

Proceedings of the Ninth Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly
assembled after the Second General Election under the Sovereign
Democratic Republican Constitution of India

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 10 A.M. on
Monday, the 17th October, 1960.

P R E S E N T

Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury, B.L., Speaker, in the Chair,
Ministers seven, Deputy Ministers three and seventy seven Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Regarding Gangapur Maktab

Shri TARUNSEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) asked :

*27. Will the Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that there is no teacher in the Gangapur Maktab (No. 1183) of Village Gangapur of Mauza Pakowa under Nalbari Police Station for a period of about 3 months?
- (b) Whether it is also a fact that the people of the locality including the School Secretary, Md. Mahbat Ali and others submitted petition to the Local Sub-Inspector of Schools, School Board, Gauhati and the Minister Education to that effect?
- (c) Whether Government are aware that in spite of there being 50 students in the School no classes have been held during the period for want of teacher?
- (d) If so, what steps Government has taken to meet the situation?

Shri RADHIKARAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Education) replied :

27. (a)—No. There was no teacher in the School for 9 days only, *i.e.*, from 4th May 1960 to 12th May 1960 as the existing teacher was transferred to another school but due to some difficulties his substitute could not join the School. Consequently the transferred teacher had to come back and rejoined the School on 13th May 1960.

(b)—No, such application is traceable.

(c)—The classes could not be held for those 9 days only for the reasons stated against (a) above.

(d)—Does not arise.

Investment in State Trading

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) asked :

*28. Will the Minister-in-charge of Supply be pleased to state—

- (a) What is the amount of money invested by the State Government for financing State Trading in Paddy and Rice during the current financial year ?
- (b) How many Service Co-operatives have been formed for the purpose ?
- (c) What is the amount of money advanced to the Service Co-operatives in various districts ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply) replied :

28. (a)—The Assam Co-operative Apex Marketing Society, Ltd., who is undertaking State Trading in Foodgrains on monopoly basis in 4 districts and 2 Subdivisions, *viz.*, Nowgong, Darrang, Gauhati, Cachar and North Lakhimpur and Goalpara respectively, is being financed by the Assam Co-operative Apex Bank and not by Government. The Supply Department however advanced a loan of Rs. 18 lacs during the current year to the Society. This loan has already been repaid by the Society to Government. The Society arranged cash credit accommodation of Rs.85 lacs for this business from the Apex Bank.

(b)—2,000 Service Co-operatives which were formed in the areas mentioned in question (a) have been engaged in paddy procurement as sub-agents of Primary Marketing Societies.

(c)—Government has no correct information about this as the amounts were advanced by the Apex Marketing to the Primary Marketing Societies and Primary Marketing Societies in turn to Service Co-operatives. Money advanced by the Apex to the Primaries went up to Rs.20 lacs at times.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : Whether any money has been advanced by the State Government for financing State Trading directly ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOWDHURY : The Supply Department advanced Rs. 10 lakhs during the current year to the Society directly.

SHRI HIRALAL PATWARI (Panery) : The honourable Minister has replied that two thousand Service Societies have been organised. Whether these societies have been organised before the State Trading or after the State Trading ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOWDHURY : Some before and some simultenausly.

Sri HIRALAL PATWARI : How many Societies have been organised before and how many after the State Trading, Sir ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply) : I want notice, Sir.

SHRI HIRALAL PATWARI (Panery) : Is the State Trading means trading by the State? Whether this is a scheme or paddy procurement?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : This is a State Trading Scheme.

State Trading of Food-grains

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog) asked :

- *29. Will the Minister-in-charge of Supply be pleased to state—
- Whether State Trading of Food-grains in Assam have been successful?
 - If not, what is the reason?
 - What efforts have been made by the Government to make it successful?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply) replied :

29. (a)—Yes, State Trading through Co-operatives has been successful in the areas where this has been taken up, although great many difficulties have to be faced by the Co-operatives and occasionally by the people.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Difficulties encountered were tackled and steps have been taken to remove these difficulties.

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta) : Is it a fact, sir, that people are against state trading?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : I do not think, Sir.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery) : Is it a fact that our Union Food Minister, Shri S. K. Patil, has given an opinion that monopoly procurement and State Trading are neither desirable nor acceptable to the country? Whether the hon'ble Minister is aware of that?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : I am not aware of it. In any case, Mr. Patil is entitled to his own opinion; so also am I.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY : Is it a fact that one of the Ministers of this present Cabinet passed an opinion on the 29th June, 1960, that monopoly was a dangerous thing and that it can easily lead to corrupt practices?

Mr. SPEAKER : How does that question arise?

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY : Regarding State trading, Sir.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister Supply) : No discussion in the Cabinet can be the subject matter of question in this House, Sir.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery) : No, sir, it was in a conference held on the 29th June where many officers were present and it was the opinion of the Chairman, Sir.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) : On a point of order, Sir, when a Member of this House is a Member of the Study Group which went into the affairs of State Trading and has given his opinion in a Report, whether the same Member is allowed to question on that subject matter, Sir ?

Mr. SPEAKER : There cannot be any hard and fast rule about that. But when an hon'ble Member is a member of the Study Group, he should always bear in mind that the recommendation of the Committee is also binding on him. Therefore, he should not put any question or make any statement which may go contrary to the Report.

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur) : চৰকাৰে জানেনে যে বহুত মাৰ্কেটিং চোচাইটিংৰ টকাৰ অভাৱত ধান কিনিব নোৱাৰিলে ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : তেনেকুৱা অভিযোগ Co-operative পৰা পাইছো।

Shri MOHANANDA BORA : চৰকাৰে জানেনে যে এইবাব আছধান বেচিবলৈ সুবিধা নোহোৱাব কাৰণে বহুত মানুহে গৰুক খুৱাই পেলাইছে ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : তেনে খবৰ পোৱা নাই। আছধান বহুত পৰিমাণে হোৱাব কাৰণে চৰকাৰে বাহিৰলৈ পাঠাবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিছে।

Shri MOHANANDA BORA : চৰকাৰে জানেনে যে আছধান এতিয়াও বহুত পৰি আছে ?

Mr. SPEAKER : সেইটো বন্দবস্ত কৰিছে বুলি কৈছে নহয়।

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : There may be difficulties I do not deny ; because of a slump and overproduction of Ahu paddy this year this has happened. Assam appears to have become surplus this time and for the first time we have decided after the War to export rice and paddy outside the State. As soon as we undertake this or it comes into operation, I hope difficulties will be eased considerably.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY : Whether the hon'ble Minister has consulted the remarks made by Dr. B. C. Roy or Shri H. K. Mahatab in connection with State Trading which was published in the press ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Government have no concern as to what opinion Dr. B. C. Roy or Dr. Mahatab passed. These, if there

be any, might be their personal opinion. But the National Development Council which is the highest policy making body of India decided the policy of State Trading. Therefore, this Government thought it proper and fit to follow that policy.

Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS [Patacharkuchi (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : চৰকাৰে জানেনে যে বহুত খেতিয়কে আহুধান বেচিব নোৱাৰাত যোৱা দুৰ্গা পূজা আৰু লক্ষী পূজা পালন কৰিব নোৱাৰিলে আৰু জীৱন ধাৰণৰ বয় বস্তুও কিনিবৰ কাৰণে অসুবিধাত পৰিছে ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply) : This is an exaggerated view of the difficulties of State Trading to which Govt. do not subscribe.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery) : Whether the hon'ble Minister will consult the Asoke Mehta Committee Report on Foodgrains, also item 717 in connection with the success of State Trading ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : I had consulted, Sir.

Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS : চৰকাৰে জানেনে যে Dealer সকলেই Marketing Society বিলাক control কৰিছে ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : তেনে খবৰ পোৱা নাই। দুই একঠাইৰ পৰা পোৱা তেনেখবৰ কথা যোৱা অধিবেশনত মই কৈছিলো। সকলো ঠাইতে তেনে ঘটছে বুলি চৰকাৰে নেজানে আৰু নেমানে।

Shri PAKHIRAI DEKA : Marketing society ৰ লগত বহুত ঠাইত ৰাইজৰ যে মৰা মৰি হৈছিল সেইটো গবৰ্ণমেণ্ট জানেনে ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : If we take food there may be indigestions on some occasions. Therefore, there is no reason to go on fast for all times. There might be one or two occasions when such wrong things happened but that does not take away from the merit of State Trading.

Shri RAM NATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Schuduled Castes)] With regard to (c), it has been said by the Minister that the difficulties encountered have been tackled. May we know, Sir, what these difficulties are ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY : Difficulty No. 1 is the mental adjustment of the people. They had been accustomed to private trade for centuries and ages and so mental adjustment to State trading is necessary. Difficulty No. 2 is inexperience in this matter, particularly on the part of co-operatives. Difficulty No. 3 is the lack of proper and right type of people coming forward to join the co-operatives and to shoulder the responsibilities of this difficult job. Difficulty No. 4 is the arrangement of finance in time. Difficulty No. 5 is ; the speed and urgency which are vital in a particular situation are lacking in some places and occasions.

