



**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 10 A.M., on Tuesday, the 24th March 1953.

**P R E S E N T**

Shri Nilmoni Phookan, Chairman in the Chair, the ten Ministers, the two Deputy Ministers, the three Parliamentary Secretaries and sixty-one Members.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**STARRED QUESTIONS**

(To which oral answers were given)

**Research in Hastayurveda compiled by Mahamuni Palakapya**

†Shri NILMONI PHOOKAN asked :

\*119. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they lately received a public representation for taking up research in Hastayurveda compiled by Mahamuni Palakapya whose original abode was in Assam ?

(b) If so, do Government intend to take up research of this valuable treatise ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) replied :

119. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI : May I know, Sir, why no action has been taken in this connection ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister) : We have not received any representation so far in this connection. If any representation comes we may examine the matter.

*Re: Lepers and Leper Asylums in the State*

Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU asked :

\*120. Will the Medical Minister be pleased to state—

(a) If any census of lepers in the State has been so far made ?

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†Questions were put by Shri Dharanidhar Basumatari on authorisation.

- (b) If so, what is the total number of lepers in the State and out of these what is the total number of lepers belonging to the Plains Tribal Community ?
- (c) Do Government propose to establish leper asylums in the State ?
- (d) If so, how many such asylums are being contemplated and where and when these will be opened ?

**Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister)** replied :

120. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Four hundred fourteen so far detected ; out of these, 382 belong to the Plains Tribal areas.

(c) & (d)—Already 10 Leprosy colonies and asylums existed. In addition to those in existence, proposals are under consideration to open three leprosy colonies in Kuthori in the Nowgong District and Boginadi and Agia in the North Lakhimpur and Goalpara Subdivisions respectively.

**Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI:** May I know, Sir, what amount has been allotted to these three centres ?

**Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister):** Rupees 46,000, Sir.

#### Applicability of Provident Fund Act to employees of Local Bodies

**Shri ANANDA CHANDRA BEZBARUA** asked :

\*121. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Provident Fund Act as amended by the Provident Fund Act, 1925 is applicable to the Local Bodies in Assam ?

(b) Is it a fact that Provincial Government in 1940, by its own, authorised Local Bodies to amend Provident Fund Rules so as to authorise the Local Bodies to keep employers deposits in Provident Fund in Scheduled Banks ?

**Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (Minister)** replied :

121. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No.

**Shri ANANDA CHANDRA BEZBARUA:** May I know, Sir, whether under the amended Act, the Local Bodies can keep employers deposits in Provident Fund in Scheduled Banks ?

**Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (Minister) :**  
It may be done.

**Number of Middle English, Middle Vernacular and High Schools maintained by Government for the Tribals**

**Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU** asked :

\*122. (a) Will Government be pleased to give, subdivisionwise, a list of the following institutions maintained by Government for the Tribals :—

- (i) Middle Vernacular Schools ;
- (ii) Middle English Schools ; and
- (iii) High English Schools.

(b) What is the total amount of expenditure incurred by Government for the institutions mentioned above in the year 1952-53 ?

\*123. (a) Is it a fact that the Tataya Government Middle Vernacular School at Majuli has been sanctioned by Government as Tribal Middle Vernacular School ?

(b) If so, on what ground or grounds the said School has been opened by Government in the place where there is not a single Tribal village or any Tribal family ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state how many Tribal students are now reading in the Tataya Government Middle Vernacular School ?

**Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister)** replied :

122. (a)—A list of such Schools is given below :—

**List referred to in reply to Starred Question No.122(a) asked by Shri Mal Chandra Pegu, M.L.A., at the Budget Session, 1953.**

### HIGH SCHOOLS IN THE PLAINS TRIBAL AREAS

#### Dibrugarh Sudivision

Name of Schools	Tribes
1. Rameswar Government Aided	Mixed Kacharis.
2. Khowang Government Aided	Ditto.
3. Tengakhat Government Aided	Ditto.
4. Dangari Government Aided	Ditto.
5. Moran Bordoba	Ditto.
6. Dhemaji	Ditto.

## North Lakhimpur

Name of Schools

Tribes

- | Name of Schools                          | Tribes                                    |
|--|---|
| 1. All-Assam Miri High ... ..            | All Miris.                                |
| 2. Bardalani Government Aided ... ..     | There are some Tribal boys in the School. |
| 3. Narayanpur Government Aided ... ..    | Ditto ditto.                              |
| 4. Lahit Dikrong Government Aided ... .. | Ditto ditto.                              |
| 5. Dhakukhana High School ... ..         | Ditto ditto.                              |

## Sibsagar Subdivision

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. Nitaipukhuri ... .. | There are some Tribal boys in the School. |
|------------------------|---|

## Jorhat Subdivision

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. Mihiram Jajkia Government Aided ... .. | Mixed Kacharis.              |
| 2. Mazuli Auniati Hem Chandra ... ..      | There are few Miri pupils.   |
| 3. Maragarh Narayandev ... ..             | A few Deuri and Miri pupils. |

## Golaghat Subdivision

- |                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Barpathar High ... .. | A few Kachari boys. |
| 2. Mahura ... ..         | Ditto.              |
| 3. Komarbandha ... ..    | Ditto.              |

## Nowgong District

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Marigaon High ... ..                | There are some Lalung and Kachari boys in the School. |
| 2. K. B. Government Aided Dhing ... .. | There are some Kachari boys in the School.            |
| 3. Bebejia ... ..                      | There are some Lalung pupils.                         |
| 4. Jagi ... ..                         | There are some Lalung boys.                           |
| 5. Raha ... ..                         | There are some Lalung pupils.                         |
| 6. Kampur ... ..                       | There are some Lalung and Mikir boys.                 |

## Tezpur Subdivision

- |                    |                                       |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Kalabari ... .. | There are some Miri and Kachari boys. |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|

## Mangaldai Subdivision

- |                  |                              |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Tangla ... .. | There are some Kachari boys. |
|------------------|------------------------------|

## Gauhati Subdivision

- |                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Dhamdhama ... .. | Mixed Kacharis. |
| 2. Barama ... ..    | Ditto.          |

**Barpeta Subdivision**

Name of schools	Tribes
1. Jalah ... ..	Mixed Kacharis.

**Goalpara Subdivision**

1. Nishangram ... ..	Garo.
2. J. N. Memorial Agia ... ..	Mixed Rabha, Kachari.
3. Krishnai Habraghat ... ..	Ditto.
4. Rangili ... ..	Ditto.

**Dhubri Subdivision**

1. Kokrajhar ... ..	Kachari.
2. Bijnibandhab ... ..	Ditto.
3. Gossaigaon ... ..	Ditto.
4. Basugaon ... ..	Mixed. There are some Kacharis.
5. Sapatgram Amalgamated Academy ... ..	Ditto ditto.

**Silchar Subdivision**

1. Barkhola Raja G. C. Memorial High ... ..	Mixed Kacharis.
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**Karimganj—Nil****Hailakandi—Nil****VENTURE SCHOOLS IN THE TRIBAL AREAS IN THE PLAINS HIGH**

Subdivision	Name of schools	Tribes
Goalpara Subdivision	1. Rangjuli High School ...	Kachari.
Gauhati Subdivision	1. Boko High School ...	Kachari, Rabha.
Mangaldai Subdivision	1. Harisinga High School ...	Purely Kachari.
Sibsagar Subdivision	1. Dihingmukh ...	Kachari, Deuri.
Dhubri Subdivision	2. Grahampur ...	Santals.
	2. Dotoma ...	
Tezpur Subdivision	1. Charduar High English School, P. O. Lokra.	Kachari.

**Middle English**

Dibrugarh Subdivision	1. Dighalia Dharia ...	Mixed Kachari.
	2. Owphalia ...	Ditto.
	3. Tengakhat Girls' ...	Ditto.
Lakhimpur Subdivision	1. Vikrampur ...	Kachari.
	2. Pathalipam ...	Miri and Kachari.
Golaghat Subdivision	1. Dusutimukh ...	Miris purely.

**Middle Vernacular**

Dhubri Subdivision	1. Banugaon Girls' ...	Kacharis.
Nowgong District	1. Dandu ...	Lalung mixed.

Subdivision	Name of school	Tribes
Barpeta Subdivision	... 1. Chatla ...	... Mixed Kacharis.
Tezpur Subdivision	... 1. Ulubari ...	... Ditto.
North Lakhimpur	... 1. Bahgara Deuri ...	... Ducri.
Goalpara Subdivision	... 1. Dahela ...	... Kachari mixed.
Silchar Subdivision	... 1. Dalu Girls' ...	... Kacharis.

### MIDDLE ENGLISH SCHOOLS IN THE TRIBAL AREAS

#### Dhubri Subdivision

Name of school	Tribes
1. Santal Colony ...	Santal majority, there are Kacharis also.
2. Dotoma ...	Purely Kacharis.
3. Patakata ...	Ditto.
4. Ramphalbil ...	Ditto.
5. Simbargaon ...	Ditto.
6. Bansijhora ...	Ditto.
7. Phulkibari ...	Mixed Caste Hindus and Kacharis.
8. Sidli ...	Ditto ditto.
9. Jaraguri ...	Purely Kachary.
10. Haraputa Girls' ...	Santals.
11. Gaurang Girls' ...	Purely Kacharis.
12. Bashgaon ...	Ditto.

#### Goalpara Subdivision

1. Dhupdhara ...	Mixed Caste Hindu, Rabha and Kacharis.
2. Dudhnai ...	Ditto Tribal majority.
3. Salpara Santipur ...	Garos.
4. Derak ...	Ditto.
5. Dirmajakhali ...	Rabha.
6. Pansangiri ...	Garos.
7. Ranguli ...	Mixed—Rabha and Kachari Tribal majority.

#### Mangaldai Subdivision

1. Harisinga ...	Purely Kacharis.
2. Khairabari ...	Mixed—Caste Hindus and Kacharis.
3. Ganchi Silpa Vidyalay ...	Ditto ditto.
4. Barigaon ...	Purely Kacharis.
5. Bhakatpara ...	Mixed Kacharis.
6. Majbat ...	Ditto.
7. Nasherua Middle English, P.O. Majbat	Ditto.

#### Tezpur Subdivision

1. Lutheran ...	Mission School with Tribal pupils.
2. Nevil Government ...	Mixed.

**Gauhati Subdivision**

Name of schools					Tribes
1. Hahim	...	...	...	...	Garo.
2. Boko	...	...	...	...	Rabha, Kacharis and Caste Hindus.
3. Dhupguri	...	...	...	...	Mixed.
4. Goreswar	...	...	...	...	Caste Hindu and Kacharis.
5. Gohalkona	...	...	...	...	Garo.
6. Digheli	...	...	...	...	Caste Hindu majority. But there are Kachari Boys also.
7. Shampabati	...	...	...	...	Kachari.
8. Singra	...	...	...	...	Mixed Kacharis, Rabha.

**Barpeta Subdivision**

1. Dakshin Bijni	...	...	...	...	Mixed Kacharis.
2. Leshra	...	...	...	...	Ditto.

**Jorhat Subdivision**

1. Rangajan	...	...	...	...	Mixed Kacharis.
2. Nakachari	...	...	...	...	Mixed—A, few Kachari boys caste.
3. Gazergaon	...	...	...	...	Hindu Majority.
4. Karatipar	...	...	...	...	Purely Miri.
5. Zengraimukh	...	...	...	...	Mixed—Caste Hindus and Miri.
6. Jalukanibari	...	...	...	...	Purely Miri.
7. Birinasayak	...	...	...	...	Mixed Kacharis.
8. Namdeuri	...	...	...	...	Ditto.
9. Titabar Girls'	...	...	...	...	Caste Hindus' Miri and Deuri Mixed—A few Tribal Girls, in the School.

**Golaghat Subdivision**

1. Dinanath	...	...	...	...	Mixed Kacharis.
2. Mahura	...	...	...	...	Ditto.
3. Daithur Government Middle English School (Mikir Hills.)	...	...	...	...	Purely Mikir.

**Sibsagar Subdivision**

1. Rajabari	...	...	...	...	Deuri, Miri and Kacharis.
2. Dihingmukh	...	...	...	...	Ditto.
3. Dikhawmukh	...	...	...	...	Mixed Miris.

**Nawgong Subdivision**

1. Dharamtul	...	...	...	...	Lalung mixed.
2. Merrok Government Middle English School	...	...	...	...	Mikir Hills.
3. Central Dharamtul	...	...	...	...	Mixed.
4. Manaha	...	...	...	...	Ditto.
5. Nakhola	...	...	...	...	Mixed Lalung.
6. Phulaguri	...	...	...	...	Ditto.



**Dibrugarh Subdivision**

Name of schools	Tribes
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1. Saharikata	...	...	...	Mixed Kacharis.
2. Jakai	...	...	...	Ditto.
3. Kathalguri	...	...	...	Ditto.
4. Alubari	...	...	...	Mixed (Fakial).
5. Dibrugarh Miri Boys Middle English School	...	...	...	Purely Miri.
6. Sissimukh	...	...	...	Miri and Deuri.
7. Kakapathar	...	...	...	Tribal, Ex-tea garden Labour etc.
8. Saikhowa	...	...	...	Kacharis Mixed.
9. Khowang Girls' Middle English School	...	...	...	Mixed Kacharis.

**North Lakhimpur**

1. Bilmukh	...	...	...	Purely Miri.
2. Chawldhoa	...	...	...	Ditto.
3. Namani Subansiri	...	...	...	Mixed, Miris also.

**Dibrugarh Subdivision**

1. Sissi Bargaon Middle English	...	...	...	Mixed Kachari Deuri.
2. Batgharia Local Board	..	...	...	Kacharis.
3. Naharkatia Government Middle Vernacular.	...	...	...	Kacharis. (Mixed).
4. Tengakhat Local Board Middle Vernacular.	...	...	...	Ditto.
5. Kalowlowa Local Board Middle Vernacular.	...	...	...	Ditto.
6. Patragaon Local Board Middle Vernacular.	...	...	...	Ditto.

**Mangaldai Subdivision**

1. Bahinigaon Government Middle Vernacular.	...	...	...	Purely Kachari.
2. Bhergaon Local Board	...	...	...	Mixed.
3. Chatguri Government Middle Vernacular.	...	...	...	Ditto.

**Tezpur Subdivision**

1. Doomdooma Government	...	...	...	Mixed Kacharis.
2. Jahamari Government	...	...	...	Ditto.
3. Silikhaguri P. O. Dhekiajuli	...	...	...	.....

**Dhubri Subdivision**

1. Kajiagaon Boys Middle Vernacular Local Board.	...	...	...	Kacharis.
2. Kajiagaon Girls' Middle Vernacular, Local Board.	...	...	...	Ditto.
3. Tipkai Middle Vernacular	...	...	...	Ditto.
4. Kurshakati Government Aided	...	...	...	Ditto.
5. Kokrajhar Government Girls	...	...	...	Kachari Mixed.
6. Kamalsing Local Board Middle Vernacular.	...	...	...	Kacharis.

Name of Schools	Tribes
7. Khagrabari Local Board Middle Vernacular.	Kacharis
8. Gossainichina Government Aided	Ditto.
9. Majulipara Government Aided	Ditto.
10. Puthimari Government Aided	Ditto.

#### Goalpara Subdivision

1. Rangjuli Local Board	Mixed Kacharis.
2. Khekapara Local Board	Ditto.
3. Khara Girls' Middle Vernacular Aided	Mixed Kachari Majority.
4. Danangiri Local Board Girls' Middle Vernacular.	Ditto.

### MIDDLE VERNACULAR SCHOOLS IN THE TRIBAL AREAS—PLAINS

#### Barpeta Subdivision

1. Kamargaon	Mixed Kacharis.
2. Kharadhara Government Aided	Kachari Majority.
3. Koklabari Government Aided	Ditto.
4. Anchali Government	Mixed Kacharis.
5. Garartari Government	Ditto.

#### Gauhati Subdivision

1. Hahara Government	Mixed Kachari Mikir.
2. Rangaphali Local Board	Mixed Kachari.
3. Bondapara Local Board	Tribal Rabha.
4. Athiabari Local Board	Mixed Kachari.
5. Musalpur Government	Purely Kacharis.
6. Tambulpur Government	Mixed Kacharis.
7. Laharghat Government	.....
8. Bartala Government	.....

#### Sibsagar Subdivision

1. Bampathar Bengenabari Government Aided.	Mixed Kacharis.
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#### Jorhat Subdivision

1. Ratanpur Miri Government	Miri and Kacharis.
2. Totayon	.....

#### Golaghat Subdivision

1. Kamargaon Local Board	Mixed Kacharis.
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#### North Lakhimpur

1. Kadam Local Board	Mixed Kachari.
2. Bhebeli Government Aided	Mixed Deuris.
3. Bihpuria Local Board	Mixed Kacharis.
4. Bebejia Government Aided	Mixed a few Miri Boys.
5. Dhoi	.....
6. Mornai Deuri	.....

