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Proceedings of the Fourth 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 Thursday, the 3rd September, 1953.

PRESENT

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which Answers were laid on the table)

Allocation of shares to the District Council from taxes on Vehicles plying in Khasi and Jaintia Hills district

Shri KISTOBIN RYMBAI asked :

2. Will Government be pleased to state what action has been taken in regard to the allocation of shares to the District Council from taxes on vehicles plying on roads within the District of the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills

Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI (Chief Minister) replied :

2.—The matter is still under examination.

Digboi Oil Company

Shri LILA KANTA BORAH asked :

3. (a) Will Government be pleased to state what control is being exercised by Government over the Digboi Oil Company ?

(b) Is there any agreement with the Company regarding employment of Indians and if so, what it is and is Government satisfied that the same has been implemented ?

(c) Are Government aware that in high grade post, racial discrimination is made by the Company over-riding the claims of Indians even with same or higher qualifications ?

(d) Is it a fact that Indians in high grade posts are paid much lower emoluments than foreigners of the same rank ?

(e) Do Government propose to take necessary steps so that the interest of the children of the soil are protected in all grades of appointment in the company and no racial discrimination is made in respect of emoluments in the same rank ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister) replied :

3. (a)—Government exercise such control as is provided in

the Mining Concessions (Assam) Rules, 1941, under which the mining leases held by the Assam Oil Company were issued and the Petroleum Concession Rules, 1949, under which a few prospecting and exploring licenses have since been issued. Copies of the Rules are placed on the Library table.

(b)—No, but the old mining leases contained a clause to the effect that the Local General Manager and not less than 75 per cent. of the staff employed shall be British subjects or subjects of Indian States. In view of the present status of India, Government have already taken up the question of alteration of the said clause to provide for employment of Indian citizens. Government are advised that such alteration in existing leases can be effected only by supplemental agreement with the Assam Oil Company and the matter is under correspondence with the Company.

Government have also proposed the inclusion of a clause prohibiting the employment of non-Indians except with their prior approval in the leases to be issued under the Petroleum Concession Rules, 1949. The draft lease forms are now under the consideration of the Government of India.

(c) & (d)—Government have no information and as such Government cannot affirm or deny it.

(e)—As stated in (b) above the first suggestion is already receiving the active consideration of Government. The second suggestion will be considered if any specific cases are brought to the notice of Government.

Shri LILA KANTA BORAH: Regarding question 3 (c) and (d), is it a fact that some representation was made to the Government by the Digboi Congress Committee and the Digboi Worker Union?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Yes, Sir. Some representation was made to the Government but as these representation did not contain specific matters, Government was put to difficulty to ascertain facts.

Shri LILA KANTA BORAH: Will Government be pleased to make an immediate enquiry into the matter?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Sir, the difficulty is that it is not possible to make an immediate inquiry,

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Regarding Question No. 3 (d) What is the reaction?

Mr. SPEAKER: What is your reply?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Correspondence is going on between the Government of India, Government of Assam, and the Company in regard to this matter.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: When that correspondence has been made ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): It was after a year and half, Sir.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Is it a fact that a new lease has been granted to the Company at Naharkatiya ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): It is only a prospecting license.

Further discussion on the motion relating to consider Food situation in Assam

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on Tuesday last when I was dealing with some points of decontrol and cordoning raised by my Friend, Mr. Das, the House was adjourned. He said, "When there was no scarcity of food in the State, why there should be any control and cordoned and notified areas in our State; if in the cordoned and notified areas, the existing restrictions were removed and control system abolished, in that case, so far as the district of Cachar was concerned, the food problem would have been solved." I am sorry, I cannot see eye to eye with my Friend. Why? I am just going to narrate it. Sir, on several occasions, it was represented to the Government that the existing Check Gate at Badarpur should be shifted towards west, say, by about 2 miles or $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles near Srigauri Bazar. The idea was that if that Check Gate was shifted, the people of Badarpur proper and other nearby villagers would be able to meet their requirements of rice and paddy from Hailakandi Subdivision. We, at that time, tried to explain to our Friends who came on a deputation with representation that the situation would not improve rather Hailakandi people would be put into difficulty for giving a temporary relief to the people of Karimganj; according to our information Hailakandi also was not surplus and if they would have allowed to move rice and paddy for the people of Karimganj Subdivision from that part of the district then the scarcity in that Subdivision would have been further increased. Though we would have been very much pleased and happy to accommodate our Friends, (some of them were

also Members of this Assembly), yet we could not do this for the sake of Hailakandi people. Ultimately what did we find? It was proved beyond any shadow of doubt that the Hailakandi Subdivision, from where my Friends wanted to bring rice and paddy, was not a surplus zone and if the Government would have acceded to their request, the accusation would have come from the people of Hailakandi Subdivision. There is no justification for shifting the gate, in the event of shifting the Check Gate from its present location to a distance of 2 miles or so, the people of Hailakandi would have suffered a great deal and that would have been unfair to them.

Sir, the fact that Cachar is at present a deficit district is well-known to all the hon. Members of this House; even day-before-yesterday. I said that 1,15,000 tons of rice had been sent from this part of the State to the District of Cachar in the course of last 3 or 4 months over and above what was sent before that during the current Kharif year. This shows that the district is a deficit one, and rice was sent not only to the Silchar Subdivision but also to the Hailakandi and Karimgang Subdivisions. My Friends wanted to shift those check gates with a view to do justice to the people of a particular locality, but Government thought that the solution of the problem was not by the shifting of the gate, but by opening up of necessary Cheap Grain shops in the deficit areas which was the only effective solution of the problem. My Friend, Shri Harewar Goswami, said that the improvement in the food position was not the action of human-beings, it was the action of God. He is quite right. Nobody has said from this side of the House that Government has improved the position and God had nothing to do with it. But at the same time, if anything is found not up to the expectation of my Opposition Friends, the blame is put on the Government. My Friends, at that time do not say that it is the action of God, when there was scarcity, it was Government's action and when there is no scarcity it is God's action. Bravo my Friend—what a fair comment! When they find that something good has been done by the action of Government, to them it is not so. I am sorry for my Friends; if God is to be dragged in, let them stand on that principle and let them praise or curse God. We all praise God, and depend on Him for guidance. He has given us commonsense and the opportunity of serving the people of our State. We believe in God have faith in Him. I do not know whether some one of Shri Goswami's associates sitting by his side has any doubt about the existence of God, but I can say boldly that among those with whom I am

sitting as a party member, there is none who has got any doubt about the existence and action of God.

Now, Sir, four areas have been mentioned which are said to be deficit areas, *viz.*, Kampur, Garubat, Jamunamukh and Jorabari. These are the areas which were mentioned as deficit areas by several hon. Members both from the Opposition side as well as from this side of the House. All these places are within the district of Nowgong and they mostly fall within the constituency which my Friend, Shri B. K. Bora, represents. He has explained the position quite clearly and my Friend went so far as to say that this scarcity was limited to the indigenous people of this State. The immigrants who knew the technique of producing Buro paddy were not experiencing the difficulty due to failure of Sali crop; it is the indigenous people who are the real sufferers because they could not grow Buro paddy.

Sir, another point was raised that this scarcity was due to our action because there was no free movement of paddy or rice in those areas. I do not know what appropriate adjective I shall use before such statement. To put it mildly I dare say it is anything but true. There is no restriction in the movement of paddy or rice within the District of Nowgong. Within the district any man can take to any place up to 10 maunds paddy in a bullock cart, any one can carry as much as he can either on his head or on his back. So there is no such restriction as stated by my Opposition Friends and this has already been published in the Gazette and I have also made statement on the floor of this House to that effect.

Maulavi Md. UMARUDDIN: Is it applicable in all the districts?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): It is applicable to all the districts. There is some restriction in some Zones where some portion of one district has been tagged to another district for administrative facility regarding procurement but they are mostly on district basis.

Maulavi Md. UMARUDDIN: Have the surplus areas been excluded from the relaxation on which the hon. Minister is speaking now?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): There is no question of surplus or deficit area. I am now speaking about the Nowgong District. In that district any one can take paddy on load (Bhar) and upto ten maunds in carts from any part of the district to the other.

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB of Sidli: Is there no notified area in the district of Nowgong?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): No, Sir. There is no notified area. These facts have all been published in the Gazette. My Friend, Shri Umaruddin, does not care to read all these and on the floor of this House he is putting all such questions as if he is trying to bring out some concealed information from the Government, but, Sir, far from that rather he is exhibiting his ignorance. My Friends want clarification in every point. Alas! I wish I would have been a School Master in my past life to have the experience to teach my Friends like Shri Umaruddin (*loud laughter*)! Now, Sir, to say that there is restriction on the free movement of paddy in the district of Nowgong is not a fact, it is anything but true.

It was also alleged that procurement is going on in scarcity areas. Just to blame the Government and to draw up a black picture one can say like that, but, Sir, as a matter of fact there is no compulsion whatsoever on the producers. We are not making any *Julum* to any one so that he is compelled to part with his paddy. Whatever is offered by a producer voluntarily is purchased. If we do not procure in any area, then we are accused that Government are not procuring, and the price is going down, the cultivators are suffering, so on and so forth. Sir, we are not given time even for properly inspecting the quality of paddy. Our Friends are not willing to give time for getting the paddy reasonably dry. If it is a scarcity area, how people are offering for sale their paddy and Government are buying the same and whereas others of the locality in need are not buying the same. Absurd. So, Sir, to say that Government is responsible for this scarcity because they are procuring in the scarcity area is anything but true like other wild allegations. Our Friends in the Opposition should not blame the Government for that. Whenever we hear of any scarcity in any area we at once rush food to that area. We are opening cheap grain shops in deficit areas and giving rice to the people there according to rationed scale.

Some of my Friends from Nowgong suggested that unless the problem of flood in the district was solved, this sort of scarcity will continue in some part or other of the district.

Mr. SPEAKER: Problem of flood is not within your province.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): Yes, I agree that it is not relevant in this connection, but, Sir, when these things were raised and you allowed them to talk about it, I think, it would be proper if I am also allowed to explain the Government position in this respect.

About the river Kapili, I can say this much that the Kapili Valley Project cannot be taken up unless we collect the necessary data after proper survey. Even today the Survey party is working. Government is quite alive to that situation and action is being taken. In case of Cachar also a similar point was raised that unless the river Barak was controlled, the annual flood will be there and people will continue to suffer. Sir, these are not new things. They were brought to the notice of the Government by many hon. Members, but after the survey of the Kapili River is over, the Survey of the Barak will also be taken up.

My Friend, Shri Jogakanta Barua, said that unless there were *bunds* on both sides of the Dehing River, the problem cannot be solved. I have noted that point also. I can tell my hon. Friends that not only these three but many other suggestions have been received by Government from different quarters regarding *bunds* and irrigation canals and all these are under consideration of Government. Some of them are under implementation and some of them have even been completed. These are, of course, all very relevant facts and Government are alive to them.

Now, Sir, Mr. Goswami from Palashbari mentioned that people were co-operating and enquired whether Government did not realise this and taking advantage of the same situation. I did not quite follow my Friend why he put that question to us that whether we were aware of the public co-operation. If people are not co-operating with us how we are here and running the Government? People are co-operating not only to-day, but they are co-operating for a very long time. Because the people are behind us we are here. The Congress is a popular organisation and people are solidly behind it.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: On a point of clarification, Sir. As a matter of fact this statement was made by my Friend, Shri Mahendra Nath Hazarika, from the other side. He said that people were not co-operating. I only replied that people were co-operating as shown in the matter of procurement.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): I also remember what Shri Mahendra Nath Hazarika said. Shri Hazarika said this in a different connection. Shri Goswami cannot say that he did not originate it.

Mr. SPEAKER : Mr. Goswami said that he did not say so and you have to accept that.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): I have accepted that, Sir. Yes, Sir, Mr. Goswami did not say that people were not co-operating. Sir, I am glad to know that Mr. Goswami is aware of the fact that people are co-operating with us in all matters. (*Shri Ranendra Mohan Das* :—This is redundant. Come to the next point). Now, Sir, my Friend, the "Next Point" I mean Shri Das from Karimganj, raised the question of wheat and wheat products. He accused the Government for suppressing and delaying the publication of certain notification of the Government of India. He said that Government received the notification in time yet they did not give any publicity to the same for several months. Sir, there are two things which I would like to explain in this connection. One is that what is published by the Central Government cannot be suppressed by this Government, if it is really publication. I hope my learned Friend will understand the implication of this. The next point is: what is the actual state of affairs? My Friend said that when control on wheat and wheat products was removed, we acted in a different way. This is not a fact. The control on wheat and wheat products as a whole was not removed. The control was removed only on flour, Suji, pollard and residuary Atta, but not on the whole meal Atta the real Atta which used to be supplied by the Government through the ration shops. Thus, restriction was not lifted on the very vital thing with which we are concerned. Now, Sir, when the notification was received by us we noticed that so far as the State of Dehli was concerned, the Government of India's policy was that the restrictions would remain in that State as before, i. e., before the control on these few items of wheat products were removed. For other States, the control on whole meal Atta should remain as before and on other products which I have mentioned now should be removed. Sir, I did not like the idea because I thought that it would be very difficult for us to maintain the paucity of the stuff which will be contracted by Government. We pointed out to the Government of India the dangers inherent in the decontrol of "fines" and residual Atta, pollard etc., from imported wheat. It was felt that it would be practically impossible to distinguish between pollard and Atta which was now free and the whole meal Atta over which full restrictions were continued by the Government of India. Pollard will be much lower priced than whole meal Atta and as it would be freely available, it would affect sales of the higher priced Government whole meal Atta. Hon. Members know that when whole wheat is crushed, a certain portion remains, after taking out flour and Suji, which is called residuary Atta, which is of a little thicker stuff. Now, if there is no control on that stuff and control is exercised only

over wholemeal Atta, there is risk of some shop-keepers mixing this residuary Atta with the genuine stuff and Government will have no means to control this. The result will be that the Government will be blamed for supplying bad quality Atta. I, therefore, brought this fact to the notice of the Government of India and suggested two alternative, *viz.*, either to treat us as they have treated the State of Delhi or lift the control altogether. We explained our difficulties to the Central Government. In the meantime, when we were under correspondence with the Central Government, we wrote to all Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers whether they can recommend parties who would be willing to take whole wheat and have it milled locally and whether our people would be agreeable to take Atta milled in our State, by the small mills. We sought this information because we received complaints on many occasions that people did not like the locally-milled Atta. When I went to Dhubri, some of my Friends represented to me that people produce wheat there but if they could not bring it to the rationed area, due to the restriction, how could they sell their produce? Of course, at that time I explained to them that it was beyond my power to lift the restriction as this was a commodity which was controlled by the Central Government, but, nevertheless, I said that I would bring this to the notice of the Central Government. I wanted that there should not be any restriction, but in case there was any restriction it should be imposed in such a way that the people cannot blame this Government for supplying something worse than that for which they are paying. Then, Sir, the fear of mixture with the residuary Atta was also justified from another part of view. It might so happen that people might not care for quality if they got residuary Atta cheaper and might not lift the whole meal Atta which Government would bring on their account. That was another difficulty. Now, Sir, as a matter of fact we did not insist on the lifting of 25 per cent. of the Atta from our ration shops which, according to rule, we should have done. I mentioned to some of my Friends when they made representation to this effect that when rice was selling at rates varying from Rs.19 to Rs. 21 at some places, the people were purchasing Atta at the rate of Rs. 27-8-0 here, of course in the plains it was a little less. Now I also thought that if people could meet their demands by taking 75 per cent. of the rationed quarter and meet their demands, I should not insist on the lifting of 25 per cent. Atta. This State requested the Government of India that control over fines and the by-products, as well as wholemeal Atta should remain as before. This the Government of India did not accept. In the alternative this Government had suggested that responsibility for supplying wholemeal Atta should also no longer rest on this

Government and that this commodity be also freed. This too was not fully accepted to the Government of India. In the meantime as heavy loss on wholemeal Atta stocks held on Government account was apprehended, this Government stopped importing Atta till the position was clarified by the Government of India who were also asked to make good the losses which would result to this Government on account of freely available pollard and residual Atta in the market and under-selling the Government Atta. When the Secretary of the Central Government came here, I had a talk with him. I tried to explain to him my point. Then he said that he had no hand in the matter because it was the decision of the Union Food Minister, Mr. Kidwai. Still I discussed the matter further with him to convince him our difficulty and I hoped that I could explain the position to him justifying my stand. From the result that I am going to state just now I think I was correct in guessing so. I told him that when I was supplying rice to our people at a lower rate than Atta by about Rs.7 per maund and at the same time when I was also giving something as a loan to the Central Government to be given to other deficit States at a much lower rate than Atta, why should our people use Atta at a higher rate? What was the justification specially when our people do not like Atta as a staple food? Unless we got Atta at a lower rate, it became very difficult for us to help other States because I would like to give the balance 25 per cent. of the rationed food in rice to my people so that they could have cent. per cent. rice at a lower rate than Atta according to the price fixed by the Government. He then realised the position and told me that he would look into the matter when he would go back to Delhi.