Government believe all these difficulties will take some time in getting themselves adjusted. Last year we had suffered due considerably for nexperience. This year we hope we will be able to remove some of those difficulties. Government is also looking forward to the report of the Committee appointed by this House to have suggestions to remove these difficulties. I am sure they will be suggesting some remedies and we will have the benefit of the recommendations in removing the difficulties which we have been experiencing.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): Is it a fact that Government is not purchasing Ahu paddy in monopoly areas?

Mr. SPEAKER: He has already replied to that question.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY: Is it a fact that in the Bhakatpara area of Mangaldai Subdivision people are waiting to sell their crop for the last six weeks, but there is no buyer in that area?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY (Minister, Supply): I have no information about that particular place, but, as I have said, there is a slump so far as the Ahu paddy is concerned. There are not many buyers in the State and, as such, we have decided to export rice and paddy outside the State.

Shri HARASWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): What are the reasons for this slump?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY: Over-production apart from stabilisation of the market by state trading.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: In accepting the State trading scheme have not Government taken the responsibility of purchasing paddy even when there is over-production, so that the cultivators do not suffer?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY: Yes, Sir. Government have undertaken to see that the minimum price is ensured to the cultivators and also to purchase all the surplus stock. We have, therefore, decided to purchase Ahu paddy on Government account, yet it converted into rice and then export the same outside the State.

Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS [Patacharkuchi (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: মাকে টিং চোছাইটিৰ গোলমাল সম্পৰ্কে বাসানগোষ্ঠাত কিমান মানুহক গ্ৰেপ্তাৰ কৰা হৈছে।

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY: I want notice.

Shri RAMNATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]
May I know what steps Government have taken to supply funds to the co-operatives according to their needs?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY: Sir, the Assam Co-operative Apex Marketing Society Ltd., which has undertaken State trading in foodgrains in four districts and two subdivisions, is being financed by the Assam Co-operative Apex Bank and not by Government. The Supply

Department, however, advanced a loan of Rs. 18 lakhs during the current year to the Society. This loan has already been repaid by the Society to the Government. The Society arranged cash-credit accommodation for Rs. 85 lakhs for this purpose from the Apex Bank and on occasion advances went upto Rs. 20 lakhs at a time.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): Is it not a fact that a foodgrain dealer filed a case in the High Court against our Government in connection with the monopoly of State trading and what has been the decision in that case?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY (Minister, Supply): I cannot quote the judgment off-hand. But as far as I remember the Court's finding is that the Additional Deputy Commissioner, who decided the petition, did not deal with it in accordance with law. Therefore, the Additional Deputy Commissioner, and later on the Deputy Commissioner of the District concerned, were directed to dispose of the petitions for licence in accordance with law.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur): The Minister has said that due to over-production of Ahu paddy, Government are thinking of converting it into rice and export the same outside the State. May I know whether Government have assessed what amount of paddy will be required to be supplied to those areas where both Ahu and Sali paddy were damaged after the last flood?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY: Even after taking into consideration the requirements of the State Government's opinion is of course, it is an *ad hoc* opinion—that we will be able to export 10,000 tons of rice outside the State. But this is not firm figure.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY: The Minister said that minimum price has been paid to the grower. Will the Minister inform the House why the cultivators were not given the maximum price as provided in the Foodgrains Control Order?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY: We are not concerned with the maximum price. We are concerned with the payment of the minimum price. If anybody gets the maximum price, well and good, but our concern is to see that he does not get less than what has been provided as the minimum guaranteed price.

Shri RAMNATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]
Are Government aware whether the purchasing co-operative societies are getting money regularly in time from the Apex Marketing Society?

Mr. SPEAKER: He has already explained the difficulties experienced from time to time.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY: There might have been occasions when they were not getting money in time because it is a matter between the Bank and its constituent. But we had been in constant touch to see that difficulties removed and that the Co-operative Societies financed in time adequately and properly.

Resignation of Shri A. Thanglura, Chief Parliamentary Secretary

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East) asked :

*30. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) When Shri A. Thanglura, Chief Parliamentary Secretary tendered resignation of his office ?
- (b) Whether his resignation was accepted ?
- (c) If not, why not ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that he is not attending his office since he had submitted his resignation ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that he is performing tours and drawing salary and T. A. ?
- (f) Whether Government propose to stop this irregularity and improper payment forthwith ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied :

30. (a)—The date of his resignation is 26th April 1960.

(b)—His resignation has been accepted only from 10th October 1960 (forenoon).

(c)—His services were so long necessary because of the Hmar-Kuki trouble which developed in Manipur and was spreading towards Mizo Hills and North Cachar Hills and also in view of the emergency food situation prevailing in the Mizo District.

(d)—As Parliamentary Secretary the office works are not much. Therefore, it may be, he has not been attending office.

(e)—Yes.

(f)—Government do not agree that there is any irregularity.

†Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery):—In connection with 30(b) whether Shri A. Thanglura has resigned in connection with the language issue or for other reasons ?

† Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : Sir, it has no connection with the language issue. The Mizo Hill Union party to which he belongs thought that relief was not satisfactory. Therefore, it was decided that he should resign. So he resigned from the post as Chief Parliamentary Secretary.

Regarding Black Flag procession led by one Deputy Superintendent of Police, named Mr. Chakravarty at Shillong on Independence Day.

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BORUAH (Katonigaon) asked :

- *31. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—
- (a) Whether it is a fact that there was a Procession with Black Flag at Laban, Shillong on last Independence Day ?
 - (b) Whether it is a fact that a person or two were arrested by a police for such illegal demonstration ?
 - (c) Whether one Deputy Superintendent of Police, named Mr. Chakravarty was also coming in a Jeep about a furlong away from the said procession ?
 - (d) Whether the arrested person was released by the Deputy Superintendent of Police ?
 - (e) Whether a representation was made to the Chief Minister by the people regarding this incident ?
 - (f) Whether Government has taken action against this accident ?
 - (g) How many persons have been arrested so far, in this connection ?
 - (h) Whether the said Deputy Superintendent of Police has been suspended ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied :

31. (a)—Yes.
- (b)—Yes.
- (c)—No. The Deputy Superintendent of Police did not know about the procession till he was informed by one Police Inspector. On receipt of the information he, accompanied by one Police Inspector and a Sub-Inspector, proceeded in a car towards the procession with the intention of dispersing it.
- (d)—No. The Deputy Superintendent did not release any arrested persons but dispersed the procession along with the arrested person without having any knowledge that some persons had already been placed under arrest.
- (e)—No.
- (f)—A case under Section 148/188/225B, I. P. C., was taken up by the Police and is under investigation.

(g)—No person has so far been arrested.

(h)—There is no ground for placing the Deputy Superintendent of Police under suspension.

† Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barohalla) : May I know whether the observance of the Independence Day by black flag demonstration amounts to anti-State or anti-National activity ?

† Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) :—This is a separate question, but unfortunately demonstration of that type took place. It is certainly anti-National.

† Srimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon) : May I know whether Government is aware of the fact that in newspapers it was published that the D. S. P. released some arrested persons who were accompanying the procession ?

† Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA :—Many things are published in the Press, but so far as this particular case is concerned, the D. I. G. Administration made a thorough enquiry and the D. S. P. was not found guilty.

† Shri RAMNATH SHARMA (Lumding) : As regards (a) is this black flag demonstration is an imitation of the West Bengal decision here also in our State ?

† Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA :—The hon'ble Member is entitled to have his own opinion.

† Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara) : As regards (d), Sir, the hon'ble Minister has replied that the D. S. P. dispersed the processionists along with the arrested persons. Does it not amount to releasing of the arrested persons ?

† Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA :—That does not amount to releasing the arrested persons. The D. S. P. did not know that some arrested persons were among the processionists.

† Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : Does it not amount to releasing of the arrested persons when it was dispersed along with them ?

† Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA :—The point is whether the D. S. P. knew that some arrested persons were among the processionists. The reply is very clear that the D. S. P. did not release the arrested persons.

† Shri RAMNATH SHARMA : Whether the processionists were very furious at that time, Sir ?

† Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA :—They were not violent exactly but there were about 50 people who were coming in a procession.

† Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara) : What hampered the D. S. P. to recognise the arrested persons ?

† Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) :—The D. S. P. did not know that any of those persons were arrested.

† Shri BHUBAN CH. PRADHANI (Golakganj) : সেই প্রচেষ্টাৰ কাৰণে আগতে চৰকাৰৰ অনুমতি লোৱা হৈছিল নে ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA :—সেই সময়ত অনুমতি লোৱাৰ কোনো আবশ্যক নাছিল।

† Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : Who arrested those persons ?

