

**Proceedings of the fourth Session of the Assam Legislative
Assembly assembled after the first General Election
under the Sovereign Democratic Republican Consti-
tution of India**

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong,
1-30 P. M. on Friday, the 28th August, 1953.

PRESENT

Shri Kuladhar Chaliha, B. L., Speaker, in the Chair, the
Ministers, the two Deputy Ministers, two Parliamentary Secretaries
and seventy nine Members.

**Further discussion on the Resolution regarding the collection
of grasses for the cows and other domestic animals
of the flood affected areas, free of charge from the
Forest Reserve and Khash areas from the 1st
June to 30th November, every year.**

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was
speaking yesterday about the importance of milk to our population
and if we want to have more milk then we must give more attention
to our cattle population also. In the Five-Year-Plan also at page 4
of the main Plan it is stated: "The plan aims at the production
of 7.6 million tons of foodgrains with a view to make internal produc-
tion self-sufficient in 1955-56. A satisfactory diet should include,
in addition to the foodgrains, adequate quantities of other foods such
as milk, vegetables, fruits, meat, fish and eggs. The quantity of milk
available has been estimated at about 5.5 oz. per adult per day
a quantity much below that necessary adequate nutrition." The
Plan goes further the Plan speaks about 10 oz. of milk per adult per
day and again in another page it says that the nutrition in our
country is very bad and we should try to improve it. Sir, this sub-
ject is not directly related with the Resolution; yet when we speak
about improving our cattle population we speak for two purposes
(1) Our cattle population is important for the purpose of agriculture
which is the most important occupation of a greater section of the
people in the country and (2) our cattle is important for the pur-
pose of milk. For both these purposes it is necessary and essential
that we should give, if not equal attention, at least some amount
of attention, as we give to the human population.

Sir, I have stated that the number of village grazing reserves are being reduced every day; they are being settled with people for the purpose of cultivation and it has come to such a stage when we can feed our cattle in this way and must seek other ways. In a situation like this it is unthinkable that there should be some restrictions on grass cutting. I have gone through the list of taxable commodities in the Sales Tax Act and I have seen that grass cant be taxed, but it is really surprising that an officer of the Forest Department has charged a man for cutting grass sales tax. !!

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): Is he charging sales tax ?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: It is written here thatching grass, but even in thatching grass there is no room for sales tax.

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): They are forest produce.

Mr. SPEAKER: Sales tax is not a matter for consideration here.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Sir, not only this grass was taxed by the Forest Department, but a sale tax was also imposed. This was an illegal realisation.

Mr. SPEAKER: This grass is thatching grass.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: But there is no scope for taxing thatching grass either. I do not know what amount of revenue Government get by taxing grass; it would be interesting to know what amount of revenue Government get from this thatching grass or any other grass.

Secondly, Sir, this grass, as my Friend has said is not thatching grass; it is meant for cow-fodder. Thatching grass in green stage is taken as cow-fodder. I have personally seen in the winter, during November and December, grass which can be used as cattle fodder and which is useful for improving the health of the cattle is always burnt in the winter months and thereby we lose a very valuable fodder for the cow. I do not see why grass should be taxed or any restriction should be imposed on the grass that is being taken for cattle and which is important for the health of the cattle in the State. Particularly this locality is almost always revaged by flood and most of the places always remain under water. It is difficult for these people to get fodder for their cattle. So consideration is to be given to these flood-affected people who want to get grass from the forest reserve. Government would not lose much. On the other hand, they would come in the estimation of the people. I, of

course, understand that there are some mischievous people who may go to the forest and instead of cutting grass may cut trees. Let there be a system of issue of permit if Government want to do that and through that permit system the mischief can be stopped. But if instead of doing that Government go on levying tax on a thing like this that is too much and that is also against the basic principles of taxation. Therefore I strongly support the Resolution moved by my Friend, Shri Radha Charan Choudhury, and also request Government not to say that the Resolution is irrelevant in certain portions, but to look to the Resolution whether this Government should tax this grass, whether it is from the forest reserve or from anywhere. Our appeal is that the grass should not be taxed when it is meant for our cattle.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Resolution moved by my Friend, Mr. Choudhury.

Sir, I have heard with attention when the Resolution was moved. Many people sitting on the opposite side were laughing as if this is not an important matter. I would impress on the House that this is an important matter so far as its principle is concerned. It is an important thing that it should be the duty of the State Government to look for the welfare of the people first and secondly to look after the welfare of the cattle population. Cattle population is valuable in various ways—Firstly, by this cattle we must plough our vast tracts of land. We know, our State is an agricultural State; so ploughing by cattle is necessary and we also know that mechanised cultivation has only started and it can touch only a fringe of the problem, so our people in the villages depend mainly on cattle.

Secondly, milk is a vital food. It is necessary for the people of the State. We have seen different booklets and publications published through our Publicity Department by our Government and also by the Government of India urging that the Government and public alike should take all possible steps for the improvement of milk supply in the country. Sir, we know, milk is essential for the children and apart from that milk is also essential for adults. Milk is essential for maintenance of proper health of the nation and therefore we should increase the supply of milk.

Thirdly, we know that in our rural areas cowdung is used as manure, particularly for vegetable production. It is also utilised for other purposes. Lastly, hyde and skin are essential for various purposes.

If we consider all these factors jointly we cannot minimise this important question of preservation of cattle population in the country.

Without commenting on figures, let me quote an extract from "A Survey of Rural Economic Conditions in Sibsagar" as prepared by our Department of Economics and Statistics. It reads:— "The good grazing fields lie mostly in the villages along the Bramaputra river and in the Majuli, while in the interior populated villages sufficient waste land is not available to provide adequate grazing facilities to the village cattle. During rains particularly the grazing position turns serious and the majority of the cattle remains under-fed as the bulk of the grazing lands are submerged in water and the fields are ploughed up."

That is the report of the Statistical Department. We have got also a Report of Survey of Rural Economic Condition of Darrang published in 1950. There also it is stated that our grazing area is not sufficient and particularly during rains even when there is no flood, they go under water. So the necessity for food for the animals is essential and it is upto the Government to look into it when they have got a survey report on it, instead of throwing this document into the waste-paper basket. I want to know from the Government as to what steps has been taken by them for proper supply of cattle fodder in the State.

As my Friend, Mr. Goswami, has said, the Reserves should be thrown open for the grazing of our cattle population and as he has suggested, let Government select some areas and let them give free fodder for cattle population only, without causing any harm to the Reserves themselves. If there is necessity, let the Government make a planned programme so that our Reserves can be kept in tact and no harm is done to them and on the other hand, the cattle fodder can be supplied from these Reserves to the villagers.

Sir, from the Survey Reports it can be seen that there is not sufficient fodder available for cattle and steps should be taken from the side of the Government to increase the areas for the supply of fodder to the cattle population.

Then regarding supply of milk. Now, it is a question to be replied by Government, whether the milk that is available in the State is sufficient to meet the need of the whole Province? From the Statistical Report of Sibsagar it appears, "The average daily milk yield per animal is estimated at 9.9 ounces which is equivalent to a supply of 2.2 ounces of milk per head of the population per day." If you take it that 2.2 ounces of milk per day per head is sufficient then I have got nothing to say. You also know that the milk that is supplied in the State is not worth the same as it contains 50 per cent. of milk and 50 per cent. of water and this milk we are giving

to our children not to speak of adults. Sir, if we cannot keep the health of our children what will happen to our younger generations. For that reason the supply of milk should be increased instead of depending on the imported tinned milk and condensed milk from Holland and America. For that our cattle population should be reared up in such a manner that milk supply can be improved to a great extent. Of course, it is not possible to import 10 to 15 thousands of cows from Australia. We can import a few for putting them in Government farms for breeding purpose. If we want more supply of milk we must see that the indigenous cattle population is well reared and for this purpose Government should see that something is done in this regard.

Sir, the next point was thoroughly discussed by my Friend, Mr. Goswami, *i. e.*, regarding imposition of tax and I am not surprised that our Government is imposing Sales taxes even on cattle fodder as we knew their activities very well. We are waiting for that day when our Congress Government which wants money from every source, legally or illegally without any regard to the poor people will impose tax on beards like Czar Nicholas of Russia in their barbaric days of sixteenth Century.

Sir, the Chief Minister the other day gave me the monopoly of all abusive words, so far as this Government was concerned. But I can tell him and also all the Members of this House that this is not the monopoly of R. M. Das alone. Recently the Supreme Court of India delivered a judgment regarding the administration of the State. They said that Assam Government is a bold Government that knows no Law but its own.

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): How is it relevant to the Resolution, Sir?

(Interruptions).

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: So, we are not surprised to find our Government impose tax on cattle fodder, it can impose milk, it can do whatever it likes. But, Sir, I am not going into these matters now. The point before us is very simple. I know Government have not issued any instructions to harass people in this way. But when the matter has been brought to the notice of the Government I would request the Minister-in-charge to see that such harassment is not caused to the people any more.

With these few words, I support the Resolution moved by Shri Radha Charan Choudhury.

Maulavi MD. UMARUDDIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Resolution presented by Mr. Chaudhury before the House contains a very modest demand, *i. e.*, to give permission to cut grass from the reserved forests and Khash areas during a certain period of the year to the people of the flood-affected areas for their cattle.

