Though the provincial circumstances have changed, the mentality is there. The ideas of this so-called autonomous provincial Ministry are the same old bureaucratic ideas. They have not been able to get rid of the complex. Unless there is a change in the outlook of the Government no material prospect or prosperity can be anticipated.

Now, to the much debated question that is agitating many of us, I mean the Line System to what my learned friend Dewan Muhammad Ahbab Chaudhury referred. The statement of the Chief Minister in his introductory Budget speech reads like this:—"The income from ordinary land revenue can be

considerably increased if the vast quantity of waste land awaiting the plough is thrown open to settlement. This and allied questions were enquired into by the Line System Committee whose report is now in print and will soon be available both to Government and to hon. members".

Of course, we on this side are working under considerable difficulty. I do not know if I am short of hearing, but I could not follow what hon. Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahab Chaudhury said just now about me. I do not know if I shall be able to deal with all the points that were raised by him. When the Hon'ble the Chief Minister of the Government of Assam made a statement that land revenue may be considerably increased if the vast waste land awaiting plough is thrown open to settlement, I do not understand what he means by saying 'throwing it open to settlement' nor is it intelligible to me how net surplus revenue can be enhanced. At the outset, I must say that it is not a question of immigrants coming from Bengal or from Bihar or from any other province; nor is it a question whether they are Hindus or Muhammadans or Christians but it is essentially an economic question and the problem must be viewed from the stand point of political economy. I venture not to think that the aforesaid remark in the introductory budget speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister is a polite hint or a covered threat indicating that he intends to bite the hands that feed him; but it undoubtedly demonstrates the poverty of the head and the heart. We cannot understand what he means by saying 'enhancing land revenue by throwing open the waste lands to settlement'. Has he cared to study what is the acreage of cultivable waste land in Assam and what is the population? I am sure, Sir, if he consults statistics and takes into consideration the relevant aspects of political economy and the experience of other countries then he will not say that considerable waste land may be thrown open to immigrants from outside and that Government may raise revenue thereby. Of course, if he would have said that these waste lands are to be developed by and for the welfare of the indigenous people and that there will be a plan for settlement of these waste lands and the revenue that will be raised from this should be spent for the benefit and development of those poor settlers, then in that case one could understand him. But the revenue that will accrue from the settlement of these waste lands will not materially help the coffers of the Government because money raised by settling these waste lands are to be essentially invested for the development and benefit of the same lands. The Hon'ble Chief Minister and anybody else should not think that these poor peasants and *ex-tea* garden labourers and poor immigrants will be allowed to settle on the un-hygenic jungle or marshy waste lands and the money received out of them will not be invested in return for betterment of their condition (*Hear! hear!*). If lands are thrown open to these people, roads will have to be opened out, schools and dispensaries will have to be established and other welfare institutions will have to be found for the benefit of those people. These things will have to be done there in the development area at the expense of the State. Even before a particular plot of land is fully settled, Government will have to spend something for that area in advance. Therefore, if Government think of merely raising revenue by settling these waste lands without incurring reciprocal expenses, they will be robbing these poor people of their essential necessities for their existence. No responsible Government can do it and no Government will be tolerated for any length of time if they happen to adopt such a policy. Sir, the total population of Assam in 1931 was 9,247,857. Of this Assam Valley constitutes 4,723,293. Now from the Statistical Abstract of British India of 1931-32 we find that there are 27,091,094 acres of uncultivated cultivable waste lands. If this entire area is converted into economic holdings and distributed amongst the present population

of this province, is the Hon'ble Chief Minister prepared to say that there is more land available for giving out to the new-comers? If he says so, he does not care for the continued existence of the Assamese race or of the indigenous people and that will amount to be saying they may go to hills, or die out and he only wants to have more money by throwing open the lands to outsiders. If he declares so, let him and that is a different matter altogether. That will be a suicidal policy. No sensible and righteous Government can advance such views. Taking the total population of Assam and taking the total uncultivated cultivable waste lands as in 1931-32 we find that it comes to three acres of land only per head. Sir, according to Dr. Harold Mann 20 acres make the economic holding. According to Baroda Economic Enquiry Committee, 30 to 50 bighas of land constitute an economic holding. According to Dr. Stanley Jevons 29 to 30 acres of land constitute the economic holding. We find from the policy or procedure that is being adopted by the Government of Assam, if I may be permitted to say so, in settling 50 bighas of lands to any one applicant free from timber royalty, *etc.*, that 15 acres of land constitute the economic holding for Assam Valley. Now taking the total population and the total acreage of available land, we find that on an average a family consisting of five members gets only 15 acres of land. The population since 1930-31 have considerably increased but mother earth has not expanded to the benefit of this Assam cabinet. If the condition of the people, the cost of production and the price that is fetched in the market for the agricultural products be taken into consideration, then I think, the economic holding for this province of Assam will have to be fixed some where between 15 to 20 acres. The total quantity of land that is there within the four corners of Assam is just sufficient for her present population. Where is the room for expansion of the future progeny. Taking all these facts and figures into careful consideration one can reasonably assert that there is not an inch of land to be thrown open to immigrants from outside the province.

Sir, as regards the findings of the Line System Committee, it will be for the House to discuss and decide what it will do when the report is presented. When the economic aspects of matter will be discussed then it will be seen that there are no lands for throwing open to the immigrants either from Bengal or Bihar and whether they are Hindus or Muhammadans. A responsible Government cannot adopt a policy without anxious care and provision for the future of the people which it represents and govern.

Then as regards my hon. friend Maulavi Dewan Muhammad Ahab Chaudhury's reference to my Silchar statement, I do maintain that so long as both Valleys are carrying on jointly as one administrative province, valley jealousy helps none and it should be deprecated by all means. But even a *Sonatonist* Moslem like my hon. friend will, I hope, agree that representatives of the people as we are, it will be unreasonable for each and every one of us to ask for more than what is due and it will be still more.....

Maulavi DEWAN MUHAMMAD AHBAB CHAUDHURY: I am not a *Sonaton* Sir, I am a Pucca Moslem (*laughter*). What is the meaning of *Sonatonist*?

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: My hon. friend is a Sanskrit scholar, Sir. He should have understood that *Sonatonist* means orthodox.

It will be still more unreasonable for us to give away more than what is due because it is not desirable for one to be charitable with others' money and rights and privileges. With this qualification, I thank my hon. friend Mr. Chaudhury for the compliments he gives me for whatever they are worth.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member's time is up.

Srijut DEBESWAR SARMAH: May I have two minutes more, Sir?

Next, Sir, in the budget, the Government have not made any provision for taking any action towards eradicating bribery and corruption amongst Government officers. Some other provinces have already done this last year. What is the meaning of this indifference on the part of our Government in the matter of bribery and corruption amongst its servants? I take this opportunity of saying that during the last budget session when I was raising the question of corruption amongst Government officials and particularly the judiciary, I made certain observations, which were of a sweeping nature. And this was not unlikely to wound the feelings of the honest officers, many of whom undoubtedly there are in the department. I am sincerely sorry for this and I should be the last person lacking in tendering unqualified apology to those honest souls whose feelings I might have inadvertently wounded. But I am sorry to say that bribery and corruptions in the various departments of the Government have increased. Some officers apparently appear to think that they can have their own ways and methods with impunity and that they will be taken out of a scrape because somebody is in the helm of the affairs. If the Government is not to be disgraced, it must do something to stamp out corruption and to build up national character.

The Cement Chapter is almost closed and now the atmosphere is surcharged with the Commercial Carrying Company and the talks of fresh monopoly to be granted for the arrangement with the help of which one may reach up the capital of Assam. The capital of the province is most unfortunately situated in a place where one cannot buy land which is either under the control of the Siem, an independent authority not under the Government or the Cantonment. I do not know what are the conditions under the Cantonment area, but the terms and conditions of transfer of lands under the Siems *i.e.*, the rulers of Khasi States are most difficult, uncertain and humiliating. In other capitals the landed property in the capital constitute the most valuable and easily negotiable wealth of the people. But in Assam the people of the province cannot normally acquire, buy or sell lands, such is the irony of our fate. So, the capital of the province must either be removed from this place or the area over which the capital is situated must be nationalised. (*Hear! hear!*). This state of things cannot be tolerated for any length of time. The means of communications with the capital is nonetheless important. Either the means of communication to the capital should be entirely under Government control and management exactly like a state owned Railway or there must be a Public Limited Company to own and run the business, wherein the people of both the Valleys and the Government must have shares and control. Unless this is done, how can the capital continue to be here? The Government should issue a statement at an early date on this subject. I am sorry, the Budget did not give us any ray of hope for the ensuing year, but at the same time, we will watch how this Government manipulates the resources which are already in their hand.

Maulavi MATIOR RAHMAN MIA: এই বাজেট সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যাপারে আমাদের অভাব অভিযোগের কথা আমি হাউসকে বলিতে চাই। আমাদের অভাব অভিযোগের কথা জানা এবং তাহা পূরণের ব্যবস্থা করা গবর্নমেন্টের উচিত। আমরা সকলেই কৃষিজীবী, আমরা গরীব এবং অশিক্ষিত। আমরা কৃষিজীবী কিন্তু আমাদের চাষের

উপযুক্ত পরিমাণে জমি নাই। আমাদের যে জমি আছে সেই জমিটুকু চাষ করিয়া পেটের ভাত, পরিধানের কাপড়, জ্যোতদার ও জমিদারের খাজনা এবং মহাজনের ঋণ দেওয়া আমাদের পক্ষে সম্ভব নয়—কাজই আমরা চাইকার কার। আমরা কৃষিজীবী, আমরা গরীব, আমরা অশিক্ষিত, আমাদের ছেলে মেয়েদের লিখা পড়া শিখিবার কোন প্রকার স্কুল, মাদ্রাসা, মোক্তাব বা পাঠশালা নাই। আমরা বোর্ডকে যথেষ্ট টাকা দেই কিন্তু মাদ্রাসার জন্য যখন বোর্ডের নিকট আমরা যাই তখন আমাদের বলা হয়—টাকা নাই। বোর্ডের কর্তৃপক্ষ বাহারা আছেন, তাহারা বলেন যদি তোমরা আসামী ভাষা পড় তাহা হইলে গ্রান্ট দেওয়া হইবে আর যদি আসামী ভাষা না পড় তাহা হইলে গ্রান্ট দেওয়া সম্বন্ধে পরে বিবেচনা করা হইবে। আমরা বাঙ্গালা, আমাদের মাতৃভাষা বাঙ্গালা, আমাদের আলাপ প্রলাপ কথাবার্তা চিঠি, পত্র, বহি, কেতাব, দাগিল সমস্তই বাঙ্গালা ভাষায় হয়। আমাদের পুস্তক-পুস্তক বাঙ্গালী এবং তাদের ভাষাও বাঙ্গালা ছিল। একদম অবস্থায় আজ যদি আমাদের কাঁধে আমাদের ছেলে মেয়েদের কাঁধে এই আসামী ভাষা নতুন বোঝা স্বরূপ চাপাইয়া দেওয়া হয় এবং আমাদের মাতৃভাষা হইতে বঞ্চিত করা হয় তাহা হইলে আমাদের ছেলে মেয়েদের লিখা পড়া শিখিবার সুযোগ ও সুবিধা হইতে বঞ্চিত করা হইবে। আসাম ভেতীতে আমাদের ছেলে মেয়েদের শিক্ষা বাঙ্গালা ভাষাতে দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা করা উচিত। আমি গবর্নমেন্টকে বলি যে, যে সমস্ত কর্মচারী আমাদের মাতৃ ভাষার বিরোধীচারী, শিক্ষায় বাধা জন্মাইতেছেন তাহারা যেন ভবিষ্যতে সেরূপ আর করিতে না পারেন। তারা যদি আমাদের উপর ভাষা সম্বন্ধে এইরূপ অত্যাচার করিতে থাকেন তাহা হইলে যেন তাদের সুশাসিতভাবে বদল করিয়া সুস্বাভাবিক অফিসারদের এই ব্রহ্মপুত্র ভেলীতে দিয়া আমাদের মাতৃ ভাষা শিখিবার ব্যবস্থা অবিলম্বে করিয়া দেওয়া হয়। এইস্থানে পূর্বপুরুষানুক্রমে বাহারা আছেন তাহাদের জন্য প্রত্যেক গ্রামে স্কুল ও পাঠশালা আছে কিন্তু ব্রহ্মপুত্রের দুই পারে; যেখানে আমাদের বসতি—সেখানে দশটি গ্রামের মধ্যেও একটা পাঠশালা নাই। বাবুরা কেহই ঐ সমস্ত চরের পল্লীতে যাবেন না বা দেখিবেন না, আর যদি বেশী পাড়াপাড়ি করা হয় তাহা হইলে তাহারা বলেন আসামী ভাষা পড়িলে স্কুলের জন্য টাকা দেওয়া বাইতে পারে। আমাদের সকলেই মুসলমান সেই জন্য পাঠশালার আমাদের ছেলে মেয়েদের শিক্ষার সুবিধা হয় না। পার্শ্ব ও আরবী ভাষা প্রভৃতি পড়িবার জন্য পাঠশালায় চলেনা—মুক্তব হওয়া দরকার। তার পর মক্তবের সঙ্গে সঙ্গে মাইনর স্কুলও হওয়া উচিত—যাগতে মক্তবের পর মাইনর স্কুলে পড়িবার সুবিধা হয়। হাই স্কুল নাই ই। এখন গবর্নমেন্টের কর্তব্য এই যে বাহাতে ছেলে মক্তব ও পাঠশালা পর্যন্ত পড়িয়া পরে মাইনর স্কুলে ও হাই স্কুল পর্যন্ত পড়িতে পারে তাহার ব্যবস্থা করিয়া দেওয়া। গোয়ালপাড়াতে অবশ্য একটা হাই স্কুল আছে কিন্তু ভংগের বিষয় ছেলেদের থাকিবার কোন ব্যবস্থা নাই গাড়া ও হিন্দু বোডিং আছে কিন্তু মুসলমানের জন্য কোনও বোডিং বা মেসের ব্যবস্থা নাই বাহাতে বাহিরের মুসলমান ছেলেরা থাকিয়া পড়িতে পারে।

তজ্জনা গোরানপাড়া হাইস্কুলেও মাদ্রাসায় অতি সস্তর বোর্ডিং হওয়া দরকার। এই গেল শিক্ষা সম্বন্ধে। তারপর আমাদের পানের ও ব্যবহারের—জলের অভাব। আমরা যেখানে থাকি তাহার অধিকাংশ স্থানই ব্রহ্মপুত্রের তীরে ও চরে। আমাদের নিকটে পরিষ্কার জল নাই—আমাদের ইন্দারা নাই কুয়া নাই। ব্রহ্মপুত্র নদ ১ হইতে ২৫ মাইল দূরে। সেই জন্ত নদী হইতে জল আনিয়া পান ও ব্যবহার অসম্ভব। যদি আমরা কূপ বা ইন্দারা চাই তাহা হইলে বলা হয়—“চরের মধ্যে কুয়া বা ইন্দারা দিলে বর্ষায় ডুবিয়া যাইবে” কিন্তু ঐ সমস্ত সমস্ত ভূমিতেই আমাদের লক্ষ লক্ষ মুসলমান কৃষকরা স্থায়ী বাস করা সত্ত্বেও আমাদের ইন্দারা কুয়া দেওয়া হয় না। কিন্তু আমাদের টাকা দ্বারা লোকের বোর্ডের রাজস্ব হয়, গভর্ণমেন্টের রাজস্ব বাড়ে, জমিদারের আয় বাড়ে। একরূপ অবস্থায় আমাদের খাইবার ও ব্যবহার করিবার জন্য জলের কোন ব্যবস্থা কি গভর্ণমেন্ট করিবেন না? Rural Development Committee হইতে আমাদের বলা হইয়াছিল যে বর্ষাতে চর ডুবিয়া যায় সুতরাং তথায় কুয়া বা ইন্দারা দেওয়া বাইতে পারে না। আমি অবশ্য বলি বর্ষায় সময় চর ডুবিয়া যায়। বর্ষায় সময় আমাদের অঞ্চলের সমস্ত জায়গাই ডুবিয়া যায় কেবল পাহাড়ের উপর জল উঠে না কিন্তু সেখানেও লোক থাকিতে পারে না। আমি স্বীকার করি চর বর্ষায় জলে ডুবিয়া যায় কিন্তু সারা বৎসর ত ডুবিয়া থাকে না। বর্ষায় পর যাহাতে লোকে খাইবার ও ব্যবহারের জল পায় সেই জন্ত প্রত্যেক গ্রামে গ্রামে কুয়া ও ইন্দারা হওয়া একান্ত দরকার। তারপর আমাদের রাস্তাঘাট নাই, এমনকি অপর গ্রামে, হাটে, বাজারে বা সহরে যাতায়াতের একটা রাস্তাও নাই। লোকের বোর্ড লইতে কোন রাস্তা দেওয়া হয় না কিন্তু লোক সংখ্যা আমাদের অঞ্চলে খুব বেশী এবং সব সময়েই ভিন্ন জায়গায় যাইতে এবং হাট বাজারে কৃষিজাত শস্য বিক্রয়ের জন্য যাওয়া আসার রাস্তার দরকার। অনেক অঞ্চলে হাটিয়া বা গাড়ী লইয়া অঞ্চলের মধ্য দিয়া খাল, বিল, নদী পার হইয়া যাইতে হয়। এই সব জায়গায় বাঘ ভাঙ্কও থাকে। একরূপ জায়গাও আছে যেখানে কোন প্রকারেই যাওয়া যায় না। লোকের বোর্ড আমাদের নিকট হইতেই টাকা বেশী পায় কিন্তু বোর্ড বা গভর্ণমেন্ট হইতে কেন আমাদের জন্য রাস্তা হয় না তাহা বুঝিতে পারি না। এই সম্বন্ধে এবং আমাদের অভাব আভ্যোগ সম্বন্ধে আমি পূর্বে বার বার বলিয়াছি এবং চীৎকার করিয়াছি কিন্তু আজ পর্যন্তও কোন ব্যবস্থা করা হয় নাই। আমি আশা করি এবং বার বার গভর্ণমেন্টের কাছে অনুরোধ করি যেন আমাদের অভাব ও পীড়ন সমস্যার সমাধান করা হয়। আমাদের ডাক্তারখানা নাই, কুয়া নাই, ইন্দারা নাই সুতরাং খাল, বিলের, নালা ও গর্তের কর্দমাক্ত দূষণীয় পচা জল খাইয়া আমাদের ম্যালেরিয়া, কলেরা, জ্বর, আমাশয় ইত্যাদি হয়। আমাদের নিজেদের এমন অবস্থা নয় যে পয়সা খরচ করিয়া ঔষধ কিনিয়া খাইতে পারি। ডাক্তারখানা নাই সেই জন্য আমাদের রোগে ভুগিতে হয় ও বিনা চিকিৎসায় অকালে মরিতে হয়। আমি আশা করি, আমাদের কৃষকদের চিকিৎসা এবং কৃষি কার্য চালাইবার জন্য গরু মহিষের এবং কৃষিজীব মানুষের

