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**Proceedings of the Third Session of the Assam Legislative
Assembly assembled after the first General Election
under the Sovereign Democratic Republican
Constitution of India**

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 1-30 P. M. on Friday, the 27th March, 1953.

PRESENT

Shri Kuladhar Chaliha, B.L., Speaker, in the Chair, the ten Ministers, the two Deputy Ministers, the three Parliamentary Secretaries and Sixty-four Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Paddy Fields, betel nut and orange gardens belonging to Khasi People along Pakistan border

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI asked :

*148. Will Government be pleased to state :—

- (a) Whether they are aware of the existence of many paddy fields, betel nut and orange gardens along the Pakistan border belonging to the Khasi people ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that for the last three years they have not been allowed to gather their harvest by the Pakistani forces from their estates ?
- (c) If so, what steps have Government taken to safeguard their property and compensate their loss ?
- (d) Whether Government have any information as to how many Khasi people have migrated to Pakistan under the pressure of economic distress ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied :

148. (a) --Yes.

(b) —No. But there have been some instances where Pak nationals sometimes backed by Pakistani armed forces interfered with harvesting of crops, etc.

(c) —Armed protection and cover have been given by Government in practically all troubled spots which involved exchange of firing at several places. The border cultivators have succeeded in gathering their harvest in fields in undisputed Indian

territory practically in all cases. Where interference has been caused to them in fields which are in Pakistan, protests have been made with the Government of East Bengal for return of the crop seized or payment of the value.

(d)—There has been no such migration but members of some families who have cultivation and houses in Pakistan territory have stayed on there to cultivate their crops, etc.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Regarding (b) Since when the Pak forces have been causing these disturbances? Is it a fact that they have been doing so for the last three years?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Occasionally they are trying to cause interference and we are trying to prevent them.

Shri A. ALLEY: Is it a fact that in some areas in Jowai, particularly the people of village Bathaw have moved to Pakistan?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): I do not know this, Sir. If my Friend can give me some definite instances, I shall cause an immediate enquiry. If he kindly gives me something in writing before I leave Shillong to-day, I shall order an immediate enquiry into the matter.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Has anything been done to compensate the loss of the people, because it has been admitted that sometimes disturbances were caused and so they could not collect their crops during the harvest?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): Sir, no claim has been made. Naturally we tried to realise the money from the other party who caused the damage. Sometimes joint enquiries were held by the Deputy Commissioners of the districts of Sylhet and Khasi and Jaintia Hills under the terms and conditions of the Indo-Pakistan Agreement and when these negotiations failed we moved the Government of India in this respect.

Shri A. ALLEY: Has Government taken any steps to settle some of these people in other portions of the district?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): We shall welcome if some non-official organisations organise such migration in other parts of the district. We shall try our best to provide them with necessary facilities.

Scrap Iron

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI asked :

*149. Will Government be pleased to state :—

- (a) Whether it has any knowledge as to the amount of scrap iron exported from the State for sale elsewhere ?
- (b) Whether there is any such scrap iron in the Golaghat Subdivision ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the Subdivisional Officer, Golaghat has prohibited the export of such scrap iron from Golaghat and if so, why ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister) replied :

149. (a)—Presumably the hon. Member means scrap iron from disposal stocks. Government have no knowledge as to the amount of such scrap iron exported as there is no restriction on the export of such scrap.

(b)—No.

(c)—Does not arise.

Shortage of housing accommodation for Government offices and officers

†**Maulavi Md. UMARUDDIN** asked :

*150. (a) Are Government aware of the shortage of housing accommodation for Government offices and Government officers generally ?

(b) What steps, if any, have Government taken up or do propose to take to meet such shortage of accommodation ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) replied :

150. (a)—Yes.

(b)—To remove congestion in offices, some steps have been taken by Government. A two storied Secretariat building has already been constructed in Shillong and some provision of funds has been made in next year's Budget to construct some suitable houses in district and subdivisional headquarters for office accommodation.

Due to financial difficulty it has not been possible to undertake construction of residential quarters for officers at Government cost.

For this reason whenever deemed warranted and wherever available some lands are being given to officers to construct houses at a reasonable premium.

†Questions were put by Shri Hareswar Goswami on authorisation.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: What are the districts in which Government propose to build new quarters for officers ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Almost in all the districts.

Assam Co-operative Silk House Limited, Gauhati

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS asked :

*151. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) When the Assam Co-operative Silk House Limited, Gauhati was registered and upto which year the statutory audit of the accounts of the Assam Co-operative Silk House Limited, was completed ?

(b) The name of the officer who completed the statutory audit of the Assam Co-operative Silk House for the year 1946-47.

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister) replied :

151. (a)—The Society was registered on 25th August 1941 and audit has been completed upto year 1946-47.

(b)—Shri Lakshmi Ram Das.

Arbitration case against Ex-Secretary of Pub-Gauhati Trading Co-operative Limited

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS asked :

*152. (a) Will Government be pleased to state when an arbitration case against Shri Guru Prasad Chaliha, *ex-Secretary* of the Pub Gauhati Trading Co-operative Limited, Gauhati for recovery of several thousands of rupees has been filed by the said Pub-Gauhati Trading Co-operative Limited with the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Assam ?

(b) Is it a fact that the said case has been pending with the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Assam for a pretty long time ?

(c) If so, for how long ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister) replied :

152. (a)—On 8th November 1950.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Since 8th November 1950.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why no action has been taken as yet ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister): Certain clarifications have been called for and as soon as these are received, action will follow.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: Is it not a fact that repeated reminders have been given by the Pub Gauhati Trading Co-operative Ltd.

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister): I have no information.

Statutory audit of the Assam Trading Co-operative Ltd., Gauhati

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS asked :

*153. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the statutory audit of the Assam Trading Co-operative, Ltd., Gauhati for the year 1950-51 has revealed the drawing of several thousands of rupees by the officers of the Co-operative Department out of the funds of the Assam Trading Co-operative, Ltd. ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the audit report and the balance sheet of the Assam Trading Co-operative Limited, Gauhati for the year 1950-51 ?

(c) Is it a fact that Maulavi Jargis Quadir, Auditor of the Co-operative Societies, Gauhati has been asked to help the Assam Trading Co-operative, Limited, in salt distribution work for which he had to tour different places of Assam and Calcutta in the year 1950?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state whether he drew travelling allowance for the purpose of tour mentioned in (c) above either from the Government or from the Assam Trading Co-operative Limited ?

(e) If so, at what rate ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY replied :

153. (a)—Yes. But audited accounts of the Assam Trading Co-operative Limited for the year 1950-51 have not as yet been finally accepted and a super-audit has been ordered for. In view of this the exact amount cannot be determined until the balance sheet is finalised.

(b)—Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—From the Assam Co-operative, Limited.

(e)—The Administrative Council of the Assam Trading Co-operative Limited, sanctioned travelling allowance to the said officer at the rate applicable to the Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, *i. e.*, at the rate admissible to class I Officer.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether this officer can draw travelling allowance from the Co-operative Trading under the rules?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister): He was specially deputed for the purpose of making some investigation regarding the Assam Trading Co-operative Ltd. For that reason travelling allowance was charged from the co-operative concerned.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: Had he been allowed by Government to do so?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister): Yes, Sir.

Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Assam

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS asked.

*154. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether Shri Jogeswar Gogoi, Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Assam is to inspect Co-operative Societies?

(b) How many Co-operative Societies were inspected by the said Shri Jogeswar Gogoi during the years 1949-50, 1950-51, 1951-52 and 1952-53 and recorded his inspection notes and supplied copies to his subordinates for guidance?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister) replied:

154. (a)—No, unless for special reasons.

(b)—(During the years 1949-50, 1950-51, 1951-52 and 1952-53) he had inspected 14, 10, 6 and 3 societies respectively. He had recorded his inspection notes and took necessary action thereon from Head Office without sending copies of the inspection notes to the Subordinate Officers.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: Is it not his duty to send his inspection notes to the subordinate officers for guidance?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister): His inspection notes are generally sent to the subordinate officers subject to the approval of the Head of the Department.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: Has he sent any such inspection notes to the subordinate officers for guidance?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister): I have no information, Sir.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: What is the duty and function of this officer?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister): He inspects and audits societies.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: Has he got any technical qualifications or has he got training in Co-operative Societies ?

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister): Yes, Sir.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: For how long and from where he got the training ?

