

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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong at 10 A.M., on Thursday, the 18th March, 1948.

PRESENT :

The Hon'ble Mr. Lakshesvar Borooah, Speaker, in the Chair, the eight Hon'ble Ministers and forty-two Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Military Training to Boys and Girls reading in Colleges

† Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA asked :

*16. Will Government be pleased to state whether Government propose to make adequate arrangements for imparting Military Training to the boys and girls reading in Colleges under Gauhati University ?

Srijut MOHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

16.—Introduction of Military Training to boys and girls reading in Colleges under the Gauhati University is a matter for the University to take up.

Transport Grants allotted by Government to Government Girls' High Schools and Aided Girls' Schools

†† Srijut DALBIR SINGH LOHAR asked :

*17. (a) Is it a fact that transport grants allotted by Government to Government Girls' High Schools and other Government Aided Girls' High Schools have been stopped ?

(b) Is it a fact that the School authorities concerned are insisting upon Government for the continuance of the grant in order to remove the difficulties of the girl students and teachers attending schools from distances ranging from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles or more ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the amount of saving accrued to Government as a result of the discontinuance of the said grant ?

† The Question was put by Srijut Hem Chandra Hazarika on authorisation.

†† The Question was put by Srijut Bhadra Kanta Gogoi on authorisation.

Srijut MOHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary)
replied :

17. (a)—Yes.
(b)—Yes.
(c)—Hon. Member is referred to the Statement given below:—

Statement showing the amount of conveyance allowances received by the Schools from time to time

Name of the Schools	Before 1st Sept. 1942	From 1st Sept. 1942 to 31st July 1944	From 1st Aug. 1944 to 30th Sept 1946	From 1st Oct. 1946 to 1st Sept. 1947	From 1st Sept. 1947 onwards
1. Dibrugarh Government Girls' High School.	Rs. 125 per mensem.	Rs. 150 per mensem.	Rs. 301 per mensem.	Rs. 125 per mensem.	Nil
2. Jorhat Aided Girls' High School.	Nil	Nil	100 per mensem.	Nil	Nil

Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI: ফ্রাণ্ট কিয় বহু কৰা হ'ল জনাৰনে ?

Srijut MOHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary):
আটাইবিলাক স্কুলতে দিব নোৱাৰাৰ কাৰণে।

Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI: বৰ্তমান ওপৰোক্ত স্কুল দুখনৰ ছাত্ৰীসকলৰ
অসুবিধাৰ কথা গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টে স্বীকাৰ নকৰেণে ?

Srijut MOHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary):
তেনেকুৱা অসুবিধা সকলো স্কুলতে আছে।

Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI: অসমৰ বাকী বিলাক ছাত্ৰী স্কুলৰ কাৰণেও
এই ব্যৱস্থা হাতত ল'বলৈ চৰকাৰে ভাবিছেনে ?

Srijut MOHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary):
এই সকলো বিলাক কথাই বৰ্তমানে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ বিবেচনাধীন হৈ আছে।

Grant-in-aid to St. Edmund's College, Shillong

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA asked :

*18 Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government gives any grant-in-aid to the St. Edmund's College, Shillong ?
(b) If so, what is the amount ?
(c) Whether it is a fact that the tuition fee of the day scholars as well as boarders has been raised at present from Rs.15 to Rs.25 per mensem in that College ?
(d) If so, what is the reason therefor ?

- (e) Whether it is a fact that from the last year boarders of the College will be charged ten months' tuition fees and boarding expenses for a nine months' Course in a year instead of nine months which was in vogue previously ?
- (f) If the replies to questions above are in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether they have any control over this institution ?
- (g) If so, in what way ?

Srijut MOHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

18.(a)—Yes.

- (b)—1. Rs.10,000 a year for B. T. Section.
2. Rs.2,400 a year for Under Graduate Department.
3. Rs.10,000 a year for School Department.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—The fees collected at the old rate did not cover the expenditure actually incurred for the purpose, as a result there was heavy deficit, viz, Rs.13,848-8-0 in 1944, Rs.6,413 in 1945 and Rs.25,978-4-0 in 1946.

(e)—Yes, in order to meet the actual expenditure required for the purpose the boarders are required to pay boarding charges for ten months and tuition fee for twelve months. It may be noted in this connection that the salaries of teachers are to be paid for twelve months and not for nine months.

(f)—Yes.

(g)—By enforcing the Departmental Rules and Orders and by inspecting the accounts before sanctioning grants.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA : As regards reply to (d), may I know from the hon. Parliamentary Secretary what is the reason for this deficit ?

Srijut MOHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary) : They had to pay higher salaries to teachers.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA : Did the authority of this College consult the Government for the increment of the fees ?

Srijut MOHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary) : Government have given a general order to the private institutions to raise their fees to a certain extent.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Distribution of C. I. Sheets in the Province

Maulavi ABUAL MAJID ZIAOSH SHAMS asked :

76. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The total percentage of quota of corrugated iron sheets allotted for each of the District in the Province of Assam ?
- (b) The percentage of the quota allotted for (i) Dhubri Sadar and (ii) Goalpara Subdivision ?

- (c) The population of the Districts of (i) Sylhet, (ii) Cachar, (iii) Goalpara and (iv) Dhubri Subdivision according to the last census?
- (d) Whether Government are aware that Dhubri being connected by Railway and Steamer Service and as numerous country boats carry goods to and from Dhubri, it is a great Supply centre for goods to many places?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that about 3,000 applications are still pending and that the applicants have not got the required corrugated iron sheets?
- (f) Whether Government propose to enquire what is the total number of applicants for corrugated iron sheets in the years 1946 and 1947 and how many of them got corrugated iron sheets?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS replied :

76. (a)—The total of corrugated iron sheets allotted to each district in the Province, period by period, in the year 1947 and I period 1948 is as follows:—

District	Period I—1947	Period II—1947	Period III—1947	Period IV—1947	Period I—1948
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
Cachar	No allotment	49	49	10	33½
Karimganj (Sylhet)	"	30	30	10	11
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	"	40	43	21	56
Kamrup	"	72	75	24	45
Goalpara	"	36	36	18	17
Darrang	"	30	30	10	17
Nowgong	"	34	32	10	14
Sibsagar	"	56	56	23	33½
Lakhimpur	"	41	41	16	28
Garó Hills	"	10	10	2	5½
Naga Hills	"	2	4	1	6
Sadiya Frontier Tract	"	10	9	1	5½
Lushai Hills	"	10	10	1	6
Manipur	"	5

(b)—The total tonnage of corrugated iron sheets allotted for Dhubri and Goalpara Subdivisions separately, period by period, in the year 1947 and period I 1948 is as follows:—

Subdivision	Period I—1947	Period II—1947	Period III—1947	Period IV—1947	Period I—1948
Dhubri	No allotment	24	24	12	11
Goalpara	"	12	12	6	6

Allotment of corrugated iron sheets is not made on population basis but on the basis of indents submitted by dealers whose names are on the approved list of the Iron and Steel Controller.

- (c)—(i) 31,16,602
(ii) 6,41,181
(iii) 10,14,285
(iv) 7,15,924 } According to 1941 census.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—It is a fact that a large number of applications for corrugated iron sheets are still pending in the office of the Deputy Commissioners for want of proper recommendations from local officers—stock being much less than the actual requirement.

(f)—The number of the applicants for corrugated iron sheets in 1946 and 1947 were numerous, but the allotment of corrugated iron sheets by the Government of India for this province was too meagre to meet the requirements of even a fraction of the population.

Distribution of Corrugated Iron Sheets in the Province

Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE asked :

77. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) How the corrugated iron sheets are distributed in the Province of Assam particularly in the District of Goalpara ?
- (b) The total number of corrugated iron sheets distributed in the Subdivision and District of Goalpara up-to-date from the year 1947 ?
- (c) Whether they are aware that the supply is quite insufficient to meet the need of the public of the District ?
- (d) If so, whether Government propose to increase the quota of the District ?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS replied :

77. (a)—Allotment of corrugated iron sheets is made by the Iron and Steel Controller, Government of India, to the province on quota basis. This allotment is intended to meet the requirement of the general public including small manufacturers of consumer goods. Materials against this allotment is normally made available through the Registered Stock-holders in the Province. All releases are controlled by the Provincial authorities. Members of the general public and any small manufacturer of consumer goods requiring materials out of this quota should apply to the Deputy Commissioners or Subdivisional Officers concerned who are authorised to issue permits upto ten bundles, for larger quantities Government approval is necessary. On the authority of the permit received the materials in question will be obtained from the Registered Stock-holders named in the permit. This procedure is applicable in all the districts in Assam and also in the district of Goalpara.

(b)—The total tonnage of corrugated iron sheets allotted for Dhubri and Goalpara Subdivisions separately, period by period, in the year 1947 and up-to-date is as follows :—

Subdivision	Period	Period	Period	Period	Period
	I—1947	II—1947	III—1947	IV—1947	I—1948
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
(i) Dhubri ...	No allotment	24	24	12	11
(ii) Goalpara ...	ditto	12	12	6	6

(c)—Yes.

(d)—At present supply of corrugated iron sheet to Assam is very short and the question of increasing the quota of the Goalpara District will be considered as soon as supply is adequate.

Muslim Hostel attached to the Earle Law College

Maulavi ABDUL HAI asked :

78. (a) Is it a fact that there is a Muslim Hostel attached to the Earle Law College, Gauhati ?

(b) Is it a fact that the said Hostel was occupied by Emigration Hospital during the last War and the building has been condemned by the Medical Authority and is now lying vacant ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Muslim students of the said college recently sent a memorial to the Hon'ble Prime Minister requesting the opening of the Muslim Hostel for their residence ?

(d) If so, do Government propose to take immediate steps to establish a New Muslim Hostel for the Earle Law College and meanwhile arrange for suitable accommodation for Muslim Students who want residence ?

Srijut MOHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

78. (a) & (b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes, in January 1948.

(d)—Steps are being taken for the reconstruction of the hostel. If necessary, a house will be rented for the residence of the Muslim Students of the Earle Law College.

School Buildings of the Barpeta Government High English School

Dr. JINARAM DAS asked :

79. (a) Are Government aware that the School Buildings of the Barpeta Government High English School is in a very dilapidated condition ?

(b) If so, do Government propose to order reconstruction of the said Buildings ?

Srijut MOHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

79. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Director of Public Instruction has called for plan and estimate from the Executive Engineer. As soon as they are received action will be taken accordingly.

Dibrugarh Girls' High English School Building

Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI asked :

80. Are Government aware of (a) the miserable condition of the Dibrugarh Girls' High English School building and boarding houses ?

(b) Are Government aware of the untold suffering of the students and boarders of the said School during rainy days ?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to state what steps are being taken by them to improve the affairs ?

Srijut MOHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary) replied :

80. (a) & (b)—Yes.

(c)—The work of reconstruction of the school and hostel buildings at estimated costs of Rs.27,528 and Rs.16,000 respectively has already been taken up. The proposed number of seats in the reconstructed hostel is 15.

Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI: (c) উত্তৰত স্কুল আৰু হোডিংঘৰৰ বাবে টকা মন্ত্ৰৰ দেখুৱা হৈছে, কিন্তু কাম আৰম্ভ হৈছেনে ?

Srijut MOHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary): The reply is already there. The work of reconstruction of the school and hostel buildings has already been taken up.

Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI: ঠিকা কাক দিয়া হৈছে আৰু কাম কাম কিমান দূৰ আগবাঢ়িছে ?

Srijut MOHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary): সেইটো খবৰ কৰিহে জনাব পাৰিম।

Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI: ছাত্ৰীসকলৰ দুখ দুৰ্গতিৰ কথা গভৰ্ণ মেণ্টে কেতিয়া, কিমান দিনৰ আগতে জানিব পাৰিছে ?

Srijut MOHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary): জনাব লগে লগেই কাম হাতত লৈছে ?

Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI: বাৰিষা অহাৰ আগতে কাম আৰম্ভ কৰি ছাত্ৰীসকলৰ দুৰ্গতি মোচনৰ কিবা দিহা কৰিবনে ? যিহেতু আজিলৈকে এটুকুৰা কাঠ বা এচটা ইটাও তাত পৰাগৈ চকুত পৰা নাই।

Srijut MOHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY: (Parliamentary Secretary): বাৰিষাৰ আগতে কাম আৰম্ভ কৰাই নহয়, শেষ কৰিবৰ বাবে যত্ন কৰা হব।

Natun Dehar Mauza in Kamrup District

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

81. Are Government aware—

(a) That the Mauza, Natun Dehar under Nalbari Police Station in Kamrup district is one of the most back-ward Mauzas as regards education ?

(b) That the Mauza did not possess even a Middle Vernacular or Middle English School so long ?

(c) That a few energetic cultivators have started a Middle English School about three years ago at a place known as Barkhetri Baneykuchi and are running the school in their humble way ?

(d) That they have applied to Government for helping them with a recurring maintenance grant ?

82. With a view to encourage the people of this back-ward Mauza in their effort for spread of education do Government propose to grant a suitable maintenance grant and an adequate non-recurring grant for the development of the aforesaid school ?

Srijut MOHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary)

replied :

81. (a)—No.

(b)—Yes, there was no public enterprise so long.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Government have no information.

82.—Because the Mauza has no other Middle Vernacular or Middle English School so this school should receive Government grant in aid recurring or non-recurring is not a sound proposition. The area is over flooded with all sorts of primary and secondary Schools and the Government will surely consider the case of this school along with other such schools of the Province.

Nowgong District Liaison Committee

Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE asked :

83. (a) Are Government aware that no meeting of the Nowgong District Liaison Committee has been held for the last five months ?

(b) If so, why ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Congress M. L. A.s who were members of the said Committee have resigned their membership of the Committee ?

(d) If so, what are the grounds of their resignation ?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS replied :

83. (a)—Yes.

(b) & (c)—M. L. A.s belonging to Congress Parliamentary Party submitted their resignation.

(d)—The ground for resignation was that Liaison Committee was not authorised to appoint and discard Textile dealers.

On receipt of Government letter No.LTC.52/45/100, dated the 20th May 1947, which authorises the Liaison Committee to remove undesirable dealers with Government approval, all the Congress M. L. A.s have joined the last meeting held on 23rd September 1947.

Number of T. B. cases in the Province

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

84. (a) Are Government aware that the number of T. B. cases is increasing in the province by leaps and bounds both in towns and villages ?

(b) Are Government aware that T. B. is confronting the people of the province as a terrible menace ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the names of the existing hospitals in the province meant entirely for T. B. patients—

(i) run solely by Government,

(ii) run solely by private organisations, and

(iii) run by private institutions with Government aid (showing the number of inmates that can be accommodated in each of them) ?

(d) With a view to give T. B. patients of the province proper shelter and treatment, do Government propose to start one or two well equipped hospitals in some suitable places ?

(e) With a view to combat this disease do Government propose to prepare a scheme and put the same into practice as early as possible ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS replied :

84. (a)—No. In order to get a correct picture a survey has been started.

(b)—Government agree that tuberculosis is a terrible menace.

(c)—(i) The Reid Provincial Chest Hospital at Shillong—55 patients.

(ii)—Nil.

(iii)—American Baptist Mission Hospital at Jorhat—35 patients.

(d)—Yes. Government are aware of the urgency of the problem. The bed strength of the Reid Provincial Chest Hospital will ultimately be raised to 150. Plans and estimates for extension by 25 beds have already been sanctioned.

(e)—Yes. Government propose to prepare a scheme and as a preliminary to that, the Provincial T. B. Officer is arranging to carry out T. B. Survey of Jorhat town in co-operation with private practitioners, Municipal Commissioners and others.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Has any other place in the Assam Valley been selected for opening of Clinics for the treatment of T. B. patients as in Shillong ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : Not yet, Sir.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Do Government consider that the Reid Chest Provincial Hospital at Shillong is sufficient to give treatment to the patients in the whole of the Province ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : That can be said only after the result of survey is available, Sir.

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Survey is being done only in respect of the town of Jorhat ?

The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS : It has been started in Jorhat and after this the survey work will be done in the other places of the Province also, Sir.

Announcement of the result of election to the Advisory Board for Development—Industrial and Co-operative Sections

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I shall now announce the result of election to the Advisory Board for Development, Assam. The following hon. Members having secured the largest number of votes are hereby declared duly elected to the Industrial Section of the said Board :—

1. Mr. Harendra Nath Sarma ;
2. Babu Bidyapati Singha ; and
3. Raja Ajit Narayan Dev of Sidli.

For the Co-operative Section of the said Board, Srijut Lakshmidhar Bora having secured the highest number of votes is hereby declared duly elected.

**His Excellency's Message re: consideration of the Assam Revenue Tribunal
(Transfer of Powers) Bill, 1947**

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: As the hon. Members know, the Assam High Court is coming into operation from the 5th of April next. It has been represented to me that the small consequential Amendment recommended by His Excellency to the Assam Revenue Tribunal (Transfer of Powers) Bill, 1947, copies of which have already been circulated to all hon. Members, should be incorporated in the Bill as quickly as possible so that the Bill as amended may secure His Excellency's assent well ahead of that date.

As I have said, the Amendment is consequential. Instead of following any elaborate procedure for its disposal under Assembly (Governor's) Rule 10, I suggest, without creating a precedent, that all the stages for its disposal as shown in the addenda to the agenda should be finished and the Bill so amended be passed to-day. I hope the House will have no objection to this suggestion.

I now announce the message from His Excellency the Governor under proviso to section 75 of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted by the India (Provisional Constitution) Order, 1947, in connection with the Assam Revenue Tribunal (Transfer of Powers) Bill, 1947, which reads as follows:—

“The Assam Revenue Tribunal (Transfer of Powers) Bill, 1947, has been passed by the Assam Legislative Assembly and presented to me in accordance with section 75 of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted by the India (Provisional Constitution) Order, 1947. For the reason given below I feel obliged to return it to the Assembly with a message under the proviso to that section, with the request that the Assembly considers the desirability of amending the Bill in the manner recommended below.

2. The amendment is consequential as the Assam High Court Order, 1948, was not made and published during the year 1947.

3. I therefore make the following recommendation:—
That in sub-clause (1) of clause 2 for the figures ‘1947’ the figures ‘1948’ be substituted.