## Nowgong District

Name of Schools		Tribes
1. Barapujia Government Middle Vernacular.	Middle Vernacular	Mixed.
2. Charaibahi Local Board	.. .. .	Ditto.
3. Bakaliaghat Government Middle Vernacular (Mikir and Hills).	Middle Vernacular	.....
4. Nellec	... .. .	.....

## Silchar Subdivision

1. Rajarbazar Local Board Middle Vernacular. Mixed Kachari.

## Hailakandi Subdivision

Nil.

## Karimganj Subdivision

1. Kanyamayee Girls Middle Vernacular... .. .

## Tezpur Subdivision

1. Doomdoomia Middle Vernacular ... .. .
2. Jahamari Middle Vernacular ... .. .
3. Gangamowthan Girls' Middle Vernacular. ... .. .

## Mangaldai Subdivision

1. Bahinigaon Middle Vernacular ... .. .
2. Bhugaon Middle Vernacular... .. .

## Dhubri Subdivision

1. Baruapara Middle Vernacular ... .. .
2. Puthimari Middle Vernacular ... .. .
3. Kokrajhar Girls' Middle Vernacular ... .. .

(b)—Rs. 1,82,279 has been spent on Government Middle Vernacular Schools in Plains Tribal Areas. The figures for expenditure representing grants to Aided Plains Tribal Schools is not available, as separate account has not been maintained in respect of these grants. A sum of Rs. 2,60,000 has been distributed to Aided Secondary Schools in the Plains Tribal Areas out of the grants received from Government of India under Article 275 of the Constitution.

123. (a)—No. This was provisionally as a school for a Backward Communities.

(b)—This does not arise.

(c)—2 (two).

**Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU:** Sir, will the Minister-in-charge be pleased to peruse in the list where under the head "Middle English Schools in the Tribal Areas" in Jorhat Subdivision' it is written 'Hindu Majority' against the

School Gazeragaon. May I know, Sir, what is the meaning of 'Hindu Majority' ?

**Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister):** It means non-plains tribal boys.

**Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU:** I know it definitely that the majority of the students of this school are Miri students.

**Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister):** Then there might be a mistake in the printed list.

**Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU:** Again, Sir, in the case of Karatipar School also against it is written that the students are 'Purely Miri', I know it that less than 1/3rd of the students are Miri. So, Sir, it cannot be a 'purely Miri' school.

**Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister):** That may be a mistake. I will look into it.

**Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU:** There are many mistake here in the list, Sir, as I go through this list. In the case of Zengrai-mukh also against it is written here 'Mixed Caste Hindus and Miri'. I think it ought to have been 'Purely Miri' instead of 'Mixed Caste Hindus and Miri'.

**Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister):** Your objection is that in the Zengrainukh School students are mentioned here as Mixed Caste Hindus and Miri. I think it should have been Miri only.

**Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU:** Sir, may I know whether Government has made it a policy to regard those schools as tribal schools where there are few tribal students and which are not situated in the tribal areas ?

**Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister):** No, Sir. Only the Tataya Middle Vernacular School has been provincialised as it is surrounded by backward communities. I have already mentioned Sonari Miri village, Bhogpur Miri village, Kaniajan Miri village and Sonowal Miri village. These villages are situated within a radius of two miles from the Tataya Middle Vernacular School.

*(At this stage the Speaker took the Chair.)*

**Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU:** My point is, Sir, whether there is any tribal student in this school ?

**Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister) :** There are only two tribal students but the boys of the tribal community can take advantage of this school as it is situated in the neighbourhood of their villages.

**Shri JADAV CHANDRA KHAKLARI :** May I know what is the actual number of tribal students in the Nitaipukhuri High English School ?

**Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister) :** That is a new question and I cannot answer it off-hand.

**Shri SARVESWAR BORUWA :** May I know why the Bangal-mora Venture High School has been omitted from the list of Venture High Schools in the tribal areas ?

**Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister) :** Because it is not yet recognised.

**Shri SARVESWAR BORUWA :** There are two other Venture Middle English Schools in the North Lakhimpur Subdivision, *viz.*, Barbali Venture Middle English School and Gossainbari Venture Middle English School, which have been omitted from the list. May I know why they have been so omitted ?

**Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister) :** Many new Venture High and Middle English Schools are springing up but all of them are not within our knowledge. The Inspector of Schools has not yet visited these schools.

#### Acquisition of Shri Krishna Saikia's Land in Dhubari Grazing Reserve

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI** asked :

\*124. Will the Minister, Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) What action has been taken by Government to acquire the land of Shri Krishna Saikia in the Dhubari Grazing Reserve of Jorhat ?
- (b) Whether the Minister has received any representation from the people to include this land in the Grazing Reserve ?
- (c) What is the amount of compensation fixed by Government ?

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister)** replied :

124. (a)—Deputy Commissioner has been directed to acquire the land on payment of the cost of acquisition by the villagers concerned.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—No amount of compensation has been fixed by Government but Deputy Commissioner reports that the cost of acquisition will amount to Rs.2,857 (two thousand eight hundred and fifty seven) only.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI :** Will Government be pleased to state whether Shri Krishna Saikia paid anything to Government for acquiring this land ?

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) :** The land was given to Shri Krishna Saikia long ago and there is no record available from which I can say whether he paid anything to Government.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI :** Did this land form part of a grazing reserve before ?

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) :** Yes, Sir.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI :** Did Shri Saikia take this land from the grazing reserve after paying something ?

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) :** It is not known to Government, Sir, whether he paid anything or not, but it is a fact that a part of the grazing reserve was given to him.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI :** Is it not a fact that besides the sum of Rs.2,857, people are being asked to pay another sum of Rs.700 as part of compensation ?

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) :** Government have no information.

**Re : Kakilamukh Experimental Farm**

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI** asked :

\*125. Will the Minister, Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) Whether he has lately received from Miri people of Oanamarigoan of Jorhat any representation

regarding settlement of 73 bighas of land released by the Kakilamukh Experimental Farm ?

(b) If so, what action has been taken in this matter ?

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister)** replied :

125. (a)—Yes, but the area in question is 64 bighas and not 73 bighas.

(b)—A report on the representation has been called for from the Deputy Commissioner together with the views of Land Settlement Committee, Jorhat, but no final report has been received as yet.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI :** When do Government expect to get the report ?

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) :** In course of a month or two, because most of the members of the Land Settlement Advisory Committee are here now.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI :** The representation is pending before the Revenue Minister for a long time. It will be better if the matter is expedited.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) :** I will see to that, Sir.

#### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table.)

#### Veterinary Field Assistants

**Shri LILA KANTA BORA** asked :

102. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) How many Veterinary Field Assistants are there in the State of Assam ?

(b) What is their scale of pay ?

**Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (Minister)** replied :

102. (a)—There are 198 Veterinary Field Assistants in the State of Assam.

(b)—The scale of pay of Veterinary Field Assistants is Rs. 40—2—60—(E.B.)—4—80.

**Shri LILA KANTA BORA :** Is it a fact that most of the Veterinary Field Assistants have not received their increments of pay according to the revised scale ?

**Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (Minister) :** This is a new question altogether, Sir.

**Assistant Auditor engaged to audit the Accounts of the Assam Trading Co-operative of Gauhati**

**Shri DANDIRAM DUTTA** asked :

103. (a) Is it a fact that the Assistant Auditor, Sri Lakshi Ram Das of the Co-operative Department was engaged to audit the accounts of the Assam Trading Co-operative of Gauhati for the year 1950-51 ?

(b) If so, from what date the said Officer was engaged, and when the Balance Sheet of the said Co-operative was submitted ?

**Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister)** replied :

103. (a)—Yes.

(b)—From 25th August 1952. Balance Sheet for 1950-51 was submitted on 23rd February 1953.

**Shri DANDI RAM DUTTA :** এইটো ঘটানে যে গুৱাহাটীৰ Trading Co-operativeৰ Accounts position একেবাৰেই বেয়া ?

**Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister) :** একেবাৰেই বেয়া বুলি কব নোৱাৰি—কিন্তু বৰ ভাল নহয়।

**Shri DANDI RAM DUTTA :** Shri লক্ষীৰাম দাস বোলা Assistant Auditor জন বোলে গুৱাহাটীত বহুত বছৰ আছে তেওঁক বদলি কৰা নহয় নেকি ?

**Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister) :** তেওঁক বদলি কৰা হৈ গৈছে—নগাওঁলৈ।

**Shri DANDI RAM DUTTA :** তেওঁ কিমান বছৰ গুৱাহাটীত আছিল ?

**Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister) :** কিমান বছৰ আছিল কব নোৱাৰি—কিন্তু কেইবা বছৰো আছিল।

**Number of Tea Garden Schools closed down for financial reasons**

**Shri BISWADEV SARMA** asked :

104 (a) How many Tea Garden Schools have now been closed down in the Assam Valley for financial reasons ?

(b) What steps Government propose to take for re-opening of those schools in the Tea Gardens ?



(c) What standard of education was imparted to the Tea Garden Mazdoors in those schools?

**Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister)** replied:

104 (a)—Twenty-four tea garden schools in Assam Valley were closed. But with the reopening of 5 gardens, 5 schools thereof have also been reopened.

(b)—Government have since taken steps for reopening of closed gardens. It is hoped that a school in a closed garden will reopen automatically along with the garden itself.

(c)—Tea Garden Schools are mostly "C" class schools where the standard of education conforms to the primary school curriculum.

**Shri BISWADEB SARMA:** With regard to (b), are Government aware that many schools of the running gardens in the Tezpur subdivision were closed down as a measure of economy, and if so, what steps Government propose to take to have these schools re-opens?

**Shri PURNANANDA CHETIA (Deputy Minister):** Government have no information about that.

#### Silchar Municipal Board

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY** asked:

105. (a) Is it a fact that Government Auditor has found out misappropriation and defalcation of large sums of money by the authorities and employees of the Silchar Municipal Board?

(b) If so, what action Government propose to take in this connection.

**Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (Minister)** replied:

105. (a)—Yes, from report received it appears that defalcation of the Board's money has taken place.

(b)—Action will be taken on completion of the audit now in progress.

#### State Transport Buses running from Gauhati to Jagi road and Nowgong to Jagi road

**Shri BALIRAM DAS** asked:

106. (a) Is it a fact that two special State Transport Buses have been placed—one from Gauhati to Jagi Road and other from Nowgong

to Jagi Road for the conveniences of the local court and office passengers ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to enquire and state whether it is a fact that the two special buses placed on the roads as aforesaid are old and generally remain unserviceable ?

(c) If so, do Government propose to place serviceable buses on the aforesaid routes ?

**Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister)** replied :

106. (a)—Yes. But these two buses are not specifically meant for the convenience of local court and office passengers as stated.

(b)—Originally two old A. T. Venettes were allowed to ply on these routes, mainly for the purpose of carrying milk from Jagi Road to Nowgong and Gauhati, as passengers were few. Other buses of the route are allowed to ply on these portions of the route when the two allotted Venettes go out of order.

(c)—Fleet strength of the route has been increased by addition of two new vehicles this year. Now that the number of spare vehicles of the route has been increased there may not arise any inconvenience to the public travelling by these special services. The matter will be further examined.

#### **Earthquake affected Miri families of Bihaguri**

**Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU** asked :

107. (a) Is it a fact that some 13 (thirteen) earthquake affected Miri families of Bihaguri were settled by the then Deputy Commissioner, Darrang District in the year 1950 within the Dilapakhora Fuel Reserve, Gohpur Mouza ?

(b) If so, why they were given settlement within the said Fuel Reserve and why they are now again going to be evicted from there ?

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister)** replied :

107. (a)—No. 13 Earthquake affected Miri families were not given any settlement but were allowed to remain within the Dilapakhora Fuel Reserve temporarily on a clear understanding that they will have to vacate the land, when called upon to do so.

(b)—In view of the reply at (a) above this does not arise. These families are not altogether landless; many have got their home-steads and cultivable lands in their original villages. The surrounding villagers have objections of their staying there. The question of evicting them therefrom is still under consideration and no final orders have yet been passed.

### Deputy Superintendent of Police

**Shri DEBESWAR RAJKHOWA** asked :

108. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is obligatory for a Deputy Superintendent of Police to pass departmental examination on accounts to qualify himself for confirmation and promotion ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the cases where deviation from this or exemption has been made recently ?

(c) Is it a fact that a promoted Deputy Superintendent of Police gets preference due to his age and experience to a direct recruit when the question of promotion to the next higher rank is considered ?

(d) If so, whether recently there has been any case in which Government promoted a directly recruited Deputy Superintendent of Police to the rank of A. S. P. ignoring the claims of promoted Deputy Superintendents of Police ?

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister)** replied :

108. (a)—Yes.

(b)—No deviation from this has been made or exemption given recently.

(c)—No. Promotion of Deputy Superintendents of Police to higher rank is selective and is made ordinarily on the basis of merit. Seniority determined according to date of confirmation is also taken into consideration. Final selection for permanent absorption in the I. P. S. by promotion, however, is made on the recommendation of the Union Public Service Commission.

(d)—Does not arise.

**Re : The Assam Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 1953**

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister)**: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission I would like to make a statement.

**Mr. SPEAKER**: Yes.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister)**: Sir, the House has been pleased to vote all the supplementary demands for grants for the current year yesterday. Now an Appropriation Act is required to give effect to these grants. According to the programme of the Assembly the Appropriation Bill is to be introduced and taken into consideration on the 28th March. But no payment, not already advanced from the Contingency Fund, provided for by the supplementary demands, can be made till the Bill is passed. The 29th of March is a Sunday. Hence if the Bill is taken into consideration on the 28th the Accountant General will have only two days, viz., 30th and 31st, to issue necessary authority slips for drawal of the money. Even if the authority slips are posted on the 30th they will not reach the district officers by the 31st and unless money is drawn on or before the 31st it will lapse and an anomalous situation will be created. Hence I beg leave of the House to introduce the Appropriation (No.1) Bill of 1953 with the request to take it into consideration clause by clause just now.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI**: Just now ?

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister)**: Yes, it is more or less a formal affair as all the demands were passed yesterday.

**Mr. SPEAKER**: According to the Constitution you cannot move any amendment.

(The Constitution was handed over to Shri Hareswar Goswami, who wanted to see the relevant provision).

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI**: Sir, it is clear that we cannot move any amendment to the Bill, but during the period of consideration of the Bill we can offer our criticisms to the Bill.

**Mr. SPEAKER**: Yes, that can be done.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI**: We were informed that the Bill would be taken into consideration on the 28th, but all on a sudden we are asked to consider it just now. It makes our position a bit difficult. Although we have voted the supplementary demands item by item even then there might be some other matters which could be offered as criticism to the whole Supplementary Budget. So it is very difficult to take it up immediately. If we are given time, we can take it up in the afternoon session.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister)**: That can be done.

**Mr. SPEAKER**: It will be taken up in the afternoon session.

### Demands for grants

Grant No. 50

#### 85-A.—Capital Outlay on State Schemes of Government Trading

**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : (Minister) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.8,59,27,100 (Rupees eight crores, fifty-nine lakhs, twenty-seven thousand and one hundred) 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 "85-A.—Capital Outlay on Schemes of Government Trading".

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The Motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs.8,59,27,100 (Rupees eight crores, fifty-nine lakhs, twenty-seven thousand and one hundred) 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 "85-A.—Capital Outlay on Schemes of Government Trading".

*After a pause*

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Cut Motion No. 1, Shri Ranendra Mohan Das, is absent. Shri Hareswar Goswami may move the Cut Motion No. 2 standing in his name.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.8,59,27,100 under Grant No. 50, Major head—85-A.—Capital Outlay on State Schemes of Government Trading, at page 291 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.8,59,27,100 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

My object in moving this Cut Motion is to raise a general discussion about State Trading.

Sir, in course of my speech in reply to the Budget speech of the Finance Minister, I pointed out that in our State the policy should be a policy of gradual decontrol. Controls came here during the War and it was also necessary when commodities were in short supply. It was necessary that commodities available should be distributed equitably and evenly among the people and in that way it was necessary to control them. Today, after seven years after the War we find, the controls are still in existence and for a few articles it might be necessary but for many others it is not necessary and although the Government have decontrolled some of these commodities there again its policy of giving monopoly of carrying commodities from outside to some dealers only means the continuance of control through a backdoor.

Regarding procurement, it is necessary that we should procure rice. The rice position although better this year but there is no certainty that it will continue to be so for a year or two. We depend so much on the vagaries of nature. Even then we find that the amount that was desired to be procured last year remains the same even for this year when we find the rice position is better. It transpired from the Governor's speech that we propose to procure same quantity of rice this year as last year. The quota for the whole year could not be fulfilled, but we hope that the quota for this year will be fulfilled and if the Ministry of Supply take sufficient care they can collect not only this amount of rice but more than that amount and that will be a stock in hand for future exigencies. But we find from the speech that nothing of this sort had been envisaged.