চিকিৎসার জন্য কেহ কেহে অগৌণ উপযুক্ত সংখ্যায় ডাক্তারখানার ব্যবস্থা করা হইবে। তারপর চাকুরী সম্বন্ধে :—আমরা সকলেই গরীব এবং নিরন্ন। চাকুরী করিবার জন্য যেকোন শিক্ষার দরকার তাহা আমাদের এখনও বেশীর ভাগ হয় নাই। তথাপি যাহারা উপযুক্ত তাহাদের চাকুরী দেওয়া হয় না। আমি গোরানপাড়ায় থাকি। সেখানে কয়েকজন জমিদার আছেন এবং দুইটি জমিদার গভর্ণমেন্টের হাতে আছে। জমিদারের প্রজা প্রায় শতকরা ৯০ জনই বাঙ্গালী মুসলমান। তাহাদের উপর নানা প্রকার অত্যাচার ইত্যাদি করা হয়—তাহাদের টাকাত্তেই জমিদারের আয় বাড়িয়াছে কিন্তু কেহ একটা চাকুরীর জন্য গলে দেওয়া হয় না। মেছপাড়ার মোনেজারগণ বলিয়াছেন যে গভর্ণমেন্টের ছকুম না হইলে—কাউনসিল হইতে আইন পাশ করিয়া না আনা পর্যন্ত চাকুরী দেওয়া হইবে না। আমি বলি আমাদের রক্তে জমিদারের কলেবর বৃদ্ধি হইতেছে—আমাদের রক্ত শোষণ করিবার জন্য; আমাদের উপর অত্যাচার করিবার জন্য—খাজনা আদায় করিবার জন্য আমাদের টাকার বেতন নিয়া সব অফিসার রাখা হইতেছে। তাহারা আমাদের টাকায় লইয়াই বড় হইয়াছেন। একরূপ অবস্থায় প্রজাদের মধ্য হইতে উপযুক্ত লোককে কেন চাকুরীতে লওয়া হইবে না? এই বিষয়ে আমি পূর্বেই বলিয়াছি এবং এখনও গভর্ণমেন্টকে বলি যেন তাহারা এদিকে একটু স্নান কর রাখেন। যদি তাহারা এদিকে মজুর না রাখেন তাহা হইলে শ্রমিকদের বাঙ্গালী ঘনিষ্ঠ উপেক্ষিত জাতি—আমাদের গভাবের পীড়নে এমন হইতে পারে—আমাদের ভিতর এমন অশান্তির সৃষ্টি হইতে পারে—যে সেই অশান্তির জন্য আমাদের অভাব অভিযোগ এং দাবী আমাদেরই পূরণ করিবার জন্য প্রজার দল মিলিত ভাবে দণ্ডারমান হইতে বাধ্য হইবে। আমরাই এই দেশে আসিয়া প্রথমে কুনির মত কলঙ্ক পরিষ্কার করিয়া বাঘ ভাঙ্ক তাড়াইয়া নিজেদের শক্তি দিয়া এবং লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা খরচ করিয়া এই দেশকে বাস উপযুক্ত করিয়া বসতি স্থাপন করিয়াছি। তখন জমিতে ১০২ টাকা খরচ করিয়া ১০০ টাকা পাইতাম। কিন্তু গত ১৩৩৭ সনের ভূমিকম্পে আমাদের সমস্ত জমি কাটায়া বালু পড়িয়া নষ্ট হইয়া গিয়াছে এবং অতিরিক্ত রৌদ্রে পুড়িয়া বর্ষায় ডুবিয়া অত্যধিক বন্যায় আবাদ প্রায় নষ্ট হইয়া যায়। পূর্বে যেখানে ১০ মন পাট পাইতাম এখন ১ মনও পাই না। অন্য দিকে জমির নিরিখ ১ টাকা হইতে ৪ টাকা করা হইয়াছে। এতদুপরি জমিদার, মোতদার ও তাঁহাদের কংশচরীগণ নিরন্ন চারী প্রজা ঠাটাইয়া তহরী, পরবি, মুণলী, নেলাঙ্গি, পুগাহ খরচ, বারবরদারী, চেক খরচ, তলবানা, ভেটী, মারচা ইত্যাদি বাজে অবয়ব খাজনার চেয়ে অতিরিক্ত বাজনা ব্যবস্থা সন্দা সর্বদা বহু টাকা আদায় করিয়া প্রজাকে শোষণ ও পীড়ন করিয়া আসিতেছেন ও এক জমি দুই প্রজাকে পস্তন দিয়া লাস্তা হাঙ্গানা এমন কি ইত্যাকার সংঘটিত করিতেছেন—কাজেই পীড়ক ও শোষকের হাত হইতে প্রজাকে উদ্ধার করা হউক।

সভাপতি মহোদয়। আমাদের চঃ বেদনা, আমাদের প্রাণের কথা জানাইবার সুযোগ ও সুবিধা পাঠ না। এই এসেবলিতে আসিয়াছি আমাদের প্রাণের কথা মনের ব্যাথা

আনাইবার জন্য। যদি তাহা বলিতে সময় না হেন তাহা হইলে আমরা কোথায় গিয়া বলিব? আমাদের স্থান কোথায়? সভাপতি মহোদয়ের নিকট এই প্রার্থনা যে, আমাদের দাবী পূরণ না হওয়া পর্যন্ত অন্ততঃ আমাদের প্রাণের বেহনার কথা বলিতে চাই। জমির উর্বরতা শক্তি কমিয়া গিয়াছে—কিন্তু জমিদারের খাজনার হার কমে নাই। জমিদারের খাজনা না দিতে পারিলে জমিদারগণ সার্টিফিকেট ও খাজনার মাফলা করিয়া প্রজার পক্ষ, বাড়ী, ঘাটী, বাটী ক্রোক নিলাম করিয়া হস্তগত করে। পোয়ালপাড়া আইনের ৩৩ ধারার খাজনা কমেয় কথা আছে কিন্তু প্রবল পরাক্রান্ত প্রতাপশালী জমিদারের সঙ্গে নিরস্ত প্রজার—মাংলা করিয়া খাজনা—নজর কম কথা কোন প্রকারেই সম্ভবপর নয়। এই গোয়ালপাড়ার সেন্সি এজেন্টের পরিবর্তন করিবার জন্য মৌলবী আনজাদ আলী সাহেব একটা সংশোধনী বিল পাঠাইয়াছিলেন কিন্তু তা সাহেব উহা চিরস্থায়ী বন্দোবস্তের পরিষ্কারি বলিয়া নামঞ্জুর করিয়াছেন। এখন আমি আশা করি যে গোয়ালপাড়া প্রজাবল আইন সংশোধন, পরিবর্তন বা পরিবর্তন করিবার জন্য গভর্ণমেন্টের পক্ষ হইতে একটা বিল আনিয়া প্রজার সুখ সুবিধার ব্যবস্থা গভর্ণমেন্ট করিয়া দিবেন। তারপর এই “নজর” বা “সেলামী” কথাটা একবারেই উঠাইয়া দেওয়া হউক। এখন আমাদের টাকা পরসী ও শরীরে রক্ত ছিল তখন আমরা যথেষ্ট দিয়াছি—এখন আমাদের কিছুই নাই কাজেই এখন আমাদের পক্ষে দেওয়া অসম্ভব। এই প্রজাবল আইনের পরিবর্তন করিয়া দেওয়া এখন খুবই দরকার। তারপর ছন বন কর। আজ গাছ ছন বন কিছুই নাই তথাপি প্রত্যেক প্রজার নিকট হইতে ছন এবং বন কর বাবদ ১০ টাকা হিসাবে প্রতি সনেই লওয়া হইতেছে। কিন্তু সেটা শুধু আমরা বাঙ্গালী মুসলমানদের জন্যই আছে দেশীয় প্রজার জন্য নয়। শুধু বাঙ্গাল মুসলমানদের জন্য জিজিয়া করের মত আছে। বিজ্ঞানী রাজ ওয়াড হেটেটে এটা যৌক করিয়া আছে তাহা আমি বুঝিতে পারি না। এই কর থাকে স্বস্তি ও খরি, খের, লাকল, জোয়াল, চেচা ইশ, বাশ ইত্যাদী আনিতে—যদি আমরা জ্বলে যাই, আমাদের যাইতে দেওয়া হয় না এবং গেলেও আমাদের কুড়াল, দাগ ইত্যাদী সব কাড়িয়া লওয়া হয়। তারপর জমির নিরিখ। আমাদের জন্য জমির নিরিখ ১ টা পি কিন্তু দেশীয় প্রজার জন্য ১/১০ বা ১/১০০ আনার বেশী না। চরের যে জমিতে ১০ সের ফসল হইবে, শালী জমিতে ১০ মণ শস্য হয় কিন্তু চরের জমিতে ১০ সের শস্য ধান হয় তার ১/১০ নিরিখ আর দেশী প্রজাদের শালী জমিতে যেখানে ১০ মণ ফসল জন্মায় তার নিরিখ ১/১০ গানা। এই ব্যবস্থা কি অন্যায় নয়? আমি আরও বলিতে চাই যে লাকল বোড ও সেশনালিতে আমরা নিরীচনের অধিকার সামান্য পাইয়াছি কিন্তু সংখ্যাভূপাতে আমাদের আরও সিট্ দেওয়া উচিত এবং চাকুরী দেওয়া দরকার। কারণ আমাদের সংখ্যা বহুভাগে বাড়িয়াছে। জমিদারের নিকট চাকুরীর জন্য গেলে চাকুরী দেয় না—আইন আদালত অনেক ক্ষেত্রে আমাদের ন্যায় পক্ষে না—কিন্তু খাজনার বেলায় টাকার বেলায় আমাদের বেশী টাকা দিতে হয়। জমিদার চাষ করিবার জন্য আমাদের উপযুক্ত পরিমাণ জমি দেন না, ফুল দেন না, রাস্তা যদি আমরা চাই তাহা হইলে বলা হয়—বাঙ্গালী ভাটিয়ার আবার রাস্তার কি দরকার? সেহেজনা রাস্তা

দেওয়া হয় না। আমাদের ফুল না দেওয়ার আনন্টা কারণ এই যে অনেকের ধারণা বাঙ্গালী মুসলমান এরা যদি নিখাপড়া শিখে তবে ভবিষ্যতে মানুষ হইবে, কারণ এরা ত কানিখোনা। এই যে অসংখ্য বাঙ্গালী মুসলমান—যাদের লাইনের প্রাণীরের তিতর জ্বলে অবনত রাগ হইয়াছে—এরা লেখাপড়া শিখিবে এই লাইন ভাঙ্গিয়া বাহির হইয়া যাইবে। এই হইতেছে তাহাদের ধারণা। এই জন্য আমাদের ছলে মেয়াদের বিক্ষার জা ফুল দেওয়া হয় না। এখন আমরা খাজনা দিয়া যদি এই দেশের প্রজা হইয়া থাকিয়া সমস্ত সুযোগ সুবিধা না পাই তাহা হইলে আমি বলিতে চাই গভর্ণমেন্ট হইতে আমাদের জন্য একটা পৃথক ব্যবস্থা করা হউক। বাঙ্গালীর শিক্ষা, দোক, ভাষা, ছাট, বাজার বাহি আদালত, ফুল, গাঙ্গ, ডাক্তারখানা ও চাকুরী এমন কি সমস্তই পৃথক করিয়া দেওয়া হউক। এমন ক্ষেত্রে সমস্ত বিষয়েই লাইন করিয়া তাহার ভিতরে রাখার কথা গভর্ণমেন্টকে বল, কি যাইতে পারে না? কারণ আমরাও গভর্ণমেন্টেরই প্রজা। যেট কথা এই বুটশ গভর্ণমেন্টের শাসনাধানে বাহাতে যথার্থ বিবেচনা মানুষ হিসাবে প্রজা হিসাবে আমরা সমান সুযোগ, সুবিধা ও অধিকার পাই যেটা গভর্ণমেন্টের কথা উচিত। কারণ এই আমাদের আমাদের চেয়ে পিছনে পড়িয়া থাকা অন্তত লক্ষ্যদায় আর একটা নাই। এই হইল আমার কথা।

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA: I listened with rapt attention to the budget speech of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister and had the privilege of reading his speech supplied to us. The budget proposals and the estimates placed before us are most disappointing. It is surely more disappointing than the budget speech of the last year. We are glad to find that the Hon'ble Finance Minister agreed with us in what we stated last year that the revenue is decreasing. The land revenue collections have been shown to be decreasing not only on account of remissions but also on account of economic depression. It is superfluous to say that remission depended on economic conditions of the people. But reading through the lines of the Finance Minister's speech, it will appear that the present remission has not been sufficient to remove the prevailing distress of the *raiya*s. In this connection I desire to repeat what I have stated at the time of my speech on the Government resolution on reduction of land revenue, that the distinction made by the Government between the rich and the poor by fixing an arbitrary standard has not attained the desired object. On personal enquiry we have been able to ascertain that it is the rich people who have a number of *pattas* below Rs.12, while the poorer section, particularly those living in the backward areas have only one *patta* above Rs. 12. The measures, therefore, instead of bringing relief to the poor is giving more relief to the rich. I, therefore, think that if the Government is really anxious to give relief to the poor it should have given all round reduction of 33 per cent. to all, if not 50 per cent. as we proposed. In this connection I should not forget to mention the case of the *Nisfkhiraj* estates. Much was sought to be made out during my land revenue reduction resolution about the solvent condition of the *Nisfkhirajdars*. It struck me as rather singular that a Revenue Minister belonging to Assam Valley could think in those lines. It does not probably require any elucidation that these *Nisfkhirajdars* had to live on small income from rents paid by the tenants after paying the Government revenue.

The remission now given by the Government to the *Khirajdars* have brought about such feelings among the tenants of the *Nisf-khiraj* estates that they must naturally obtain the same reduction of rents as the brother tenants of *Khirajdars*. In many places these *Nisf-khirajdars* can seldom realise their rents on account of the prevalence of this feeling. The position of the *Nisf-khirajdar* has, therefore, been very deplorable. It is, therefore, only meet and proper that there should be reduction of land revenue in the *Nisf-khiraj* estates also in same proportion as in the *Khiraj* estates. The condition which is now put in the *Khiraj pattas* to the effect that the benefit of reduction is available only to those who give similar reduction to their under-tenants also may be made applicable to the *Nisf-khiraj pattas* as well. The Hon'ble the Revenue Minister must have received numerous representations from *Nisf-khirajdars* and their under-tenants detailing their grievances. It is a pity that the Government should not pay any heed to them. The conditions of the under-tenants in the *Nisf-khiraj* estates is the worst possible imaginable and we do not see how the Ministry can shut their eyes to these conditions.