4. In pursuance, therefore, of the provisions of the proviso to section 75 of the Government of India Act, 1935, as adapted by the India (Provisional Constitution) Order, 1947, I, Muhammad Salih Akbar Hydari, Governor of Assam, request that the Assam Legislative Assembly considers the desirability of introducing the provision recommended above in the Assam Revenue Tribunal (Transfer of Powers) Bill, 1947.

5. I hereby appoint the Hon'ble Srijut Bishnuram Medhi to be in charge of the Assam Revenue Tribunal (Transfer of Powers) Bill, 1947, for the purpose of this message.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, SHILLONG,

A. HYDARI,

Governor of Assam.”

The 11th of March, 1948.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor and the Amendment proposed by him to be introduced in the Assam Revenue Tribunal (Transfer of Powers) Bill, 1947 and put before the House from the Chair be considered in detail.

I need not go into the details. This is only a consequential amendment of the figures '1947' to '1948'. The whole idea is that at the time we introduced this Assam Revenue Tribunal (Transfer of Powers) Bill by which we proposed to transfer all the cases of judicial nature to the Hon'ble High Court to be established, we were under the impression that the High Court Order would be published in 1947. But as a matter of fact no such High Court Order was published in 1947 and the Order has been published in 1948, and consequently in the whole Bill the figures '1947' remain. So this is only a consequential correction and '1947' should be changed to '1948'. In view of this, the hon. House will please consider this matter and accept the Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved: "That the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor and the Amendment proposed by him to be introduced in the Assam Revenue Tribunal (Transfer of Powers) Bill, 1947 and put before the House from the Chair be considered in detail."

(After a pause)

No hon. Member is taking part. So, I put the question: The question is: "That the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor and the Amendment proposed by him to be introduced in the Assam Revenue Tribunal (Transfer of Powers) Bill, 1947 and put before the House from the Chair be considered in detail."

The question was adopted.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Next item is the consideration of the Amendment recommended by His Excellency the Governor to the Assam Revenue Tribunal (Transfer of Powers) Bill, 1947.

(After a pause)

It appears no hon. Member is taking part. The Hon'ble the Revenue Minister will now move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Revenue Tribunal (Transfer of Powers) Bill, 1947, as now amended, be passed. I hope the hon. Members will accept this Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved: "That the Assam Revenue Tribunal (Transfer of Powers) Bill, 1947, as now amended, be passed."

(After a pause)

No hon. Member is taking part. I put the question. The question is: "That the Assam Revenue Tribunal (Transfer of Powers) Bill, 1947, as now amended, be passed."

The question was adopted

Budget Discussions

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Now we have got about 1 hour 48 minutes before lunch for general discussion of the Budget. I told that this time was allotted to the hon. Leader of the Opposition and to the Hon'ble Finance Minister to reply. So if the hon. Leader of the Opposition agrees, of course, Mr Basumatari who is waiting to speak can speak.

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I have no objection, Sir. We have enough time to accommodate any other Member.

Srijut DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: সত্ৰাপতি মহাশয়, জাতিৰ পিতা মহাত্মা গান্ধীৰ নেতৃত্বত আৰু তেখেতৰ সহকৰ্মী বহু মহাপুৰুষৰ ত্যাগ ও প্ৰাণৰ নিৰ্মময়ত আমি যোৱা ১৫ আগষ্টৰ পৰা স্বাধীনতা পালোঁ। এই স্বাধীন ভাৱতত আমাৰ অৰ্থমন্ত্রী ডাক্তাৰীয়াই তেখেতৰ মহান আদৰ্শত দেশ উন্নয়ন পৰিকল্পনা নানা প্ৰকাৰৰ আঁচনিৰে সৈতে সি বাজেট জাতি ধৰিছে, তাৰ বাবে ময়ো তেখেতক ধন্যবাদ নিদি নোৱাৰিলোঁ।

গান্ধীজীয়ে এনে এখন দেশ বিচাৰিছিল য'ত নেকি ধনী আৰু দুখীয়াৰ ব্যৱধান থাকিব নোৱাৰে আৰু য'ত কোনো জাতি-বিচাৰ নোহাকে। এতিয়া কথা হৈছে—আমি তেখেতৰ মহান আদৰ্শ কাৰ্যত কেনেকৈ পৰিণত কৰিব পাৰো। অকল কাৰ্গজে কলমে নিৰি ডাঙৰ ডাঙৰ গলাৰে চিহ্নি কৰিলে নহব। কথা আমি বহুত শুনিছোঁ। সিদিনা কেন্দ্ৰীয় পৰিষদত টাইবেল নেতা এজনে মাননীয় পেটেল চাহাবক পিচপৰা এই অধিবাসী বা টাইবেল বোক কেনেকৈ আপুনি উন্নত কৰিব খুজিছে বুলি সোধাত, তেখেতে সন্মোদন কৰি উত্তৰ দিলে—“মি: জয় গান। আপুনি দেখিব এই দহ বছৰৰ পিচত টাইবেল, আৰু এই টাইবেল হৈ নোহাকে। আমি পুত্ৰককে জয়পাল কৰি তুলিম।” কাৰণ তেখেত এজন অক্সফোৰ্ড গ্ৰেজুৱেট। এইবোৰ কথা শুনি আমি সদায় আশা কৰি আছিলোঁ, স্বাধীনতা পোৱাৰ পিচত নিশ্চয় কিবা এটি আমূল পৰিবৰ্তন হব। কিন্তু আজি আমি কি দেখিছোঁ—দেখিছোঁ চাৰিও পিনে অশান্তি আৰু হাঁহাঁকাৰ। ইয়াৰ কাৰণ কোন পিনিত, তাক ভালকৈ বিচাৰ কৰি চাব লাগিব। মোৰ বোধেৰে আমি আমাৰ সকলোৰে দৃষ্টিভঙ্গি বা mental পৰিবৰ্তন কৰিব পৰা নাই। মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয় সকলে কি জানি হয়তো বিভাগীয় কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ ভালদৰে সহযোগিতা পোৱা নাই। কাৰণ কিছুমান ক্ষেত্ৰত দেখিবলৈ পোৱা যায়, মন্ত্ৰী সকলে যদি দহ জনৰ চকৈ কিবা কাম কৰিবলৈ আগ বাঢ়ে, বিভাগীয় কৰ্মচাৰী বোৰে তাক নানা বকম technical difficulty দেখুৱাই নাকচ কৰি দিয়ে। তেওঁলোকৰ দৃষ্টিভঙ্গি আমূল পৰিবৰ্তন হলেহে হয়তো আমি বাঞ্ছিত কাম পাব পাৰো।

সিদিনা আমাৰ ফুকন ডাক্তাৰীয়াই টাইবেল বোক ভৈয়ামবাসী সকলৰ লগত এক হবলৈ আহ্বান জনাইছে, তেখেতে কৈছে এতিয়া বৃত্তি নাই যে আমাক ব্যৱধান কৰি নাগিব। ভাল কথা; আনক আহ্বান কৰাৰ আগতে আমি সকলোৰে আমাৰ দৃষ্টিভঙ্গি পৰিবৰ্তন কৰিব লাগিব। কি অর্থনীতি, কি সমাজনীতি সকলোতে আমি উদাৰ হৈ মানুহৰ অস্তব জয় কৰিব লাগিব। কি অর্থনীতি, কি সমাজনীতি সকলোতে আমি উদাৰ হৈ মানুহৰ অস্তব জয় কৰিব লাগিব। High Caste কটনীতিৰে মানুহৰ অস্তব জয় কৰিব নোৱাৰি। পাৰি যদিও সি কণস্বায়ী। Superiority complex) যিমান দিন থাকিব গিমান দিন দেশত শান্তি হব নোৱাৰে। যাৰ নেৰপাকত আজি জগতৰ প্ৰিয় পাত্ৰ—আমাৰ জাতিৰ পিতা বাপুজীৰ নিচিনা মানুহেও প্ৰাণ দিব লগা হল। সমাজৰ এই হীনদেড়ি ভাব সমূলি ধ্বংস কৰিব লাগিব। মহলে জগতত কেতিয়াও শান্তি স্থাপন হব নোৱাৰে। অৱশ্যে এইটো ঠিক পৰি আছে যে এওঁলোকৰ লগত সকলো প্ৰকাৰে প্ৰচলণ কৰা তেওঁলোকৰ পক্ষে টাণ।

কিন্তু দেখা যায় যে সি দুই এজন উচ্চি আহিছে তেওঁলোককো সকলো প্ৰকাৰে আকোৱালি ধৰিব পৰা নাই বা পৰস্পৰ বিশ্বাসভাঞ্জন হোৱা দেখা নোৱাৰ। কব নোৱাৰো ইয়াৰ কাৰণ কোনখিনিত। মোৰ বোধেৰে ৰাজনীতিতকৈ সমাজনীতি বিমুক্ত। আৰু এই বিমুক্ত বস্ত্ৰ ধ্বংস কৰিবলৈ সকলোৰে বন্ধপৰিকৰ হোৱা উচিত—অৱশ্যে যদি আমি শান্তি বিচাৰোঁ।

আমি বাপুজীৰ মহাণ আদৰ্শত দেশখন গঢ়ি তুলিবলৈ বিচাৰিছোঁ। সেইটো আমি কেৱল কাৰ্গজে কলমে ডাঙৰ ডাঙৰ আঁচনি ললে নহব। তাক মই অলপ আগতে কৈ আহিছোঁ। অসম সকলো প্ৰদেশতকৈ পিছ পৰা আৰু এই পিছ পৰা প্ৰদেশত শিক্ষা আৰু আৰ্থিক অৱস্থা টনকিয়াল কৰিবলৈ সুবিধা দিব লাগিব পোন প্ৰথমে নিচেই পিছ পৰি থকা নাওঠা জাতি সকলক। এইটোও সেই মহাপুৰুষৰেই আদৰ্শ। তেওঁলোকৰ আৰ্থিক অৱস্থা টনকিয়াল কৰিব লাগিব সকলো প্ৰকাৰ বেহাৰেপাৰত সুবিধা দি। তাকেই কৰিবলৈ হলে সকলো প্ৰকাৰ ঠিকা আৰু বেহা-বেপাৰ Communal basis অত ভাগ কৰি দিয়াৰ দিহা কৰিব লাগিব। Communal basis অত ভাগ কৰা কথাটো Communal feeling হব নোৱাৰে।

দহ বছৰৰ কাৰণে যেতিয়া Comunal Representation মানি লোৱা হৈছে, তাত আমি ভাবো এই দহ বছৰৰ ভিতৰতে অনুন্নত সম্প্ৰদায়ে উন্নত সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ লগত সমান সাৰিলে আহিবৰ কাৰণে সকলো প্ৰকাৰৰ সুবিধা দিয়া উচিত। নহলে সাম্প্ৰদায়িকতাৰ হীনদেড়ি সদায় থাকিয়েই যাব।

সকলো ক্ষেত্ৰত প্ৰতিযোগিতা কৰি যোগ্যতা আৰ্জন কৰা এই পিচপৰা ট্ৰাইবেল ভাই সকলৰ পক্ষে বৰ্তমান সম্ভৱপৰ নহয়। তেওঁলোকৰ কাৰণে অন্ততঃ দহ বছৰৰ বাবে সকলো ক্ষেত্ৰত আঁচুটীয়াকৈ বাৰিব লাগিব। প্ৰাথমিক শিক্ষা বাধ্যতা মূলক প্ৰচলন কৰিবলৈ বিচৰাত আমি আনন্দ পাইছিলো আৰু ঠায়ে ঠায়ে মিটিং কৰি প্ৰস্তাৱ পঠাইছিলো ট্ৰাইবেল অঞ্চলত পোন প্ৰথমে প্ৰচলন কৰিব লাগে বুলি। কিন্তু মাননীয় মেধি ডাঙৰীয়াৰ বাজেট চাই হতাশ হ'লো তেনে আঁচনি কতো লোৱা হোৱা নাই বুলি।

Post-War Reconstruction Scheme মতে বহুত ৰাস্তা, ডাঙৰ ডাঙৰ ঘৰ আৰু ডাক বঙলা সজোৱাৰ কাম হাতত লোৱা দেখা গৈছে। কিন্তু বৰ আচৰিত কথা Backward Tribal অঞ্চলত একেবাৰেই নাই বুলিলেও বেচি কোৱা নহয়।

যদিওবা ২১টা লৈছে, গিও ভেকো-ভাওনাহে মাত্ৰ। অৰ্থাৎ কৰবাত ৩২মাইলৰ ভিতৰত ৬মাইল, ১৬মাইলৰ ভিতৰত ৪মাইল আৰু ১২মাইলৰ ভিতৰত ৩মাইলহে কাম কৰিবলৈ হাতত লৈছে। অৰ্থচ আন হাতে দেখা গৈছে, সেই একে জিলাতে অৰ্থাৎ কামকৰণৰ দক্ষিণ অঞ্চলত ৰাস্তায় ৰাস্তা ভৰি গৈছে, যেনে—Nalbari-Palla Palla-Amingaon, Barpeta-Tarabari আৰু Barbaripur-Barpeta ইত্যাদি প্ৰায় ৬৭টা ৰাস্তা। প্ৰত্যেকেই ১২মাইলৰ পৰা ১৮মাইল। আৰু গোটেইটো অংশ সম্পূৰ্ণৰূপে হাতত লোৱা হৈছে আৰু শেষো হোৱা দেখা গৈছে। অৱশ্যে মই এইটো Grudge কৰি কোৱা নাই। মই বুজিবলৈ টান পাইছোঁ কিয় ট্ৰাইবেল অঞ্চলৰ ৰাস্তাবোৰ তেনে কৰা হৈছে। এই সম্পৰ্কে P. W. D. মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিলোঁ। বোধকৰো তেখেতে কৰ্মচাৰীৰ মেৰপাকত পৰি কিং কৰ্তব্য বিমূঢ় হৈছে। কাৰণ ইয়াৰ বিষয়ে বহুত বান বহুত ঠাইত কাণ ছোৱাইছিলোঁ। যদি পিচপৰা ঠাই বুলি কুলি আৰু ঠিকাদাৰ পোৱা নেযায়, তেন্তে সেইবোৰৰ ঠিকা ট্ৰাইবেলক দিলেই সমস্যাটো সমাধান হ'ল হেতেন। অৱশ্যে মই জানো সেইবোৰ অঞ্চলত কুলিবোৰে একে (Rate)ৰেইটত কাম কৰিবলৈ টান পায়।

সেই কাৰণে সিদিনা অলপতে Backward ঠাইবোৰত হাজাৰত ৫০টকাৰ পৰা ১০০টকালৈ বঢ়াই দিবলৈ আমাৰ জনপ্ৰিয় বিশেষকৈ ট্ৰাইবেলৰ বন্ধু প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী বৰদলৈ ডাঙৰীয়াক অনুৰোধ কৰিছিলো। আৰু তেখেতেও প্ৰতিশ্ৰুতি দিছিল। ইয়াৰ বাবে মই তেখেতক আন্তৰিক ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন কৰিছোঁ।

যাতায়তে দেশ আৰু জাতি গঢ়ি তোলাৰ এটা প্ৰধান অঙ্গ বুলি মই ভাবোঁ। কাৰণ যি ঠাইত যাতায়তৰ অসুবিধা তাকে Backward বুলি কোৱা হয়। আৰু যাতায়তৰ অভাৱতেই ট্ৰাইবেল আৰু পিচপৰা ঠাইবোৰত ডাঙৰখানা ২১ খন থাকিলেও তালৈ ডাঙৰ নেযায়; ফলত চিকিৎসাৰ অভাৱত ট্ৰাইবেলবোৰ মেলেৰিয়া, কুষ্ঠৰোগ, যক্ষ্মা আদি না না ৰোগত আক্ৰান্ত হৈ পশুপক্ষীৰ নিচিনা হাজাৰ হাজাৰ কৰি মৰিব ধৰিছে, এই কথা কোনে নেজানে? এইবোৰ ঠাইত যাতায়তৰ সুবিধা দিয়াৰ লগে লগে যাতে চিকিৎসালয় আৰু পানীৰ ব্যৱস্থা আৱশ্যক পৰিমাণে কৰি দিয়ে তাৰ বাবে Hon'ble Medical Minister ডাঙৰীয়াৰ তীক্ষ্ণ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিলোঁ।

বাজেটত ট্ৰাইবেল আৰু Backward Areaত Primary Education-অৰ বাবে মাত্ৰ পঞ্চাশ হেজাৰ টকা লোৱা দেখা গৈছে। কব নোৱাৰো সেইটো Plains Tribal বোৰক include কৰিছে নে নাই? আৰু ছজন Tribal School Assistant Sub-Inspector লোৱা দেখা গৈছে। মই আশাকৰো শিক্ষামন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই এই ছজনক ট্ৰাইবেলৰ পৰাই লব। আৰু তেওঁলোকক ট্ৰাইবেল অঞ্চলতেই