Again, even today when the rice situation is rather easy, the people are feeling hardship of procuring rice. I know of cases where people want to bring from a comparatively better area, comparatively easier area, where it has become difficult to carry rice or paddy because of unnecessary hindrance of Government as at times Government insist that this rice or paddy should be brought only by bullock-carts and not by lorries and it becomes difficult for some poor people to bear heavy expenses of carrying them by bullock-carts.

Coming to the procurement, we spoke last time also that in procuring rice or paddy, we can have the system of compulsory levy. Now the position is better and if the system of compulsory levy is introduced it will not only bring more rice for us for the year but it will help us to tide over our future crisis. In the Bengal Assembly it has been stated by the Chief Minister that this compulsory system of levy has yielded much dividend and better results. We said last year also that this system should be introduced here and if we can help our cultivators by stopping the profit earned by intermediaries and if the procurement is done directly, cultivators will get a better price and our rice position will be better. I know in certain cases the price of paddy is Rs.7 per maund or less than that. In Mangaldai in October or November middlemen purchased the rice and paddy from the cultivators and made huge profits, shares of which did not go to the cultivators.

Again, about rice position we find today that although the position is better even than some employees of the Steamer Company are not given home procured rice, or rice procured in India but they are given rice procured from outside India for which they have to pay a high price. When the rice position is better they should be given rice procured at a cheaper price within Assam or India.

Sir, regarding other items also, we find that in the matter of salt, although the salt position is better to-day, we have appointed some people as Agents for procuring salt—Procuring Agents, there

are three parties, I am told. They get salt at Rs.5-2-0 from Calcutta F. O. R. or B. O. R. at Jagannath Ghat where it is available at Rs.5-2-0 per bag. They sell them at Rs.5-12-0. My contention is that if no monopoly would have been given to these parties to bring salt from outside and if this commodity could be brought freely from outside, salt could have been available here at a cheaper rate. Secondly Sir, we know Mahatma was against the principle of imposition of any taxes on salt. As a matter of fact he launched a movement against the salt tax. Now, to-day we find about five annas are being levied on salt as administrative charges. It is really disappointing to see that after the independence in a land where the Mahatma preached his doctrine, his philosophy, we have to pay to Government extra five annas as administrative charges. I believe all these could have been done away with, if salt could have been brought without appointing any monopoly agents. Similarly in case of sugar, we know, some Distributing Agents were appointed for bringing sugar. Sugar is to be brought from Uttar Pradesh or Upper Bihar. They are to be booked *via* Plazaghat, *i. e.*, by Steamer-cum Railway, to Pandu and some other places in the Upper Assam. In this way Rs.2-10-5 are charged, whereas if we would have brought it by Railway, we would not have paid at least As.0-12-0 extra charges per bag which we are now paying in the form of freight. This incidence of freight is being borne by the poor consumers of this State in the matter of sugar.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** What is your suggestion ?

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** My suggestion is that it should be brought by Railway. When we have got a Trade Adviser at Calcutta he should see that it is available to the people of Assam at a cheaper price, if not at cheaper price at least at comparatively lower price. Although, we have a Trade Adviser at Calcutta who should see to all these things, we find that these commodities are not being brought to Assam in a way it should have been brought.

About State Trading Scheme of the Assam Government there were two Syndicates—one is the Assam Valley Supply Syndicate and other the New Supply Syndicate, which wound up the business long ago. There is a strong suspicion that much money has been misappropriated and the money has been badly used by the Syndicate during their existence of 4 or 5 years. We did not get any report from the Government or any comment from the Government about their account, or how they behaved during this period. We all know last year wheat was available in markets in Assam and price of wheat came down. Because of the wrong policy of the Government, the Co-operative Societies which had stock of wheat, the wheat at their

disposal deteriorated and they had to sell them at lesser price. They ought to have sold in time. Similarly, we know in several godowns of Assam sugar was lying there for months, not one or two maunds, but thousand of maunds. They could have been sold out in time. But Government waited for a long time and the result was that sugar deteriorated. There was shrinkage and there was wastage and to-day we hear Government had to sell this sugar at a lower price and there was loss to Government. In this way Government have suffered a loss.

I also want to make a reference to the Pipe Lines. There were about 18 lakhs Rft. of Pipe Lines made available to Assam by the Government of India. With these pipe lines we could have done a lot of things. We are short of pipes for water works and other works. Had the Government been prompt they could have done a lot of things with these Pipe Lines. They could have given these pipes to some private dealers and thereby, Government could have earned some money by way of sales tax, etc. But due to their dilatoriness, 15 lakhs of Rft. was lost and only we were offered 3 lakhs Rft. My contention is that in these matters our Supply Minister has not been as prompt as he should have been and as a result Government suffer losses. These articles could have been utilised and it could have brought some benefit to the people. Therefore, my object in moving the Cut Motion is that the Supply Department should be very alert. They should get rid of the monopoly agency system and they should not create any difficulties to other traders and thereby introduce control on certain commodities which have been decontrolled in a round about way. Sir, to-day a price recession is being noticed and I request that Government should not create any artificial scarcity by adopting monopoly methods. All these impediments must be removed and the goods must be made to move freely from one zone to the other. This will enable the consumers to get the articles at a lesser cost.

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

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The Motion moved is that the total provision of Rs.8,59,27,100 under Grant No.50, Major head—85-A—Capital Outlay on State Schemes of Government Trading, at page 291 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.8,59,27,100 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Mr. Bhattacharyya. You will get only 10 minutes.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I propose to confine myself only in one item that is the trading



in rice and paddy. As we all know the concerns of a Welfare State in undertaking Government Trading is two fold. Firstly to serve the cause of the people and secondly, if possible, to bring some money to the public exchequer.

Now, the first point is the most important one. When our Government had undertaken State Trading, I think, it was not in their mind. We see the details that are before the House. I am referring to page 294. In 1951-52, the actuals in the purchase of rice and paddy was Rs.4,04,17,176. Apparently, Government thought that this was inadequate. So in the Budget Estimates of 1952-53, they proposed that the purchase should come to Rs.7,00,00,000, but this estimate had to be revised as that could not be carried out. So the revised estimate for 1952-53 came to Rs.3,85,50,000. As we all know the year 1952-53 was a lean year and there were difficulties in the matter of procurement of rice and paddy. We all know that the present year, *i. e.*, the current year is a much better year. Therefore we should only naturally expect that the procurement should be much better than last year. We cannot rest assured that this will continue in future. We cannot say that the next year will be as good a year as the present year and that next year also there will be a bumper crop. Yet we see that whereas in the Budget Estimates for the year 1952-53, Government thought it proper to bring procurement upto as much as Rs.7,00,00,000 and whereas inspite of all these difficulties, the revised estimate comes to Rs.3,85,50,000 in 1952-53, we see in the present estimate only Rs.4,00,00,000 as the target. That shows that Government is not keen on procuring rice and paddy when it is easy to procure.

There is another point. After the harvest, when the paddy is in the hands of the actual tillers, or actual producers, naturally the selling price of rice and paddy falls. Because the peasants are selling whatever they can, for paying their land revenue and other charges. It is in the interest of the growers that Government should purchase rice and paddy from the actual producers just at that time at a reasonable price. If the Government purchases rice and paddy just after the harvest, it becomes beneficial to the producers, and Government also finds it easier to procure. But it is a common knowledge that the Government is not following that policy. The Government is not, generally speaking, purchasing directly, or in other words, they are not procuring directly. Although there is a Procurement Staff, procurement is done mostly through agencies. These agencies also are not given adequate scope and opportunity to procure as much as they could have done.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** What do you mean by the word 'directly'?

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** I mean, purchasing rice and paddy by Government directly from the producers instead of through agents.

As a matter of fact, the producers from the different districts are clamouring that the Government should directly purchase rice and paddy from them. In that case they would get the price offered by Government. But as the Government is not purchasing directly, they are to sell their produce at a lower price. As for example, in South Kamrup in the Boko-Saygaon area, the actual market price is less than Government notified price. It has come down to less than Rs.8 per maund. Yet the Government had not made any arrangement for direct purchase of rice and paddy from that area. The agents have purchased some thing, but Government has not made arrangement for lifting them properly. Moreover, the agents also are not allowed to make direct sales. Some of the mill-owners are allowed to purchase directly, but they are not allowed to mill and sell them. As a result of this, these agents could not accommodate the new stocks as they had already got bigger stocks with them than they could dispose of.

So, Sir, they are not keen on purchasing from the producers when the producers are eager to sell. Naturally, the producers are to sell their products at a very low price. When in the rainy season the stock of paddy will go out of the hands of the producers to the hands of the middlemen and hoarders, the price will shoot up. Hence the present policy of Government with regard to procurement is detrimental to the interests of the producers. Government ought to have purchased from the cultivators when they offered it for sale. There are hundreds and thousands of such cases, which we can cite.

Moreover, Sir, Government, we heard, is following a policy of free movement of rice and paddy inside the district with certain restrictions. But these restrictions are not small. They are very big as my Friend Shri Goswami has already said. Not only that trucks are not allowed to carry rice and paddy even within the district, there are also many other impediments. It is sometimes said that the license is a formal affair. But it is not a formal affair. Because I know myself regarding one particular instance. Some peasants belonging to Boko area offered us paddy for our election purpose. It was not a big quantity. It was something like 50 maunds or so. We applied to the Deputy Director of Procurement, Gauhati for a permit for bringing them from Boko to Gauhati, because the prevalent price of paddy at Boko at that time was Rs.7 per maund but at Gauhati it was Rs. 9 to Rs.10 per maund. Sir, that permit was refused. There are many such cases where even bonafide inter district movement is also hampered. Then, Sir, we have some remark in the Budget Memorandum for the year 1953-54.

It says, "The anticipated increase in Procurement of rice and paddy is not likely to materialise. The procurement is being hampered due to natural calamities such as flood, etc."

Sir, I think, it is a gross mis-statement of fact. Where there was a flood just after the harvest was over? When there is a flood we simply curse upon Nature. It has become the habit of Government to curse upon Nature. They say, "after all we want to do, but Nature is against us, or God is against us." So we find such a misleading remark in the Memorandum.

But after all even if there is likelihood of floods and other natural calamities the Government attitude should be to prepare for the rainy days, to make arrangement so that when bad days will come we may not have to suffer; because it is the duty of a Welfare State not to plead helplessness at the time of calamities, but to meet the calamities, to give redress and help to the people in times of difficulty. It is the bounden duty of the Government to master the circumstances, and not to plead helplessness under the circumstances. I may here refer to the famous dictum of Santi Parba of Mahabharata—in Sanskrit.....

“कालो वा कावणं बाजो बाजा वा काल-कावणम् ।  
इति ते संशयो मातुद् बाजा कालस्य कावणम् ॥”

It is the Government which is responsible for the circumstances, and not the circumstances which make the Government its victim. So, the Government which claims to be responsive and responsible to the people should look to the interests of the people. If it fails, it deserves condemnation of the people. I therefore, suggest that the Government should even now purchase rice and paddy from the sellers, from the producers when they are eager to sell, and not to depend on the agencies, not to circumscribe itself to potentialities and activities of the agencies themselves.

Further-more if and when Government shall have to go even for compulsory procurement in certain areas Government should see that its force or its compulsion falls not on the poor cultivators and middle peasants alone but on the land-lords, profiteers and hoarders also. Unfortunately, it appears that the policy of the Government is to help the hoarders and the big land-lords to keep their stocks and to get more stocks from the poorer section of the cultivators by purchasing at the time when price is low. Therefore, I am making two suggestions—Firstly Government should purchase from the open markets and from the producers themselves who come voluntarily to sell—and secondly when compulsory procurement is necessary Government should see that the iron hand of the Government does not fall on the poor and middle peasants, but on the hoarders and landlords.

With these few words, Sir, I support the Motion of my Friend Mr. Goswami.

**Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB of Sidli:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the story of this department is the story of waste, loss and corruption. Sir, I do not want to go into the details because it has been ably dealt with by my friends here. I will stop after giving two instances.

Sir, in Basugoan in the district of Goalpara a Procurement Office has been established and since two years back some people from Bahalpur—about 12 miles away, took bullock cart on hire and about 21 of them, and each took about one to one and a half maunds of paddy. That paddy was taken away by the Procurement Department, and the people were not paid in spite of repeated letters from me. These are the things, Sir.

**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister):** When did it occur, Sir, and who took away the paddy?

**Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB of Sidli:** If the Minister wants I will give all information later on. I just now donot remember the date, perhaps it was in 1951.

Then Sir, I will give another instance. In Gosaigoan there is an area which is a surplus area with regard to paddy, and there is no chance of selling the paddy, so they wanted the Government to take the paddy, but the Government did not take; so the people were compelled to keep the paddy in their stocks. Soon after the rains came and the roads were under water and consequently the paddy could not be disposed of owing to transport difficulties: when the rain was over the poor people were blamed as hoarders and black-marketers. Sir, all these things are going on.

I request Government to examine all these things. The people who have surplus crops will be glad to part with a portion of their crops provided they get a good price. At present the benefits go to the hoarders and the middlemen and not to the producers.

With these few words Sir, I support the Motion moved by my friend Mr. Goswami.

**Shri MAHENDRANATH DEKA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad that Mr. Bhattacharyya has accepted the policy of Procurement of the Government.....

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** We have always accepting.

**Shri MAHENDRANATH DEKA:** But he has objected to the policy and method of procurement of paddy from the growers' granaries. I want to say from my own experience that it is not practicable on the part of the Government to procure paddy from the granaries of the growers who live in small hamlets.....

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA** From the market.

**Shri MAHENDRANATH DEKA:** It is known to Mr. Bhattacharyya and the hon. Members of the House that growers usually sell their excess paddy in their respective homes, the paddy is never

carried to the markets: scarcely very few growers having in their possession carts can carry the excess paddy to the markets. The paddy is generally purchased from the house of the growers and that paddy subsequently taken to the central place where from procurement by the Government can be made. From my own experience, I should say, from last December, in an area in which my Constituency belongs, the Procurement Department procured to the extent of about 60,000 maunds of paddy within a space of three months.....

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** On a point of information Sir, I want to clarify one point. I think my friend has made confusion in the expression of the word "Market". I have used the word "market" in the economic sense. He has confused the words "market place" and "market". I do not mean "hats"; that is my explanation.

**Shri MAHENDRANATH DEKA:** My question is whether the Government will be in a position to purchase direct from the granaries of the producers. In my opinion, that is not practicable without having to engage a large number of employees who will go to purchase direct from the houses of the producers. That is my contention Sir.

Now Sir, it is seen from experience that small dealers who are in possession of carts used to go and collect paddy from the houses of the producers direct, they carry it to some central place from where Government purchase in turn. That is why I said Government was in a position to procure nearly 60 thousand maunds of paddy in three months' time *i. e.*, during December, January and February, from my constituency alone. But if the suggestion of my friends in the Opposition is accepted, it will not be practicable besides, it will be a costlier affair than it is now because in that case a large number of employees will have to be engaged on Government salary and thereby corruption also will be swelling and then the members in the opposite camp will jump up and blame Government that there is a huge corruption in the process, as it has always been said by the members in the Opposition on the floor of the House, that all Government officers are corrupt.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** No, we never said that 'all' Government officers are corrupt, but that some of them may be so.

**Shri MAHENDRANATH DEKA:** All right, if that is your view, I accept it. Now, Sir, from the point of practicability and also from the point of view of economy, I cannot agree to my Friend's suggestion that Government should procure paddy direct from the houses of the producers because, as I have said, that is not practicable.

With these words Sir, I oppose the motion moved by my Friend in the Opposition.

**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister):** Mr. Speaker Sir, I am thankful to my hon. Friends who took part in this debate for giving some concrete suggestions and also for trying to find out the defects in the present policy of the Government. Sir, it has been tried by my friends in the Opposition benches to create an impression in the minds of hon. Members of this House that this Government is utterly callous and are not at all mindful towards the interests of the tillers of the soil. Sir, I shall take up all the points raised by my friends one by one and I shall show that the present policy of the Government is beneficial not only to the tillers of the soil, but for one and all living in this State.