I think also, Sir, it is now time that the Government should seriously consider whether they should maintain the present system of revenue collections through *Mauzadars*. The experiment of replacing the *Mauzadari* system by the *Tahsildari* system has been tried in more places than one and it has been clearly demonstrated that the latter is not only less expensive but also a more efficient method of collection.

It has been found that *Mauzadari* system has ruined many ancient and rich families. It is also responsible for creating a body of persons who by virtue of their office cannot discharge their duties efficiently either towards the Government or to the public. Besides in these days when the Government is run in the lines of party politics, maintenance of a body of persons who are neither fully Government servants nor fully people's representatives is a grave anomaly and should in our opinion discontinue. Most of the present *Mauzadars* can well carry out the duties of *Tahsildars* and it would not require Government any expense or trouble in converting them into *Tahsildars*.

In talking about revenue matter I cannot pass without referring to the difficulties the *raiya*s feel according to present arrangement for payment of *kists*. It will be seen that due dates for payment of *kists* fall at a time when the *raiya*s cannot get proper price for their crops. The result is that they have to undersell their produce and thus pecuniary conditions get worse.

These, Sir, are very small matters and can very well be done by any Government having the least imagination in them. But what we find in the present Ministry is complete want of any thought for the good of the people. They are so much busy in putting their house in order that the claims of the unfortunate *raiya*s are lost sight of.

I desire to speak a few words in reference to management of Public Works Department. I am not one of those critics who would call this Public Works Department a Public Waste Department. (Laughter.) But there are so many things that may be done to curtail expenditure of the Department specially in reference to supervision and control that the Department should rightly come up for adverse criticism. Although it is a Department which is completely provincial in its nature, we are maintaining a staff of very highly paid officers at the top. Some of these officers at the top can surely be abolished. I expect that the Retrenchment Committee will deal with the matter adequately. What we desire to point out is that it is now time that these duties of supervision and control should be entrusted to our Provincial Service men. We have to-day a number of B. Es. and we expect many more joining the service. We do not see any reason why these officers

in the provincial grades should not be able to manage the administration of the Public Works Department as efficiently as the present India Service officers. The best way to train our Provincial Service men would be to put them in charge of subdivisions and gradually to promote them to hold charge of the districts and giving at the same time facilities for developing the power of control and supervision in young members in the Provincial Service.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member has got only three minutes more.

Srijut SIDDHI NATH SARMA: As regards the application of the fund we consider that time is come for this department to relieve Local Bodies as much as possible of the responsibility of maintaining roads and bridges, particularly all roads that run through some length through more than one subdivision should be taken up by the Public Works Department. We all feel, Sir, that the burden that is placed on the Boards with only the local rates and a small grant from Government for general purposes, communication and education is more than these Bodies can bear. The tax-payers invariably question what is being done with the land revenue and the other taxes they pay. If any Government want to justify itself it must show that it can divert a fair portion of the Provincial revenue towards all kinds of nation-building departments including maintenance of roads, bridges, etc.

Sir, we have been struck by the plain manner the Hon'ble Finance Minister has wanted to dispose of all claims for better treatment of the Local Bodies. It does not require much argument to show that these Local Bodies are starving for want of funds and that they have not been able to finance their projects for water-supply, village road, village sanitation and the like. In the matter of primary education also it is well-known that hundreds of venture schools are waiting recognition. The present Government wants to remove illiteracy by providing only Rs. 12,000 for primary education out of which only Rs. 5,000 will be spent in backward localities. Is it to be repeatedly pointed out that thousands are dying for want of good drinking water and proper medical aid, and what this Ministry is doing? And yet this Ministry had not the push in it to spend money that was specifically granted to this Government by the Central Government for rural uplift. A greater condemnation cannot be better deserved by this Government of their callousness and indifference in this matter. Plans and projects are submitted by us for supply of ring wells and construction of the village roads and yet the money instead of being spent over those projects have been assimilated in the Provincial revenues and in incurring expenditure in other matters. This to my mind is a clear breach of trust.

Srijut KRISHNA NATH SARMAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Budget as presented before us is framed by the old defunct Cabinet. The new Cabinet is a mixture of the old and new personnel with change of portfolios, but there is no corresponding change of the policy and programme as generally follows with the change of Ministry. The last Ministry had widely advertised about prohibition and expansion of primary education. The new Cabinet has not as yet announced any such advertisement.

Now from the figures we find that the year 1936-37 ended with a deficit of Rs. 30 lakhs and 65 thousand. The entire revenue of the province comes to about Rs. 2 crores 64 lakhs and 92 thousand. Our main sources of income are land revenue, excise, stamps, orests, customs, salt, registration, receipts under the Motor Vehicles Act, amounting to 2 crores 9 lakhs and 73 thousand. Receipts from the Civil administration are 13 lakhs and 92 thousand and from Civil Works 8 lakhs and 27 thousand and from

Miscellaneous 1 lakh and 77 thousand. Thus the total receipts from the revenue head amount to 2 crores 61 lakhs and 24 thousand, the total expenditure being 2 crores 68 lakhs and 86 thousand. Thus there is a deficit of 4 lakhs 46 thousand. The amount of Rs. 2 lakhs and 64 thousand earmarked for rural uplift are still carried over to the opening balance and thus the actual deficit must be more than this amount.

Coming to Land Revenue, I beg to submit that from the figures in the annual report of 1936-37 we find that from the temporarily-settled estates we receive an amount of 98 lakhs 21 thousand. The total area of temporarily-settled estates is 42½ lakhs acres excluding of course areas having three anna remission and enjoying local rates. Whereas the permanently-settled estates amount to 39½ lakhs acres with a revenue of 3 lakhs 70 thousand. Thus we see that the temporarily-settled estates pay about 20 times more revenue than the permanently-settled estates.

So far as the temporarily-settled estates are concerned, we have no system of land laws. The old rusty Revenue Regulation is all that we possess. It is always being revised by correction slips. Resettlement rules are arbitrary and our people have no right to stop the periodical enhancement of revenue. The history of our resettlement operations is a history of increased revenue without rhyme and reason inasmuch as the pressure on land leased out for ordinary cultivation has increased from Re. 1 to Rs. 8 per acre; whereas lands under the permanently-settled estates or lands leased out for special cultivation pay on an average from four annas to Re. 1 per acre. In very resettlement, land is re-classified to higher class for the purpose of increased assessment, the theory being, less the yield per acre the better is the class and more is the burden. So, Sir, due to this enhancement of revenue the people have become helpless and ordinary cultivation is being carried on at a loss. I have calculated the loss to be about six rupees per *bigha*. So there is no hope for expansion of revenue from ordinary cultivation. If the entire land available for settlement is settled at once even then it is not possible to have a larger amount of revenue because we find that ordinary cultivation has been carried on at a loss and the people will not be able to pay revenue. There will be outstanding.

Next in importance to ordinary cultivation is our plough cattle. Sir, a Live-stock Department has been created and this Live-stock Department has been carrying on operations which are detrimental to the growth of the cattle population. There has been indiscriminate castration of breeding bulls so much so that in a single year more than 28 thousand weedy bulls were castrated and in their place only 115 bulls were replaced. This Department has not taken up the problem of fodder plantation. There are grazing grounds which are barren and devoid of grass. We have cattle worth 4 crores. Every one crore of people possess cattle worth about 4 crores. The Live-stock Department has been created, but there is no question of fodder plantation.

The most important department of the Province is the Excise Department. It appears that in spite of the policy of Government to prohibit opium altogether they are still clinging to the excise revenue. Like a spider they have been entrapped in their own nets. Every year new passes are granted to new consumers and thereby bringing in misery to our people. Within this period of declared policy, about 20 thousand people were granted new passes. In spite of the Hon'ble Minister's advertisement towards total prohibition campaign we have seen an increase of excise revenue of 1 lakh 3 thousand for the year 1937-38. It is stated that this increase is due partly to the campaign against illicit distillation, and partly due to the gradual improvement of the economic condition. What is the campaign

against illicit distillation is really a method to drive all the labour force to the liquor shop, and empty their tiny purse on liquor alone. If it is really the intention of the Government to make them total abstainers they would have at first abolished the liquor shops and then carry on an intensive campaign against illicit distillation. This is not their object. They put on a net before these poor labourers and drive all the people to the liquor shops. Country liquor is not a good substitute for home made liquor. In place of every liquor shop if you provide cheap healthy refreshment rooms reading and entertainment clubs, well organised play grounds, prohibition picture through magic lantern on special occasions and spend a lakh or two out of the liquor revenue of 18 lakhs realised from them, it would have been a good argument against your campaign against total prohibition. Opium also follows the same course. Under a plea of smuggling, new passes are granted. Under financial difficulties the campaign is misdirected. Smuggling will be there; you cannot prevent it when your own agents are smugglers. If you place some sweets on your table ants will surround; by killing the ants from time to time, you cannot prevent their flow but as soon as you remove the sweets, the trouble is over. Smugglers approach only the opium addicts. There is smuggling round about opium shops and opium eaters. There is no smuggling in Sylhet, Garo and Lushai Hills. When there will be no opium eaters and no opium shops, smuggling will automatically cease. Regarding rewards to officers and outsiders for detection of smuggling I quote only the speech delivered by a staunch loyalist in the old Council, I mean late Rai Bahadur Nagendra Nath Chaudhuri "this sort of system of inducing people to come forward to put in his enemy's house a few ounces of opium or some *chattuks* of *ganja* and then catch and hand over to the Excise staff, that always happens and I think out of a hundred, ninety cases are like this." This is the policy of the Government that they set apart some for rewards. Rewards is an inducement, illegal inducement and it has a demoralising effect. This practice should be abandoned and if it induces my friend to withdraw his motion, I will stick to it. And I am firm in my conviction that money is utilised for bribing and inducing people to fabricate evidence for the Excise Department. The strange part of the story is the same game being played year after year in the name of eradication of this poison. Regarding opium policy, the Excise Department wants to mislead the people by figures. They say that the number of addicts have come down from 86,000 to 41,000 and consumption from 1,000 maunds, to 200 maunds. Had they not granted during the period about 20,000 new passes, the consumption would have been nil by this time.

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: May I ask the hon. member? When did the Government grant 20,000 passes?

Srijut KRISHNA NATH SARMAH: 20,000 passes have been granted during the last 10 years. If they would have supplied the addicts with opium in pills and closed the opium shops, smuggling would have stopped by this time.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member has got only two minutes more.

Srijut KRISHNA NATH SARMAH: I will finish it, Sir. This policy has silenced the temperance movement and the total prohibition has become a distant dream. The announcement of withdrawing all passes of addicts below 50 years of age by the next April is a wise step. At the same time place all the addicts above 50 years in hospitals, and declare opium as a dangerous drug and then the opium habit must be wiped out at once. This will restore the Ministry into public confidence. When

Madras has been able to sacrifice twenty-six lakhs of rupees as liquor revenue from one district alone and have been able to run the administration efficiently. We can very well wipe out ten lakhs of opium revenue during this current year and make out the loss by retrenchment and if necessary by floating a loan in the open market. Our reverend Minister, namely, Hon'ble Nichols-Roy has failed to bring a new lite. A pious Muhammadan is being replaced for a devout Christian. The new Cabinet must place a scheme for total prohibition.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. member has almost exceeded his time limit.

Srijut KRISHNA NATH SARMAH: Of the capital expenditure less said is the better. Major portion of the income may be called a deadstock. They are being gradually converted into buildings, bridges, etc., and their value will depreciate from year after year. If you have deposits in bank, earmarked for special purposes, you cannot invest them for other purposes. Even if you have the courage to withdraw, you must be able to restore them immediately when wanted. What is wanted is a sure flow of money on revenue account. We must be in a position to run the administration upon our revenue receipts alone. We must not depend upon loan or sudden windfall. It is, therefore, high time to direct our attention towards retrenchment and other sources of revenue not touching the pockets of the poor. The main assets of the State are (1) people, (2) cattle and (3) forest. The whole people is demilitarised; a large section of the peasants and workers are being poisoned by opium, ganja and liquor. Peasants and workers are indebted to the extent of about 44 crores of rupees, yet these people have paid annually about ninety lakhs as land revenue, thirty-five lakhs as excise revenue and the major portion of the stamp revenue and their support is the foundation of the Government and their ruin means the ruin of the Government. It is, therefore, in the fitness of things that the present Government must see that the condition of the people is improved from the state in which we find to-day. It is not the duty of the Ministers to save their skins by big advertisements (laughter) and putting up signboards here and there.

Babu SHIBENDRA CHANDRA BISWAS: Sir, the budget for the year 1938-39 has been presented to this House. Comparing the present budget with that of the last year, I find that there is no appreciable improvement in any direction.

The first thing which meets our eyes is that provision has been made for the Commissioners' establishment which was abolished by this House. There is a note in the budget that His Excellency the Governor has exercised his special power in this matter. But, Sir, all the hon. members of the House know that none of the Hon'ble Ministers moved in this House for the restoration of the particular grant in the last session. Moreover the Hon'ble Chief Minister announced on the floor of this House that he was not associated with it.

Sir, as regards communication, the constituency from which I have been returned is much neglected. I had to point out at the time of the last budget session that even in the first and last part of rainy season the people of North Habiganj cannot reach the Habiganj town by boat as the portion of the Barak river where the Khowai meets has been blocked up. Unfortunately there has not been any redress yet and the people of Nabiganj, Ajmiriganj and Baniachong have to labour under great disadvantage.

Sir, in the dry season also the people of these localities have to suffer much. There is no pucca bridge or semi-permanent bridge in the North Habiganj. The motor services have been opened for dry season for these localities and the motors run through bamboo bridges and the passengers have to go down again and again while passing these bridges and thereby put to great trouble.

Sir, in conclusion, I should like to bring to the notice of the House that in Habiganj subdivision the rural agriculturists are heavily in debt. The execution of decrees by Mahajans is going on in rapid speed there. Prevention of the execution of decrees for some years is absolutely necessary for saving the poor agriculturist debtors.

The establishment of Debt Conciliation Board in Habiganj subdivision is also urgently required.

Srijut KAMESWAR DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to make a few observations on the general financial position of the province as disclosed by the budget before the House, but before doing that I would like to make one or two references of a different nature. During the last budget session I made a suggestion that copies of the budget estimate should be sent to the hon. members well ahead in time so as to enable them to go through the figures before the session actually commences. I suggested a month's time for that purpose, but I am sorry the hon. members have not even 15 days' time to go through the budget, as in the previous occasion. Expression of regret by the Hon'ble Finance Minister is of no practical help to the hon. members.

Last time I also suggested that figures for 3 years' actuals in place of one year's figures in the estimates would greatly help the hon. members to come to a conclusion more quickly. The figures are already before Government and their addition in the estimates would not cost Government anything extra. Though in the Memorandum there appear figures for 3 years' actuals in certain places, the uniformity has not been kept throughout. I would like, therefore, that, in future, figures for actuals for 3 years be included both in the Detailed Estimates and Demands for grants and in the Memorandum.

My suggestion for a Standing Finance Committee consisting of elected members of this House to help and advise Government in framing the budget has also remained unheeded. I think this is a matter of great importance so far as this hon. House is concerned and it is time that Government will take a note of this suggestion.