নিয়োগ কৰিব। দেখা গৈছে ট্ৰাইবেল অঞ্চল বোৰত School Sub-Inspector আৰু Deputy Inspector মেলেৰিয়া আক্ৰান্তৰ তথ্যত স্কুল পৰিদৰ্শন কৰিবলৈ মেছাৰ। গৰমেও 3/8 বছৰৰ ভিতৰত এবাৰহে যায়। ফলত স্কুল থাকিলেও তাত ভাল শিক্ষা নহয়। আৰু নতুনকৈ হোৱা (venture) স্কুলবোৰ কৰ্তৃপক্ষৰ দৃষ্টিত নপৰে। সিদিনা অলপতে গৌহাটী সাৰ্ভিভিজনৰ কাৰণে এজন স্কুল Sub-Inspector বঢ়াই দিয়া হ'ল। মই কৰ্তৃপক্ষক অনুৰোধ কৰিছিলো—সেইজন Sub-Inspector ট্ৰাইবেলৰ পৰা নৈ ট্ৰাইবেল অঞ্চলত নিয়োগ কৰিব লাগে আৰু ট্ৰাইবেল প্ৰধান অঞ্চল বৰনাত তেওঁৰ Head Quarter কৰি দিব লাগে। কিন্তু বৰ দুখ আৰু অনুতাপৰ বিষয় যে গভৰ্ণ মেণ্ট মোৰ কথাটো অলপো তুচ্ছৰূপে নকৰি আন এজনক- লৈ তাৰ Head Quarter কৰি দিলে টিডত। আজি এবছৰ পাৰ হৈ গ'ল, সেই জন Sub-Inspector অকল নগাটী আৰু টিড নৌজাত ঘূৰি ফুৰিছে চাটৈ, আজিও নাকো অঞ্চলত গৈ পোৱা নাই। তাৰ পুৰাণ—সিদিনা গৌহাটী লোকেল বোৰ্ডৰ চেয়াৰমেন ডাঙৰীয়াৰে সৈতে নাকো অঞ্চল ঘূৰি ফুৰি দেখিলোঁ। আশা কৰো কৰ্তৃপক্ষ নাইবা শিক্ষা বিভাগৰ Parliamentary অঞ্চল ঘূৰি ফুৰি দেখিলেই চাপ আৰু বৰনাকে Head Quarter কৰি দিয়াৰ দিহা কৰিব। ইয়াৰ চেক্ৰেটাৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই চাপ আৰু বৰনাকে Head Quarter কৰি দিয়াৰ দিহা কৰিব। ইয়াৰ লগতে মই ইয়াৰ একো বুলি দেখা নাই, ট্ৰাইবেল Education অৰ Assistant Inspector of Schools, শ্ৰীযুত বন্ধুৰাম কছাৰীৰ Head Quarter কিয় বোৰহাটত কৰা হৈছে? ট্ৰাইবেল প্ৰধান ঠাই বুলিলে নগাটীৰ উত্তৰ অঞ্চল, দৰঙৰ উত্তৰ অঞ্চল, কামৰূপৰ উত্তৰ অঞ্চল আৰু গোৱাল পাৰাৰ উত্তৰ অঞ্চলকেই বুজায় বুলি সকলোতে জানে। গতিকে তেখেতৰ Head Quarter গৌহাটীত কৰিলেই কেন্দ্ৰস্থল হ'ব বুলি মই ভাবো। আশা কৰো শিক্ষামন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই ইয়াৰ যথাবিহিত কৰিব।

কৃষি বিষয়—আনি ট্ৰাইবেলবোৰ যে কৃষিজীবি তাক কোনে নেজানে? তাৰ পুৰাণ স্বৰূপে সিদিনা আমাৰ প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই বক্তৃতা প্ৰসঙ্গত সদিয়াৰ পৰা মনুৰীলৈকে উত্তৰ ট্ৰাইবেল অঞ্চলেই Surplus Area বুলি কৈছে। আৰু ইয়াকৈ কৈছে বৃদ্ধৰ সময়ত অনাটনৰ দিনত এই অঞ্চলেই গভৰ্ণ মেণ্টক বৰনৈক সহায়কৰিছিল। অৰ্থচ এনেহেন অঞ্চলত কৃষি বিভাগৰ পৰা একেবাৰেই সহায় পোৱা নাই বুলিলেও বেচি কোৱা নহয়। Drainage, Embankment আৰু Irrigation ইত্যাদি বিভাগ কাগজে কলমে দেখোঁ, কিন্তু আনি হলে ইয়াৰ কাম কৰ্মক্ষেত্ৰত দেখিবলৈ নেপাওঁ আৰু এই খেতিপাণা ট্ৰাইবেল অঞ্চলত কতো এখনো পণ্ড চিকিৎসালয় নাই। এই বিভাগীয় মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই আশা কৰো কৰ্মচাৰীৰ মৰ পাকত নপৰি এই বিষয়লৈ চকু দিব। আমাৰ অৰ্থমন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই অলপতে জমিদাৰী উচ্ছেদ কৰাৰ বিলো ডাঙি ধৰিব বুলি আশ্বাস দিছে। কিন্তু ইয়াতে তেখেতে দেৱোত্তৰ আৰু খানাবৰ মাটিবোৰ বাদ দিবলৈ বিচাৰিছে বুলি আমাৰ আশঙ্কা হৈছে। মোৰ বোধেৰে খানাবৰ মাটিবোৰো কিবা এটা নিৰ্দ্ধাৰিত কৰি দিব যাতে আকৌ এটা জমিদাৰী সৃষ্টি নহয়। আৰু দেৱোত্তৰ মাটিবোৰ ষ্টেট (state) নিৰ্দ্ধ হাতলৈ আনি মন্দিৰবোৰৰ চলোৱাৰ ভাৰ গভৰ্ণ মেণ্ট ল'ব লাগে। মন্দিৰ চলোৱাৰ আছিল লৈ আন এটা জমিদাৰীৰ সৃষ্টি কৰি বংশানুক্ৰমে এটা পৰিয়ালক সুবিধা দিয়াত মই কোনো বুলি নেদেখোঁ।

সনশেষত কেন্দ্ৰীয় পৰিষদত Drafting Committee এ Hills tribal সকলৰ দৰে Plains tribal সকলকো তেওঁলোকৰ উন্নয়নৰ আঁচনি কৰাই আখিক সহায় কৰিবলৈ আঁচনি লোৱাত বিশেষকৈ আনি কেন্দ্ৰীয় ডেপুটি Premier মাননীয় পটেল চাহাবক সমগ্ৰ ট্ৰাইবেলৰ হৈ বন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন কৰিছে। সিদিনা অসমলৈ আহোঁতে বক্তৃতা প্ৰসঙ্গত “ট্ৰাইবেলতো মেৰি কান্ধেপৰ হ্যায়” বুলি তেখেতে কৈছিল। অৱশ্যে ইয়াৰ নমুনা ইয়াকে ক'ব পাৰি।

লগতে আমাৰ প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী মাননীয় বৰদলৈ ডাঙৰীয়াকো সমগ্ৰ ট্ৰাইবেলৰ হৈ কৃতজ্ঞতা জ্ঞাপন কৰিছে। কাৰণ কেন্দ্ৰীয় পৰিষদত Plains tribal যে অসমত এটা বিশেষ সমষ্টি তাক নেজানিছিল। তেখেতেই তেওঁলোকক এই বিষয়ে Convince কৰাইছিল বুলি মই জানো। আশা কৰো এই পিচপৰা ট্ৰাইবেল সকলক সকলো প্ৰকাৰে সুবিধা দি এই দহ বছৰৰ ভিতৰতে আমল পৰিৱৰ্ত্তন কৰি এই “পিচ পৰা ট্ৰাইবেল” মূৰ্খণীয় শব্দটো গুচাই দিব। এই মোৰ গভৰ্ণ মেণ্ট আৰু সদস্য সকলৰ ওচৰত আবেদন। জয় হিন্দ।

Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI: মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়। মোক আজি বাজেট আলোচনাত অংশ গ্রহণ কৰি দুআঘাৰ কবলৈ ১০ মিনিট সময় দিয়াত ধন্যবাদ জনাইছো।

স্বাধীন ভাৰতৰ তথা স্বাধীন অসমৰ এয়ে প্ৰথম বাজেট অধিবেশণ। বাজহ মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই বহুমূলীয়া সময়োপযোগী নানান আঁচনিৰে ভৰা বাজেট উত্থাপন কৰাত মই অতৰেবে তেখেতক ধন্যবাদ জনাইছো। গাওঁ পঞ্চায়ত আৰু আধিয়াৰ বিল ডাঙিধৰা সময়োপযোগী হৈছে আৰু আগতে হোৱা হলে আজি আমি বহুদূৰ আগবাঢ়িব পাৰিলোহেতেন। গাওঁ পঞ্চায়ত বিলত অশিক্ষিত জন সাধাৰণৰ হাতত বহুত ক্ষমতা দিয়া হৈছে। অশিক্ষিত জনসাধাৰণৰ হাতত পৰি ক্ষমতাৰ অপব্যৱহাৰৰ বহুতো আশঙ্কা আছে যেনেকৈ তদাৰক কমিটিৰ বহুতো সভাই ক্ষমতা পাই ক্ষমতাৰ অপপ্ৰয়োগ কৰাৰ কথা। মন্ত্ৰীসকলে নজনা নহয়। বিল ডাঙি ধৰি পাছ কৰোৱা এটা কথা আৰু কামত খটোৱা এটা কথা। গতিকে বিল পাছ কৰিয়ে কাম শেষ নকৰি প্ৰকৃত কামত লগাবলৈ মন্ত্ৰী সকলক অনুৰোধ কৰিলো। বাধ্যতামূলক প্ৰাথমিক শিক্ষাবিল পাছহোৱা এবছৰ পাবহৈ গল কিন্তু আজিনৈকে কামত নখটোৱাটো দুখৰ বিষয়। অশিক্ষিত জনসাধাৰণৰ হাতলৈ ক্ষমতা দিয়াৰ আগতে তেওঁলোকক প্ৰকৃত শিক্ষিত কৰি গঢ়ি তোলাটো প্ৰথম কৰ্তব্য। অসমক প্ৰকৃত উন্নতি পথত ভাৰতৰ আন আন প্ৰদেশৰ সমানে তাল মাৰি খোজ কাঢ়িবলৈ হলে জনসাধাৰণক প্ৰকৃত শিক্ষিত কৰি গঢ়ি তুলিব লাগিব তেহে দেশৰ উন্নতি হব। কিন্তু দুখেৰে জনাব লগিয়া হৈছে বৰ্তমান চৰকাৰ এই বিষয়ত একেবাৰে উদাসীন, যেনে—সাহায্য প্ৰাপ্ত স্কুল আৰু শিক্ষক সকললৈ চালেই বুজিব পাৰিব। চৰকাৰি চাকৰিৰ বি, এ, পাছকৰা সকলৰ আৰম্ভণি বেতন ১২৫/১৫০ টকা কিন্তু সেই একে বি, এ, পাছ কৰা সাহায্যপ্ৰাপ্ত স্কুলৰ শিক্ষক সকলে ৫০/৬০ টকা দম্বহাত কটাৰ লগা হোৱাত বহুতে শিক্ষকতা এৰি চৰকাৰী চাকৰিত ভৰ্তি হোৱাত স্কুল বিলাকৰ অৱস্থা অতি শোচনীয় হৈ পৰিছে— বিশেষকৈ ডিব্ৰুগড় অঞ্চলৰ এনেৰকমৰ স্কুল বিলাকৰ অৱস্থা অতি শোচনীয়। বৰ্তমান চৰকাৰে এই শিক্ষক সকলক যি সামান্য বেতন বঢ়াই দিছে আৰু স্কুলৰ যি মাহিলি গ্ৰাণ্ট দিছে সি এপাচি শাকত এটা জালুকৰ দৰে। মই চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰো যাতে এই সাহায্য প্ৰাপ্ত স্কুল বিলাকৰ প্ৰতি চৰকাৰে দয়া দৃষ্টিৰে চায়।

Public Works Department—এই বিভাগৰ কাম অতি শোক লগা। যোৱা দুবছৰে এই বিভাগৰ পৰা ৰাইজৰ কিবা কাম হৈছে বুলি মই ভাবিব নোৱাৰো। **Public Works Department** নহৈ **Public waste department**ত পৰিণত হৈছে। এই বিভাগৰ আলিত যিমান টকা খৰছ দেখুৱা হৈছে কিন্তু কাম দেখি তাৰ ১/৪ অংশও খৰছ কৰিছে বুলি বিশ্বাস কৰা টানহৈ পৰিছে। **Post-war Development Board** এ ডিব্ৰুগড়ত **District-road** মাত্ৰ ৫১ মাইল লৈছিল আজি দুবছৰে তাৰ এমাইলৰো কাম হাতত নোলোৱাটো পৰিতাপৰ বিষয়। নাহৰকটীয়াৰ পৰা মৰাণলৈ যি আলিটো লোৱা হৈছিল তাৰ কাম আজিও আৰম্ভ হোৱা নাই অথচ এই আলিটো অতি আৱশ্যকীয়। **P. W. D.** বিভাগে বাচনিত আলিটো লোৱাটো ঠিকেই কৰিছিল কিন্তু এতিয়াও আলিটোৰ প্ৰতি কাণ নকৰাতহে আচৰিত হৈছে। আশাকৰো চৰকাৰে এইবোৰৰ প্ৰতি লক্ষ ৰাখে যেন।

Grow-more-food বিভাগীয় মন্ত্ৰীৰ পৰা সৰহ শস্য উৎপাদন কৰিবলৈ কমিটি গঠন কৰিবলৈ কেবাখনো নগিছ পাইছিলো। কমিটি গঠন কৰিলেই সৰহ শস্য উৎপাদন নহয়। সৰহ শস্য উৎপাদন কৰিবলৈ খেতিয়ক সকলৰ অসুবিধা বিলাক দূৰ কৰি দিব লাগিব। বিশেষকৈ মোৰ সমষ্টিৰ বহুতো গাঁৱত চৰনীয়া পথাৰ নাই—শালিখেতিৰ পথাৰেই গৰু ম'হ চৰাবৰ একমাত্ৰ স্থল তেনে অৱস্থাত আলুখেতি কৰিবলৈ হলে গৰু ম'হ কেইটা খেতিয়কে যমৰ হাতত তুলি দিয়াহে হব। যি বিলাক অঞ্চলত চৰনীয়া পথাৰ আছে বিশেষকৈ টিংখাং আৰু টিপুীং মৌজাত সেই চৰনীয়া পথাৰ বিলাক আজি ৫।৬ বছৰৰ আগৰে পৰা নেপালী আৰু বনুৱা মানুহে বে-দখল কৰি ৰাখিছে। অসমীয়া খেতিয়কৰ বহুতো গৰু ম'হ বেদখলকাৰী বিলাকে জখম কৰিছে। আজি দুবছৰৰ পৰাই বাজহ মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ৰ ওচৰত কতবাৰ অনুনয় বিনয় কৰিলো কিন্তু সুফল এতিয়াও নফলিল। ই পৰিতাপৰ কথা।

দিহীং আৰু দিচাং নৈৰ পাৰত বহুতো আলু আৰু ক্ষুৰিহানৰ উপযোগী মাটি পৰি আছে সেই বিলাক মাটি সুৰক্ষিত কৰি খেতিয়কক তথাই দিন লাগে আৰু চাহ বাগানৰ বহুতো মাটি আবাদ নকৰাটক পেলাই থৈছে এই বিলাক আইনকৰি চৰকাৰৰ হাতলৈ আনি খেতিয়কক তথাই দিলে অসমত সবহ শস্য উৎপাদনৰ আন্দোলনৰ আৰম্ভণক নহন।

Sale-taxই বিক্ৰীকৰ আইনত পৰিণত কৰি কামটো খটোৱা হৈছে। আইনৰ সকলো আঁঠোৱাহ নাৰি কামত খটোৱা হলে বেছি ভাল হলেহেঁতেন, কাৰণ আমাৰ অঞ্চলত এদিনেই হলেও আনি হালধী নিমখ আনকি জোতাচিয়াটো উলু বিক্ৰী কৰ তদিন লগীয়া হৈছিল; শুনিবলৈ পালো সোকানীৰ দৈনিক বিক্ৰীৰ ওপৰত বৰ্তমান চৰকাৰে টেক্স আদায় কৰিব। কিন্তু কেনেকৈ? কোনো সোকানীয়ে Cash memo দখা নাই আনকি এই শিলং চৰকাৰত কত চৰকাৰৰ মন্ত্ৰীকে আৰম্ভ কৰি সকলো ডাঙৰ ডাঙৰ নিমখৰ বসতি তাতো Cash memo দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা নাই। মই এই কেদিনত বহুতো বস্ত কিনিবো কিন্তু কোনোেও Cash memo দিয়া নাই। এই আইন কামত খটাই তেলীৰ মুৰত তেল দিয়া হৈছে মাথোন। গতিকে মই মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিলো।

Appointment বিভাগ—Appointment ত বহুতো বেমেজালি দেখা গৈছে। অনেক ক্ষেত্ৰত উপযুক্ত অসমীয়া নাই বুলি আন ঠাইৰ মানুহ লোৱা হৈছে। কিন্তু অসমীয়াক উপযুক্ততা প্ৰমাণ কৰিবলৈ একো সুবিধা দিয়া হোৱা নাই। অসমৰ জিলা বিলাকৰ জন সংখ্যা অনুপাতেও চাকৰিত নিয়োগ কৰা হোৱা নাই—কানকপক সদায় আগভাগ দিয়া হৈছে। Sale-taxত তিনিজন Superintendent ললে, তিনিও জন কানকপ জিলাৰ। আনবিলাক জিলাত উপযুক্ত মানুহ নাছিলনে? প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে যেন এইবোৰ নিম্নত অলপ চলু দিবে। নোৱ কবলৈ আৰু বহুতো আছিল কিন্তু সময় নোহোৱাত মই ইমানতে শেষ কৰিলো।

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry to raise a discordant note among the psan of panegyric that has been lavished on the Hon'ble Finance Minister; on the other hand, I pity his position and the thankless task that he has undertaken. In spite of the fact that he is lying upon his soul the flattering unction of being the first Finance Minister to present an Independent Budget, I am ready to controvert it, for, the world knows that we have not yet achieved "Independence" and India is still a Dominion. Under the present circumstances and within the framework of the financial rules made under the Government of India Act, 1935, no "Independent" Budget can be laid before the House. I see no independent spirit, no revolutionary change in the present system of the Budget nor in the framing of the estimates, as one hon. Congress Member said the other day that it is only "old wine in a new bottle". But I congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister and especially the Hon'ble Prime Minister for their extreme anxiety to see that the province's finance improve. But Assam's position so far as her finances are concerned is just like that of a man sitting on a volcanic crater which may at any time explode.

Assam has been suffering from a plethora of deficit Budgets ever since 1921. The House was reminded by my hon. Friend, Srijut Nilmoni Phookan, that we had deficit Budgets even from the time of Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms. Suffice it for me to say that between 1924 and 1928 there was a glimmering of the raising of the cloud which dwindled again from 1929 to 1937. Due to extraneous circumstances, there was a surplus Budget during the war years. But no sane man can put his faith on such extraordinary windfall over the Budget anticipations and that these war boom years will come again.