Now, Sir, after two months the Central Government agreed to lift control on wheat and wheat products so far as this State is concerned but certain conditions were imposed. Those conditions are for the benefit of the consumers and not against them. They are like this, Sir. That Government will purchase wheat from the Central Government and they will get it milled on Government account. But so far as rice concession or free ration and other Government commitments such as industrial commitments are concerned, these will come as before on Government account because we know the quantity that will be required thereof by this State. So there is no risk of losing anything on this score. As I said, we know our requirements. The Tea industry will take so much, the Railways will take so much and for free rations we know the number of ration shops and how much will be required by them. For all these the commodity will come as before on Government account.

Now, with regard to the civil population. In the meantime replies from the Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers

came regarding procurement of wheat. Only in two or three places the Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers could get parties who were willing to procure wheat on their own account and to get it milled here and to supply the same at the rate fixed by us. But in other places, that is in about 80 per cent. of the places, people do not agree to this proposal because they were afraid and Government realised that their fear was genuine because we have not got good mills in our State. The existing agents of Government, Messrs Shaw Wallace, were therefore told that there would be two kinds of supply—one would be on Government account for definite and known demands for Government requirements, Industries, etc., on which usual administrative charge would be levied and for the financing of which the Government would be responsible. Secondly the agents would have to supply wholemeal Atta for the free market in Assam at their own risk and on their own financial responsibility. For this purpose, the Government would only make wheat available for them for Central sources. It was specially emphasised that the existing channels of distribution would have to be maintained by Messrs Shaw Wallace. In fact this is the position. Maximum price for the free market Atta will be fixed by us. This arrangement has been recognised by the Government of India as the best and most suitable for Assam in the circumstances. So from all this you will see, Sir, that whatever we have done, we have done for the sole benefit of the consumers. Now, Sir, my Friend, Mr. Das, as it is usual with him, is biting the hand which feeds him?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Does not this Government defied the advice given by the Central Government?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): Sir, I was in correspondence with the Central Government though I decided that unless I got my point which was based on valid grounds I was not going to submit. Of course that was with a great risk, but it was done for the benefit of the people of the State though my Friend, Shri Das, is not an Atta eater. His Friend, who is sitting just by his side on the right passed a remark during the 1952-53 Budget session when I said that there would be no scarcity of food in our State because we were stocking enough wheat to meet any emergency. Though wheat was not our usual food yet it was not inferior to rice in substance. Prompt came the retort on this from my Friend, the Communist Member, that "the Supply Minister wanted to make us all study Punjabis!"

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: That was a compliment.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): It all depends on one's understanding as to what is a compliment and what is not. However, now, Sir, as I have already stated, we did not insist on the lifting of 25 per cent. of the wheat product when we found that the commodity was not in certain cases upto

the desired standard. But, Sir, when the clamour came that Government was not in a position to supply the 25 per cent. Atta which the consumers were entitled to get we gave the entire quota in rice at that time of course on condition that when wheat products would be available, this concession of supplying full quota in rice would be withdrawn. As a matter of fact, fresh Atta has already arrived in some places and there we have withdrawn that concession. In the case of those consumers who live on wheat products only there is no restriction in this State regarding percentages and such consumers are allowed to have full quota of Atta. For those who take both rice and Atta there is this restriction only and in those cases 75 per cent. rice and 25 per cent. Atta are supplied.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: On a point of information, Sir, is rice supplied in full quantity in any town?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): Yes, Sir, as for example, in Shillong, when we could not supply 25 per cent. of ration in Atta, we supplied the entire rationed quantity in rice.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: What about other places?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): In similar cases we shall do the same in other ration areas also.

Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: Has there been no demand from any quarter for the restoration of full quota of rice?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): For the information of the House I would like to say in this connection that there are certain places where people do not lift even the entire quantity of rice allotted to them as there are free markets nearby where from they get their requirement and there is no scarcity, or any genuine demand. But in cases where our people have guests according to our Indian customs, the demand for full quota of rice is always there and besides that the Supply Department also try to meet the extra requirement of rice (or Atta) on application according to the number of guests so that the people are not put to inconvenience in this respect. All this will show that there is actually no real scarcity in our State, and this position has also been admitted by the Opposition Members in a roundabout way. But I want to break that covered admission and venture to say that we are not short of food as we have proved it by facts and figures.

Now, Sir, I shall come to the other point raised by my Friend Shri Ranendra Mohan Das, regarding some difficulties experienced by the merchants of Karimganj. The alleged difficulties are more imaginary than real. Of course there are special reasons for it. Shall I, Sir, divulge the reasons why my Friend, has raised this point

Mr. SPEAKER: Not necessary.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): Very well, Sir. My Friend was one of the persons who once gave me the gratis advice that if I could spare some rice why should I not take it to his area which is deficit? It is a good advice though childish. However, he is to be thanked for that (Shri Ranendra Mohan Das: I do not want any credit.) I am grateful to him that he thought in the same way as we did and were acting accordingly. (*A voice*: Great men think alike.) I am sorry for my Friend, Sir, because he is still thinking in his usual vein and wrong way as he is taking me to be a great man of his standard. I regret I cannot accept the company. I do not like to be great like him to-day here to-morrow there for self elevation and convenience! Sir, my Friend, Mr. Das, was crying for the merchants of Karimganj because of the delay in publishing a circular of the Government of India which nothing more than to issue a carbon copy of the circular already issued in New Delhi. He said that the merchants of Karimganj were suffering for not knowing the fact that control was lifted on other products of wheat except regular good Atta. As the circular was not published promptly, Karimganj merchants suffered and so he wanted to accuse the Government. He has taken a vow to accuse the Government and so he is doing it regularly.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: It was B. O. P. and other commodities, Sir.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): I do not know what he means by "B. O. P." B. O. P. is a grade of tea, but what it has got to do in this connection?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: The Supply Minister should know what is B.O.P. (*laughter*) (*and disturbances*).

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister need not pay any heed to them.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): But why this wild laughter and thoughtless joy in the Opposition benches? If I do not pay any heed to them that may be interpreted that I am not showing proper respect to our Friends in the Opposition benches. So if it means any disrespect for not paying any heed to them as suggested by you, Sir, then I am not to be blamed for that. Shri Das also blamed the Supply Department for its inefficiency. He said that in spite of the Minister of Supply having wide experience of the bureaucratic regime and having a Secretary who is a *श्री* I.C.S. officer, why there was inefficiency in the Department? He actually meant something else than what he could express. He meant that when I was there in-charge of the Department with a Secretary who is an I. C. S. officer there ought to have been much more stores in his subdivision than what is there now. But he was disappointed. That was most probably his intention. He did not say anything where he found the alleged

inefficiency. He was disappointed because the merchants of his group could not use their sharp weapon earlier against the consumers. Therefore probably he blamed the Supply Department. (Shri Ranendra Mohan Das: It took 2 months to send a carbon copy. It is efficiency.) Alas! Sir, it seems that I am crying in wilderness so far Shri Das is concerned. Sir, is it inefficiency to open cheap grain shops wherever necessary promptly? It is not inefficiency of the Supply Department as a matter of fact. It shows the efficiency of the Department. I have already explained what was the magnitude of deficit that we had to make up at a particular time.....

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the number of cheap grain shops that have been opened there?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): I have already mentioned, Sir, that it was something like 264 in number.
(After a pause)

About 2,60,000 people were served. Even to-day if any of my Friends suggest that cheap grain shops are necessary in any area action will be taken immediately. But unless we know how can we do it? If my hon. Friend comes forward and specifically states the names of the places where cheap grain shops are necessary, if he brings that to the notice of the authority and in spite of that the Government take no notice of it, then, Sir, I am ready to take the blame. Sir, there should be a limit even for making wild assertions and accusations, but when that limit is passed it becomes very difficult to take action on such motivated allegations. Constructive suggestions should always be given due consideration. There is no harm in accepting good suggestions from whichever quarter it may emanate. This has been said several times before and I again repeat it here, but false charges cannot be tolerated by any decent man.

Three of my Friends, Shri Goswami, Shri Bhattacharjee and Shri Das, have said that there was acute scarcity of rice in two of the villages, i.e., Mawphlang and Mawngap, in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills District. I do not know if any of my Friends had been to these places during the current year. I doubted it and rightly too. I pause for a reply. No reply? The cat is out of the bag, Sir. However, as far as I am concerned, I had been to these places with previous intimation to the people in the month of June with the Director of Supply and the Inspector of Supply of the areas. I met the people and their leaders. They represented to me that the quantity of rice that had been given to them was about to be exhausted and that they should be supplied with some more rice in time. On hearing this I at once asked the officers who were with me to take timely action, though this would have been done in the usual course. Some people requested to increase the quota which also I gave effect to on my return to Shillong. Only yesterday, Sir, I again contacted all

the officers concerned including the Director of Supply and the Deputy Commissioner and enquired of them whether they had been receiving any report of scarcity in these areas. I was told by them that none of them has received any such report. In all the border areas they are now supplying rice at the subsidised rate of 1 seer 5 chhataks per week per head. The question of making further increase of this subsidised quantity is also under consideration of the Government, but as this involves some expenditure on the part of the Government, I am sorry, Sir, I cannot definitely say anything about it at the moment. As regards the supply of the rest 25 per cent. we are prepared to supply the same provided they are prepared to pay the transport charges. I am ready to supply more, but not at a subsidised rate.

Now, Shri Goswami said that hill people in the border areas were leaving our territory, our State, and were going to Pakistan in search of food. I do not know how many times after the creation of Pakistan, my Hon. and Learned Friend, the Leader of the Opposition, had been to Pakistan and to its borders.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: I did not say so, Sir, it was Mr. Bhattacharyya who said that.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): I am sorry. Now I put the same question to Shri Bhattacharyya though he is not the Leader of the Opposition Party, but he is the leader of his own party—সবেখন নীত্রমণি of the Communist Party. Is this his information that milk and honey are flowing like the Bramaputra water in Pakistan as to tempt our border people to run to that country for food? The food position prevailing in Pakistan is too well known to our people and they cannot be so foolish as to run to that country for food. Shri Das has pointed a very rosy picture of Jakirganj. I know, Sir, we have got many here in our State who will seek opportunities to go to that country. I dare say Sir, that such people are not our "friends", rather they are our enemies.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when one of the Hon'ble Ministers has made a statement that there are many enemies in our country, it is necessary that they should be named and they should be expelled from the State.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not necessary.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): Sir, Government is quite alert to the situation and they are keeping a close watch over the suspected persons' activities. Government will certainly take necessary steps in proper time. But I maintain, Sir, the people who leave this country, their own country, is not our friends but our enemies, they are not really our people. I do not know why my Friend, Shri Goswami, should be so much excited to hear this.

Sir, there was another statement made by one of my Friends think it was Shri Goswami who said that for the last 3 years people were starving. I cannot understand how the people could starve for the last three years, Sir (*laughter*). Exaggeration also should have a limit, Sir, but sometimes the exaggeration made by my Friends in the Opposition benches know no limit. Any way, Sir, to show full respect to my Friends of the Opposition I shall try to meet the points whether real or imaginary.

Mr. SPEAKER : Yes, you have done full justice to the point.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister) : I am proud to hear this from you, Sir.

The questions of hill areas regarding their self-sufficiency and the system of Jhumming were also raised. Sir, we are trying to make the hills areas self-sufficient. We all know that unless we take the course to Jhum cultivation, it is very difficult to make the hill areas self-sufficient. So when some of my Friends oppose the method of Jhum cultivation, it is rather difficult to make the hill areas self-sufficient, depending on the cultivation in the flat portions of the hill areas only. I do not say it is impossible, because by some costly mechanised methods of cultivation which may take years, the undulated portions of the hills may be made fit for growing crops. So far as the Jhumming is concerned, many of my Friends are under the impression that after Jhumming, the land becomes useless after a year or two. This is applicable to some cases only, but there are some areas where this is not applicable. I am just making the point clear. Where a field is covered by grass within a year that soil is not eroded. The soil is washed off where the land remains uncovered for two or three or four years after cultivation. Fortunately because of sufficient rainfall in some parts of our State, our Jhumming lands have become covered with grass and once it is covered with grass, the wastage is stopped. This is not my opinion, Sir, I am just quoting the opinion of the experts. In case the land remains open and there is no vegetation grown over it in those cases the danger there and the land becomes practically useless.

Now another point I want to mention here, Sir, which is this that we should be cautious in supplying rice to certain areas where it is reported that the rice so supplied is sometimes used for some purposes other than for making 'bhat', i.e., some people utilise the rice so supplied in brewing. So we are to guard against this misuse and sometimes some delay may take place in assessing the actual demands of the people and making the rice available to them, in view of what I have said before.

Sir, the deficit condition of the border people living in the border districts, especially the K. & J. Hills, Garo Hills and some portions of the Lushai Hills was described by some of my Friends—Shri Alley and others. Sir, it will not be out of place to repeat here that the Government is not only supplying rice at 1 sr 5 chhataks at the subsidised rate, but are willing to supply the balance of the rationed quota at the reasonable controlled price.