† Mr. SPEAKER :—The Inspector of Police.

† Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : Whether the D. S. P. enquired from the Police Inspector about the arrested persons ?

† Mr. SPEAKER :—Perhaps he was not there at that time.

† Shri RAMNATH SHARMA (Lamding) : Whether promulgation of Section 144 was there in Shillong at that time ?

† Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA :—No.

Development of Sugarcane cultivation in the State

S NARENDRANATH SARMAH (Dergaon) : asked :

* Will the Minister-in-charge of Agriculture be pleased to state...

- (a) Whether the Government has taken any steps for development of Sugarcane cultivation in the State ?
- (b) What are the schemes undertaken by the State and the Central Government for improvement of the Sugarcane cultivation in the State of Assam ?
- (c) Whether there is any Sugarcane Research Officer or Sugarcane Development Officer in Assam ?
- (d) If the reply is in affirmative, who is the said officer and what are his functions ?
- (e) Whether there is any Sugarcane Research Centre in Assam ?

- (f) If so, whether Government will be pleased to lay on the table a progressive report of the work of the Research Station since its inception?
- (g) What amounts were sanctioned for the said Institution by any State showing separately the Central Government aid if the since its inception?
- (h) Whether the Budget provision of the last year for the institution has been fully utilised and expanded?
- (i) If not, why?
- (j) Whether the Central Government had sanctioned any amount for Gur and Khajuree Industry of Assam during the Second Five-Year Plan period?
- If so, whether any scheme has been introduced?
- (l) If not, what are the reasons for not doing so?
- (m) What steps have been taken by the State Government to develop Sugarcane cultivation in and around the area of the Assam Co-operative Sugar Mill?
- (n) Whether the Government have arranged to supply any early and superior varieties of sugarcane in the locality to implement the scheme?
- (o) Whether Government will pay more attention and take adequate steps to encourage better type of sugarcane cultivation in the State?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) replied :

32. (a)—Yes.

(b)—There are two scheme, viz., (i) Sugarcane Research Scheme (ii) Sugarcane Development Scheme. Both are jointly financed by the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee and the State.

(c)—There is one Sugarcane Specialist under whose supervision both the schemes are functioning.

(d)—At present Shri A. C. Borbora, is holding the post of Sugar cane Specialist, Assam. He is in overall charge of the schemes.

(d)—A brief summary of the progress of the Sugarcane Research Scheme is placed on the Library Table.

(g) The following sanctions were accorded since the inception of the scheme—

State share—

		Rs.
1957-58	...	37,336'00
1958-59	...	34,998'06
1959-60	...	36,990'00
1960-61	...	70,400'00

Fifty per cent share of the I. C. S. C. on pay and allowances—

		Rs.
1957-58	...	12,699'00
1958-59	...	13,002'00
1959-60	...	13,390'00
1960-61	...	13,600'00
Total—		
1957-58	...	50,000'00
1958-59	...	48,000'00
1959-60	...	50,380'00
1960-61	...	84,000'00

(h)—Yes, except expenditure under “works”

(i)—Out of 1 lakh budget provision under “works”, Rs. 62,600 were spent and the balance could not be utilised as Public Works Department could not take up the construction.

(j)—No.

(k)—Does not arise.

(l)—Does not arise.

(m)—Intensive sugarcane development programme have been undertaken in and around the Sugar Mill. For this purpose, Sugarcane Setts of better quality from the Government Sugarcane Farm and from Shahjahanpur and manures are distributed at subsidised rates under the Sugarcane Development Scheme.

(n)—Yes.

(o)—Steps have already been taken.

Shri NARENDRA NATH SARMA (Dergaon) :—Whether it is a fact that the sugarcane cultivators want to cultivate early varieties of sugarcane which would help Assam Co-operative Sugar Mill to crush it from the middle of November every year and that the Agriculture Department is unable to supply the early varieties ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) : Sir, there are some people who want the early varieties and for this one known as c.303 was recommended. This is a soft cane : very likely for the weather condition in Assam they are subject to mosaic diseases.

Shri NARENDRA NATH SARMAH :—Whether Government sent any scheme to the All India Sugarcane Committee for including in the Third Five Year Plan for Assam ? If not, what are the reasons.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY :— I want notice for that, Sir.

Shri NARENDRA NATH SARMAH (Dergaon): Whether any official attended the last All India Sugar Cane Association meeting held in the month of May in Delhi and whether it is a fact that no Agriculture Officer attended this meeting from its inception?

Mr. SPEAKER :—He says he wants notice for this question.

Shri NILMONEY BARTHAHUR (Dibrugarh): Are Government contemplating to carry out research work on sugarcane in order to grow sugarcane and feed the mills through the year?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture): Yes Sir.

Regarding suspension of Shri Mehra, Director of Veterinary

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) asked :

- *33. Will the Minister-in-charge of Veterinary be pleased to state—
- (a) How long Shri Mehra, Director of Veterinary is under suspension?
 - (b) Whether he was tried in any Court of Law?
 - (c) If so, whether he was convicted or acquitted?
 - (d) How many charges of proceedings were dealt against him departmentally?
 - (e) What is the last date of personal hearing?
 - (f) Whether the charges have been quashed?
 - (g) If so, why his case has been pending so long?
 - (h) Whether Sri Mehra has been proved guilty of any of the charges?
 - (i) If not, why he has been kept under suspension?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY, (Minister, Veterinary) replied :

33. (a)—Since 23rd April 1956 (Afternoon).
 (b)—Yes.
 (c)—Acquitted. There were 9 charges in original proceedings out of which he was criminally prosecuted in respect of three charges and was acquitted.
 (d)—There were 1 (one) original proceeding consisting of 6 (six) charges to be dealt departmentally and 2 (two) supplementary proceedings consisting of one charge each.

(e)—23rd March 1960.

(f)—Proceedings have not yet been finalised.

(g)—The main cause of delay is that it took time to obtain copies of documents which were submitted to High Court in connection with the criminal case.

(h)—Does not arise since the proceedings have not yet been finalised.

(i)—Does not arise.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : When the papers were last received from the High Court ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Veterinary) : I have not got the date with me, Sir.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : What is the reason other than non-receipt of the High Court papers for taking such a long time as four years for disposing of this case ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY : Sir, the criminal prosecution is one. After the criminal prosecution when proceedings started we had naturally to follow certain procedures which by themselves consume considerable time. Further, on some occasions times were taken by Mr. Mehrah himself. Then, there were other difficulties, as I have said, like that the records were in the Court and unless and until records or copies of them were obtained the proceedings could not proceed.

Mr. SPEAKER : When the final order of the High Court was passed ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : I have not got the date with me, Sir.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : Has Mr. Mehrah been given any pay or subsistence allowance during that suspension period ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : I am not sure, but my impression is that he has been given.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : Will the Minister ascertain and let the House know whether allowance, as he is entitled to, been given during this suspension period ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : I will inform the House.

Regarding supplying low Voltage by Shillong Hydro-Electric Company

Shri MAHADEV DAS [Barpeta (Reserved for Scheduled Caste)] asked :
BHUBAN CHANDBA PRADHANI (Golakganj)

*35. Will the Minister-in-charge of Powers be pleased to state—

- (a) When and on what terms the last agreement has been made with the Shillong Hydro-Electric Company ?
- (b) Whether Government is aware that the Shillong Hydro-electric Company is not running strictly on the principle of the agreement made ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that Shillong Hydro-Electric is supplying very low voltage causing inconvenience to the reading public ?
- (d) Whether Government is aware that there is constant breakdown of the machines causing great inconvenience to the public ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that due to supply of insufficient light of low voltage in streets and houses there has been increase of eye-patients in the Town ?
- (f) If so, what steps Government have taken in the matter ?
- (g) Whether it is a fact that the Shillong Hydro-Electric have discontinued to record reading of the house consumption with effect from November 1959 ?
- (h) If so, why and how the consumers will be satisfied in the absence of regular reading ?
- (i) Whether it is a fact that the Shillong Hydro-Electric Company have failed to act in accordance with the agreement in the matter of supplying light in the Shillong Municipal area ?
- (j) Whether Government is aware that the Shillong Hydro-Electric Company have lately made an agreement with the Military for supplying light in the cantonment area ?

- (k) If so, whether the Company can do it without first supplying the requisite volume of light in the Shillong Municipality?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATY (Minister, Powers) replied :

35. (a)—The license, originally granted on the 23rd January 1922 expired on the 22nd January 1952. This was extended for a further period of 15 years with effect from the 23rd January 1952 subject to certain further terms and conditions. Copies of notification No.8B-MPI of the 23rd January 1960 and No. TIEL 13/51/17, dated the 18th March 1952 specifying terms and conditions of the license are placed in the Library Table.