Sir, the other day, my Friend, Srijut Motiram Bora, a Leader of the Congress Party was good enough to speak a few kind terms with regard to my humble self and he requested his Ministry to constitute a Committee to devise ways and means how to improve our finances with myself as the Chairman of the Committee. Impelled by his earnestness I want to lay certain facts before the

House that the hon. Members may realise that whatever lay in my humble capacity, I have already placed at the disposal of the Ministry and I am always ready to further the cause of Assam in any meeting or committee that they would like me to undertake. In September last,—I will be excused if this part of my speech looks like my talking in the first person singular—but I am only placing facts before the House. In September last, I forget the exact date, I returned that day from a long motor drive from Dibrugarh having reached Shillong by about midday. I received a telephonic message from the Hon'ble Finance Minister requesting me to come and help him in replying to certain matters of finance that the Government of India had asked him to supply. I told him that I was in great physical strain and had a long motor drive of 350 miles, that I was unwell that day and that I told him that I could come the following day. He insisted that the Government of India's reply was long overdue and that he had waited for my help and asked me to come immediately. I had certain friends and well-wishers who had come to meet me who resented the idea. But in spite of my physical strain and discomfort I came to the aid of the Assam Ministry that day. I looked at that request as my duty and I took it as a pride that the country took advantage of the little knowledge that I had, and of my experience of the financial matters of the province of Assam. The Hon'ble Finance Minister further strengthened his claim by saying that the Hon'ble Prime Minister also joined with him in the request that I should come for their help. I immediately arrived in the Secretariat and had a long discussion with the Ministry which was represented by the Finance Minister and the Prime Minister. With them were present also their financial expert Dr. Mathura Goswami and the Finance Secretary Mr. Duncan. I gave whatever little knowledge I had for 2½ hours. I gave sufficient materials to draw up a memorandum which should be full of facts, figures, logic and reason in presenting a case that is I think irresistible for Assam's claim for greater aid from the Central Government. Well, Sir, I must give credit to Dr. Mathura Goswami who made a good job of the draft. But the Hon'ble Finance Minister or the Hon'ble Prime Minister would have done well if the draft, which had been prepared with materials supplied by me and under directions given by me should have been vetted and considered by me before it was sent to the Central Government. If he had any courtesy (*voices: hear, hear*) he, the Hon'ble Mr. Medhi, would have ordered Dr. Goswami in my presence that the latter should send the draft to me so that I could vet it. Instead of on the 26th September last I received this letter from Mr. Duncan:

“Maulavi Syed M. Saadulla,

As desired by Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble Minister of Finance a copy of the memorandum on the financial position of the province is sent herewith for favour of your perusal and information. A copy is also being sent to New Delhi to-morrow”. Sir, you well know that a blind cannot lead another blind. Therefore how can you expect the Hon'ble Finance Minister, who had absolutely no knowledge of the financial position of Assam before 1937 and who though could have the help from his own Department—the Finance Department—but whose Secretary being new had no such knowledge, to vet the draft of which I was practically the author? I was informed that the draft memorandum prepared by his Department was ‘good’. But if it had gone through my hand it would have been “better”. But the fact is the Ministry, except a few honourable exceptions are so bloated by self-conceit or influenced by self-confidence, that they issued the memorandum to Delhi without showing it to me first after their piteous cry that I should come and help them.

In this matter I say, Sir, that not only the Hon'ble Finance Minister, but the Hon'ble Prime Minister and another Minister, I refer to Srijut Omeo Kumar Das, tried their best in placing the case of Assam before the Central Government.

I have taken permission from my Friend, Srijut Gopinath Bardoloi, to read out before the House two letters which he had sent me. Mr. Bardoloi left no stone unturned to get financial help from the Centre. While doing so they also got the services of a noted economist, Dr. Rao of the Hindu University, who submitted a note on Assam's case along with our memorandum to the Central Government. But before receipt of these the Central Government, I mean the Hon'ble Sanmukham Chetty, the Finance Minister of the Dominion of India, was good enough to mention my humble self in this connection. On 9th September, 1947 I received this letter from our Hon'ble Prime Minister :

"My dear Sir,

I am enclosing a letter dated 2nd September 1947 from the Hon'ble Mr. Sanmukham Chetty and shall be pleased if you will do the needful in this connection on behalf of this Government. The nature of your discussion in Delhi with him, as also what assurances he gives may kindly be intimated to me. Government will be having a Committee to present the case of Assam; I shall inform you the date of that meeting after you have met Mr. Chetty".

The Hon'ble Prime Minister enclosed copy of a letter which he received from the Hon'ble Mr. Sanmukham Chetty :

"Dear Mr. Bardoloi,

I am in receipt of the two letters which Mr. R. K. Chaudhury handed over to me. I fully realise that the whole question of the financial adjustment between the Centre and the Provinces will have to be reviewed in the light of the situation created by the Partition. I am also aware of the financial difficulties of Assam. I have not yet been able to get a picture of what the financial position of the country as a whole is likely to be. This matter is being examined. I would suggest that towards the last week of this month you might send a senior officer of your Finance Department to discuss the matter here. I understand that Mr. Saadulla will also be available for consultation. With his intimate knowledge of the finances of Assam Mr. Saadulla must be in a position to present your point of view." I understand that the Hon'ble Srijut Omco Kumar Das, accompanied Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhury in their deputation to Hon'ble Mr. Sanmukham Chetty. They were at Delhi to attend the Indian Constituent Assembly.

Hon. Members are aware that the Central Government, for the purpose of drafting the Constitution, constituted an Expert Financial Committee presided over by the present Finance Minister of Bengal, Mr. N. R. Sirkar, who was assisted by two members of the Secretariat of the Central Government. Our Hon'ble Prime Minister appeared before this Committee and tried his best to influence that Committee to see that justice was done to our case and the Hon'ble Prime Minister pleaded hard to get at least a portion of the export duty on Tea for Assam. Unfortunately even there he did not see any ray of hope of success. Immediately he sent to me a note mentioning frustration of his attempt and requesting me to help. This letter is dated 25th November 1947 :

"My dear Sir,

You know that we represented our case in the Expert Finance Committee of the Constituent Assembly by 2 memoranda which are herewith sent for your perusal. The Expert Committee also desired that I met them while here and I did meet them on the 24th afternoon. From the trend of conversation that I had it appeared that they were not prepared to consider the question of petroleum excise duty on the basis of share at all. All our arguments regarding depletion of national wealth did not seem to convince them. They say that Government would be justified in putting any royalty they want to do but once it pass through the process of the refinery and become oil for consumption by the people at large there is no justification for depriving the consumers, as a whole, from the benefit of the payment which they make on account of consumption.

The second point that they particularly wanted to know from me was whether we should not be satisfied with an allocated revenue on Incometax only. I told that while I would not like to forego any part of the allocated revenue on account of Income-tax, I could not forego an allocated share of Excise duty on tea, petrol, etc., and export duty on jute and tea.

The third question they wanted to know from me was whether I preferred an allocated share of revenue on all heads I mentioned or I would be satisfied with a lump sum grant by subvention according to the needs of the Province. I, of course, replied that while I should not be deprived of my legitimate share of subvention I could not merely be a dole-seeker and must have my allocated share in the excise and export duties mentioned above.

I do not know whether in the Drafting Committee you will have occasion to discuss these financial matters also but I am revealing to you the whole situation as I could understand it from the trend of conversation which I had in order that interests of the Province may not suffer in case you, as a member of the Drafting Committee, have anything to do with the enunciation of the principles of taxation of the Central Government and determine the relationship between the Provinces and the Centre.

I am earnestly requesting you to kindly give adequate consideration to this very important subject and do your best to see that the interests of the Province is not sacrificed, in any way."

I was prepared to do anything that lay in my power in securing an equitable and just acceptance of our claims and to secure payment thereunder. Unfortunately, I should say that I was little delayed in proceeding to Delhi at the time. My hon. Friend, the Premier, was at Delhi and our Governor also was there at that time. Both of them saw Hon'ble Mr. Sanmukham Chetty; what transpired between them, I do not know. I think, our Friend, the Hon'ble Premier, was not satisfied. But curiously enough, our Governor on return from Delhi spoke in eulogistic terms in a Press Conference at Calcutta of the Hon'ble Finance Minister of the Dominion of India and said that he had been able to secure a very satisfactory solution of our financial evil. But his statement was given the lie immediately the day I left Shillong by our Premier. While I was walking on the road at Nongpoh to get rid of the petrol fume, the Hon'ble Premier reached there from Gauhati and he stopped his car seeing me there, jumped down and told me the doleful tale that Assam was being shabbily treated by the Central Government. I do not know what led His Excellency Sir Akbar Hydari to make the statement in the Press Conference which was flashed throughout the world that Assam has got her full share from the Centre. I promised to Hon'ble Srijut Gopinath Bardoloi that I would contact the Hon'ble Mr. Sanmukham Chetty, the Finance Minister, and try to convince him for solving Assam's financial tangle. On my arrival at Delhi, I stayed with our member in the Constituent Assembly—Srijut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri. He was fermenting with rage and told me his doleful story. He said that the Hon'ble Premier had requested him to put a Short Notice Question in the Constituent Assembly and try to get a favourable reply from the Finance Minister. In reply to his Question on the open floor of the House Mr. Chaudhuri was astounded to hear from the Hon'ble Finance Minister that he laid bare every thing before the Governor and the Premier of Assam and that both of them were satisfied and that Mr. Chaudhuri's effort was only propaganda. Well, under those circumstances, no self-respecting man can go to meet Mr. Chetty to place before him Assam's case. Therefore, I did not contact him, but I tried my level best to do whatever I could in the Drafting Committee, as in the Constitution itself there is a provision regarding relationship between Provinces and the Centre *vis-a-vis* allocation of finances and

anything that should be provided. In their Report this Finance Committee made a general recommendation that Assam should get a higher subvention than what has been received by her now.

***The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI**: If the hon. Leader of the Opposition is referring to the Report of the Expert Committee, he should consider whether it is proper for him to do so, as it is a confidential document.

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: It has been discussed in the Drafting Committee and has already been published.

***The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI**: It has not yet been available to the public.

***The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI**: Surely, it is yet a confidential document. What I have been able to understand is that in the Drafting Committee itself they have not taken into consideration the Report of the Expert Committee.

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Well, Sir, I think, I ought to know much better than the Hon'ble Srijut Gopinath Bardoloi and Mr. Medhi for as a member of the Drafting Committee, I have been dealing in these matters for three months. I know what provision has been made and what not. I will place before the House everything. The Draft Constitution has been published, printed and issued for sale to the public. Anyway, I take the responsibility of placing it before the House. As I said, the Drafting Committee and the Expert Committee should be thanked for their sympathetic attitude towards Assam. Our Hon'ble Premier who appeared before the Expert Finance Committee on behalf of Assam tried hard so that Assam may get her proper share of revenue collected by the Centre from Assam.

***The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI**: May I point out the passage at page 115 of the Draft Constitution of India?

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: Please, wait, I am placing every thing before the House.

***The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI**: I am only showing the remarks of the Drafting Committee. There it is said, "The Committee has not embodied in the Draft the recommendations of the Expert Committee on the Financial Provisions of the Constitution with regard to the distribution of revenues between the Union and the States, as the Committee is of opinion that in view of the unstable conditions prevailing at the present moment the existing distribution of such revenues under the Government of India Act, 1935, should continue for at least five years, after which a Finance Commission may review the position." This is in the Drafting Committee's recommendation itself.

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I know that and will place it before the House. I have made a note of the Committee's recommendation at page 115 of the Draft Constitution and am going to give the genesis before the House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry for this interruption of the Hon'ble Premier. I am going to give him the credit for all that he did and for his extreme endeavour to put Assam's financial position on an even keel.

*Speech not corrected.

As I said and I say again with emphasis that I know more of the Draft Constitution and the recommendations than the Hon'ble Srijut Bardoloi can ever know. I was saying that the Expert Committee was good enough to make this recommendation "that Assam and Orissa are now getting a fixed subvention of 30 and 40 lakhs of rupees respectively." The recommendation that they made under Transfer of Powers of Excise duty on tobacco will increase their revenue substantially. "However, we have little doubt that these two provinces will still require fixed subvention on higher scales than at present."

We are all thankful to the Expert Committee in making these recommendations in one of their paragraphs, but the other two recommendations which they have made entirely stultify and are inimical to Assam. As everyone knows, Assam in the previous years, that is in the pre-partition days, or division of India into India and Pakistan, used to get Rs. 15 lakhs as her share of the Jute Export duty. Hon. Members may remember that this share of Jute Export duty that this province is getting started from the year 1936. It was started even before the Government of India Act came into force. Then 50 per cent. of this proceeds were given to the provinces of production. After this principle of allocating the proceeds of Export duties on commodities between growing provinces and the Centre was enunciated in the Government of India Act, the rates of the provincial share was raised to 62½ per cent. In those days share of Assam on the basis of production was 5 per cent. of total growth of jute in India. On that basis it continued till 1937 and on that basis our share was 15 lakhs or in the neighbourhood. The Expert Committee for some reason not very cogent said that the Centre need not share this proceeds of Jute Export duty with the provinces and, therefore, it should be stopped, but yet feeling that poorer provinces like Assam, Orissa or Bihar were hard-hit by their proposal they recommended that till these provinces can stabilise their own financial position they can be given *ex-gratia* payment for ten years only. Assam's sum of Rs. 15 lakhs will be stopped after ten years or earlier if the jute duty is abolished. Sir, I may inform the hon. Members and mention has been made of this by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister in his Budget speech also that Assam jute has become very prominent in the Dominion of India and our proportion has risen from 5 per cent. to 31 per cent. on account of the fact that a larger area of the jute growing land is now situated in Pakistan or East Bengal. My Hon'ble Friend in his speech has also calculated that in view of our increased percentage the share Assam should get is 5½ per cent. and if counted on that basis Assam should get a sum of between 80 to 90 lakhs annually. Whereas, we are being deprived on the advice of the Expert Committee from sharing this at all. To compensate it the Finance Expert Committee made two other recommendations, one recommendation is to raise the divisible pool of income-tax from 50 to 60 per cent. and also to allow the Province to share in the Tobacco Excise Duty. Assam grows very little tobacco for export, although Assam, like other provinces indulges in a large smoking bill. Well, all these come from outside India and the excise is levied in the factories and, therefore, very little will come to Assam. Assam does not even manufacture Biris that the common man smokes. So this provision will not help Assam's finances anyway.

Well, I assume that hon. Friends know very well as regards the allocation of the divisible pool of Income-tax, or if they want, I will explain in a nut-shell. That under the Otto Niemeyer Award the proceeds of Income-tax levied by the Centre is to be divided into 50 per cent. to be taken by the Centre and the balance 50 per cent. to be distributed amongst the provinces. Out of this 50 per cent. for distribution, the allocation is to base on the calculation of the amount of Income-tax realised in a province. Assam was very hard-hit by this

inequitable award, which was accepted by the Government of India then. As everyone knows that the bulk of the Income-tax paid by Assam is from the profit of tea industry. Roughly there were 1,250 tea estates in Assam in the pre-partition days and 90 per cent. of these Tea Companies used to pay the tax either in Calcutta where were situated the Managing Agencies for Rupee Companies or in London where the headquarters of Sterling Companies are situated. Sir Otto Niemeyer finding that its collection in Assam was very small ordered that Assam should be given 2 per cent. of the divisible pool. After various correspondences with the Central Government it has been subsequently raised to 3 per cent., whereas Bengal on account of the fact that large sums are realised there although the tea gardens are mostly in Assam, or many of the coal companies are situated in Bihar but the tax is realised in Calcutta, they get a share of 37 per cent. Similarly, Bombay gets a very large share. In this way Assam was very hard hit.

Now, the Expert Finance Committee proposes that divisible pool should be raised from 50 to 60 thus we have been recommended this small increase of ten lakhs. I will illustrate it by means of figures. I have got these figures from the speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister himself. Actual Receipts from our share of Income-tax for 1947-48 is 59 lakhs and odd, budget estimates for 1947-48 is 70 lakhs and odd, revised estimates for 1947-48 is 89 lakhs and odd and budget estimate for 1948-49 expected is 108 lakhs. I think, in this the Finance Department of Assam has been rather over-optimistic, for as this will be evident from the fact that there has been some concession for the capitalists in the business profit tax and therefore in the next year income from income-tax will not amount so high as estimated of 108 lakhs of rupees. As a compromise I take that our share may be a crore of rupees. Now on this basis *i.e.*, when the divisible pool is raised from 50 to 60 per cent. our income may come up to 108 lakhs only. Compare this increase of say 10 to 18 lakhs against the jute export duty share which gives us 80 to 90 lakhs of rupees. I therefore thought that this proposal of the Expert Finance Committee is not to the best interest of the Province of Assam. In my capacity as a member of the Drafting Committee, I placed all these materials before my colleagues. They all found reason is on our side and if we had accepted the recommendations of the Finance Committee, the poorer provinces would suffer. Moreover, any settlement at the present moment cannot but be very niggardly. There has been a number of very large commitments of the Government of India and their own reserve will be depleted and therefore the help to the provinces would be very little. I refer to the extraordinary expenditure on the refugees rehabilitation scheme, I refer to the daily expenditure of nearly a crore of rupees in the Kashmir embroglio. Therefore listening to me they did not accept the recommendations of the Finance Committee and made provision that this matter should be reviewed as early as possible by the Finance Commission which was recommended by the committee themselves. This is the recommendation of the Expert Committee and its duties: "The Finance Commission should be entrusted with the following functions:—

- (a) To allocate between the provinces respective share of the proceeds of taxes that have to be divided between them.
- (b) To consider the applications for grants-in-aid from the Provinces and report thereon.
- (c) To consider and report on any other matter referred to by the President."