Sir, so far as removal of grass from unclassed State forests or Khash areas is concerned, I don't think there is any legal bar. But my Friend, the Forest Minister, will certainly rise and say that he would not allow any grass to be cut from the reserved forests. Sir, it is true that reserved forests have got to be protected against trespass of people so that the possibility of commission of offences with regard to forest produce may be prevented. I can appreciate that. But this is a matter which stands on a different footing. I know, Sir, that the people living in many areas, bordering reserved forests, are hard-pressed during times of flood when the areas they live in go under water. In many instances, I know Government had to throw open certain portions of reserves to accommodate displaced cattle, but curiously enough, people are not allowed to go and remove grass from the reserved forests except possibly under a permit, which, however, is not always given. Now, Sir, the suggestion of my Friend is very modest compared to the enormity of the problem, which scarcity of fodder in the State has created. As a matter of fact, scarcity of fodder is growing into a big problem. On the one hand, our people are not trained in the improved method of cattle breeding and cattle rearing. We still rely upon the old system. We allow our cattle to drift in the field or tether them on the road side here and there without arranging any special fodder for them. The Agriculture Department and the Veterinary Department have failed to inculcate upon our people the improved method of cattle feeding and cattle breeding. If we go to an immigrant village or to any Hindusthani house we find how carefully they look after their cattle. As a matter of fact, they give as much attention to their cattle as they give to their own children. It would be well for our people to follow them in stall-feeding and other way of rearing cattle.

Sir, now that this subject has come before the House, I would like to deal with it in the light of the wider aspects of this problem. Sir, what is our cattle population and what relation does it bear to the rural economy of the State as a whole? I find, Sir, from the figures from the Agricultural Statistics of Assam that the position with regard to our cattle population is fast deteriorating. In the year 1945, there were 42,45,545 heads of cattle against a human population of 73,04,624. In the year 1951, the cattle population was 51,45,576 as against a human population of 90,43,707. Now, the number of cattle per one thousand of population was as follows:—

1945	...	...	...	...	581
1951	...	...	...	...	568

We therefore find that there has been an appreciable fall in the number of cattle per one thousand of the population during the last

six or seven years. This process, which has set in, will, I think continue until arrested by Government by some special measures. Unless this is done, I say the rural economy of our State will be seriously affected.

Now, Sir, if we analyse these figures more closely, we find—taking 5 persons as the sign of an average family—one family gets about 2.5 heads of cattle, which hardly makes one pair of bullocks. Then again, what is the total number of working bullocks? The working bullocks come upto 15,73,226. Now, Sir, making due allowance for the population engaged in industrial undertakings or in Government services or other non-agricultural avocations, we find that for a population of 80 lakhs we have only 15 lakhs of plough bullocks. That means, many families have not got a pair of plough bullocks. This is the position, Sir. We want to effect improvement in our agriculture, but the most important thing in agriculture is cattle. Unless cattle is there we cannot pursue agriculture. First of all, we must provide cattle and then other things. Now, Sir, what has Government done in this regard? Nothing has been done. In other States of India we find many measures have been taken for multiplication of cattle. But though our human population is increasing, the cattle population is lagging behind. It seems, Sir, the Veterinary Department has thought it fit to impose birth control on our cattle population.

Now, Sir, Government have made provision for fodder in the shape of grazing reserves, which may be placed under two categories, *viz.*, the professional grazing reserves and the village grazing grounds. Of course, I do not know the total area of each category of these reserves. But I know that these areas are gradually diminishing. Due to the pressure of population Government have been forced to throw open some of these reserves to meet more urgent needs. Then, again, some of these reserves have not been fully utilised; they are lying unattended to for years together with the result that many are now practically unfit for grazing purposes. From my experience I know that in the Barpeta subdivision, at least one lakh bighas of land are covered by grazing reserves. Some of the reserves cover 15 or 20 thousand bighas of land each. Formerly these reserves were covered with high grass which supplied fodder to the cattle. But gradually these reserves have been denuded of this high grass. Then some of these being low-lying areas go under flood water and are covered with water hyacinth, which also destroys the little grass that they have got. Government have done nothing to improve, to regenerate or to grow a special kind of fodder in the reserves. Sir, this aspect of the question has been completely left out. At least Government should examine whether there is scope to regenerate these grazing reserves and whether full benefit could be derived from

them. As a matter of fact, Sir, it is not a question of completely stopping of cutting of grass. But if we grow some ordinary high grass in these reserves and we preserve them, then in 10 years' time the reserves will be full of grass. At the same time if Government wants some money, they can realise it in the shape of grazing tax from the people grazing their cattle there. But nothing has been done to take the full value or utility of the grazing reserves. They are simply neglected and nothing has been done to grow fodder in them.

Then again, no steps also have been taken to induce the people to grow fodder grass in their own lands. There are many kinds of cattle fodder which can be grown by the people in their own lands. What has been done by the Government in this direction? Nothing has been done to make people to grow fodder for their own cattle. As a matter of fact from the agricultural statistics it is seen that there is no area under fodder crop in the whole of Assam except in some parts in the district of Kamrup which is placed at 366 acres but then, these areas also are probably in some Government farms only. So nothing has been done by Government to improve cattle fodder in the State. Government have completely failed to realise the serious implication of this on the cattle population and ultimately on the rural population of our State. Therefore, Sir, some relief must be given to the people since Government have taken no constructive measures in this direction. Our only contention is that, when there is an emergency such as flood, etc., some reserves should be thrown open to the poor people for grazing purposes or the people should be allowed to cut grass from these reserves free of royalty or tax.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the total requirement of fodder for the cattle population?

Maulavi Md. UMARUDDIN: I have not got the figures, Sir. I think these figures can be had from the Department. But my point is that this demand is a modest one. I hope the Forest Minister or the Revenue Minister, as the case may be, will have no objection to extend their helping hand to the people of the flood-affected areas. With these words Sir, I support the Resolution moved by my Friend, Shri Radhacharan Choudhury.

Mr. SPEAKER: Can you give the fodder requirement for the cattle population in the State?

Maulavi Md. UMARUDDIN: That can be estimated, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the area required? Is it one bigha or one acre?

Maulavi Md. UMARUDDIN : It should be in terms of acre per head of cattle, Sir. Unless I get the figures, I cannot say off-hand.

Mr. SPEAKER : For each cow or for each bullock how much it will be required ?

Maulavi. Md. UMARUDDIN : As I said, it must be taken in terms of acres, where fodder can be grown. Our point is that Government should take steps to propagate among the people the utility of fodder grass so that there may not be so much agitation in such matters as now.

Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI : অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, শ্রীবাধাকান্ত দাস ..

(Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister)) : শ্রী বাধা নাথ ভী শ্রী, কান্ত ভী শ্রী, চরণ, চরণ, বাধাচরণ চৌধুরী

Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI : অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমাৰ বন্ধ শ্রীযুত বাধাচরণ চৌধুরী ডাঙৰীয়াই এই পৰিষদত যিটো প্ৰস্তাৱ (Resolution) দাঙি ধৰিছে, সেই প্ৰস্তাৱটো যদি আপোনালোকে ভালকৈ পৰীক্ষা কৰি চাই তেনেহলে আপোনালোকে দেখিব যে, তেখেতৰ প্ৰস্তাৱত চৰকাৰৰ বিপক্ষে কবলৈ কোনো সমস্যা বিচাৰি নাপালে। এই অযথা অভিযোগ তুলি ঘাঁহ কটাৰ প্ৰস্তাৱ দাঙি ধৰি সদনৰ বহুমূলীয়া সময় নষ্ট কৰাৰ বাহিৰে মই কোনো অৰ্থ বিচাৰি নাপালোঁ।

চৰকাৰে যদি কোনো কামেই নকৰিলেহেঁতেন, তেতিয়া হলে তেওঁলোকে এনেকৈ সাধাৰণ কথাৰ কাৰণেও হয়তো এটা প্ৰস্তাৱ আনি লৈহেঁতেন। মই আচৰিত হৈছে আমাৰ বিৰোধীদলৰ নেতাজনেও যে কিয় অযথা কিছুমান কথা কৈ আৰু নানা ধৰণে চৰকাৰক সনালোচনা কৰি সময় নষ্ট কৰিছে। যদি দেশৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে বা ভাল কাৰণে আমাৰ চৰকাৰে কোনো কাম নকৰিলেহেঁতেন, ইয়াতকৈ ডাঙৰ সমস্যাৰ, যিটো প্ৰস্তাৱ চৰকাৰে কৰা নাই তাৰ প্ৰস্তাৱ সদনত, দাঙি ধৰিলেহেঁতেন। কিন্তু তেখেতসকলে কালিৰ পৰা যিবিলাক কথা কৈছে আৰু আজিও শ্ৰীৰেন্দ্ৰ মোহন দাস আৰু ওমকন্দিন চাহাবে যিবিলাক কথা কৈছে, তাৰ পৰা তেখেতসকলৰ অন্তৰ আছে বুজি মনে নধৰে। শ্ৰীৰেন্দ্ৰ মোহন দাস ডাঙৰীয়াই কৈছে যে বিজাৰ্ভবিলাক খুলি দিব লাগে কিন্তু এই বিজাৰ্ভবিলাক বন্ধা কৰাৰ পৰা দেশৰ আৰু জনসাধাৰণৰ কিমান উপকাৰ হৈছে সেইটো দকৈ ভাবি চোৱা নাই। মূল্যবান গছবিলাক বন্ধা কৰিবৰ কাৰণেই এই বিজাৰ্ভ বিলাকো বন্ধা কৰা হয়। তাৰ পৰা চৰকাৰ আৰু দেশৰ যথেষ্ট বাজহ আয় হয়। তেখেত সকলে জানো সেই কথা নাজানে ?