(b)—The supply of electricity by this company has not, on occasions, been satisfactory.

(c)—Yes. The voltage has however improved after the commissioning of 800 KVA hydel set from 19th September, 1960.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Government have no information.

(f)—Does not arise.

(g)—No.

(h)—Does not arise.

(i)—As in [b] above.

(j)—Yes.

(k)—The cantonment area is within the licensed area of supply of the Shillong license. According to the provisions of Clause V of the schedule to the Indian Electricity Act 1910 when consumers or the local authority send in a requisition to the licensee for a supply of energy the licensee shall have to comply with the requisition within six months from the date of requisition.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Number of indigenous Assamese landless families in Assam

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked :

85. Will the Revenue Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) What is the number of indigineous Assamese families in Assam who are absolutely landless.
- (b) What is the number of such families in Assam who possess land below 10 bighas ?
- (c) What amount of land has been settled with the refugees of East Bengal by the Government upto June 1960 ?
- (d) How many Assamese families who were rendered landless by erosion, embankment and acquisition of land for various developmental projects have been provided with land by the Government during this period of land settlement with the refugees ?

Sri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :

85. (a)—The up-to-date figure is not available. According to the Census report of 1951 there were 3,92,770 indigenous landless families in Assam.

(b)—Here also up-to-date figure is not available. According to the Census report of 1951 there were 3,06,338 indigenous families owning land in between 1 and 10 bighas.

(c)—No such figure has been maintained. However it has been determined by a Sample Survey that an area of 4,25,000 bighas are in occupation of East Bengal Displaced Persons.

(d)—No such statistics is maintained by Government.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI : In view of the fact that there are about 7 lakhs of families in the State who have not got economic holding, will the Government frame a policy to settle lands with those families ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : Yes, as far as the availability of land permits.

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon) : Sir, in reply to (d) it is stated that no such statistics is maintained by Government. May I request the Government to maintain statistics of these landless indigenous Assamese families ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : Occasional sample surveys are made.

Shri PHANI BORA (Nowgong): In reply to (a) it is stated that there were 3,92,770 indigenous landless families in Assam. My question is what is the meaning of "indigenous" and who are the people included in that, and whether the immigrants are also included in the term "indigenous"? I want a clarification of this term.

Shri HARESWAR DAS: (Minister, Revenue) This word "indigenous" is used in the Census report. It does not include the people who come from outside the State, but it includes the immigrants who are Citizens of Assam.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): Whether Govt. has got any scheme to provide the landless people with land or some jobs?

Shri HARESWAR. DAS: Government cannot compel the people to accept any job.

Shri PHANI BORA: In reply to (c) it is stated that an area of 4,25,000 bighas are in occupation of East Bengal Displaced persons. I want to know whether this occupation is legal, or illegal or both.

Shri HARESWAR DAS: These do not include unauthorised occupations. It includes land provided by the Government and land acquired by the displaced persons themselves from the local people.

Rate of carriage of potato, foodstuffs and other articles from Gauhati to Shillong

U JORMANIK SYIEM [Nongpoh (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] asked:

86. Will the Minister-in-charge of Transport be pleased to state—

(a) The rate of carriage of potato from Shillong to Gauhati?

(b) The rates of carriage of other foodstuffs and other articles from Gauhati to Shillong?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Transport) replied:

86. (a) (i)—By parcel Rs. 2-8-0 per maund. A special concessional rate for through booking to Calcutta is also in operation since 11th November 1950. This rate is Re. 1-14-0 per maund.

(ii)—By goods.

From January to June Re. 1-8-0 per maund.

From July to December Rs. 2 per maund.

(b)—A statement is placed on the Library table.

U JORMANIK SYIEM [Nongpoh (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: In reply to (a) it is stated that the transport charge from January to June is Rs. 1/8/- and from July to December the charge is Rs. 2/- per maund. May I know the reason for this difference in the transport charge?

Shri, BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Transport): This is because the cost of transport from July to December is high. That is why the rate varies.

Mr. SPEAKER: Usually the rate is Rs. 2/8/-. But a concession has been obtained from the Railway Authorities and so the rate now is Rs. 1/14/- per maund by parcel.

U JORMANIK SYIEM: May I know, Sir, why the cost of transport of potato is higher than fresh fruits?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: It is a perishable commodity and so the charge is high, and secondly we are to employ a large number of people for handling this commodity. But I may inform the Hon'ble Member that we have constituted a Committee to go into this question and we are expecting its report before February.

Shri. HIRALAL PATWARI (Pannery): Is it a fact that huge quantity of potato is lying here for want of transport facility?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

U JORMANIK SYIEM: Is potato more perishable than fruits?

Mr. SPEAKER: He has already replied to that.

Ragarding road-side passengers of Gauhati-Shillong road

U JORMANIK SYIEM [Nongpoh (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: asked:

87. Will the Minister-in-charge of Transport be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government is aware that a large number of road-side passengers from Gauhati-Shillong and *vice-versa* are often left behind on the road for want of accommodation in the passenger buses?

(b) If so, what steps Government have taken for this?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Transport) replied:

87. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARI: Is it a fact that private truck owners are carrying goods from Nowgong to Gauhati...a distance of 5 miles—at /5/- per mound?

Mr. SPEAKER: How that question arise? The Hon'ble Member should first of all see whether a supplementary question arises from the question or not.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARI : (Panuery) In view of the fact that private parties are carrying goods at a lower rate whether Govt. will consider to reduce their rate to help the Grower ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Transport) : I want notice of it.

U JORMANIK SYIEM : In reply to (n) it is stated that no road-side passenger is left behind. But I have seen myself that many passengers are let behind. If some complaints come forward, will the Deputy Minister take action ?

Mr. SPEAKER : Surely he will look into it.

Maulvi JAHANUDDIN AHMED : (Bilasipara) Whether the Hon'ble Deputy Minister made enquiries after receipt of this question ?

Mr. SPEAKER : The replies are always given after due enquiry.

List of papers and documents on the Freedom Movement of Assam

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUA (Amguri) asked :

88. Will the Minister, Education be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government is aware that the Government of India is going to publish a History of the Freedom Movement and a National Bibliography of Freedom fighters ?
- (b) Whether the Government has collected necessary facts and figures so far the Assam part is concerned and supplied them to the Central Government ?
- (c) If so, whether the Government will lay on the table copies of the entire text or draft for necessary scrutiny and approval ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied :

88. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes, Government collected necessary facts and figures so far as the Assam part of the proposed history is concerned and supplied them to the Central Government. Only a very small part of the collection work remains yet to be completed and Government are taking steps to complete it.

As regards the National Bibliography of freedom fighters no action has so far been taken by this Government.

(c)—Under the Government of India Scheme materials collected from different sources and bearing on different aspects of Freedom Movement were only to be forwarded to the Central Government after necessary scrutiny and no draft was required to be made here. As such the question of placing the entire text or draft on the table does not arise. A List of materials forwarded to the Central Government is however laid on the library table.

*Shri KHAGENDRA NATH BORBORUA (Amguri) : Whether is it a fact that the facts and figures of some localities and also some parties have not been collected by the Government, and if so, what steps Government will take to collect the figures so that these localities and the parties may get a place in the History of the Freedom Movement ?

*Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) : A list of the materials which have been supplied to the Govt. of India is placed on the Library Table. But if the Hon'ble Member suggests any fresh materials which may be included in the list and which are not included in the list, that will be examined.

*Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : When this work was started ?

*Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : This work was taken up many years back, but I do not know the exact year.

Provisions for funds for the Barpeta Land Mortgage Bank

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUA (Amguri) : asked :

89. Will the Minister-in-charge of Co-operative be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that Barpeta Land Mortgage Bank Unit has not yet received any fund from the Government ?

(b) If so, why ?

(c) When Government propose to provide the same ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Co-operative) replied :

89. (a)—Yes. The Government does not provide any funds to any Unit of Central Land Mortgage.

(b)—The Central Land Mortgage Bank is to raise funds by floating debentures for issue of Long-term loans. The Bank has made arrangement for floating debentures. At the beginning the Bank was helped to function with a Government loan of Rs. 5 lakhs in addition to Government share participation of Rs. 9 lakhs. The Bank has exhausted all the funds in issuing long-term loans. The Bank is now making arrangement for a loan of Rs. 5 lakhs from the State Bank of India against State Government guarantee to carry on till fund is raised floating debentures. The Bank will be in a position to issue further loans with this 5 lakhs when it is received.

(c)—Does not arise in view of reply above.