So in Chapter I—Finance—of Part X of the Draft Constitution we have made provision about the establishment of a Finance Commission which would review the financial relationship between the Centre and the provinces which

will be called 'States' in future. And in order to explain why we have not accepted the Report of the Finance Committee, we made this recommendation which has been read out to the House by the learned Premier. In order to make my remarks complete, I will again place before the House what he has already spoken. "The Committee has not embodied in the Draft the recommendations of the Expert Committee on the Financial provisions of the Constitution with regard to the distribution of revenues between the Union and the States, as the Committee is of opinion that in view of the unstable conditions prevailing at the present moment the existing distribution of such revenues under the Government of India Act, 1935, should continue at least for 5 years, after which a Finance Commission may review the position. The Committee agrees with the Expert Committee that steps should be taken for the collection, compilation and maintenance of statistical information referred to in paragraph 66 of the report of the Expert Committee in order that such information might be available to the Finance Commission when appointed."

Now I leave to the judgement of the hon. Members of this House to find out for themselves whether their representative in the Drafting Committee has not done the best for the Province of Assam, whether acceptance of the recommendations of the Finance Committee would have been better for us or its total rejection would be more suitable. But one thing we must guard against. The Finance Commission will surely come into existence sooner than later. The Government of India, as it appears from their action in reducing our share of jute export duty, have taken up already some recommendations of the Expert Committee. They will surely accept this provision of a Finance Commission which has already been recommended by the Drafting Committee. The Assam Government, whichever Government be in the helm of affairs at the time, should select the best persons to place Assam's case before that Commission. I will take the hon. Members to past history, some 25 years back. Assam lost her case in 1921 when the Montague Chelmsford Reforms were ushered in. Assam was asked to send a representative to place her case before the Lord Meston Committee. I remember, Sir, our representative was late Sir William Reid, who was the Commissioner of the Surma Valley Division and was staying at Silchar. He never came to Shillong. He left the entire thing to be prepared and drafted by the Finance Department, Assam and specially the entire work was left to Rai Sahib Surendra Nath Datta who was then the Head Assistant of the Finance Department. The Rai Sahib who served later as Registrar under me told me personally that he took the file along with him to Calcutta as he travelled *via* Gauhati whereas the late Sir William Reid travelled by the Surma Mail and met Rai Sahib Datta at Calcutta. The time that they found while travelling from Calcutta to Delhi was utilised by Sir William to understand what had been prepared by the Finance Department. This complacency cost Assam a very great deal. Not only Assam was not treated as a deficit province requiring help from the Centre, the Meston Award held that Assam was in such an affluent condition that they should give annually 18 lakhs of rupees to the Centre as contribution. For full five years poor Assam was bled to the extent of this 18 lakhs. My Hon. Friend, Mr. Nilmani Phookan, may remember, if not others, that we set up an intense agitation in 1924-25. He was responsible for moving a Resolution that not only this contribution should be removed from us but also the cost that is realised from Assam on account of the maintenance of the Assam Rifles should be abolished. Our joint efforts—I mean the combination between the non-official side and the Government—was fruitful and after payment of the fifth year we were absolved from making any further contribution. Profiting from this episode I was chary when asked in 1930 to prepare a memorandum for the Simon Commission

and Rai Sahib volunteered his services to me. He said, "I will do it now as I did in previous years without giving you any trouble." Unfortunately he caught a tartar in this humble self. I said, "Rai Sahib, what you have done unwittingly has been the cause of great hardship and ruin to Assam. This time I would do it myself". I collected facts and figures—I collected every document I could lay hand on, and prepared a memorandum showing that Assam could not run as a major province unless a subvention of 75 lakhs was given annually to her by the Centre. Again, unfortunately for myself, or unfortunately for the people of Assam, the Franchise Committee presided over by Lord Lothian was sitting in Calcutta practically at the same time as the Federal Finance Committee presided over by Lord Eustace Percy was sitting in Delhi to decide the fate of the provinces. The then Governor late Sir Laurie Hammond requested me to attend the Lothian Committee for, according to him, my memorandum was so cogent and reasonable that everybody reading it would be convinced and there was no necessity for my personally going to Delhi. I sent my Finance Secretary, late Mr. Rhodes, to attend the Delhi Committee, but he was cornered to the extent of 10 lakhs. Even then it was in black and white in the Lord Percy Committee's Report that they had agreed that Assam must get a subvention of 65 lakhs annually from the Centre so that she could run as a major administration.

All these materials were quite unknown to my Friends, the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister, on the day I was asked to go and help them in September 1947. I asked the Finance Secretary to bring certain files and as a matter of fact each document was earmarked for my hon. Friend, the Finance Minister, by my humble self. All the materials that he has placed before the House in his long Budget speech is the result of the researches not by him but by myself, but as usual without any acknowledgment in his speech. Well, Sir, I do not care for any credit, mine is a task of selfless duty. I am ready even now to help my Friend in whatever way I can. But I am glad, as I have already said, that the Ministry—notably the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister—have realised this very unfortunate position of Assam, that she cannot remain for ever on doles from the Centre. I am sorry, Sir, I am forestalling things. Assam's memorandum was also discussed in the Joint Parliamentary Finance Committee which was presided over by Lord Peel. In their recommendation, which has been mentioned by my hon. Friend as a White Paper, it was stated that certain provinces, notably Assam ('notably Assam' was underlined), could not run as major provinces unless substantial subvention was given to them by the Central Government. All these documents were before Sir Otto Niemeyer when he undertook to discuss our finances with our representatives. I was a non-official then. The late Sir Michael Keane tried his best that Assam's case be presented before Sir Otto Niemeyer by my humble self. I was then practising as a lawyer at Calcutta and Sir Otto was holding his investigations there. But Sir Otto made it a principle not to hear any non-official evidence; he wanted to hear only officials for some reasons best known to our administrators then. Assam's Finance Member did not go to place our case before Sir Otto. Assam was represented by Mr. Prichard, who suffered a natural disability as he was a stammerer and who had already submitted his resignation to go on leave preparatory to pension. As he was on the point of retirement he had very little interest in seeing what Assam got in future. Mr. Mullan, who was our Reforms Commissioner and who had worked out that we required more than a crore of rupees, accompanied him. Everyone who was present in Calcutta and took an interest in these enquiries know that Sir Otto Niemeyer got greatly annoyed because our representatives could not give him certain materials that he wanted. Assam's representatives were given one

night to think over and collect materials. But even the next day they could not supply these materials and the result was that our share of subvention was reduced from 65 lakhs to 30 lakhs. Therefore I appeal to my hon. Friends of the present Ministry that if during their term of office any such Commission is set up by the Centre and some representative is to go and place before them the case of Assam, they should select the best man irrespective of any party label. Let them even go to Professor Rao, as they have gone now; let them go to any other source. But please for God's sake, if you have got the best interests of Assam and her people before your minds' eye, rise above party politics, eschew the Congress label, find out the best man who will be able to place your case before any Commission.

Now I come to the future. I am glad that the Ministry is at least alive to the very helpless and helpless situation of the province of Assam. You have been staggered by a multiplicity of figures in the Budget this year. But if you take into account the revenue income and revenue expenditure we are nowhere. As much as 8 crores of rupees or more in the figures that have been displayed in the Budget is contribution from the Central Government for post-war development.

Assam cannot live as an autonomous and self-governing province if she cannot place her finances in a solvent condition. While it is true and I join with my Friend, the Finance Minister, when he says that we are being ruined by 2 different causes—(1) by the inequity and injustice meted out to her by the Central Government and (2) the other I say is the result of the apathy of our own people and the very mistaken judgment of our present Ministry on which certain of their schemes now depend. Many times I think, at least twice, the Finance Minister has placed before the House that the Central Government is mulcting away at least 10 crores of rupees annually from Assam in the shape of tea export duty, tea excise duty, excise duty on kerosene and petrol produced in Assam and excise duty on matches. I think, Sir, his is an under-estimation. From tea alone very nearly 10 crores of rupees is taken away by the Centre. I wonder if the hon. Members know the history of tea. There are two duties levied upon it from last year. The tea export duty of 4 annas per pound of tea is being taken away by the Centre without giving anything to Assam. Over and above that there was formerly 2 annas per pound of excise duty on tea. But this year, if hon. Members have followed the Budget speech of the Finance Minister of the Dominion of India, the excise duty on tea has been raised by another 2 annas making it equal to 4 annas. So per pound of tea is now paying 4 annas export duty or 4 annas excise duty. I wonder if many hon. Members have got these informations. Thanks to Mr. Morley, although I knew it in round figure, I have received figure of production from him. The production in the eastern zone, that is Bengal and Assam combined, was 490 million pounds. That was my information. Today my Friend, Mr. Morley, has been kind enough to give me exact figures. The total production is over 500 million pounds of which 200 million pounds come from outside Assam and the 300 million pounds are from Assam alone. Now everyone of us should use his power of arithmetic and find out by himself what the quantity of tax from tea alone is going to the coffers of the Central Government. We should try our level best to get a share out of it. We are still under the Dominion stage. We are still guided by the Government of India Act, 1935 although adapted. When there is that provision in the Government of India Act about sharing the export duty between provinces and the Centre this House should rise as one man in claiming a share of duty in excise and export duties. I am at one with my Friend here that if possible a Motion should be placed before the House and carried unanimously claiming a substantial portion

of these duties and protesting against the lowering of the share of jute export duty from 62½ to 20 per cent. unilaterally. Unfortunately, I have got to be away. I have received a wire last night requesting me to attend the meeting of the Drafting Committee again on the 23rd of this month. That means at the latest I leave Shillong by Sunday. There are only 2 official days — to-morrow and the day after. If during these days a Motion is tabled and the Hon'ble Speaker would allow it to be discussed, I may participate and contribute my share of protest, if not anything else, on that matter to the Central Government. But I doubt whether this House will be in a position to have such a Motion during these Government days unless agreed to by the Ministry, but I request the hon. Members both of Government side as well as non-official side whether it will not be good for the country to have such a Motion tabled in the House, discussed in sober terms and sent to Government of India the proceedings immediately and during my stay there I will do as far as it lay in my power to meet not merely the Finance Minister, but also the Prime Minister, the Hon'ble Pandit Jawharlal Nehru, of the Dominion of India and contribute my mite towards a just solution of this vexed problem and present iniquitous exploitation.

Now, if the Government of India is taking away more than 10 crores, I place the figure at about 15 crores taking into account every other source, our people, I mean the population of Assam is so far negligent that they are allowing the outside parts of India to take away another 15 crores of rupees annually in the shape of import of foodstuffs and cloth. My hon. Friend, the Finance Minister, in his Budget speech has calculated that at least 12 crores of rupees is spent by the people of Assam in importing dal, sugar and other products which means a *per capita* drain of over Rs.12 per annum. What these amounts to can be better pictured if we remember the *per capita* earnings of the people of Assam. I do not know much about this subject and I am afraid many of my Friends do not know that economists from the time of late Messrs. Digby and R. C. Dutt vary in their calculation of the *per capita* income of the Indian people. The minimum has been calculated to be Rs. 30 while some other economist has gone upto Rs. 75. If we take the medium between the two, the mean of the two figures, we will not be far wide of the mark if we say that the *per capita* income of an Assamese is round about Rs. 50 per year. If out of this rupees 50, Rs.13 is taken away to outside on account of bare necessities of life like *dal*, sugar, etc., then you can well judge that very nearly 28 per cent. is taken away from the income. Why then in Assam we cannot produce these commodities? Why can our people not produce *masur dal* that we require? Why can we not produce our own sugar and cloth? While I am sorry to place very big figures before the House, it is only to make them understand the enormity of the subject that I am placing by these figures. I hope, I am not boring them. I have made comparative study of rice in Assam and other parts of India. Thanks to the courtesy of the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, I have received up-to-date figures about rice production. In a book called Wealth and Taxable Capacity of India by Prof. K. T. Shah I find that rice production in Assam in 1904 and 1905 was 1½ million tons. Whereas — of course these figures included the production in Sylhet and for the purpose of comparing I am taking the figures of 1945-46 as supplied by Hon'ble Agriculture Minister—our total rice production of three different varieties combined, that is *Ahu*, *Sali* and *Boro* or technically known as summer, winter or spring rice, was to the tune of 2 million, 85 thousand and 5 hundred tons. If we convert it into maunds, the quantity comes to 5,62,27,500 maunds. If we take that an Assamese requires one *powa* of rice for one meal or half a seer per day we find that in a year he may require about 4½ maunds of rice. This calculation of one *powa* per head is quite the average although there

are many persons of the labouring class requiring more, but against that we have got the towns people and the children who cannot consume one powa daily. Therefore the average one powa is quite near the mark. On this calculation I find, Sir, that Assam, before Sylhet became separated, could feed her own people and left 1,03,37,000 maunds as surplus. That that surplus was really available is evident from the fact that during the years 1943-44 to 1945-46, I, in my capacity as Supply Minister, actually exported sixty lakhs maunds of rice annually. Hon. Members should calculate themselves that during those years the average price of rice per maund was Rs. 15. If we take three years surplus we find that Assam could supply to the outside world 50 lakhs maunds of rice at the rate of Rs. 15 per maund and the Assam cultivators would have got into their pocket a sum of $7\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees per annum. I do not know what happened to that surplus, for I remember that I was supplying to the outside world on that average of 50 to 70 thousand maunds of rice. Last year while I met the then Food Minister of the Central Government, now the President of the Indian National Congress, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, he was complaining to me that when I showed 2 lakhs tons of rice as surplus the present Assam Ministry was showing only 20 thousand tons as surplus and even that surplus the present Ministry had not been able to procure for the Central Government. I told him that this was all due to the wrong policy of procurement of rice. Therefore for want of good procurement and of better administration we have no reference of surplus in the speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister. But against that there is eviction policy of the Mymensinghias. I congratulate my Friend, hon. Srijut Omeo Kumar Das, for his noble zeal to see more production in Assam by launching, only in paper, his Grow-More-Food Campaign. I ask him in all sincerity, because I know he is a sincere man and he is out to do his best to help the province, whether he can expect to get more production when about one lakh of the best cultivators in this part of India have been uprooted from cultivation in the waste land, and the so-called grazing reserves? (*Voices: Hear, hear*). These people were contributing to the national wealth. Now the policy of eviction has removed them from their cultivation when they have not been provided with land elsewhere. When big areas of waste lands are lying unutilised how can you expect to increase your production? Sir, I may continue for say another 15 minutes. The Hon'ble Minister will get more than 90 minutes for his reply.

***The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** I think, Sir, it will be better if the Hon'ble Premier would speak first while he has been referred to many a time.

***The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLAI:** I will not take more than 15 minutes, Sir, to speak on the points dealt with by the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition as far as Government is concerned.

***The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** I think, Sir, it will be better if the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition finishes his speech before lunch and then we will reply after lunch.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Since it is a very important matter I think he might take more time. So let him finish his speech after lunch.

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: I do not think, Sir, I will waste your time.

*Speech not corrected.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: What is the sense of the House. Should we sit upto 3.30 P.M. (Voices:—Yes, Sir). then we might sit upto 3.30 P.M. if necessary.

(Adjournment)

The Assembly was then adjourned for lunch till 1 P.M.

(After lunch)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Is there any hon. Member who has not taken the new oath?

(Voices: No)

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: (contd.) Mr. Speker, Sir, I was comparing our rice production as against our consumption and was all along speaking of the pre-partition days of Assam. But I was very much surprised and worried at the figures which I have received from the Agriculture Department as regards the present forecast. According to the present official forecast of Assam, as it is at present constituted, the total production will be 1,31,909 tons and comparing this with the demand, there remains a very small surplus, that is, a surplus of about 18,90,000 maunds of rice, whereas in pre-partition days the surplus was in the neighbourhood of one crore maunds. Therefore, I request the Ministry to start a very vigorous and intensive scheme for producing more rice. Mere paper propoganda, as has been done and is being done now by the Hon'ble Supply Minister, will not do. What is the best way of increasing our rice is by both extensive and intensive cultivation. By extensive system I mean that all the fresh waste lands should be opened for cultivation of paddy and by intensive cultivation I mean that more paddy should be grown than what is grown at present per Bigha. I wonder if the Ministry has ever tried to increase the cultivable area by draining the marshy land and by irrigating the high land which are not normally suited for paddy cultivation. I learnt from the speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister that they are trying to drain the marshy land of Jerenga Pathar of the Sibsagar subdivision. Such marshy lands are also found, when one goes from Gauhati to Lunding, near about Panikhati waiting for plough if a little draining is done. Along with draining system, our people should be instructed to use fertiliser. The use of fertiliser can convert a poor land into a bumper crop land, as has been evidenced in other countries. Hon. Members are aware that in Italy an acre of land produces over 1,100 lbs. of rice, in Japan 800 lbs. whereas in India the yield of one acre of land is in the neighbourhood of 12 maunds on an average. If our people are instructed to fertilise their land, there will be a tremendous increase in the production of rice which means money and wealth to the poor people. A very simple method should be introduced at first. I wonder if the Agriculture Department have taken this into consideration at all. Our poor raiyats can also use cowdung as manure. Luckily for Assam, cowdung is not used for fuel purpose as it is done in Upper India. But the chief fertilising agency in cowdung is lost—I refer to their urine. Every one having cows must have noticed in their cowsheds that there is a crystallised substance which is called saltpetre or potassium nitrate and this substance is essentially required to fertilise the soil. So it is necessary to teach the cultivators to have movable cowsheds in the field itself, for in that case the urine along with other refuses will go as an organic fertiliser on their land. If cultivators are instructed, they can pitch their movable cattle sheds in their fields like those small *bathans* that are found near about Shillong and they can push the cowsheds from one side to the other of the field, that is, they can fertilise the four corners of their field in this way during the year.

Then, I do not know whether attention of our Government has been drawn to the new system of cultivation which goes by the name of Hydroponics, that is, paddy grown on water only. This is being experimented on in Kurseong in Bengal. I do not know whether our Agriculture Minister has sent any one from this Province to have a look at it. This system is now being demonstrated to everyone in Bengal with a view to utilise marshes for production of much needed rice.