Sir, during the later part of the month of July I was at Delhi and had the occasion of meeting our Prime Minister and it was just before the day our Prime Minister left for Karachi for the Prime Ministers' Conference. I discussed only two things. One of which I need not mention as it is not relevant with the subject we are dealing with but the other which I took up first along with the big problems of refugee rehabilitation, refugee properties, passport, visas, Kashmir affairs, was about the suffering people of our State, particularly, the people living in the border areas, who once were very prosperous, but due to the restriction of free movement of their produce, such as, pineapples, oranges, chillies, ginger, betel-nut, betelleaf, etc., they are now on the verge of ruin and, as a matter of fact, they are leaving on subsidised rice and in some cases it was difficult to buy even this rice. They were provided with work, some who joined the work were better off? but others who did not join were suffering. If such restricted movement of the produces was removed, in that case these border people would be better off. I am not making this statement for the first time today as I had the occasion to say the same thing in a public meeting in the Garo Hills that we have got full sympathy for the border people and that this sympathy was not lip-sympathy, but in this regard we have got to move within our limitations, so it may take time. The Prime Minister made a note of the commodities and the places I mentioned to him. This shows, we are not unaware of these difficulties and we are not callous, but we are doing what is possible.

Then, Sir, it was said by my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, that the food problem was not over and the problem is still there. We on our part did not make such a statement at any time that the food problem is over.

Mr. SPEAKER : You do not mind certain inaccuracies.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister) : I admit when he said that some restrictions on movement of foodstuffs and procurement are there.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : And the Minister is there. (*Laughter*),

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): What a nice joke my comic Communist Friend has made ! He said in addition to what I said that the Minister is there, and there was laughter though it will be placed within brackets. There was a statement that there was no food problem. If we could have solved the food and cloth problems of our country then there would have been practically no problems as these are the two main problems of the day. Of course, we have said, the position has improved. The difficulty is, as it was explained earlier, that there was no scarcity of food in our State but some people have not adequate purchasing power. In some quarters it is due to certain abnormal local conditions. Government has been trying to meet such situations as far as possible and practicable.

Just to enforce his arguments, it was mentioned by Shri Bhattacharjee that due to scarcity of food many persons died. Of course we will make necessary enquiries when he gives us the list of persons who died of starvation with their addresses.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Bhattacharyya, you have probably handed over the letter in question ?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Yes, Sir.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): But so far as I remember, Sir, after the Budget Session of 1952 there was another Session in September.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, there was.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): Between the two Budget Sessions of 1952 and 1953, there was another Session but he did not find time or care to bring to the notice of the House the question of starvation deaths in those Sessions and to prove it now he had to go back to refer the alleged incidents which took place more than a year ago. It is about two years. During the present discussion of food situation, he ought to have cited examples of deaths of recent occurrence if there be any. We are talking of the present day food situation and not what happened in the past two or three years ago. When the hon. Member found that he could not justify his remarks with any example of death for starvation in the current year, he had to go back to some previous years. This shows his weakness. Thus it is evident that he failed to point out a single instance of death due to starvation during this year.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I can cite scores.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): It might exist in his imagination, if my Friend has even one instance to cite, why he is not doing so? I can definitely say that the food position of the State has improved and so far the quantity required for our State we are on the verge of self-sufficiency if not already self sufficient.

Now, my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya made a comparative statement by quoting two sets of figures, *i.e.*, one set of figures taken from a petition alleged to have been submitted to the Government by the mill-owners and the other set of figures from the Government Gazette notification. I do not know what was his purpose. Perhaps he did so to take advantage in both ways, when he will find that it would be convenient for his purpose to quote the mill-owners' figures, he will do so, and in other cases, he will quote Government Gazette-notified figures. Any how to accuse the Government is his avowed policy.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: This is pertaining to two different subjects.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): If so, then why these misleading references. I really fail to understand how the mill-owners figures regarding production are the authority to my Friend? Of course, I have not got a copy of that petition as yet. Even if I get it, how can I accept their figures of total production, what are their sources? They can give no figures only of that quantity they are dealing in. Therefore, Sir, I say that to blame the Government in this unfair way is anything but desirable to say the least.

It was also said by Shri Bhattacharyya that one of the reasons for scarcity was eviction. More land should be opened as also loans for cattle and implements should be given by Government to the needy people. These points were already touched by some of my Friends to some extent, and as such, I need not dilate on them. But from the speech of my colleague, Shri Bora, we could gather that there was some other causes, for this scarcity and not those what my Friend Shri Bhattacharyya had stated. Sir, to accuse the Government in season and out of season in this way, saying "Government should open more land" and "Government should give more help and more loan", in a general and vague way, does not help very much. In reply to these I can tell this much, that loan and

adequate help are being given in time lands are being settled gradually. These must be done in a systematic way. So there is no justification of my Friend's statement in saying that no land has been opened in the course of last 4 or 5 years during the present Congress regime. My Friend may ask for more, that is a different thing. But to impute the motive and to blame the Government that because of this slackness scarcity is prevailing in the State is a wrong statement of fact. I can say this much that there is no dearth of food rather no scarcity of food and no scarcity is prevailing in this State. We have got still in our possession more than 30,000 tons of Sali rice.

Shri RANENDRA MOHON DAS : But people are starving.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister) : Sir, such ungenerous remarks will not do. I have explained the food position in details, but in spite of that if my Friend fails to understand I am sorry for him. There is a Bengali saying—Which is this:

“ জেগে ঝুগিয়ে থাকলে
চেতন করা বড় দায়...”

Sir, I presume that he is pretending to sleep. If a man pretends to sleep, it is difficult to awake him up, but one who is really asleep he may be made awake easily by a little push or a slap. In the case either my Friend is pretending to sleep or has not got the capacity to understand the position.

Mr. SPEAKER : Mr. Mookerjee, he is referring to the index figures at page 174. Have you got the uncorrected copy of the statement ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister) : No, Sir I have not got it.

Mr. SPEAKER : You can get it from the Library. Mr. Bhattacharyya has quoted some index figures.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister) : My point is that Shri Bhattacharyya is comparing some figures taken from different sources.

Shri RANENDRA MOHON DAS : You may see those at your leisure hours.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): Thanks for the advice gratis: This remark is quite uncalled for and unnecessary.

Sir, my Friend, Shri Bora, had stated by citing some examples that Shri Bhattacharyya did injustice to the members of that unfortunate family where the alleged starvation death took place. Not only that he did injustice to the Members of this House but as well as to himself, because in future, people would pay very little attention to his statements as they are based on wild imaginations and concocted.

Sir, Shri Umaruddin had made some charges about the harassment caused to the people by imposing cordon system etc. He said that harassment was going on in every case if somebody wanted to carry even a little quantity of rice which is permitted by the existing rules on one's shoulder, he was not spared. This is another type of vague allegations. It is very easy to make allegations like this, but difficult to substantiate them. If there are definite charges, certainly the necessary steps will be taken to stop harassment, but to go on repeating the same vague charges over and over again are of no use to anybody.

Maulavi Md. UMARUDDIN: On a point of information, Sir. The complaint of harassment was made by no less a person than the Dhubri Congress Committee, President.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is your point of information? This is not a point of information.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): I am nearing completion, Sir. As I was saying, that, unless some definite charge is made against a particular officer mentioning the particular area nothing can be done. I can assure my Friends that if particular cases are brought to the notice of Government, steps will certainly be taken to stop unnecessary harassment. The people who are harassed, deserve sympathy not only of my Friend, Shri Umaruddin, but from all of us as they are our people. If due to any action of any officer they are harassed, it is the duty of the Government to look into the matter. But unless definite charges are made, we cannot roam about here and there to find out whether there is any allegation anywhere. If my friend, Shri Umaruddin, has got any particular case in view, he may even now bring it to my notice so that I can arrange to start an enquiry in to the matter. Sir, if my Friends do not care to pay any attention to our request, I cannot help them in any way. I am sorry for it, but the fact is this.

Now, Sir, Shri Umaruddin spoke something about the millers' disadvantage. Sir, I had no mind to discuss this matter, but the Government has been accused that due to delay in lifting the mill stock, the latter have suffered I have to say something. I presume my Friend had the millers of Goalpara district in mind (Maulavi Umaruddin. —All over Assam). I do not know how many millers from all over Assam approached him. I shall be glad to hear from him how many millers came to him with their grievances. However, for the present I shall confine myself to the Goalpara millers. At the beginning of the season certain millers purchased paddy which they should not have purchased at that time because the paddy was not quite dry. The resultant rice was, therefore, somewhat below the standard quality. Naturally this kind of green millers were very eager to get rid of this variety of rice quickly. Now it is known that there are two kinds of rice, *viz.*, *ushna* and *atap*, and we must find out market for both these kinds of rice. There is a demand for *ushna* rice from the tea gardens, but there are very few tea gardens in the Goalpara district. Therefore, we were waiting for a market in such a place where the cost of transport would not be heavy. Now in their eagerness to make a big profit they brought paddy just after the harvest. It should be remembered that Government cannot purchase anything and everything and keep them in their godowns, because wet paddy is likely to go out of condition in our godowns and we may find it difficult to sell the stuff. The millers should not have purchased paddy immediately after harvesting. It should also be remembered, Sir, that by bagging rice which is not properly cooled, the stuff is likely to go out of condition. It is also known that at the beginning people do not sell large quantities; they only sell in small quantities whenever they want some money. This results in mixture of rice of two different colours. The quality of the rice is the same, only the colour is different. But due to this difference of the colour some consumers reject this rice. This is why we try to accommodate those millers first whose rice has been kept in store for a longer period. I don't know what else Government can do. We should not look to the interests of the millers alone. Of course, the millers are also our people, but Government have to look to the interests of the consumers also, who constitute the majority. We cannot sacrifice the interests of the majority for the sake of ensuring the unreasonable extra profit of the minority, *viz.*, mill-owners. At least I will be the last man to do so. Every one should get fair deal from me.

Maulavi Md. UMARUDDIN : Is it not a fact that for the purchase of paddy by the millers due to the congestion of stock in the godowns, the price fell and the agriculturists were hit there? Was the Minister aware of that and what did he do to meet the situation?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): It is common knowledge that the price of every commodity fluctuates from time to time. There is no reason to presume that I think differently—all that is necessary is always being done though it may not suit my Friend, clients.

Mr. SPEAKER: It seems you are X-rayed, Mr. Mookerjee !

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): Yes, Sir, but with a coloured glass and a definite motive.

A Voice: Mr. Umaruddin has removed his glasses.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): He has already got jaundice and, therefore, he sees everything yellow. The removal of glass at this stage is immaterial. Otherwise, he could not say that millers could purchase more, but they could not do so due to delay in lifting of the stock by Government, as a result of that prices of rice fell and that the agriculturists were hit thereby. Sir, first he supports the millers and said that their stock should be removed very quickly, and then to strengthen his foothold to speak in favour of the millers he brought in the cultivators. I was going to deal with that point, Sir. Only if he had some patience (*A voice*—We have been holding our patience for two hours now). You should be fair. You all spoke for about three hours and a half and I have spoken for three hours only.

Any way, Sir, when this position arose most of the cultivators had already disposed of the greater part of their stock. From the procurement figures I can say that the quantity which was available then was not a large one but at the same it cannot be denied that there was some stock with the people as we were procuring something every month though the procurement figure is gradually dwindling down and procurement will come down now specially when there is a drought condition in some parts of the State, the people are rather reluctant to sell their stock and are watching the varieties of the weather in case they get adequate rains they will be able to plough their lands well and there will be a prospect of a good harvest when they will be hopeful for the future certainly they will sell something more from their stock. Procurement depends on many factors and it cannot be said that cultivators suffered because the Government did not purchase rice from millers in time. I want to make it clear to my Friends in the Opposition specially to my Friend, Shri Umaruddin, that Government does not exist to look to the interest of any particular group or class of people, it exists for all whether cultivators, millers or consumers. All sections of the people should get fair deal from the Government.

Now Sir, my Friend raised another point. That was regarding administrative charge. He suggested that some retailers were not getting their due share. But when we take this question of retailers it must be borne in mind as to what percentage of the consumers are concerned with these retailers. My Friend ought to know that only those consumers who are served from Government stock through ration shops, or those who purchase rice from cheap-grain shops are concerned with these retailers. The rest have got nothing to do with them and consequently with this administrative charge. It is only in the rationed area and in the case of cheap grain shops that this question of administrative charge arose. My Friend asked "what about the tea gardens and other industries to whom you are also supplying?" My reply to that is this, that this question does not arise in their case also because the consumers there get their supplies from the tea gardens at a subsidised rate.

Maulavi Md. UMARUDDIN : That is not my point. I want Government justification in this regard.

Shri · BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister) : The question of justification of administrative charge is strictly speaking irrelevant when we are discussing the food position in the State. However, my point is this that those persons who purchase from the open market which is not within rationed areas have got nothing to do with this administrative charge, but only a small percentage of the entire population has got concern with this and for this there are sufficient justifiable reasons which are well-known to my hon. Friend. This is necessary in order to meet wastage, shortage, shrinkage and deterioration etc. To meet all these deficiencies, Government should keep something in hand so that the general public do not suffer for a section of people who are served by the ration or cheap grain shops.

My Friend also wants to know, if I remember aright, whether the 70 thousand tons of rice which Government want to procure is to meet the demand of the entire State? I am sorry for this, it reminds me of a story, "সাতকাণ্ড রামায়ণ পড়ে জিজ্ঞাসা করা সীতা কার ভাৰ্য্যা ?" We have discussed this point several times that procurement was necessary for the purpose of meeting the Government's commitments so far as rationed areas, certain industries such as Tea Industry, Railway, Oil Company and some deficit areas where cheap grain shops are to come necessary. Can a Government meet the demand of the entire population of the State by procuring 70 thousand tons or even 1 lakh 70 thousand tons ?

Maulavi Md. UMARUDDIN : What is the entire population

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): My Friend is expected to know and he also should know what is the daily consumption per head according to rationed scale. He is also supposed to know what is the production of the State, because I have mentioned that figure several times. 70 thousand tons was fixed as target for the current year and it was based on the experience of our last two years. In 1951 about 69 thousand tons of rice could be procured. During the last Kharif year about 65 thousand tons could be procured. So we thought that it would be better to keep a target at 70 thousand tons. If we can procure more nobody can stand in our way. When we fix our target for procurement, we must not forget a very important aspect of the question, namely, that if we fix our target at a higher figure than we can really procure we lose our demand to that extent of excess assessment from the Centre to meet our deficit. So if we are to place our demand before the Central Government we should prove by figures our requirements and deficit which we would like to meet from the allotment made by the Centre. Now, may I hope, Sir, that my Friend has understood that procurement is made mainly to meet the demands of the deficit areas by opening cheap-grain shops and commitment of some industries and rationed areas and also Government commitments to its employees for free ration and rice concessions ?

Now, Sir, the point is clear that the procurement is not to meet the demand of the entire population of the State. When we found that procurement was improving we continued our procurement even after we reached the target. We are also morally bound to serve the deficit areas ; if we hear that some areas are in need of help due to scarcity of food it is our moral duty to help those particular areas. With rice, procurement is meant for above noted reasons mainly and for that we thought it will be better for us if we can procure as much as we could. This will ensure good price to the producers as well as assure the people that food will be rushed in the deficit areas at the time of need.