Regarding the load of work of the D. I. of schools of Gauhati Subdivision.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East) : asked :

90. Will the Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the circle of the Deputy Inspector of Schools, Gauhati was splitted up for the benefit of the Public and for reducing the heavy pressure of work of the Sub-division ?
- (b) What is the present load of work of the Deputy Inspector of Schools, Gauhati both as Secretary, Gauhati School Board and Deputy Inspector of Schools, Gauhati ?
- (c) What is the total number of Middle Vernacular and Lower Primary Schools, under Gauhati School Board ?
- (d) Whether Government is aware that the heavy pressure of work as Deputy Inspector, Schools, Gauhati has not been reduced after splitting up of the circle of the Deputy Inspector of Schools Gauhati nor the public also benefited by the present arrangement ?
- (e) What is the total number of Schools under Nalbari School Subdivision ?
- (f) Whether Government have received a proposal from the Inspector of Schools for sanction of an Additional Deputy Inspector of Schools at Nalbari due to heavy pressure of work ?
- (g) Whether it is a fact the Panchayat Department had a proposal to entrust the functions of School Boards to different Anchalik Panchayat ?
- (h) Whether it is a fact that the Director of Public Instruction as head of the Department felt that it would not be suitable till some time to come to entrust affairs of school Boards to Panchayats except as agency for disbursement of pay ?
- (i) Whether Government propose to establish School Board at Nalbari immediately with subsequent election of School Board in October, 1960 ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Education) replied :

90. (a)—Yes.

(b)—As the size of the Gauhati School Board is fairly big with as many as 1928 Schools, the Deputy Inspector of Gauhati who is also the Secretary of Gauhati School Board has a very heavy load of work.

(c)—Gauhati School Board has under it—

Middle Vernacular School	...	...	91
Senior Basic	...	...	14
Junior Basic	...	...	115
Primary	...	...	1708
		Total	1928

(d)—His pressure of work has been reduced to some extent but not appreciably. Public are benefited so far as the work of the Deputy Inspector is concerned as separate Deputy Inspector's Subdivision have been created but not to a very great extent as the School Board has not been split up.

(e)—Under Nalbari School Subdivision—

Middle Vernacular	...	...	45
Middle English	...	...	81
Middle English Madrassa	...	...	4
Lower Primary	...	...	580
		Total	610

(f)—No proposal has been received.

(g)—Under the Act the Panchayat have the responsibility of providing Education upto the Middle stage.

(h)—A proposal has been submitted by D. P. I. to Government along with a scheme for gradual transfer of some of the duties of School Boards to the Anchalik Panchayat which is under consideration of Government.

(i)—The matter is under consideration of Government.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): Whether the Deputy Minister is aware of the fact that the Deputy Inspectors of Schools are experiencing difficulty in functioning properly in their respective subdivisions for want of a separate School Board ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Education): Yes, they are experiencing some difficulty.

Shri SARAT CH. GOSWAMI (Kamalpur): Why the School Boards have not yet been split up?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: The matter was taken up, but it has been postponed due to paucity of fund.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): In view of the difficulty do the Govt. propose to start School Boards?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS:—I have already replied to that.

Regarding sale of Annual Patta Land

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDER (Sorbhog) asked :

91. Will the Minister-in-charge of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether annual patta lands are allowed to be sold?
- (b) If so, whether the pattas are cancelled and land made khas?
- (c) How many cases of such sale of annual patta lands are there in Assam Circle-wise during the course of the last three years?
- (d) Whether annual patta lands are settled with those persons who purchase them?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Revenue Minister) replied :

91. (a)—As provided by the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation, no sale of annual patta land is recognised by Government.

(b)—Whenever any annual patta land is sold, the settlement of the land is terminated for illegal transfer of land.

(c)—The information to be collected will involve enormous time and labour which may not be commensurable to the expected result.

(d)—When annual patta are found transferred by the pattadar its settlement is cancelled and the land resettled with deserving persons. In selecting deserving persons the prayer of the transferee-occupant is also considered and he may be granted settlement if found deserving. But he has no right to settlement by right of purchase.

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS (Barchalla): Whether Government propose to levy and fine for selling of annual patta land?

* Shri HARESWAR DAS: No fine can be imposed, but pattas are cancelled.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): So far as question (c) is concerned, whether the informations can be collected and placed before the House some time in the next Budget Session?

Mr. SPEAKER: He has already replied, that the information to be collected will involve enormous time and labour which may not comensurate to the expected result.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: On a point of order, Sir. Because collection of an information involves amount of labour and time, can this House be shut out from that information? And is it also for the Minister to consider whether it will be commensurable to the expected result. After all what is the expected result?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): The question should be reasonable.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA (Gauhati): On a point of order Sir. Is not this an aspersion on the Chair, because the Hon'ble Speaker has admitted that question?

Mr. SPEAKER: I also request the Hon'ble Minister that while making reply or addressing any Hon'ble Member, he should be a bit more reasonable.

Shri HARESWAR DAS: Sir, I could not finish my reply, I merely started. I said, "unreasonable" with regard to us that is what we are asked to do. That is not an aspersion on the Chair or any Hon'ble Member of the House. Now, 3 years' figures of the entire State are wanted. It is not possible to collect it because large number of transfers are privately made & can not be found in the register; so there will be no correct result. By searching Sub-Registrar's office we can collect only partial figures as transfers below Rs. 100 are not to be registered.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Hon'ble Minister is to make an attempt to find out how many cases are there. Cases which are not traceable may be omitted.

Shri HARESWAR DAS: If the Hon'ble questioner modifies the question then we can supply the informations.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: That is obyious; we mean only registered cases. When we say murder cases, it means registered murdered cases. Similarly, when we wanted 3 years' figures we meant only registered cases.

Mr. SPEAKER: After hearing the Hon'ble Minister, I want to request the Hon'ble Ministers that they should make all attempts to give reply to questions put by the hon'ble Members and admitted by the Speaker. Any attempt for evasion or any attempt to by pass any question, I think, is not desirable. Therefore, the Hon'ble Ministers, without making any aspersion or making any taunting remarks to any member, should try to state what the Hon'ble Members, want to know from them.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : Sir, I want a clarification from the Chair. When some particular question cannot be complied with, what should be done? So far as this collection of unregistered figures are concerned, what should be done?

Mr. SPEAKER: You cannot avoid replying the questions simply because the informations could not be collected. You must make all attempt to collect whatever information you get and put the same before the House or before the Hon'ble Member.

Supplying of Milk Powders to Wholesale and Retail Dealers of Nalbari

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East) asked :

92. Will the Minister-in-charge of Supply be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government is aware that business community of Nalbari are directly importing Milk Powder from outside for the consumers and retailers of North Kamrup?
- (b) Whether Government is aware that due to the ban to import Milk Powder directly from Calcutta the indigenous traders and consumers are suffering?
- (c) Whether Government propose to supply Milk Powder to wholesale and retail dealers of Nalbari?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply) replied :

92. (a)—No.

(b)—There is no such ban.

(c)—No.

Quality of atta rice supplied by tea gardens to labourers

Shri MOLIA TATI (Doom Dooma) asked :

98. Will the Minister of Supply be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government is aware that in many tea gardens inferior quality of rice and atta are being supplied to the labourers?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the atta supplied to the labourers are unfit for human consumption?

Transport Authority, Sibsagar to ply between Nitaipukhuri and Sibsagar, *via.*, Demow-Charali and if so, when and with whom it was settled?

- (b) Whether any appeal was submitted to the concerned Minister to run this line over the remaining portion of A. T. Road?
- (c) If it is a fact that Government would not consider because the service has to ply over a portion of the A. T. Road?
- (d) Whether Government will consider for granting permission for running this line even now, as there is shortage of conveyance between Sibsagar and Nitaipukhuri?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Transport) replied :

96. (a)—The Regional Transport Authority Board, Jorhat, took a decision to issue a permit in favour of Nitaipukhuri Bus Co-operative Society, but actually no permit issued.

(b)—No.

(c)—This will overlap 12 miles of the nationalised route between Demow and Sibsagar of the Jorhat-Sibsagar-Dibrugarh route and as such, in the interest of the State it cannot be allowed to ply private buses on the above portion of the nationalised route. Moreover, there are enough State Transport Services between Demow and Sibsagar and so there cannot be any grievance of the Demow travelling public for their journey to Sibsagar. Special State Transport Services are also placed between Demow and Sibsagar as and when found necessary to cater to the needs of the public. Over and above, for the greater convenience of the waiting passengers, the Department has since constructed new station buildings at Demow with spacious waiting rooms with amenities of sanitary latrine, water arrangement, etc., for both gentlemen and ladies.