Sir, if instead of a surplus of 20 lakhs maunds of rice, we can convert it into 2 crores of maunds, then you can judge what amount of money will come to our pocket. Now, there is a drain of 15 crores of rupees from Assam which goes for procurement of other foodstuffs and other necessary articles from outside Assam. This will be more than compensated by growing paddy alone. We can follow the example of other countries in this respect. Those who read newspaper—I mean the English papers published in Great Britain—may remember that His Majesty's Government spend as much as 200 million pounds a year in subsidising the cultivators to grow more and varied crops. By the same means we can look for certain that our crop can be grown enormously. I have noticed that in Titabar Farm, power pump is extensively used for this purpose. Sir, I remember to have seen a statement that India's requirement of rice from outside is in the neighbourhood of 200 million tons. Let us all combine and start a vigorous propaganda for both extensive and intensive cultivation of rice in Assam, and then we will find that our people will have a clear surplus of money in their hand and will be more content and we will have—as the poet Goldsmith said long ago “a bold peasantry is the country's pride, and a crowd of people full of life.”

The Hon'ble Finance Minister has been congratulated as he has not introduced any new taxation measure in the Budget proposals for this year.

Well, Sir, it is not for any lack of will on the part of the Hon'ble Finance Minister but he realises that the extent of the taxable capacity of the people depends on the *per capita* income or the national wealth of the Province. Has anybody cared to analyse how the Assamese people in Assam proper have been abnormally heavily taxed? Now, to give a small example only, we realize one crore and sixty lakhs of rupees in land revenue alone. Everyone knows that there is no land revenue from the Hills and also that the Permanently Settled Areas pay a very small sum. It was mentioned on the floor of the House that the Permanently Settled Areas of Goalpara do not contribute more than Rs. 31,000 in land revenue, whereas any other Non-Permanently Settled Areas yield at least hundred times more in each district. Then we have got this big tea garden population who are daily wage earners and who do not pay any land revenue. So, the total incidence of revenue falls on the indigenous inhabitants of the five temporarily settled districts of Assam or, rather six including the District of Cachar. The total population of this area has contributed one crore and sixty thousand in land revenue alone. So we must relieve the burden on these people and the only way to do this is to improve the standard of living and to see that their pockets receive more money. If they cannot get more money they will not be in a position to pay more money to the coffers of the State. So long we cannot do it, we cannot further tax them.

Sir, my time is short but I am going to touch one or two important points.

Now, look at Tea. As I mentioned on an earlier occasion, it is the biggest industry in Assam and probably in India. This industry has 11 lakhs of people as their labourers. Now, there is a very loose talk. I have heard talks both inside and outside the House of “nationalising” the Tea industry. Has anyone taken the trouble to know the capital that has been sunk into the Tea industry? So far as this Tea industry is concerned, out of the total production of 500 million pounds, Assam produces, I am quoting the figures of 1941, since then

the figure has increased, in 1941—289 million pounds—that is more than 60 per cent. of the total produces in India is from Assam. In the same year, 1941, according to Rege Committee Report which I have got through the courtesy of Mr. Morley the total capital invested on Tea industry is to the tune of 5,235 crores of rupees. Now, if of this 60 per cent. of the capital was sunk in Assam, it will not be an immense effort for the mathematician to show that at least 3,500 crores of rupees are invested in the Tea industry in Assam.

Maulavi ABUAL MAJID ZIAOSH SHAMS : Is it in sterling balances ?

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : My hon. Friend, Maulavi Abual Majid Ziaosh Shams, is whispering. Well, it is more than the sterling balances and this has got no comparison.

Anyway, I am giving this figure, for the benefit of those who think in terms of nationalising the tea industry and they should know that 3,500 crores of rupees are required to buy it back from the capitalists or companies. So, all those ideas should be abandoned. It is true that the tea industry is under a boom and that is no reason that the tea industry should be heavily taxed as the cost of production has gone up very much and it is to pay heavily on the wage of the labourers and on giving their ration at concession rates, *viz.*, they get rice at Rs. 5 per maund. There would have been enormous profit to this industry, but the conditions as they are now, the profit goes to the benefit of the labourers and also.....

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR : Is it not a fact that in spite of this many of the companies have declared cent. per cent. dividend to their shareholders ?

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I do not think that cent. per cent. profit is being made by any of the Companies in Assam. My hon. Friend is correct in saying that that is the case of the Jalpaiguri gardens. These gardens have very little expenditure and they run their gardens from banks' money so they get a good return and I know that some of these gardens got 200 to 300 per cent. as dividend, but those are abnormal state of affairs and normally the tea industry is based on the head—capital and not on exiguous capital by tea promoters from Bengal.

***Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR :** But I know that there are several companies in Assam declaring cent. per cent. dividend.

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : I shall be pleased if the hon. Member name any company declaring cent. per cent. profit in Assam.

***Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR :** If the hon. Leader of the Opposition likes he may consult hon. Mr. Morley about this.

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA : Well, Mr. Morley is there near the hon. Member, if he likes he may ask him.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Will it be possible to nationalise the Tea industry ?

Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA: That is my point. So my submission to you, Sir, is that we should give up the idea of nationalising the tea industry at least for many generations. The tea industry gives us an agricultural income-tax of about 30 lakhs of rupees annually. Therefore we should not try to kill the goose that lays the golden eggs. Tea is not the monopoly of Assam. Assam produces only 3/5th of that produced in India. Again we have a very great competition in the world market of Java and China tea. All these factors must be taken into consideration when we talk of nationalising the tea industry.

Then as I have mentioned at an earlier stage, jute has become very important to-day not merely that jute is a very good money crop, but in view of the fact that Assam jute stands the highest in the Dominion of India. Thirty one per cent. of the total produce is from Assam and I am perfectly clear that we can raise it by reinstating those jute growers who have been thrown out.

Now another problem has arisen. I have seen in the Assamese Press a statement and I have heard from some responsible Members of this House that there has been a large daily influx of people from East Bengal into Assam. Whether out of panic or whether out of love for the Dominion these gentlemen have come, I do not know. But unlike the Muslim immigrants these people are not cultivators, they belong to what is known as the lower middle class society. I apprehend, as is apprehended by my Friend Mr. Phookan, that these people will start competition with our small traders. These people are not by nature cultivators. Therefore they will try to settle in the urban areas and eke out a living by starting small shops ousting our simple Assamese people who have very recently taken to trade. The Ministry ought to take timely warning and do something to allay the difficulty of further complications in our complicated land settlement problem. There has been a suggestion in the speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister that big areas which have been settled on very comfortable terms in the past and which have not been still utilised should be taken back and settled with our people. This is a good move, I should say, because in our drive for the utmost utilization of the national resources of the province no cultivable piece of land should be left untouched by plough. But before doing that the people who have got these lands should be given a warning that unless they utilise these lands for the purpose for which they were given they may be liable to be taken back. That is, some time should be given to these people before taking any step for taking back these lands. This refers to fee simple grant, 99 years' lease, Dabottar and Khamar land and other big areas.

In my opinion, Sir, the amount of 94 lakhs of rupees that is being thought of expending for rural development should be diverted to the purposes which I have already adumbrated, *i. e.*, subsidising our cultivators to produce more food-stuff, introduction of improved system of irrigation and supply of fertilisers to the cultivators at cheap rate. Unless we can do this, our province will lag behind and not only our people but also the country will suffer.

One word more about nationalisation and I will finish. Now slogans have become the order of the day and I am afraid our Ministry is also not very clear about nationalisation. Even now Assam has not got a paper mill, sugar mill and a textile mill. I remember that in the last week of February 1946 when the present Ministry assumed charge, they decided to stop all private enterprises and proclaimed that the State will undertake all such commercial ventures, but up till now they have not been able to do anything in that direction as they say, for want of men and machinery. Now they have said that they have placed this 2 crores of rupees in ordering machinery for textile, sugar and paper mills, etc. But have they prepared any scheme to find out what should

be the outturn from this enormous outlay? Have they taken into consideration what a costly affair it will be? The first thing one has got to calculate is the interest charges on the capital investment. Now, Sir, 2 crores of rupees have been invested, and if we have to give the minimum rate of 3 per cent. interest even then interest charges alone will come to 6 lakhs of rupees. When the Hon'ble Premier was making a statement it was found that his idea or at least Government's idea is to have only a controlling share, giving the Managing Agency to people from inside or outside with experience of business. And everyone knows that the cream of profit is pocketed by the Managing Agency even in private owned companies. What will be the commission of the Managing Agency, we are told, has not yet been decided. Any one who has followed the income-tax, super tax and business profit tax policy of the Central Government knows that income of over 2 lakhs of rupees will be liable to very heavy business profit tax. If I remember aright, it is 14 annas in the rupee. If they collect that, what will be the ultimate profit to the nation at large by investing this capital. I am glad that one leader of the Congress Party, Srijut Purna Chandra Sarma, raised his voice of protest on the same subject. Our minds are running on parallel lines. If really the province is going to benefit by nationalisation after proper costing calculation of all pros and cons of profit and loss balance sheet, go ahead by all means. But you stopped people who wanted to invest money, who sent people to America for machinery. If you had not gone by the slogan of nationalisation, Assam would have these companies functioning to the benefit of the people. I ask even now that everything is not lost. If we are to depend on the score of efficiency, managing agency and experience of outside people — these people will be very chary of instructing our own youths in this line for fear that they will be ousted from this in future; and if you want to train our own people, try to float companies in Assam — Government must contribute its quota for a share on the control of these companies. Otherwise please do not invest the money which has been received from the Central Government for Post-war Development. There are a number of applicants for starting private enterprise. In 1945 I recommended three parties to the Central Government for starting Textile Mills. Even after I had left office, my friend, Srijut Santosh Kumar Barua of Goalpara came with Mr. Lahiri, an expert in Textile Engineering and he wanted me to impress upon the Ministry that Dhubri should have a Textile Mill of their own.

So my final word to my Friends here is that no body of people, however, patriotic can have a monopoly of patriotism and knowledge. In all fairness to the Hon'ble Finance Minister who has sought our co-operation, I say, join our heads together and try to evolve a system by which the greatest good to the greatest number will be possible.

While on this subject, I will raise a note of warning. During this general discussion of the Budget which is most omnibus discussion on any subject that can arise every hon. Member wants to speak, who never speaks throughout the year and who likes to ventilate local grievances which should be heard by the Hon'ble Minister. It was very unseemly that most of the Hon'ble Ministers were absent from their seats on the first day. So much so that even one of the hon. Members from the Congress Benches had to get up and say what is the farce of this discussion when these discussions are not being listened to by the Ministry. This is a great injustice to the Members of the House, that is an insult to the intelligence of the House. They may talk anything they like and no Ministers caring to listen to what they say. The Hon'ble Minister of Finance also realised that things were going too far and he sent one Parliamentary Secretary to call the Ministers. On the second day in the morning many were present, but the same difficulty arose in the afternoon and most of the Members

of the Treasury Benches were absent throughout the time. This is very hard to the people who want them to listen to all the criticisms so that some of the grievances may be redressed. Hon'ble Finance Minister, of course, has undertaken to reply to all. Probably he will reply so far as Finance is concerned, but as regards general administration, the respective Hon'ble Ministers should be there to help him.

I am obliged to you and to the hon. Members of the House for listening to the long discussion of mine. If I have been able to raise a little bit of awakening in them I deem my efforts well repaid.

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI: I have already taken your leave, Sir, to supplement with a few words to what the hon. Leader of the Opposition said in reference to the finances of the Province and the efforts that were made by the Government to secure adequate justice in that behalf. But before I speak on that point he has placed upon me another responsibility of speaking about the absence of Hon'ble Ministers from the House during the time when the debates were going on. I had already taken leave of the House for absence for the grave necessity on account of which I had to leave this House. I deplore that Hon'ble Ministers should not have been present at the House when matters which related to their jurisdiction were being discussed. But the hon. Leader of the Opposition already pointed out that detailed note had been made of all the suggestion that have been made by the various speakers. The precedent that we have followed till now, is not for individual Ministers to reply to the grievances raised during the course of the Budget discussion, but to leave the entire reply to be given by the Minister of Finance. This is the procedure which we have till now adopted. While I deplore that the Hon'ble Ministers should not have been present, I do think, that nothing has been lost to the House on account of their not being present. Government will take into consideration every suggestion that is made and the individual Ministers will try to do what they could do on the suggestions made.

I now propose to proceed to the subject-matter which I wanted to place before the House. I am grateful to the hon. Leader of the Opposition for the references which he has made about me and for the efforts which we all together made for the purpose of improving the finances of the Province. I must also express my thanks for the co-operation which he has given. But as I proceed I would like to state the position in order to clear certain misunderstanding which might have arisen in the minds of some of the Members of the House regarding certain statements he made, in which His Excellency the Governor also is reported to have made regarding the satisfactory condition of the finances of the Province. It is therefore necessary for me to detail the exact position. Sir, after the 15th of August, instead of an assurance that more would be added to our share — for as you know, Sir, the general feeling was that the Province should receive special consideration — the position was that whatever little we had was proposed to be taken away. The Government of India informed us that so far as Post-War Plans were concerned, the secession of Sylhet would make us suffer reduction to the extent of the population of that district and they said that we would be getting only 105 lakhs of rupees in place of 225 lakhs which was meant for expenditure in the year 1947-48. Therefore apart from the future finances of the Province, which mostly depended on the attitude of the Government of India on the one hand and the attitude taken up by the Constituent Assembly with regard to the general question of finance on the other, the position of the Province itself became shaky on account of these directions from the Government of India. The first thing, therefore, we had to

do was admittedly to contact the Hon'ble Minister of Finance, Mr. Sanmukham Chetty, to explain that the principle of deduction on the basis of population would be entirely wrong because the whole expenditure was meant for certain schemes; and while it may be reasonable to deduct expenditure on schemes which appertained to the seceded areas it would be grievously wrong to deprive other areas which had also drawn up schemes for their development. The arguments did appeal to the Hon'ble Finance Minister, and I can tell for the information of the House that soon after the discussion -- I had also discussed details with the Secretary, Finance, Mr. Narahari Rao. It was stated that the proposition that I put forward would be acceptable to them. While this was going on on higher level, the Secretariat was insisting on the formula of population, which was sent to us previously. Our Finance Minister had to go to the Dominion Finance Minister and re-explain to him the situation. Lastly, Sir Akbar Hydari, who has little to do with the administration of the Province under the present circumstances, was kind enough to use his old acquaintanceship and the influence that he had among his friends there, to agree to what was actually agreed to between me and the Finance Minister of the Government of India. The result was that we have been assured of a sum of Rs.1,97,00,000 for Post-War Development. The Governor might therefore reasonably speak about the good treatment to us by the Centre.

The second question that arose was also in connection with the present-day administration (I shall say what we have done about the future later on). We impressed upon them the necessity of more expenditure in order to bring our administration to the level of other administrations and to secure what help the Government of India could render for wiping out the deficit that we had in the meantime incurred. In that behalf also they assured us that such expenditure as would go for Development purposes might be debited from the unexpended portion of the grant allotted for Post-War Schemes. But the matter has yet to be finally decided as to how the whole thing has got to be worked out. I can state for the information of the House that Mr. Narahari Rao, Secretary, Finance, was to have come over here to have discussion with the Finance Department of the Government of Assam in order to fix up the sort of arrangement by which this could be done. Now, Sir, this is in regard to the existing financial arrangements and our difficulties.

But we also took up the question of the future which would depend more or less on the decisions that will be taken by the Constituent Assembly. In that behalf, Sir, in September, not very long after the appointed date, *i.e.*, 15th of August, we invited the hon. Leader of the Opposition to come and have a discussion in order to draw up a memorandum to secure increased allotment of revenue for the Province to be submitted to the Government of India on the one hand and the Constituent Assembly on the other detailing what should be the future relationship of the Province with the Centre in that behalf. He was pleased to give out to us what he has given to the House to-day, *viz.*, the failure of the last Government, to get adequate consideration from the Centre in spite of the fact that serious efforts were made by the Government of which he was possibly a member. But he is not correct in saying that we did not take any note of his advice; on the other hand, we believed in the lesson that failures are the pillars of success. We did utilise his advice to that extent. He possibly does not know that we got help of all the arguments that were put forward in the memorandum he mentioned in New Delhi from Sir B. N. Rau who was a very important factor in drawing up that memorandum; and we did surely made use of those arguments in the

second memorandum we submitted. We presented the first memorandum, as you may know, in September. It had to be done very hurriedly because it was proposed that it should reach the Government of India within a certain time. Therefore, that had to be sent quickly. In the meantime, we had appointed a great financial authority Dr. V. V. K. Rao, Professor of Economics of Delhi University, to study the conditions of the finances of Assam and to bring out a framework of general propositions according to which the relationship between the Centre and the Provinces might be governed and according to which Assam on grounds of sheer justice would be getting the requisite finances. In both these memoranda the iniquity of the Niemeyer Award was pointed out. The principle of Niemeyer Award, however, was a principle of grant or subvention from the Centre; but the attitude which was taken up by this Government and which I think has also been explained by the hon. the Leader of Opposition was not one of grant by which you wipe out deficit or have your future reconstruction. Ours was an argument in favour of allocated duties to be given to the provinces on account of produce that the provinces have. The memorandum was undoubtedly meant both for the Constituent Assembly as well as for the Government of India. But the Government of India had already said that as it would depend more or less on what the Constituent Assembly would be doing, they would not like to upset the present arrangements. They assured that they would go by the wishes of the country in the arrangement that might be arrived at in the Constituent Assembly. Sir, we might have been going on with the negotiation for more help with the Centre on the basis of subvention on our present revenue, but since the future finances of the provinces depended more or less on what the Constituent Assembly was going to determine, about financial relationship between the provinces and the Centre and what would thus be the revenue which the provinces will get according to the Constitutional provisions in order to manage their administration we had to present our case, not only from the point of needs of the provinces but also on certain general principles. In that connection, Sir, we used not only the arguments used at the time the memorandum was presented before Sir Otto Niemeyer but very many more. It was pointed out—I do not know whether the same was pointed out at that time—that Assam was not functioning even as a normal province at the lower level. It was pointed out that we had the maximum frontier area. As a matter of fact we pointed out that the whole province was more or less a frontier province: it was pointed out that unless such a province obtained a level of administration which would be respected by the neighbours it would find it difficult to keep the people satisfied. It was also pointed out that (though that was a temporary factor) war had created so much damage in the country and the necessity for reconstruction was so great that a special consideration ought to be shown to the needs of Assam. These are only some of the arguments utilised for the purpose of saying that for the normal administration of the Province of Assam we required an expenditure of 8 to 10 crores of rupees in place of 4 crores. We pointed out that we had exhausted the list of provincial taxation and that people were taxed beyond their capacity by these measures. In other words, we wanted an increase in recurring expenditure to the extent of 6 crores over what we have to-day.