মই শ্ৰীৰেন্দ্ৰ মোহন দাস ডাঙৰীয়াক এইটো সুধিব খোজো যে তেখেতে যদি চাহ বাগান বা কমলা বাগান কৰিলেহেঁতেন, তেন্তে সেই বাগানত যদি ঘাঁহ হয়, সেইবিলাক খুৱাবৰ কাৰণে গৰু ম'হ অবাধে যাবলৈ খুলি দিব নে ? নিশ্চয় নিদিয়ো—সেইদৰে বিজাৰ্ভবিলাকৰো ঘাঁহবোৰ খুৱাবলৈ খুলি দিয়া মানে সেই বিজাৰ্ভত থকা মূল্যবান গছ গছনীৰ plantation বোৰ নষ্ট কৰা। কামৰূপ আৰু গোৱালপাৰা জিলাৰ বিজাৰ্ভবিলাক

গৰন খেৰব পৰা যথেষ্ট ৰাজহ পোৱা যায়, গতিকে এই বিলাক কথাও বিবেচনা কৰি চোৱা নিতান্ত আৱশ্যক। আজি বিৰোধী দলৰ প্ৰস্তাৱ আৰু কাৰ্য্যসূচীৰ পৰা অনুমান কৰিব পাৰি যে তেওঁবিলাকৰ চৰকাৰৰ বিপক্ষে কবলৈ বা আলোচনা কৰিবলৈ একোৱেই সমস্যা নাই। সেই কাৰণে ঘাঁহ কটাৰ প্ৰস্তাৱ আনি আজি সদনৰ সময় নষ্ট কৰাৰ বাহিৰে আন একো হোৱা নাই।

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: He has not heard me himself, Sir. I did not say like that.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the percentage of the reserve ?

Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: I do not know exactly, Sir. (*loud laughter*).....(*Disturbances*).....But I want to reply to what they have said for nothing.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Without knowing anything ? (*Laughter*)

Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: আপোনালোকে যদি ভালকৈ গমি চায় তেন্তে দেখিব যে আমাৰ বিৰোধীদলৰ নেতা গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াই কেৱল ঘাঁহৰ বিষয়ে বক্তৃতা দি সদনৰ ২ ঘণ্টা সময় নষ্ট কৰিলে। তেখেত সকলে আমাৰ কংগ্ৰেছ চৰকাৰৰ আৰু কংগ্ৰেছ পাৰ্টিৰ বিপক্ষে জানি নাজানি অলাগতীয়াল কথা কৈ প্ৰস্তাৱ আনাৰ একমাত্ৰ অৰ্থ হৈছে, আমাৰ অত্যৱশ্যকীয়া কামবিলাকত বাধা জনোৱা।

আজি তেখেত সকলে প্ৰস্তাৱ আনিছে যে আমাৰ Reserve বিলাক খুলি দিব লাগে। মোৰ বোধেৰে এনেধৰণৰ প্ৰস্তাৱবিলাক আনি কেবল সময়হে নষ্ট কৰিছে। প্ৰকৃততে আমাৰ চৰকাৰৰ বিৰুদ্ধে কোৱাৰ স্তুৰিধা লোৱাৰ বাহিৰে কি হব পাৰে।

এইখিনিতে মই কবলৈ বাধ্য হৈছো যে, তেখেতসকলৰ সময়ৰ মূল্য নাথাকিব পাৰে, কিন্তু তেখেতসকলে বুজা উচিত যে আমাৰ প্ৰত্যেক মুহূৰ্ত্তৰে মূল্য আছে, (হাঁহি)।

মোৰ অনুৰোধ যাতে তেখেতসকলে পুনঃ এনেধৰণৰ ঘাঁহৰ প্ৰস্তাৱ আনি আমাৰ বহু-মূলীয়া সময় নষ্ট নকৰে আৰু এই প্ৰস্তাৱটোও উঠাই লয়।

Shri DANDIRAM DATTA: মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, যোৱা কালি মোৰ বন্ধু শ্ৰীৰাধা চৰণ চৌধুৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই যিটো প্ৰস্তাৱ এই সদনত দাঙি ধৰিছিল মই তাক সাদৰেৰে সমৰ্থন কৰো। আজি মোৰ বন্ধুৰ শ্ৰীধৰণীধৰ বসুমতাৰীয়ে নানা কথা কৈ এই প্ৰস্তাৱৰ বিৰোধীতা কৰিছে। আমি ইয়াত আচৰিত হব লগিয়া একো নাই। তেওঁ হয়তো এই প্ৰস্তাৱৰ মন্ত্ৰ ভালকৈ বুজি পোৱাই নাই। ঘাঁহ যে আমাৰ কিমান দৰকাৰী তেখেতে হয়তো তাকো বুজা নাই, নুবুজিবই কাৰণ তেখেততো খেতিয়ক নহয়। যিহেতু তেখেতৰ গৰু ম'হ আদিৰ লগত কোনো সম্বন্ধই নাই। তেখেতে হয়তো গাখীৰৰ উপকাৰীতাও ভালকৈ নাজানে। গাখীৰ খোৱা অভ্যাসো তেখেতৰ নাই। (হাঁহি) যদি বুজিলে হেভেন তেনেহলে তেখেতে এই প্ৰস্তাৱৰ বিৰোধীতা নকৰিলে হেভেন। পৃথিবীৰ সকলো জাতিৰে অন্ততঃ গাখীৰৰ লগত সম্বন্ধ আছে। আজি আমাৰ খেতিয়ক শ্ৰেণীৰ নিতান্ত লাগতীয়াল সামগ্ৰী হৈছে গৰু-ম'হ। এই গৰু-মহক পুষ্টিৰ খাদ্য ঘাঁহ যোগান দিয়া আমাৰ খেতিয়ক সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ সৰ্ব প্ৰথম কৰ্ত্তব্য। গতিকে ঘাঁহ আমাৰ খেতিয়ক ৰাইজৰ কিমান দৰকাৰী বস্তু সেইটো আমাৰ এই সদনৰ প্ৰায় সকলো মাননীয় সদস্যই জানে। আজি আমাৰ দেশত পোহনীয়া পশুবোৰ খাদ্যৰ অভাৱত এনেয়ে দুৰ্বল আৰু নিশকতীয়া হৈ পৰিছে। বাৰিষা

বানপানী আহি নানা বকমৰ উপদ্রৱ কৰাৰ পিছত গৰু-মহৰ ঘাহৰ কিমান হাহাকাৰ হয় ত সদস্য সকলে ভালকৈ জানে। এনে অৱস্থাত আমাৰ অসমৰ ফৰেষ্টত, উপযুক্ত পৰিমাণে ঘাঁহ থকা স্বত্বেও আমাৰ গৰীব খেতিয়কসকলক ঘাঁহ আনিবলৈ নিদি অক্ষমতে পুৰি হবলৈ দিয়াৰ একো অৰ্থ বুজি নাপাও। আজি একো জনী খীৰতি গায়ে ১/৭ পোৱালি বেছি গাৰীৰ নিদিয়া কাৰণ এই গাই বিলাকে খাবলৈ উপযুক্ত পৰিমাণে ঘাঁহ নাপায়।

অৱশ্যে আজি কালি খেতিৰ কাৰণে আমাৰ কংগ্ৰেছ চৰকাৰে ফ্ৰেষ্টৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব কিন্তু অকল ফ্ৰেষ্টৰ সহায়েৰে সকলো খেতি কৰিব নোৱাৰি। ইয়াৰ লগত আমাৰ কেমেৰা নাঙল ও হালৰ গৰু বা ম'হ লাগিবই। আমাৰ গৰু ম'হ বিলাকক শক্তিশালী কৰি কাৰণে পুষ্টিকৰ খাদ্য ঘাঁহ যোগোৱা বিষয়ত আমাৰ চৰকাৰৰ দায়িত্ব কম নহয়। শ্ৰীৰামবৰসুমতাৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই কৈছে যে কমলা বাগান, চাহ বাগান ও ফলনীৰ মাটি গৰু ম'হৰ ঘাঁহ কাৰণে খুলি দিব নেকি? মই কও যে আমাক কমলা বাগান, চাহ বাগান, ফলনীৰ মাটি খুলি দিব নালাগে। কিন্তু সেইবোৰৰ পৰা গৰীব খেতিয়কে যদি ঘাঁহ মাটি আনি ম'হক দিয়ে তাৰ পৰা চৰকাৰৰ কোনো লোকচান নহয়।