Sir, I will now say a few words on the general state of the provincial finances. We are in the era of a very considerable disturbance in our accepted standards both of revenue and expenditure. The financial position of the country, taken as a whole, far from being sound and strong, appears to be shaky. It is all the more necessary, therefore, that there should be a careful and comprehensive examination of the whole position. On the one side, the opium revenue is bound to be soon extinguished; on the other side, heavy and continuously increasing additions will be necessary to the expenditure on services like education, sanitation, etc. There are, moreover, the following outstanding features of the position. A top-heavy administration, much too costly for our resources, and a scheme of taxation, which, though it appears not so heavy as in other countries, presses much more heavily on the poorer than on the middle and the upper classes. Assam is a very poor country and the largest revenues that can possibly be raised must be small, judged by the standards of other advanced countries. The question, therefore, as how to adjust the revenue of the province to its growing requirements in certain directions is one of prime importance. The

questions that require specially to be considered are how to readjust the old taxation so that its incidence should press less severely on the poorest classes of the country; how to widen, if necessary, the present basis of taxation so that more money may be found for education, sanitation and similar services; in what directions expenditure must be brought down and in what directions expenditure must be increased. We want enquiry into these things *early* so that the future may be shaped in accordance therewith and a definite policy laid down. The possibility of raising revenue from certain sources, which at present yield nothing, must also be publicly examined. There is the question of reducing the demand on lands, specially the temporarily settled lands. There is also the question as to how larger recurring grants for local bodies may be provided so that they should be better able to perform their duties satisfactorily than at present. Suggestions are thrown out in certain quarters that agricultural incomes above a certain minimum may be made liable to pay a sort of tax. It is, therefore, imperative that a speedy and effective enquiry should be made. One important reason why such an enquiry is immediately necessary is the extreme rapidity with which the personnel of the Government changes in this province. A Finance Minister or, as a matter of fact, any other Minister or Member of the Government, takes some time to make himself acquainted with the problems of his department or the state of things in the country and by the time he is in a position to handle important questions well, he is either thrown out, or the time comes for him to think of leaving. The practical effect is that every such successor in the Government has to begin not where his predecessor ended but his predecessor also began. It is therefore urged that the whole financial position of the province be carefully examined *at an early date* and a large settled policy clearly laid down.

The reasons put forward by the Hon'ble Finance Minister as to why the Committee on Resources and Retrenchment have not been able to finish their labours before now are not convincing. It seems the Hon'ble Finance Minister being the President of the Committee and also the Head of the Government is primarily responsible for this delay. From a study of events of the current year it appears that the Government have been deliberately pursuing a definite policy of delaying tactics for fear of incurring displeasure of this party or that party in the House or this class or that class outside. It is a dangerous policy for a progressive and popular Government to follow and the Government should take a note of warning from now.

Sir, the financial statement made yesterday by the Hon'ble Finance Minister reveals the nervousness under which the Government has been labouring. It has tried to recount the minor achievements made by it with an air to give it a major appearance. What is more strange is that it has tried to include in the list of such achievements works which have been done by the local bodies and other outside associations or individual independently. Worse still, it has tried to take the credit for certain works done by the previous Governments also. Sanctioning one or two more scholarships for general study without adequate provision for expansion of primary and secondary education, for scientific, industrial and technical education, holding out promises of benevolent actions like "wiping out opium habits" "establishment of a university," "encouragement of improvements of rural areas" without any practical gesture and provisions in the budget, making provisions in the budget for apparent uplift schemes but not spending the amount during the period of its provision and such other things, will not keep the whole province hoodwinked for long. From April next the Ministry proposes to cancel passes of a certain class of consumers of opium in the plains district. But from a reference to page 12 of the Estimate we

find the cost price of opium for 1933-39 to be Rs 1,43,640, whereas the same figure from the Revised Estimate of 1937-38 is found to be Rs.1,60,900. The reduction is barely 10 per cent. Where then is the determination to wipe out the opium habit? Hope has been held out that the question of having an examining University for Assam is engaging the consideration of the Government and that Assam will have such a university in the near future. But when we see that no steps are being taken by the Government in this direction and no provision whatsoever has been made in the budget towards that end, we cannot but think that this statement of the Hon'ble Finance Minister is meant only to rouse the sympathy of the Hon'ble Members towards the Ministry and has no bearing on the general statement of the budget.

Adjournment

The Assembly then adjourned for lunch till 2 p.m.

After adjournment

The Assembly re-assembled after lunch at 2 p.m., with the Deputy Speaker in the Chair.

Maulavi ABDUL BARI CHAUDHURY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are really perturbed in going through the budget estimates for the year 1938-39. The fat volume of the budget does not reveal any new policy or aspect to rejoice over. It is the same old and hackneyed budget without the mark of the new spirit of provincial autonomy. Frankly speaking, it does not inspire us with any amount of hope.

The Government have not cared to undertake the rural reconstruction work on a gigantic scale,—no provision has been made for the spread of compulsory primary education,—no extra sum has been assigned for the utility programme,—no arrangement has been made for enforcing prohibition in any part of the province,—still we are faced with a deficit—and a substantial deficit.

It is really strange that the Resources and Retrenchment Committee was not summoned to sit and finish its labour before the budget could be prepared for the coming year. It could provide us with means for wiping out this deficit and for allotting bigger sums for the nation-building departments. Either the Government is not zealous about augmenting the resources of the province or they are feeling shy in retrenching the services. A gradual salary cut should at once be introduced for providing funds to meet the crying needs and demands of the people.

Sir, we are really perplexed that provision has again been made for the establishment of the Commissioners. The House refused this demand for grant by a very large majority. It is really strange that the Government could not concede to and respect the unmistakable verdict of the House. I am sure the House will now again reject this demand for grant at the earliest opportunity.

Sir, the condition of the poor agriculturists has gone from bad to worse. The Government did not initiate any healthy legislation for saving them from ruin. They did not deviate from the beaten track of their old policies to improve the lot of the poor people. The Departments of Agriculture and Industries did practically nothing during the last ten months in this direction. No genuine efforts have been made for combating the disease and poverty of the masses. No comprehensive scheme has been made for solving the problem of middle-class unemployment.

Sir, if the budget is poor, the estimates for education are poor. A small sum of Rs.12,000 only has been provided in the new schemes for subsidising venture primary schools in the coming year. Leaving aside the sum of Rs.5,000 set apart for the backward people, a sum of Rs.7,000 only will be available to be placed at the disposal of the Local Boards of this purpose. This poor dole will not be even sufficient for giving grants-in-aid to one venture school per constituency we represent. Given at this rate, all the venture schools existing at present in the province will not be taken up within the next 25 years. It is really deplorable that while other provinces are striving to enforce compulsory primary education, we are not even able to provide grants to our venture schools.

The administrative machinery of the country requires thorough overhauling. The unnecessary prize-posts must be abolished, and the savings made thereby must be utilised in making the much-needed reforms.

The lot of the poor primary school teacher has been the subject matter of much discussion on the floor of this House. A few years back a resolution was also passed by the Assam Legislative Council for the purpose. But the Government did not care to give effect to it. A lower primary school teacher earns less than a menial of the Assam Secretariat. Funds must be provided and placed at the disposal of the Local and Municipal Boards for an immediate increase in the pay of these school teachers.

Sir, during the last budget session the House censured the Government for not starting the Medical School at Sylhet. But in spite of that motion no provision has been made by Government for the purpose in the present budget. This again shows the reluctance of the Government to incur any new expenditure in the Surma Valley.

It is really an irony of fate, Sir, that while the buildings of the Sylhet Medical School are rotting in the cold shade of neglect, the Government is rushing through the scheme of the proposed High Court in Assam in hot haste. We are not convinced that financially it will be a profitable proposition for the Province. It will ultimately make heavy inroads on our revenues. We agree no doubt that a High Court is an integral part of our autonomous province, but it can wait till we can improve our finances.

The economic condition of the poor agriculturists demands immediate attention. They are groaning under the heavy burden of accumulated debts. Provision must be made for relieving them of this burden, otherwise they will not be able to make a fresh start in life. The average debt of an agriculturist is something like Rs.500 per head, and that of a Muhammadan cultivator is about Rs.1,000 per head. The Government should immediately introduce, as indicated by the Finance Minister, a Moratorium Bill. This will go a great way in rebuilding the economic life of the Assam peasants.

The Sylhet Tenancy Act has been in operation for about a year. But it has given the poor *rai-yats* no real relief. The principle of *salami* and pre-emption has taken away by one hand the benefit that had been bestowed by another. We are really glad that the Hon'ble Revenue Minister has intimated his intention of introducing an amending Bill on the lines of the Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill of 1937.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD MAQBUL HUSSAIN CHAUDHURI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I appreciate the way in which the Hon'ble Finance Minister has compiled his budget speech, but I do not feel inclined to compliment him on the budget which he has presented to this House. It is a repetition of the old thing, and is neither encouraging, nor up to our expectations. Sir, there is a Persian proverb *Nishastand o guftand o barkhastand* (نشستند و گفتند و برخاستند) i.e., they sat down, had their say

and got up, and it has come to be true in our case—We sit, we talk and then go away with very little result for our people. Sir, I am purely a representative of the agriculturists, so I first look to the matters that concern the interests of the cultivators. To my utter disappointment, I find that not a single figure has been inserted in the budget for the improvement of the economic condition of the poor agriculturists. My constituency extends over 541 square miles the major portions of which remain under water for more than six months in the year. Save and except some of the zemindars, almost all the people are agriculturists. *Buro* paddy is the only crop of the people of the locality. Government are spending much for the expansion of *buro* cultivation in non-*buro* growing areas, but I am sorry to say that Government have not spent a single *cowri* for protecting the *buro* crops from damage of floods in my constituency, I mean the Sunamganj West Muhammadan Constituency. There are some big *khalas* and *nalas* and in the month of April, when the strong currents of floods coming in, the entire area goes under water and the crops that were ripe for harvest are damaged. This is the case almost every year. The people of the locality applied to the Government and I myself tried to draw the attention of Government last year through interpellations, but to my utter disappointment I found the Government to be a hard nut to crack. There is a *haor* called the "Sanirhaor". There are thousands of acres of land and the whole land is *buro* growing land. The major portion of this *haor* remains water-logged till February creating difficulties for the cultivators for transplanting. An outlet for drainage is a pressing necessity there.

Sir, Government are spending a lot of money in the name of improvement of agriculture. But practically they have achieved nothing towards the improvement of the economic condition of the people beyond maintaining some officers. My humble suggestion to the Government is that an agricultural survey be made without delay and adequate provision be made for drainage and embankments where necessary, in order to improve the economic condition of the masses. Maintenance of officers whose main duty is travelling only would do no real benefit to the people.

Co-operative societies were meant for the improvement of the agriculturists; but if we go to villages where there are co-operative societies we find that the societies have brought more misery to the unlettered people than those brought by the individual *mahajans*. I am glad that this state of things has not escaped the notice of the Hon'ble the Finance Minister.

In my budget speech last year I said that there was a colossal waste of public money in the maintenance of cattle farms by the Government. My opinion on the matter is yet unchanged. I suggest the abolition of these farms and spending the money allotted for the farms for the economic improvement of the masses. These farms are practically doing no benefit to the people. To my mind model village schemes are nothing but luxury. Money allotted for the purpose could be better utilised in ameliorating the conditions of the agriculturists.

I now, turn to the department of Forests. It is a revenue yielding department but the operation of the forest law is nothing but oppressive. If you Sir, go to the villages, thousands of people will come to you with complaints against the officers of the department. Corruption is no secret in this department (*shame*) and many officers exact money from the people in an oppressive manner. Complaints against officers are of no avail because high officials, it is alleged, are also not free from corruption (*shame, shame*). In some places Government place an officer drawing Rs.16 to Rs.30 a month in charge of offices and these officers openly exact money from the cultivators. I found different officers explaining forest laws in different ways and

exacting money right and left from the people. If a police officer sends up a man for trial, he is to prove that the accused is guilty. But in cases brought under forest law, whenever a man is sent up for trial he is guilty and it is the accused who is to prove that he is not guilty. I received complaints from people who are subjected to *zulum* for felling trees even from their own compounds. I suggest an enquiry into the forest *zulum* and a thorough revision of forest laws.

So far as the expansion of primary education is concerned Government contribution is unsatisfactory this year. Demand for more schools is increasing daily but the provision is decreasing. It is certainly not advancing the cause of education. We thought that the Government would give us some light about bringing the Compulsory Primary Education Act of 1926 into operation. But we were disappointed to see that the Hon'ble the Chief Minister has made no mention of it in his budget speech. Rs.12,000 allotted for the expansion of primary education is nothing but a drop in the ocean.

So far as communication is concerned, Sir, my constituency remains in the twelfth century yet. Want of road facilities in these days of twentieth century, forest and zemindary *zulum* in my constituency prove that we do not live, as if, within the British Empire.

Sir, I have recently travelled a considerable portion of my constituency as well as large portions of the Surma Valley and the Assam Valley. Whenever I went, I found the want of drinking water. It is regrettable that the provision in the budget in order to remove this want is inadequate.

Sir, I now like to say a few words about the Government Press in Shillong. The employees of this Press, I am told, are subject to some sort of *zulum*. The Superintendent, it is alleged, sometimes suspends and dismisses employees right and left. It was found that his decisions were wrong in some cases and Government reinstated some of the employees so far. His treatment towards the employees, I am told, are also not as they ought to be. This is certainly not a satisfactory state of affairs. I bring this fact to the notice of Government so that they may remove these grievances of the employees.

The budget this year is lacking in constructive schemes. My idea is that Government should draw up such schemes that may bring all the children of the country into the pale of education. They should establish dispensaries at such distance, that all patients may get medicine when they require. They should construct roads in such a way that all the villages be connected some way or other with the subdivisional towns. They should make such provisions for canals and embankments, that agriculturists can be benefited. Only such a budget which is not lacking in constructive schemes like these is hopeful and encouraging. With these words, Sir, I beg to conclude my speech.

Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA:—Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a chorus of condemnation has preceded me in discussing the budget for 1938-39 and I must confess at the beginning that I do not prove an exception to it.

The Retrenchment Committee which came into existence, sat only for 10 days and the labours have not yet been completed while we find in some other Congress provinces that they have tackled the problem to the best of their abilities and have retrenched a considerable sum which will be utilised for the nation-building departments in those provinces. We find that the sum which has been budgeted last year for the Commissioners' staff was refused by the verdict of this House, but we are surprised to see that it was sanctioned—a sum not inconsiderable, it is almost about Rs.78,000, and the

same figure has been found to be put in this year's budget. We also find that the Ministry was opposed to the sanctioning of that amount and on that issue, I think, the Ministry responsible to the people would have resigned. But we find that they have been sticking to their office for the mere love of it and not serving the people's will nor they are submitting to the verdict of the House. Sir, I will deal mainly with subjects of partially excluded areas and give full details of the anomalies of the Excise Department and also of the grazing reserves of my constituency.

Coming to the partially excluded areas we find that the Garo Hills, the Nowgong and Sibsagar Mikir Hills areas and the Khasi and Jaintia Hills areas excluding the municipal areas are included within the partially excluded areas. It must be said that the excluded areas do not form part of our discussion as it is a forbidden fruit of which we cannot have any taste save His Excellency the Governor and perhaps the Hon'ble Chief Minister. So I will mainly confine to the partially excluded areas of which we have representatives in this House.

Sir, referring to our own constituency we find that Barpathar and Sarupathar mauzas which are governed by Chin Hill Regulations contain about 20 thousands of people—a people whose kith and kin is spread over the whole of the province. They do not belong to any hill tribe, they belong particularly to the plains areas. These people, Sir, have been administered by the ordinary law till 1930 but with the advent of the colonisation scheme they have been deprived of this ordinary law and they are now administered by Chin Hill Regulations. We have been told that this matter is under the consideration of Government and the Hon'ble Chief Minister gave us hope that it was a question of months that these areas would be brought under the ordinary criminal law. But we find to our surprise and it is really very disheartening when we have heard yesterday that the matter has been referred to the higher authorities. Sir, we are still in the dark and we do not know when these people will be brought under the ordinary civil and criminal law. Partially excluded areas and excluded areas comprise about $\frac{1}{10}$ th of the total population of Assam and as such I think some consideration should be shown to these people at least of the partially excluded areas where we have a lot of educated people and a lot of tea gardens, where not only our own people reside but also a few Europeans. Sir, this question of the partially excluded areas should receive immediate consideration of the Government.

Next coming to the Excise Department, it has been said that opium passes of those below 50 years of age in the plains would be cancelled, but for the hills people the same policy does not apply. May I ask the Hon'ble Minister in charge whether opium acts less on the nerves of the hills people than on those of the people of the plains? Does it not lead to the same conclusion of differential treatment between the people of settled areas and those of partially excluded areas? If the Government is determined to eradicate the evil of opium it can do so in no time and should by no means allow more time to guide their policy but stop the same immediately under a suitable legislation and treat the addicts by other available means. Liquor prohibition is not attempted by our Government but blames that the trial in the Congress provinces is infructuous. If that is so why Madras is being emulated by other Congress provinces? There are to my mind certain defects in the administration of the Excise Department. The departmental trial should be replaced by judicial trial in all cases. The Excise settlement committees should be formed by non-business persons. The departmental trial deprives the Mahaldars from

giving evidence as of right. The procedure adds to the high-handedness of the Excise staff and helps in the corruption of the Department. Infliction of heavy punishment plus an order of forfeiture of deposit or debarment seems to be unreasonable, more particularly when they are not given any chance to adduce evidence. This practice ought to be stopped. There are instances of Mahaldars taking excise shops *benami* in collusion with the excise staff. A vigilant detective should be able to find out such culprits.