Mr. SPEAKER: You need not answer to this.

Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI asked:

*155. (a) Who are the Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries that visited Mangaldai during the month of January, 1953 ?

(b) What was the Official Work each of these Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries performed ?

(c) How much Travelling Allowance and other allowances each of these Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries have drawn during their visit to Mangaldai Subdivision in January last ?

(d) How many Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries visited Mangaldai Subdivision since April, 1952 (figures to be given month by month) ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) replied:

155. (a)—(1) Shri Bishnuram Medhi, M.Sc., B.L., Chief Minister.

(2) Shri Siddhinath Sarma, B.Sc., B.L., Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department, etc.

(3) Shri Omeo Kumar Das, B.A., Minister-in-charge of Education, etc.

(4) Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury, B.L., Minister-in-charge of Food, etc.

(5) Shri Baidyanath Mookerjee, B.A., Minister-in-charge of Supply, etc.

(6) Shri Rupnath Brahma, B.L., Minister-in-charge of Medical, etc.

(7) Shri Ramnath Das, B.L., Minister-in-charge of Forests, etc.

(8) Maulavi Abdul Matlib Mazumdar, M.A., B.L., Minister-in-charge of Local Self-Government, etc.

(9) Shri M. K. Das, M.A., B.L., Parliamentary Secretary for Parliamentary Affairs.

(b)—(1) The Chief Minister visited Mangaldai on his way back from South India. He opened the Loka-Priya Bordoloi Memorial Park at Mangaldai.

(2) Shri Siddhinath Sarma, Inspected the Pathari-ghat Road Mangaldai-Tangla Road, Tangla-Bhirgaon Road, Salaikuch Road, etc., and discussion with Public Works Department staff.

(3) Shri Omeo Kumar Das, Inspected the Local Schools and met the members of the Managing Committee thereof and had discussion.

(4) Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury, performed the opening ceremony of self-help Project at Deomomoi on the 26th. Inspected Odalguri and Roula on 25th January 1953 and attended Bordoloi Park Opening Ceremony on 26th, etc.

(5) Shri Baidyanath Mookerjee, granted interview to a deputation of Mill-owners at Tangla, Paneri, etc. and inspected Procured Paddy at Harisingha and Rice Mills there, etc.

(6) Shri Rupnath Brahma—Inspection of dispensaries and attended the Republic Day Celebration.

(7) Shri Ramnath Das—Inspection, etc.

(8) Maulavi Abdul Matlib Mazumdar, Official Works relating to his Portfolios. Enquiries regarding condition of Live-stock, etc.

(9) Shri M. K. Das, Parliamentary Secretary—Inspection of Works in Mangaldai Community Project areas, etc.

(c)—(1) The Chief Minister—Rs.52-13-0.

(2) Shri Siddhinath Sarma—Rs.95-7-0.

(3) Shri Omeo Kumar Das—Rs.31-8-0.

(4) Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury—Rs.155-6-0.

(5) Shri Baidyanath Mookerjee—Rs.91-0-0.

(6) Shri Rupnath Brahma—Rs.91-9-0.

(7) Shri Ramnath Das—Rs.134-13-0.

(8) Maulavi Abdul Matlib Mazumdar—Rs.160-4-0.

(9) Shri M. K. Das, Parliamentary Secretary—Rs.31-8-0.

(d)—April 1952—Ministers—four.

May 1952—Ministers—three.

July 1952—Minister—one.

October 1952—Ministers—two including Chief Minister.

November 1952—Minister—one.

December 1952—Ministers—two—one Parliamentary Secretary.

January 1953—Ministers—eight including the Chief Minister, one Parliamentary Secretary.

February 1953—Parliamentary Secretaries—two.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : Sir, it appears from reply (a) that from April 1952 to December 1952 only some Ministers visited Mangaldai whereas only in the month of January 1953 as many as 8 Ministers and one Parliamentary Secretary visited Mangaldai. What was the necessity of the visit of so many Ministers in one particular month ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : Sir, I have already explained that in my reply.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : How many days the Ministers stayed in Mangaldai ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : I cannot definitely give the information just now, Sir.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister) : What is meant by Mangaldai. Does it mean the town or the whole Sub-division, Sir ?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : The Mangaldai Subdivision, Sir. Did the Ministers do any other works except the official work ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : They might be doing a lot of other works, Sir.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : Was it justified for them to do other works when they were there in connection with their official work ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : Yes, Sir. They might have attended to other works, beside doing their official work.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Did the Ministers at that time do canvassing for their party candidate ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : They can do it and probably some of them did it.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Did they draw allowance for doing that ?

Shri MOTI RAM BORA (Minister) : They draw the allowance for doing official work only.

Shri DANDI RAM DUTTA : অফিছৰ কামৰ কাৰণে কিমান দিন আছিল।

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : কিমান টকা পাইছিল তালৈ মন কৰিলেই বুজিব। কোনোৱে ৩২ টকা আৰু কোনোৱে ৩৫ টকা পাইছিল তাৰ পৰাই অনুমান কৰিব পাৰি কিমান দিন আছিল।

Shri DANDI RAM DUTTA : অফিছৰ কামৰ কাৰণে ইমান দিন লাগেনে ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) : কাম অনুসৰি লাগে।

Travelling and halting allowances drawn by Ministers, Deputy Ministers and their staffs

†**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS** asked :

*156. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The total amount of travelling and halting allowances drawn by the Ministers, Deputy Ministers and their staff for attending conferences and meeting, etc., outside the State of Assam during the years from 1947, to February, 1953 ?
- (b) The total travelling and halting allowances drawn by the Ministers, Deputy Ministers and their staff for touring inside the State during the same period ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) replied :

156. (a)—Rs.1,21,717-14-0.

(b)—Rs.3,42,203-15-0.

Community Projects Development for the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills and Garo Hills Districts

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI asked :

*157. (a) Is it a fact that the Central Government have granted Rs.2½ crores for Community Projects Development for the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills and Garo Hills Districts ?

(b) If so, have Government any plan to start such Community Project in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills ?

(c) Is it a fact that Government have proposed one development block in the Jaintia Hills within seven mile radius of Jowai town ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister) replied :

157. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—No.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Petition submitted by the Students of the Autonomous Area

Pu R. DENGTHUAMA asked :

119. Will Government be pleased to state what is the result of the petition submitted by the students of the Autonomous area in various Government educational institutions of Assam, on the 4th November 1952 to the Hon'ble Education Minister, Assam.

†Questions were put by Shri Ghana Kanta Gogoi on authorisation.

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister) replied:

119.—The position has been explained in reply to another question (Unstarred Question No. 45 replied on 13th March 1953) on the subject by the Chief Minister.

Veterinary Minister of Assam

Shri DANDIRAM DUTTA asked:

120. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Veterinary Minister of Assam was lately found travelling without ticket from Gauhati to Hailakandi ?
- (b) If so, what steps the Government or the Chief Minister has taken to do away such practice on the part of a Minister which undermines Government reputation ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied:

120. (a)—No. The Minister who was travelling with his family could not be given a first class compartment with 4 berths at Gauhati and was given to understand that he could reserve a second class compartment on the purchase of 4 tickets, which he did. It was pointed out to him by a Travelling Ticket Examiner before the train reached Katakhal that he will have to pay excess fare for the number of passengers in excess of four. The amount was duly sent by the Minister by money order to the Railway authorities.

(b)—Does not arise.

Area of the Golaghat-Mikir Hills Development Block

Shri NIHANG RONGPHER asked:

121. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the area of the Golaghat-Mikir Hills Development Block ?

(b) What is the area of this block falling within the Mikir Hills District ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister) replied:

121. (a)—128.28 sq. miles.

(b)—21.41 sq. miles.

Construction of Bridge over the Ranganadi

Shri SARVESWAR BORUWA asked:

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

- (a) If the contract for the construction of the permanent bridge over the Ranganadi has been given to any contractor ?

- (b) If so, to whom ?
 (c) If not, what is the cause of this delay, and
 (d) When the work of construction of the bridge is expected to be started ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) replied:

122. (a) & (b)—Messrs J. C. Gammon of Bombay have been selected for the work but formal orders have not been issued as the present estimate, which has exceeded the previous estimate, due mainly to increase in width of the bridge is under examination by the Government.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—As soon as possible. But work on approaches to the bridge has already been started.