অতি পৰিতাপৰ বিষয় যে আমাৰ কংগ্ৰেছ চৰকাৰে পোহনীয়া গৰু-ভাগলীৰ ঘাঁহ ওপৰতো Sales Tax লগাবলৈ বাদ দিয়া নাই। মই আশা কৰো গৰু ম'হৰ ঘাঁহ ওপৰত যাতে Tax লগোৱা নহয় এয়ে মোৰ অনুৰোধ। ইয়াকে কৈ মই শ্ৰীৰামবৰ চৌধুৰী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ প্ৰস্তাৱটো সমৰ্থন কৰিবলৈ সদনৰ মাননীয় সদস্য সকলক আৰু আমাৰ চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰো।

Shri MAHENDRA NATH DEKA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Resolution standing in the name of Shri Radhacharan Choudhury runs as "With a view to help the people of the flood-affected areas in the State, this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do allow the people of such areas to collect grasses for their cows and other domestic animals free of charge from any forest reserve and Khash areas for the period from 1st June to 30th November every year." I stand here, Sir, to oppose this Resolution. The point at issue is whether the flood-affected people can be allowed to collect grasses from the forest reserve. Now the word "grass" as it appears from the documents read over by the Mover actually means thatch which he means to be collected from the forest reserve. Thatch, as every hon. Member knows, is a very valuable property of the Forest Department. Similarly, I may explain, what we call "Kahibon" in the month of June grows into a very valuable property of the forest as reed. Thatch and reeds grow in the reserve forest. Why they grow there? Because the forest is protected. Unless and until the forest is protected I do not think that they can be allowed to grow there. We have got grazing reserve. We have got professional grazing reserve. But we see the plight of the grass that grows there. Practically no grass is allowed to grow there, as people use it every day for their cattle and also as the cattle graze there the grass cannot freely grow. The grass that we call 'Kahibon' grows well in the reserve forest. Why? Because

the forest is protected, as I have already said. This being the property of the Government, Government must see that it is not used by anybody and everybody without the permission of the Government. If anybody in the flood-affected areas is really in need of such a thing he should approach the authority for permission and I think Government will be ready to permit them under the rules to remove the grass, other than thatch and reeds. Those grass, thatch and reeds, I do not think Government should allow to be removed by anybody and everybody, they being the forest produce need to be protected. Now, Sir, so far as my personal knowledge goes, in our State we have got grazing reserve in hundreds of square miles and they are both village grazing reserves and professional grazing reserves. In my constituency alone, if I remember aright, I cannot give exact figure of course, I can say that there are at least 6 or 7 square miles village grazing reserves, If all the constituencies are multiplied for calculating the total area of grazing reserves, I think it will be more than a hundred square miles. If the attention of the hon. Members in the opposite side as well as of the Government benches is drawn towards the improvement of the grass in the Reserves, I think the problem of fodder will be solved to a great extent. Only because none is taking special care for the protection of the reserved lands, sufficient quantity of fodder is not obtained. So my humble request to the Mover is to see that whatever area is reserved in the localities shall produce sufficient quantity of grass. Then the problem of fodder in these localities will be solved. In certain areas, Sir, people are willing to pay Rs.2 per Bhar of grass, say weighing, $1\frac{1}{2}$ maunds. In Malibar area in Gauhati Subdivision, Sir, the buffalo rearers are paying Rs.2 per 'Bhar' of grass. Why are they paying it? It is because these grasses are valuable fodder for buffaloes. That is why they are paying it. If the people are allowed free use of grass, no grass will grow there. The owners of lands protect the grass until the month of Sraban *i. e.* the flood time in Assam, because the people of the locality usually collect grass from that area at that time. But if you allow them to graze cattle from the beginning of March no grass will grow there. If it had not been protected, there would be no grass there. Only because it is protected, grass grows well there and therefore it is quite reasonable that the Government should impose some royalty or fee on the persons who use those grasses. So, Sir, I oppose the Resolution and request the Mover to withdraw the Resolution.

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEV of Sidli : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Resolution is so simple and so many Members have taken

part in it that I did not think that I should speak on the Resolution. But, Sir, it appears to me that many of the Hon. Members who have taken part in this Resolution did not examine the Resolution itself very carefully, and probably due to this that you are hearing their thesis about bovine population, cattle, milk and such other things. If we come to the Resolution itself and analyse it carefully, it will appear so simple that all their thesis will appear as waste of time. Mr. Choudhury wants that Government should not allow all the people to collect grass from the reserves but only the flood-affected people should be allowed to collect grasses from forest reserves and that too not for all times of the year but for a few months of the year. Some-body said that if the cattle are allowed to graze in the forests, then they will destroy the forests. Mr. Choudhury, I think, does not want that the cattle should be allowed to graze in the forests but what he wants is that grass should be allowed to be collected from there only. That is, Sir, very reasonable. So I think, Sir, this is a very modest Resolution and when our Government spend lakhs of rupees for flood-affected people and cattle there is no reason why this little concession should not be shown to the flood affected people. This is a concession to the people affected by floods and a concession to our cattle population living near the forests and affected by floods. In view of these facts I hope our Government will accept this resolution and will not dilate in details about the thesis about milk and bovine population etc.

Shri RAM NATH DAS (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, although it has been the convention either to congratulate or to thank the Mover of a Resolution like this which seeks to bestow benefits to the distressed people and cattle, I am really aggrieved in not allowing myself to do either of the two simply because Shri Choudhury, who is moving this Resolution, has not understood properly the procedure that the Resolution will involve if accepted by the Government. Neither has he tried to understand the existing procedure which is followed by the Government in giving relief to such people and cattle of these people. Therefore, Sir, I am not inclined to congratulate him, neither to thank him. Not only that, Sir, from the Resolution as it stands now it appears that Mr. Choudhury has not cared to know whether the permission sought for the distressed-flood-affected people and their cattle is really required. In the Resolution he has referred not only to the Reserves which have been protected by the Government but also to unclassed State Forests for which permission sought for is already there not only to flood-affected people but to all raiyats. Therefore, Sir, I say that Mr. Choudhury has not cared to know where the permission is necessary

and where it is not. If he would have cared to look into the Forest Manual Vol.1, at page 36, then he would have seen the general permission given to all raiyats in unclassed State Forests. Now, therefore, it appears that Mr. Choudhury, in not being able to understand the present procedure of the Government by which Government has been meeting the needs of the flood-affected people and wherein no permission is necessary, has tabled this motion in the way he has done, and by doing so he has given to the Members of his Party chances to play to the gallery, by speaking about some matters which are not at all relevant to the Resolution. Not to speak of other Members of his Party, who have taken part, I fail to see how the Leader of the Opposition could support this very Resolution in the way it has been worded. I thought I would blame Shri Choudhury alone as he had worded this Resolution without knowing the areas where the permission sought for is not necessary. Now I find that even Mr. Goswami who is taking the credit of leading that party has supported this Resolution in the very words in which this Resolution stands and therefore it will not be desirable to blame Shri Choudhury alone. Sir, apart from that part of the Resolution relating to the unclassed State forests about which I have already said that no permission is necessary for such purposes, now if we go to the reserved forest areas and if we accept this Resolution and give effect to it as it is worded, it will involve the following complications.

Firstly, the definition of the flood affected areas would be necessary and secondly the definition of the people of those areas, and thirdly it will give a general permission to the people of those defined areas and defined people; a general permission to enter into those forest areas for collection and cutting of grasses is necessary, even though there is a flood for a day or two or for a month or two or more and also when there is no flood at all. There is the time schedule which is given in the Resolution. In that time schedule the period is meant not for a day or two or a month or so, but it is for six months. *i.e.*, from June to November of the year and during these six rainy months he wants that people of the flood-affected areas should be allowed to get into the forest reserves without any restrictions to cut and collect grasses. This inevitably entails to the Government employment of a large number of protective staff. As you know, Sir, as it is also known to the Members of this House that our reserve forests are situated in the out of the way places where people are very few and far between and it is also known that our staff is very very limited and therefore if a general permission to enter into any and all the reserve forests in the State for these six months of the rainy season is granted, it will entail an extremely heavy burden on the staff to watch the reserves and the people would enter into the

reserve forests. Who knows that in the plea of cutting grass, one will not interfere with the other forest resources. It will be an impossible task on the part of our limited staff to keep an watch over all the reserve forests. It is also not possible on the part of our staff to find out whether the people will want to enter reserve forests with bonafide motives to cut grass or with a malafide motive to cut down valuable timber or to shoot rhinos or other animals. I would therefore like to leave the matter to the decision of this House whether this general permission should be allowed or not. Apart from that my Friend, the hon. Mover, wants a general permission for six months whether there would be actual need or not. Whether there will be flood or not and whether there will be necessity for people of the defined areas to cut grasses from reserves or not is not considered by the Mover. I submit to this House, on behalf of the Government in the circumstances pointed out by me, I am not inclined to agree to accept the Resolution. Sir, my Friend appears to have also no knowledge about the procedure the Government has been following at present with regard to permission in reserves to needy people. Not to speak of the unclassified forests where a general permission is already there even in reserves when there is actual necessity, people are allowed to enter reserves and cut the grasses even free of any charge. When this is allowed, I do not see why my Friend, Shri Choudhury, by his Resolution which is supported by the Leader of Opposition and some of their other Members including Jonab Umaruddin who has got thorough knowledge about the difficulties for the protection of the reserves and who has on many occasions spoken about the need for taking more effective measures for the protection of these forests unnecessarily and without any meaning moved this Resolution which is very badly worded. Further, Sir, the earthquake of 1950 has shattered the drainage system of Assam and it has been so shattered that nobody can be sure to say which place will be affected by flood and which will not be flooded. Therefore, Sir, if we accept this Resolution of Mr. Choudhury, which needs, as stated by me before, definition of affected area and people, it will create difficulties for those areas which are not defined but which may be flooded in future. Therefore, Sir, a thing which is at present met by a procedure which is followed by Government without much difficulty should not be emphasised too much to have a generalised provision for a situation which may or may not take place. So, I say that this Resolution, as it is worded, is in one part redundant and with regard to other parts not necessary, I think I have met the points raised by the hon. Mover and other Members who have taken part on it and who have spoken unnecessarily in support of it simply for playing to the gallery.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Sir, the Minister is using unparliamentary words when he says, "Playing to the gallery".