(d)—Does not arise in view of the reply in question (c) above.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra): (a)ৰ প্ৰশ্নোত্তৰত দেখা যায় যে সেই সন্থকে কোনো দৰ্খাস্ত পোৱা নাই কিন্তু যোৱা বাজেট অধিবেশনত মই নিজে এখন এপিল লেখি দিছিলো আৰু তাত মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে Note ও দিছিল। উপমন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে সেই খনৰ কি অৱস্থা হল, তদন্ত আৰু ব্যৱস্থা কৰিবনে?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: We cannot entertain this sort of appeal Sir. This is to be made as per procedure laid down in the M. V. Act.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA: ডিমোৰ পৰা শিৱসাগৰলৈ কেইখন ভাড়া মৰা গাৰী চলে, সেই কথাটো উপমন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে তদন্ত কৰিবলৈ আৰু ব্যৱস্থা লবনে?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: What is "ভাড়া মৰা গাৰী" Sir. Whether it is a private car, truck or bus?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Is it not a fact that in many cases in the feeder roads permits have been allowed even though it overlaps the Nationalised roads ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Transport): In very few cases where the distance is very small it was done.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: What is the principle followed in connection with the grant of permits on roads that overlap Nationalised roads ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: The principle is that we do not allow any overlapping. Whenever there is a case of overlapping only for a very short distance, it is only granted.

Mr. SPEAKER: Now he says that there is certain departure from the accepted policy also.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: I do not know in what cases this departure is made.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Sir, is it a fact that in some cases overlapping upto 14 miles of the Nationalised Road has been allowed ?

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra): বহাৰ পৰা নগাৰলৈ কেই মাইল দূৰ উপ মন্ত্ৰীয়ে জানেনে ?

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): What is the distance between Raha Nowgong, Sir ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: 14 miles.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA: মৰি গাৰ ব পৰা বহাইদি নগাৰলৈ চৰকাৰী বাচ যায় নে নেবায় ?

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minister said that he has no information.

Shri MOHIKANTA DAS (Barchalla): Is it a fact there are certain areas which are not served by the State Transport, but they are served by Bus Services Sanctioned by the Regional Transport Authority, even by overlapping certain portion of the State Transport route ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: Only in short distance it is allowed.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA: মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে কৈছে যে ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰ পৰা শিৱসাগৰলৈ চৰকাৰী বাচ আছে। মই কৈ অহা সত্বেও কেইখন ভাড়া মৰা গাড়ী অৰ্থাৎ Private bus চলে ? আৰু যদি তেনে Private গাড়ী অহাৰ চলে, তেন্তে সমবায়ক দিয়াত চৰকাৰৰ ক্ষতি হ'ব কি ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: It is a private bus.

**Allotment of lands to the graziers at the Bogidara P. G. R. in
Goalpara District**

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog) asked :

97. Will the Minister-in-charge of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) How many bighas of lands have been provided to the graziers at the Bogidara P. G. R. in Goalpara District ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that a dispute about the boundary line is going on there ?

(c) If so, since when this dispute is going on ?

(d) Why no demarcation is taking place up till now ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Revenue) replied :

97. (a)—Constitution of Bogidara P. G. R. in Sidli circle is under consideration of Government. No decision has yet been taken about allotment of area for the P. G. R.

(b)—No dispute is reported.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—Does not arise in view of the reply at (a) above.

Shri GHANASYAM TALUKDAR : In reply to 97(a) last line the Honourable Minister has said that No, "decision has not been taken" I want to request when the decision of constitution of Bogidara P. G. R. will be taken ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : As soon as the report from the S. O. Kamrup will be received.

Shri GHANASYAM TALUKDAR : Since when it is pending ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : It is pending sometime about a year. Because the old S. O. was transferred and the new S. O. joined very recently, so it will take some time.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery) : It is said that after receiving the report from the S. O. Kamrup, the decision will be taken. But, Sir, this Bogidara P. G. R. falls in the district of Goalpara. So, why the report from the S. O. Kamrup is required for taking the decision ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS Bogidara P. G. R. is contiguous to a P. G. R. of Barpeta subdivision. Some graziers submitted a petition that as the P. G. R. of Barpeta has been eroded, a P. G. R. should be constituted at Bogidara. The S. O. Kamrup has been asked to enquire and report about the erosion of the P. G. R. of Barpeta.

**Adjournment Motion regarding situation created on and
from 14th October 1960 by lathi charge at Silchar
upon Assam linguistic disturbance refugees.**

Mr. SPEAKER : I have received notice of adjournment motion from Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacheryya, Tarunsen Deka, Gopesh Namasudra, Nilmoney Borthakur and Phani Bora. This adjournment motion relates to Lathi Charge made in Silchar upon the Assam Evacuees on 14th and 16th October. In this connection the Chief Minister made a statement which was not complete. Before I give my decision about the admissibility of motion. I want to hear the Chief Minister and also one of the hon. members who have tabled the motion. Shri Bhattacheryya will please speak.

* Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHERYYA (Gauhati) : Mr. Speaker Sir, before a motion is admitted by the Speaker, I want to point out that there are certain requisites. Firstly, this should be a matter of recent occurrence. Secondly, this should be of public importance and Thirdly this should be urgent.

Now, so far as the time is concerned, the date and time on which this incident took place was the afternoon of 14th instant and the subject was that the Police made lathi charge over a number of Refugees including men and women, and quite a large number of them were wounded. As many as 26 persons had to be arrested by the Police.

Mr. SPEAKER : Mr. Bhattacheryya, I want to hear only on which point you want to move this motion. The Chief Minister has already made his statement about this incident at Silchar, but for want of certain information the statement could not be completed which he has got now. I think he will be able to make a fuller statement now.

*Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHERYYA : If the government is in possession of the fuller statement and if the Chief Minister can enlighten the House about the latest position and if the House is satisfied that at present there are peace and tranquility and that there is no reason to apprehensive of the breach of peace in the administration, then the House may give the Chief Minister a respectful hearing.

*Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) : Mr. Speaker Sir, that I have already made a statement with regard to the situation which took place in Silchar. Sir, with regard to the admissibility of this motion, I plead Sir that this matter is of ordinary administration of law and the statement which I made the other day also.....

Mr. SPEAKER : Is the lathi Charge is an ordinary administration of law ?

*Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : Sir, it was a dispersal of unauthorised entry. Sir, I am still to await for the wireless report and other reports are still awaited.

* Speech not corrected.

*Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : If the Chief Minister can satisfy the House that there is peace and tranquility and that there is no apprehension of breach of peace in administration ; then these two points will enlighten the whole situation.

*Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) : Sir, I am in touch with the district administration. I can tell the House that the situation is completely under control and there is complete peace and tranquility. With regard to the details, as I have already said that the written report of the Deputy Commissioner is still awaited.

* Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHERYIA (Gauhati) : Sir, on a point of order. Under Rule 53 of the Assembly Rules, any member of this house can table a motion, with the previous permission of the Speaker, to be taken into consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER : The Chief Minister is making the statement about the Silchar incident.

* Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : Sir, it was our decision to close the camps at Silchar from 4. 10. 60 ; but some of the Refugees were there and they wanted to remain there for a petty longer and therefore in the meantime it was decided continue this loan on a reduction scale e. g. from Rs. 6 to Rs. 4/8 per week per head. Sir, some of the refugees objected to this reduction and made representation to the Deputy Commissioner for keeping the dole as before.

Sir, in this connection, I beg to submit that the dole which has been fixed for the refugees of the Silchar Camp is much higher than any other camps. Therefore the Deputy Commissioner did not think it desirable to increase the dole from Rs. 4/8/ to Rs. 6/- as was demanded by the Refugees.

Sir, on the 14th the evacuees decided not to accept the doles at Rs. 4/8/- & Rs. 18/- per adult and per family per week respectively. It appears extraneous forces were working in the minds of the evacuees in deciding to receive the doles granted to them. They had a feeling that by resorting to Satyagraha they would force the Government to increase the doles to Rs. 10/- per adult per week and Rs. 45 per family per week which were given at the initial stage. The case of the evacuees is dealt with as sympathetically as possible. At about 3 P. M. on 14. 10. 60 the refugees started to gather at Gandhibag and in front of the Deputy Commissioner's bungalow and the number increased gradually upto 500 in order to show recentment against the orders of the Deputy Commissioner.

Then, Sir, the evacuees also planned for trespassing in the Deputy Commissioner's compound and resorted to hunger-strike by equatting there. It was understood that the Police got this information and apprehending a contingent of Police personel was posted on the road in front and at the gate of the Deputy Commissioner's bungalow. No permission for procession was necessary as it was not a procession. According to their plan a number of female evacuees were advancing towards the gate

* Speech not corrected.

of the Deputy Commissioner's bungalow when they were stopped at the road by the Police but they showed determination to proceed. When it was found that the female evacuees were not allowed by the Police to enter the Deputy Commissioner's compound, the men evacuees from Gandhibag pelted stones and brickbats indiscriminately but those brickbats not only hit the Police personnel but also some of the evacuees including female evacuees. As they became violent the Police dispersed them by a mild lathi-charge after due warning. 17 out of 26 arrested evacuees received simple injuries and 24 Police personnel received injuries of whom one Constable was admitted to the Civil Hospital and another to Police Hospital and the rest were released from the Hospital after treatment. All the 26 persons who were arrested were not released on bail and the case is under investigation.