Now Sir, my friend the Leader of the Opposition in course of his speech mentioned about the gradual decontrol of controlled commodities. He admitted that in certain cases Government have decontrolled certain commodities. Sir, that shows that when Government find that a particular commodity need not be controlled any longer, that commodity is decontrolled. The other day I made it quite clear to the Opposition Members that this Government is not the master of controlling or decontrolling a commodity. But when I find that the same question has been raised again today I feel disappointed for my friends in the Opposition benches and specially for the Leader of the Opposition. Alas! I cast pearls in the bush. Now I shall with your permission Sir, explain the position once again and I hope after the repetition this point will not be raised again on the floor of this House. The Central Government after considering the All India position with regard to a particular commodity control or decontrol the same. Sir, a commodity is controlled when it is found that the demand for it is much more than supply, or that there might be some genuine scarcity of a particular essential commodity which if not controlled will not be available to the poorer section of the people due to its high cost. Sir, control is for equitable distribution to the consumers at reasonable prices. Glaring examples of control and decontrol are before our eyes, they were mentioned in other connections and not in this connection in course of the speeches of my hon. Friend the Leader of the Opposition. He mentioned about salt, and sugar, Sir, these two commodities were controlled previously, but now they have been decontrolled. Why? Is it that the Central Government controlled it and my Friend the Leader of the Opposition decontrolled it. It is not so. I was trying to convince my hon. Friends that it is the Central Government which control the commodity, when the situation demands and also they decontrol the same when they find that there is no more necessity of such control. It shows that they are very particular in the matter of control and decontrol. When they feel the necessity of doing either, immediately they do it. They passed

decontrol order in case of sugar in such a haste that they did not take into account whether the State Government would be put into difficult position and might incur a heavy loss due to decontrol. At the time of decontrol of sugar we had a large stock of it in the State, a large stock on transit and another lot of huge quantity for which despatch order to different stations in the State was passed according to the allotment made by the Centre. We had at the time, in round figure, about 1,60,000 maunds of sugar whereas our monthly requirement was about 40,000 maunds. When we had such a big stock of sugar the decontrol order was passed without giving us previous intimation. This shows clearly how quickly the Central Government decontrol commodities when they find that control over the same is no more necessary. My friends sitting in the Opposite benches are criticising the Government for sudden decontrol for which a situation has been created for this action whereby this poor State is going to lose ; and they are accusing the Government that this not a sound business deal. Sir, if the stock position of our State was taken into account by the Centre certainly we would not have to lose anything financially. This shows, Sir, in which way the mind of this Government is moving. Sir, my Opposition friends are determined to accuse the Government in each and every case and they are doing so blindly. It is the people's Government. People should know what is happening in their State and why. Sir, control or decontrol depends on the actual Supply and demand position of a particular commodity and not on the sweet will of any person of State Government. For decontrol of sugar certainly the credit goes to the Central Government, and not to Shri Goswami. This shows Sir, how prompt and fair the Central Government is in all matters.

As regards procurement of rice it has been mentioned both by Mr. Goswami and Mr. Bhattacharyya that Government should have made a larger provision this year and they should procure whatever is offered. Sir, I venture to tell my friends that, that is the policy of this Government. They are trying to procure as much as you can. Sir, it is also a fact that whatever is being offered cannot be taken immediately and in one day, because it takes time to take delivery. So far as the policy of this Government is concerned I declare on the floor of this House that the Government will purchase whatever will be offered to them. Provided they are in good condition, but as I have said it will take sometime. My Friend Mr. Bhattacharyya made a suggestion that paddy should be procured just after the harvest when the peasants are in need of money and that also not through the middlemen. Government should do it themselves. Mr. Goswami is in favour of levy system whereas his lieutenant Mr. Bhattacharyya is in favour of direct purchase by the Government. Raja Saheb as customary is just dreaming of a miserable

State of affairs. So, I shall give him a fitting reply to his miserable state of mind afterwards.....

**Mr. SPEAKER** : There is no necessity of giving any fitting reply.

**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister)** : My replies are always accurate and to the point, Sir, you are noticing that, so there is no such chance.

Now, Sir, as regards the target of procurement figure. The charge is that why the figure has been kept at the same level as in 1951, that is, 70,000 tons. Sir, the then Government could not procure even that quantity of rice during the year. Last year also the target figure was 70,000 tons, but that figure could not be reached. Sir, at the time of preparing the budget estimates we thought that on the basis of the last two years experience it would be better to keep the target figure at the same level. Sir, if we can procure more there is no harm in doing so though there is no budget provision at present for more than 70,000 tons. It is not that we cannot procure more. I give this news to the friends who are sitting in the Opposition benches that the pious wish of my friends specially of the Leader of the Opposition has already been fulfilled. We have already surpassed the target, and we are still going on purchasing. Sir, the target figure for procurement was fixed for the whole Kharif year, but it has so happened that during the months of January, February and March we have reached our target figure. So, Sir, there is nothing to blame us. My Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya said that this Government should be condemned for procuring more than 70,000 tons and also for not procuring at the very beginning of the year, that is, just after the harvest was over. I will come to that point now. It is a well known fact that just after the harvest the paddy is not quite dry and no sensible man, unless he requires it very badly and for immediate consumption should purchase that paddy. If we stock that paddy it will go out of condition and there will be shortage in weight at the time of milling or unfit for use due to rawness and heat. It may so happen that when such paddy when goes out of condition due to above mentioned reason, it may become unfit for human consumption. So, Sir, sometime must pass between the time of harvest and storing in the godowns. Therefore, Sir, I would request my Friend to consider all these points very coolly. I am not giving a new information to him. He knows it well and I am certain that all other hon. Members present will agree with me. He is supposed to be an intelligent man and he could have put the things in a fair way instead of making himself a laughing stock by such irresponsible utterances. Now, Sir, as regards the levy system *vis a vis* voluntary sale, I would like to mention that the levy system is not liked by the people as there is a compulsion in it. It has been said by two other Friends of the Opposition benches to procure whatever



surplus the cultivators have got, which they will be very glad to offer. Our present policy is that, we are procuring what the people are voluntarily offering. Certainly, we can impose the levy system but that will be to the detriment of our people and that will not go to the credit of this Government which claims to be a people's Government.

Now, Sir, another point was raised by Shri Goswami that why people are not being allowed to carry paddy within the district by trucks. According to the present policy of the Government any person within the district, by district, I mean procurement district, as for example, Kamrup procurement district includes Mangaldai Subdivision—a person can carry 10 maunds of paddy in a bullock cart. If we allow to carry paddy by truck in that case it will be very difficult to keep a check. We want that this carrying of paddy should be by a slow moving transport. There may be difficulty for some persons who want to bring paddy say from 20 or 30 miles off to their homes from the place of cultivation, but if it is allowed to be transported by truck the difficulty of the Government also should be considered. If movement of paddy is allowed by truck in that case there is no meaning in allowing a man to carry only 10 maunds as it will be very difficult to check. There are instances when truck drivers even broke the check gates and escaped. Some of such cases could be detected and some could not be detected. It may be said that in hard cases there should be some exception made but we have received so many representations that if Government make exception then general rules will be exceptional rules and exceptional ones general. In order to give relief to such persons to carry a particular quantity of paddy by a particular truck from a particular place to a particular place on a particular day it is engaging the attention of the Government. But I am not in a position to make any commitment.

My Friend, Mr. Hareswar Goswami, said that we are treating the employees of the Steamer Company in a different way. I dare say that it is not a fact. I would request him to persuade the Steamer Companies to purchase any quantity of indigenous rice they required which I would be pleased to deliver.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** What was done last year ?

**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister):** Sir, see the mutuality. However, my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, in his blind eagerness to condemn the Government while discussing the Budget of last year, quoted the Budget figures of the current year. I am sorry that while he tries to find out some mistakes, he mixed up the figures of both the Budgets. He should remember that this demand

which he referred to relates to the current year which will expire in March, 1953. I remember every letter that has been written in the Budget Memorandum.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** On a point of personal explanation, Sir, I was quoting from the Budget Memorandum for the year 1953-54. My point was whether this Memorandum was prepared after the harvest or before it ?

**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister):** This relates to the Budget estimates of the previous year and not of the year under considerations. The Budget estimates for the current year will expire on 31st March, 1953, during that year we could not reach the target figure, and the reasons were given, but this grant relates to the next year, *i.e.*, 1953-54, the Budget estimate for which has been placed before us so the amount now demanded relates to a different year.

Then, Sir, the next point is about the Syndicate account. In course of my reply to a question I stated that Government tried to settle all these accounts amicably but they have failed to do so. (Shri Hareswar Goswami. When this question was replied, I was not present in the House). Notice has been served on them that unless they clear the accounts by a certain date, (I do not remember the exact date,) Sir, then Government shall have to take legal action against them. Then, Sir, my Friend Shri Goswami mentioned about the pipe lines, and he said that when the huge quantity was offered to us we did not bother to purchase them. He has not mentioned the year, Sir. The point is this, that what happened about 3, 4 or 5 years back, (Interruptions) is rather difficult for me to reply off hand. My Friend Raja Ajit Narayan Deb mentioned about something that happened in 1951. (Interruptions) Sir, it reminds me of the story of the wolf and the lamb. The moral of which is that a tyrant never wants a plea. Somehow they are to find some fault with us. The attitude is this that if you have not done this (Interruptions) then your father did this, in case the charge against the father is refuted, the poor grand-father will be dragged in. So on and so forth, No escape. Either you or your father or your grand father must be made responsible (Laughter). Somebody has raised the questions as to what happened in 1947, other friend is asking what happened in 1948 and so on and so forth. Their intention is only to attack this humbleself, the unfortunate Supply Minister. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you asked me once to be a bold man and face all these (laughter). I always do that Sir, I am fully capable of facing all these unfounded allegations and tirades, as I know that, I stand on a solid and honest foundation. I do not say that we do not err. To err is human. But I can assure this House that we are here to

serve the people and we are trying our best to do what is beneficial to the people of our State and our people have appreciated our services.

Sir, with regard to the question of the Pipe lines, it is very difficult for me to give a reply to such a vague and imaginary allegation.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Is it true that we could have only 3 lakhs Rft. of pipe lines ?

**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister):** There was no such offer, at least during my time, Sir. And I do not understand what my Friend the Leader of the Opposition really means by "we will have only 3 lakhs Rft. of Pipe lines". As it is, it conveys no meaning. We have already got some stock.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Does it belong to you ?

**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister):** Sir, at Tinsukia, we have got a stock. Some quantity was given to us in the past.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** What is the quantity ?

**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister):** I cannot say that off hand, Sir.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The next point.

**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister):** I am coming to that, Sir. I have noted down 20 points. I have already replied to most of them and there are a few points to be replied. This shows, Sir, how very eager we are to give due consideration to the suggestions and criticism that are being put forward by our friends the Opposition Members. Then my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya said that we were pleading helplessness. Where is the helplessness, I could not follow, Sir ? I am sorry for my Friend's hopeless state of mind.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** At page 44 of your Memorandum.

**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister):** This shows, Sir, it has not reached the proper place. He is bent upon finding fault with us. Can he deny that there was no flood in 1952 ? My Friend should know that there are three kinds of years. One is Khariff year another Calender year and the other is the Financial year. My Friend attended the last two Sessions, the Budget Session

and the September Session and so we expected that at least he should have learnt all these differences.

Now, Sir, about the question of monopoly of salt, there is no question of any monopoly. No monopoly has been given to anybody, Sir. The position is this we invited tenders from the public, and on the basis of the conditions laid down in the tender, certain privileges with regard to transport facilities have been given to three parties, selected by us whose term and conditions were the same and reasonable. These three firms were appointed—one for Upper Assam, one for Lower Assam and the other for the District of Cachar and Lushai Hills, as our agents.

Now, Sir, any person wishing to bring salt in Assam can do so. There is no bar and as a matter of fact many persons are bringing salt in this State. It has so happened that one of the 3 nominees has not yet imported any quota allotted to him. There is such a huge stock in the markets that our agents sometimes do not venture to bring the full quota of salt here. Now when these nominees were selected, it was found necessary to give them some facilities in the matter of providing Steamer space and when available some wagons space for bringing the salt here. In the matter of giving Steamer space, they have been given a preference. That preference is necessary in view of the peculiar geographical position of our State. As regards wagon the position is this, that after meeting the demands of our traders for other essential commodities if any wagon space is available that is allotted to our salt agents. There is nothing more. There is no bar to bring salt to Assam from outside and sell it here. If my Friend Shri Goswami wants to bring salt he may do so, nobody will stand on his way.

Sir, in 1949 the control on salt was lifted and the nominee system was introduced. The question of supplying wagons was not in the picture at that time. We used to get very few wagons at that time, not only for salt but for other commodities also. When the then Government lifted all restrictions, regarding import of salt, Messrs. Mc Lean and Company approached the Government saying that it would be very difficult for them to manage with so many persons and they requested the Government to nominate a few parties to ensure regular supply to this State. Sir, I shall read the relevant portion of the note which runs as follows—

“This system was objected to by Messrs. Mc Lean and Company because they found it difficult to deal with numerous traders demanding Steamer space. The Steamer Company came with the proposal that not more than one or two existing Agents should be appointed for the purpose to ensure expeditious movement of the commodities through Steamer space. The matter was discussed and it was decided that we should act according to their suggestion.”

Now, Sir, it has been very wrongly and incorrectly said that other people cannot bring salt as the monopoly has been given only to certain parties.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI :** Why other people do not get the space ?

**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister) :** Certainly they are getting space somewhere, otherwise how they can import the commodity ? Sir, in order to ensure regular supply of this essential commodity, it was necessary that some special arrangements should be made for the movement of this commodity. My Friend Shri Goswami should not forget the peculiar geographical situation of Assam. We do not want to be at the mercy of some greedy traders, who taking advantage of the transport difficulties, try to create artificial scarcity and thereby raise the price of this and other commodities. We must see that it does not so happen, in case of this essential commodity. We must keep some control, but as I have stated before, we are not obstructing anybody to bring salt here provided they can make their own arrangement of transport, which many parties are doing.

Sir, my Friends want to know what happened in the case of sugar. The quantity of sugar allotted by India during the period of control was inadequate to meet the demand of the consumers of this State. The issue to consumers had to be made in such a way so as to leave something in stock to meet cases of emergencies due to non-arrival of despatched consignments in time or due to breaches in the traffic. The difficulty of reducing the price all on a sudden by several rupees was not possible for various reasons without knowing the actual position. We cannot offer low price all on a sudden and as a matter of fact, the Supply Department is not the authority to reduce the price, it has to be done in consultation and with the concurrence of the Finance Department. The price was reduced gradually, but due to some obvious reason the sugar traders combined and the lifting was not completed within the expected time.

In this connection, let me cite a portion of a letter received from the Government of India.

The letter No. so and so, dated the 26th May 1952, from the Government of India, Ministry of Supply, New Delhi.

“As the Central Government would retain control at the stage of releases from the mills, the internal distribution of controlled sugar should, in other respects, continue to be administered by State Governments in the same manner as at present.”

Now for this reason we were trying to sell sugar at such a price as Government did not suffer a loss.

Sir, I have tried to make it clear that this Government is the victim of circumstances in this case. Sir, no human being can claim perfection, so it is natural that we may commit mistakes, but as regards salt and sugar, there was no mistake on the part of this Government. Regarding procurement policy, Government's intention is to look to the interest of all concerned and it has proved a success.

Sir, my Friends in the Opposition have already said a lot, and I have replied to one and all the points raised by them and I am sure they have been satisfied with my explanation.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI :** What about the difference of Rs.5-2-0 and Rs.5-12-0 ?

**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister) :** That I have already said, Sir. We are getting our salt at the prevailing rate at Calcutta, rather we got at a lesser rate when the agreements were entered into.

So, Sir, if my Friends require more information in this regard, I can give them. Sir, I think, I have been able to convince my Friends regarding all the points mentioned by them. I hope the Leader of the Opposition would see his way to withdraw his Cut Motion now being fully satisfied after hearing from me in details.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Mr. Goswami, will you withdraw your motion ?

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI :** In view of the assurance given by the Minister-in-charge of Supply, I withdraw my Cut Motion.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.8,59,27,100 (Rupees eight crores, fifty-nine lakhs, twenty-seven thousand and one hundred) 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 "85-A.—Capital Outlay on Schemes of Government Trading."

The Motion was adopted.

#### GRANT No.42

#### (63.—Extraordinary Charges)

**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir. On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.29,86,000 (Rupees twenty-nine lakhs, eighty-six 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 "63.—Extraordinary Charges".

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs.29,86,000 (Rupees twenty-nine lakhs, eighty-six 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 "63.—Extraordinary Charges".

**Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir. There is no Cut Motion under this Grant, but I want to say a few words by way of suggestions.

At the very outset, I should like to say that I don't propose to attack the Minister in charge of Supply.

**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister) :** Thank you.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** So, he need not have any fear of being attacked. Although he looks older in appearance, in spirit he is quite young. So, instead of attacking him, we wish him all round success. Let me recite a verse of benediction for him:

“কপং দেহি বলং দেহি ধনং দেহি দ্বিমো জহি  
ভাৰ্য্যাং মনোবনাং দেহি মনোবৃত্তানুসাবিনীম্ ।”

I am saying this only by way of introduction. This is not an attack.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** All right you take your seat.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** Sir, I have not mentioned my point.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Yes, what is that ?

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** The point is this. Here in the matter of expenditure in connection with the scheme of control of cloth and yarn, it has been shown something like Rs.1,42,559 under head "General" As there is no control over cloth and yarn, or rather there is no necessity for control, we do not understand why such a big amount should be spent and why the establishment of staff, etc., should not be reduced in districts.