Shri SARVESWAR BORUWA: May I know from Government what is the revised estimate for the bridge ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): About Rs.15 lakhs probably. I cannot give the exact figure off-hand.

Protection of Villages of Noabaisa Mauza from the ravages of Singara river

Shri SARVESWAR BORUWA asked:

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

- (a) What steps, if any, have been taken by the Government for the protection of the old and established villages of the Noabaisa Mauza from the ravages of the Singara river which having changed its course is flowing over the homesteads and rice fields of these villages causing enormous damages and untold sufferings to the people ?
 (b) Whether any provision has been made in the Budget for the safety of the inhabitants of those villages during the next rainy season ?
 (c) If not, why not ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) replied:

123. (a), (b) & (c)—A scheme costing Rs.20,000 was carried out by the Public Works Department to effect a diversion of the Singara river during the working season of 1949-50. After the Earthquake of 1950, there appears to have been further changes in its course. It is understood there has been flooding in the Nao-baisa Mauza during September 1952.

The information was received by Government after the meeting of the Embankment and Drainage Board and as such the

Scheme could not be approved by them, nor could it be included in the Budget proposals for 1953-54.

However, survey for the scheme was sanctioned in December, 1952 and the survey work will be taken in hand early in April when some staff will be free from execution of schemes.

If funds can be made available during 1953-54, it may be possible to take up execution of the scheme during the next cold weather.

Shri SARVESWAR BORUWA: It is stated in the reply "if funds can be made available during 1953-54, it may be possible to take up execution of the scheme during the next cold weather". Does it imply that these people will have to pass through one more ordeal during the next rainy season and still another ordeal during the rainy season of 1954-55 ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): The survey is being done now and steps are being taken for its implimention. The work cannot be completed at a moment's notice.

Mr. SPEAKER: Does it also require the approval of the Central Government ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Yes, Sir,

Construction of Bachanaghat Khandajan Canal

Shri BALIRAM DAS asked :

124. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) How much money has been spent for the construction of Bachanaghat Khandajan (Canal) of Ghagua Mauza in the District of Nowgong ?
- (b) What benefit has been derived from the construction of the aforesaid canal ?
- (c) Are Government aware of the loss of crops (specially Jute, Ahu, Bao and Sali Paddy) of the two Mauzas viz, Ghagua and Mayong which became the victims of new course of flood water flowing through the said canal in the year 1952 ?
- (d) Are Government aware that the bridge over that canal was washed away by flood and thereby hampered the facility of communication and commerce of the Public of the Mauzas of Ghagua, western part of Tetelia and Gubha for a period of nearly six months in the year 1952 ?
- (e) What measure has been or is being taken by Government to protect the money crops as well as the food crops of the aforesaid Mauzas from future devastation by flood water ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) replied :

124. (a)—Basanaghat channel is one of the three channels excavated to connect Morikollong Beel with the Brahmaputra through Khanagharia and Pakaria Beels.

Total cost incurred on the whole length of the three channels is Rs. 1,64,204 and that on the Basanaghat channel Rs. 52,895.

(b)—This channel has (1) Drained the extensive water-logged areas adjoining the Manikpur, Khanagharia and Udari Beels and made them fit for cultivation. (2) Improved the flood drainage of the area between the Railway line on the South and the Jagiroad on the North and indirectly improved flood drainage of the Kapilli basin further upstream to a small extent.

(c)—Yes. But the loss of crops is not considered solely due to the existence of this channel. The real cause is that there had been a simultaneous high flood in the Kopilli as well as in the Brahmaputra flooding the Ghagua and Mayong Mauzas from both sides. In the past when the Basanaghat channel was not there a flood of this magnitude used to overtop and breach the Jagi Road causing similar flooding.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—A contour survey of the Kopilli basin upto the foot hills is being undertaken to see what further effective measures can be taken to reduce the flood and flood damage in the entire basin.

Shri BALIRAM DAS: With regard to (d), what measures have Government taken to construct the bridge over the Basanaghat Channel?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): The work will be taken up, if the work was done by the Public Works Department before.

**Construction of a bund for the protection of Gubha Mauza
in the district of Nowgong**

Shri BALIRAM DAS asked :

125. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether they have taken up any Scheme for constructing a bund for the protection of Gubha Mouza in the district of Nowgong from the Kapilli spill stream ?
- (b) If so, when the construction work will commence ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) replied :

125. (a)—Three bunds across spill channels of the Kapilli between the Railway Bridge over Kapilli and Bhakatgaon were constructed by the Public Works Department in 1948-49 under the Kapilli Scheme and they are standing.

Recently no further schemes have been taken up.

(b)—Does not arise.

Street accidents in the State caused by motor vehicles

Shri KAMALA PRASAD AGARWALA asked :

126. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The number of street accidents in this State caused by motor vehicles during each of the last three calendar years ?
- (b) How many persons were involved in these accidents ?
- (c) How many of them proved to be fatal ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that majority of the accidents were caused by rash and negligent motor driving ?
- (e) What are the qualifications required to obtain (i) driving license and (ii) a mechanic's license ?
- (f) Whether Government propose to enforce stringent measures to stop the increase, if any, in the number of street accidents in recent years ?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied :

126. (a)—1950	1951	1952
381	410	382
(b)—408	472	444
(c)—100	100	117

(d)—According to police investigation, about 72 per cent. of these accidents were due to rash and negligent driving.

(e)—(i) The qualifications required to obtain driving license is laid down in the third schedule of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 (extracts placed on the Library table).

(ii) There is no provision in the Motor Vehicle Act and rules for the grant of mechanic's license to be granted by the Licensing Officers. Such certificates are usually granted by the recognised Schools of Automobile Engineering and Engineering Firms.

(f)—Measures have already been taken to have surprise speed checking, 'Keep to the Left' campaign by Civil Police and Military, enforcement of one way traffic on narrow roads and strict and thorough testing before driving licenses are issued.

Withdrawal of Community Radio Set of Dhamdhama

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS asked :

127. (a) Is it a fact that the Community Radio Set of Dhamdhama has been withdrawn ?

(b) If so, what is the reason of withdrawal of the set ?

(c) Are Government getting any complaint against the battery charging operator of Nalbari ?

(d) If so, what steps were taken against him.

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister) replied :

127. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The Community receiver of Dhamdhama was withdrawn as the people of the locality ceased to take any interest in it.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—The matter is under investigation.

Ferry Service running from Dhubri to Kholabandha

Shri HAKIM CHANDRA RABHA asked :

128. (a) Is it a fact that the Ferry Service running at present from Dhubri to Kholabandha is on experimental basis only ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Service has become a losing concern for the Company ?

(c) If so, what are the causes for such loss ?

(d) Is it a fact that the Company does not allow the booking of goods in the Ferry Ghat ?

(e) Do Government propose to take necessary steps so that the Company may book goods in the Ferry Ghat ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) replied :

128. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Due to poor number of passengers travelled.

(d)—The Company allows booking of goods at Dhubri, Goalpara and Kholabandha stations.

(e)—Does not arise as the service has been discontinued with effect from 15th March 1953 due to losses suffered by the Steamer Company. As a result of numerous representations from the public, the Joint Agent has been requested to consider the question of making a second trial from May next even by increasing the rates of fare. His reply is being awaited.

Quota of C. I. Sheets allotted to the district of Goalpara

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB of Sidli asked :

129. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) The quota of C. I. Sheets allotted to the district of Goalpara during the last two Calendar years and also the current year ?

(b) If the whole quota was lifted by the permit holders in 1952 and 1953 ?

(c) If the demand for C. I. Sheets is much more than the quota ?

(d) If the Supply Advisory Board at Dhubri lately passed a resolution requesting Government to increase the quota for Dhubri ?

(e) If the Government intend to increase the quota ?

(f) If Government propose to issue necessary permits to individuals to purchase C. I. Sheets in the open market in Calcutta and import to Assam for personal consumption ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister) replied :

129. (a)—1951	38 tons.
1952	292 "

1953— No distribution has been made as the indents are not yet passed by the Iron and Steel Controller but out of an *ad hoc* allotment in period I/53, 120 tons of C. I. Sheets have been allotted to Goalpara District.

(b)—The whole quota allotted in 1952 and 1953 could not be lifted in full by the Handling Agent so far and Government are taking steps to expedite despatch of the outstanding quota.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Yes. Government have already taken up the matter with the Government of India for increased allotments.

(f)—No. This Government have no power to issue permits on the dealers outside the State, but Government do not object to private parties bringing from outside for personal consumption if provisions of law are not violated.