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): These are not unparliamentary words and not been regarded as such in other State Parliaments.

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): Now, Sir, in face of the facts stated by me I request the hon. Mover to withdraw his Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the hon. Member withdraw his Resolution ?

Shri RADHA CHARAN CHOUDHURY: Sir, may I be allowed to have the right of reply ?

Mr. SPEAKER: No you cannot.

Shri RADHA CHARAN CHOUDHURY: In that case I am not going to withdraw my Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will the Minister inform the House, what is the total percentage of forest reserves in the State ?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): 12 per cent.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the national requirement ?

Shri RAMNATH DAS (Minister): 25 per cent.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that with a view to help the people of the flood-affected areas in the State, this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do allow the people of such areas to collect grasses for their cows and other domestic animals free of charge from any forest reserve and Khash areas for the period from 1st June to 30th November every year.

(The Resolution was negatived).

Resolution regarding extension of Majuli Public Works Department Road to Muwaidubighat—the opposite bank of the Subansiri Steamer ghat

Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that in view of the fact that Ahotguri Mouza in Golaghat Sub-division being one of the most backward Mouzas in all respect with special reference to communication, this Assembly is of opinion

that the Government of Assam do take necessary steps to extend the Majuli Public Works Department road with immediate effect from the next year from Sakupara, the meeting point of the Bhekelimukh Public Works Department road and the Majuli Public Works Department road to Muwaidubighat—the opposite bank of Subansiri Steamer ghat.

Sir, in this connection, I beg to point out that this Ahotguri Mouza being situated in the western part of Majuli has long been neglected not only by the Golaghat Subdivision but also by the Jorhat Subdivision—especially regarding communication. If the road is constructed from Sakupara, the meeting point of the Bhekelimukh Public Works Department road and the Majuli Public Works Department road to Muwaidubighat—the opposite bank of Subansiri Steamer ghat in the Ahotguri Mouza the people who come by steamer can directly go to Jorhat *via* Kamalabari by road and those people who come from the other side of the Subansiri river can also easily go to Kamalabari. Moreover, Kalabari Public Works Department road going to be constructed upto Pichala ghat, which is located at a distance of 2 or 3 miles away from this proposed road will serve as a feeder road to this proposed road. So if this road which I propose now is constructed, people can directly go from Jorhat *via* Subansirighat to Kalabari and Tezpur by road and will facilitate those people of Jorhat, Tezpur and North Lakhimpur in coming and going by road. So, I request the Government that this road is taken up by the Public Works Department. With these words I beg to commend my Resolution for acceptance of this august House.

Mr. SPEAKER : Resolution moved :

“That in view of the fact that Ahotguri Mouza in Golaghat Subdivision being one of the most backward Mouzas in all respects with special reference to communication, this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take necessary steps to extend the Majuli Public Works Department road with immediate effect from the next year from Sakupara, the meeting point of the Bhekelimukh Public Works Department road and the Majuli Public Works Department road to Muwaidubighat—the opposite bank of Subansiri Steamer ghat”.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it will not be out of place to give here for the information of the House a little history about roads and other works taken up and done in Majuli. What Government have done after the attainment of Independence, *i. e.*, after the 15th August, 1947 in Majuli? Ahotguri Mouza although included in the Golaghat Subdivision

is in Majuli. The following works were taken up and almost completed in Majuli area :—

	Rs.
1. Majuli road, Badati to Desangmukh—29 miles (excluding the bund-cum-road portion).	17,07,733
2. Sakopara-Bhekelimukh Road—2 miles	... 34,000
3. Construction of 3 bridges on the portion of road from Lohit to Kamalabari on the North La- khimpur-Kamalabari road.	1,00,000

About this a reference was made while discussing Resolution No. 1 yesterday.

The following work has been included in the 5-year Development Plan :—

1. Improving Pahumara-Garmur-Jangrimukh-Haldi- bari Road—27 miles—Estimate cost.	5,50,000
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Total for road 23,91,733

In addition to this there is another Embankment and Drainage road cum Bund, which was completed sometime ago. The flood measure taken in the Majuli area, viz., the Bund cum road from Haldibari to Salmara—17 miles—at a cost of Rs. 6,00,000 has been completed, and the project under the 5-year Development Plan—the proposal to extend the Majuli Bund to Dakshinpat—about 3 miles at a cost of Rs.75,000 has also been completed. The total amount spent for roads and embankment and drainage works comes to Rs.30,75,000, say 31 lakhs.

Sir, the area of Majuli will be about 300 sq. miles with a population of about 75,000. For this area a sum of Rs.31 lakhs will be spent and about more than half of that amount has already been spent for the improvement and development of the area.

Now, Sir, the road mentioned in the Resolution, viz., from Sakupara to Muwaidubighat, opposite to the Subansiri ghat.....

Mr. SPEAKER : What is the mileage ?

Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU : About 11 miles.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : (Minister) Sir, about 11 miles in length. Orders have been passed to prepare a rough plan and estimate

and to put up the same in the next meeting of the Assam Road Communication Board for consideration. You know, Sir, there is a Road Communications Board constituted by this House. When the rough plan and estimates of the road are received, the Assam Road Communications Board will consider these. In view of these facts, Sir, I would request my Friend to withdraw his Resolution.

Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU: On the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my resolution.

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

Resolution regarding sanction of Rs.4,00,000 for conversion of the bridle path into a motorable road between Mawngap and Mairang

Shri A. ALLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

“Whereas the Mawngap-Ranigodam Road is the first road which was constructed by the British in the District of United Khasi-Jaintia Hills and whereas the people living west of Mawngap numbering near about a lakh have great need of converting the bridle path into a motorable road between Mawngap and Mairang; and whereas it is imperatively necessary to satisfy the political aspirations of the people as well as to gain advantage both commercially and economically and whereas a Committee consisting of Military and Public Works Department authorities have unanimously recommended the immediate construction of a motorable road between Mawngap and Mairang at an estimated cost of Rs.4,00,000, be it resolved that Government do sanction a sum of Rs.4,00,000 and carry out the work this year.”

Sir, I had wished I could move this Resolution elsewhere instead of in this House. In moving this Resolution it is not my intention to draw the attention of the House particularly to a road in my constituency, which will no doubt benefit by the construction of this road. But there are certain political and economic factors which must be taken into consideration by this House. In order to understand this Resolution, it is necessary to speak something about the origin of this road. In 1826, a British officer named David Scott came from the Assam Valley and wanted a road to be constructed to Sylhet in order to connect both the valleys and also in order to attack the Raja of Jaintia who was then at war with the British. At that time in the State of Nongkhlaw, which then extended upto Palashbari, Davit Scott

approached the mother of the Ruler, who could speak a little Assamese, for permission to build the road. That permission was given and David Scott made the road. Subsequently the intention of the British transpired that they wanted to occupy the land. Then a grim guerilla battle ensued with the British under the leadership of Tirot Singh. The battle continued for four long years after which, of course, the Khasi were conquered. Thereafter nothing more was known about these hills. The British conquered them and divided them into 25 small native states, called Khasi States, and everybody forgot about them. These Khasi States were not under the administration of the State of Assam until the commencement of our Constitution. When the Sub-Committee of the Constituent Assembly came to Shillong many people, including myself, gave evidence before them. It was then assured that the Khasi State area would specially considered in framing the Constitution of India. Afterwards some of the Chiefs particularly the Siem of Nongstoin, near about the Pakistan border, refused to sign the Instrument of Accession. Later, he was persuaded to do it on the assurance that the rights and privileges which he used to enjoy will not be interfered with. These Khasi States have now merged into Assam and have become what is called the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills District. What I would respectfully submit is that the areas, which formerly comprised the Khasi States, need a little more care and attention than even the other hill areas of the State. You will be surprised to know, Sir, that in all these areas there is only one Lower Primary School, there is no communication or anything worth speaking about. Therefore, Sir, when the Governor, during the inauguration of the District Council, mentioned about Tirot Singh, I thought it would be an excellent thing if the Governor and the Chief Minister were to see this land through which this road passed. There is about a lakh of people living round-about the area.

Mr. SPEAKER : What is the population of the Khasi Hills ?

Shri A. ALLEY : About 3 lakhs, excluding Shillong.