Mahaldars are generally warned for decrease in consumption, but the neighbouring mahaldars are not given defined boundaries beyond which they cannot sell liquor. Therefore each mahaldar should be given a defined boundary within which his liquor may reach; otherwise warning conveys no meaning.

Tenders should only be called for mahals which are likely to fall vacant and the tender fee should be lowered from Rs. 5.

Deposit is called for from the same person with whom the shop is resettled. This is undue harassment. Personal security is never accepted although allowed by rules. This should actually be adopted with tried mahaldars.

Instances are found when a shop is settled and allowed to be run for some time but set aside in appeal without any compensation being given to the person (for his heavy initial expenses) with whom the shop is first settled. It is seen that more than one shop is settled with persons of the same joint family thus depriving other unemployed children of the soil of other families. The practice wherever found should be stopped.

Next I come to the grazing reserves of the Ahotguri mauza. It is a pitiable sight to see persons whose lands have been eroded by the Brahmaputra and other rivers of this mauza and who have no lands for cultivation and whose homesteads stand in imminent danger of being eaten up by the mighty rivers. There are about 162 families of this nature and 145 households have no lands for cultivation at all. Representations have been made and questions have been put, but to no effect. The grazing reserves, *viz.*, Alami, Bakuli, Nakkati may be opened for these people. One Garmara Chapri has since been occupied by the people of Bangaligaon and there is no more cultivable lands. So these grazing reserves must be opened.

Coming to the Kazironga mauza of my constituency, there too it is a lamentable picture. The game reserve has been extended up to the brink of the Assam Trunk Road. A strip of mile parallel to the Trunk Road should be thrown open to the villagers or else it would be impossible for the villagers to live on owing to the devastation of crops and danger to life from wild beasts. Curiously enough the system of issuing passes for grazing of cattle in this reserve which obtained for a long time has been stopped, the result being that the villagers have to tether their cattle in their *bustibaris* as the grazing reserves are situated at a far distant place. Representations have been made and questions in the Assembly have been put, but the Government seems to have taken no action.

Lastly, Sir, *kala azar* has been spreading ruthlessly in the country side and the town of Golaghat. I would ask the Hon'ble Minister in charge to effectively combat this fell disease by opening more *kala azar* centres and providing extra medical hands.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I do not claim any knowledge of question of the budgetary matter; so I do not like to discuss it here. But I am sorry to note here that no provision has been made for education in Garo Hills. I find that small provision has been made for medical relief and this is also only a slight touch on the medical aid.

The hon. member who has just now spoken referred to conditions of partially excluded areas. I do not think, Sir, that hon. members of this House who represent plains constituencies feel much hardship which we people of partially excluded areas do. People who live in those areas experience the *zulm* of the administration. Just before leaving Tura I had a long discussion with the Deputy Commissioner at his Bungalow and also I have seen Mr. K. C. Dutt, the present Extra Assistant Commissioner. I consulted him and asked the Extra Assistant Commissioner's opinion about the criminal portion coming under the ordinary law. He was strongly in favour that the Indian Penal Code should be enforced into the Garo Hills. He said that the criminal cases in the Garo Hills should be reduced very much in a short time if the Indian Penal Code is enforced in the Garo Hills. But the Deputy Commissioner's view was otherwise. Sir, a memorial drafted by one Missionary, Rev. F. W. Harding, was submitted to His Excellency in Council in connection with the criminal cases in the Garo Hills coming under the High Court's jurisdiction and there was another meeting held by the Deputy Commissioner with Laskars in the Tura town hall on the 4th February. No Nokma was granted admission and even the members of the constituency were not allowed admission into that meeting. The subject matters of discussion in that meeting were the High Court question, the incest question and the punishment with *dai* or compensation for subsequent offences in adultery cases. The Deputy Commissioner told me at his bungalow that all the Laskars expressed unanimous opinion and were in agreement with him and I was quite disappointed to hear this. These are of course the reflection of the Deputy Commissioner's activities in opposition to the Reforms of any kind taking place in the Garo Hills.

Sir, the Laskari system in the Garo Hills is very oppressive. Laskarship is very costly. When a Laskar is elected he always practices some corruption and thus recovers the amount that he spent in securing the laskarship. In trials in the interior for petty cases, say a theft case of worth of about Rs. 5 or so only when a Laskar is approached for trial the result is very costly. The Laskar will go with his two Sarkars and four or five Sardars and several Nokmas and the poor man who suffer loss by the theft, will be put to tremendous expenses.

Sir, as regards the rules and regulations in the Garo Hills, I think, the Hon'ble House is aware that these rules were framed by His Excellency the Governor in Council by the 31st March, 1937. Here is one rule I am reading before the House for its consideration and needful action.

"Rule 22.—No appeal shall lie as a matter of right from any sentence passed by the Deputy Commissioner involving less than three years' imprisonment."

There is another rule Sir. Under Civil Justice Rule 35A which reads thus:—

"Rule 35A.—Any court before which an appeal is filed, may, before admitting the appeal, order the deposit by the appellant of all reasonable expenses (including pleader's fees) likely, in the opinion of the court, to be incurred by the respondent in the hearing of the appeal, or may order security to be given for such expenses and if the appellant be a judgment debtor may also order security to be given for part or the whole of the decretal amount. If the appeal fails the money deposited or secured shall immediately be paid to the respondent."

Sir, I do not mean to criticise the rules and regulations framed by the Government but my point is only to see whether the rule is for the good of the people and whether it is possible for the people to follow these rules. Such laws are nowhere in the plains or in India. My prayer before the House is only whether the rules can be amended or repealed. I present these facts before the House for consideration.

Then I come to the question of corruption. I have already said that there is corruption on the part of officers as well as on the part of office staff. Sir, if any Laskar or Sardar approaches the officer at his Bungalow about some case his children at once run to that Laskar or Sardar and cling to him as children do to their father. (laughter) These Laskars are illiterate people. They have no common sense even (laughter). They cannot tell what their reasonable age is. Some Laskars will be 70 years old but they will say that they are 15 years old only.

Mr. ARUN KUMAR CHANDA: The hon. member may also do the same.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: Now Sir, what sort of justice you can expect from such Bichar and administration. I have spoken to the Deputy Commissioner of the Garo Hills at length and suggested to him the translation into vernacular and for distribution of copies of these rules to each of them for their guidance but up till now the Laskars are functioning their duty according to their own whims. The Deputy Commissioner promised that he will send the rules and regulations to some educated people in the Tura station for translation and after the translation copies will be printed and distributed to Laskars but up to now nothing has yet been done. These Laskars are doing their duty without any guide. You know, Sir, even the learned Deputy Commissioners, Extra Assistant Commissioners and the Commissioners and the Judges consult law while they try cases but these Laskars are allowed to go without any guide or reference. So what sort of justice can we expect from this sort of administration?

My time is very short and I have to say something about education. As I said last time, there is no definite programme or scheme framed for education, communication, industry or agriculture in the Garo Hills. As regards education I had a long talk with the Deputy Commissioner. I went to his Bungalow several times. The proposal of the Deputy Commissioner is that some Garo Sub-Inspectors are absolutely necessary because there are too many primary schools in the district. I agreed with him. Another Sub-Inspector of Schools for the Goalpara subdivision is also necessary because there are many Garo primary schools in that subdivision, and there is no Garo knowing Inspector in Goalpara subdivision.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. member has got only two minutes more.

Mr. JOBANG D. MARAK: I will finish Sir, very soon.

The Deputy Commissioner admitted that the Bong Memorial Government Aided School should be taken over by Government. He also said that some qualified teachers should be transferred there. I did not make any opposition to that proposal.

As regards communication, you know Sir, that Garo Hills is outside the jurisdiction of the Public Works Department proper. Now we want that it should come under the Public Works Department proper as it was before. This department was taken over by Mr. Walker when he was Deputy Commissioner, into his control. He fought hard for it and at last brought the department under his control. Now we find, Sir, the work carried out by the Public Works Department officers is not satisfactory in the Garo Hills. So we want this Department to be taken

directly under the control of the Public Works Department proper. The Tura-Mankachar road is the most important which extends to Rowmari steamer ghat, through this road alone goods are supplied to the Tura Town. The temporary cart track from Mankachar to Rowmari is often obstructed by cultivators and sometimes the merchants are not allowed to run carts over that cart track and in consequence people of Mankachar and Tura and of other places suffer for want of supplies. So, the people have asked me to move this House, so that the authorities may see that a cart track is made from Mankachar to Rowmari. It will not cost much—some Rs.100 to Rs.150 or so only will be necessary to demarcate the cart track portion with bamboo sticks.

Regarding police, we want one Inspector of Police in the Garo Hills. I spoke on this last year. Regarding improvement of agriculture, industry and livestock, I have seen the Director of Agriculture, the Deputy Director of Agriculture, the Superintendent, Civil Veterinary Department and other officers, but I have not seen any high officer of the Education Department at Tura up to now. (A voice from the Congress group—where is Mr. Shaw now (laughter).

Sir, the hon. members know where he is now. The Director of Agriculture and the Deputy Director of Agriculture advised me to move Government to give us at least two more Demonstrators and one Inspector of Agriculture or one Instructor. They also suggested to me to see Mr. Mehta, the Director of Industries, and request him to depute some one to enquire into the matter of industries in the Garo Hills. About the livestock, Sir, Assam is a more promising country than Bihar and Orissa and the Garo Hills is still more so. But the people of the Garo Hills are purchasing cattle from the plains. I have been enquiring of the Director of Agriculture about the possibility of improving the livestock and he says that we should breed cattle (loud laughter from all sides). I saw the Hon'ble Minister on this matter and asked him to help us in cattle breeding in the Garo Hills. (laughter from all sides).

There are many more things to speak about, but we have not been given more time to express our grievances. (Laughter)

Srijut MAHADEV SARMA: সভাপতি ডাক্তারীয়া, আইনৰ অলম্বণীয় বিধান মান্য কৰি গতানুগতিক হলেও অহা বছৰ বাজেট আমাৰ আগত দাঙ্গি ধৰিছে। এই বাজেটত অহা বছৰ আনুমানিক আয় অথচ নিৰূপিত ব্যয়ৰ যোগ বিয়োগ চিনেৰে যি কপ গ্ৰহণ কৰি আমাৰ আগত উপস্থিত হৈছে তাত আমি অলপো অনন্দিত হব পৰা নাই। আমি ভাবি চাব লাগে মানুহে জগতত আনন্দ লাভ কৰে কি কি উপায়ে? আন যি কি নহওক এইটো সফলোৰে জনাজাত কথা যে মানুহে ভবিষ্যৎ আশা দেখিলে উৎফুল্ল নহৈ নোৱাৰে। অভিনব বা নতুনত্বয়ো মানুহক আনন্দ দিয়ে। আমি মৰ্ত্য জগতত আশাৰ কীন বেথা টেনেই জায়াই থাকোঁ; এনেকি অপৰিহাৰ্য্য সৃষ্টিকো পাহৰোঁ। কিন্তু এই বাজেটে আমাৰ আগত ভবিষ্যৎ কিবা আশাৰ কথা দাঙ্গি ধৰিছেনে? ইয়াৰ ভিতৰেদি ভবিষ্যৎ কোনো আশাৰ আলোক বেথা বা নতুনত্ব প্ৰকাশ পাইছেনে? গতিকেই আমি ভাবিবলৈ বাধ্য যে এই বাজেট প্ৰকৃততে অশাস্তাভিক। এনে অশাস্তাভিকতাবে, ভবিষ্যৎ কোনো আশাৰ কাণ পোহৰৰ পৰ্য্যন্ত আশ্ৰয় নোলোৱাকৈ আমাৰ বৰ্তমান মৰ্ত্য-মণ্ডলী কেনেকৈ জায়াই থাকিব খুজিছে আমি বুজিব পৰা নাই। সিবিলাকে কি আশা

গৈ এই গৱৰ্ণমেন্টে চলাব বুলিছে কোনেই ইয়াৰ স্থায়িত্ব আশা কৰিব নোৱাৰোঁ !
আনকালে এই বাজেটত আম নিবানন্দ থৈয় লাগে নাই। কাৰণ এইটো জনতাৰ
কথাৰে বৰ্তমান আইনৰ বিধানৰে ভিত্তি গৱৰ্ণমেন্টে বি কোনো প্ৰদেশৰ অধিকাংশ সভাৰ
সমৰ্থন মতেই গঠিত হয়। আনকালে সভাৰ দাবা অনুমোদিত নহলে সেই গৱৰ্ণমেন্ট
ভিত্তি নোহোৱে। গতিকে আমি নিবানন্দ হলেও এই বাজেট থাকিব। এইটো কথা
কথাৰে বৰ্তমান আইনৰ বিধানৰে ভিত্তি গৱৰ্ণমেন্টে বি কাৰ্য্যপদ্ধতি এই বাজেটৰ
ভিত্তিৰ প্ৰকাশ পাইছে তাত নতুনকৈ নাই, আন্তৰিকতাও নাই। ইয়াত প্ৰজা
সাধাৰণৰ সুখ কল্যাণৰ কোনো বিধান নেথাকিলেও সিবিলাকৰ কাৰ্য্যৰ দাবা কোনো
প্ৰয়োজনীয় কাৰ্য্যকৰণ আন্তৰিকতাও কুটি উঠা নাই।

যোৱা কালি প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী ডাক্তাৰাই এই বাজেট আমাৰ আগত দাখিল ধৰোঁতে বি
নীত বক্তৃতা দিছিল সেই বক্তৃতাও এইটো কথা প্ৰকাশ পাইছে যে আমাৰ মন্ত্ৰীমণ্ডলীয়ে
আমাৰ প্ৰদেশৰ সকলো জনহিতকৰ বিভাগতে হস্তক্ষেপ কৰি প্ৰজাৰ কল্যাণ সাধন
কাৰ্য্যলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিছে। আমাৰ মন্ত্ৰীমণ্ডলীয়ে কিছুমান ভাল কাম কৰিছে বা কৰিবলৈ
চেষ্টা কৰিছে আৰু সেই প্ৰশংসনীয় কাৰ্য্যৰ বাবে সিবিলাক ধন্যবাদ পায়। ভাল কাম
ধৰে কাম লগ ধন্যবাদ পায় নশয়। কিন্তু আত দুখেৰে কলেও কাম লগত পৰিছা
য়ে তেন্তে আমাৰ মন্ত্ৰীমণ্ডলী আমাৰ প্ৰজা সাধাৰণৰ আগত কিয় প্ৰশংসাৰ পাত্ৰ হ'ব পৰা
নাই; বৰং ঠায়ে ঠায়ে নিদামুচক প্ৰত্যাহ হে বাইকে গ্ৰহণ কৰিছে? ইয়াৰ হেতু কি?
মই বিবেচনা কৰোঁ এটা প্ৰধান কাৰণ এয়ে যে আমাৰ মন্ত্ৰীমণ্ডলীয়ে প্ৰজাৰ নিমিত্তে বি
বিলাক কাৰ্য্য কৰিছে সেই বিলাক নিজে উপঘাতি কৰা নাই। কোনো নিৰ্দিষ্ট
কাৰ্য্য পদ্ধতি আগত ৰাখি কাম নকৰা বাবেই মোৰ বোধেৰে প্ৰজা সাধাৰণে ইবিলাকৰ
কাৰ্য্যত সন্তুষ্ট হ'ব পৰা নাই। মন্ত্ৰীমণ্ডলীয়ে যি বিলাক কাম কৰিছে সেই বিলাক হয়
ৰাজহুৱা মতামত তথা এই এচেলিবি সিদ্ধান্তৰ ওপৰতহে কৰিছে। আপোনা আপুনি
অপৰাধ পৰা নহা কাম আৰু বাধ্য হৈ কৰিব লাগে বুলি কৰা কামৰ ভিত্তিত পাৰ্থক্য না-
থ কৰনে? সচাঁকৈয়ে মন্ত্ৰীমণ্ডলীৰ কাৰ্য্যপ্ৰণালী পৰ্য্যবেক্ষণ কৰিলেও সিবিলাকৰ কাৰ্য্যত
আন্তৰিকতাৰ অভাৱ দেখা যায়। এই বিষয়ত মই মানোন ছটা বিভাগৰ
কাৰ্য্য উপস্থাপন কৰি আপোনালোকৰ আগত উপস্থিত কৰিম,—প্ৰথম
হাৰা বাক আৱকাৰি বিভাগ। এই বিভাগৰ বিষয়ত আমাৰ প্ৰজাসাধাৰণৰ মতামত
অতিশয় স্পষ্ট। আমাৰ গৱৰ্ণমেন্টেও তাকে অনুসৰণ কৰি আমাৰ দেশৰ পৰা অহা
প্ৰাপ্তি মাৰ্হ পৰা ৫০ বছৰৰ কম কোনো মানুহকে কামিব পট্টা নিদিবলৈ স্থিৰ
কৰিছে। প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰীয়ে কালিৰ বক্তৃতাতো এই কথা স্বীকাৰ বা ঘোষণা কৰিছে।
আমি এই কাৰ্য্যত বি হওক সন্তোষ পাইছোঁ। কিন্তু আমি জানি বেয়া পাইছোঁ
অন্তেষ্টে সি কিমান দূৰ সঁচা কৰ নোৱাৰো যে কোনো কোনো ঠাইত বোলে কানিয়াৰ
বয়স এতিয়াৰ পৰাই এনে কি ৪০ বছৰৰ পৰা পৰ্য্যন্ত ৫০ বছৰৰ কৰা হৈছে।
বয়স বঢ়াই দি কানিব পট্টা সহকৈ ৰাখিবলৈ কৰা প্ৰচেষ্টাৰ পৰা কি প্ৰমাণ হয়?