GRANT No. 16

(37—Education)

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.1,99,88,000 (Rupees one crore, ninety-nine lakhs and eighty-eight thousand) be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March 1954 for the administration of the head "37.—Education."

Mr. SPEAKER : The Motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs.1,99,88,000 (Rupees one crore, ninety-nine lakhs and eighty-eight thousand) be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March 1954 for the administration of the head "37.—Education."

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : Sir, there are as many as 7 cut motions, out of these, 4 cut motions relates to general discussion. Now we want to move one cut motion and the other members will take part in their respective spheres.

Mr. SPEAKER: Which of the Cut Motions you want to move first ?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: We want to move No. 4 first.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is another motion. Please move the motion you think most important.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Then Sir, I shall move my Cut Motion No. 6.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.1,99,88,000 under Grant No. 16, Major head 37—Education. at page 83 of the Budget be reduced by Re. 1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,99,88,000 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

Sir, in moving the Cut Motion, my object is to raise a general discussion and this becomes very important as we want to spend not less than about Rs. 2 crores on Education. It is really gratifying that our Government have considered fit to spend a sum of about Rs. 2 crores on Education, which means that about 18 per cent. of the total expenditure will be on Education. But, Sir, when we come to the details of the demand, we find that our educational policy lacks direction. It lacks an objective also. When we find that large sums are being allotted under different heads under the main head "Education", I have the feeling that we are trying to eat more than we can swallow. We want to experiment with so many things, from Basic education, Social education to University education. All these have been conglomerated. Taking all these together we are to build a beautiful edifice on the basis of education. But when we look at the actual works, we are disappointed. It is bound to be, because our educational system follows the old British system.

Sir, during the British Raj, the purpose of education was to bring out graduates and matriculates to man offices and even today, the purpose appears to remain the same.

Sir, the purpose of education is to bring out the best in a person and to fit them in such a manner that society can gain through his education and he co-operates with the society in making its condition better. These things are still lacking in our educational system. Otherwise why do we see the spectacle of a man, sent to Britain for taking training in mining and coming back as a Magistrate ? Sir, that happened some years back. Even today, we have found that people who were sent to foreign countries to take training in sugar technology and other special subjects, they are being absorbed in our own colleges and in their former routine jobs and their special education has not been utilised for the good of the country.

Not only that, we have been sending students to England and America to do research in Assamese History or work of Sankandev under English professors and also for doing research in other thing, for which England and America may not fit them at all. Yet some of them have been given study leave and others have been given stipends for taking training in those subjects. When they come back we find that they do not fit themselves here and the Government have to take the responsibility to provide them with jobs. Therefore I say, Sir, our Government have not taken up any well-thought-out policy up till now and they do not know what their educational policy should be. Even in the matter of Gauhati University, it is a replica or a duplicate copy of the Calcutta University. To-day we find that we have not tried through our educational system to develop our country. Therefore, to-day, as soon as a student comes out of the University or from a college, he does not know, what will be his job. Also he does not know, how to earn his livelihood. Therefore, Sir, our system of education must be of such a type through which we can have a true picture of our country depicting the aims and objects and the system must fit in with our society so that it may gain from the benefit of education.

Sir, let me come to the question of wages and salaries of teachers of the various schools in Assam. We find that Government have made provision for secondary schools, high schools, and Middle Vernacular Schools, etc., in the budget. They spent about Rs.20,00,544 according to last year's budget.

It will show that more money is spent on Government schools, and if we work out we find on average per Government school the expenditure is about 29,858 of rupees, whereas for a private or aided school the expenditure is Rs.4,052. Sir, this shows the disparity between the Government school and the private or aided school.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the number of boys.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Sir, I know in some aided schools there are more than 1,000 heads whereas in the Government school the number of students will not exceed 600. Sir, my contention is that more money has been spent on the Government schools while proper attention has not been given on the aided schools. Sir, the people have been clamouring that the aided schools should be provincialised in order that the aided schools may be put on the same footing with the Government schools or the Government Schools should be deprovincialised.

Then regarding the matter of salary, Sir, here also we will find that whereas the highest salary that is given to an aided school teacher is Rs.80 per month, on the otherhand a Government school teacher can go up to Rs.400.

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Rupees 80 is the minimum at the start.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Maximum is Rs.120 and the dearness allowance is Rs.10 only whereas in the case of Government Schools the dearness allowance is 17½ per cent. of the pay. So, Sir, in the matter of salary there is a big discrepancy. Although the aided school teachers have been clamouring that their pay should be raised, but there is no scale of pay, maximum has been fixed at Rs.120. Some teachers spent their whole life and at the time of retirement they will at the most receive only an increment of Rs.30. So, Sir, if we look into the whole structure of the wages we have seen those people at the bottom whom we consider to be the builders of the future, the leader of the country, they will get only a paltry sum of Rs.30 towards the end of their service career, whereas the people at the top will get in the whole Rs.500. Now, Sir, I come to the Primary School teachers who get only Rs.30. What is the argument in this—it is said because these poor teachers have got subsidiary occupation, this sum is adequate. But if we look into the condition of the Primary School teachers, most of them have got no land even to cultivate and consequently they have wholly depend on this Rs.30. This also, Sir, gives an indication of the manner in which we look at education. No value has been fixed to their job. Sir, I say that there should be a co-relation between the wages paid to the humblest and the highest.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the total expenditure on your basis at the end of the year ?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: It may be more than 5 crores of rupees, I am not concerned with that.

Mr. SPEAKER: Why you are not concerned ?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Because there is no co-relation between the pay of Government servants and other people, because there is no co-relation between the salary fixed to a certain job and the salary fixed to another job.

Regarding dearness allowance we know that Government gives only Rs.7 and Rs.3 to be met from the school fund. Sir, for more than a year this was discontinued and only when the School teachers agitated on that score then only they were allowed to continue to draw their dearness allowance. In this way we find in the matter of wages the Government did not consider it necessary to raise the condition of the Primary school teachers. So, Sir, unless we consider all these things and also give them a status in society, I am feeling that they will not be able to perform their duties efficiently.

Secondly, Sir, another very important thing is happening to-day. We cannot attract people in the educational system. We want First Class men to come to our Colleges, but they will get only Rs.125 to 250, whereas in the other departments third class men will get Rs.500. Sir, this is the way we want to educate our people. Sir, unless there is co-relation between the salary structures of various categories of services in the State we cannot attract the best people. Sir, when the Secondary Education Commission came to Gauhati, I had the privilege of appearing before the Commission. The question was raised why we cannot attract good people to the Education Department. The main difficulty is that although we want to build up new type of society, a new type of people, best people are not forthcoming to educational spheres because the pay scale and other amenities given here is not commensurate with the works and responsibility involved in it. So, Sir, this is the thing that we should take into consideration before spending on other activities.

Therefore, Sir, it is necessary to raise the emoluments of the teachers of the private and aided schools. These teachers after serving for 30-40 years will retire and at the time of retirement they will get something from the Provident Fund, but they will not get anything as pension. Sir, regarding the scale of pay of the school teachers, the Ministry of Education, Government of India has recommended to the State Governments that the scale of pay should approximately be the same with the Government schools. That circular was sent about a year back, but in this Budget we find that no provision has been made for that purpose. Then, Sir, there is another thing, we have seen also that in the matter of private school management there is partisan spirit and we know that teachers belonging to others parties are slowly being driven out from the school.

We know of schools where the Headmaster is allowed to contest in a Local Board election on Congress ticket, but when an Assistant teacher contests him on a Socialist ticket then on the next day he is sent out of the school. Sir, in this connection I refer to Bahana in Jorhat where the Headmaster contested the Local Board election on a Congress ticket, but when Sailen Barbarah, an Assistant teacher, contested him on a Socialist ticket, pleas were made and found out to get him out of the school.

Mr. SPEAKER: Do you mean by the Managing Committee ?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : Yes, Sir, I am coming to that because I know that will be the plea, that these things are done by the Managing Committee. Here, Sir, I want to refer to

another matter in Sootea. When the Managing Committee recommended one Tyeb Ali who was arrested for alleged participation in a certain struggle from which he was later on honourably acquitted, even then he was not taken in, because it is stated that he failed to give an undertaking. Sir, we know that from the Education Minister down to the D. P. I. a directive was given to the Managing Committee not to take him in in spite of the fact that he was honourably acquitted from the charge against him, and in spite of the fact that the Managing Committee wanted to take him and they were directed not to take him in. Sir, such things are going on. This is heinous, this is a partisan spirit.