As a matter of fact we want to procure at least 10 per cent. of our production. Of course, I cannot say definitely the exact quantity, but this much I am in a position to say, that our desire will be fulfilled. After deducting the quantity for wastage, shrinkage, etc., the available quantity for the consumption of the people of the State will be to the extent of about 13½ lakhs tons and at least 10 per cent. of this we intend to procure and we are now confident to do that. This relates to Sali. We have produced Aus and some quantity of Ikra paddy. In certain areas Boro paddy has also been harvested. If we get more Sali, we shall procure it. Sir, the hon. Members of the Opposition benches may please be asked to

remember that the procurement is made not for the consumption of the entire population of the State but for certain specified commitments as already explained so that I need not repeat again. It is meant to meet the requirement of Government demand and the demand of the major industries. Government demand includes the demand for the ration shops and cheap grain shops. This quantity we have procured already and are keeping it in our stock. In the conference held at Delhi in January last I pressed for 30 thousand tons of rice for our State and it was agreed to by the Centre. That quantity we would have got, but afterwards we found that we could procure more than our target figure which was based on the procurement figure of the previous two years. Therefore we informed the Centre that as our position would be better this year, we would not require any help from them on this score. Rather it so happened that the Centre approached us to help other deficit States of India and accordingly, as I have already said, we are giving 10,000 tons to West Bengal and 20,000 maunds to Manipur as loan as desired by the Central Government. It shows that the Government has procured as much as it is possible, without any coercion. There is no question of any kind of compulsion. The quantity offered for procurement was voluntary, pure and simple. The word "complacence" was used by the Opposition Members. I do not know why this very word is so much favoured by them. We are not complacent, rather we are quite vigilant on this matter. We should not send out everything that is at our disposal, but we should keep some in our stock. That we must do and I must say that whatever we keep in our stock we do it in good faith. We have got a large number of godowns at different areas which can be relied upon for stocking the paddy for a long time. These godowns will be kept full with paddy as far as available in the localities concerned. In some localities we have hired godowns for this purpose and are keeping them full with paddy. It shows that we are quite alert to the situation and we shall keep some more stock for future requirement also.

Now, Sir, another point raised by

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you finishing before lunch hour?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister): If you so desire, Sir, I shall finish before lunch hour provided my Friends are fully satisfied and understand the position. May I have a few minutes more, Sir, to touch a remaining few points?

A suggestion was made by a friend of mine in the Opposition that a committee should be formed to go into this matter. I do not understand what such a committee will do in this respect. There are already several committees, so far as Supply Department is concerned. There is already a Procurement Committee of which my Friend, the Leader of the Opposition, is a member and he is going to sit tomorrow in that committee. I think he has got notice of it. I do not find any reason for forming any other committee.

Probably such a committee is meant to give us advice how procurement and distribution should be made. So far as procurement side is concerned, Sir, we have already got one committee which meets regularly and which is again going to meet tomorrow, if I remember aright, it will be at 10-30. a.m., there being no Assenbly sitting tomorrow in the morning. As regards distribution, there cannot be any question of changing the present policy. (Disturbances). It is our policy that even when a sparrow whispers that there is scarcity in a certain locality the Government at once take necessary steps. After making enquires the Government open cheap grain shops there and make rice available to the needy people. In spite of this I do not know what better arrangement or suggestions may be achieved by forming another committee. Regular and equitable distribution according to All India Scale is our policy. If my Friends have any suggestion to make they are always welcome to do that.

Now, Sir, before concluding I want to say something in connection with Shri Bhattacharyya's attempted laugh.

When I began to speak yesterday, my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, laughed several times and tried to interrupt. Then he stopped laughing. Probably he remembered one of my quotations—that "one who laughs last, laughs best". Therefore, Sir, in conclusion I am laughing stating that the food situation of the State is in a very sound position. (Disturbances and laughter). I am not laughing alone, Sir, they are also laughing (laughter). Now the real laugh is coming out.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned for lunch till 1-30 p.m.

After Lunch

Mr. SPEAKER : I believe Mr. Mookerjee has almost finished, have you not Mr. Mookerjee ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister) : Sir, I want to speak a few words only in reply to the suggestion Shri Mahendra Hazarika made about giving some help to the poor widows who formerly used to maintain their livelihood by husking paddy. I am taking a note of that suggestion and shall see how these poor and unfortunate widows may be helped.

Lastly, Sir, as I have already stated that it has been admitted by all of my Friends taking part in this debate, that we have got enough food to meet our present demand, but the question of economic depression, the low purchasing power of the people has really troubled

all of us. I can solemnly assure this House, specially to my Friends sitting in the Opposition benches that it is the policy of this Government and it is the bounden duty of every human being also to see that no body dies out of starvation or suffers from starvation. Whenever we receive that such a situation has arisen in any part of the State we take all possible steps to remove such a situation, we try to give them some opportunity to earn something and to meet their most urgent demands by offering them some sort of employments whenever it is possible. Whenever, however, it is not possible to give them any employment, gratuitous relief is given and will be given. We shall see that our people get enough to eat so that they do not have to suffer from starvation. Whenever we receive any information like this we shall do all that is possible for us to relieve their distress, and in saying this, I am sure, I am voicing the opinion of this Government to which we are all a party. Of course, there are limitations. But within the limitations we shall spare no efforts to see that the difficulties of the really distressed people is removed. We shall help those who really deserve help.

Resolution regarding postponement of realisation of Agricultural Loan issued in the district of Goalpara till the winter of 1953-54

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB of Sidli: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the Resolution standing in my name.

"In view of the recent floods which have damaged the Ahu crops in a number of localities, this Assembly is of opinion that Government of Assam do postpone with immediate effect the realisation of agricultural loan issued in the district of Goalpara till the winter of 1953-54."

Sir, the purpose of moving this Resolution is very obvious. The Resolution itself speaks the reasons. Sir, my Resolution is very modest one that a Member may put before this House. I do not want Government to adopt a new scheme or a new project involving a lot of money in its implementation, I want the Government simply to postpone realisation of agricultural loan till the winter of 1953-54.

Mr. SPEAKER : What is the amount to be realised ?

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB of Sidli: We have heard from the Revenue Minister the other day that it is about 6 or 7 lakhs and this year Government have paid about Rs. 15,000.

If you want to know the details about the present condition of the people of Goalpara, we have got to go back to year 1951. Due to

natural causes, in 1951 the people of Goalpara went through a very bad famine condition. In about September 1951 we heard reports of people actually dying and of living on boiled roots, fruits and vegetables. Then the situation was somehow saved by introduction of Milo which was imported from America, but many people suffered from dysentery and other diseases due to eating Milo. Then again in 1952 another famine, of course in a much milder form was manifest in the district. Then again this year though there was very good crops and people were dreaming of having two square meals a day, suddenly rains started and the Ahu paddy which was stored outside was completely drenched by rain and became unfit for human consumption, and some seeds became so bad that they became unfit for consumption by the cattle. The grains near the earth germinated and grains at the top rotted. In this way, I think about 20 per cent. of our food crops was wasted. Sir, all of us know that Ahu crops is only an interim food crop for our people. We do not depend entirely on it. Sali is the principal crop for our people and the people pay more attention to the production of Sali. Generally all our dues are paid after the Sali is harvested and after it is disposed of. So at this time when we have got no Sali crop, it is difficult for cultivators to repay their land revenue and other dues, and unfortunately notices were served just before I left for Shillong to the people for re-payment of agricultural loans. These agricultural loans were issued to people who had been very hard hit economically, who cannot make their both ends meet with their usual source of income and have got to go, therefore, to the Government for agricultural loans. This year their distress and consequently necessity for loans will be greater as their Ahu crops did not produce satisfactory results. So these are the people who will be very much hard pressed. In order to give relief to these people, Sir, I have moved this Resolution. As the hon. Revenue Minister said the other day that he is always ready to give relief in any shape to people who are in distress I think he will consider my suggestion of postponing realisation of the loan till December and January next. There is no financial implication whatsoever in the matter. This is only a modest demand which will have a far reaching effect because people will be relieved to some extent. They are already indebted to village money-lenders and Bazar Mahajans. So by postponing the realisation the Revenue Minister will do a great benefit to these people. With these few words I commend my Resolution to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Resolution moved: "In view of the recent floods which have damaged the Ahu crops in a number of localities, this Assembly is of opinion that Government of Assam do postpone with immediate effect the realisation of agricultural loan issued in the district of Goalpara till the winter of 1953-54".

Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to speak a few words on this Resolution. The Mover of this Resolution really means that due to the damages done to Ahu crop by heavy rainfall in some parts of the district of Goalpara, for which postponement of realisation of agricultural loan is necessary. I am just going to show the extent of the areas where postponement will be necessary and the reasons why it will be necessary. This will not be widespread.

Actually in the riverain areas of the Goalpara district it is well-known when Ahu crop is harvested. In these areas Ahu is sown earlier and harvested earlier in the season because they are mostly low-lying areas. So there was no appreciable damage to the crop in the riverain areas as the harvesting was finished before the heavy rains. But in the other areas, *i.e.*, in the high lands on the Northern side of the Brahmaputra as also in some areas in the Southern side, Ahu is sown later and harvested later in the season and owing to continuous rainfall in the month of July and early part of August harvesting was greatly affected and thrashing could not be done in time. As a result a good part of the produce has been damaged. Sir, that is the main reason for the difficulties of the people of these areas.

Secondly, owing to continuous rainfall in the months of February and March which are the vital months for the weeding of jute in the Northern part of the district, the weeding of jute could not be done and a large portion of the crop was damaged at least 50 per cent., if not more. As is well-known, Sir, jute is a money crop and that is a source from which people derive their money income and from which they could have paid the agricultural loans and get other requirements. People of the Southern part of Goalpara has also been similarly hard hit and it will be a great relief to them if the realisation of the agricultural loan which falls due now is postponed till after the winter when they will be ready to pay the loan without any hardship. If they are harassed now they will have to sell their land, cattle and other articles. This is only a question of suspension of the realisation of the agricultural loan, and this being a modest demand, I hope there will be no difficulty for Government to accept it. With these words I support the Resolution moved by my Friend, Raja Ajit Narayan Deb of Sidli.

Shri GHANAKANTA GOGOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak in support of the Resolution moved by Raja, Ajit Narayan Deb of Sidli. I would like to point out that in the Southern part of Dibrugarh.....

Mr. SPEAKER: The Resolution has no connection with Dibrugarh. Please confine your remarks to Goalpara only.

(The Member withdrew.)

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am really thankful to my Friend, the Raja Sahib of Sidli for his kindly bringing this Resolution and thereby giving an opportunity to Government to explain the Government position and the action taken by Government. I quite appreciate the feelings of my Friend, the hon. Mover of the Resolution and I sympathise with the feelings which prompted him to bring forward this Resolution. I also appreciate the feelings of my Friend, Mr. Umaruddin, for supporting the Resolution.

Sir, I have attentively heard the speeches delivered by my Friend, the Mover of the Resolution as well as the supporter and I will take up those points that have been raised in connection with the matter now before this House. But before going into that matter and also before explaining the Government position and the action taken by the Government in this matter, I would like to point out at the outset certain difficulties that have been confronted by me on account of the Resolution that has been drafted and presented in the House in this form. I feel the Resolution that has been put forward by Raja Sahib is not happily drafted. It runs like this: "In view of the recent floods which have damaged the Ahu crops in a number of localities, this Assembly is of opinion that Government of Assam do postpone with immediate effect the realisation of agricultural loan issued in the district of Goalpara till the winter of 1953-54".

The Resolution says that there has been damage of Ahu crops in a "number of localities" in the district of Goalpara and for that reason he wants suspension of the realisation of agricultural loan in the entire district. It is not the case of my Friend, the Raja Sahib, that there have been floods in the entire district and that there has been damage of crop in the entire district. Only there has been damage of Ahu crop in a number of localities in the district. That being the case, how can he ask this suspension of the realisation of agricultural loan in areas not affected by floods? If the Resolution had been like this—in those areas that have been affected by flood—that would have been quite clear. If the hon. Mover had confined himself to those areas where there was flood and consequent damage of crop, there would have been some meaning. The Resolution as framed and as presented before the House is not acceptable from that point of view and also from another point of view the Resolution is not acceptable and that is this—it is not unknown to my Friends—the Raja Sahib and others—that there has been damage due to floods in the entire State of Assam. Several districts have been affected by the floods, causing considerable damage to the crops. But curiously enough, the Raja Sahib has confined it to the district of Goalpara and left the other affected parts of

the State out. I feel, Sir, this is not fair. As a matter of fact for the information of the House, I should like to submit something. I have not got any information from the head of the district of Goalpara regarding any damage being caused to the Ahu by floods in that district. We have got such information from the Deputy Commissioners, Cachar, Sibsagar and Lakhimpur and such information has been published in the newspapers also; still the Friend has made a discrimination against other districts, by confining it to the district of Goalpara only. If the Resolution as presented before the House is accepted by Government, it will give rise to various kinds of interpretations and Government will be liable to criticism by saying that Government believe the story of damage being caused by floods in the district of Goalpara alone and do not believe it in other parts of the State. Sir, if the scope of the Resolution had been wide enough to cover the whole State, Government would not have been placed in a difficult position. Now, Sir, after these observations, I would like to inform the House that the other day while discussing the food situation in the State I told that a big sum amounting to 24 lakhs has been issued as agricultural loan throughout the State; about Rs. 7 lakhs in the district of Goalpara, about Rs. 8 lakhs or so in the district of Nowgong and similar amounts in other districts of the State. It will be apparent to the Members of this House that a very big amount is lying as arrears of agricultural loan issued by Government, and it is only just and proper that Government should make a drive to realise this amount otherwise how could Government find additional money to help the people who are affected by floods? Therefore it is reasonable that in those parts of the State where there is no floods and where people are not affected by this calamity, the drive for realising the money should not be suspended. Here I may also inform the House that when the information about the damage by floods was brought to the notice of the Government, Government issued a circular to the Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers to the effect that in the matter of realisation of this agricultural loan there should be no harassment by the officer and he should see that people who are really affected by the flood and as a consequence are in distress and so cannot make the payment, are not coerced by the officers. Instructions to that effect had been issued already. I think that circular we have clearly stated to our officers the following things. I am just reading out only a few lines from the circular and that will make the position clear—"The Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers are however requested to consider individual cases of hardship on its merit and to see that the drive is confined to areas not badly affected by flood". From this, Sir, the intention of the Government will be clear. We have advised our officers to see that people are not unnecessarily harassed and

that people who are really in distress are not coerced for making the payment. I think this circular is quite enough to serve the problem of Raja Ajit Narayan Deb also. With these observations, I feel that as the Resolution is unhappily worded and is likely to give rise to various kinds of interpretations and put the Government to difficulties, if it is accepted as it is, and as the Government have taken all possible steps in this direction, I think, my Friend, Raja Ajit Narayan Deb, will see his way to withdraw it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Do you want to withdraw, Raja Sahib ?

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB of Sidli: Yes, Sir.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Dengthuama.

Pu R. DENGTHUAMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir as I find that Government is making all possible attempts in this direction, I do not like to move the *Resolution.

Mr. SPEAKER: You do not want to move, I believe.

Pu R. DENGTHUAMA: I do not want to move the Resolution at present, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you please move your **Resolution, Mr. Das ?

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS: No, Sir.