Now, Sir, this is $\frac{1}{3}$ of the population of the Khasi Hills. When a memorial was erected in the memory of U Tirot Singh, the Governor went there and the Chief Minister also went there and they made very good speeches—I think I also made a good speech.....(laughter). Yes Sir, as I said, the Governor made a good speech and our Chief Minister also made a very excellent speech and we all gathered an impression, and the people also think, that this will be a very important road which will connect Khasi Hill with Kamrup, to facilitate trade between the Khasi Hills and Kamrup. That was the impression which

everybody collected there had in their minds. The importance of this road lies also in the fact that about 5 lakhs maunds of potato are exported out side Khasi Hills from this area alone. Sir, this road was surveyed previous to the coming of the Governor there. It was surveyed by the Government of India in 1949. But Sir, although the importance of this road was realised since that year, and its importance is also known to the Government of the day, nothing has been done.

Sir, the area to be served by this road is very large. It will also connect Nongstion which extend to Garo Hills. Therefore, Sir, it was estimated by the Government of India that this is a very important road. Besides helping the people it will also help to satisfy their political aspirations. After that the Governor also took a great interest on this road and a Committee was also convened in the Government House. We all went there. The military went there. The Assam Rifles also went there. We also went to Mairang although it was on a Sunday and sometime we do not like doing things on Sunday being Christians, but because I thought I would be doing some service to the people I went there. So we went there. And all were impressed that this road will satisfy the political and economic aspirations of the people. As I said, 5 lakhs maunds of potato is exported from this area alone. It was estimated that only 4 lakhs of rupees will be required for this road. So this Committee unanimously recommended that 4 lakhs of rupees can be had from the Government of India. If only the Assam Government will write to the Government of India. I am confident that the Government of India will certainly give us this 4 lakhs of Rupees. I do not say that this money should be met from the State revenues because I know we are very hard up. That is why in that meeting of the Committee it was recommended that the Government of Assam should write to the Government of India and the Government of India, it is hoped, will certainly give us this money. We want only 4 lakhs, Sir, and if this is given, we can appeal to the people also to contribute free labour. It is only meet and proper, Sir, that the people will think that the Government is helping them when, as I said before, that the Governor went there and the Chief Minister as well as the Medical Minister went there and we had a very big gathering and speeches were made whereby it was said that the road is an important one. Naturally people gathering there think that when so many big people including the Brigadier went there, something will be done. But it is regrettable that nothing has been done up till now. Sir, I am afraid, if nothing is done then the people will lose confidence

on the assurance of Government. It is important that Government should consider this aspect of the matter.

Also, Sir, another aspect of the case is this. Many people think that the town of Shillong itself form part of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills. If the Constitution had not come into force, about 2 lakhs of rupees would have been obtained from the town. It will be much appreciated if this money is used for the benefit of our people. But, Sir, I do not want to speak much on this subject, but what I want to impress upon the House is that our Government should recommend to the Government of India for the money. It has been stated in the recommendation of the Planning Advisory Board—I happen to be a member of that Board—that administration of the hills is the entire responsibility of the Government of India. Government should see that the grant allotted to hill areas under article 275 of the Constitution is utilised for that purpose. I also think that if the Government of Assam write to the Government of India and point out our difficulties, the Government of India even if they say that they have no money, we can at least have something to say to the people that we have tried our best to help them.

Sir, I do not want to take much time of the House. So I leave the matter to the good sense of the Government with the confidence that they will try to do what is best. With these words, I commend my Resolution to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER : Resolution moved :

“Whereas the Mawngap-Ranigodam Road is the first Road which was constructed by the British in the District of United Khasi-Jaintia Hills and whereas the people living west of Mawngap numbering near about a lakh have great need of converting the bridle path into a motorable road between Mawngap and Mairang; and whereas it is imperatively necessary to satisfy the political aspirations of the people as well as to gain advantage both commercially and economically and whereas a Committee consisting of Military and Public Works Department authorities have unanimously recommended the immediate construction of a motorable road between Mawngap and Mairang at an estimated cost of Rs. 4,00,000, be it resolved that Government do sanction a sum of Rs. 4,00,000 and carry out the work this year.”

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Mr. Speaker Sir, I quite appreciate the difficulties experienced by some villages in the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills in the matter of communica-

tion. But I shall give a brief history of what the Government has done during these last few years after Independence for the development of road system in the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills. The total length of road scheme taken up or proposed to be taken up in the first 5-Year Development Programme in the six schedule districts under Article 275 of the Constitution comes to 500 miles approximately. Out of these 500 miles, 126 miles are in the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills district.

Maulavi Md. UMARUDDIN : On a point of information, Sir, does this figure include the Jowai-Silchar road also?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): No Sir, I am coming to it. Sir, as I have said, the total length of road taken up or proposed to be taken up in the First Five-Year Development Programme in the Sixth Schedule District under Article 275 comes to 500 miles. Out of this, 126 miles are in the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills District. These are the roads:—

- (1) Mawphlang-Balat Road—48 miles, estimated cost 35 Lakhs.
- (2) Mawshamok-Shella Road—16 miles, estimated cost 10 Lakhs.
- (3) Dawki-Muktapur Road—10 miles, estimated cost 8 Lakhs.
- (4) Laitmawsiang on the Mawphlang-Balat Road to Mawthawpdah—20 miles, estimated cost 12 Lakhs.
- (5) Jowai-Jarain—Muktapur Road—32 miles estimated cost (under survey) for Sang.—22,400 Lakhs.

The average cost of a hill road per mile is about a lakh. Sometimes it is a little more and sometimes a little less. The approximate estimated cost would be 32 lakhs approximately for this road.

So this is the 126 miles and total amount will be 65 lakhs excluding the estimated cost of the Jowai-Jarain-Muktapur Road which will be about 32 lakhs.

Roads in this programme have been selected and given priority in consideration of administrative needs and also to remove the distress of the people in border areas caused by the partition of the country and loss of their markets etc. The

Ayyanger Committee which visited Assam last year have also given priority to these roads. In addition to this 126 miles, the following roads have been taken up within the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills District:—

1. *From petrol tax fund.*—(a) Mahadek-Mawshamok Road—7 miles, estimated cost is 6 lakhs 44 thousand.
2. *From Motor Tax.*—(b) Mawblang-Mahadek Road—5 miles, estimated cost is Rs. 3 lakhs.
3. *Jawai-Badarapur Road*—about 65 miles fall within the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills. The estimated cost of this portion is Rs.60 lakhs, approximately.
4. *Metalling Shillong-Jawai-Passi Road* under this 5-Year Development Programme—45 miles, estimated cost is Rs. 5 lakhs.

So, Sir, from the above it will be seen that the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills District has been given ample consideration in the matter of road development and road communication. At I first propose to give a little of Mawngap-Mairang Road for the information of the hon. Members.

There is a bridle path connecting Mawngap (a market place in mile 13th of Shillong-Mawphlang Road) with Rani Godown in Kamrup District *via* Mairang (mile 13) and Nongkhlaw (mile 26). The total length of this road is 70 miles and a portion of about 60 miles will fall in the Khasi Hills and 10 miles in the Kamrup District. Rough estimate for an all weather motorable road is about 60 lakhs. The hon. Mover wants immediately that 13 miles of road from Mawngap to Mairang should be made a motorable road. As I have already mentioned that there is a bridle path over which a jeep can pass with difficulty. There are zigzags and in taking turns a jeep has to come back and then go. My Friend wants to convert this road to an all weather motorable road. The hon. Member wants this House to sanction Rs. 4,00,000 to make the road motorable. I am told by Public Works Department that road can only be made easily jeepable by spending Rs. 4 lakhs but will not be an all weather motorable road. In that case again this will have to be re-aligned and reconstructed to make it an all weather motorable

road. The Silchar-Aijal Road was constructed at first as a jeepable road. Now it has been decided that it should be made a motorable road. The entire alignment has to be given up, and a new alignment is selected the cost of which will be about one lakh of rupees for one mile of it. If this road is improved by spending 4 lakhs of rupees it will be only a jeepable road and if it is decided afterwards to make it an all-weather motorable road, and my Friends want an all-weather motorable road then the labour and money spent will be wasted.

(At this stage the Speaker vacated the Chair and the Deputy Speaker occupied it.)