Sir, I do not want to take much time of the House because my Friends will also speak on this subject. So before I close I want to state that if we really want to improve our educational system, it is necessary that we should have a clear cut policy as to what our education should be. We should not send our students outside our State for technical education if we cannot absorb them and cannot utilise them in our State afterwards. Sir, this is very scandalous. We should see that these things do not happen. We have been spending money on education without any plan.

Then again, Sir, this partisan spirit should not be allowed to crop up into our educational system. Education should be kept above party politics and party feelings should not be allowed to influence us if we want to improve our schools.

With these few words, Sir, I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved is that the total provision of Rs.1,99,88,000 under Grant No.16, Major head—37.—Education, at page 83 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,99,88,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak a few words in support of the Motion moved by my Friend, Mr. Goswami. At the outset I want to point out that there has been satisfactory progress in our educational system in spite of the provision made in the Budget and in spite of the contributions made by public-spirited people for advancement of our education. We want, Sir, that the progress of education in our State should be speeded up.

Sir, I want to draw the pointed attention of the hon. Members of this House to the large number of failures of our students in the promotion examinations, as well as in the Matriculation and other University examinations. We also find that our

boys take resort to cheating during the examination from time to time. Sir, there must be something wrong either in the method of teaching or in the selection of curriculum. Sir, to begin with, I want to point out that the curriculum for our boys in the lower classes is extraordinarily heavy. Sir, boys of say, 8 or 10 years reading in the lower classes of the High School or the M. E. School, who are ill-fed and ill-clothed are expected to learn the mother tongue and on top of that they are expected to learn English and Hindi. Sir, how can you expect these little boys of 8 or 10 or even 12 years to learn three languages when they start in the secondary schools? It is very difficult, Sir, for these small boys who, as I have said, are under-fed and under-clothed, to learn three languages and at the same time they are also required to learn other subjects like Arithmetic, Geometry, etc. How can you expect these small boys to keep on their studies with so many subjects? It may be that this is one of the reasons for so many failures in the examinations which I have referred to earlier and it may be also the reason why boys resort to cheating in the examination halls.

Then, Sir, another matter to which I want to draw the pointed attention of the House. That is about the selection of text books. Sir, we have seen that text books are cropping up like water hyacinths in the pools and Beels of Assam. Every year we find text books are changed. An elder brother who has kept his book in tact, cannot give it to his younger brother to use it. Sir, this repeated change of text books is nothing but a measure to accommodate and patronise some authors. Sir, this constant change of text books is very wasteful, especially to the guardians of poor students. So, I would like to suggest that Government should employ some experts to edit text books for all classes. Sir, if Government accepts my suggestion to have an Expert Committee for preparing text books, then the sale proceeds of those text books also will come in to the exchequer of the State and at the same time guardians of boys will be relieved from the burden of purchasing text books every year. Sir, this huge wastage of money on text books should be stopped. I hope, Sir, Government will give a serious consideration to this case. Sir, when I say all this I have in mind not the rich and well to do people, but the poor people who cannot afford to feed and clothe their children properly and to pay the school fees and cost of text books, etc.

Then, Sir, another thing to which I want to draw the pointed attention of the House is about private tuition by school teachers. Sir, we find that many High School and Aided School teachers take to private tuition and in some cases they run a sort of private schools with three or four shifts a day in their own houses, with the result that these teachers neglect their boys in the Schools. We realise, Sir, that the teachers are poorly paid and

they want to supplement their income. Whatever they may do to supplement their income, they have no right to neglect their normal duty. Sir, this practice of private teaching must be stopped.

Then as regards appointment of teachers there is some unfairness. Certain section of the people appear to monopolise the appointment of teachers in the schools. Towards the end of 1952 one Miss Thanuguri, a Matriculate, was appointed as Assistant Mistress in preference to Miss Zokhumi, B.A., with Honours in Education, in the Aijal High School. This Miss Zokhumi is not only a graduate but she had obtained Honours in Education and yet she was not appointed. This happened towards the end of last year. I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister for Education to the unfairness. Such unfairness is in existence in the Dibrugarh Government High School. There are 27 teachers in all in that High School of which 17 Caste Hindus, 5 Moslems, 2 Ahoms—one a local man temporarily appointed but his appointment is under order of termination by the order of the Director of Public Instruction, one Chutia, one Deuri and one Miri. The management of the school and the standard of teaching of this school are very unsatisfactory. One senior teacher of this school gave out question paper to some of his favourite boys in the last annual examination. Such practice must not be allowed to continue. The hon. Minister would please see that more local teachers are employed in local schools. In Dibrugarh, for example, out of the 27 teachers there is only one teacher who belongs to that locality. This is very unfair and his service has been under order of termination.

Again I draw the attention of the hon. Minister about the Directorate and Inspectorate. After all perhaps they are very busy with their office works and they have very little time to go out for inspection of schools. Therefore their supervision and inspection of schools are few and far between. This is one of the reasons for lack of discipline perhaps.

Sir, as regards primary education, I have got something to say. In the matter of nominating members as President of the District Primary Education Board, Government is not following a constant policy. We find that whenever there is a Local Board Chairman who belongs to the Congress Party he is inevitably appointed as Chairman of the District Primary Education Board, and failing that, if there is a Chairman of the Municipal Board who belongs to the Congress Party, he is invariably appointed as such. And when a non-Congressman occupies the Chair in either of the Boards, Government appoint a die-hard Congressman as Chairman.

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Can the hon. Member mention where a Chairman of the Local Board belonging to the Congress Party has been appointed as Chairman of the District Primary Education Board?

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI: Yes, Sir, Shri Suren Bharali who is the Chairman of the Jorhat Local Board and again at Sibsa-gar, Shri Girin Gogoi, who was the Chairman of the Local Board and was a non-Congressman before the election, have not been appointed as Chairman of the local District Primary Education Boards.

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): It is my intention not to appoint the Chairman of the Local Board as the Chairman of the District Primary Education Board.

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI: My point is that several Government nominated Congressmen have become Chairman of such Boards. Whenever Government find that the Chairman of Municipality or a Local Board is not a Congressman, they appoint somebody of the Congress party as Chairman of the District Primary Education Board as in the case of Dibrugarh.

Mr. SPEAKER: What alternative do you suggest ?

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI: I want that there should be only one principle followed, for example, if Government decide to appoint the Chairman of the Local Board, all the Chairmen of the different District Primary Education board should be Local Board Chairmen. I want that there must be a consistent policy to be followed in all cases, and there should be no party bias. Party people are always biased and use the position to further the cause of their party only. In the case of Dibrugarh, Government has appointed a person who is neither a Local Board nor a Municipal Board Chairman, but a person belonging to the Congress Party. I do not know the reason for that selection.

Any way, Sir, about the treatment meted out by the Dibrugarh Primary Education Board I have to mention here that three schools, namely, Burabazar Lower Primary School, Barbarua Girls' Lower Primary School and Phootahola Lower Primary School have been victimised probably because the people of those places were supporters of parties other than the Congress, during the last general election. Sir, such things happen when Government do not follow a consistent policy in the matter of appointment of Chairman and appoint party people to such positions.

Nextly I want to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the fact is that Government is not making sufficient provision for the education of the *ex-tea* garden labour people. Sir, the *ex-tea* garden labour people are a weaker section of people. The Constitution provides that provision should be made for the education of the weaker sections of the people, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I can tell this much that there are three Lower Primary

schools, namely Ramani Bharali, Ghuguloni and Gosemora, the former two being *ex-tea* garden labour people's schools and the third a tribal school, have not yet been taken up by the Board for several years. Again, Sir, in the case of the High schools at Lengeri, Panitola, Dhemaji, Barpathar and Madarkhat in the Dibrugarh Subdivision, Government aid has not been given as yet.

In Dibrugarh some preferential treatment is made in the case of payment of extra pay to the Lower Primary School teachers. In Dibrugarh town Lower Primary school teachers, dwelling in the town, are paid Rs.10 extra, whereas such teachers, working in the town Lower Primary school, but residing outside, are not paid that amount. This is an individious distinction. Sir, are not people paid for the service they render? This injustice done to the Lower Primary teachers living outside the town of Dibrugarh should be removed.