Secondly, I want to say something regarding the post of the Trade Adviser. We find quite a big amount of money has been provided under this head.

Sir, people say that it is a *sine-cure* job. They say that the function of the Trade Adviser has been to purchase tickets and arrange accommodation for the Ministers when they go to New Delhi and other places *via* Calcutta. As the Minister of Supply has already said that they use to get everything from and through Messrs Shaw Wallace and Co., Calcutta, I think there is no necessity of a Trade Adviser at Calcutta. Sir, I cannot understand why this *sine-cure* post has been created at all. Whether there is any actual function for him to be performed and whether those people who are appointed as Trade Advisers have got good knowledge about trade and specially market secrets and intricacies in a city like Calcutta. Whether they have got previous experience of trade and whether they have got requisite theoretical and practical experiences in those lines, that also we should see. But there is a very strong public opinion that this money is being not properly spent, and the post has been created for the favourite of some body.

**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister):**

পর্যাপনং ভূজ্ঞানানাং কেবলং বিষৰ্ব্ৰক্ষণং ।  
উপদেশোহি নূৰ্ণানাং প্রকোপায় নশান্তয়ে ॥

(Voice—Translate it into English.) (নহী নহী হিন্দীয়ে)

**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister):** Sir, I thought I have quoted this sloka, yet, I am going to give replies to the imaginary points raised by my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** No, reply straightway.

**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister):** Sir, first I will take up the Textile Department. My Friend is entirely mistaken to say that there is no control over the textile. Even to day there is control over 20 per cent. of cloth and 50 per cent. of yarn although the control has been relaxed. So the control is there. It is the desire of the Central Government that this control should be continued and that we should keep a careful eye over the sale of decontrolled varieties of cloths as well as on the controlled varieties. We are making experiment and it is in an experimental stage. I hope I am not challenged when I have said that control is still there, and it has not been decided to decontrol cloths fully like salt, sugar, etc.

Another question is regarding reduction of expenditure. Sir, it will be seen from the figures I am going to give that expenditure has been reduced to a great extent in February last 1952 just before the last Budget Session,—in the Head Office there were 50 persons, in the district offices 194 persons and at Bombay 7 persons. In



November in the Head Office 38, in district offices 134 and at Bombay 5.

Now Sir, from 1st March 1953 in the Head Office we have a staff of 36 persons, in the district offices 71 and in Bombay there is none. Sir, in February, 1952 the approximate expenditure was near about Rs.28,700, in November after reducing the staff the expenditure was Rs.21,650 roughly; and from 1st March 1953 the expenditure has come down to Rs.12,300 approximately per month. As the work is being decreased we are gradually reducing the number of staff. Now Sir, my Friend has made another charge and suggested that these discharged hands should be absorbed in other departments. Sir, the policy of the Government, is that and we are doing as far as possible to absorb, in other departments, the retrenched personnel.

Sir, coming to the next point as to what is the necessity of a Trade Adviser in Calcutta. Sir, during the last September Session there was a question about the duties of the Trade Adviser and it was replied most probably on 20th September. However, if my Friend wants to know the duties of the Trade Adviser, I can cite a few now but not the whole lot, if necessary, I may give a list of the duties and functions of the Trade Adviser. But Sir, it pains me to hear the remarks of my Friend that the Trade Adviser is simply to look after the Ministers, to purchase their tickets, as if the Ministers, cannot purchase their tickets themselves or through somebody else. How many Ministers have passed through Calcutta and how many tickets have been purchased for the Ministers and also for others? Sir, there is a limit to everything. But in accusing falsely my Friend knows no limit. I did not expect that such an allegation would be brought in this House by my Friend Shri Bhattacharyya who is supposed to be a responsible Member of this House and who is a practising lawyer with high education, against an officer whoever he might be; after all he is our officer and our own man he should not be blamed absolutely for nothing.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Is it the duty of the Trade Adviser to purchase tickets for the Ministers?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Yes, Mr. Mookerjee.

**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister):** Rightly said Sir, just like other gentlemen. Not as an officer and that also occasionally.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I did not say anything.

**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister):** Now Sir, it is not a fact that the Trade Adviser has not got any duty. The

Trade Adviser in Calcutta is acting as a Liaison officer in arranging procurement and despatch from Calcutta to Assam of all essential commodities for various departments of the State. He is arranging procurement and despatch of consumers goods, C. I. sheets, gunny bags, cement, etc., by contacting various controlling authorities of the Government of India. So far as allotment of wagons and space in the Steamer are concerned he is to contact and make all arrangements with the Railway and Steamer Company authorities to see that controlled commodities, for example, wheat and wheat products, etc., which come *via* Calcutta are booked in time. So Sir, it is clear that he has got a very responsible duty there. Sir, no sensible man should say that we cannot purchase our own tickets. We are quite capable of doing so; we are not babies, we like other travellers shall pay the money and purchase our tickets. We can issue a warrant, but we do not do so. Why should we keep an officer at Calcutta for purchasing tickets?

Now, Sir, I hope my Friend's intention has been fulfilled. He wanted just to give a jerk to my department and he has done it, so much so no harm, as I can depend myself. He wanted to attack an officer who is not present here and who is not liked by him; he has done that too which is not really fair. Unfortunately for him he was not present on previous occasions and he could not join the chorus but now he has done it. I think in condemning this officer he is happy now with his other Friend in thought being on par with others and I trust this question will not be raised again in future on the floor of this House. It has become heckneyed.

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

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.29,86,000 (Rupees twenty-nine lakhs and eighty-six 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 "63.—Extraordinary charges".

The motion was carried.

### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned for lunch till 1-30 P. M.

### After Lunch

### GRANT No.34

(57.—Miscellaneous—I.—Expenditure on account of State Prisoners and Detenus)

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister):** On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, Sir, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.73,300 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 "57—Miscellaneous—I.—Expenditure on account of State Prisoners and Detenus".

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs.73,300 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 "57—Miscellaneous—I.—Expenditure on account of State Prisoners and Detenus".

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.73,300 under Grant No.34, Major head—57.—Miscellaneous—I—Expenditure on account of State Prisoners and Detenus, etc., at page 250 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1., *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.73,300 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, my object in moving this Cut Motion is to raise a discussion about the treatment meted out to the security prisoners and detenus. At page 250 of the Budget we find at A.—Expenditure on account of State prisoners and detenus in the year 1953-54, under General Rs.40,000 and under Sixth Schedule Rs.600, and under the Revised Estimates of 1952-53, Rs.40,000 and Rs.600 and in the actuals of 1951-52 we find Rs.37,114 and Rs.600. These figures are very striking because from the Governor's address we learn that there are to day only 2 detenus and one security prisoner of which one has been released the other day and the other is going to be released very soon. In view of this there will be no security prisoner or detenus in the State of Assam in the near future. On the other hand we find in the year 1951-1952 and 1952-53 there were many more detenus and even then the expenditure in 1951-52 was Rs.37,114 and Rs.600 and in 1952-53 under Revised Estimates Rs.40,000 and Rs.600 and in this year also the same amount of Rs.40,000 and Rs.600 were allotted. Are we to understand that something is up in the sleeve of our Home Minister and that he is thinking of making some more people detenus or security prisoners? Sir, these figures if left as they are will spread fear and alarm in the minds of the people also. Sir, coming to the special jails in which the detenus and security prisoners are locked up we find that in the Nowgong special jail, as far as my information goes there are about 5 officers, one Superintendent, one Doctor, one Compounder and 28 warders. Sir, I do not know what is the necessity of maintaining such a huge establishment to day. What is the necessity of having a special jail for the detenus and security prisoners. As a matter of fact such detenus and security prisoners could have been kept in any of the jails with special arrangement and thereby we could have cut down the expenditure to a great extent. I know that when emergency arises there may be detenus

and security prisoners, but we can keep them in any of the jails by making special arrangements and thus it is not necessary to maintain so many officers, one Superintendent, one Doctor, one Compounder and so many warders when the Governor himself said that last year position of law and order in the State has improved and when the Finance Minister also said that last year position in the State has improved and when we know that the parties that were considered to be subversive parties and were acting against the interests of the State have ceased to behave in that manner and they are considered to be as good as any other party.

Sir, in the list of detenus and security prisoners we find no less a person than a Member of this House, Maulavi Sahadatali Mandal who was kept in a special jail at Nowgong. It would be very interesting to know from him what treatment was meted out to him. He was suffering from various ailments and although there was one doctor he was not properly looked after. He was suffering from dysentery, but treatment was not forthcoming. Sir, we know also that he was taken twice to New Delhi to attend the Supreme Court and he was given only inter class fare. Maulavi Sahadatali Mandal is a Member of this Assembly and so he is entitled to first class fare and allowance. He had to go all the way from Nowgong to New Delhi in an inter class compartment where he could not take any rest. He was given an allowance of Rs.5 only to meet the expenses on the route. It is well known to many of the Members of this House, because most of them have gone out of Assam to attend meetings at various places, how difficult it is to have even two meals and tea with Rs.5 a day. This Member of the House was given only Rs.5 in all to meet his pocket expenses on the route. Sir, my object is that when we make a man detenu or security prisoner we keep him away from other people so that he may not be able to do anything wrong, but otherwise he is allowed to enjoy all the privileges of an ordinary man. This M. L. A. was kept in detention for reason which has not been proved and which the Supreme Court has given a verdict that the detention was not legal. Even then, Sir, this Member of the House was not treated in the way he should have been treated. In other States, Sir, the security prisoners and detenus are given enough money and comfort. But in this particular case it was not done. During these months he was not given family allowance. Sir, my intention in speaking all these things is not to advance the cause of Maulavi Sahadatali Mandal or any particular man, but I am speaking for the cause of the detenus and on a humanitarian consideration. This Member of the House has come out of the jail the other day and he has given out all these information from his own experience. This Member is here and he can explain the treatment meted out

to him in the jail and in other cases. He was kept in the jail without any definite ground and so that sort of treatment to a Member of this House cause an injury to the State. If such treatment is given to Maulavi Sahadat Ali Mandal having the status of a Member of this House then such treatment can easily happen to every other people.

Sir, our information is that other people are also shabbily treated in the special jail and they do not get treatment they deserve. If this is the kind of treatment to be meted out to the security prisoners then it seems, Sir, the whole money is meant only for the salaries and allowances of officers and does not include any money that will go for the comfort and betterment of security prisoners and detenus. Therefore I object to the whole grant.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Motion moved is that the total provision of Rs.73,000 under Grant No.34, Major head 57.—Miscellaneous—1—Expenditure on account of State Prisoners and Detenus, etc., at page 250 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.73,000 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

**Maulavi SAHADAT ALI MANDAL:** অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আপোনালোকে শুনি থাকিব যে, মই নগাঁও Special জেইলত ৬মাহ কাল থকাৰ পিছত অল্প দিনৰ আগতে দিল্লীৰ পৰা মুকলি হৈ আহিছো।

এই ক্ষেত্ৰত মই কবলৈ বাধ্য হৈছো যে নগাঁও Special জেইলত যিজন ডাক্তৰ আছে, তেখেতৰ অবজ্ঞা কাৰণেই হওক বা ঔষধৰ দোষতেই হওক, তেখেতৰ চিকিৎসাত কোনো বেমাৰেই আৰোগ্য নহয়, উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে মই ইয়াকেই কব পাৰো যে নগাঁও জেইলত থকা অবস্থাতেই মই বহুদিন গৃহনীৰোগত ভুগিছিলো আৰু প্ৰায় ১মাহ ১৩ দিন মোৰ তেজো পৰিছিল। মোৰ বেমাৰ নকমাত মই এদিন তেখেতৰ চিকিৎসা নেলাগে বুলি কোৱাত আনকি Jail Superintendent ও আহি মোক চাই মোক পিচত Injection দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰে। তাত ময়েই যে অকলে ভুগিছিলো এনে নহয়, নগাঁও Special Jail ত বেচি ভাগেই তেনেকৈ ভুগি আছিল। ডাক্তৰ বাবু পুলিচৰ নিচিনা কৰি March কৰি আহি দেখা দিয়েহি আৰু Jail Hospital ৰ দৰজাৰ কম্পাউণ্ডাৰক ঔষধ দিবলৈ কৈ March কৰি, গুচি যায়। Detenus বিলাকৰ বেমাৰ নিজ চকু দি নেদেখে। কেতিয়াবা কেতিয়াবা দৰজাৰ পৰাই যায়।

তাৰ পিচত মই অহাৰ সময়ত সেই Special Jail ত মাত্ৰ দুজন Detenus আছিল এজন হৈছে কৰিমগঞ্জৰ আকবৰ আলি চাহেব আৰু আনজন মঙ্গলদৈৰ। মঙ্গলদৈৰজন বোধকৰো দুমাহৰ পিচতেই যাব। তাৰপিচত আশাকৰো কোনো Detenus সেই জেইলত নাথাকিবই। এই দুজন Detenus ৰ কাৰণে গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ ইমানখিনি টকা খৰচ কৰাৰ কোনো যুক্তি নাই।

তাত যিবিলাক পূৰণা Detenus আছিল, তেওলোক যোৱাৰ পিচত জেইলত কিছুমান জিনিষ পত্ৰ কাপোৰ কানি আছিল, সেই জিনিষ বস্ত্ৰ কাপোৰ-কানি বিলাক Jail Staff ৰ মানুহে নষ্ট কৰিব পাৰে বা আয়ত্ৰাণ কৰিব পাৰে। এই বিষয়ত গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে বিশেষ চকু দি সেই বস্ত্ৰ বিলাক লিলাম কৰি দিলেও কিছু টকা নিশ্চয় আহিব পাৰে। মই আৰু বিশেষ কবলৈ ইচ্ছা নকৰো, ইয়াকে কৈ মই কাৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাৱটো সমৰ্থন কৰো।

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister)**: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad that Mr. Sahadat Ali Mandal has come and made a statement on the floor of this House. Sir, he has admitted that he was given full treatment in the jail though he says the treatment was ineffective. He also admits that the Civil Surgeon, the best medical authority available in the place, was called and he was cured by the Civil Surgeon's treatment. At the time of his admission into the Nowgong jail what his weight was I do not exactly remember now. But in connection with certain questions I had recently gone through a file where I found that after his admission into the jail he gained in weight to the extent of about 10 to 12 lbs. This will clearly show that he was well looked after in the Nowgong special jail. Sir, it is for the convenience of the security prisoners and detenus that this jail was constructed so that all the amenities to be given to them by the rules can be provided. And we do provide all the amenities and facilities, which are at par with the facilities given in other States.

As regards family allowance to detenus, the rules provide for Rs.50 per mensem in case of urban areas and Rs.25 per mensem for rural areas for those families which are fully dependent on the detenus' income. In this particular case, Sir, although Mr. Sahadat Ali was kept in detention he will draw his salary as a member of this House, which comes to Rs.150 per mensem. Besides he has other properties in his house. This will clearly indicate that his family was not in need of any allowance. I am glad that Mr. Sahadat Ali himself does not make any grievance on this score and this very fact will clearly indicate that the statement made by the Leader of the Opposition to the effect that Government was not justified in refusing the allowance is not quite correct.

Then, Sir, the rules provide for two classes of security prisoners—Class I and Class II—irrespective of the fact whether the detenus is a millionaire or an M. L. A. Class I prisoners get a balanced diet with butter, milk, fish, etc., and the very fact that Mr. Sahadat Ali gained in weight clearly shows that he got a good and balanced diet in the jail.

Then, Sir, reference was made about his journey in Inter Class. As an M. L. A. he could travel in First Class or any class that he likes. But he had to be escorted and there are specified rules with regard to security prisoners governing their travelling. He had to be taken in Inter Class along with his escorts as provided for in the rules.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI**: In which Class he was placed?

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister)**: In Class I.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI**: What are the rules regarding travelling allowance and other allowances for Class I prisoners?

**Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister)** : They are to be escorted in Inter Class. We cannot make any discrimination between a millionaire and an ordinary man so far as rules are concerned. Any one who is treated as Class I prisoner gets all the facilities provided for that class by rules and no preference can be shown to any particular individual. Then, Sir, during the journey and his stay at Delhi, Mr. Sahadat Ali was given a daily allowance of Rs.5 ; he was also given an allowance for tea when attending the Court. So, all possible care was taken for him. He was sent in company of persons to look after his comforts in Inter-class and I am glad to say that he did not say that the journey was uncomfortable.