Resolution regarding introduction of free and compulsory Primary Education among the tea garden and ex-tea garden labourers

Shri SARJU PRASAD SINGH: Mr, Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly is of opinion that with a view to spread education among the tea garden and ex-tea garden labourers, the Government of Assam do take necessary steps immediately to introduce free and compulsory primary education among them.

Sir, the only certain antidote to demagoguery is the sound education of the masses. In fact education is the backbone of democracy. In this Resolution I want to deal only with regard to the education of a certain backward section of our population, I mean the tea and ex-tea garden labourers numbering about 19 lakhs. You know, Sir, this particular backward section of the population of our State was brought from different States of India to work as labour force in the tea estates by the British Tea Planters, similar to the Negroes who were taken to America to work as slaves in cotton plantations during the 17th and 18th century. This weaker section of our population was considered by the British industrialists as indispensable to the tea industry and as such they had to be kept illiterate, docile and subservient. Sir, with the coming of political

*Pu R. DENGTHUAMA to move : This Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do move the Union Government for taking up the Silchar-Aijal Road, from Silchar to Aijal as a national Highway.

**Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS to move : In view of the fact that the works of the Public Works Department are increasing at a remarkable extent, this Assembly is of opinion that the post of Secretary in the Public Works Department be separated from the Chief Engineer and a new post be created for the purpose.

independence, there has been some talk of improving the educational and social condition of this section of our population, nothing substantial, worth the name, has been done by our State Government upto now. This weaker section of our population has not been granted proper educational facilities by our Government like our Tribals, Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes of the State. After the independence of the country except for opening *namka-waste* Primary Schools here and there amongst them nothing has been done.

Mr. SPEAKER: Can you state the number of school-going population of these people?

Shri SARJU PRASAD SINGH: I cannot give the accurate figure off-hand, Sir, because where there is school there is no student and where there is student there is no teacher.

Mr. SPEAKER: You can give the number.

Shri SARJU PRASAD SINGH: They are about 5 lakhs.

Mr. SPEAKER: Say about 12 per cent. out of 19 lakhs.

Shri SARJU PRASAD SINGH: Now I would request the Government to give immediate attention to this backward class they are at all to catch up with the progress made in our State even by the Scheduled Castes and Tribes as they are labouring under the studied suppression of hundred years, which has entered into the marrow of their bones.

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

Mr. SPEAKER: Resolution moved is that this Assembly be of opinion that with a view to spread education among the tea garden and *ex-tea* garden labourers, the Government of Assam take necessary steps immediately to introduce free and compulsory Primary Education among them.

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir I rise to support the Resolution moved by my Friend, Shri Sarju Prasad Singh. The importance of the Resolution cannot be over-estimated. This labour population forms a substantial part of the population of the whole State. Sir, all these people living in the tea garden and *ex-tea* garden labourers and outside as *ex-tea* garden labourers are backward socially, educationally and economically. It is happy to know that the State Government has been doing some work for the education of the Tribal people, both in the Hills and the Plains and something for the other backward people living scattered all over the State. It is also a fact that tea garden schools have been opened

for the children of the tea garden labourers and these schools are not properly functioning. The teachers who are put in these schools are generally employed to do other works than the school work. These teachers usually do clerical work or work as Mohurers in the tea gardens. They are retained as teachers practically in name. It is also a fact that tea garden labourers' children are not sent to school by their guardians, so there should be some propaganda to induce these labourers to send their children to schools. Government should also see that qualified and whole-time teachers are appointed in these schools.

Sir, in the countryside, especially in Upper Assam, large section of the population belong to the tea garden and *ex*-tea garden tribes, but there are not sufficient number of schools for the children of these people.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the percentage of tea garden and *ex*-tea garden population in your district ?

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI: About 50 per cent., that is half of the population.

When these people have come to our State and have become citizens of the State, we should see that this weaker section are given proper opportunity to prove themselves as true citizens and to be able to bear responsibility of the State.

I would say that Government will not get sufficient co-operation from this section of population if they are kept illiterate and uneducated. So, I would request the Government to give them facilities to have education to the extent possible, keeping in view of course the financial position of the State.

I again whole-heartedly support the Motion moved by my Friend, Shri Sarju Prasad Singh.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: Mr. Speaker Sir, I rise to oppose this Resolution. This cannot be adopted in this House firstly because the Indian Labour Plantation Act, 1951 has made the responsibility of education on the Industrialists. Section 14 of that Act, empowers the State Government to make rules as to method and standard of education, in all the tea gardens in Assam. Secondly, this Resolution is sought to impart education to the *ex*-tea garden labourers. I do not know how this can come within the scope of the Resolution as there is no specified areas to be called *ex*-tea garden labour area. As a matter of fact, the *ex*-tea garden labourers fall under the Labour Welfare Scheme of the State Government, and I hope as per the Assam Government Five-Year Plan, 80 more centres will be opened all over the State. Most of these *ex*-tea garden labourers are entitled to get education through the educational facilities offered by Labour Welfare Schemes and the general educational facilities.

Sir, although I oppose the Resolution as to its framing, I do not like to oppose it in principle that education should be imparted to the tea garden labourers. I do admit that most of the Members of this House will share my feelings that it is the bounden duty of all of us to see that this primary thing, education should be given to the tea garden population of Assam and I think that, if Democracy is to function properly, this very root—education should be imparted to the tea garden labourers. I would request the State Government that this Plantation Act of 1951, although it is passed, the State Government should impress upon the Government of India to enforce this Act throughout the State of Assam.

Sir, I would like to give some examples regarding the lack of education among the tea garden population at least at the time of our last Election. I think, the Members of the Opposition Party would not take it seriously. Sir, it is known to the Members here that when we fought the last Election, the Socialist Party had got their symbol—Tree—and Congress Party had their symbol—Bull. But for want of education, the tea garden population were made to understand that the symbol of tree was actually the tea grove. Unless they vote for tree, how they could live? We had to say that our Bulls will eat the tree (*laughter*).

So, Sir, we had to face a great amount of handicap. Therefore I think, for the proper functioning of Democracy we are to impart education among the tea garden as well as *ex-tea* garden population and the State Government will exert all their influence to impress upon the Government of India to enforce that Act so that the tea garden as well as *ex-tea* garden population alike may be imparted education under the supervision of at least some Inspectors. As a matter of fact, I being a member of the I. N. T. U. C. have been agitating for a long period in this behalf, but I am sorry to inform that our issue is not materialised even by appointing some supervisors.

Sir, I beg to mention here that the progressive Industrialists do admit that education is necessary for increasing the efficiency of the labourers, but unfortunately in India, we do not find any favour towards this up till now. But for the matter of that should we be silent in this case simply because that the Act is not in force here? We have been able to solve many of the most important issues on bilateral and Tripartite agreement between the State Government and the I. T. A., and I am confident that if the State Government put an amount of pressure that is necessary to bring the Industrialists to come to their reason to impart education to the

labourers, I hope it will materialise. But when moving this Resolution the Mover has negligently mentioned one thing that the State Government is doing nothing in this behalf. I cannot accept this. So far as the State Government is concerned, they have done within their scope and ability to the *ex-tea* garden labourers and I do hope that the Government would be more up and doing in educating the *ex-tea* garden labourers. But, Sir, I cannot accept the Resolution because of its framing as above and as such I oppose it.

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry I am unable to accept the Resolution which has been moved by my Friend, Shri Sarju Prasad Singh. I am in full sympathy with the object for which he has moved the Resolution, *i. e.* spread of education amongst Tea Garden Labourers and *Ex-Tea* Garden Labourers. But I cannot accept that they have been neglected in the matter of education. It appears my Friend suffers from plethora of ignorance. The Resolution envisages introduction of "compulsion" among the tea garden and *ex-tea* garden labourers. Let me take the first point, *viz.*, introduction of compulsory primary education in the tea gardens. My Friend, Shri Biswadev Sarma, has already pointed out that there is a Plantation Labour Act and that responsibility in the matter of education has been entrusted on the Industry. I have to state that we should not go away with the idea that compulsion is the only remedy for removal of illiteracy. We have to form social opinion. We have to carry on propaganda and make the people conscious about the need of education. In spite of the fact that compulsion has not been introduced in the tea garden areas, the State Government itself is running 48 "A" Class schools within the tea garden areas and there are 51 "B" Class schools. Besides that there are 500 "C" Class schools in the tea gardens at present.

My Friend, Shri Gogoi, has suggested that we must carry on propaganda to educate social opinion so that the labourers become quite conscious to the necessity to send their children to the school. I agree with him. The schools are there, but the attendance is very low. In June last, I met some of the representative members of I. T. A. at Titabar and a meeting also held at the Titabar Basic Education Centre in this connection. This question of improving education was discussed there. The Tea Industry has been spending nearly Rs. 5 lakhs for carrying on the "C" Class schools in the tea gardens. I impressed upon them how they could improve these garden schools so that the amount may be usefully spent. The House may be aware that the Government of India has given much stress for converting all stereotyped primary schools to the basic schools.

But that was a very rainy day and I could not carry out the second part of the programme, *i. e.*, visit to Basic Schools in the neighbourhood. Nevertheless, they were impressed with the schools so much that immediately after the end of the discussion they agreed to send their teachers for training to the Basic Training Centre. Then after a week they did send five teachers from the Titabar area for training in the Titabar Basic Training Centre—one teacher from the Nazira circle, two from Mariani circle and two from Golaghat circle. We could not accept more than five as we did not have enough accommodation for a larger number of trainees in the Centre.

Then, Sir, the Plantation Labour Act has already entrusted the responsibility of primary education on the Industry itself, and therefore, no useful purpose will be served if we introduce compulsion just now and take up the responsibility ourselves. The Central Government would have enforced this Act by now had there been no slump in the tea trade last year. The Act was passed in 1951 and in the usual course would have been enforced in 1952, but it was not enforced due to the slump which set in last year. My Friend, Shri Biswadev Sarma suggested that the State Government should take steps to see that enforcement is made by the Central Government. I agree with him. We shall certainly take steps to impress upon the Government of India and as a matter of fact we have been doing so, not merely for education but for many other matters we want the enforcement of the Plantation Labour Act.

Then, Sir, the second part of the Resolution deals with introduction of compulsion in the *ex-tea* garden areas.....

Mr. SPEAKER : Are there any *ex-tea* garden areas ?

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister) : There are no *ex-tea* garden areas as such. In his Resolution he has mentioned *ex-tea* garden labourers and I mean areas inhabited by *ex-tea* garden labourers. Sir, the Compulsory Primary Education Act was passed in 1948 and when it was enforced in 1949 the Government of the day took enough care to introduce compulsion in the backward areas and you know there are a large number of *ex-tea* garden people settled in those areas. I do not propose to give the whole list of the areas where compulsion has been introduced, but I want to mention some of the Mouzas where there are large numbers of *ex-tea* garden labourers and where compulsion has been introduced. For example, in the Tezpur subdivision, compulsion was introduced in Muralhal Mouza from where my Friend, Shri Kamala Prasad Agarwala, was returned and there is a large number of *ex-tea* garden labourers. Compulsion was also introduced in the Dhekiajuli Mouza, where a large

number of *ex-tea* garden labour has settled. Then, Sir, Tangla area, which was the first area in the Mangaldai subdivision to come under compulsion, has got a large number of them. In the district of the Mover, *viz.*, Sibsagar, Barpathar area was taken up; also in Simuluguri where you can find a large number of *ex-tea* garden labour. Then I may also mention about Sepon and Moran Mouzas in the Lakhimpur district. There are some of the areas where compulsion was introduced and *ex-tea* garden labourers must have been benefited by these. But, Sir, I again want to stress on the fact that we should not go away with the idea that compulsion is the only remedy for removal of illiteracy. Other factors should also be taken into consideration, *e. g.*, social consciousness. The people must be made to feel the need of education—primary education at least. I quite agree with the Mover of the Resolution and other speakers who say that for success of democracy we must have education, at least primary education. Sir, I visited one tribal area some months ago and happened to stay in a primary school. The school house was my camp. In the enrolment register I found 150 boys, but the daily average attendance was only 30. I must remind you, Sir, that was a compulsory area. When I enquired about the reason for this low attendance, some of the people, who had come to meet me, told me, “We send our boys to be enrolled in order to avoid the penal measures, but we do not send them to the school. We send only once a week. If there are three brothers, we send them in rotation.” In another tribal area penal measures were taken. The teaching staff brought to the notice of the authorities that many guardians were not sending their wards to the school. The Court thereupon penalised some guardians who were fined Rs. 50. But these guardians had a feeling that they had been given a charter for illiteracy. When they went back from the Court, they told the teacher that they would never send their boys to the school because Court had exempted them on payment of this fine of Rs. 50. Besides this, they threatened the Pandit for bringing this fact to the notice of the Court and had them fined. These are the painful facts. Sir, I admit that we must carry on propaganda amongst the people about the need of education. During these years we have been spending a huge amount of money for Primary Education. This year’s budget for primary education is Rs. 84 lakhs and out of these nearly 56 lakhs are for the compulsory areas. The compulsory area is confined to more than 5,000 villages and most of these villages are in backward areas inhabited by *ex-tea* garden labourers. There are only 12 urban areas where also we have introduced compulsion. In view of all these things that I have stated I do not see that there is any reason for accepting this Resolution. I have entire sympathy with the Mover of this Resolution. I assure him that we shall keep in view to introduce

compulsion in areas inhabited by *ex-tea* garden labourers while extending compulsion. I hope he will also co-operate with us and carry on this propaganda and help our attendance officers. Sir, the attendance officers move round these areas to put pressure on the guardians, hold meetings with them and try to convince them of the need to send their boys to school.

In view of what I have said, I request my hon. Friend, the Mover of this Resolution, to withdraw it.

Shri SARJU PRASAD SINGH: Sir, in view of what the Hon'ble Minister has said, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my resolution.

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

Resolution regarding fixation of the same scale of pay dearness allowance and other amenities to the teachers of all the High Schools in Assam.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take necessary steps for the fixation of the same scale of pay, dearness allowance and other amenities to the teachers of all High Schools in Assam.