With regard to the Gauhati University I have got a few words to say. My Friend, Mr. Goswami, said that in the Gauhati University the study of certain subjects should be specialised. Sir, I suggest that the Gauhati University should create a special chair for the study of Assam History with special reference to the history of the Ahoms and their culture in connection with the history of China, Burma and Thailand. It may be known to the hon. Members of the House that the Ahoms are a living link between India, Burma, Thailand and China and there will be many things coming to light if provision for study of this special subject is established.

In the matter of distribution of grants to Aided High Schools, Dibrugarh is not generally unfairly treated. There are many Venture High Schools started in Dibrugarh. I may mention the names of 5 High Schools. These are at Lengeri, Panitola, Dhemaji, Barpathar and Madarkhat. These schools are situated in backward areas inhabited by Plains Tribals, *Ex-tea* Garden Labour, Ahoms and Motoks and there are no other High School near about these areas. I would request the Government, for the sake of doing justice to the people of Dibrugarh, that these High Schools should be taken up for giving Government grants. This is the demand of the people of Dibrugarh Subdivision.

With these words, I support the Cut Motion moved by my hon. Friend, Mr. Goswami.

Shri MAHENDRANATH DEKA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I take my stand to oppose the Cut Motion moved by my Friend, Mr. Goswami, the leader of the Opposite Party.

Mr. Gogoi has just now said that this Government is very slow in spreading education among the people of the State. But from the figures of 1951-52 up till now, it appears that in 1951-52 the amount spent towards education in the State was Rs.1 crore, 71

lakhs and in the current year it was raised to Rs.1 crore, 78 lakhs and now in the present Budget of 1953-54, the amount is Rs. 1 crore, 99 lakhs and 88 thousand. So, it appears that gradually expenditure on education is going up. Not only a sum of Rs.1 crore, 99 lakhs and 88 thousand is going to be spent in education in 1953-54, but if we take into account the amount of Rs.10 lakhs for educational buildings it will come to more than Rs. 2 crores and 9 lakhs. These buildings, I mean, the Cotton College Physics building and buildings for the High Schools at Barpeta and Sibsagar. Therefore, it is evident that this Congress Government is gradually spending more money towards expansion of education in Assam. When we compare these figures or percentage of the amount under the whole budget of the Government it will appear that in 1944-45 the percentage was 9, whereas it is now 18, which clearly shows that the Government is not slow in spreading education.

Mr. Goswami wants to say that the amount spent for some aspiring students for their education in countries other than in India is not spent in the right direction. It appears that nearly a sum of Rs.2 lakhs is going to be spent in this direction. We cannot say that the money is misspent when we consider that some students have got to be trained in foreign countries in special subjects.

Now, again, Mr. Goswami wanted to place before the hon. Members that there is a great disparity between the amount spent for maintenance of the Government High Schools and that of the Aided High Schools. A sum of Rs.20 lakhs is spent for the maintenance of Government High Schools, out of this, contribution from Government is Rs.16 lakhs and students pay Rs.4 lakhs. The fees collected from the students of Government Schools goes to the Exchequer. Whereas the fees collected by the Aided High Schools from students do not go to the State Exchequer but go to the School funds. When we calculate the amount of Rs.27 lakhs under the head "Secondary Education" granted to Aided High Schools with Rs.20 lakhs which is collected from the pupils of Aided High Schools it comes to Rs.47 lakhs which goes to the Aided High Schools. So, Sir, the teachers in the Aided High Schools are getting this Rs.47 lakhs from the Government as well as from the public.

If I remember aright, the report of a Conference of the Aided High School Teachers, I can say before this House that 75 per cent. of the pupils are in the Aided High Schools and 25 per cent. in the Government High Schools. Now, for the education of 75 per cent. of the pupils the public and the Government are spending not less than Rs.47 lakhs and for the 25 per cent. of the pupils of the Government High Schools, Government is paying only Rs.20 lakhs including fees which form part of the Exchequer. Therefore, it is evident that the disparity is not very big.

In a recent circular issued by the Government to the Aided High Schools, it has been stated that a graduate teacher should get an initial pay of Rs.80 per month and in case of a teacher with honours or distinction, he should get a pay of Rs.90 per month, whereas a graduate teacher in a Government High School gets an initial pay of Rs.100 per month and not more than that. For the information of the House I may say that almost all the Aided High Schools, say about 80 per cent. of them are situated in the rural areas, which are less costly areas than the town areas. We have got only one Government High School in each subdivision except Dibrugarh where there are two High Schools one for boys and the other for girls. At Karara where there is an Aided High School, where I am the President of the Managing Committee, the Headmaster of that School is getting Rs.195 per mensem. One day I asked him whether he will like it if he is appointed the Headmaster of the Cotton Collegiate High School, but he said that he would not like to accept this post, although the Headmaster of the Collegiate School is getting Rs.400 per mensem.

Why, Sir? It is because, there he has got his own home and cultivation and a big Basti and everything there. A Headmaster in a Government school has not got his cows, whereas the Headmasters in Aided High Schools have got all such things; he can rear cows and get plenty of milk. So there are many advantages for the teachers of the rural areas. Sir, another point raised by my Friend, Shri Goswami, is that there is a great disparity between the pay which is received by the qualified teachers and by the officers in other avocations. But what is the actual fact? An Extra Assistant Commissioner is getting Rs.250 whereas a Lecturer is also getting Rs.175. Again when he becomes a Professor starts with Rs.250.

Sir, some of my Friends said that the Government is not doing justice to the Education Department. I say, Sir, it is not correct. Government is doing justice to the Education Department, so far as their finance has permitted.

Now, Sir, as regards the Lower Primary School Teachers, only one word, I want to add. We have 15,000 Lower Primary School teachers in our State. Not one or two, nor is one hundred or one thousand but 15,000. If we want to increase their pay by one rupee a month we shall require two lakhs of rupees a year. If we want to increase by Rs.10, then we shall require 20 lakhs of rupees. Wherefrom shall we get this big amount of money, Sir? My Friends in the Opposition say that the Government taxation measures are very heavy. But they must remember that demands from every corner of the State for increased facilities for Education, Public Health, Communications, etc., are coming. Demands are pouring in for increasing of the pay of the Lower Primary School teachers, Middle Vernacular School teachers, High English School teachers,

etc. Wherefrom will the money come to meet all these demands? If we wipe out the pay of three D. P. I. and their pay is distributed to the Lower Primary School teachers, I think they will not get more than one pie each, a month. So, Sir, I say that there must be a tendency in us to enlarge the Exchequer, so that all the demands on Education, Public Health, Water Works, Communications etc., are met. Unless we come forward with a tendency to increase the Exchequer, it is not possible for the Government to meet the demands for increase of pay of the Primary teachers or High School teachers or the Middle Vernacular School teachers.

With these words, Sir, I oppose the Cut Motion and support the Motion moved by the Hon'ble Education Minister.

Shri RADHACHARAN CHOUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government claim that 18 per cent. of the total revenue is being spent on Education. Sir, the expenditure cannot justify the policy. My Friend was telling that one Headmaster of Karara High School was getting Rs.200 per mensem. Whatever one may get—one may get Rs.500 per mensem, but that does not justify the policy of the Government in such matters. Sir, in the Five-Year Plan Education has been regarded as the main part of national effort. Sir, when we look at the Five-Year Plan, we find that a special emphasis has been laid on the basic and social education and also for the expansion of the education of the women. Training of teachers—specially women teachers, the improvement of their pay scale, assistance to backward section of the population whose education was retarded in the past, as well as social services by the students—all these have been laid special emphasis in the Five-Year Plan. But, Sir, when we go to discuss about women education, we find that not only our Government has given any facility for expansion of women education, rather they have withdrawn the existing facilities in this respect. Sir, in the budget no amount was set apart for opening new educational centres for women. On the contrary we find that our Government totally abolished some girls' schools even without drawing up the proceedings against the Managing Committee. Here, I may mention one such school in my circle at Chayagaon. The Gauhati Local Board, even without asking for any explanation or without drawing up any proceedings against the Managing Committee, abolished the grant of Gumi Girls' School and Alikalah Girls' School.

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Is it the Local Board or the School Board, Sir?

Shri RADHACHARAN CHOUDHURY: I am sorry, Sir, I mean the Gauhati School Board. They whimsically abolished the grants in respect of these schools.