Shri A. ALLEY : I want to tell for the information of the House that this road is not a jeepable road. We have measured it and we have made our estimate as the Public Works Department has done. It will not require further alignment.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) : I have discussed the matter with the Chief Engineer and the Additional Chief Engineer. It will only be a jeepable road. There are some zigzags; with great difficulty a jeep can pass over this road now. In making the curves and zigzags easy the cost will come up to 4 lakhs of rupees.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : What is the length of the road ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister) : Thirteen miles. To make the zigzags and curves easy or to make it a jeepable road it would cost about 4 lakhs. If the road is converted into a motorable road it will require another 13 lakhs because a different alignment for such a road will have to be made. To convert this road into an all-weather motorable road it will cost another 13 lakhs because alignment will have to be changed as was done in the case of Silchar-Aijal Road. To make the Silchar-Aijal Road motorable the entire alignment of the jeepable road had to be changed. Labour and the money spent on the former jeepable alignment was a waste. The entire project is under examination by the Government. The total cost for this road will be about 70 lakhs and the whole matter will have to be considered by the Assam Road Communication Board-whether road is to be financed from the Petrol Tax Fund or to be financed from the fund made available under the development programme in the sixth schedule districts under Art. 275 of the Constitution. So the matter requires examination by Government. The Tribal Areas Department already have fixed a programme of work and laid down the priority. The work cannot be taken up this year for another reason, because the Public Works Department will have to increase an expenditure of approximately 7 crores of rupees on works excluded

about 50 lakhs for establishment. About 6 crores 50 lakhs would be spent on works. Last year the Department with great difficulty spent about 4 crores 50 lakhs on works. We have already drawn up a big programme, but our staff is limited. Although the Assam Public Service Commission advertised for recruitment of technical staff to fill up vacancies of Assistant Engineers, Overseers., Computers, etc, they are not successful in getting the required number of the staff. There are at present 40 to 50 vacancies of Overseer's grade and some vacancies of Assistant Engineers and Computers which have not been able to fill up for shortage of such technical staff. There is another difficulty. It is labour. In hills it is very difficult to get labour. Formerly Pakistan labour used to come and work here. But after the introduction of the passport system it is not possible. The Department indented labour for work in the Silchar-Aijal Road. For about 500 labour indented from outside, the Public Works Department had to incur additional expenditure which increases cost of construction. There are extra expenditures for the labour indented from outside because the Department have to pay for the railway fare, for their repatriation, for their medical facilities, etc. and over and above that they are to arrange supply of food for them. The local labour is available only after their Jhum cultivation and also after the harvest season. It shows that even if money is made available, but for manifold difficulties pointed out no new work can be taken up.

Maulavi Md. UMARUDDIN: Sir, has Government examined the possibilities of employing machinery for road construction in hill areas ?

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): It is difficult to bring machinery to the hill areas for want of road. To bring bulldozer and such other machinery for construction of road in the hills how can it be possible without a road ? So, Sir, there is difficulty even to employ machinery in the hill areas. In the plains it is possible to make sub-ways in winter to bring machinery. But it is not so in the hills.

Maulavi Md. UMARUDDIN: In Silchar there is a road.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): In Silchar there is no difficulty. There is already a jeepable road and private and public carrier can move and help for construction of the new motorable road.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: When there is jeepable road the bulldozer can at least be taken from the road.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): Even than the are difficulties. To certain protions of the hill area such machineries cannot be taken. Besides, to bring machineries from foreign countries like America or England it takes 2 to 3 years to arrive here. Even the tools and plants ordered two years ago have not arrived. The question of unemployment requires examination also.

Maulavi Md. UMARUDDIN: There are firms in India which can help the Department in such work.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): For construction of big roads and bridges it may be possible to engage some foreign firms in certain places, but there are difficulties also. To help the people of Assam, specially hill people in there economy Government try to engage them in P.W.D. works. But if we take the help of the outside firms and machineries, the people of Assam, specially the hill people, will be very hard hit.

I have already explained the difficulties why the work cannot be taken up immediately. The whole matter will have to be examined and considered either by the Assam Road Communication Board or the Tribal Areas Department before arriving at a decision. Unless it is fully examined it is very difficult for the Government to accept the Resolution.

In view of what I have stated, I request my Friend, the mover of the Resolution, to withdraw his Motion.

Shri A. Alley: Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

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

Resolution for Indianising the Officer Grade services of Assam.
All foreign concerns like the European owned tea gardens, Assam Oil Company, R.S.N. and I.G.N. Company, etc., in Assam.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move—

“This Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take necessary steps to Indianise the officer-grade services of all foreign concerns like the European owned tea gardens, Assam Oil Company, R.S.N. and I.G.N. Company, etc., in Assam.”

Sir, in moving this Resolution I am conscious of the fact that this Resolution cannot be implemented through legislation. Sir, so long as our Constitution remains as it is, it is not possible to force the employers in the private sectors to take employees of our choice. I am also aware that recently Parliament passed a Bill for collection

of statistics which may to a great extent, help in determining the actual position regarding these concerns. Yet, Sir, I move this Resolution because in an independent country where we have political independence, it is also necessary to have economic control over the concerns which vitally affects the welfare of the State. Sir, when I look at this problem and the period that has elapsed between the Independence Day and to-day I find that our Government have not looked at the problem as seriously as they should have done. Sometimes it reminds me of the spectacle of an old and aged groom approaching a young bride sluggish but fascinated, apprehensive but lusty. In this matter we cannot pursue a hesitant and faltering policy. I know our Chief Minister, the Leader of the House, is anxious to see that these concerns really do employ Indians and particularly Assamese in the sense anybody living in the State of Assam, but mere wish is one thing and practical step is another. In spite of the limitations from which we suffer because of the Constitutional difficulties and other things, yet I feel there are enough avenues through which pressure can be brought to bear upon these concerns and they can be forced to take Indian employees. Sir, we are an independent country, yet not to speak of the whole country but even in our own State there are areas where the Britishers still reign supreme and control the economic life of country in such a way that they can even bring about a paralysis in our economic system. Sir, once I said on the floor of this House that there are two Governments in Assam, but the Finance Minister replied that he did not see two Governments but only one. Sir, in saying so, I did not mean that there are two Governments in the political sense, but in the actual sense, the real sense, in the economic sense. There is one Government over which our Chief Minister, Mr. Medhi, reigns supreme and another Government over which the I.T.A., Assam Oil Co., R.S.N. & I.G.N. Co. and the R.R.T. Co. reign supreme.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): Then there are four Governments.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Only one Government run by Britishers.

Sir, even if we look to the number of people they control we will find that they control the lives of about 10 to 13 thousand people in the Assam Oil Co. Not only do they control the 13 thousand employees but also the lives of the 65 thousand people who are the dependents of these 13 thousand people. Then there are the R.S.N. & I.G.N. Co., who have about 12 hundred employees with about six thousand dependents. Then there is the R.R.T. Co., with about 4,000 employees and 20,000 dependents. I.T.A. has 12 lakhs under them. In this way when we look the huge number of people over which

these foreign concerns exercise their control we will realise that the Britishers still reign supreme in our State. Sir, it may not be possible to do away with these British concerns by a single piece of legislation. They are not only investing money in our State but also are taking away 4 to 5 crores of rupees from our State every year. And when we look to these concerns, what do we find? We find that almost all the people in the higher rank, *i. e.*, in Officers' Grades, are entirely manned by British personnel, people coming from outside India. But actually the people who are working in the factories and in the field whose labours have actually produced the entire wealth have been relegated to the background and made only hewers of wood and drawers of water. Sir, when we look at the figures of the European Officers employed in different concerns the injustice meted out to the actual workers in the field and factories, our own people will be more apparent. In the Assam Oil Company, Sir, there are about 110 European Officers who are drawing more than two thousand a month. There are about 60 Indians in the Executive rank of the Company but they are drawing only about rupees one thousand a month. In the Senior subordinate staff there are about 140 members with a pay scale of Rs. 200/- to 500/-. Besides there are about 868 lower grade workers and clerks who draw a salary between Rs. 60/- and 200/-. In the Field Section there are about 4,282 people, in the Refinery there are about 1,956, in the Tank Refinery there are about 465, and altogether comes to 8,125. These workers draw a salary of Rs. 1/4/- to Rs. 3/- daily. Again when we look at the percentage, we find 110 Europeans who constitute 1.4 per cent. of the total staff take away 46.6 per cent. of the total wage bill. Indian executive who form 0.7 per cent., of the staff—get 23 per cent. There are about 3.8 per cent., Senior Subordinates and they get 5.2 per cent., of the wage bill. The daily rated workmen—8,125 in number constitute 82.5 per cent., of the total staff—get only 10.9 per cent., of the wage bill. Thus we see that 110 Europeans who get more than Rs. 2,000/- per month and who only form 1.4 per cent., of the staff take away from the total wages 46.6 per cent., of the total wage bill and 54 per cent., is distributed among the rest 12,000.

Sir, this is a revealing picture. The European Officers are taking away the lion's share. Sir, I have a list also of the R. S. N. and I. G. N. Company. There are 26 officers of which all are Europeans with the exception of 5 officers who are Indians. They have been recruited only recently. Again there is distinction between the pay scales of these officers. In the case of the R. S. N. Company the total of Indian staff will be about 1,300 and above 40 per cent., of the Wage Bill is spent as emoluments of the 26 European Officers. Sir, regarding the I. T. A. this is a closed book to us. It is very difficult to get their correct figures, but we know that there are about 700 European tea garden

and in about 50 gardens there are some Indian Assistants ; in other gardens there are only European Assistants. The Manager's rank is a monopoly for the Europeans. Sir, when we go through these figures and also about the emoluments drawn by these Europeans we find that in the case of Europeans they are given a starting of Rs. 500/- per month for Assistant Manager and it goes up to Rs. 2000/-, over and above the bonus or there is something like the share in dividend of the Companies. Then there is House Allowance, provision for 5 servants, free quarters, motor allowance, Overseas allowance. On the other hand a tea garden labourer gets Rs. 1/4/- a day for one day's hard work ! Sir, my purpose is not to create bitterness against the Europeans. They are efficient people; they have done very good work. But when a Nation comes to its own, it is quite fair and natural that Government should try to remove such great disparity that still exists. It is particularly necessary to-day in a strategic frontier State like Assam where we have seen the manipulation of foreign powers can jeopardise the very independence of the State. When things are viewed in that angle also it is necessary that in this vast area non-Indians should not be allowed to rule supreme. Sir, I believe in the brotherhood of universe, in the universal brotherhood of men, but I also believe in the equality between men and men. One class of people should not be exploited by another and no State worth its name can allow it. When we find such things we have every right to raise our voice against such a state of affair.