It has been stated that continuation of the special jail even with insufficient number of convicts in the jail, indicates that there is something under the sleeves of the Home Minister to fill up the jail. I assure the hon. Members of this House and the public at large that unless some people revert to anti-social or communal activities involving breach of peace the question of having more detenus in the jail cannot come. There need not be any apprehension even in the minds of those who believe in violence so long they remain non-violent in their behaviour. It has been retained for the purpose, which is well known to my friends, of relieving the over-crowding in our jails and it has been decided to remove the B Division prisoners to this jail for the present so that in case of necessity this jail may be available to provide accommodation to security prisoners as well. There may be exigency of circumstances, although at present there may be internal peace and tranquillity. We must be ready to deal with such exigencies due to border and the trouble including communal trouble and disorder. There may be need for such a jail. There may be infiltration through the border into the State to carry on anti-State activities ; it must also be remembered that we have got a 2,000 miles border. So, it is necessary to have a jail for keeping security prisoner in case the exigencies of circumstances compel us to detain persons to prevent them committing anti-State and anti-social activities.

With this assurance that Government at present have no intention to detain persons unless exigency arise, I would request my hon. Friend to withdraw his Motion.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI** : I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

**Mr. SPEAKER** : Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his Motion ?

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

**Mr. SPEAKER** : The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.73,300 (Rupees seventy-three thousand and three hundred) 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 "57.—Miscellaneous—I—Expenditure on account of State Prisoners and Detenus".

The Motion was adopted.

#### GRANT No.35

#### (57—Miscellaneous—II—Donations for Charitable Purposes)

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister)** : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.20,37,100 (Rupees twenty lakhs, thirty-seven thousand and one hundred) 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 "57—Miscellaneous—II—Donations for Charitable Purposes".

**Mr. SPEAKER** : The Motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs.20,37,100 (Rupees twenty lakhs, thirty-seven thousand and one hundred) 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 "57—Miscellaneous—II—Donations for Charitable Purposes".

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA** : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a word or two to say with regard to this grant,

Firstly, at page 252 of the budget estimates we find that there is a contribution to St. Graham's Colonial Homes at Kalimpong of Rs.2,500. I should suggest that this grant of Rs.2,500 be discontinued because this grant does not serve the purpose of our poor countrymen. Our poor people of Assam do not send their children to this Home at Kalimpong. Those who send their children there are sufficiently well-to-do people or have connections who can bear the expenses. Moreover, the very word 'Colonial' stinks. It is said that we are independent and yet we are subscribing to this 'Colonial Homes'. This stinking smell ought to have touched the noses not only of others but of the Government as well.

**Mr. SPEAKER** : What about the unfortunate children there ?

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA** : Our people do not send their children there.

**Mr. SPEAKER** : What about those who are orphans from Assam and staying there ?

**Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA** : Even European and Eurasian orphans can be sent either to Jorhat or Gauhati or Shillong. There is no reason of giving money to a 'Colonial Homes'



at Kalimpong. Those people who are accustomed to cold climate may be sent to Shillong.

Next, I want clarification on some other point. At page 257 of the Budget Estimates 'Donation for the National Defence Academy at Kharak-Vasla, an amount of Rs.1,50,000 has been provided. We want to know whether there are some students in that Academy from this State and if there are, on what is the number? Whether we are sending this contribution for the citizens of this State?

I have got another suggestion. I refer to page 258, item, "Refugee from East Bengal", but in this item no money has been provided. We find that sometimes there come refugees who need some immediate contribution and if some amount is allotted for this purpose and if it is kept at the disposal of the Deputy Commissioners, their demands can be met. I personally know of cases which occurred at Gauhati and when I approached the Deputy Commissioner, he said that he was helpless as he had no provision. If there is some provision in this item then it will be of great benefit to the poor refugees.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to my friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya. Mr. Bhattacharyya has suggested that we should discontinue the grant that we are making to the St. Graham's Colonial Homes at Kalimpong. As a matter of fact, there are 30 children from the State of Assam in the Kalimpong Homes. Those unfortunate 30 boys and girls from Assam have gone for shelter there. Most of them are unfortunate orphans. I will look into the suggestion of Mr. Bhattacharyya whether these children can be kept in Shillong and other places of Assam instead of at Kalimpong. But there is a provision in the Constitution also that will also have to be looked into, that is, we cannot substantially reduce the grant which we were giving to such institutions before the Constitution came into operation. The question as to whether such people can be accommodated in some institution in Assam will be examined at proper time. Another suggestion made is that there should be some provision of money so that the unfortunate refugees who are in need of immediate help can be helped. He suggested that some funds should be placed at the hands of the Deputy Commissioners so that it might be immediately available to the refugees in case of urgent needs. For the information of the House, I may say that we had a fund which was administered by the Governor. We had got a discretionary fund amounting to about one lakh of rupees at the disposal of the Governor. This fund was generally taken advantage of in case of such needs. However, I shall look into the matter if some provision could be made out of the Relief and Rehabilitation grants for the purpose.

Sir, as regards the question raised by my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya as to whether we have got any reserve seat at the Military Academy, I may inform the House that at the request of the Government of India we agreed to make a contribution of Rs.5 lakhs for the establishment of such an Academy. We have already contributed Rs.3½ lakhs and Rs.1½ lakhs remains to be contributed.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** Have we got any reserve seat?

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** No, Sir.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Have any other States got any reserve seats there?

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** No, Sir, as far as I believe.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** Is there any student from Assam?

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** We have no information if there is any student from our State.

**Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEV of Sidli:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister said that if any grant was sanctioned before the Constitution came into force, it cannot be reduced.....

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Only 10 per cent. can be reduced. You may look at Article 337 of the Constitution.

**Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEV of Sidli:** I want another point to discuss.....

**Mr. SPEAKER:** No, not now please. It has already been discussed.

The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.20,37,100 (Rupees twenty lakhs, thirty-seven thousand and one hundred) be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head "57.—Miscellaneous—II—Donations for Charitable Purposes's".  
The Motion was carried.

#### GRANT No.36

#### (57.—Miscellaneous—III—Contributions)

**Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam,

I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.2,29,900 (Rupees two lakhs, twenty-nine thousand and nine hundred) 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 "57.—Miscellaneous—III—Contributions".

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs.2,29,900 (Rupees two lakhs, twenty-nine thousand and nine hundred) 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 "57.—Miscellaneous—III—Contributions".

There is one Cut Motion in the name of Shri Ranendra Mohan Das. He is absent.

*(After a pause)*

The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.2,29,900 (Rupees two lakhs, twenty-nine thousand and nine hundred) 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 "57.—Miscellaneous—III—Contributions".

The Motion was carried.

#### GRANT No.37

#### (57.—Miscellaneous—IV—Expenditure on issue of Free Ration and Rice Concession, etc.)

**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.80,58,100 (Rupees eighty lakhs, fifty-eight thousand and one hundred) 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 "57.—Miscellaneous—IV—Expenditure on issue of Free Ration and Rice Concession, etc."

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs.80,58,100 (Rupees eighty lakhs, fifty-eight thousand and one hundred) 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 "57.—Miscellaneous—IV—Expenditure on issue of Free Ration and Rice Concession, etc."

There is no Cut Motion.

The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.80,58,100 (Rupees eighty lakhs, fifty-eight thousand and one hundred) 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 "57.—Miscellaneous—IV—Expenditure on issue of Free Ration and Rice Concession, etc."

The Motion was carried.

### GRANT No.38

#### (57.—Miscellaneous—V—Pooled Transport and Contribution, etc )

**Shri SIDDHI NATH SARMA (Minister)** : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.71,700 (Rupees seventy-one thousand and seven hundred) 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 "57.—Miscellaneous—V—Pooled Transport Contribution, etc."

**Mr. SPEAKER** : The Motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs.71,700 (Rupees seventy-one thousand and seven hundred) 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 "57.—Miscellaneous—V—Pooled Transport Contributions, etc".

There is no Cut Motion.

The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.71,700 (Rupees seventy-one thousand and seven hundred) 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 "57.—Miscellaneous—V—Pooled Transport Contribution, etc."

The Motion was carried.

### GRANT No.39

#### (57.—Miscellaneous—VI—Expenditure on Displaced Persons)

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister)** : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.8,02,300 (Rupees eight lakhs, two thousand and three hundred) 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 "57.—Miscellaneous—VI—Expenditure on Displaced Persons".

**Mr. SPEAKER** : The Motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs.8,02,300 (Rupees eight lakhs, two thousand and three hundred) 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 "57.—Miscellaneous—VI—Expenditure on Displaced Persons".

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to make certain observations on this grant. I shall refer to a certain portion of the Budget Memorandum for the year 1953-54, which was printed in the year 1953. It states, "The Revised and the Budget are based on actual requirements for the purpose." So let us see whether this amount is sufficient to serve the actual requirements for the purpose. The problem of displaced persons, in our State is very wide and also very acute. By displaced persons, we mean two sets of displaced persons, one, those who have come as refugees, mainly from East Pakistan, and the other those indigenous people who have become displaced due to earthquake, flood, erosion, etc. Taking both these together the number of displaced persons in our State is big enough and the problems that they are facing are also too many and quite acute. The Government, if it wants to serve their purposes should have made sufficient provision of money. But, Sir, I am afraid, this paltry sum of Rs.8 lakhs or so will not be sufficient.

The earthquake took place about two years ago and yet many people in the North Lakhimpur and Majuli areas have remained without being rehabilitated. Only recently, I am informed a deputation waited upon the Chief Minister and submitted a memorandum before him. In that memorandum, they stated, as for example, in Majuli, in the Ahotguri Mauza, there are about 50 Kaivarta families who became displaced as early as 1950, and up till to day they are not rehabilitated. In Narayanpur Mauza also some people remain to be rehabilitated. In Dhalpur mauza also many people are not yet rehabilitated. Again some people in Baraguri Mauza approached Government for rehabilitation but they are not yet rehabilitated. There are some Miris and other people whose lands were eroded and who went to the other side of the Brahmaputra. But up till now they have not been given land nor any other relief facilities.....

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Mr. Bora, is it a fact ?

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** No, Sir.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** I do not know if there is any provision for these indigenous displaced persons.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** There is. They are cattle loans, agricultural loans, etc.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** Then Sir, for the present leave the problem of indigenous persons as it falls under some other head. Now I shall confine myself to the problem

of refugees coming from East Pakistan. Although the Government figures or rather the Government statements claim to show that the problem has been solved to a very great extent, anybody having a naked eye and moving about in the urban and semi-urban areas and even in the rural areas can see that not thousands but lakhs of displaced persons are there still to be rehabilitated. While there are lakhs who are still without being rehabilitated, there are again others who have been given some paltry rehabilitation loans but who also in fact have not been really much benefitted by those loans. Because, at the time of granting loans, Government does not seem to have taken sufficient care to examine as to whether the recipient is in a position to utilise that loan and whether after receiving that loan that recipient utilised that loan for the purpose it was granted. Moreover, for the last one year, we have made several observations here on the floor of this House that there has been a lot of corruption, a lot of under-hand means in the matter of granting loans. Many persons, who are not actually refugees or who are already rehabilitated or who have been here in this country for 10 or 12 years, before actually this refugee problem cropped up, have received rehabilitation loans. And why? Because they have got good connections. They have got relations with intermediaries who run between the rehabilitation office and the applicants on commission basis. For this reason, many underserving persons received loans, but there are hundreds and thousands of deserving refugees who have not been getting rehabilitation loans. It is a common knowledge to the common people (I do not know regarding the Ministers) that in the matter of getting loans, generally speaking a recipient is to pay a certain percentage to certain agencies. If they proceed only through those agencies, they can get loan. Otherwise it is very difficult. I know scores of such instances, particularly of the Gauhati Office, and if the Minister-in-Charge of Rehabilitation agrees to take us into confidence, I can help him to find out such cases. I can give that sporting offer.

Secondly, we heard on the floor of this House, as early as the last Budget Session, that some refugee market has been opened for the refugees at Gauhati and one township also for their benefit. These things had been recorded in the proceedings of the Assembly. We were also told that the Central Minister of Rehabilitation would be coming to open the market. We made necessary preparations to receive him there. Unfortunately that opening did not take place, and so the market houses are there standing without stalls, without market, though it was said even one year before that there is a market. As regards the township, that is still in paper nobody has seen a

Refugee township near about Gauhati. Sir, in this way the refugee problem has remained unsolved as ever.

Though some money has been spent, the refugees are still suffering as they had suffered before. The Government should be more keen on this point. Sir, the Government should also be keen enough to see that corruption, bribery, favouritism and nepotism which are rampant particularly in this department are rooted out. If the Government wants our co-operation in these matters—we are there to co-operate with the Government. Sir, rehabilitation of the refugees should be the common duty of us all. This problem has arisen as a result of political Partition of the country. It is the bounden duty of us all to see that these unfortunate brothers and sisters of ours are not to go about like beggars, they should not go unattended, they should be treated sympathetically. Sir, it is the sacred duty of us all—whether in this House or outside to see that the refugees are properly rehabilitated. If the Government fails, if we fail to do it, then surely History will not excuse us. I can only finish my observation with that famous verse of Kavi Guru Rabindranath Tagore with a slight alteration—

“হে মোর দুর্ভাগা মন্ত্রী, যাদের করেছ অপমান  
অপমানে হতে হবে তাহাদের সবার সমান  
মানুষের অধিকারে বঞ্চিত করেছ যারে  
সম্মুখে দাঁড়িয়ে রেখে তবু কোলে দাও নাই স্থান  
অপমানে হতে হবে তাহাদের সবার সমান ॥”

### Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE :

আমরা সদায় আছি তাদের সমান  
কভু মোরা করি নাই কারো অপমান  
আমাদের নাহি মান নাহি অপমান  
নাহিমান নাহি অপমান  
(Loud Laughter)  
(Voices—শুনিয়ে শুনিয়ে)

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak a few words about the rehabilitation of the displaced persons in the State. The problem has still remained an acute one. Over and above the refugees from East Bengal, we have also another problem which Assam did not face before. They are also considered displaced persons, I mean the Muslims who left the State during the period of tension and have come back after the Nehru-Liaquat Ali Pact. I believe they also come under this head and it is our duty to see that the Nehru-Liaquat Ali Pact is implemented in its fuller implication. Sir, so far my information goes only three persons have been fully restored of their property up till now. I have also, from authoritative sources, information that yet several hundreds of applications are lying and no action

has been taken for returning the property to them which has created tension in the State, and also in certain places a tension is developing between the incoming Muslims displaced persons and the people who took over their lands for a temporary period to bring them under the plough and now as they have come back they want to be restored in their original possessions. Sir, tension is going on unless Government takes serious view of the whole matter and try to settle this amicably. I have my apprehension about the tranquillity in the State. Sir, there is also another allegation from the displaced persons—there was a circular issued asking not to cancel annual patta belonging to them. But in fact those were cancelled. Sir, I plead that those lands should be given back to those people. Sir, my information is: in several cases the local officers have flouted the directions of the higher authorities and still the annual patta standing in their names have been cancelled. Then Sir, there is problem of bringing about the harmony between the refugees and the indigenous people. This House knows about the incident at Rupaghat and also of the recent report from Mujuraleka. There was another incident in Dhubri: then there is the third incident at Dungargoan near the Bhutan hills. Sir, in all these places we have seen the tension between the two sides is increasing. It is time we question ourselves whether we are not also responsible for these incidents. We have been speaking times without number that if we want to rehabilitate the refugees, it is necessary to have mixed colonies, not to allow them to settle separately, but to allow them to mix up with the indigenous people, so that after certain time we can say that we belong to the same State, we are one people, and that tension may go. But unfortunately by the action and activities of the Government the separatist feeling has been kept alive, and it may in future give rise to more tension in the State.

**Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN:** Aided by the Associations!

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** It may be so Sir, and by the other organisations also, but I am not in favour of this. Sir, I have also stated on the floor of the House that if we really cannot get rid of these refugees, if we want to keep them, it is our duty to see that these people are given occupation in the Agriculture and Industries, etc., so that there may not be any floating population and there must be no room left for these tensions. Sir, yesterday I spoke about allotments of lands in Shillong, and just now my Friend Mr. Bhattacharyya has spoken about the loans. Both in the matter of loans and also in the matter of giving lands to the refugees, it appears that justice has not been done to the true refugees, and some fictitious refugees have come forward and have taken thereby the money that is actually meant for the refugees. But it should be remembered also, that during the last



four or five years we have spent huge sums of money on the refugees, and even today the problem is not solved; so it is time to scrutinise all these things properly to find out where the leakage is. Sir, regarding loans, one very important thing to remember is that if a refugee wants Rs. 3,000 he is given only Rs. 300 and with this Rs. 300 he cannot start any industrial enterprise neither he can carry on any business. In that case what happens—neither we help the refugee nor the refugee can return the money. My contention is that in such cases it was necessary for the Government to find out what will be the actual necessity in these things, whether business was actually started and then money should have been adequately given. Instead, if for the purpose for which we require, say Rs. 2,000, we get only Rs. 200, it will serve no purpose. I am sure much money has been wasted in this manner.