যদি আমাৰ গৱৰ্ণমেন্টে কোনো কাৰ্য্যত আন্তৰিকতা থাকে তেন্তে সিবিলাকৰ তলতীয়া কৰ্ম-
চাৰীসকলে এনে কাৰ্য্যৰ প্ৰশংসা দিব পাৰেনে? গতিকে এই গৱৰ্ণমেন্টক এই বিষয়ে
তদন্ত কৰি বিহিত বিধান কৰিবলৈ অনুৰোধ কৰোঁ।

দ্বিতীয় কথা হৈছে আমাৰ প্ৰদেশত প্ৰাইমেৰী শিক্ষাৰ বিস্তাৰ। যোৱা বছৰ বাজেট
আলোচনা প্ৰসঙ্গত প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী ডাক্তাৰাই সিবিলাকৰ মনোভাব প্ৰকাশ কৰিছিল।
সিবিলাকে স্বৰ্ণাৎ গৱৰ্ণমেন্টে বিবেচনা কৰে যে একেদিনেই আমাৰ প্ৰদেশত
Compulsory Primary Education প্ৰচলন কৰা নানা কাৰণেই কঠিন। সেই
কাৰণে সেই গৱৰ্ণমেন্টে প্ৰথমে আমাৰ প্ৰদেশত প্ৰাইমেৰী স্কুলৰ সংখ্যা বঢ়াবলৈ চেষ্টা
কৰিব আৰু শেষত যতিয়া স্কুলৰ সংখ্যা যথোচিত পৰিমাণে বাঢ়িব তেতিয়া Com-
pulsory Primary Education আমাৰ প্ৰদেশত সম্ভৱ হ'ব। তেনে কাৰ্য্যৰ আঁচনি
আমত লৈয়ে যোৱা বছৰ বাজেটত ৫০ হেজাৰ টকা ধৰা হৈছিল। সেই কথা যদি সঁচা
হয়, আন্তৰিক হয় তেন্তে এই বছৰ বাজেটত কি দেখোঁ? ইয়াত দেখা যায় যে এই বছৰ
তাব বাবে মাথোন ১২,০০০ বাৰ হাজাৰ টকা ধৰা হৈছে। যোৱা বছৰ যি টকা ধৰা
হৈছিল সেই টকাও বোলে খৰচ হোৱা নাই। গৱৰ্ণমেন্টৰ এই কাৰ্য্যৰ পৰা কি বুজা যায়?
দেশত শিক্ষা বিস্তাৰ হওক এই বিষয়ত মন্ত্ৰীমণ্ডলীৰ আগ্ৰহ প্ৰকাশ পায়নে? আন্তৰিকতাৰ
অভাৱ আদি এই বিলাক কথাতে অনুভব কৰোঁ আৰু আশা কৰো ভবিষ্যতে যেন এনে
ধৰণৰ কাৰ্য্যৰ বাবে, কথা আৰু কামত আমল দেখি আৰু অশোভন মন্তব্য প্ৰকাশ
কৰিবলৈ বাধ্য নহওঁ।

প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী ডাক্তাৰাই আমাক জানিবলৈ দিছে যে আমাৰ প্ৰদেশৰ চৰকাৰী ৰাজত
বা আৱৰণী নিতান্ত কম আৰু সেই বাবেই টকাৰ অভাৱতে কোনো প্ৰকাৰ জাতীয় উন্নতি
বিধায়ক কাম কৰিবলৈ সাহ নকৰে। যোৱা বছৰ বাক তেনেকৈয়ে গ'ল; কিন্তু resources
নাই এই কথাৰে যদি মন্ত্ৰীমণ্ডলীয়ে সদায় মুখত লয় তেন্তে আমি সিবিলাকক তাৰ বাবে
প্ৰশংসা কৰিব নোৱাৰোঁ। এখন প্ৰদেশৰ শাসনৰ দায়িত্ব মন্ত্ৰীমণ্ডলীয়ে স্বহঁত লৈছে
বেতিয়া সেই প্ৰদেশ কি উপায়ে ভাল ভাবে শাসিত হ'ব পাৰে সেইটো সিবিলাকে বিধান
কৰিবলৈ বাধ্য বুলি আমি ডাঙি কওঁ। দায়িত্বপূৰ্ণ কাম হাতত লৈ যদি সাধাৰণ অজুহাত
দেখুৱাই সদায় তাৰ হাত এৰাবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰে তেন্তে আমি সিবিলাকক ক্ষমা কৰিবলৈ
অপাৰগ। দেশ আগতকৈ ভাল ভাবে শাসিত হওক এইটো বৰ্তমান Actৰ আৰু British
Parliament ৰো উদ্দেশ্য। তেন্তে এই মন্ত্ৰীমণ্ডলীয়ে তেনে দায়িত্ব লৈ তাৰ হাত এৰাবলৈ
চেষ্টা কৰাটো উচিত নে? হয়তো বা আনে ইয়াতকৈ ভাল ভাবে শাসন কাৰ্য্য চলালে
হেতেন; গতিকে মন্ত্ৰীমণ্ডলীৰ এই ভাবৰ পৰাও দায়িত্ব কম নহয়।

মন্ত্ৰীমণ্ডলীৰ দ্বিতীয় কথা যে limited resources হোৱাৰ কাৰণে আমাৰ প্ৰদেশত
কোনো প্ৰয়োজনীয় প্ৰকাৰৰ " Bold Schemes " ল'ব পৰা নাই। বক্তৃতা প্ৰসঙ্গত
প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰীয়ে আমাৰ প্ৰদেশৰ resource বঢ়াবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰাৰো এটা আভাস দিছে।

সিবিলাকে চেষ্টাৰ ভিতৰত Authorities at Delhi দিল্লীলৈ এখন চিঠি পঠালে। তাৰ পৰা উত্তৰ আহিল বোলে আইনৰ বিধানমতে সিবিলাকে আক কোনো প্ৰকাৰে টকাৰ সহায় কৰিব নোৱাৰে। দেখা গৈছে আমাৰ মন্ত্ৰীমণ্ডলী সেই উত্তৰ পালেই সন্তুষ্ট। আমাৰ বোধেৰে আমাৰ মন্ত্ৰীমণ্ডলী ইমানতে সন্তুষ্ট থকাৰো কেতিয়াও উচিত হোৱা নাই। পেটৰ ভোকত যেনিবা থাকিব নোৱাৰি আমি ওপৰলৈ দৰ্খাস্ত কৰিলোঁ—ওপৰৰ পৰা নোৱাৰোঁ বুলিলে যেতিয়া আমি সেই পেটৰ ভোকেবেই কলমলাই থাকিব লাগিবনে? তাতে থাকিবলৈকে মন্ত্ৰীমণ্ডলীয়ে আমাক উপদেশ দিব খোজেনে? প্ৰজাসাধাৰণক আশাৰ পোহৰ এনেভাবেই দেখুৱাব খোজেনে? মই কও এনে অৱস্থাত থাকিবলৈ বৃষ্টিছ পালিয়ে-মেটেও ইচ্ছা নকৰে। সেই কাৰণে সিবিলাকৰ দায়িত্ব বুজি এই বিষয়ে বিহিত উপায় উলিয়াবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰক। ইমানতে যেন ক্ষান্ত নহয়।

আমাৰ ন্যায্য প্ৰাপ্য সম্পৰ্কত ভাৰত চৰকাৰৰ পৰা আমাৰ অংশৰ পেটল আৰু কেৰো-চিনৰ টেক্স নাপাই আন উপায়ে আমাৰ প্ৰদেশৰ resources বঢ়োৱা সম্পৰ্কত প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী ডাক্তাৰীয়াই কালিৰ বক্তৃতাত কৈছে :—

“The Colonization Schemes in Nowgong and Darrang have been very successful and if further are as are thrown open for settlement on the same terms they are likely to be taken up immediately thus bringing much needed income to the province”.—নগাও আৰু দৰংত Colonization Schemes successful (ফলপ্ৰসূত) হৈছে কিহত? এনে much needed income to the Province ত অৰ্থাৎ তেখেতৰ মতে আমাৰ পতিত মাটি বিলাকত মানুহক বসতি কৰিবলৈ দিলেই আমাৰ যোগেই আয় হ'ব। ইয়াকে এটা ডাক্তাৰ বকমৰ আয় বঢ়াবৰ উপায় বুলি নিৰ্দেশ কৰিছে। পতিত মাটি আবাদ কৰিবলৈ দিলে, বন্দবস্ত দিলে আমাৰ ৰাজহ বাঢ়িব সঁচা। কিন্তু টকা লাগিল বুলি সেই সেই উপায়েই টকা বঢ়াবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰা ভাল হবনে? আমি এটা কাৰ্য্য-পদ্ধতি লৈ এটা আদৰ্শ লৈহে কাম কৰি যাব লাগে। আগত কি আদৰ্শ লৈ, কিহত অশু-প্ৰাণিত হৈ আমি এনেভাবে আয় বঢ়াবলৈ যাম—ভাবি চাব নেলাগেনে? আমি হয়তো সম্প্ৰতি তেনে কামৰ পৰা টকা পাম, কিন্তু এই কাৰ্য্যৰ ফলত ভবিষ্যতে কিজানি কঠিন সমস্যাও পৰিব লাগে? সেই কাৰণে আগ-পিচ চাইহে যেন এই বিষয় সিদ্ধান্ত কৰে। আপাতমধুৰ কাৰ্য্য জ্ঞানী মানুহৰ পক্ষে গ্ৰহণীয় নহয়। যি বিধানে আমাৰ ভবিষ্যৎ বংশধৰ সকলক বিপদত পেলায় সিবিলাকৰ পক্ষে মাৰাত্মক হয় তেনে আপাতমধুৰ বিধান আমি কেতিয়াও গ্ৰহণ কৰিব নেলাগে। আমি যেই সেই কাম কৰোঁতে ভাবি চিন্তি কৰিব লাগে। আমাৰ আজিৰ কাৰ্য্যৰ ফলত যদি আমাৰ বংশধৰ সকল ভবিষ্যতে বিপদত পৰে তেন্তে তেওঁবিলাকে আমাক গালি নেপাৰিবনে যে আমাৰ পূৰ্বপুৰুষ সকলৰ কোনো imagination, কোনো প্ৰকাৰ দূৰদৃষ্টি নাছিল। তেওঁবিলাকে এনে এটা কাৰ্য্য এনেমতে কৰি গ'ল যে তাৰ ফলত আজি আমি নিজৰ দেশতে প্ৰবাসী। সেই কাৰণে মন্ত্ৰীমণ্ডলীক আমি ক'ব খোজো যে সম্প্ৰতি কৰ সুবিধাৰ কাৰণে যেন সিবিলাকে কোনো কাৰ্য্য নকৰে।

মই এই খিনিতে এইটো কথা পৰিস্কাৰক ক'ব খোজো যে মই কোনো সাম্প্ৰতিক ভাব লৈ এই কথা কোৱা নাই। মই নিজে এই কথা ক'ব লগা এই কাৰণে হৈছে যে আজি কালি আমাৰ দেশত সকলো কথাতে এনে বহণ লগাবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰে। মই এইটো ডাঙি কও যে আজি আমাৰ দেশত বসতি কৰা সকলো সাম্প্ৰায়িক মানুহৰ ভবিষ্যৎ বাঢ়ি অহা বংশধৰ সকলৰ কাৰণে মাটিৰ প্ৰয়োজন নহবনে? এনেকি যি সকল বহুৱাই আজি পেটৰ কাৰণে নিজ দেশ এৰি আমাৰ দেশৰ বাগিচা বিলাকত কাম কৰিছেহি সেই বহুৱা সকলেও সময়মতে বাগিচাৰ পৰা ওলালে বসতি কৰিবলৈ মাট পাবিব! আজি যদি আমি সকলো খিনি মাটি বিলাই দি নিশ্চিত হওঁ কালিলৈ আমাৰ পতি নস্তুতি বিলাকৰ কি বিনে হ'ব? সেই কাৰণে আমাৰ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টক অন্যান্য সভা আৰু স্বাধীন গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ দৰেই ভবিষ্যৎ বংশধৰ সকলৰ কাৰণে জোখ পৰিমিত মাট ৰাখিহে আন নিহা কৰে। সকল টকাৰ হেপাহতে যেন কোনো Policy নলয়।

সাধাৰণ ভাবে বাজেটৰ এই আলোচনাৰ সূচন লৈয়ে মই তেজপুৰ অঞ্চলৰ বিষয়ে দুটি কথাটলৈ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিব খোজোঁ। প্ৰথমটো হৈছে Collection of revenue সম্পৰ্কে আমাৰ তাত আজি ২৩ বছৰৰ পৰা বৰ বেমেজালি ঘটছে। ইয়াৰ ভিতৰতে for misappropriation হাজন মৌজাদাৰ dismissed হৈছে। এজনক severe warning দিছে। তাত যিমান টকা ৰায়তৰ পৰা আদায় হয় সেই পৰিমাণ টকা চৰকাৰত জমা দিয়া নহয় বুলি মূলপতে Commissioner চাহাব গৈ জানি আহিছে আৰু তেখেতে নিজে আটাইবোৰ মৌজা চাব নোৱাৰি তেখেতৰ Personal Assistant ক পঠাই দিছিল। তেখেতৰ inspection ত ক'ত কি ধৰা পৰিছে জনা নাই। সেই বিষয়ে প্ৰশ্ন কৰা হৈছে উত্তৰ পালেহে বুজিব পাৰিম। ছিলাবকা মৌজাত ৰায়তে ঠিকমতে খাজানা দিয়াৰ ফলতো শ শ মানুহৰ নামে notice বা পৰোৱনা গল। ডেপুটি কমিচনাৰৰ পৰা যে তোমালোকৰ মাটি বাৰী annulled হৈছে, চৰকাৰ হৈছে—আজিৰ পৰা ১৫ দিনৰ ভিতৰত মাটি এৰি দিবা। ৰায়ত সকল অৱাক। সিবিলাকৰ মাজত চাকলাই দেখা দিলে। তদন্ত হল। ফলাফল সহ মই আমাৰ ৰাজহ বিভাগৰ মন্ত্ৰী ডাক্তাৰীয়াই আবেদন পত্ৰ দিছিলোঁ। তাত মই এইটোও জনাইছিলোঁ যে জামুগুৰি অঞ্চলত এনে মানুহো আছে যি তেজপুৰ চহৰলৈ আহি আপত্তি কৰি নিয়মিত দৰ্খাস্ত দিবলৈ সেইখিনি থৰচ বহণ কৰিবলৈ অপাৰগ। সেই কাৰণে মই এটোও অনুৰোধ কৰিছিলোঁ যে Local enquiry কৰি তাত এজন responsible officer ৰ হতুৱাই গাটৰ জেঙাবোৰ মাৰি দিয়ক। মোৰ সেই আবেদনে কি ফল ধৰে ক'ব নোৱাৰোঁ। কিন্তু এনেকুৱা ঘটনা বা কাম হ'বলৈ পায় কেনেকৈ? সেই বিষয়ে মই গৱৰ্ণ-মেণ্টৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰোঁ।

দ্বিতীয় কথা হৈছে শিক্ষা বিভাগৰ তেজপুৰৰ প্ৰতি অবিচাৰ আৰু আওকান। তেজপুৰৰ পৰা ১২ মাইল পূবে জামুগুৰি নামে ঠাইত এখন Middle English School আছে। বাইজে বহু কষ্ট কৰি সেই স্কুলখন চলাই আছে। তাত বৰ্তমানে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্ট গ্ৰাণ্ট পায়