Sir, regarding the investment also, it may not be possible here and now to nationalise all these tea gardens. I know there are difficulties both real and national in nationalising all these concerns just now, but if we allow these things to continue, another Iran may be repeated here. Therefore Government should have a plan to nationalise these concerns and at least Government should take immediate steps to Indianise the Officer Grade who are expected to be more patriotic than people coming from other countries, who may suddenly at the critical hour betray us and paralyse the whole economy and the State. With these objects in view I have tabled this Resolution. I am not saying that this will solve our unemployment problem. When I go through the five-year plan and the staggering figures of an educated unemployed, I am not blind to the situation that these cannot solve our problem of educated unemployed people. But I feel here is an avenue where at least some people can be given a scope for employment, where they can utilise their energy to the best interest of the country. So it is necessary for the Government to take these steps so that even this perplexing problem of unemployment may be solved to some extent. Sir, we have seen also that some Europeans are taken in certain tea gardens

who have no educational qualifications, simply because the Head Offices of these tea gardens happen to be in England, the management there recruit their own people, mostly their relatives, who are inferior in calibre. Sir, we are not here to solve the unemployment problem of England or France or any other country when we have a staggering problem of unemployment in our own country. Therefore it is necessary, even if it may not solve our unemployment problem in full, at least to try to Indianise these services in the office grade and solve the problem to some extent. Sir, here in Assam the Digboi Oil Company is a vital industry. It may be argued that we have not got those technicians who can run the oil industry and another Abadan affair may be repeated if we rush in for nationalisation. But if we do not take steps early to man those posts by Indians, even after ten years it will remain a colony for England and for their exploitation. It is therefore necessary to force this concern to take a progressive policy of Indianising these services. Whenever any qualified candidate is available within the country he must be given preference in the matter of employment in that post against any European candidate. Sir, we know also certain countries, *viz.*, Burma, Ceylon, China, who are trying this experiment seriously and scientifically. It is necessary to force these concerns to take as many nationals of our country as is possible. I feel, Sir, even in our country it is possible, if Government do take steps in this direction. In doing so, we will not only move in the direction of solving a vital problem that is perplexing us, that has become so puzzling, I mean the unemployment problem, but it will be in the greater interest of the country and sooner or later this problem of nationalisation will have to be taken up and in that event we must not be faced with the problem of manning those posts by qualified technicians, as in case of Iran. With these words, I request our Hon'ble Leader of the House, the Chief Minister, to accept this Resolution not in the sense that there should be some legislation, but in the sense taking more effective steps and in the sense of using his good offices to bring pressure on these concerns to take more Indians so that after some time we may be able to remove this plague spot which is dominating in this part of the country. We should not allow our wealth to go to some other countries to enrich the people there when our own people are suffering in hunger and poverty here. Time will come when the universal brotherhood would prevail upon the whole world, artificial barriers will crumble down and everybody will feel free and happy but in the meantime, it is our bounden duty to see that our people prosper. We should take all steps to harness the potentiality of the country, we should harness the riches lying under the earth of our country for the betterment of our people. With these words, Sir, I commend my Resolution for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Resolution moved.

“This Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take necessary steps to Indianise the officer grade services of all foreign concerns like the European owned tea gardens, Assam Oil Company, R. S. N. and I. G. N. Company, etc., in Assam.”

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : Sir, although I have got full sympathy with the objective of my learned Friend to the urgent necessity of Indianising the Officer grade services of these Industries, for which I have been taking whatever steps that is within my power, it will be appreciated by him that the State Government cannot dabble directly in these matters.

Sir, this Resolution is not in order and therefore no action on it is possible. Under the Constitution the Central Legislature or the Parliament can deal with such matter concerning foreign farms, oil industry, steamer companies, etc. In view of this, I think, although I have full sympathy for it, the Resolution as it is worded is out of order. If there would have been a Resolution that the Government of India should be moved in this direction that would have been another thing.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Sir, I think, the point of order raised by the Chief Minister is out of order, because the Resolution has already been moved and it has been moved because it has been admitted and the subject that has been dealt within the Resolution is within the scope of discussion of the State Legislature and therefore the State Legislature is competent to give its opinion and recommendation to the Central Government on this matter and that is why this Resolution is not out of order. If it was out of order the Speaker would not have admitted it and it would not have been allowed to be moved.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : By admitting a Resolution it does not mean that the Resolution is in order because if somebody points out that it is not in order and if there is material in support of it then it can be declared as out of order. Besides, it has not been properly worded.

Maulavi Md. UMARUDDIN : It is perfectly worded; when it says, “This Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take necessary steps...,” “Necessary steps” mean that it is within the power of the State Government to move the Government of India, if necessary, to Indianise the officer grade services and it is the responsibility of the State Government to discharge its duty in this direction.

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) : This is a matter which concerns the Union Government. For instance matters relating to and admission and emigration of foreign national comes within the direct responsibility of the Government of India under the Constitution.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Does it mean that Indianising will mean victimisation of the foreigners?

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister): The Resolution is there, Sir.

Maulavi Md. UMARUDDIN: May I know, Sir, in what capacity was the Chief Minister agitating in this very matter, whether in the capacity of the Chief Minister or in his private capacity?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to make a submission here. In my opinion, the Resolution is in order when it urges that the Assam Government do take necessary steps. If in the opinion of the Chief Minister this is within the jurisdiction of the Central Government, let there be a Resolution from this Assembly which would be forwarded to the Government of India by the State Government for necessary action.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Wordings to that effect are not there.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: "Necessary steps" clarify that. If it is not within the jurisdiction of this Government, let us move the Government of India.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As I understand it, 'necessary steps' means no direct steps to be taken to Indianise. There is no direction that the Government of India should be moved. Besides Seventh Schedule, Item No. 10 of the Constitution dealing with foreigners and foreign concerns comes within the purview of the Government of India, in List I *i.e.*, the Union List.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: May I make a submission, Sir?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already given my opinion so there is no necessity to argue on this point.

Resolution regarding repealing of the Assam Sales Tax Act as amended up-to-date with Rules made thereunder and formation of a Non-official Enquiry Committee to go into the question of a Sales and purchase Tax in the State.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take necessary steps to repeal the Assam Sales Tax Act as amended up-to-date with Rules made thereunder on being reported by a Non-official Enquiry Committee set up to go into the question of a Sales and Purchase Tax in the State.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Sir, on a point of order and I may be permitted to speak. My point of order involves an important issue in this case.

The resolution as it has been drafted by my Friend wants to combine two things together. His first thing is that, "This Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take necessary steps to repeal the Assam Sales Tax Act as amended up-to-date with Rules made thereunder." The Resolution if it would have been worded with this part then it would have been in order. But, Sir, he has mixed up another thing in the Resolution by stating further—"On being reported by a Non-official Enquiry Committee set up to go into the question of a Sales and Purchase Tax in the State." That means, on the appointment of an Enquiry Committee by the Government of Assam it will make a report. But what is the guarantee there that the Enquiry Committee will recommend the repeal of the tax. My Friend is anticipating that the Committee will recommend the repeal of the tax and that the tax on being recommended will be repealed.

Sir, if you will be pleased to look into Chapter X, Rule 95 and page 23 of the Assembly Rules pertaining to Resolutions, you will find, Sir, it is stated that a Resolution "shall be clearly and precisely expressed and shall raise a definite issue". Now, what is the definite issue raised here? The hon. Member wants that a Committee should be appointed and he also wants the repeal of the Sales Tax Act. That means, he has jumbled up two things together. Not only that. He also anticipates what the Committee will recommend. He takes it for granted that whatever may be the character of the Committee, they will recommend the repeal of this tax. I, therefore, submit, Sir, that he has not worded his Resolution precisely and it also does not raise a definite issue and as such, the Resolution is out of order.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Sir, I can quite appreciate the eagerness of the Finance Minister to evade this issue...

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: You do not impute any motive.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I am not imputing any motive, Sir. I simply said that I could appreciate his eagerness to shelve this matter. Sir, there is a history behind drafting of this Resolution, which I would like to place before the House. The Resolution, as worded now, was re-drafted in the Assembly Secretariat from my original draft. I did not put this wording in my original Resolution.

Sir, the Finance Minister has completely misunderstood the whole position. The issue is very simple. It is this: on being reported by a Non-official Enquiry Committee set up to go into the whole question of sales and purchase tax, this Assembly is of opinion that the Government do take necessary steps to repeal the Assam Sales Tax Act....

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister): What will happen if the Committee does not recommend such a course?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I said "being reported by a Committee", That means if the Committee so recommends...

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, No. I hold this Resolution out of order.

(Adjournment)

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A. M., on Tuesday 1st September, 1953.

Shillong,

The 30th January1954.

R. N. BARUA,
Secretary,

Legislative Assembly Assam.