Now, so far as our efforts in the Constituent Assembly are concerned, they had to be based on certain principles. I want to inform the House that long before the Expert Committee was set up, the Premiers of all the provinces sat together to devise ways and means as to how the present income of the Provinces could be supplemented. It was felt that the introduction of prohibition in all the Provinces would bring about a substantial reduction in the revenue. Therefore, every Provincial Premier was concerned as to how to fill up this

depleted coffer. In these small conferences of Premiers the principle of allocated Revenue was accepted. So far as Assam is concerned the excise duty on tea and petroleum and export duty on tea and jute were specially pointed out and the point of view that Assam required special consideration and that a portion of these duties could be conceded to Assam was agreed to among the Premiers of the Provinces. It was however ultimately decided by the Constituent Assembly that the whole question should be considered by an Expert Committee. As a matter of fact, the Expert Committee came into existence out of the efforts that were made by the Premiers of the Provinces for settlement of the financial arrangement between the Centre and the Provinces. In the Committee presided by Srijut N. R. Sarker which sat at New Delhi, we were asked to give evidence and there also we pointed out the needs and necessities of our Province, which were recognised by the Expert Committee itself, when they stated that Assam's case was a special one and that therefore it should receive special treatment. A question was put to me as to how we would like them to recommend for meeting this extra expenditure that was necessary for the administration of Assam. They also enquired whether they could not be met by a kind of subvention to be given by the Centre. We pointed out to them that it is by allocated revenue that we would like our expenditure to be met and that we would not forego any part of the allocated revenue on export and excise duties on the products of Assam. I have been discussing these points because the hon. Leader of the Opposition raised these points while discussing the subject. Now, Sir, you will realise how injustice is done to Assam. The Expert Committee recommended possibly to make a slight increase in the percentage of share of Income-tax. But they did not agree to recommend allocation of export duty on tea, and excise duty on tea, petroleum and kerosene. They gave a share of Export Duty and Tobacco Excise duty to provinces, but on what logic tea export duty and tea, petroleum and kerosene excise duties were not given for allocation is not known. The hon. Leader of the Opposition has now told you that the excise duty on tea has been enhanced considerably by the Government of India recently. It is now 4 annas per pound in place of 2 annas. The hon. Leader of the Opposition also informed you that on account of tea that we produce in the province, the export and excise duties bring an amount of about 10 to 12 crores in the year. I know that on export duty alone, it comes to more than 6 crores. But what has been the recommendations in this respect by the Drafting Committee of which the hon. Leader of the Opposition was a member. The Draft merely re-iterates the sections of the old Act of 1935 in toto, and what is more, the Drafting Committee have rejected the recommendation of the Expert Committee of the Constituent Assembly that on the basis of their recommendation financial arrangement have to be regulated from the starting of the Constitution. The result is that, with the exception of a slight hope that is given in respect of Assam's tribal people the relevant portion of which I shall read out to the House, the financial position of the province remains just as before for the next five years. We feel the tragedy that we are exactly in the same position as we were. It is only the recommendations to the Advisory Committee that have obtained some consideration of the Drafting Committee and I feel gratified that their recommendations were from our Committee. We said that giving the tribal people autonomy meant nothing unless they were put in a position of running their administration at the same level as that of the rest of the State. But for the rest of the draft on financial arrangement from clauses 253 to 255, the clauses incorporated are almost *verbatim* taken from Government of India Act. I am now reading from clause 255 of the Draft Constitution of India to explain the position.

"255. Such sums, as Parliament may by law provide, shall be charged on the revenues of India in each year as grants-in-aid of the revenues of such States as Parliament may determine to be in need of assistance, and different sums may be

fixed for different States". This may bring consolation to some ; but it is nothing more than dole by the Government of India. Since Assam is in need of large fund some hope is proposed, but it can be only by way of subvention. I will now read out another portion of that Clause :

"Provided further that there shall be paid out of the revenues of India as grants-in-aid of the revenues of the State of Assam sums, capital and recurring, equivalent to --

(a) the average excess of expenditure over the revenues during the three years immediately preceding the commencement of this Constitution in respect of the administration of the tribal areas specified in Part I of the table appended to paragraph 19 of the Sixth Schedule ; and

(b) the costs of such schemes of development as may be undertaken by that State with the approval of the Government of India for the purpose of raising the level of administration of the said areas to that of the administration of the rest of the areas of that State".

Now these are the two provisions that we proposed to be incorporated in the new Constitution. This will give tribes and tribal areas some hope of their future development.

About allocation of export duties on tea and jute, and excise duties on tea, petroleum, etc., our position remains the same. Clauses 253 and 254 govern them : but they are not proposed to be put in operation for the next five years. But even for the gesture shown by the Drafting Committee to supplement our finances for the good of our tribal areas and people we are grateful to them. I may agree that it may be possible under the first part of clause 255 to get some or even the required subvention from time to time. But is that the proper solution of the financial relationship between India and Assam ? I definitely say—No. Our right to the proportion at any rate—if not the whole—of the duty must be recognised ; because dole is always an uncertain factor. For one particular Government it might be possible to get the dole, it may be that the same justice may not be meted out to another Government. But as I have pointed out, there should be no difference between the Opposition and the Government in this matter. We should work together for increase in the *per capita* expenditure for every person in the province. And our efforts should be for proper recognition of the right of the province to have an allocated excise duty on petroleum, tea, kerosene and some other minor commodities, as also for our right to have export duty on tea and jute as a producing unit. Unfortunately Sir, there has been no note of dissent or attempt at amendment by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, who was a member of the Drafting Committee ; and the saddest part of the affair is that he yet criticise Government efforts.

So far as this Government is concerned, Sir, as soon as we obtained a copy of the Draft Constitution, in our possession, we immediately started setting up our experts to be working on it ; and I could tell the hon. Members of the House that we are already preparing the Memorandum which will be sent to the Government of India. We are also getting ready our amendments that will have to be tabled as Members of the Constituent Assembly. We do not know what would be the fate of the amendments but we are determined to fight on principle, as we have been fighting so long, that our claims to allocated duties must be recognised by the Government of India. Possibly, it would have strengthened our hands if in the Draft itself, we would have found some dissenting note by the hon. Leader of the Opposition ; but there is no reason why we should not be able to put up our case before the Constituent Assembly and request the Members of the Constituent Assembly of this Province, nay not the Members

of Assam alone, but of other Provinces also, to make a combined effort to secure justice at the hands of the Constituent Assembly. I hope, we shall be in a position thereby to put up the just claim of Assam before the Government of India also, and I have no doubt that justice will be meted out to us. I again thank the hon. Leader of the Opposition for the kind reference that he has made regarding me. I explained to the House the attitude which has been taken by this Government. One word more and I have finished. There has been a suggestion for a Resolution of this House on this subject. As a matter of fact, it was I myself who thought that a Resolution should be brought up before this House on this subject. But before we could actually move, the hon. Leader of the Opposition suggested for such a Resolution in his speech. Now, if we find that our existing business of the House does not interfere with such a Motion, it will be taken up by us most gladly. We feel, Sir, that if the whole House, accepts it we can strengthen our demand for a just recognition of our claims by the Constituent Assembly and the Government of India.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have got very little time to reply to all the questions raised in this debate. The hon. Leader of the Opposition took almost two hours in his speech and it is very difficult for me at this sag end of the day to reply to all the questions that have been raised on the floor of the House by different hon. Members within the time of about 45 minutes or an hour left for me. It may not be unknown to hon. Members that when the time is short, the speaker naturally gets nervous, when he is to finish his speech in a hurry.

At the outset I offer my thanks to the hon. Members of the House as well as to the Leader of the Opposition and Mr. Morley for offering their whole hearted co-operation to Government.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD ABUL KASHEM: If the Hon'ble Finance Minister requires, he may take one hour to deliver his speech.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: If that is the sense of the House, he may take one hour.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: I offer my thanks to hon. Members of the House including the Leader of the Opposition as well as the European Group for offering their whole hearted co-operation to Government. But it will not be possible for me within the short time at my disposal to reply in detail to all the questions that they have raised and grievances ventilated regarding their individual constituencies, but on behalf of Government I assure the hon. Members that the grievances that they have ventilated regarding their constituencies will be given due consideration and utmost efforts will be made by Government to give relief consistent with the financial position of the province. I may mention that it has been made clear by the statement just made by the Hon'ble Premier that all possible steps had been taken by the present Government to improve the financial position of the province. They pressed their claim before the Expert Committee and submitted memorandum not only before the Committee but also did so before the President of the Constituent Assembly. The steps taken from time to time and efforts made by the Government have already been explained by the Hon'ble Premier.

I was listening with rapt attention to the speech that has been delivered by the hon. Leader of the Opposition just before lunch. Self-adulation appeared to me to be the key note of this portion of his speech. I do not propose to probe into this portion of his speech and strike a discordant note and deprive him of the pleasure he enjoyed during this self-eulogising speech. Besides praising

himself he was trying to throw fling at us off and on. Thirdly, he was advising us that in a matter of this kind there should not be any political or party consideration, as if we have so long been guided by party consideration in such matters. I for myself and for Government can say that in a matter of this kind, as has been ably stated by the Hon'ble Premier, the present Government do not take into consideration the party alignment. The fact that we sought his help will belie any such insinuation. We had greatest expectation from the Leader of the Opposition that as a Member of the Drafting Committee our claims for allocation of 75 per cent. of Petrol excise duty and Tea export duty would be pressed and the Members would be persuaded to accept our claim, but we were sadly disappointed to find that in the Draft Constitution there is no mention of our claim and not even a dissenting voice was raised in support of our claim by the hon. Leader of the Opposition who could have insisted to record a dissenting note in support of our claim. We were partly instrumental in including his name in the Drafting Committee and, as a matter of fact, we had high hopes from him as Member of the Committee, but I am sorry to say that we have been sadly disappointed.

***The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY:** We Members of the Constituent Assembly wanted him in the Drafting Committee.

***Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** The Hon'ble Finance Minister better deliver his own speech rather than show that he was patronising me. I know how to defend myself.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: We had some hand in including his name as a Member of the Drafting Committee.

*** Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Is it at the instance of the Assam Government? Has the Hon'ble Minister got the right to say that it was he who suggested my name?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: I do not say that we did it, but I said that the Members representing Assam had some part in including his name in the Drafting Committee.

***Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** I deny it most emphatically.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Now, Sir, it has been admitted and the hon. Leader of the Opposition knows that in the Memorandum we submitted to the Government of India, we claimed 75 per cent. of the Export Duty on tea and 75 per cent. of excise duty on petrol and kerosene for assignment to the province. These claims were known to him. I am glad he supports these claims also in the floor of the House. We claimed also 50 per cent. of the other excise duties. In the absence of any dissenting note it may be inferred that our special claims were not raised before the Committee while drafting the articles regarding financial allocation of revenue between the Union and the Provinces. Our claims could have been greatly strengthened, had there been even a dissenting note recorded by the hon. Leader of the Opposition in the Draft Constitution. In the Draft Constitution, article 254 contains provision regarding assignment of Jute Export Duty to the provinces in which jute is grown, but no mention

of our claim of similar export duty on Tea is made in this clause. It is not mentioned if our claim for tea export duty was in fact raised and pressed before the Committee. If there would have been a dissenting voice with a dissenting note from any Member of the Drafting Committee to include Export Duty on Tea in the same way as Jute Duty, Assam's claim would have been much strengthened. There is nothing on record to show that there was any dissenting voice or the hon. Leader of the Opposition raised and pressed our claim. Absence of such a dissenting note, and unanimous acceptance of Jute Export Duty only in this clause even by the only Member from Assam, may greatly prejudice our claim when any amendment is put before the Constituent Assembly for inclusion of Tea Export Duty as well in this clause. That is why I say that our expectations were not fulfilled and that we were sadly disappointed. As regards Excise Duty, our claim has not been improved in the least than what is exactly laid down in Section 140 of the present Government of India Act. We had a special claim on Excise Duty on Petrol and Kerosene and admitted by the Leader of the Opposition, but that claim was neither pressed nor incorporated in clause 253 of the Draft Constitution and in fact it amounts that our claim was abandoned even by the only Member of the Drafting Committee from Assam. We have been told that the Expert Committee recommended that a Finance Commission should be immediately constituted to examine the financial position of the Provinces and the Centre for making recommendation regarding allocation of revenues between the provinces and the Centre, and from our point of view constitution of such a Committee was imperative and essential, but we, however, find that the Draft Constitution under clause 260 has postponed the constitution of such Committee for five years after the commencement of the new Constitution. Thus for five years there will be no independent Financial Commission to examine the needs and financial position of the backward provinces like Assam, according to the unanimous recommendation of the Committee. We will have to depend on the unilateral decision of the Central Government. From what I have stated it will appear clear how things were going on before the Drafting Committee. The Hon. Members will be able to ascertain for themselves whether our interest was protected or sacrificed at the time of the drafting of the Constitution by the Drafting Committee. It was the unanimous decision of the members of the Drafting Committee including the Leader of the Opposition and in nowhere our special claim for Excise Duty on Oil and Export Duty on Tea was mentioned.

I leave it now to the hon. Members to make their own inference in this matter.

Now, as regards the proposal for moving a Motion in support of the Government's claim for specific allocation of Excise Duty on Oil and Export duty on Tea, I may mention that at the beginning of this Session, I requested the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition to move a Motion from his side which I considered would have strengthened the claim of the Government for allocation of these duties and the Leader of the Opposition told me that he considered it not desirable to move such a Motion himself as he was a member of the Drafting Committee, but he wanted time to consider whether a Member from his Party would bring forward a Motion, but, up till now neither a Motion is proposed to be moved nor he had the courtesy to inform me what action he intends to take in this matter. Now for the first time in his speech he says that a Motion should be brought by the House and he whole-heartedly will support such a Motion. The Hon'ble Prime Minister has given reply in his speech what action the Government proposes to take in this connection.

I am glad to say that he has expressed his willingness to help Government in this matter of pressing Assam's claim for assignment of 75 per cent. of Excise Duty on Oil and same percentage of Tea Export Duty to the Province. As a matter of

fact, it is very difficult to run the administration of the province smoothly, unless we get our due share from the Centre, and I am very glad that he has placed his services at the disposal of this Government for pressing our claim for improving the financial position of the province. We are really grateful to him for this offer and as a matter of fact the Government, whenever possible, will take advantage of his experience in this matter. I am also glad that he has curbed the enthusiasm of Dr. Husain who wants immediately to nationalise the Oil Industry and also the Tea Industry.

Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY: Some Members of your Party also supported my view. You are to consider it on the merits of the case.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: The Hon'ble Leader of the House has answered on my behalf some of the questions as to why nationalisation cannot be taken up immediately. I request these over-zealous and revolutionary hon. Members to consider all aspects of this very important question dispassionately before being swayed away by common place slogans and 'isms'. Socialism is no doubt our ultimate economic goal and Socialism of key industries is certainly an essential step to that direction. But the process of our evolution to that end must be gradual and in stages. First emphasis must be on production. It should be our aim to produce more and make up the deficit, which alone can enhance our national wealth. It will be the duty of the Province to develop those new industries like Textile Mill, Sugar Mill, Paper Mill at the first instance before launching a programme of nationalisation of the existing well developed industries. It must not be forgotten that we are confronted with our limited resources in men, money and material. All these points and aspects have to be considered when the question of nationalisation of particular industry or industries is taken up, and the Government under the circumstances cannot be expected to nationalise all the existing industries immediately. For want of material, money and expert personnel it will be impossible for the Government to nationalise all the industries. Under these limitations Government cannot be expected to undertake wholesale nationalisation of all industries immediately. We have also to remember that nationalisation as a policy must emanate from the Centre and without help from the Centre Assam cannot embark independently on a policy of wholesale nationalisation of industries. There is no doubt that Assam is in urgent need of developing her textile industry, sugar industry and also paper industry and Government as a matter of fact, with the limited resources at their disposal consider it important and essential to start these new industries as national concerns at the first instance and see the working of such industries before taking up the question of acquiring the existing industries.

Assam is in urgent need of development of some industries; we are short of cloth, sugar and paper. These essential things must be produced inside Assam first before we can think of nationalising other existing industries. Government has arranged a loan from the Central Government to start these industries and preliminary steps have been taken. In fact orders for machineries have been placed for the textile mills. In view of all these difficulties I hope the more enthusiastic among the Members would see and watch the development of these industries as a national concern in the Province, before raising the slogan of nationalisation of all the existing industries immediately. At present the Central Government and the province are passing through a crisis. We must take advantage of all available resources in the Province and try to make our Province self-sufficient and thus stabilise the newly acquired freedom and take steps to remove the shortage of cloth, paper and sugar.

Some hon. Members have accused us that we have not been able to reduce the expenditure due to transfer of Sylhet. I have already stated in my Budget speech that there is gradual decline in the expenditure and all the posts that

were required for that portion of Sylhet have already been retrenched. One single instance will just point out what reduction of expenditure has been made. Even in Police, the ordinary normal expenditure has been reduced by 7 lakhs on account of transfer of Sylhet and on account of retirement of some officers who have been given option under the new set-up. Some of the hon. Members went to the length of advocating the drastic method of interfering with the condition of services of those who have already been in service and reducing pay and prospect arbitrarily that they have been enjoying before the 15th August in accordance to the terms and conditions of their appointment. I think every sensible Member will appreciate that it is not just and fair to curtail the pay and prospect of those officers who were appointed on terms and conditions that were in force at the time of appointment. There must be security of service. It is not possible and fair to do away with those officers by a stroke of pen or to reduce their pay and prospect suddenly. Besides pay and prospect of Government servants regarding even new entrants must bear some comparison to those prevailing in other provinces and the Union or else it may not be possible to get efficient and intelligent band of officers at abnormally low pay scale. In fixing the scale of the old officers the condition of their service at the time of appointment will have to be respected. No Party can think either of disbanding all the old officers or reducing suddenly their pay and prospect without any regard to the terms and conditions of their services at the time of appointment. Of course it is very difficult to say what reduction can be made in the overhead charges in Shillong due to transfer of Sylhet. It takes some time to come to a decision on this point and I have stated in my Budget speech that the question of reduction of expenditure on overhead charges is being examined.