This is the information I have with me, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon'ble Chief Minister has given an account of the incident of 14th afternoon at Silchar, and the situation, as informed by him, is under control. The hon'ble Members will get an opportunity to discuss this motion if they want to by tabling a motion for discuss in of the statement of the Chief Minister. In view of it I do not find any reason for allowing this adjournment motion, and therefore, I rule this motion as out of order. I request the hon'ble Members if they want to discuss it, to table a motion and avail themselves of the opportunity to discuss it.

**Speaker's announcement of the names of the Members
nominated for the Rules Committee.**

Mr. SPEAKER: The other day I assured the House that I would constitute a Rules Committee to go into our Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly under Rule 259 on the request made by the hon'ble Leader of the Opposition. In view of that I now constitute under Rule 259 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Assam Legislative Assembly a Rule Committee consisting of the following members:

The Speaker — Chairman.

Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.

Shri Moinul Haque Choudhury.

Shri Hareswar Goswami.

Shri Gauri Shankar Bhattacharyya.

Shri Dandeswar Hazarika.

Shri Jor Manick Syiem.

Shri Maham Singh.

Shri Williamson A. Sangma.

Presentation of the Report of the Study Groups to assess the operation of the State Trading in food grains

Shri RAM NATH SARMA (Lumding): Sir, I on behalf of the Committee beg to present the Report of the Study Groups to assess the operation of the State Trading in foodgrains. While presenting this Report it will be appropriate to state the activities of the different study groups in brief and also to state the reasons of delay for which the Report could not be placed earlier than to-day.

On the 8th March, 1960 the Hon'ble Speaker appointed three Study Groups namely, South Bank Group, North Bank Group and Cachar Group for assessing the operation of the State Trading and directed to present the Report of the Study Groups during the last Budget Session of the Assembly.

The different groups were constituted with the following Hon'ble Members of the House.

(South Bank which comprises Nowgong, South Bank of Kamrup, and Goalpara).

1. Shri Mohi Kanta Das—Convener.
2. Shri Hiralal Patwari—Member.
3. Shri Narendra Nath Sarma—Member.
4. Shri Khagendra Nath Barbarua—Member.
5. Shri Gaurisankar Roy—Member.

(North Bank which comprises North of Kamrup, Darrang district and North Lakhimpur Subdivision).

6. Shri Bhuban Chandra Prandani—Convener.
7. Shri Ram Nath Sarma—Member.
8. Shri Nilmoney Borthakur—Member.
9. Shri Sarbeswar Bordoloi—Member.
10. Shri Pakhirai Deka—Member.

(Cachar Group)

11. Shri Lila Kanta Bora—Convener.
12. Shri Maham Singh—Member.
13. Shri Rahimuddin Ahmed—Member.
14. Shri Tajuddin Ahmed—Member.

15. Shri Tarun Sen Deka—Member.

Shri Khogendra Nath Nath and Shrimati Padma Kumari Gohain were originally appointed as members of the North Bank Group, but due to their illness the Speaker was pleased to appoint Shri Bhuban Chandra Pradhani and Shri Ram Nath Sarma in their places.

The Committee particularly the North Bank Group could not therefore start their investigation earlier and due to the onset of the monsoon and the last language disturbances the work of the Committee was further delayed. Owing to stupendous and difficult nature of work, the Committee could not finalise its Report within the specified time which may well be appreciated by the Hon'ble Members of the House.

The Committee finalised its joint Report and Group Report on the 11th October, 1960 and due to the difficulties expressed by Government Press to print the full Report within so short time, only the main Report has been Printed A copy of each of the groups reporter has been placed on the Library Table. If possible, these Group Reports will be printed later and copies will be sent to Hon'ble Members.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): As a member of the Study Group I would like to submit one thing. I have given a separate note which had not come in the Study Group Report. This should have come as an Annexure.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think it may be annexed in the Group Report.

**Laying out copies of the Report of the working of the
Assam Public Service Commission for the
year 1955-56.**

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): I beg to lay out copy of the Report on the Working of the Assam Public Service Commission for the year 1955-56 together with a memorandum explaining in respect of the cases where the advice of the Commission explaining accepted and the reason for such non-acceptance under Article 323 (2) of the Constitution.

**Laying out copies of the notifications relating to the
Assam Public Service Commission (Limitation
of Function) Regulations, 1951**

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: I beg to lay out copies of:

(i) Notification No. ABP. 150/58/45, dated the 29th June, 1959 containing revised Regulation 3 of the Assam Public Service Commission (Limitation of Functions) Regulation 1951, and

(ii) Notification No. ABP. 61/55/Pt./16 dated the 12th February 1960 containing amendment the Assam Public Service Commission (Limitation of Functions) Regulation, 1951.

Extension of time for submission of the Report of Privilege Committee

Shri RAJENDRA NATH BARUA (Deputy Speaker & Chairman): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly agree to the extension of time for submission of the Report of the Privileges Committee relating to the complaint made by Shrimati Padma Kumari Gohain against the speech of Shri Nilmony Borthakur delivered in this House on the 26th February, 1959. In moving this resolution, I would like to say that on the 11th April, 1960, when the Report of the Committee was placed before the House for consideration seeking the guidance of the House as to the competency of the then Committee to reconsider the matter aforesaid, the House agreed to the amendment made by Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika suggesting that then newly elected Committee might take over the matter re-referred to the Committee.

The Committee held a meeting on 25th June, 1960 to re-examine the matter by taking evidences of the member complaining and the member against whom the complaint was made but the Committee received a communication from Shrimati Padma Kumari Gohain, the complaining member, intimating her inability to appear before the Committee on that day as she was under complete rest according to medical advice and requested time for appearing before the Committee.

The Committee thereupon resolved that as the Hon'ble Member Shrimati Padma Kumari Gohain, wanted time to appear before the Committee, the meeting of the Committee for the consideration of the matter be postponed till the next session of the Assembly.

I may tell you, Sir, that we have fixed next Friday for the meeting and if no decision is arrived at in this session of the Assembly, I shall come again for extension of time.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that this Assembly agrees to the extension of time for submission of the Report of the Privileges Committee.

(The question was adopted)

The Assam Appropriation (No. III) Bill, 1960.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is a message from the Governor:—

Under the provision of Article 207(1) of the Constitution of India, I, S. M. Shrinagesh, Governor of Assam, recommend the introduction in the Assam Legislative Assembly of the Assam Appropriation (No. III) Bill, 1960.

15th October, 1960.

Sd. S. M. SHRINAGESH,
Governor of Assam.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Assam Appropriation (No. III) Bill, 1960.

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved.

The question is that leave be granted to the introduction of the Assam Appropriation (No III) Bill, 1960.

(The question was adopted)

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED :—Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Appropriation (No. III) Bill, 1960.

Mr. SPEAKER :—The motion moved. The question is that the Assam Appropriation (No. III) Bill, 1960 be introduced.

(The question was adopted)

(The Secretary, Legislative Assembly read the title of the Bill.)

Mr. SPEAKER : There is another message from the Governor :—

“Under the provision of Article 207(3) of the Constitution of India, I, S. M. Shrinagesh, Governor of Assam, recommend that the Assam Appropriation (No. III) Bill, 1960, be taken into consideration by the Assam Legislative Assembly”.

15th October 1960.

Sd. S. M. SRINAGESH,
Governor of Assam.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Appropriation (No. III) Bill, 1960, be taken into consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER : Motion moved.

The question is that Assam Appropriation (No. III) Bill, 1960, be taken into consideration.

(The question was adopted)

Mr. SPEAKER : As there is no amendment, I would request the Hon'ble Minister to move the motion.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Appropriation (No. III) Bill, 1960, be passed.

Mr. SPEAKER : Motion moved.

The question is that the Assam Appropriation (No. III) Bill, 1960 be passed.

(The question was adopted.)

The Assam Appropriation (No. IV) Bill, 1960.

Mr. SPEAKER : I have got a message from the Governor in this connection.

"Under the provision of Article 207(I) of the Constitution of India, I, S. M. Srinagesh, Governor of Assam, recommend the introduction in the Assam Legislative Assembly of the Assam Appropriation (No. IV) Bill, 1960.

15th October 1960.

Sd. S. M. SRINAGSEH,
Governor of Assam.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Assam Appropriation (No. IV) Bill, 1960.

Mr. SPEAKER : Motion moved.

The question is that leave be granted to introduce the Assam Appropriation (No. IV) Bill, 1960.

(The question was adopted).

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Appropriation (No IV) Bill, 1960 be introduced.

Mr. SPEAKER : The motion moved. The question is that the Assam Appropriation (No IV) Bill, 1960 be introduced.