মাহে ১৩০ তেব টকা। ই এটা আচৰিত কথা নহয়নে? এনে পৰিধান প্ৰাটৰ কথা শুনি আচৰিত হব নালাগেনে? এই স্থলৰ বৰ্তমান অৱস্থা বৰ বেয়া বৰটোৱে ভাগি গৈছে বাইজে মোক মতাই নিয়ালে। এই চাই note এটা লিখিলোঁ। তাত দেখা গল যে Director of Public Instruction য়ে যোৱা ১৯৩৩ চনৰ পৰা সেই স্থল পৰিদৰ্শন কৰা নাই। এনে আওকনীয়া ভাৱত ত্ৰুখ প্ৰকাশ কৰোতে বোলে কিবা unmannerly হৈছে এনে ধৰণৰ এখন Demi-official চিঠি পাইছোঁ। এই তাৰ উত্তৰ এতিয়াও দিব নোৱাৰিলেও সিনো কিহত অপৰাধ হল বুজা নাই। সিবিলাক দেখতা পুৰব হলেও দায় দোষ ধৰিব নাপায়? যিহেতু শিক্ষা বিষয়ত পিচ পৰা তেওঁপৰ অঞ্চলৰ কালে এই শিক্ষা বস্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰোঁ।

Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN: সহকাৰী সভাপতি ডাক্তাৰ, ১৯৩৭-৩৯ চনৰ বাজেট দেখি সঁচাকৈ মই নিবাস হৈছোঁ। যোৱা বাৰ বাজেট দাঙ্গি ধৰোঁতে প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে কৈছিল যে—the Budget reflects the policy of the Government— অৰ্থাৎ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ policy (কাৰ্য্যপদ্ধতিৰ ধাৰা) বাজেটত বুজিব পাৰি বা দেখা যায়। সেয়ে যদি সঁচা হয় তেনে হলে সঁচাকৈ আমি এই বাজেটত গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ পলিসি দেখি নিবাস নহৈ নোৱাৰোঁ। পাৰ্টিৰ পৰা মোৰ ওপৰত Back Ward Area অৰ্থাৎ পিছপৰা ঠাই, কো-অপাৰেটিভ বিভাগ, Fishery মহল এই কেইটাৰ বিষয়ে কেইটামান কথা কোৱাৰ তাৰ পৰিছ—সেই নিমিত্ত মই সেই বিলাকৰ বিষয়ে কথা কম। প্ৰথমতে বিবিলাক পিছপৰা ঠাই আছে সিবিলাক ঠাইৰ পৰা গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে বি-খাজনা, কৰ আদি আশায় কৰে তাৰ বাবে সেই বিলাক ঠাইৰ ব্যয়ত সকলক কিবা সুবাই দিছেনে নাই সেই বিষয়ে মন্ত্ৰীমণ্ডলীয়ে ভালটো বিবেচনা কৰি চাইছে বুলি অনুমান নহয়। সেই বিলাক ঠাইৰ বিষয়ে বিশেষৰূপে বিবেচনা কৰা দৰ্কাৰ। আগৰ মন্ত্ৰী সকলৰ কথা নকও কিয়নো তেওঁলোকৰ কথা বগুড়া আছিল—বৰ্তমান মন্ত্ৰীমণ্ডলী—তেওঁলোক প্ৰজাই নিৰ্বাচন কৰি পঠোৱা বাহুত। সেই নিমিত্তে সকলো প্ৰজাই বিশেষকৈ পিছপৰা ঠাইৰ মানুহ বিলাকে বৰ আশা কৰে যে বৰ্তমান মন্ত্ৰীমণ্ডলীয়ে সিবিলাকৰ শিক্ষা, স্বাস্থ্য, পানী, আলি-পতলি, খেতি-বাতি ইত্যাদি সকলো বিষয়ত উন্নতি বিধান কৰিব। মই বি-সমষ্টিৰ পৰা আহিছোঁ সেই সমষ্টিটো একেবাৰে পিছপৰা ঠাই। সেই সমষ্টিত মাংস পলি এটা মৌজা আছে। সেই মাংস ইংৰাজ ৰাজস্বৰ তলত আছে আৰু ১১০ বছৰ হৈছে। এই ১১০ বছৰে তাৰ পৰা খাজনা আদি সকলো বকৰ কৰ, টেক্স চৰকাৰে আনি আছে। মই ১১০ বছৰ নধৰোঁ বাক ৫০।৬০ বছৰকে ধৰোঁ—এই ৫০।৬০ বছৰে ১৪খন বিলাক খাজনা আনি আছে তাৰ উপৰি গৰু-মহৰ টেক্স, হাতীৰ টেক্স, পাটী ইত্যাদিৰ টেক্স আদায় হব লাগিছে। ইয়াৰ ফলত প্ৰজাই সুবাই কি পাইছে—এইবোৰে ৰাস্তা পোৱা নাই! ইয়াৰ বাহিৰে মাটিৰ খাজনা আৰু স্থানীয়কৰ আনিয়েই আছে।

The Hon'ble Maulavi Saiyid Sir MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: সেই ঠাইৰ নাম জানিব পাবোনে?

Srijut HALADHAR BHUYAN: সেই ঠাইৰ নাম মাংস। এই মাংস মৌজাৰ ওচৰা মাংস আৰু ৰজা মাংস বুলি এখন বৰ দীঘল গাওঁ আছে। গাওঁখন প্ৰায় ১২ মাইল দূৰ দীঘল হব। এই গাওঁৰ লোকৰ পানীৰ অধিকত লৰাছোৱালী বিলাকে প্ৰায়েই গা নোখোৱাকৈ থাকে। সাত দিনৰ মূত এদিন গা ধোৱে। এই গাওঁৰ এমুৰে এটা স্বাভাৱিক পুখুৰী আছে। অৰ্থাৎ ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰই খন্দা বুলি এতিয়া পুখুৰীৰ নিচিনা হৈ আছে। ইয়াৰ আগতন এই এমুৰী হ'লতকৈ বোধ কৰিব নকৰে হব। ইয়াকে চৰকাৰে ধনৰ নিমিত্তে ডাক কৰ। আৰু বিলাকালৈ মাছ মাৰি পানী বেগা কৰে। আৰু ইমুৰে ২৫ মাইল দূৰত হাছক বুলি এখন বিল আছে তাৰ পৰা মানুহে পানী কঢ়িয়াই খায়। এই বিলাক অত্যন্ত ছুঃখৰ বিষয় নহয়নে? আৰু কি অবিচাৰ চাওক। বাস্তৱ্যট নোখোৱাৰ নিমিত্তে এই ঠাইৰ মানুহে আন ঠাইৰ মানুহতকৈ শৰুৰ মূল্যৰ কম পায়। আন ঠাইত যেতিয়া ধানৰ মূল্য ১০০ টকা হয় ইয়াত তাৰ দাম ৫০ বাৰ অন্য পাৰ—বখৰ খাজনা সমানেই দিব লাগে আৰু খাজনা মাৰুও পায় আন ঠাইৰ সমানে—এই বিলাক কি জৰ্ঘ্যৰ অস্তায়, অত্যাচাৰ, অবিচাৰ সেইটো আপোনালোকে সহজে বুজিব পাবে। ময় কেৱল মাংসৰ উদাহৰণহে দিছোঁ—সেই দৰে লাহনীখাট, বোকলি, মিক্ৰোভটা আদি সকলো মৌজাৰ এনে অৱস্থা। তাত কোনো প্ৰকাৰ, উন্নতিৰ নিমিত্তে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে টকা খৰচ নকৰে কিন্তু মোৰ সমষ্টিৰ পৰা গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে ৪৫ লাখ টকা খাজনা পায়। আগৰ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ দিনত কিছুমান বিল আদানি কৰি বাইজৰ ব্যৱহাৰৰ নিমিত্তে ৰাখি দিছিল আৰু ডাক বিল বিলাকত ১০ অন্য বৰমূৰি কৰ দিলে জাল, জালুকী, পল, পতা আদি যন্ত্ৰে বকৰা ব্যৱহাৰৰ নাছ মাৰি খাব পাৰিছিল কিন্তু আজিকালি সোণো বিল, খাল-খুলি, ডোবা একো বাক নিদি ডাক কৰা হয়। পুৰুষ মহলদাৰ সমলে বাইজক মাছ মাৰি শুবলৈ দিছিল কিন্তু আজিকালি নিদিব কৰাৰ ডাক ইমান বেচি টকালৈ উঠায় যে মহলদাৰ বিলাকে মাছ মাৰিবলৈ দিব নোৱাৰে। এই দৰে প্ৰজাৰ ওপৰত ব'দ অত্যাচাৰ চলে তেনে হ'লে সঁচাকৈ এই গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টক ফোনাৱাই ভূমি গৱৰ্ণমেণ্ট বুলি ক'ব পাবেনে?

আৰু এটা কথা—Waste Land Settlement অৰ্থাৎপতিত মাটিত মানুহ বহুৱাৰ সম্বন্ধে অনাৰেবল প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ৰ বক্তৃতাত বি কোৱা হৈছে সেই সম্বন্ধে ময় কওঁ যে আমাৰ দেশৰ মানুহৰ জীৱন ধাৰণৰ প্ৰণালী—mode of living আন দেশৰ মানুহৰ পৰা একেবাৰে পৃথক। আমাৰ দেশৰ মানুহে যি বৰমে সহজ জীৱন ধাৰণ কৰি অহিছে—দিলব নাছ, হাবিৰ পছ চৰাই মাৰি সহজ প্ৰণালীৰ খেতিৰ ভাত পাই তৰিব পাৰিছিল তাৰ তুলনা কৰো নাই। আনয়ে পতিত মাটি বেছিকৈ গকাৰ নিমিত্তে সকলো ঠাইতে মৰে বুলি যথেষ্ট অহিছ। সিদিনা নগৰত লাহন কামটিৰ আগত সাক্ষী দিওঁতে সকল টিং চাকুলৰ পৰা অনপ দিনৰ ভিতৰত ২০০খন মৰে খুটি উঠি যোৱাৰ কথা দেখা গৈছে। আগেয়ে তাত গাৰ বৰ দাম মানে ২১।৬ টকা আছিল কিন্তু এতিয়া গাৰ দাম মানে ৮।১১ টকা হৈছে। ৮।১১ টকা দিছেই যে গাৰ পোৱা বাখ সেই টাও নহয়।

বৰ্ত্তমানে মাছ, পছ, গাখীৰ আদি জীৱনধাৰনৰ উপযোগী এই প্ৰধান খাদ্যৰ অভাৱত আমাৰ মানুহৰ কি অৱস্থা হৈছে আৰু উঠি অহা লৰাছোৱালী বিলাকৰ স্বাস্থ্য কি হব লাগিছে অলপ অনুসন্ধান কৰিলেই বুজিব পাৰিব। পতিত মাটি বিলাক কৰ্মি যোৱাত মাছ, পছ, গাখীৰৰ অভাৱ হৈছে। আগৰ তুলনাত এতিয়া আমাৰ লৰাছোৱালী বিলাক বৰ ricketty অৰ্থাৎ পৰালগা হৈ গৈছে। এইটো নই ভাৱকৈ জানিব পাৰিছোঁ। এই সব কথা সঁচানে মিছা enquiry (অনুসন্ধান) কৰিলেই গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে জানিব পাৰিব। গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ এই বিষয়ে নিশ্চয় তদন্ত কৰা দৰ্কাৰ। যদি আমাৰ ভৱিষ্যৎ বংশধৰ সালক মানুহ কৰিব লাগে আৰু যদি আমি সঁচাকৈ ভাবো যে আমাৰ লৰাছোৱালী বিলাকেই এই দেশৰ ভাবী মালিক তেনে হলে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ এইটো অৱশ্য কৰ্ত্তব্য যে যাতে আমাৰ লৰাছোৱালীয়ে যথেষ্ট গাখীৰ খাবলৈ পায় তাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা। পৃথিৱীৰ অস্বাভাৱী দেশৰ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্ট বিলাকে এই বিষয়ে খুব সতৰ্ক। ইংলণ্ড, জাৰ্মানী প্ৰভৃতি দেশত লৰাছোৱালীয়ে যাতে ভাল খাবলৈ পায়—বিশেষকৈ গাখীৰ—তাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছে। কি জানি যত ভাল গাখীৰ খাবলৈ নেপায়েই সেই নিমিত্তে স্কুলত খুব সস্তা দৰত গাখীৰ খোৱাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছে। অৱশ্য স্বাধীন দেশৰ কথা বেলেগ। স্বাধীন দেশৰ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে তাৰ লৰাছোৱালীৰ পুষ্টিসাধন কৰাটো অৱশ্য কৰ্ত্তব্য বুলি ভাবে। আমাৰ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টেৰো কৰ্ত্তব্য—যাতে খাদ্যবস্তু বিশেষকৈ গাখীৰ সুলভ হয় তাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা আৰু যাতে আমাৰ ভৱিষ্যত বংশধৰ সকল সবল আৰু পুষ্টি হব পাৰে। এতেকে এই পতিত মাটিৰ লগত আমাৰ বহু কথাৰ সম্বন্ধ আছে।

বাজেটত আৰু এটা কথাৰ দিহা কৰা দেখা নেপালে। মাৰ্গংক আদি কৰি বিবিলাক এই Flood area—বানপানীৰ তলত যোৱাৰ সীমাৰ ভিতৰত সোমাইছে—সেই বিলাক ঠাইত relief বা প্ৰতিকাৰৰ কোনো প্ৰতিবিধান কৰা দেখা নগল। নগাঁও জিলাৰ কিছুমান ঠাইত প্ৰতি বছৰে flood অৰ্থাৎ বানপানীৰ উপদ্ৰৱ হয়। আৰু সেই floodৰ নিমিত্তে প্ৰতি বছৰে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে সাহায্য আৰু কৃষি-স্বাস্থ্য দিবসগীয়া হয়। কিন্তু সেই flood (বানপানীৰ) উপদ্ৰৱ প্ৰতিবন্ধ কৰিবৰ নিমিত্তে এইবোৰো বাজেটত কোন প্ৰতিবিধান কৰা দেখা নেপালে। ই সঁচাকৈয়ে বৰ পৰিতাপৰ বিষয়।

Co-operative বিভাগৰ সম্বন্ধে কথা এই যে ১৯৩৬-৩৭ চনৰ ৰিপৰ্টত দেখা যায় ২৫ খন নতুন চোচাইটি খোলা হৈছিল আৰু ২৪ খন লিকুইডেচনত গৈছিল—তাৰ মানে এই আচলতে এখন মাত্ৰ গাৱলীয়া বেঙ্ক খোলা হল—আৰু সেই এখনৰ নিমিত্তেই এনে এটা ডিপাৰ্টমেণ্টৰ অস্তিত্ব—এইটো বৰ দুঃখৰ কথা। সিৰ বাজেট ছেচনত মই এই বিষয়ে ভালেমান প্ৰশ্ন দিছিলোঁ কিন্তু সেই বিলাকৰ একো উত্তৰ নেপালে। আৰু এটা resolution (প্ৰস্তাব) এটি enquiry committee গঠন কৰি ভাৱকৈ পুংখা পুংখকপে সকলো কথা তদন্ত কৰিবলৈ দিয়া হৈছিল কিন্তু দুঃখৰ বিষয় প্ৰস্তাবটো আলোচনাৰ নিমিত্তে নাছিল। সি যিহক এইবাৰ অনাৰেবল প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰীৰ বক্তৃতাত দেখা যায়, মন্ত্ৰী সকলে Enquiry

অৰ্থাৎ অনুসন্ধান কৰিব বুলি আশা দিছে। মই আশা কৰো যে এই অতি আৱশ্যকীয় বিভাগটো এনে ভ্ৰমবস্থাৰ সময়ত haphazard enquiry (যেনে তেনে) অনুসন্ধান কৰি পাল নেমাৰে যেন। গাৱলীয়া বেঙ্ক বিলাকত বেনামী মিছা transaction আদি বহু বকমৰ কেলেঙ্কাৰীৰ ঠাই পাইছে। Co-operative Act খা সংশোধন কৰা নিতান্ত দৰ্কাৰ বুলি মই ভাবো। এই আইন খনৰ বহু খুত আছে আৰু তাৰ সুবিধা লৈ ভ্ৰষ্ট লোক-বিলাকে এই বেঙ্ক বিলাকৰ অৱনতি ঘটাই নিৰীহলোকৰ দুৰ্ব্বৰ অনিষ্ট সাধন কৰিব লাগিছে। যেতিয়ালৈকে এই Co-operative Act খনৰ সংশোধন কৰা নহব তেতিয়ালৈকে এই আন্দোলনৰ কোনো উন্নতি নহয়।