Regarding land in Shillong, when Shri Ajit Prasad Jain visited Shillong it was stated that about 300 plots of land would be given to the refugees, but after the lapse of two or three years in the meantime we learn that only 25 plots have been allotted to them. Again, who are these allottees? My information is that one of them is Dr. B. K. Roy who has been here even before the Partition and who has established business here. The others are Shri Kshitish Paul, who was also here before Partition and who has established business here, then Atul Purkaystha, Hementa Chandra Chowdhury, Kamini De and A. K. Roy. All these people have established themselves here and had their business or profession even before Partition. The thing which should have gone to the refugees has been taken away by other people in the name of the refugees. Sir, I have got sympathy for the real refugees but I have no sympathy for fake refugees. All these things should be gone into.

Then there is another very important thing about the Relief and Rehabilitation officer and his office. We saw in the 'Shillong Times' and in the 'Democratic Review' sometime back what treatment was meted out by this Refugee officer to the refugees. In this connection it was very good that Mr. S. K. Mallick was the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner. He went incognito to the office and as he was talking with the people, unfortunately the Refugee Officer there did not know Mr. Mallick and was behaving very rudely with Mr. Mallick whereupon he pulled him up and said "if this is how you are behaving with the refugees, then it is really very bad and I condemn such behaviour." Sir, this came out in the 'Democratic Review' and it has not been contradicted. From this also we find that where sympathy is required our Refugee Officers are behaving badly with the refugees. All these allegations should be enquired into. We should try our best to find out

ways and means to bring about harmony between the people whom we are forced to keep here and the people who are already here because unless we can bring about this harmony between all sections of the people, tension will arise and incidents will happen and the fair name of Assam will also be spoiled.

**Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI :** May I speak a few words, Sir ?

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Yes, when there is time.

**Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI :** মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মোৰ কবলৈ অলপো ইচ্ছা নাছিল। শ্ৰীযুত গোস্বামী আৰু শ্ৰীযুত গৌৰীশঙ্কৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্য ডাঙৰীয়াই বাবে বাবে এটা কথাকে কোৱা দেখি টোপনিহে ধৰিছিল। কিন্তু যেতিয়া আবাস্তৰ কথাবোৰ আবস্ত কৰা গুলিলো, তেতিয়াহে দুঘাৰমান কবলৈ বাধ্য হলো। শ্ৰীযুত গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াই ভগনীয়াৰ কথা কওঁতে কিছুমান একেবাৰে অসত্য কথা ইয়াত উত্থাপন কৰিছে। তেখেতে যদি আমাৰ মাননীয় বিত্ত মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই ডাঙি ধৰা বাজেটখন ভালকৈ চালেহেঁতেন, তেনেহলে এইবিলাক কথা কেতিয়াও নকলেহেঁতেন। আমাৰ চৰকাৰে ভগনীয়াৰ কাৰণে কি কৰিছে আৰু বাজেটত কিমান টকা ধৰিছে তালৈ ব্লক্‌প নকৰি তেখেতে মাত্ৰ শ্ৰীযুত ভট্টাচাৰ্য ডাঙৰীয়াই যি কৈছিল তাৰ লগতে স্মৰণ মিলাই গৈছে। শ্ৰীযুত ভট্টাচাৰ্য ডাঙৰীয়াই পুনৰ নিৰ্ব্বাচিত হোৱাৰ পৰা সুযোগ বিছাৰি আছিল কেতিয়া এইবিলাক কথা এই সদনত কবলৈ পাৰ। তেখেতে যে নিৰ্ব্বাচিত হল তালৈ চালে দেখিব যে.....

**Mr. SPEAKER :** That is not necessary. You should better speak on the Motion.

**Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI :** Sir, I find no ground to speak on the refugees here.

তেখেতসকলে মাটি দিয়া নাই, টকা দিয়া নাই বুলি যিখিনি আপত্তি কৰিছে সেইবিলাক একেবাৰে ভিত্তিহীন আৰু অমূলক। অন্ততঃ শ্ৰীযুত গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াই জানে যে Land Settlement Advisory Board এ প্ৰায় ১২ হেজাৰ গিৰি মাটিহীন মানুহৰ হিচাব দিয়া হৈছিল। সেই ১২ হেজাৰ গিৰি মানুহ অকল কামৰূপ জিলাতেই আছে তেওঁলোককো মাটি দিব পৰা নাই আৰু তেওঁবিলাকক দিবৰ কাৰণে মাটি বিচাৰিব লগা হৈছে। এই বিলাক কথা শ্ৰীযুত গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াই ভালকৈ জানে। এই বিলাক আদিম অধিবাসী আৰু জনজাতি মানুহক দিবলৈকে আমাৰ মাটিৰ অভাৱ। তথাপি চৰকাৰে কাউলী নামে ঠাইত ৫ হেজাৰ আৰু দভৰগাওঁ নামে ঠাইত ৫ হেজাৰ, মুঠ ১০ হেজাৰ পৰিয়ালক ২০ বিঘা কৰি মাটি দি ভগনীয়াৰ সকলক পুনৰ বসতি কৰিছে। ইমান বিলাক কৰাৰ পিচতো যদি একো নকৰাটো হয়, তেন্তে আমাৰ কবলৈ আৰু একো নাই। তেখেতে সকলো কথা ভালকৈ ভাবি নেচায়। অকল মিনিষ্টাৰে একো কৰা নাই, চৰকাৰে একো কৰা নাই আদি কথা কৈ কেৱল সত্যৰ অপলাপহে কৰিছে। শ্ৰীযুত গৌৰীশঙ্কৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্য ডাঙৰীয়াই এইবিলাক কথা বহুদিনৰে পৰা ভাবি আছিল ইয়াত কৰাৰ কাৰণে, আৰু আজি সুবিধা পাই কৈছে। তেখেত যে এইবাৰ নিৰ্ব্বাচিত হৈ আহিছে এই বোৰ কথা কৈ তেওঁলোকক উত্তেজনা কৰাই আৰু চৰকাৰৰ প্ৰতি অনাস্থা আৰু অৱিশ্বাস জগাই তোলাৰ বাহিৰে একো উপকাৰ নহয়। তাৰ দ্বাৰা বেচৰা refugee সকলক অপকাৰহে কৰা হৈছে উপকাৰ হোৱা নাই।

**Mr. SPEAKER :** No, Mr. Basumatari do not refer to elections here. You can speak whether the refugees are given land or not.

**Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI :** Yes Sir, I am coming to that. But I find in this matter my Friend is referring again and again about the refugees that they are not given land. There is no need to speak in negative about these things. We are giving land to the refugees sufficiently that is why I have taken my stand to speak for his information, Sir.

এতিয়া চৰকাৰে ভগনীয়াৰক মাটি দিয়া স্বৰ্বেও নাইদিয়া বুলি কৈ আৰু টকা দিয়া স্বৰ্বেও নাই দিয়া বুলি কৈ আমাৰ চৰকাৰৰ অপবাদ কৰিবলৈ বিচাৰিছে। লগে লগে তেখেত বিচাৰিছে কেনেকৈ ভগনীয়াৰ বিলাকক চৰকাৰৰ বিৰুদ্ধে জগাই তুলিব পাৰে। শ্ৰীযুত গৌৰীশঙ্কৰ ডাঙৰীয়াই যিবিলাক কথা কলে, শ্ৰীযুত গোপালী ডাঙৰীয়াই ও তাকেই কলে। তেখেত এজন উঠি অহা নেতা, হয়তো এদিন এই চৰকাৰৰ দায়ীত্ব লব লাগিব পাৰে। তেতিয়া যদি এই ভগনীয়াৰ বিলাকৰ কাৰণে যি কৰা হৈছে তাক নাষ্ট কৰা বুলি কোৱা হয়, তেনেহলে তেখেতে কেনে পাব? নিশ্চয় ভাল নেপাব। আৰু তেখেতে কৈছে যে কিছুমান অৱাস্তৰ মানুহেও ভগনীয়াৰৰ নামত সন্নিধি ভোগ কৰিছে। অৱশ্যে তেনে মানুহ যে নাই এনে নহয়, কিন্তু সেইবোৰ কথা যদি আমাৰ মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ৰ দৃষ্টিগোচৰলৈ আনিলেহেতেন তেন্তে বেচি ভাল হলেহেতেন। তাকে নকৰি আজি ইয়াত কৈছে যে ভগনীয়াৰ বিলাকক মাটি দিয়া নাই, টকা দিয়া নাই ইত্যাদি অভিযোগ। মাননীয় বিত্ত মন্ত্ৰীৰ বাজেট বক্তৃতাত স্পষ্ট ভাবে লিখা আছে ভগনীয়াৰ বিলাকক কিমান মাটি দিয়া হৈছে আৰু কিমান টকা দিয়া হৈছে। সিমানতো যদি নাই দিয়া বুলি কয়, তেনেহলে ভগনীয়াৰবোৰে কি ভাবিব? এইবিলাকৰ পৰা ভগনীয়াৰবিলাকৰ আমাৰ ওপৰত এটা অনাস্তৰ ভাৱহে হব। যদি অসমখন নিজৰ দেশ বুলি ভাবে তেন্তে যাতে অৱাস্তৰ ভগনীয়াৰবিলাকে টকা বা মাটি নেপায় তাৰ বাবে চেষ্টা কৰা উচিত। যদি তেওঁলোক গাঁৱে গাঁৱে যায় তেতিয়া দেখিব ভগনীয়াৰ বিলাকক মাটি দিছেনে নাই। বঙিয়াটলৈ যদি যায় দেখিবলৈ পাব ট্ৰাইবেল বেল্টৰ ভিতৰত ট্ৰাইবেল সকলে তেওঁলোকৰ দুৰ্যোগ দেখি কেনেকৈ ভগনীয়াৰবোৰক মাটি দিছে। গতিকে তেখেত সকলে অকতন্ততা আৰু আপত্তিজনক কথা কোৱা প্ৰয়োজন নাই। ভবিষ্যতে যাতে এনে বোৰ কথা কৈ ভগনীয়াৰবোৰৰ অনিষ্ট সাধন নকৰে।

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, while I was making my Budget Speech, my Friend Mr. Bhattacharyya was not present here. Though he was not present here at the time, but as he has been re-elected as Member of this House, I expected that he would naturally go through my Budget Speech. If he had really gone through my Budget Speech he must have seen there what attempt has been made by this Government for rehabilitation of the refugees and this attempt of the Government is not insignificant. The measures that we have taken for the refugees are really not half-hearted measures. I am sorry, Sir, that my Friend Mr. Bhattacharyya, who has taken up the cause of the refugees so enthusiastically, should have used the words 'half-hearted' measures.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** I used the word 'heartless', Sir.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) :** That is rather worse. That kind of statement of my Friend Mr. Bhattacharyya does no

help the cause of the refugees any way. It does not improve their case. It may serve for a propaganda purpose. My Friend castigates the Government for not doing anything and that the measures taken by us are heartless. So far as refugees are concerned I must frankly state that such reckless statement is least likely to help them; such a statement will only tend to embitter the feelings of other sections of the people against the refugees. Therefore, Sir, my Friend should realise that while he is anxious to serve the cause of the refugees he is indirectly doing a great mischief to them. When I get opportunity, I always take advantage of it and request the Members in the Opposition that they should be very careful in their observations and speeches. We must not rouse the sentiment and feelings of the people of the country unnecessarily against the refugees. If that is done, then how can we help the cause of the refugees peacefully? My Friend should understand these things; that their words may be construed in a way which may hamper the cause of rehabilitation. My Friend probably has not seen various rehabilitation centres in Assam. I ask him to go to Majer-algachar area of land has been settled with the refugees and how they have been rehabilitated there. Then let him go to Bijni centre and Chapar centre and see how things are done there. After going to those centres if my Friend finds that such and such things are not done there let him then give suggestions to improve matters further and I assure him, that such suggestions will be given due consideration by Government.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** I have seen enough at Gauhati.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** All right then, and let me come to that point. This Government is going to allot a plot of land to the refugees almost in the heart of the Gauhati town. Shillong is the capital of Assam and this Government is going to provide lands here to more than 300 refugee families. This is going to be done although majority of the Government servants have no land in this capital of Assam. Even a very very large number of permanent residents of Assam have not got land in Shillong town. But, Sir, refugees are going to get land here. In the Gauhati town they are going to get land and market has been made in Gauhati town for refugees, which is the best market in Assam. Such a market is not seen anywhere in Assam. My Friend has no land probably in the Gauhati town. My Friend, the leader of the Opposition, has got no land in Shillong town but refugees are going to have land there. So, Sir, this statements as apparent to this House are rather travesty of facts.

My Friend said that there is lot of corruption in the Relief and Rehabilitation Department. This is true, Sir. I do not say that there is no corruption. I do not say that the Government of Assam has been able to make the Department free from corruption. As a matter of fact no department is absolutely free from corruption. There is blacksheep in almost every fold and, Sir, there may be corruption in the Relief and Rehabilitation Department as well.

Mr. Bhattacharyya said that they are not taken into confidence. Probably he does not know all the facts. I do not know how we are not taking them into confidence. For the information of the House I should like to state a story which will give a true picture of our attitude. Before the last bye-election in which Mr. Bhattacharyya was declared elected, he was a Member of this House and he put a question in this House whether a particular officer in a particular area had purchased a car and has made a house, the worth of which was about Rs.50,000 or so, after his employment there for about one and a half year. He gave notice of that question and I could not supply him the information at that time because it was naturally difficult to obtain the information within a short time. But I persued the matter at the hint given by our Friend and I directed the Deputy Commissioner to personally investigate the matter whether the house, the particular officer had made is worth of Rs.50,000 or thereabout. The Deputy Commissioner reported in due course that the worth of that house was about Rs.40,000 and besides that the officer has purchased a car also. On receipt of that report I immediately abolished the office. This story will show clearly to the House that we are always ready to take our Friends into our confidence. My Friend Mr. Goswami also said that there are a lot of undesirable persons getting land in the Bhagyakul area. I must admit and admit frankly that there may be some truth in it. The allotment was made by a Committee of which I was the President and the Secretary, Relief and Rehabilitation and the Deputy Commissioner, Shillong were other two members and the Committee made allotments in the Bhagyakul area. We made the allotments on the strength of papers, certificates and documents placed before us. After some time of this allotment, a lady refugee came to my place with a petition, but purposely or not, I cannot vouchsafe, that very lady refugee left another paper in my table. After she left my room, I happened to see that paper and go through its contents and found from it that some undesirable persons got lands by false certificates and documents. Immediately after that I instituted an enquiry. After the enquiry it was found that three persons whose names have been appearing in the voters' list in Shillong since several years, have been allotted lands. Not only I am going to cancel their lands but I am going to further pursue the matter in order to find out how these people could get

certificates and other recommendations. We do not want that money of the refugees should be swallowed by undesirable persons. It is true that some times undesirable persons in the guise of refugees take away money on false pretexts. I would ask the co-operation of all in this respect in order to find out such undesirable persons. Only the other day, about 6 or 7 days ago, I passed order of transfer against 3 Relief and Rehabilitation officers against whom I happened to hear something. After all, we are not angels and we are human beings with frailties and shortcomings. Of course, if we get co-operation from all, certainly we may be able to do away with all these undesirable things. Instead of accusing our Government my Friend should co-operate with us. He assured me that he will give me help to find out such things. I shall be glad to welcome this. I will welcome any suggestion for stopping Government money from going to the hands of the undesirable persons.

My Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya said by reading a celebrated poems of Thakur that we think ourselves as superiors to the refugees and we look down on them as contemptible persons who do not deserve any consideration. I am very sorry for this. In fact we really consider them as our own persons and as our equals. There is no question of superior and inferior beings. For the information of the House, I should like to say, Sir, that we the Members of the Government never behave as superior to the refugees. On the contrary, it is the refugees under instruction of some designing persons or parties some time treat us with contempt. For the information of the House, I can state a recent case. The other day, while I and the Central Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation, Shri Ajit Prasad Jain, were travelling from village to village and centre to centre of the refugees and after visiting the districts of Cachar and Goalpara, while we came to Gauhati, a large number of educated youngmen came in front of the Circuit House with black flags shouted slogans of this sort—

Ajit Prasad Jain, go back.

‘আমাদের দাবী মানতে হবে  
নইলে গদী ছাড়তে হবে।’

Is it not putting us to humiliation? Should they behave in this manner with the Central Minister of Rehabilitation? We are trying to help the refugees but we find that they shout slogans.— ‘আমাদের দাবী মানতে হবে—নইলে গদী ছাড়তে হবে—’ and ‘Ajit Prasad Jain go back,’ & etc. We are sought to be put at the mercy of these people who are instigated by political parties. This sort of behaviour is at the root of the present strained position of Assam. Till about a year ago relationship among different sections of Assam was quite harmonious. In fact, Assamese people are helping the people deal in the matter of rehabilitation of these refugees. If you visit my district of Nowgong, you will see how the refugees are helped by

our Assamese people in rehabilitation. My Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya has said that relationship among different sections of our State has been strained. I agree with him and I stated in my Budget speech that relationship has become strained. In this some of the refugees are not less responsible as they have allowed themselves to be exploited by political parties. Even murders are now taking place. Why a murder took place in Mangaldai? Why another murder took place at Majer-algachar? There are wirepullers behind the scene to exploit the refugees and others, for their own ends and this leads to such sad incidents. That is why, I submit that my Friend should be helpful to us in bringing to book all these undesirable persons and thus create a peaceful atmosphere in our State. We should try to bring back the harmonious relation that existed in our State among different sections of the people. We are giving schools to refugees in different places but under the instruction of some designed persons or party they do not send their children to these schools. This is not the way of behaviour of distressed people? This sort of thing has hampered the course of progress of relief and rehabilitation in our State.