Then, Sir, we find that the Mistresses of the North Gauhati Middle Vernacular School have not yet drawn the Town Allowance, although the teachers of other such schools in the State which are in the towns, have already drawn it. I do not know, Sir, why the Mistresses of the Girls' School at North Gauhati town have been deprived of this allowance. Is it because, it happens to be a Girls' school?

Again, Sir, not to speak of opening centres for women's training, we have seen, a few years back, there was a normal training centre at Gauhati. The Government at once abolished the women training centre at Gauhati. All these facts prove that Government are not inclined or Government have no intention for women's education.

Sir, the Five-Year Plan lays special emphasis to the assistance of backward section of the population. Sir, some section of our population are really backward as far as education is concerned. Let me cite some instances, which will clearly show how much Government are doing for the education of the backward section of the population.

In my locality, there is a lower primary school, called "the Kukurmara Primary School". The pupils reading there entirely belong to the scheduled caste community. There were as many as 70 pupils and two school masters were working. The Gauhati School Board have abolished the grant of one post without having any consultations with the Managing Committee. It is also heard that arrangements have been made for the abolition of the grant for other teacher also. Sir, if our Government follow such a destructive policy, can we expect anything good from them?

Mr. SPEAKER : Was the school master qualified ?

Shri RADHA CHARAN CHOUDHURY : Yes, Sir.

Sir, it has greatly affected the scheduled caste people. Again, Sir, the Five-Year Plan lays special stress for social education. By this, it meant that every school and college students should extend their social education in the neighbourhood. Not only this, *i.e.*, the college and school boys, but the village panchayats should extend social education in the neighbourhood. But instead of this, Sir, we have seen that in none of the schools, they are extending social education in the neighbourhood.

It is also stressed in the Five-Year Plan that social service should be done by the students. It is to be organised in relation to the Community Projects, etc., but we have seen that only, in way of processions on the roads and in the fields, these are being observed by our students, but no real social service have yet been done by them. If such be the qualifications of our school students regarding social service, I fail to understand how far our educational institutions are doing as far as social service is concerned.

Sir, let me say something regarding compulsory primary education. Sir, we have seen that compulsory education from the grant allotted and progress made up till now, that it remains almost stagnant. The Government's promise, so far as primary education is concerned, from its starting, will remain as promise as ever. They stated that the number of schools had increased. If it at all increased, the number of inspecting officers should have also increased. When we look into the Budget for the year 1952-53, the number of Sub-Inspectors and Assistant Sub-Inspectors were 57 and 48 respectively. But in the Budget for year 1953-54, their number not only increased, but it remains almost the same. In the case of A.S.Is., the number had been reduced from 48 to 28. So, Sir, unless the number of inspecting officers are increased, we can never expect better supervision or better inspection.

Sir, in our State, education formally starts at the age of six. Our boys and girls remain without any education up to the age of 6. To have their mind and body developed together, our Government should take steps to open some Infant Nursing Schools, so that our boys and girls could have some informal education in order to develop their sense organs. Our small children usually remain undeveloped in this respect.

When we peep into the Budget, we see that grant for general scholarships for middle schools, and tolls did not increase though the number of schools are increasing every year. If we see the grant of Library, it is reduced by 50 per cent. than what it was in the last year. The next year budget the grant was reduced to Rs.8,000. So we see that Library grant was reduced by 50 per cent.

Sir, in our State there are different kinds of schools, such as Middle Vernacular, Middle English, belonging to Local Board and Municipal Boards, and some are aided and others are unaided. There are different kinds of teachings, and standards. The emoluments of the teachers also vary accordingly. Therefore, I want to say that if we want to give real education, to our children, we should see that these kinds of standards should be replaced by one set of school whether aided or unaided.

Sir, special emphasis should be laid on regarding granting aids to schools belonging to rural areas and tribal areas.

Sir, as there is no time, I shall not discuss regarding pay scales. I simply support the Cut Motion moved by my Friend, Shri Goswami.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Parties, as I understand, have usually settled these things by their whips and they use to give me their time consistent to their schedule. So it is difficult to give allowance to each party member. Many hon. Members both from the Treasury Benches as well as from the Opposition wanted to speak on the general discussion.

Have you given your views to the Whips ?

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI. We have given our views to the Whip and he has agreed to extend the time.

Mr. SPEAKER: I don't like to do it here. You are to do it behind the scene. But we have to finish our business according to the schedule, *i.e.*, by 3-30 p.m., and that is the difficulty to adjust the time. The Whips are silent. The Education Minister may now speak:

Shri OMEMO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, some points have been raised in the discussion of this Cut Motion, and I take this opportunity to explain the policy that is being followed in the Education Department. My Friend, the Leader of the Opposition, had mentioned that educational policy lacks direction and that there is no objective. Sir, I may concede to his point, because we have not yet been able to re-orient the educational system according to our ideals. Education is a subject which is very much complicated and we cannot rest—a moment's notice bring in much change. I may bring to the notice of the House that Mahatma Gandhi in the pre-independence days had conceived of the ideal of 'basic education' and we are trying to introduce basic education and re-orient our educational system according to that ideal. Sir, recently the Secondary Education Commission was instituted at the instance of the Government of India, and it had gone into the whole question of education: the report is expected to be submitted in the month of April, and we will have the opportunity to examine their recommendations and shape our policy accordingly. In this connection I have to mention that some years ago the Government of India instituted a Commission for the Universities and Dr. Arthur Morgan, who was one of the members of that Commission, devoted a whole chapter on the system of education which prevailed in India. I take you in the report of the University Commission and seek your permission Sir, to read some pages for this report. "Eighty per cent. of the people in India live in villages. But up to the present time this population has had little benefit of the educational system. If India is to develop as a democratic nation there are two reasons why there must be evolved a system of education extending from the elementary school through the University which will meet the needs of this large part of the population". Sir, this is the view of a great Educationist who visited India as a member of the University Commission, and we are, Sir, considering his view and examining how to amalgamate Basic Education with traditional primary education. Sir, my Friend has also cited a few instances to show that there is no educational policy. Sir, while mentioning the instances of some of our young men who were sent abroad for having Technological education, he mentioned a case which has no relation to present days. He

mentioned the case of one gentleman, probably he meant Shri Bardoloi who was sent abroad for learning mining and was appointed as a Magistrate when he came back.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: On a point of clarification, Sir, I mentioned other cases also, and even recently they sent one gentleman to take training in sugar technology and still now he is, only a Professor.

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Sir, these gentlemen were sent for overseas training at the instance of the Government of India and they were Government of India's scholars because it was conceived that bigger industries would be set up in Assam and it was with that end in view that the Government of India sent these scholars for the purpose of training overseas. But, Sir, on account of the financial position of the State, establishment of State Industries did not materialise, and these persons sent overseas could not be employed for which they were given training. But they have been employed in the service from which they were deputed. Sir, one such student was a Professor of Cotton College and he is still Professor Cotton College with higher education. I trust he must have shaped as good teacher having this additional qualification.

Sir, he has also mentioned about the Gauhati University. Gauhati University is still in its infancy, it has not all buildings necessary for its development. The University Development Committee has recently been able to take up construction of buildings. Sir, the Gauhati University is an autonomous body. Funds have been allotted for the development of the University and with the development and expansion, University, will certainly take steps to open different subjects which are necessary. It has been at present teaching subjects, for example Anthropology and Botany, etc. All these subjects are entirely necessary for the development of our resources and for understanding the different varieties of races which live in Assam.

Sir, my Friend mentioned about the teachers' pay and he has tried to make a good case about this. I would have been glad if his speech was not meant for outside and if it has been meant only for the floor of the House. Sir, I agree that we should try our best to raise the pay of our school teachers, but then we have also to take into consideration our financial resources. In this connection he mentioned about the pay of the teachers in the Primary Schools. Sir, there is a Resolution on this subject and I will have opportunity to explain the position. But in the meantime I will only mention this for the information of the House, that before the introduction of the Compulsory Primary Education Act, the pay of these teachers ranged from Rs.12 to Rs.22. But after this Act

came into force, untrained teachers' pay is from Rs.30—1—35—E.B.—45 ; trained teachers are getting the scale of Rs.35—1—40—45. In this connection I must say that all normal trained teachers are getting a salary not less than Rs.40 which goes upto Rs.55.