Sir, this is a very important Resolution in the sense that only a few days back there was a State-wide agitation on these two basic points namely, scale of pay and dearness allowance of the Aided High School teachers. Sir, it is also known to this House that on the second day of this session my Friend, Shri Radha Charan Choudhury, moved an adjournment motion to discuss the situation arising out of the strike of the Aided High School teachers. Sir, this strike was not confined to a few misguided teachers or a few led by some bad political parties, but it was an over-all strike of the entire teachers of the State and I have received telegrams from various parts of the State asking us to place this matter before this House. Sir, my Resolution says that there should not be two scales of pay, two scales of dearness allowance and two types of amenities for the same school teachers. In the directive principles of our Constitution it is clearly laid down in Article 39—“The State shall, in particular, direct its policy towards securing—(a)

that the citizens, men and women equally, have the right to an adequate means of livelihood". Then it goes on to say—"that there is equal pay for equal work for both men and women". Sir, the basic principle is that there must be equal pay for equal work or for the same type of work. If we have two systems of pay it is a discrimination, it is a distinction which is not justifiable, Sir, I am not saying that the scale of pay given to the Government School teacheres is at all satisfactory. When I go through this report, about the scales of pay of Primary and Secondary School teachert of India—this is a book pulished by the Bureau of Educations Government of India—there I—find Sir; that in our country the scales of pay are far below the scales of pay in any other country. It says: "It may be of interest to have an idea of salaries of teachers in some of the foreign countries, though it is to be borne in mind that on account of the much different standards of national income and of living, they do not offer any direct basis for comparison. In England and Wales according to the recent recommendation of the Burnham Committee for revision of salaries of primary and secondary school teachers, a qualified man teacher starts on the equivalent of Rs. 417 per mensem, in the annual salary grade of pounds 375—18—630, while women teachers get about Rs. 376 per mensem, the corresponding scale being £ 338—15—504. The addition to the scales for graduate qualification £ 60 per annum for men and £ 48 per annum for women." But, Sir, I need not go to England and Wales, but I will just refer to an adjacent country, a neighbouring country, *viz.*, Burma. The report also speaks about Burma. In Burma the scales are High—School Head teacher (a) Rs.350—25—700 and (b) Rs.330--15—450. Senior teacher Rs.210—10--300 and junior teacher Rs.110—10—200. The Committee appointed recently by the Burma Government has recommended an increase of Rs. 40 in the basic salary of the Primary Schools Teachers and Rs. 70 in the case of High Schools Teachers. Sir, it is also known to this House that in Burma schools the whole system of education is free. From the Kindergarten stage to the highest stage education is free, and in that State where education is free, salary of this amount is given to the teachers. Sir, I need not go to Burma also. In Kashmir the other day it has been announced that from the primary stage—the Kindergarten stage up to M. A.—education will be free. Such is the policy adopted by the Government of Kashmir. Sir, I am not saying that the scales of pay and dearness allowance given to our school teachers are good, but even in this if we go through this report we find that Assam is perhaps the worst in the whole of India regarding scale of pay and dearness allowance.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): On a point of information, Sir. Can our Friend give us the number of colleges in Kashmir ?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: The number of colleges is 13 or something like that.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): What is the number of students ?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: I cannot say off-hand, Sir, but I can give that information to the Minister if he so desires. Sir, on this scale it is given—Head teacher in Assam, B. A. or B. Sc. trained Rs.175—15—250—20—350 rising to Rs.400 plus 17½ per cent. dearness allowance. Assistant teacher Rs.100—10—130 rising to 250. Then in the case of Bihar the minimum pay of the head teacher is Rs. 200 with qualification of B. A., B. Sc. trained and it goes upto Rs.750. For the assistant Teacher it is Rs.150—10—230.E.B.—15—350. Even after getting Rs. 450, 40 per cent. of pay with a minimum of Rs.17-8-0, is given as dearness allowance in a State like Bihar.

In Madhya Pradesh the pay of the men Head Teacher is Rs.250—10—300, and for the women Head Teacher Rs.225—25—15—400 and for the Assistant Teacher Rs. 200—10—250.

As regards West Bengal, the pay of the Head Teacher is Rs.200—5—250. with qualification of B.A., B. Sc. and B. T. with dearness allowance according to the scale and it is in a sliding scale, that is, Rs. 35 for pay between Rs. 51 and Rs. 100, Rs. 40 for pay between Rs. 101, and Rs. 150, Rs. 45 for pay between Rs. 151, and Rs. 200 and Rs. 50 for pay between Rs. 201 and Rs. 250. For the Assistant Teacher with the same qualification it is Rs.100—5—160—E. B.—215—10—225, with the dearness as in the sliding scale I have just stated.

In Hyderabad the Head Teacher is given Rs.700--50--1,200--E.B.—50—1,500. It is for the 1st Grade High Schools. For the 2nd Grade High School it is Rs.300--20--400--E.B--25—600,—E.B.--40—800 and for the 3rd Grade High Schools it is Rs. 325—15—400. For the Assistant Teacher it is Rs.325—15—400. The dearness allowance for them is Rs. 18 for pay upto Rs. 50, Rs. 28 for pay between Rs. 51 and Rs. 100, Rs. 35 for pay between Rs. 101 and Rs. 200 and 17½ per cent. of pay for pay above Rs. 200.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS: (Parliamentary Secretary): On a point of information, Sir, are these Government institutions for which such scales of pay are given ?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: They are institutions managed by Government. My contention is that the scale of pay given to the teachers of the Government institutions is not very lucrative and I do not say that there is no scope for its improvement. As a matter of fact we lag behind the other States of India in this respect. The scale of pay of our teachers of the Government

institutions is most miserable. Sir, this report says that the Government schools in all the States have regular pay scales for their teachers. But nearly 92 per cent. of the total number of teachers are employed by schools under the control of local (District) Municipal, Cantonment, etc. Boards and private bodies, aided as well as unaided. It is, therefore, obvious that unless these schools pay salaries more or less at par with the prevalent Government scales, a large bulk of the teaching profession will remain low paid and discontented.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Sir, may I have some information from the Leader of the Opposition about the amount of fees realised in those schools so that we can compare the actual state of things prevailing in our State and in other States?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: In Jammu and Kashmir, we know the tuition is free. As regards other States I have not got the figures ready with me, but I shall try to collect the figures later. Then this Report again goes to say that, "In many cases the rate and the mode of the annual increment are not governed by any set rules, but depend on the goodwill of the managing committee and the school finances. In others, there are regular scales but the minimum and the maximum are generally lower than those prescribed for Government school teachers. The private school teachers therefore, need special consideration and something could be done, at least in the aided schools by making the adoption of Government scales of pay or approved scales of pay approximating to them, one of the conditions for grants-in-aid."

Now, regarding dearness allowance, this Report says as follows: "The variation in the rates of dearness allowance, which is paid by all State Governments, except in Jammu and Kashmir, is still more pronounced. A teacher drawing a salary of Rs. 50 per mensem gets, as cost of living allowance, an addition of Rs. 10 per mensem in Assam, as against Rs. 35 per mensem in Delhi."

Sir, these figures are revealing by themselves. They do not need any explanation. We do not want to make a political propaganda or make a political capital out of this thing. But we base our claim on the figures supplied by the Government of India. Sir, we also know that in our aided schools the scale of pay is even lower than this.

SRIMAN PRAFULLA GOSWAMI: May I know the scale of pay of the teachers of the aided schools?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: My Friend, Shri Prafulla Goswami, is very impatient to know about the scale of pay of the

aided schools teachers and I will give him some figures. Liars may figure, but, Sir, figures will not lie. The maximum pay of the head teacher in Assam is Rs. 80. The head teacher gets an allowance of Rs. 20 extra over his maximum pay. The maximum pay for an Assistant Teacher, for B. A. and B. Sc. Rs. 80, for Passed Inter Rs. 60 and for Passed Matric and Trained Rs. 50. These are the figures published by the Government. (*A voice*: It is minimum.) Minimum or maximum it is immaterial to say.

SRIMAN PRAFULLA GOSWAMI: Whether it is minimum or maximum we want to know, Sir.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: There is no question of maximum or minimum. The people say? "The world may move and the Ganges may flow but the pay scale of the aided school teachers will not move."

SRIMAN PRAFULLA GOSWAMI: The figure given by him is not probably the maximum pay.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: That is given here as maximum pay, whereas in the case of Bihar there is a question of maximum and minimum pay of the aided school teachers' scale, but when there is no such scale in Assam there cannot be the question of maximum or minimum. In the case of Head Teachers in Bihar the scale starts from Rs. 200 and ends at Rs. 250. This is for schools with enrolment of more than 500. But for schools with enrolment between 201 and 500 the scale is Rs. 175—225. For the schools with enrolment upto 200, the scale is Rs. 150—200. For the Assistant Teacher, the scale is Rs. 75—150, with Rs. 12 as minimum dearness allowance in all cases. In Bombay the scale is much better. For the Head Teacher there the scale is Rs. 300—450. For the Assistant Teacher the minimum and maximum pay are Rs. 74 and Rs. 160 respectively. (The maximum should reach in 20 to 23 years and the minimum annual increment should be Rs. 4.) In the case of Madhya Pradesh, maximum should reach in 25 years. In Madhya Pradesh also we find the minimum is Rs. 70 in case of the Head Teacher. Then it comes up to 150 to Rs. 200.

In Madras we find that in case of the Head teacher, it begins from Rs. 150 to Rs. 200, in case of the Assistant Teacher, the scale begins from Rs. 75 and goes up to 145 with dearness allowance of Rs. 22 for pay between Rs. 40 and Rs. 60, Rs. 24 for pay between Rs. 61 to Rs. 100 and Rs. 25½ per cent. for pay from Rs. 101 to Rs. 200. Sir, as I have already stated, I need not explain these figures. These figures tell the whole story. Sir, the story of Aided

School teachers in Assam is really a story of woes and miseries, of privation and suffering. We may ignore it as manoeuvre drawn and highly exaggerated picture; but, Sir, when we compare the scales of pay of our school teachers with those of the other employees of our Government we find what value we attach to our education! There is no co-relation at all.

In the Secretariat for Lower Division Assistants the scale pay begins from Rs. 75 upto Rs. 175, and the qualification is Intermediate in Arts or Science, for the Upper Division it begins from Rs. 200 to Rs. 300.

Then in case of Jailors and Assistant Jailors. The pay scale of the Jailors begins from Rs. 175 and goes up to Rs. 275. Then the Assistant Jailors whose prescribed qualification is generally Intermediate gets their scale of pay from Rs. 80 to Rs. 175. The Police Inspectors start from Rs. 175 to Rs. 375, Sub-Inspectors from Rs. 100 to Rs. 200, and they are mostly Intermediates. Sir, this is a revealing picture. They give a clear idea as to with what regard we look to our education. It is well and good to say that the State is spending more than two crores of rupees for education and that in the Five-Year Plan it will be spending about a crore and three lakhs on education. But when we look at these figures and analyse them correctly we find that the State Government is spending for education of an adult at the rate of Rs.2 to Rs.3 only. Sir, if we look to the various recommendations of the various Committees we will find that all these Committees and Commissions have recommended higher scales of pay for school teachers. When these things are pointed out to those who can really remedy these glaring defects in our educational system, they at once say that the education standard of our country has deplorably gone down. Sir, I do not mean to say that our standard of education has not gone down. But I ask the Government to give us the causes that has led to this gradual deterioration of our educational standard. Is it because of the fact that our teachers do not give their time and energy for the betterment of the cause of education, do they not give their attention to the students? Or is it because of the fact that they are so overwhelmed with their economic condition, that they cannot have any initiative, any liking to put their hearts in it? These are pertinent questions. A careful analysis of the causes of this down-ward trend of our educational standard will show that now a days the teachers do not find any attraction in their vocation. To-day after passing their B. A. or M. A. examinations when our young men, our brilliant and intelligent young men after coming out of the Universities with flying colours go to schools or colleges to take up teaching as their avocation in life, what do they find? They find Rs. 80

in the case of an Aided School or Rs. 100 in the case of a Government School mocking them at their face at the end of a full month's hard toil and intelligent labour. As against this, if we compare the pay scales in other categories of services, we find that even the third class people in the administrative service start with an initial salary of Rs. 200 to Rs. 300, if not more.

Mr. SPEAKER: What do you mean by "third class" ?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Third class in the sense that they are not required to have honours or 1st class degree or a 2nd class in the minimum as in the case of school teachers and college professors. Then, Sir, where is the attraction, what is the incentive provided for him ? Then again as an insult to injury comes the invidious distinction of pay scale between an aided school teacher and a Government school teacher. With these anomalies existing in our educational system where will the poor teachers get the pull and push for teaching our students, future hopefuls of our country ? It has become the wonted practice for some of those at the helm of affairs to harp on the ears of semi-starved teachers, in season and out of season, to approach the teaching profession in a spirit of service to the country. But I would like to ask them, Sir, have they themselves imbibed this spirit of service in their heart of hearts ? If not, what right have those people to preach those high idealism ? Those days of sages will never come back and we cannot expect our teachers to hold their classes under banyan trees. This is not possible under the present set-up of things. Now, unless we give proper value to our education and give adequate wages to our teachers we cannot improve our educational system. Sir, only the other day I have gone through the Report of the University Education Commission. I think it will be relevant to quote from that Report which runs thus : "The Universities are finding it hard to retain their best teachers. The good old times when the profession of teaching attracted those whom no worldly rewards could tempt are no more. In this age of money economy and profit motives it is hard to expect that teachers alone would rise above the spirit of the times. Salaries which the Universities cannot command to enter and Government easily afford are taking the cream away leaving the staff poorer, envious and discontent."

This is from the University Commission proceedings presided over by no less a person than the Vice-President of the Indian Republic, Dr. Radha Krishnan.

Then if we come to the Post-War Reconstruction Scheme, we will find that even there also raising of the pay scales of the teachers was recommended. The minimum salaries and allowances approved in these scheme was as—

“Non-graduate Trained Teachers in High Schools—Rs.40—2—80 per mensem *plus* 6¼ per cent. Contributory Provident Fund. 10 per cent. House Allowance in normal rural areas ; possible increase up to 50 per cent. to meet higher cost of living or other special circumstances.

Graduate Trained Teachers in High School—Rs. 70—5—150 per mensem *plus* 6¼ per cent. Contributory Provident Fund. 10 per cent. House Allowance in normal rural areas ; possible increase up to 50 per cent. to meet higher cost of living or other special circumstances. Sir, in this Commission, Assam was represented by a member of this Government in the person of late Sayidur Rahman. Sir, we are trying to increase the number of Schools, we are trying to expand the activities in this direction, but we are neglecting the core of the whole thing without which no scheme will succeed. Sir, in the Five-Year Plan, at page 560 it has been ably commented as follows : “ One of the chief causes of the poor standards in the educational institutions is the low scales of salaries paid to teachers and the Highly unsatisfactory conditions of their service. The Central Government have taken steps to improve them in the centrally administered areas and recently some States have also taken similar steps but on the whole conditions remain very unsatisfactory. We are convinced that no improvement in the existing system will be possible without improving the conditions of service of teachers and putting their remuneration on a fair basis of comparison with other services. We strongly recommend that every State Government should examine the position of teachers’ salaries and within the limits of their resources, endeavour to raise the scales of pay. In view, however, of the large numbers involved and the strained resources of the State, the relief that might be expected from this measure is not likely to be sufficient and it will have to be otherwise supplemented. Whenever possible additional facilities in the form of free accommodation, fee concessions for their children’s education, etc., should be provided. In village schools attempt should be made to provide every teacher with a plot of land where he and his family can grow their own vegetables. While all measures should be taken to prevent the evil of private tuitions, avenues of useful educational work should be provided by which teachers can supplement their income and at the same time help the cause of educational improvement and expansion in their leisure hours.”

Sir, when I say that our teachers are suffering badly, I have also in my mind the fact that when after 30 years’ service a Government servant will get a pension or benefit of provident fund, gratuity, etc., no arrangements are provided in case of an Aided School teacher. Sir, when I think of the case of these teachers, the story

of ভোলা মাস্টার 'Bhola Master' so ably depicted by an able Novelist comes to my mind. While a teacher produces jewels in the country produces able men, in his turn he had to steal to educate his children. How painful it is to think ! Sir, I know there are teachers who are required to work for 12 to 14 hours. In the morning I have seen them going for private tuition when they have to teach two or three children and in the evening also they have to do the same thing over and above the eight hours' work in the school. Sir, I had the fortune to read in England for some time. In the Universities I read I have seen the condition of service of the teachers and professors. The Professors there are not over-taxed. They are required to give three or four lectures in a week nay sometimes a month. For these three or four lectures they come prepared. It is a thesis, an original book and one can learn many new things from a lecture of this type. In contrast what do we find here in our country ? Here a teacher is so over-worked that he has hardly any time to get himself prepared for such thing. Sir, by spending a sum of two crores or so for a particular institution, we cannot think that the sufferings of the teachers will be mitigated.