Now, Sir, my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, has stated that the money that is sought by this grant is not adequate for the purpose. As a matter of fact, sufficient money for loans and advances will be coming to us from the Government of India and it will depend on what amount of expenditure we can make on rehabilitation in Assam.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** Does this money come from the Government of India ?

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) :** Most of the amount come from the Government of India.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** That means an amount of this will be spent by the Government of Assam from its own account.

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) :** It is actually coming from the Government of India. Therefore my Friend will not find any difficulty. If the money is really required it will be given by the Government of India. But we should also understand that the hands of the Government of India are also tight. They are to meet the demands that come from various States. Sir, in the matter of successful implementation of the rehabilitation schemes it is not the money that is standing in the way. It is co-operation which Government wants most. We want co-operation, peace and harmony between the different sections of the people. These will help the cause of the unfortunate refugees.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** May I know if any money is allotted for the purposes of relief and rehabilitation to the refugees out of the State revenue ?

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** No, we do not allot any money. All the expenditure is borne by the Government of India. They provide all the money. In the matter of acquisition of land, etc., we acquire the land, but the money is paid by the Government of India for acquisition of land, etc. through loans. As a matter of fact we have no cause of complaint. The Government of India is providing us with the necessary money.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** What about the Muslim displaced persons ?

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister):** Sir, my Friend Shri Goswami has said that a large number of displaced Muslims have not got their lands restored. This is far from truth, Sir. As a matter of fact a very large number of Muslims who were displaced have come back to their homes and they have got their property restored. A large number—more than 90 per cent. of these persons who have come back have got their property restored. Some of these Muslims might have got some land in tribal belts. We know, the land which is held in tribal belt under annual lease cannot be treated as property restorable. After the lease of one year is over, the lease gets automatically cancelled. Therefore it cannot be restored. Even there, we have taken steps to see that at least people have economic holdings. Probably the hon. Members of this House are aware of the condition prevailing in the tribal belts just before the Communal disturbances. The condition was very acute at that time. The feeling of the tribal people against the Muslims and *vice versa* was not very cordial. To try to restore all these lands in such areas will mean taking a great amount of risk. I am sorry in such matter I cannot be at whole hog with my Friend, Mr. Goswami. Therefore whatever is possible, is being done for these Muslim displaced persons. The loan given to them for rehabilitation amounts to Rs.7 lakhs. This Government is very particular about the rehabilitation of the displaced refugees and so also they are very particular about the rehabilitation of the displaced Muslims. We are trying to make the displaced Muslims feel that Assam is their home. They will be given all possible help and they will get equal treatment and justice.

With this observations, Sir, I feel, I have been able to do justice to my Motion and I hope it will be accepted by the House.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.8,02,300 (eight lakhs, two thousand and three hundred) 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 "57.—Miscellaneous—VI.—Expenditure on Displaced Persons".

The Motion was carried.



## GRANT No. 40

(57.—Miscellaneous—VII.—Advance Technical Training and Scholarships, etc.)

**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.48,600 (Rupees forty-eight thousand and six hundred) 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—“57.—Miscellaneous—VII.—Advance Technical Training and Scholarships”.

**Mr. SPEAKER** : The Motion moved is: that a sum not exceeding Rs.48,600 (Rupees forty-eight thousand and six hundred) 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—“57.—Miscellaneous—VII.—Advance Technical Training and Scholarships”.

There is no Cut Motion.

The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.48,600 (Rupees forty-eight thousand and six hundred) 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—“57.—Miscellaneous—VII.—Advance Technical Training and Scholarships”.

The Motion was carried.

## GRANT No.26

(47.—Miscellaneous Departments)

**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.4,76,700 (Rupees four lakhs seventy-six thousand and seven hundred) 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—“47.—Miscellaneous Departments.”

**Mr. SPEAKER** : The Motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs.4,76,700 (Rupees four lakhs, seventy-six thousand and seven hundred) 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—“47.—Miscellaneous Departments”.

**Mr. SPEAKER** : Shri Hareswar Goswami. Your time is only 3 minutes.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI**: Sir, as there is no Cut Motion on Grant No.29 and also I do not want to move my Cut Motion in Grant No. 43 under Community Development Projects, as I have already spoken about this on previous occasions, I want to have more time under this Grant.

**Mr. SPEAKER**: Sorry, I cannot allow.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI**: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.4,76,700 under Grant No.26, Major Head—47—Miscellaneous Department, at page 226 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.4,76,700 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, to day when we find that the tea gardens are facing a serious crisis, we find the Labour Department is sitting idle almost. It appears, the Labour Department is something of the nature of fact finding Department than actually meant to serve the cause of labour. Sir, the other day, I read a letter written by the Secretary, I. N. T. U. C., which was challenged by our Hon'ble Minister Shri Mookerjee whether that was a genuine letter. I have made enquiry regarding this matter, and I am bold to say that this letter is a genuine one. Sir, that letter is a revealing one in itself. To day, whenever anything happens, whenever labour wants to express their opinion democratically and in a fair way, the Police Department intervenes unnecessarily, and tries to take away the fundamental rights of labour. It is not only a case with the tea garden labours, but with other labours also.

To day there is no scope for labour to strike to redress their grievances. Almost all industries are declared essential, Sir, let me cite some instances. Firstly, the R. S. N. Co. is in Assam from a long time. The workers of that company are suffering a lot due to the injustice done by the Company. But as this industry has been declared by the Government of Assam as an essential industry, they are debarred from their right to strike. But the Labour Department has not shown any interest towards them, that they should have shown for their upliftment.

Secondly, the Oil Mill industry has been declared as essential. Here also the condition of the labours is miserable. Very often we hear that a mill closes over-night and the workers laid off but they do not get the benefit of an voluntary employment legally due to them.

Thirdly, we have also seen the case of Assam Petroleum and Oil Industry. As all these industries are declared as essential, the labourer cannot take resort to the democratic weapon to get their due share.

Very recently the Central Minister for Labour, Shri V. V. Giri said that the arbitration is not the best weapon. The labour should be given the right of collective bargaining, as it is their fundamental right and strike is the most valuable weapon in the armoury.

In this way, Sir, 30 per cent. of the labour in our State are not getting their dues, as such their condition is not good.

Sir, let me come to the question of Tripartite Conference. In the Tripartite Conference, our Labour Ministry acts in a most partisan manner. The other day, in reply to a question in connection with Tripartite Conference regarding tea industry, the Minister replied that Indian National Trade Union Congress participated in the deliberations. Sir, as a matter of fact there were other organisations, such as, Hind Mazdur Sangh, All India Trade Union Congress and Assam Tea Labour Association, etc. These organisations may not have much control over labour, but they at least control some sections of labour. So their opinion should have been sought but was not sought in such vital matters.

Regarding the Minimum Wages Act, I have already said. The Labour Minister said that the Minimum Wages Act meant to give some relief to the labour. The Labour Representatives are said to have agreed to it. But I have come to know that they (Labour Representatives) did not agree to that.

Sir, to day we find the Tea crisis, and we are alive to the hardship in the Tea Industry. Perhaps, this Act was intended to give more money to the European Tea concerns only. This crisis has been accepted as a real one. Sir, before going to cut down other unnecessary expenditure the Government is going to cut down the minimum wage. In this way, Government of Assam is behaving in a blind manner and also in a manner that is anti-labour, anti-democratic, which is against the interest of the larger sections of the people here.

**Shri GHANAKANTA GOGOI :** Sir, I have a Cut Motion.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Alright. Please move.

**Shri GHANAKATA GOGOI :** Mr. Speaker, Sir. I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.4,76,700 under grant No.26, Major Head—47—Miscellaneous Departments, at page 226 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.4,76,700 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, my object of moving this Cut Motion is to raise a discussion about the appointment of a Special Officer to collect manuscript, etc., in Ahom language.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** How you can bring this Cut Motion under Grant No.26?

**Shri GHANAKANTA GOGOI :** Sir, you may please look at page 60 of the Budget Memorandum.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** How does it come under this? Will you kindly read out?

**Shri GHANAKANTA GOGOI :** In the miscellaneous, Sir. It comes under printing of manuscript and other historical books. May I put it, Sir?

**Mr. SPEAKER :** No. I ruled it out.

**Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir. my Friend the Leader of the Opposition is opposing this demand of

the ground of the Tea crisis and he has mentioned that it is an artificial crisis. It may be so. I may concede to him that it is an artificial crisis. But I have to point out that this State Government or this Department of Labour has no control over the market and other factors which relate to prices. He has also mentioned that the State Government has not taken any step to solve this Tea crisis. In this respect I have to bring to the notice of this House that we had taken all possible steps against closure of gardens. We encouraged bilateral agreement but they failed to reach an agreement. It was then that the Labour Department had to step in and had to take measures which checked the closure of Tea gardens to some extent. On 16th of December last the Standing Labour Committee was called in to discuss and solve some outstanding problems related to this crisis. But no agreement was reached between the Labour and the Industry. Then on the 19th and 20th December last the Industrial Plantation Committee met at Calcutta at the instance of the Ministry of Labour, Government of India. I must mention that both Industry and Labour came to an agreement and passed a resolution which related to action by the Central Government and not by the State Government. It related to the reduction of excise duty, and you know, Sir, that reduction of excise duty is not within the scope of the Labour Department. When there was no action taken by the Central Government for reduction of excise duty, and no relief was available for securing necessary finance to run the gardens, this State Government had to step in, in order to check the closure of gardens which meant unemployment for a large number of labourers. The steps taken were notified in the Gazette. There has been no reduction of basic cash wages. But some steps had to be taken for supply of concessional food stuff with regard to uneconomic gardens only. The House may be aware that this question of conversion into cash for concessional food stuff was pending for sometime and this question was taken up in the Industrial Relation Committee which sat in Shillong on the 27th February last. Agreement was reached on conversion, but there was no agreement on the rate of compensation.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** But the Labour representatives agreed to the reduction in minimum wages.

**Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister):** The State Government instituted an Advisory Committee and that Committee sat sometime in January last, but there was no agreement between the Labour and the Industry. Sir, my Friend has said that I had stated that labour had agreed but I do not remember to have made any such statement. Where there was no agreement I have to ask, was it not the duty of the Government to come to the rescue of the labour by bringing in a solution to avoid unemployment? Sir, he has mentioned about the police interference and also Shri M. M. Sarma's letter and that it is a genuine letter, it may be so. But I want to bring

to the notice of the House that I have received reports about meeting held on the 5th March last passing resolutions. But I find no mention of police interference in any of those reports. Sir, the police may be there but I have received no reports that they interfered. My information is that the police were requisitioned by the garden management for the protection of the factories and other property. No instance of police interference has been brought to my notice. A report was published in the Press and that report was taken as truth, and the letter in question was issued on a misunderstanding from Dibrugarh. Sir, he has mentioned about the Steamerghat labour.....

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI :** I mentioned about the Steamer Company labour.

**Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister) :** I have to bring to the notice of this House that for sometime past the Department has been trying for a legislation on the line of Dockyard Labour Act, but the Ministry of Labour, Government of India has advised us first to have a Committee to enquire into the labour condition and, as such we have proposed to have an Enquiry Committee to go into the condition of the labour. Sir, he has also mentioned about Collective Bargaining as indicated in the speech of Shri V. V. Giri. I entirely agree with him that it is the fundamental right of the labour, but I have to mention before this House that legislation is being discussed in the Parliament.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI :** But it is the State Government that declared a certain industry essential, and thereby debarred the right to strike.

**Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister) :** Sir, the Rice and Oil Mills were included in the list of Essential Industries because it was considered that if the workers in these Mills go on strike even for a few days there may be food crisis in the country. As such the Department takes measures for settlement of disputes.

Again Sir, my Friend has mentioned about petrol. I have to inform him that this is not within the purview of the State Government.

Then, he has mentioned about non-inclusion of members from his Party in all Tripartite Conferences, and in that connection he has stated that this Government is following a policy of partisanship. Sir, this question has already been discussed on the floor of this House the other day and it was stated then that since the Indian National Trade Union Congress commands the largest number of followers, that is why it was given representation in the Tea Plantation Tripartite Conferences. But with regard to the Rice and Oil Mills Industries, we have been giving representation to other parties in such conferences and I may mention for the information of the hon. Member that in the Standing Labour Committee for Rice and Oil Mills Industry which is to be constituted very soon, we have already asked

other unions to send their nominees for inclusion in this Committee. So Sir, from all these facts you can see that we are not following a policy of partisanship.

Lastly, I must bring to the notice of this House that in the Standing Plantation Committee that was held recently on the 27th of February last, the Government of India, Ministry of Labour, gave due representation to All India Trade Union Congress in that Committee because it had some followers in the gardens of Darjeeling and Dooars. My Friend in the Opposition will remember that last year in the Advisory Committee which was constituted for the purpose of fixing the minimum wage for Rice and Oil Mills Industry, Hind Mazdur Panchayat was given representation. So Sir, in view of all these facts, I would request my Friends not to entertain a feeling that this Government is following a policy of partisanship.

With these words Sir, I request my Friend the Mover of the Cut Motion to withdraw his Motion.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Mr. Goswami, are you withdrawing your Motion.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI :** No Sir. I am not going to withdraw.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The question is that the total provision of Rs.4,76,700 under Grant No.26, Major Head—47—Miscellaneous Departments, at page 226 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1 *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Grant of Rs.4,76,700 do stand reduced by Re.1.

The Motion was lost.

Now I will put the original Motion.

The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.4,76,700 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 "47—Miscellaneous Departments".

The Motion was adopted.

#### GRANT No.29.

(52—A—Other Revenue Expenditure connected with  
Electricity Schemes)

**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister) :** On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, Sir, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.31,800 (Rupees thirty-one thousand and eight hundred) 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 "52-A.— Other Revenue Expenditure connected with Electricity Schemes."

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The Motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs.31,800 (Rupees thirty-one thousand and eight hundred) 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 "52-A.—Other Revenue Expenditure connected with Electricity Schemes".

(The Motion was put as a question and adopted.)

GRANT No.43

(63-B—Community Development Projects)

**Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister) :** On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, Sir, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.66,67,900 (Rupees sixty-six lakhs, sixty-seven thousand and nine hundred) 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 "63-B.—Community Development Projects".

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The Motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs.66,67,900 (Rupees sixty-six lakhs, sixty-seven thousand and nine hundred) 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 "63-B.—Community Development Projects".

(The Motion was put as a question and adopted.)

GRANT No.21

(42-Co-operation—I—Co-operative Societies)

**Shri MOHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister) :** On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, Sir, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.9,66,500 (Rupees nine lakhs, sixty-six thousand and five hundred) 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 "42.—Co-operation—I—Co-operative Societies".

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs.9,66,500 (Rupees nine lakhs, sixty-six thousand and five hundred) 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 "42.—Co-operation—I—Co-operative Societies".

(The Motion was put as a question and adopted.)

GRANT No. 22

(42.—Co-operation—II—Rural Development)

**Shri MOHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Minister) :** On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, Sir, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.20,49,500 (Rupees twenty lakhs, forty-nine thousand and five hundred) 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 "42.—Co-operation—II—Rural Development".

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The Motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs.20,49,500 (Rupees twenty lakhs, forty-nine thousand and five hundred) 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 "42.—Co-operation—II.—Rural Development".

(The Motion was put as a question and adopted).

**The Assam Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 1953**

**Shri MOTI RAM BORA (Minister)** : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Appropriation (No.1) Bill, 1953. The object of this Bill is to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Assam for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1954.

**Mr. SPEAKER** : The Motion moved is that the Assam Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 1953 be introduced.

The Motion was put as a question and adopted).

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister)** : Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 1953 be taken into consideration clause by clause today.

**Mr. SPEAKER** : The Motion moved is that the Assam Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 1953, be taken into consideration clause by clause.

(The Motion was put as a question and adopted).

**Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister)** : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 1953 be passed.

**Mr. SPEAKER** : The Motion moved is that the Assam Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 1953, be passed.

(The Motion was put as a question and adopted).

**Adjournment**

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 a.m. on Thursday, the 26th March, 1953.

SHILLONG :  
The 1st August, 1953.

R. N. BARUA,  
Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.