Hon. Mr. Phookan has ventilated a grievance of the public regarding employment of Assamese in the Assam Railway. I am glad that he has been elected as member of the Railway Advisory Committee and I think he will find ample scope there before the Committee to ventilate the public grievance, and we will have a bold advocate in him to represent this matter in the Advisory Committee.

I think that will be the proper place for ventilating this grievance of the public (Srijut Nilmani Phookan:—Have the Government got no duty?) We are doing our best. We have drawn the attention of the Hon'ble Member-in-charge and are also taking other steps to protect the interests of the Assamese people in the Assam Railway, and we are glad to find another supporter in the person of the Hon'ble Member in another sphere. He will be able to put this claim before the Advisory Committee and strengthen the hands of the Government in this matter.

Then, Sir, he also spoke about the lot of aided school teachers. Government as well as the members of this House have got full sympathy with them and that is why we have made a provision of Rs. 70,000 in the Budget, in order at least to increase their dearness allowance to Rs. 10 a month. Besides that there is provision of Rs. 1,27,000 for increased grants to these aided schools and for taking a few deserving new schools in the aided list. But in his anxiety to look to the interest of the aided school teachers he forgot for the time being that there is such a provision in the Budget as stated above. Then, Sir, he put in a claim for provincialisation of the Jorhat Girls' High School (Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury:—I also support it). Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury also whispers that he supports this claim. But I think he knows that there is another school of thought who wants to deprovincialise all the schools in order to benefit the aided school teachers. Government have not yet come to any decision in this matter. If he agrees with that view and desires that the money now spent for the Government schools should be released for distribution amongst the aided school teachers, he should not talk of provincialisation of any school.

Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN: On a point of personal explanation, Sir, I never said that any school should be deprovincialised while putting forward the claim of the Jorhat Girls' High School. On the other hand, while I spoke about it voices came from all sides of the House that all the Girls' Schools in the Province should be provincialised. I never spoke of deprovincialisation in that speech.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: I think, Sir, my hon. Friend missed my point in his anxiety. He is a man who looks to himself more than what comes from outside. I never alleged that he was in favour of deprovincialisation. I only said that there is such a school of thought and that there is a considerable volume of opinion in favour of deprovincialisation of all the High English Schools and that my ardent Friend should dispassionately consider that aspect of the question before coming to a final decision on such a matter and before pressing the claim for provincialisation of any particular institution.

Srijut KARKA DALAY MIRI: What is the position regarding compulsory Primary Education ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Some Members raised the question that no provision has been made for introducing compulsory primary education. I am coming to that later on.

Sir, a few Members hinted that Government was not considering the desirability or otherwise of nationalising the passenger and goods transport on the Shillong-Gauhati Road. But let us not forget that the Company's license will continue for about a year more. In my Budget speech I stated that as an experimental measure Government have taken up the transport of passengers between Gauhati-Nowgong, and extension of such nationalisation of transport to other lines will depend on the success of this experiment. If this experiment succeeds, Government will surely consider the desirability of nationalising transport system in other routes. I think, Sir, in their anxiety they wanted the license of the present Company to be cancelled all at once. But that is not feasible or desirable, and it would be unjust and unfair to cancel their license during the term of the contract. This matter is under the active consideration of the Government and they will come to definite decision in this matter before the expiry of the existing license.

Then, Sir, Mr. Karka Dalay and a few other Members raised the question as to what has happened to the Compulsory Primary Education Act. In my Budget speech I have said that a provision of Rs. 1,50,000 has been made for re-organisation of primary education in accordance with the provision of the Compulsory Primary Education Act. A sum of Rs. 2,00,000 has been provided of which an amount of Rs. 50,000 is earmarked for expansion of primary education among the backward and tribal areas and the rest for re-organisation of primary education under the Compulsory Primary Education Act.

Then, Sir, my hon. Friend, Mr. Bora (he is not present here), in his haste and anxiety for the protection of the interests of Assam, advised us to take some sort of direct action against the Centre, which I think is not fair before exhausting all our ways and means for persuading the Centre to accept our claim. He forgot for the time being that we are dependent on the Centre for so many matters. We are getting Rs. 1,08,00,000 as our share of Income-tax. He forgets that if any direct action is taken that money can be stopped at any moment. In his anxiety he also said that no lease for Petrol should be issued so that the Central Government will suffer. He forgets for the time being that the Indian Union and the provinces form an organic whole and one cannot thrive without the other. We rise and fall together. He is under the impression that the Centre is as autocratic as before. He forgets that the Centre is now in the hands of trusted representatives of the people and a full

democratic Government responsible to the people has been established at the Centre at the present moment in place of the autocratic Government which prevailed for long.

Some Members referred to the lot of political sufferers. I quite feel that those patriotic persons who suffered untold suffering and made sacrifices for the cause of the country and helped in hastening the attainment of independence deserve special consideration from the Government. Whenever any special case regarding any particular sufferer is brought to the notice of Government his case will receive the most sympathetic consideration. As a matter of fact, I have already issued a circular to the District Officers that those political sufferers who want to devote themselves to agriculture and if they are landless, they should be provided with sufficient waste land to form an economic holding and that they should get preference in the matter of settlement. These political sufferers who believe in the constructive programme of the Congress in reference to the development of the rural areas may also be more useful if they engage themselves in these rural development centres and organise the rural areas for the development of the self-sufficient unit.

It has further been pressed by some ardent Friends to launch total Prohibition immediately. I need not reiterate that opium habit is the worst habit which is prevailing in the country and that opium Prohibition has already been taken up in hand. A Committee was appointed to advise if Prohibition of liquor should be taken up immediately. The Committee came to the conclusion that it will not be desirable to take this up simultaneously with the Prohibition campaign against opium evil as that may lead to the failure of both. They recommend to take up one at a time. As I have already stated that Government do not rely at all on the revenue derived from the Excise and that sooner or later Government will have to forego a sum of Rs.60 lakhs in Revenue side as total Prohibition of liquor will have to be taken in accordance to the declared policy of the Congress. Some hon. Member has mentioned that there has been an increase in the revenue under the head Excise. As a matter of fact, in the current year's Budget the revenue is Rs.60 lakhs, but in the Budget for the next year we expect only 56 lakhs. The small rise hinted by some Members is partly due to the rise in price.

Mr. Morley has remarked that there has been obvious sign of lowered budgetary standard when a single item shows a variation of about 2 crores of rupees and in doing so he draws attention of the House to "LI—Extraordinary Receipts" in the Budget Estimates, and says that in the Budget Estimates, the extraordinary receipts is shown as Rs. 3,62,29,000 whereas in the revised estimate it has been shown as Rs. 1,62,06,000. Now I draw his attention to my Budget speech which has made it clear that this is only due to budgetary adjustment. This sum shown in the estimates of the Budget for 1947-48 under head—extraordinary receipt amounting to Rs.3,62,29,000 includes a figure of Rs 2,05,17,000—Loan from Industrial Development but at the time of preparing the revised estimate this amount was taken out of the revenue account to the capital account. This was due to a budgetary adjustment owing to a change of method in preparing the Budget. There is no variation showing lower budgetary standard as has been pointed out by him. He again draws attention to a provision of a sum of Rs.60 lakhs as advance which was shown as it was considered that this amount might be required as advance for machineries for which order has been placed. Now I may inform the hon. Members of the House that this amount will not be required in the current year. It was only provided in the budget for payment in case the company, with whom this order had been placed, demand an advance. This amount was not actually taken as a loan from the Central Government and as soon as we have come to know that this amount will not be required in the current year, we have informed the

Central Government that the amount will not be necessary. This amount under the circumstances will not carry any interest. The other amount is provided as the probable cost of the machineries. As regards the details of the schemes they will be placed before the House when the schemes will be about to be undertaken and the expenditure for them will be about to be incurred. The schemes that are necessary are in connection with textile, paper and sugar industries. To finance these schemes we have arranged a loan from the Central Government. As the Hon'ble Premier has already stated, the machineries in this connection are expected to arrive in India within a year or two, and in the meantime cultivation of sugarcane and such other preliminaries connected with these industries are being undertaken and some are under consideration of the Government.

With regard to Post-war Budget we have provided in all a sum of about 8 crore 1 lakh 87 thousand in the Budget. Of this amount Rs.30,19,000 appertains to the schemes for Excluded Areas. As a matter of fact all the schemes for the Excluded Areas will receive the approval of the Central Government. Now, the balance of Trs. 7,71,68 includes a sum of about 62 lakhs being the provincial contribution for Post-War Development Schemes for the next year. The total expenditure involved for the new schemes proposed for 1948-49 amounts to Trs. 1,82,28. If this sum is deducted from Trs. 7,78,12 which is proposed to be the share of Government of India's grant for all the Post-War Development schemes for the next year, the amount comes up to Trs. 5,95,74. This sum of Trs. 5,95,74 represents the expenditure meant for the old schemes that are in operation in the current year and proposed to be continued in the next year as well. I have already stated in my Budget speech the exact position. Now I will read out a portion of my speech to the House to clear the point: "All the schemes included in the current year's Budget except one, namely, the Navigation, Embankment and Drainage project involving 11 lakhs, have been approved by the Government of India and steps have been taken to get their approval of this scheme as well. As usual fresh approval of the Government of India will have to be taken for the continuance of the schemes from year to year and the Government of India have been moved for giving approval to the schemes included in the Budget for 1948-49. It is likely that the schemes approved for the current year will be automatically approved and it is expected that the new schemes proposed for the first time for 1948-49 will also be approved". Of the new schemes and some items included in the schemes for rural development involving an expenditure of Rs.98 lakhs for the next year have already received approval of the Government of India. When the Deputy Prime Minister came to Assam he saw the actual conditions of things in Assam, and he told us that he would see that Assam gets the necessary money for her development. With such assurances there is no doubt that we would get the required amount for continuance of or starting our new schemes beneficial for the rural areas. The Hon'ble Finance Minister of the Government of India also gave an assurance in his Budget Speech which runs as follows: "The progress of expenditure on the development schemes has been somewhat slower than anticipated mainly due to the shortage of material and man power.....I have carefully considered whether in the altered circumstances the Centre should reduce its assistance to the Provinces but I have come to the conclusion that in the larger interests of the development of the country as a whole it would be unwise to do so, particularly as the Provinces have framed their plans on the assumption that the promised assistance would be forthcoming. In reaching this decision I have been influenced by the fact that in actual practice the grants are likely to be spread over a somewhat longer period than the four years that remain out of the original five year period fixed for this assistance. This, to some extent, will relieve the strain on the resources of the Centre". Relying on the assurances from such high quarters that money will be forthcoming we have

started these schemes and prepared new schemes. We expect that the rural development schemes, when fully developed at the end of five years, will be self-supporting. The above facts and circumstances will justify why we have provided such a huge amount in the next year's Budget for various Post-War Development Schemes. I hope the hon. Members who raised doubts during debate that such large sums may not be available, will also be convinced that Government were fully justified for making the Post-war plan involving an expenditure of Trs. 8,01,87.

Now, as regards the complaints of Srijut Karka Dalay Miri, it has rather become a fashion for him for some time to say inside and outside the House that Government is not providing land to the Miris. Unfortunately he is not there in his seat at this time. He forgets that there is a Standing Order of Government to provide land to the backward people who are landless. In Dibrugarh subdivision about 17,000 bighas of reserve land has been de-reserved more than a year ago for the purpose of accommodating the Miris, but a vast portion of this de-reserved area is still lying unoccupied. He cannot under the circumstances complain that Government is not providing land to the Miris. My hon. Friend, Mr. P. M. Sarwan, complains that the ex-tea garden labourers are not getting enough land. Sometime ago I showed him that an order has been issued by Government that all the ex-tea garden labourers who want to settle should be provided with land. Of course, in case suitable waste land be not available in a particular subdivision or district the ex-tea garden labourers will have to go to other districts or areas where land is available. Sir, as I have already stated, it is always dangerous to become Communist overnight to acquire and demand all private land and property by a single stroke of pen. I think he will not tolerate if his own land and property is acquired by Government for the settlement and distribution of such land and property to others who are in need of them. Before accusing Government for not acquiring private lands he should ponder and consider if he is prepared to allow his land and house to be acquired by Government for distribution to others. As regards the protection of the tribal and scheduled caste people, order has already been passed for the formation of tribal belts and there is an executive order for protection of the backward people in other areas where no tribal belt has been formed yet. Mr. P. M. Sarwan refers generally to the high-handed action of the Land Record Staff. I may mention that once he forwarded an application containing allegation against certain Mandal and the application was enquired into, but the allegation was found to be maliciously false.

***Mr. P. M. SARWAN:** I like to inform the Hon'ble Minister that the enquiry was not made in a proper manner. Had I been informed of this, I would have been glad to represent the labourers.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: I agree with Mr. Morley that matters in dispute between East Bengal and Assam regarding transport of commodities through respective territories should be settled amicably. As a matter of fact, the attitude of Government have always been to preserve peace and amity between our people and those living in East Bengal and we are sparing no pains to settle matters in dispute by mutual discussion and agreement. It is proposed that there will be a meeting at the Ministerial level with Hon'ble Premier and the Hon'ble Premiers of the West Bengal and the East Bengal and 26th was originally fixed for such a meeting for discussion with a view to arrive at an amicable settlement regarding all outstanding matter relating to the neighbouring provinces. We, on our part, will always

*Speech not corrected.

endeavour to come to an agreement on reasonable terms in matters of dispute between Assam, East Bengal and West Bengal. As a matter of fact a Boundary Commission has been set up to settle the boundary dispute regarding Patharkandi area.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Minister should finish, otherwise we will have to increase the time for to-day.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : As my time is up, I do not like to proceed further. It is not possible to reply to all the individual grievances of different hon. Members that have been ventilated on the floor of the House. But I assure them all on behalf of Government that they will be taken into due consideration by the respective Departments.

Srijut Hem Chandra Hazarika was saying that he comes from a very backward place like North Lakhimpur and presses his demand for development of the subdivision. I like to assure him that we the Congress Party stand by the principle that all the backward places should be developed and brought in line with the other advanced places. He complaint that his subdivision has not received consideration of Government. I hope, the hon. Member will rest assured that this Government will give due consideration to the grievances of his subdivision as well as other backward areas.

Maulavi ABUAL MAJID ZIAOSH SHAMS : Please don't forget Goalpara and Dhubri.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : Goalpara and Dhubri cannot be forgotten. Goalpara forms the boundary between Assam and East Bengal. It will be to the interest of all of us to endeavour to keep the people of Goalpara contented and satisfied and we cannot afford to overlook their interest.

Maulavi MAKABBIR ALI MAZUMDAR : Please don't forget Cachar also.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : Srijut Dharanidhar Basumatari pressed in course of his speech for development of tribal areas. I must inform him that we consider that development of tribal area is essential for the proper growth of the province as a whole and the country cannot advance in the road to progress without improving and developing the lots of the backward tribal people of the Plains as well as of the Hills. We must improve their economic conditions and raise their standard of life and afford better facility for education and render all available help to bring them up to our standard of living. The tribal people of the Hills will have to guard Assam against aggression from outside.

With these few words, I beg to resume my seat as desired by the Hon'ble the Speaker.

Statement by the Hon'ble Speaker *re* : absence of the Hon'ble Ministers at the time of Budget Discussion

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Before I pass on to the next item, I have to refer to one thing that the absence of the Hon'ble Ministers leaving their seats when the Budget speeches are delivered, reference of which was made by the hon. Leader of the Opposition and one of the hon. Members of the Treasury

Benches, is regrettable. I do not want to emphasise the necessity of the Hon'ble Ministers of being in their seats, as the Hon'ble Ministers know that the hon. Members delivering Budget speeches touch upon matters relating to their respective departments, therefore, they should be always in their seats to hear them. Apart from this, this is a necessity and when they remain absent from their seats they thus commit the breach of the Parliamentary Convention. Under the circumstances, they should know the rule that when the Budget discussion takes place the Hon'ble Ministers should be in their own seats and also when the Assembly is in Session.

Another factor that the Parliamentary Convention established in India is that when a particular hon. Member criticises the Government he should be in his seat when the reply is given from the Government side. Particularly, I make mention of Mr. Karka Dalai Miri who criticised the Government yesterday and to-day when the Hon'ble Finance Minister was replying to his charges he was absent. That is a breach of Parliamentary practice.

The Assam Finance Bill, 1948

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Finance Bill, 1948, be taken into consideration Clause by Clause and as there is no amendment, I beg to move that the Assam Finance Bill, 1948, be passed.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :
"That the Assam Finance Bill, 1948, be passed".

(After a pause)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :
"That the Assam Finance Bill, 1948, be passed".
The question was adopted.

The Assam Local Board Elections (Emergency Provisions) Bill, 1948

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Item No. 6. There is an amendment. The Hon'ble Minister-in-charge may straight way move that the Bill be passed.

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR : I beg to move that the Assam Local Board Elections (Emergency Provisions) Bill, 1948 be passed.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :-
"That the Assam Local Board Elections (Emergency Provisions) Bill, 1948, be passed".

(After a pause).

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : It seems no hon. Member is taking part in the discussion. Then I put the question.

The question is :
"That the Assam Local Board Elections (Emergency Provisions), Bill, 1948, be passed".

The question was adopted.

The Assam New Motor Cars (Control of Commercial Sales) Bill, 1948

The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI : As there is no amendment, I beg to move that the Assam New Motor Cars (Control of Commercial Sales), Bill, 1948, be passed.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

“That the Assam New Motor Cars (Control of Commercial Sales), Bill, 1948, be passed.

(After a pause).

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is :

“That the Assam New Motor Cars (Control of Commercial Sales), Bill, 1948, be passed”.

The question was adopted.

Election of Members to the Public Accounts Committee

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Now, we proceed with the election of Members to the Public Accounts Committee.

(Ballot papers were distributed and election held)

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned to 1-30 P.M., on Friday, the 19th March, 1948.

SHILLONG :

• The 7th April 1948.

A. K. BARUA,
Secretary, Assam Legislative Assembly.