Sir, here I wish to read out a portion from the recommendations of the Report of the Secondary Education Commission:— "The Commission reports that there was unanimity of opinion that the status and conditions of service of teachers require to be improved considerably and urgently. The Commission has made specific recommendations with regard to the recruitment of teachers, the period of probation, the qualifications of the teachers recruited for different posts in the High and Higher Secondary Schools as well as conditions of service. The scales of pay must be immediately improved so as to conform at least to those scales that have been recommended repeatedly by successive Commissions. One of the important recommendations made by the Commission is that there should be a uniform scale of pay to teachers with same qualifications and serving in the same capacity irrespective of the type of institution in which they serve—Government, Local Fund or Private Management. The Commission has drawn up a scheme known as the triple benefit scheme wherein a teacher will be entitled to Pension *cum* Provident Fund *cum* Insurance. This scheme is being tried in some States and the Commission recommends that it may be made applicable to all States in the country. Likewise, security of tenure is one of the important items recommended and, with a view to see that the teacher is not unnecessarily victimised, an Arbitration Board has been suggested to whom the teacher can appeal in the case of any adverse treatment by any management". Sir, sometimes it depends on the whims of a person only, because in some cases, the voice of a person in the School Board prevails and so it is very necessary that

there should be such safeguards against such victimisation. I am not concerned with the latter portion of the recommendations immediately. I am concerned with the scale of pay. As recommended in the Radhakrishnan Commission or in the Five-Year Plan, without incurring very heavy expenditure, it is possible to improve the lot of these teachers by way of granting settlement of land, by making available food-stuff through the Cheap-Grain Shops and some other ways suggested therein. But none of these things has been done in our State so far. There should be at least a scale of pay for the Aided School Teachers so that in 3 or 4 years he can expect that he would get such and such pay. Now this depends on the good-will of the Managing Committee, and sometimes on the sweet will of a particular person. Sir with these things, I feel the time has come when it is necessary to look into the whole problem and give them a scale of pay and bring them at par with others. Sir, we believe in a classless society. In the directive principles of our Constitution, it is laid down that there should be equal pay for work of equal nature. Sir, the time has come when we should give serious thought to this and give effect to such principles. Unless we evaluate their services, we cannot raise the standard of education.

With these words, Sir, I feel this Resolution is a very important Resolution and my Friends sitting in the Treasury Bench should not merely turn it down simply because it has been emanated from the Opposition. Let us have their reply as regards the recommendations of the University Commission, let us have their reply with regard to the Five-Year Plan dealing with this matter. Sir, I request the Education Minister and also the Leader of the House to consider the case of these poor teachers sympathetically and accept my Resolution.

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

Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS (Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, before Mr. Goswami resumes his seat, may I get an information from him whether some figures which he quoted are from Education Bureau Report and if so, of which year?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Yes, of 1952.

Mr. SPEAKER: Resolution moved:

"This Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take necessary steps for the fixation of the same scale of pay, dearness allowance and other amenities to the teachers of all High Schools in Assam."

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

Sir, after his brilliant speech which dealt with practically all the subjects, very little things have been left for me for further elucidation.

The other day, we have seen in the papers that there had been a two-day strike in all the Aided High Schools and simultaneously the students of schools, colleges and other institutions of all the districts in the State came out in processions. I have seen one procession at Gauhati. That was not a procession of the Rickshawwallahs but a procession of the most educated people of the society, the teachers who are not entangled in politics. In the procession I have noticed old and aged teachers of 50 or 60 years age carrying banners in their hands.

(At this stage the Speaker vacated the Chair and Raja A. Narayan Deb of Sidli, Chairman occupied it).

I have seen teachers and Students together carrying placards, banners, etc. and moving in the streets. It was a scene to look at. Their grievances were genuine and that is why there was spontaneous strikes and spontaneous processions.

Sir, it is high time when due consideration should be given to the amelioration of the condition of the Aided High School teachers. Our Leader has quoted scales of pay of Aided High School teachers not only of the different States of India but of other Countries even that of Burma. It will be found from these figures that even in Assam the pay of these teachers is very low and at present the pay per month of a teacher, whether he is a matriculate, I.A. pass or graduate is below Rs. 100/- per mensem, and his dearness allowance is not more than Rs. 7/-. In consideration of what the teachers in the Aided High Schools in other States get and in consideration of the fellow-teachers in Government High Schools of our State are getting, I think, our Government should be earnestly revising the scale of pay and dearness allowance of the aided school teachers of Assam.

Sir, we know, there are only 20 Government High Schools and about 188 Aided High Schools all over the State. From a calculation it is evident that more than 90 per cent. of the students take their education from these Aided High Schools. We know very well that these High Schools, before independence, rather before the struggle for independence with the Britishers, gave immense service in the fight for freedom. These nationalist schools served

and educated people of eminence from the Congress side. Most of the Congress Leaders had their education from these Aided High Schools due to strict and reactionary circulars by the then Government. We know also that in Government High Schools, British Government had given preference in all directions, such as, building, pay of teachers, and many other amenities. But the sad part of the thing is that this Congress Government even after Independence is also giving priority even today to the Government institutions in preference to Aided institutions, leaving our Aided institutions un-aided and un-cared for. Sir, one point was raised by the Finance Minister over there, about tuition fees in other schools of India. Our Leader could not give these figures of Aided High Schools. Without going to the figures of tuition fees in other States, I would bring it to the notice of the House the rate of tuition fees in our Aided High Schools as compared with Government High English Schools. It is much higher than in Government High Schools. You know the resources of the Aided High Schools. Their income is limited. There is no further scope of increasing the fees when in corresponding Government High Schools the tuition fee is much less.

Sir, the demands of these teachers have been put forward by our Leader very well. Their demand is genuine and this they should get without delay. They should get the same scale of pay like that of Government High School teachers and their dearness allowance should also be equally raised. About present dearness allowance given to them, there is an interesting history behind it. These teachers used to get Rs. 10 as dearness allowance, Rs. 7 from Government and Rs. 3 from school fund. But for some time, that dearness allowance was stopped. We know that a deputation of these teachers under the leadership of no less a person than the Congress President, Shri Bimala Prasad Chaliha, waited upon the Government and that was just before the last general election and it is for election purposes that Government granted that dearness allowance for only one year and since then it has continued not as dearness allowance but as a temporary or interim relief, which is under the discretion of the Government as there is no guarantee whether Government will continue to grant this even this year. There is no stability of this dearness allowance, the limit of which is only Rs. 7.

Then, regarding the scale of pay, a question was raised from the other side that Rs. 50 per mensem for a Matriculate, Rs. 60 for an Intermediate and Rs. 80 for a graduate teacher, whether these are minimum or maximum, I do not know, but so far my information goes I am of opinion that these are the scales of

pay which had been fixed by Government but all other expenditures are to be met from the school fund including raising of pay of teachers. We know the wretched financial conditions of our Aided High Schools and so it is impossible for the Managing Committees of these institutions to raise the scale of pay of these teachers to a reasonable extent. What the Government has done recently is interesting. They have abolished the Class III and consequently they have curtailed Rs. 25 from the grants given to each Aided High School. What was the result? On the other hand there was no reduction of staff in the Aided schools because when there was no Class III, obviously there were 2 or more sections in class IV and the teachers had to be retained in their posts. Thus expenditure of a school remained where it was but Government curtailed the grant summarily by Rs. 25 per mensem. Another funny thing that I want to bring to the notice of the House is that according to law and order of the Education Department whenever any new section is opened, Rs. 40 or Rs. 50 is to be given as an extra grant according to the opening of new sections in all Aided High Schools by the Government. But, as a matter of fact, when any new section is opened no such grant is forthcoming. Sir, I know one particular case which I want to mention here, The Modon Mohon Madhav Charan Girls' High School in the Karimganj Subdivision has a roll strength of about 600 to 700 students and 5 extra sections have been opened in order to accommodate the students. But on repeated requests from different quarters no grant has been received for the school due to opening of these sections. You can now think of the condition of the Managing Committee as to how they would be able to continue the management of the School under such circumstances.

It is the principle of the Government of India which they have directed to the State Governments and as laid down in our Constitution also that there should be equal pay for equal work. It will be found also in the Report of the Planning Commission as embodied in the Five-Year Plan. Sir, when a principle has been enunciated, we want to see that it is followed. We know that Constitution came into force in 1950 and so far Five-Year Plan is concerned this is the third running year. We want to know what action has been taken by the Government to implement the directions of the Government of India, whether small or big, to bring the scale of the same categories of people on equal footing? Sir, it has been stated by the Planning Commission that there should be equal pay for equal work and particularly for Aided School Teachers. They have enunciated certain principles and issued necessary directives to the State Governments. Apart from the scale of pay, these Aided School Teachers should be given relief otherwise. They must not be allowed to rot for their livelihood by having private

tuitions. One instance has been given by my Friend, Mr. Goswami, that Aided School Teachers living in villages should be given a plot of land free of cost. That is a very easy thing for the Government to do. Government can issue necessary instructions to the respective Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers and also to the Land Settlement Advisory Boards to allot a plot of land to each Aided School Teacher. Government can go a bit further also in this direction. They can allow them to have some cultivable land for their maintenance, which will be of immense help to them if there is financial difficulty of the Government at present in raising their scale of pay all at once. In my opinion, this will be one of the steps for removing the distress of the poor teachers.

Sir, recently it has been published in the report of the Secondary Education Commission of the Government of India that these poor teachers should not be allowed to die. They should be given privileges as regards their pay, dearness allowance and in various other ways. The tuition fees of their children should not be charged; they should be given free ration like other Government servants and also quarters and houses should be allotted for them. Sir, in return, the State will get properly educated people from these institutions for future generation. It is not only for the interest of any particular teacher. We know that we are paying the teachers, not only for the interest of his family alone. We must do it from a business standpoint. We must also see that our children get proper education because they would be our future generation and would take responsibilities in life. If they do not receive proper education, I am afraid, what would be the shape of our future people and how dangerous it would be to run our democratic Government properly? With these words I support the Resolution moved by my Friend, Mr. Goswami.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I did not like to take part in this debate, but I just want to take my stand here in order to clarify some points which have been referred to by my Friend, Mr. Goswami, and thereby to remove any mis-understanding that may be caused amongst the people in general. He has stated that this Government is spending Rs. 2 crores. This is actually not correct. This is true so far as our general education is concerned. This amount of Rs. 2 crores does not however cover our education on Medical, Agriculture, Co-operative, Veterinary, Engineering and many other subjects. Not only that that expenditure does not cover the cost of construction of Government buildings, Government schools and their cost of maintenance repairs, etc. If all these are taken together, we must take it that our expenditure on education may come up to Rs. 2½ crores,

and not Rs. 2 crores. Therefore, Sir, just to remove that misunderstanding that expenditure on education is Rs. 2 crores, I have just explained the position briefly.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: I accept it.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Minister): Sir, if the average of that expenditure is worked out by my Friend, and if that average is compared with similar expenditures in other States of India, my Friend will find that Assam will easily exceed probably a good number of the States in the Indian Union.

Shri MAHENDRA NATH DEKA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Resolution moved by Shri Hareswar Goswami, the Leader of the Opposition, reads like this: "This Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take immediate steps for the fixation of the same scale of pay, dearness allowance and other amenities to the teachers of all High Schools in Assam". Sir, the Resolution as it stands is very poorly framed, is very vague. If this Resolution is accepted, no Government can give any practical shape to it. Firstly, it says, "fixation of the same scale of pay, etc." The word "scale" is singular. It means that all the teachers should get the same scale of pay. Now, in High Schools there are many grades of teachers, *viz.*, Headmasters, Assistant Headmasters, graduate teachers, normal third year class passed teachers, subordinate teachers, lower subordinate teachers, etc., who get different scales of pay. As soon as this Resolution is adopted, all the teachers from the highest to the lowest categories, will have to be given the same scale of pay irrespective of their duties and qualifications. They may say, "We want the scale of the Headmaster, *i.e.*, Rs.150—400". The graduate teachers will say, "We shall start at Rs. 150" and so on and so forth. Then, again, my Friend has put all teachers, both of Government high schools and aided high schools in the same category. Unless this sort of mix-up is removed and my Friend comes forward with a definite Resolution, this House is not in a position to accept this one.

Then, Sir, my Friend stated that the aided high school teachers went on strike on the 26th. Sir, a meeting was convened by them at Gauhati and a report of the proceedings of that meeting has been published in the Press. It appears that the aided high schools have got as many as 3,000 teachers, while the number of teachers in the Government high schools is a little over 500, Now, 20 per cent. of the students read in Government high schools and they are taught by 500 teachers but for the 80 per cent. students reading in aided high schools the number of teachers is 3,000. If we work out the ratio with the number of teachers in the Government high schools, then the number

of teachers in the aided high schools should not have been more than 2,000. We, therefore, find that there is redundant staff in the aided high schools. Now, Sir, last year Government have given as dearness allowance Rs.7 to each teacher of the aided high schools, but they are demanding for an allowance of Rs.10 a month. If the number of teachers could be reduced from 3,000 to 2,000, each teacher could have got a dearness allowance of Rs.10. So, Sir, my point is that unless and until there is readjustment, it is not practicable on the part of Government to spend more money for redressing the grievances of the aided school teachers. Then, there are some schools who have got only 150 students on their roll while some have got more than 1,400 students. So, unless there is some sort of rationalisation and readjustment, it is not possible to increase the pay of the aided high school teachers.

Now, Sir, I am managing a high school in my native village. There a graduate teacher is getting a minimum pay of Rs.80. My Friends will be surprised to learn that my Headmaster is getting Rs.185 as pay plus Rs.20 as Headmaster's allowance and one anna per rupee as his provident fund contribution. In all, therefore, he is getting Rs.216 a month. Is it so low in a village school? An ordinary graduate of 25 years' standing is getting Rs.216 per month in a village school. Now, what is the pay of the Headmaster of the Collegiate School, who is going to retire by November next? He is getting only Rs.400 and he is the only teacher in his class to get Rs. 400. Now, Sir, this is about my school. So far as my knowledge goes, there is no such school where the Headmaster is getting less than Rs.120. Another thing to be considered is that many of the high school Headmasters are Headmasters for the day of getting B.A. or B.Sc. degree. In many of the Government High Schools a teacher becomes a Headmaster after 12 or 15 years of his service, whereas in most of the Aided High Schools, Headmasters are of only 2 or 3 year's standing. This is so because a graduate as soon as he gets a degree he starts a school and automatically becomes a Headmaster and when a grant is given to that School he establishes himself and there is nobody to remove him from there. The Managing Committee cannot remove him because he has started the school. Recently one school has been started by a raw graduate—he is a graduate of 1952 only—and he draws salary of Rs. 130 per month. As soon as a grant from the Government will be given he will say, "I am a *pucca* Headmaster because I started the school myself" and he will claim more pay and allowance thereof. So, Sir, unless and until there is proper examination of the whole affair concerning the Aided High School teachers, and unless and until these Aided High

School teachers themselves come forward to reduce their number their problem will not be solved. It is also their look out to see that proper adjustment as to the number of aided schools is made. So, Sir, I say that unless and until all teachers of Aided High Schools come forward and boldly come to a decision to reduce the rising number of high schools, and the number is lessened, nobody can help them. From the reports it is clear that 3,000 teachers are needed for schools run by Managing Committees. Only 2,000 such teachers are really wanted. That being so, it is up to them to solve their own difficulties. But the difficulty lies with them—they don't know whom to chuck out and which school to close down. That is the difficulty with them. But if they are bold enough and come with boldness with their genuine demand, with their earnestness and with justice for the interest of education in the State, I think Government will be in a position to help them.