কোন এটা বিষয়ে idea work out—সংশোধন কৰিবলৈ হলে তাৰ এটা আগতে plan কৰিবলৈ কাৰ্য্য হাতত লব লাগে। বিনা plan ৰ কাৰ্য্য হাতত ললে কেতিয়াও ভাল কাৰ্য্য হব নোৱাৰে তাৰ পৰা কেৱল অৰ্থ নষ্ট হৈ মাত্ৰ সাৰ হয়। আমাৰ দেশৰ কোনো Departmentৰ উন্নতি দেখুৱাবলৈ কেই জনমান অফিচাৰ বঢ়াই উন্নতি কৰা হৈছে বুলি দেখুৱা হয়। প্ৰকৃতপক্ষে অফিচাৰ বঢ়ালেই কোনো Departmentৰ উন্নতি হব নোৱাৰে। তেনে কৰি কোনো দেশত কেতিয়াও উন্নতি হোৱা নাই আৰু আসামতো হব নোৱাৰে। গতিকে ৰাইজৰ ভাগ কৰিব খুজিলে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে সকলো বিভাগৰ কথা বিলাক অনুসন্ধান কৰি একোটা plan কৰিবলৈ কাৰ্য্য হাতত লব লাগে।

Co-operative সম্বন্ধ কবলৈ পাহৰিছো যে এই বিভাগৰ বিশৃঙ্খলাৰ নিমিত্তে বহুত ন বিহু ছপীয়া মানুহৰ মাটি বাৰী হালৰ গৰু, কানৰ কেৰু গৈ মহা দুৰ্গতি হৈছে। যিবিলাক মানুহে ১০০ টকা প্লগ কৰিছিল সিবিলাকৰ ৪০০, ৫০০ টকালৈ ধাৰ উঠিছে গৈ। ইয়াৰ ফলত মাটি বাৰী সকলো গৈছে। এতিয়া যাতে সেই বিলাক মানুহৰ ঘৰবাৰী আদি ক্ৰোক ক্ৰিকিত নেজায় তাৰ বিষয়ে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে দেখা উচিত। যিবিলাক মৰ্দ্দমাৰ প্ৰতিক্ৰি হৈছে সেই বিলাক অতি সোনকালে suspend (বন্ধ) কৰি তাৰ এটা সুব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে।

বাজেটত দেখা গৈছে যে স্ত্ৰী শিক্ষা সম্বন্ধে একো বিশেষ ধৰা নাই। এইটো আমি সকলোৱে জানো যে যেতিয়ালৈকে দেশত স্ত্ৰী শিক্ষাৰ বিস্তাৰ নহয় তেতিয়ালৈকে দেশৰ কোনো উন্নতি হব নোৱাৰে। এইটো সভাসমিতিতো কোৱা হয় আৰু গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টও তাক মানি আনিও সকলোৱেই কণ্ড কিন্তু এই বাজেটত লৰাৰ শিক্ষাৰ লগে লগে ছোৱালী বিলাকৰো সমানে শিক্ষা দিয়াৰ এটা push on অৰ্থাৎ ঠেলা দিবলৈ একো বন্দোবস্ত কৰা দেখা পোৱা নাই। মই আশা কৰো যে স্ত্ৰী শিক্ষাৰ এটা বিশেষ ব্যৱস্থা যেন কৰা হয়, আৰু এই শিক্ষা লৰাৰ লগত যাতে সমানে সমানে দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা হয় সেইটো গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ দেখা নিতান্ত দৰ্কাৰ।

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: Sir, I am concerned with that portion of a nation's budget which aims at removing ignorance and bringing the benefits of science and civilization to the reach of the masses and raising their standard to one where they can be happy and peaceful. And I shall deal also with that portion of the budget which reflects the standard of civilization attained by those in power in the Government, namely, the Jails.

It is indeed rightly said that the Budget reflects the policy of a Government and as such by a rough calculation we arrive at the conclusion that the present Government is repeating the conduct of an imperialistic Government by throwing crumbs for the expansion of education and that increasing the literacy of the country at the rate of 1 per cent. every ten years it is estimated that it will require clear nine centuries more to meet the end for which we are all crying. The old idea of continuing imperialistic domination of this country by expanding education just to meet the requirements in the offices of the administration is clearly seen through every page of the Budget produced by our so called popular Ministers. Practically two years have elapsed since the assumption of the reins of guardianship of this province by the heads of the present cabinet but little has been done for the introduction of compulsory education and even for the granting of sufficient aid to the local bodies for taking over the 1,200 venture schools reported last year even without mentioning the unreported schools in the interior. In my district alone I can tell the Hon'ble Minister that there are yet more than 100 venture schools even after taking over 24 for which the Government grant was made. The rest have been left to struggle till local bodies or Government provide more funds for the purpose. It is well known that the condition of the local bodies in every district of the province is rather deplorable and it is hardly possible for them to take over these schools unless Government comes to their aid. Unless money is provided by Government when the local bodies cannot manage to have funds for this purpose, in my district alone within a month there will be 10,000 boys and girls thrown out of the schools. If Government do not come to the rescue of these Local Boards, thousands of venture schools in the province will collapse never to rise again. Unless they are taken over of these children will go without education for the teachers will cease to come and teach them. And again, Sir, in answer to one of my questions in the last session of the Assembly, the Hon'ble Minister said that an increase of a recurring grant of only Rs. 50,000 is required for introduction of compulsory primary education in the municipal towns of the entire province. It is regrettable that this small amount of Rs. 50,000 necessary to introduce compulsory primary education in the municipal areas of the province has not also been provided.

Next Sir, there is the problem of revising the curriculum in primary schools. In a country where 95 per cent. of the population are agriculturists the education in rural areas is absolutely useless if some scientific mode of cultivation is not taught in the primary schools for which the curriculum shall have to be revised to make it adaptable to the needs of society and mainly with the economic problem of the masses in view. Indeed there are several other things which have got to be considered while determining the system of education most needed in our country and they can be best done by a Committee. There is much wastage at present in primary and secondary education, much of which can be averted soon but the rest can be done only by having a separate University for this province. We hope the project of University proposed by the Government will soon materialise and other things will follow in quick succession.

Next, the apathy of the Government towards some of the High Schools calls for censure. The Sootea High School in the Tezpur subdivision run by the public at great cost and sacrifice for nearly 10 years and so many times recommended by the Inspecting Department of the Government has not been taken notice of while distributing Rs. 40,000 last year. The Korora High School in the Kamrup district reminds me of the late lamented Jogendra Nath Barua who cried hoarse for a whole year for a grant for this institution which is considered to be one of the best of High Schools in the whole province. There is also the Tihu High School in the same district struggling for existence for an equal number of years. The Rangia High School also deserves mention here and I hope Government will look to their condition very soon. Of course, Sir, the cry in Nowgong for some aid to its High Schools has been responded to by Government to some extent. I am glad to mention it. At the same time I would tell the Government that the grants are very inadequate and more grants ought to be made as soon as possible. There is a cry all round and even in my own district for having more girls' high schools in the province and while agreeing with all those who want to increase their number I feel that the equally important thing of overhauling their curriculum must not be lost sight of, if we want the best mothers for the building of a nation.

As regards special education I think it requires reconsideration whether we should continue the system of *tols* and Madrasas. Of course there are *tols* which are crying for aid but receiving the deaf ears of the Government while the Madrasas are getting bountiful and to my knowledge some are having additional grants even without asking for them. It is now time if we should increase the grants for such institutions. If at all, we decide to continue the system why should not the *tols* have a share of the increase of grants?

Next as regards the maintaining of the training classes for teachers, I think they are useless since the training of a few teachers out of hundreds in each district does not increase the efficiency of the average teacher at all, and so unless we can have such training schools in each district with provision for training in agriculture and elementary science where all the teachers of primary schools can have a few months' training every year, I think the maintenance of this system of normal schools and training schools is useless and an wastage.

Last but not the least the conditions of village teachers draws our attention and most reasonably. A *Pandit* who is entrusted with the highest duty of the nation, *i.e.*, the duty of eradicating illiteracy and combating ignorance is so poorly paid that he can be hardly said to have been at all paid comparing with the work he does. Something ought to have been done for these *Pandits* also.

Above all there is the problem of mass literacy which has been the subject of great importance in all the advanced provinces. A few night schools for which little money has been provided can hardly meet a fraction of the demand and a new scheme must be evolved to tackle this problem. Although Government seems to have attempted to meet a fraction of the demand, their sincerity is not at all above suspicion for the step-motherly treatment they have accorded to the local bodies by throwing crumbs where bread is asked for. So I feel not at all inclined to congratulate the Hon'ble Chief Minister for the increase of the little grant for education.

Sir, the proposal for the abolition of set '*ghani* labour' has been ringing in our ears for some months past but the decision is not forthcoming. The policy of the Government to make adequate provision for segregating the good conduct prisoners and giving them proper education has produced the

Good Conduct Prisoners' Bill which I hope will go some way to mend the evil of co-living with the habitual criminals. It will also go some way to save the expenses of the Government for having less number of prisoners in the jails. The treatment accorded to the political prisoners not to mention the ordinary criminals is known to all from the report of the Nowgong Jail Inquiry Committee. The report is a reflex of what passes inside the prison in Assam almost daily but which never takes the light unless under exceptional circumstances. For this the remedy is probably to have greater number of visitors including each member of the Legislature to have access to the jail any number of times in their own district or subdivision. The rules require some changes which should be best left to a Committee. Moreover, some economic employments should be provided for the convicts so that the jails may become self-supporting and also that the prisoners after release may not have to struggle for livelihood.

Last of all we are of emphatic opinion that the few political prisoners who have been confined in the jails of Assam including Srijut Ajit Kumar Chakravarty who is lying seriously ill in Nowgong jail should be forthwith released when such others in many provinces of India have been released long ago.

Babu RABINDRA NATH ADITYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it seems that a sense of dullness has overpowered us and I do not know how to close the debates of this evening. Perhaps, I would be the last man. Sir, after the travails of long 10 months, our Ministry is volunteered to undergo an operation. I think, now they have got their much needed relief which they sought for. Now, what do we find? We find now an addition in the happy family of our Ministers. Whatever that may be we find that our new Ministers have by acknowledgment accepted the budget of the old Ministry and the Hon'ble Chief Minister has himself presented it and saved the troubles of his other colleagues who formerly used to present their own departmental budgets. I think, they did not present the budget separately because they had nothing to present (*laughter*). Sir, I would not mind whether the budget is a surplus one or a deficit one provided there would be imagination behind it. I noticed in yesterday's paper that in the United Provinces budget, they have provided a sum not less than one crore of rupees for village uplift and on that account they may have a deficit budget to some extent but that does not matter. If our Ministry would have shown a deficit budget in order to meet the growing demands of our agriculturists we would not have cared it but the worst of it is that though there is a deficit budget there is no sign of any improvement in any of the departments. Sir, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has said many things in his speech but he has not said anything about the Commissioners' establishment. He made some bold statements in the last session of the Assembly and we thought that he would stick to that, but alas we have been disillusioned to find that he has included that expenditure in the budget and has dared to produce it before the House. He has said nothing about it. Perhaps he has thought that the less is said about it the better. Sir, we have found that in this province the Government of India has been thwarted. It has been thwarted not by the Congress group but by the rulers themselves.

Now, Sir, I shall deal mainly with the budget regarding agriculture and industry. In agriculture we find that new schemes have been included. I was curious to know what these new schemes are. I found to my surprise that one Agricultural Inspector has been provided in one subdivision and one Demonstrator in another subdivision. These are the new schemes that have been provided for in this budget. With these new schemes, the Hon'ble Chief Minister has given us consolation about the agricultural

budget. Sir, as regards the agricultural people of our Valley I can say at least that there are three great impediments to their agriculture, i.e., (1) water-hyacinth, (2) defective drainage and flood, and (3) irrigation. I said something about irrigation during the last session. This question of irrigation does not cover Surma Valley alone. This question concerns Assam Valley also. The Hon'ble Chief Minister said that this irrigation scheme would cost about two lakhs of rupees, and that his predecessors could not find resources for this during the last seven or eight years. Sir, there can be resources for the addition in the Cabinet as well as for other luxuries but there cannot be any provision made for the irrigation department though as a result of it Government have to remit a huge amount of agricultural loan because our agriculturists cannot grow crops every year due to inundation and defective drainage. So practically Government have lost a large amount of revenue during the last eight years and still a single *Kauri* has not been provided in the budget for the establishment of the irrigation department. Even if a portion of that amount could be allotted every year, I think, in course of three, four or five years that department could have been started. Then our Hon'ble Finance Minister has said that in Agriculture Department more effective measure has been undertaken by the Government for bringing home to rural population the benefit of scientific agriculture. I do not know, Sir, what that effective measure Government have been pleased to take. Sir John Russel has stated in his valuable report that the gulf between the agriculturists and the experimental stations should be bridged. I do not know what this Ministry has done in that direction. Sir, a sum of Rs. 4,000 has been spent for the irrigation pumps and even that Rs. 4,000 does not come from the coffers of the provincial Government but it comes from the donation of the Central Government. This Rs. 4,000 does not however touch the fringe of the problem. In our Valley, Sir, failure of crops has been a chronic disease to which the poor agriculturists and cultivators are victims. They are not in a position to pay the rents duly. There has been an agitation among the tenants because their holdings have become uneconomic and unproductive; the rent continues to be higher but the yield of the land is very poor. The solution of this problem lies mainly with the Agriculture Department. There should have been a bold scheme for planned system of agriculture but nothing has been done in this direction.

About the rural development scheme, we find that a highly-paid Government officer has been appointed but there is no money for him to spend for the scheme. The money that was allotted for it has gone to some other head of expenditure through some mistake in the budget. That is the fun of it. For a scheme of Rs. 10,000 an officer worth Rs. 12,000 per annum was appointed and even then this Rs. 10,000 was not available to him through some oversight of the Government. This is how the work is being done and the laudable scheme of model village has failed. Sir, our agriculturists do not get proper price for their agricultural produce. What has been done to secure better price for their agricultural produce? What are the Marketing Officers doing? They have been appointed for the last 2 or 3 years and getting their salaries, but what have they done to alleviate the distress of the poor people? There must be some proper arrangement for marketing the agricultural produce. There is a gulf of difference between the price which the consumer pays for the agricultural produce and the price the producer gets. This difference must be bridged. What have the Marketing Officers done to this effect? But in the meantime, perhaps several thousands of rupees have been spent for their salaries and collection of so-called statistics

Sir, as for industry, we find that some stipends were granted for training in metal working, glazed pottery, umbrella making and the boot and shoe industry. Sir, we find in Bengal that students trained in such industries get the financial backing from the Government but here there is no such backing and the training and education that the students received have been of no use to them. I understand that there is a soap expert of the Government of Assam. I don't know what education or training he has given to the people and how many soap factories have been started in the province. We are going to have a Jute Spinning and Weaving Party. Perhaps it will also fare no better. They may give some education to the people but the fact is that unless there is some financial backing, and credit facilities for industrial enterprises, it will bring no good to the people. It will be putting the cart before the horse. Sir, I have noticed that in Bengal an Industrial Credit Syndicate has been started. I understand that half of the loss in the first ten lakhs of its capital invested in industrial pursuits will be borne by the Government and the working expenses of the first five years to the extent of Rs.20,000 per year will be borne by the Bengal Government. This syndicate will give industrial credit to the small industrial enterprises. But has the Government of Assam done anything for this purpose? Sir, I put a question in the last session of the Assembly as to the amount given as industrial loan and in reply I came to know that not more than Rs.500 was given by the Assam Government as industrial loan. In Bengal there are millionaires to give financial backing to industries, but here in Assam we have got no capitalists to finance the industries. So, if the Government are to augment their resources and revenues, they must see that the industrial enterprises of the province are given due facilities. In Bengal the Government raised capital for its Industrial Credit Syndicate by the sale of shares. If in Assam the system of issuing debentures with Government guarantee for the payment of interest were adopted, the Government could have raised the necessary capital for an industrial bank. But I see this Government have no time to take into consideration all these things. During the long ten months past they have been more engaged in the security of their own position than in the security of the people. This is what has been reflected in their budget. It has no luminating feature at all. This is all about the industrial and agricultural budget. I hope the new Ministry will take bold attitude with regard to agriculture and industry which have immense possibilities in this province. By the neglect of the Government towards the agricultural tenantry they have been hard hit and it is not possible for them to recover from the depression that has prevailed throughout the province for the last 5 or 6 years. With these words, Sir, I conclude my speech.

Adjournment

The Assembly then adjourned till 11 a.m., on Thursday, the 17th February 1938.

Shillong,

A. K. BARUA,

The 12th March, 1938. }

Secretary, Assam Legislative Assembly.