Sir, during the last few years there has been an enormous increase in the number of Primary Schools. In 1945-46 the number of Primary Schools was only 5,715 which has increased to 7,792 in 1948-49 and this had now increased to 9,860 schools with nearly 14,600 teachers. Then there are nearly 5,741 schools with 3,110 teachers in the Compulsory area alone and this Compulsory area has expanded to more than 5,000 sq. miles. Sir, if the proposed scale of pay which will come under a separate resolution has to be given effect to, the financial implications would be nearly 90 lakhs for Primary School teachers only. So, it is for the House to suggest measures how we can increase the pay of these teachers.

Sir, we are conscious about the necessity of improving our teachers' pay and their condition of service. In fact, the Planning Commission has also recommended examination of this question and so far this Government is concerned, we are trying our best within our limited financial resources to take measures which will improve their status.

Again, Sir, my Friend has mentioned about the disparity of pay between the teachers in the Government schools and those in the Aided Schools. In this connection I must point out that the Aided Schools have expanded during the last few years to a great degree. Previous to 1946 these Aided schools used to receive grant from the Government not Rs.100 or Rs.150. But in 1948 new scheme was brought into operation and under that new scheme graduate teachers in the Aided High School have to be given an initial pay of Rs.80 which will gradually increase. Now, in this connection he has mentioned that these teachers in the Aided High Schools do not get pay of more than Rs.80. But I can tell my hon. Friend that there are many Headmasters in the Aided High Schools who are getting pay not below Rs.200.

Then, Sir, my Friend has mentioned that this Government is following a policy of partisanship in the management of schools. Sir, you know Aided Schools are under the management of Managing Committees and these Committees are formed by electing from the guardians and the donors. He has also mentioned two instances in this connection. One instance is the case of Sailendra Nath Barooah. With regard to this question my Friend met me some-time ago and I enquired into this case. But it was found that the Managing Committee was not agreeable to appoint this gentleman on account of incompetency. It is not a fact that he was not taken

in because he took part in a Panchayat election against one of his fellow teachers the Headmaster of Bahana High School. Then coming to other instance, I must mention for the information of the House that Tayeb Ali was involved in subversive activities and when this came to the notice of the Government they directed the Managing Committee not to take this person unless he agrees to abide by the rules and give an undertaking not to take part in any subversive activities. Sir, it is the desire of the Government that teachers should not grow the tendency to go beyond their normal duties and take part in subversive activities. I may mention for the information of the House that we have many teachers in our schools who belong to the Socialist Party and Government have not barred them to have independent views.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : As regards Tayeb Ali, was not the case disposed of and he was honourably acquitted ?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister) : Of course in his case the Police did not proceed but it is a fact that he left his normal duties in the school and went to lead some persons to subversive activities. That is a fact and he cannot deny it. Education has deteriorated because of this. I hope the House will support me if we take measures to check this.

Then Sir, my Friend, Mr. Gogoi, has mentioned that it is difficult for the boys to learn three languages. I had already mentioned that this whole question of learning several languages in our schools is being considered by the Secondary Education Commission and we are waiting for the Report of this Commission. It may be that the Secondary Education Commission may recommend teaching of only one language and it may be that they may recommend that a student should be given complete education up to the age of 14 and after that he may take English or any one of the other languages according to his choice. There may be diversification in the educational programme after the age of 14, but up to the age of 14 he must be given complete course of education. The Secondary Education Commission may recommend like this. And it will be proper to consider this after their recommendation is received. He has mentioned that local teachers should be appointed in the schools. I have no objection to the appointment of local teachers to the schools, but there are difficulties sometimes to have local teachers in the areas where the schools are situated. In this connection he mentioned some corrupt practices by teachers. I can assure him that I shall enquire into the matter if he kindly gives me in writing the names of those teachers involved in corrupt practices.

He mentioned about the appointment of a Lushai Girl Matriculate in the Aijal High School. I must mention in this

connection that the Deputy Commissioner had to do this on a temporary basis because at the time there was no other candidate with higher education, and this has since been rectified.

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI: My information, Sir, is that there were two candidates—one a Matriculate and the other a graduate with Honours in Education, and ultimately the Matriculate was preferred.

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): As Lushai Hills is an Autonomous District we have given power to the Deputy Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner made the appointment, but after some time this has been rectified.

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI: If the matter has since been rectified I have then nothing to say.

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Then he mentioned about nomination to the School Board. I may bring to the notice of the hon. Members of the House that during the last election many of the persons who were candidates had to resign and that is why some of the Chairmen had to be nominated after the election. He mentioned about the case of Shri Suren Bhorali who is the Chairman of the Local Board of Jorhat and who was made the Chairman of the School Board. I may say in this connection that Shri Bharali did not take part in the election and so he did not resign. In Dibrugarh, the Chairman of the School Board had to resign because the Chairman wanted to contest the election.....

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI: On a point of information, Sir. Whether the appointed Chairman of the Dibrugarh School Board was Shrimati Padma Kumari Gohain ?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): She was nominated in the month of July, 1952, (disturbances) I may clear the point that she was the Chairman of the School Board before the last election also for some time, but she resigned when she stood as candidate for the election, and afterwards she was nominated again.

Then, Sir, he mentioned about two or three primary schools in his constituency.

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI: That is not my constituency

Sir. **Mr. SPEAKER:** You cannot go on speaking in this way.

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Sir, in this connection I have to bring to the notice of the hon. Members of the House, Rule 53(b) of the Primary Education Act which runs as: "Recognised Primary Schools whether boys or girls shall not

ordinarily be located at a distance of less than two miles from one another in rural areas or at a distance of one mile from one another in urban areas, irrespective of whether areas concerned are under compulsion or not.

The School Board shall be competent to close down or amalgamate Schools, situated at a distance less than above at the earliest possible opportunity, due regard being paid to the topographical condition of the locality."

It will be detrimental to allow Primary Schools to continue in close proximity to each other with thin enrolment and poor attendance. The action of the School Board in amalgamating the Burahazar Lower Primary School with the Barbarua Lower Primary School is justified by the facts I am now giving. The Circle Sub-Inspector of Schools inspected the school some time in September and he found the enrolment was 23 only and the average attendance was 18, the building was incomplete, furniture also nil and it was situated in close proximity to Barbarua Lower Primary School. Then another inspection was made after some months when 23 pupils were found attending the school out of the total enrolment of 43. Then another inspection was made and the Sub-Inspector found only 10 pupils out of the total enrolment of 38.

The Sub-Inspector of Schools after that inspection suggested amalgamation of the school with the Barbaruah Boys' Lower Primary School. The School Board in its meeting on 20th November last accepted the proposal and approved the order for amalgamation. I have already quoted the relevant rule and it will be found that there is no violation of the rule.

He mentioned about the town allowance for Primary School Teachers serving in the Dibrugarh town. Sir, last year this town allowance was given to only those teachers who reside in towns and work in the town Lower Primary Schools and not to those teachers who live in rural areas and work in towns. This privilege has not yet been extended to them, but the matter is under consideration of the Government.

My Friend, Shri Radha Charan Chaudhury, mentioned about woman education and he also mentioned about the closing down of the Girls' Lower Primary School at Duni. This school is under the jurisdiction of the Gauhati School Board. So, I do not know the reason why it was so done. I can only assure him that I will make an enquiry about the reasons why it has been closed down. He then mentioned that the privilege of town allowance has not been extended to the North Gauhati Girls' Middle Vernacular School teachers. In this case also I can assure him that I will make an enquiry.

Mr. SPEAKER : What about Kukuramra ?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): About Kukurmara also, I will enquire why the School has been closed down.

He has mentioned that there has been decrease in the number of supervising staff, namely, Assistant Sub-Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors. It is not a fact. During these years, we have been gradually increasing the number of supervising staff.

He has mentioned about library grant. Most of the amount of this grant has been taken to Social Education and under Social Education Scheme we are running 500 libraries.

I think, I have met all the points raised by the hon. Members. I would request my Friend, the mover of the Cut Motion, to withdraw his Motion. I am at one with him and I feel the necessity of reorienting our education and it is for this purpose that the Government of India has instituted a Secondary Education Commission and we are awaiting the report of this Secondary Education Commission and when we will receive the report, we will try to implement the recommendation keeping it within the financial resources of the State.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: In view of the assurance given for reorientation of the education, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

Mr. SPEAKER: (The Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.)

The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs.1,99,88,000 (Rupees one crore, ninety-nine lakhs and eighty-eight thousand) be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head 37.—Education".

The motion was adopted.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Saturday the 28th March, 1953.

SHILLONG:

R. N. BARUA,

The 17th August, 1953.

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.