Now my Friend in the Opposition always comes up with big proposals and big Resolutions entailing huge financial obligations to the State, but whenever any question arises as to increasing the resources and income of the State he is very silent. Why? He is citing scales provided in foreign countries, but he should remember one thing. That Assam's people pay *per capita* only about 5 per cent of ones annual income as revenue to the State, whereas in America they are paying 20 per cent. of their income per head. America has an income of Rs.8,888 *per capita*. I know that the last budget of President Truman was Rs.1,669 per head. So unless and until the Members of the Opposition come forward to enlarge the exchequer of the State, how can they expect to give effect to this Resolution even if it is accepted by the House? The other day my Friends were a party to the acceptance and passing of the budget by the House. They have accepted the income side of the budget by this unless the income side is enlarged, how can they expect to enlarge the expenditure side of the Budget on Education?

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI: On a point of information Sir. May we know from what source our Friend gets all this information about the income of other Nations and in what way he wants us to co-operate to enlarge the income of our State?

Shri MOHENDRA NATH DEKA: I am in a position to say that the income of America *per capita* is Rs.8,888. I think my Friends must have seen the figures published in one of our Congress papers which gives the income *per capita* of all Nations in the United Nations. I distinctly remember that the income of America was Rs.8,888 *per capita*.

Now, Sir, as it appears from the budget, last year's budget represents that 20 per cent. of the income of the State goes to Education alone whereas three or four years ago it was only 9 per cent. This clearly shows that within the short period of three or four years how gradually and progressively this Government is enlarging expenditure required for Education.

Mr. CHAIRMAN (Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB of Sidli) : Mr. Deka, may I draw your attention to Rule 48 of the Assembly Rules wherein it is stated, "Except with the permission of the Speaker no speech upon any motion or resolution shall exceed fifteen minutes in duration". But you have exceeded that limit. Are you finishing now?

Shri MOHENDRA NATH DEKA : Yes Sir, I will just speak a few words more and I will finish. Now, Sir, I want to point out that last year we got as much as 81 lakhs in the shape of sales tax alone; multiply it by 32 you will get 29 crores. If our country is rich enough to buy non-essential goods to the tune of 29 crores can we say that our country is poor? Our population is 91 lakhs and the people have been able to purchase luxurious goods upto the extent of 29 crores of rupees. This means Rs.32 per head. But in the shape of taxes we are not to pay even Rs.10 per head. So, until and unless the exchequer of our State is enlarged, sufficiently enlarged, it is not practicable on the part of the Government to accept this Motion and to give effect to the Resolution. Therefore, Sir, it is my humble request to the Mover of the Motion to withdraw his Resolution.

Shri DHARANI DHAR BASUMATARI : চেয়াৰমেন ডাঙৰীয়া, আমাৰ বিৰোধী দলৰ নেতা ডাঙৰীয়াই আবেগপূৰ্ণ ভাষণৰ দ্বাৰা তেখেতৰ যিটো প্ৰস্তাৱ দাঙি ধৰিলে আৰু তাৰ লগে লগে তেখেতে যি বিলাক আবেগপূৰ্ণ উক্তি আমাক শুনালে, তাত আমাৰো কিছু পৰিমাণে আবেগ নজগাকৈ থকা নাই। গিছে দেশ এখনৰ শাসন আবেগৰ দ্বাৰা নচলে যুক্তিবেহে চলে। আমি ভাবিছিলো যে বিপক্ষ দলৰ নেতা ডাঙৰীয়াই যেতিয়া এই প্ৰস্তাৱটো আনিছে, তেতিয়া হয়তো দেশৰ সমস্যাৰ লগত সামঞ্জস্য ৰাখি অন্ততঃ এই সদনৰ সদস্য সকলক সহায় কৰিব। কিন্তু তেখেতে যেতিয়া তেখেতৰ প্ৰস্তাৱটো দাঙি ধৰিলে আৰু চৰকাৰী আৰু সাহায্যপ্ৰাপ্ত হাইস্কুলৰ শিক্ষক সকলক same scale of pay দিব লাগে বুলি কৈ আধা ঘণ্টাবো বেচি সময় বজুতা দিলে।

নোৰ বোধেৰে তেখেতে ভাবি চোৱা উচিত আছিল যে আমাৰ স্কুল দুবিধ, এবিধ হৈছে চৰকাৰী স্কুল আৰু আনবিধ হৈছে সাহায্যপ্ৰাপ্ত স্কুল। এই দুই শ্ৰেণীৰ স্কুলৰ শিক্ষক সকলৰ pay scale তেখেতে যে কেনেকৈ সমান কৰিবলৈ বিচাৰিছে আমি বুজিবলৈ টান পাইছো। আমিও জানো যে সাহায্যপ্ৰাপ্ত হাইস্কুল আৰু চৰকাৰী হাইস্কুলৰ শিক্ষক সকলৰ দৰমহা এটা হাৰত বৃদ্ধি কৰিব লাগে—আমিও বুজো শিক্ষক সকলৰ কিমান অভাব অভিযোগ আছে। কিন্তু কি উপায়েৰে Provincialise কৰি নে deprovincialise কৰি—তাৰ কোনো কথা উল্লেখ নকৰিলে অথচ তেখেত সকলে শিক্ষক সকলৰ মাজলৈ গৈ নানা প্ৰকাৰে তেখেতসকলক উচটনি দিয়েগৈ। শিক্ষক সকলৰ মাজলৈ গৈ তেখেতসকলৰ দুঃখ কষ্টৰ বিষয়ে আমাৰ যি

অভিজ্ঞতা হৈছে তাৰ লগত গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ ভাষণ বিজাই চালে দেখা যায় যে শিক্ষক সকলৰ আচল অৱস্থাটো দাঙি ধৰাৰ পৰিবৰ্ত্তে তেখেতৰ ভাষণত শিক্ষক সকলৰ সমস্যাৰ সহানুভূতিটো ৰাজনৈতিক চাল যেনেহে অনুমান হয়। (হাঁহি) এদিন এই সদনতে তেখেতৰ বন্ধু শ্ৰীবাৰা চৰণ চৌধুৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই এটা প্ৰস্তাৱ দাঙি ধৰিছিল নিম্ন প্ৰাইমেৰী স্কুলৰ শিক্ষক সকলৰ দৰমহা বন্ধি কৰিব লাগে বুলি তেখেতৰ ভাষণতো তেখেতে আমেৰিকাৰ কথা; সুন্দৰ বিলাতৰ কথা আৰু আমাৰ ভাৰতবোৰো নানা State ৰ কথা উনুকিয়াই গৈছে। তেখেতে নিজেই বিলাতৰ পৰা ফিৰি আহিছে কিন্তু তেখেতে সেই ঠাই বিলাকৰ লৰা ছোৱালীৰ শিক্ষা আৰু আমাৰ দেশৰ লৰাছোৱালীৰ বিলাকৰ শিক্ষাৰ তাৎপৰ্য্যতাটো বোধকৰো ভালকৈ উপলব্ধি কৰি তেখেতৰ প্ৰস্তাৱৰ অবতারণা কৰা নাই। যদি কৰিলে হেতেন তেন্তে তেখেতে ইমান আবেগপূৰ্ণ এটা ভাষণ দি এই সদনৰ সময় নষ্ট নকৰিলে হেতেন (হাঁহি)। তেখেতৰ ভাষণত আজি বিশেষকৈ এইটোৱেই প্ৰকাশ পাইছে যে চৰকাৰী আৰু সাহায্য প্ৰাপ্ত হাইস্কুলৰ শিক্ষকসকলৰ দৰমহাৰ যিটো ব্যৱধান আছে, সেইটো সমান কৰিবলৈ প্ৰকৃততে তেখেতে কোৱা নাই; তেখেতে এনে ধৰণৰ প্ৰস্তাৱ এটি আনি অকল শিক্ষক সকলক উচৰ্চনি দিছে হয়তো এই শিক্ষকসকলক ধৰ্ম্মঘট কৰিবলৈকো তেখেত সকলেই উচৰ্চাই দিছিল।

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Sir, on a point of information. Is it not a fact that Shri K. P. Tripathy is the President of the Assam School Teachers Association.

Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: তেখেতে যিমানই নাজানক বহু লোকেই বহুতো ক্ষেত্ৰত এই শিক্ষক সকলৰ বিষয়ে আলোচনা কৰি গৈছে। কিন্তু কোনোৱেই সেই বিষয়ে এটা নিৰ্দ্ধাৰিত মীমাংসালৈ আহিব পৰা নাই। মই তেখেতক দাঠিকৈ কব খোজো যে আজিলৈকে তেখেতেও এটা মীমাংসাত উপনীত হব পৰা নাই আৰু ইচ্ছাও কৰা নাই। তেখেতে জনা উচিত যে এই শিক্ষক সকলৰ দৰমহা কেনেকৈ গভৰ্ণমেণ্ট স্কুলৰ শিক্ষকসকলৰ সমান হব পাৰে। বোধকৰো তেখেতে নাজানে যে সাহায্যপ্ৰাপ্ত স্কুলৰ শিক্ষকসকলৰ নিচিনা চৰকাৰী স্কুলৰ শিক্ষকসকলৰ নানা আহুকাল আছে। যেনে— ১। চৰকাৰী স্কুলৰ শিক্ষকসকল Transfer হয়। ইয়াৰ কাৰণে তেওঁলোকৰ অহাযোৱাৰ খৰচ আছে। ২। সাধাৰণতে তেওঁলোকৰ লৰা, তিবোতাক নগৰত ৰাখিব লাগে। তাৰ কাৰণে ঘৰ ভাড়া আদি নানা খৰচ। ৩। চুক্তিৰ সৰলৈ অহাযোৱাৰ খৰচ এই বিলাক খুচি নাতিলৈ লক্ষ্য কৰি আমি সাহায্যপ্ৰাপ্ত হাইস্কুলৰ শিক্ষক সকলৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত কি পাও। ১। এখেত সকলে ঘৰতে থাকি শিক্ষকতা কৰে গতিকে খৰচো সেই পৰিমাণে কিছু কম লাগে।

২। অবকাশৰ সময়ত এখেত সকলে নানাৰকমৰ খেতিবাতি কৰি বাহিৰকৈ উপাৰ্জন কৰিব পাৰে। নানা ঘৰচীয়া জীৱ জন্তু পোহপাল দিও উপাৰ্জনক্ষম হব পাৰে।

মোৰ নিজা অভিজ্ঞতাৰ পৰা মই কব পাৰো যে এই সাহায্যপ্ৰাপ্ত স্কুলৰ শিক্ষক সকলৰ বহুতে নিজেই কয় যে তেখেত সকল চৰকাৰী স্কুলৰ শিক্ষক সকলতকৈ বহু বকমে লাভবান। কিছুমানে ভয় কৰে যে কিজানি চৰকাৰী হাবে দৰমহা দিলে আকৌ তেওঁলোকক Transfer কৰে। বহুতেই প্ৰকাশ কৰে যে তেওঁলোক বৰং সুখতেই আছে। দুয়োবিধ স্কুলৰ দৰমহাৰ ব্যৱধান উঠাই দিলে হয়তো নানাৰকমে তেওঁলোকৰ Hardship হৈ হব পাৰে; এনেকুৱা ভাবে তেখেত সকলৰ বহুতে পোষণ কৰে। Transfer হলে হয়তো তেওঁলোকৰ লৰাছোৱালীক শিক্ষা দিয়াও টান হব। গতিকে তেওঁলোকৰ বহুতে আমাক কয় “আমাৰ Pay scale ৰে সমান কৰি আমাৰ বিপদ নবঢ়াব।”

আজি আমাৰ মাননীয় গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াই এই বিলাক কথা আলোচনাৰ পৰা বাদ দি কিংমু অনুপ্ৰেৰণাত তেখেতে আন কিছমান অপ্ৰাসঙ্গীক কথা কৈ ওকালতী কৰিছে মই কব নোৱাৰো

ইয়াৰ পৰা প্ৰমাণীত হয় যে তেখেত সকলে L. P. স্কুল আৰু সকলো হাইস্কুলৰ শিক্ষকসকলৰ দৰমহাৰ হাৰ বৃদ্ধি কৰিবলৈ যোৱাৰ আৰতে লুকাই আছে এটি বাজনৈতিক চাল। তেখেতে যদি সৌহাৰ্দ্যপূৰ্ণতাৰ সৈতে ভাবিলেহেতেন, দেশৰ কেনেকৈ উন্নতি সাধন হয়, দেশৰ উৎপাদন শক্তি কেনেকৈ বঢ়াব পাৰি, আৰু দেশৰ সৰ্বসাধাৰণৰ জীৱনৰ মানদণ্ড কেনেকৈ বঢ়াব পাৰি তেনেহলে তেখেতে অৰাবত ইমান আবেগপূৰ্ণ ভাষণেৰে এনেকুৱা এটি প্ৰস্তাৱৰ অবতাৰণা নকৰিলেহেতেন। অন্যান্য বহুতো চাকৰিয়াল আছে আমাৰ এই সদনৰ দুৱাৰদলীত ঠিয় হৈ থকা পিয়ন সকলৰ দৰমহা কিমান। তাৰ কথা ভাবি চাইছে নে? এই 4th grade চাকৰিয়াল সকলোৰে কথা? (এই সময়ত Chairman এ Intervene কৰিলে)

Announcement of result of the election to the committee constituted to consider draft Amendment to the Assembly Rules

Mr. CHAIRMAN (Raja AJIT NARAYN DEB of Sidli): I have great pleasure to inform the House that both the Government and Opposition Parties by mutual settlement have made election to the Committee constituted to consider the draft amendments of the Assembly Rules uncontested by limiting the number of candidates according to the number of members to be elected. The following hon. Members are therefore declared elected to the said Committee unopposed :

1. Shri Bimala Kanta Bora.
2. Shri Sarveswar Barua.
3. Maulavi Faiznur Ali.
4. Shri Narnarayan Goswami,
5. M. Moinul Haque Choudhury.
6. Raja Ajit Narayan Deb of Sidli.

under rule 131, the Speaker nominates Shri Hem Chandra Hazarika, M. L. A. as a Member to this Committee from the Panel of Chairmen.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 1-30 P. M. on Friday the 4th September, 1953.

Shillong :

The 15th February 1954.

R. N. BARUA,
Secretary,

Legislative Assembly, Assam.