(The question was adopted)

(The Secretary, Legislative Assembly read the title of the Bill).

Mr. SPEAKER : I have got another messages from the Governor.

"Under the provision of Article 207(3) of the Constitution of India, I, S. M. Srinagesh, Governor of Assam, recommend that the Assam Appropriation (No. IV) Bill, 1960, be taken into consideration by the Assam Legislative Assembly.

15th October 1960.

Sd. S. M. SHRINAGESH,
Governor of Assam.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the Assam Appropriation (No. IV) Bill, 1960, be taken into consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER : Motion moved.

The question is that the Assam Appropriation (No. IV) Bill, 1960, be taken into consideration.

(The question was adopted.)

Mr. SPEAKER: As there is no amendment, I would request the Hon'ble Minister to move the motion.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Appropriation (No. IV) Bill, 1960, be passed.

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved.

The question is that the Assam Appropriation (No. IV) Bill, 1960, be passed.

(The question was adopted.)

The Assam Special Powers (Press) Bill, 1960.

Shri F. A. AHMED (Minister, Finance): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move (Press) Bill, 1960, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following members:—

Chief Minister, the Minister-in-charge, (2) Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, Minister, Finance, (3) Shri Ram Nath Das, M.L.A. (4) Shri Siddhi-Chandra Chakravarty, M.L.A., (5) Shri Omeo Kumar Das, M.L.A., (6) Shri Hem (8) Shri Hareswar Goswami, M.L.A. and (9) Shri Jormanick Siem, M.L.A. and the report to be submitted on or before the 21st October, 1960, and that one-third of the members will form the quorum.

Mr. SPEAKER: The motion moved is that the Assam Special Powers (Press) Bill, 1960, referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following members:—

1. Chief Minister.
2. Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, Finance Minister.
3. Shri Ram Nath Das, M.L.A.
4. Shri Siddhi Nath Sarma, M.L.A.
5. Shri Omeo Kumar Das, M.L.A.
6. Shri Hem Chandra Chakravarty, M.L.A.
7. Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya, M.L.A.
8. Shri Hareswar Goswami, M.L.A.
9. Shri Jormanik Siem, M.L.A. and the report to be submitted on or before the 21st October, 1960 and that one-third of the members will form the quorum.

* Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : I have got a cut motion, sir. I beg to move that the Assam Special Powers (Press) Bill, 1960, be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon by 31st December, 1960. Sir, this Bill is a very important one and of far-reaching consequences and, therefore, it is only neet and proper that after taking the opinion of the public in general, this House should go into the consideration of the proposed Bill. Sir, in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, it has been said that the Bill has been prompted due to the last disturbances. It has been said that during the disturbances, certain sections of the press instigated; fomented and engineered a spirit of retaliation and revenge and sometimes gave publicity to false rumours or exaggerated accounts and thereby endangered the peace of the State. It has been said that in order to curb such activities of the press, the Government has brought this Bill before the House, so that it can have effective control over the press as also the publishers thereof. Now, it has also been said several times by the Govt. that the situation at present is under control. Not only it is under control, that peace and tranquility now prevails in the State. Disturbances are no longer there, though there may be a few stray cases here and there. Now, from the long account given in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, one might think that the Government probably had exhausted all the provisions, that are there in the existing laws and after exhausting all the provisions when the Government found it necessary to bring in some special legislation then only Govt. had no other alternative, but to bring this Bill. The provisions in law, only to make mention of a few, are section 124(A) of the Indian Penal Code, section 153(a) Indian Penal Code, section 505 of the Indian Penal Code, section 99(a) and 99 Cr. P. C., section 144 Cr. P. C., section 5 of the Indian Telegraph Act and Indian Post Office Act, 1898 etc. One might presume that all these provisions have been exhausted and thus failed, then only this Bill had had to be brought but we are not aware of a single case where Government has instituted any case against any newspaper under the ordinary provisions of law. Therefore, we at a very difficult position to appreciate the wisdom of the Government in bringing forth this Bill. I may submit with all humility that to seek to muzzle the newspaper of a State is a despotic device, reminiscent of the worst days of the British beaurocratic administration which does not all fit in with our democratic principles. I also further submit that the present measure is an extremely reactionary measure and it cuts the very root of the freedom of speech and expression guaranteed in our Constitution in Article 19, clause I(a). This freedom is conceded all over the country except perhaps in another State, well, that is Punjab. In no other State in India, except Punjab there is such a provision. Now, this Assam Bill like the Punjab Bill provides for censure-ship, pre-censureship and prohibition of importing publication from outside the State. It also requires that matter of the Authority's choice be published as the Authority chooses. Newspapers and printing presses may be seized. These are the provisions there in the Punjab Act of 1956 and we find that these very provisions have been borrowed here into our Bill also. In this connection, I may be allowed to submit that our Parliament, particularly acting upon the recommendation of various committees appointed by the Government of India in this behalf, took

several decisions in recent years which went a long way in guaranteeing this freedom of the press in a large measure and this may be contrasted to the over-zealousness and despotism of a few recently independent States. The most remarkable step in this direction taken by the Central Parliament was the withdrawing from the Statute Book of the Press Objectionable Matters Act, 1951. Now, this Act of 1951, which was an improvement on the earlier Act, namely, the Press Emergency Powers Act, 1951, in spite of that our Parliament with due respects to the democratic principles thought it proper and wise to put off the Statute Book the Press Objectionable Matters Act, 1951, after it had run the span of 5 years, because this Act of 1951, had a lease of life for only five years and it was withdrawn as a result of the recommendation of the Press Commission in which set not only some of the well-known personages of our country but some accredited representatives of the Press of the country and this document, the Report of the Press Commission, is a very valuable document. I am prompted to quote a few lines from that Report as we find "The tender plant of democracy", says the Report, "can flourish only in an atmosphere where there is free interchange of views and ideas which one not only has a moral right but a moral duty to express. Democracy can thrive not only under the vigilant eye of its Legislatures but also under the care and guidance of public opinion. The Press is par excellence, the vehicle through which such opinion can become articulate. The Press has not only a moral right to free expression but it is subject to certain responsibilities also. But the terrain of moral restrictions is not always co-extensive with the legal restrictions which may be imposed by the right. Upto a point the restrictions must continue to remain even though the moral right to it has been forfeited. Within the limits of this legal tolerance, the control over the Press must be subjective and professional. The ethical sense of the individual, the consciousness that abuses the freedom of expression, though not legally punishable must tarnish the fair name of the Press, and censure of fellow journalists, should all operate as powerful factors towards the maintenance of the freedom without any legal restrictions being placed on the freedom". I have quoted this from a momentous Report and I take this privilege of submitting that the Govt. of India has accepted the Report. Now, one must also remember that the Press is called the Fourth State, In a civilised society, represented by the State, there is the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary and there is also the fourth State the Press. The Legislature before going to take up any special measure must remember that it is going to take up the axe against one of the four component parts of an organised society. Minus freedom of expression civilised democratic government becomes almost meaningless and in this connection I am again referring to another part of the Report of the Commission. It observes "Abusive writings, publication of false and distorted news or sensational reports or reviews in bold headlines are matters which should not come within the purview of the law. The real cure for such manifestation of irresponsibility is both subjective and organisational and we cannot recommend any abridgement of the freedom of expression by legislative measures." Now, if we go through the Statement of Objects and Reasons we find that these are the very matters, namely, false and distorted news, sensational reports, bold headlines, these are the reasons for which this special provision is sought to be brought and these are the matters against which the warning is there that recourse should not be taken to law. In this connection, I may also be allowed to quote from Shri P. N. Saprú, who was a Judge of the Supreme Court

of our country, who is a Member of the Upper House of Parliament. In this very context, that is to say, in the context of the recommendation given by the Parliamentary Delegation who came to investigate about the Assam affairs, Mr. Sapru had said that "In Indian Penal Code, in the Criminal Procedure Code and in various other enactments there are sections which should enable the Govt, to take action against newspapers inflaming communal and class hatred" and therefore, he has suggested that there should not be any special provision to curb the Press, rather this is the responsibility of the Press representatives themselves who should see that professionally they are controlled and they are kept in proper bounds.

Now the Press Act of 1951 was ultimately withdrawn. As I have said, the Press was generally left to restrictions no more than what were provided in the moral law of the land and also in the normal course of law. For example, various provisions, which I have just now mentioned, of the Indian Penal Code and Cr. P. C. in regard to freedom of expression. In other words the Press thereby was left more to its own internal control and as a sort of consultative machinery was found more dependable to regulate the relationship between the Press and the Government. This is the modern and civilized line of approach. But in the Press Bill we are seeing a departure from the modern line of civilized approach in our own State although the consultative machinery of the type of the Press Advisory Committee under the All India Newspaper Editors' Conference was not set in motion by the Government for reasons best known to them. We know that the Government agreed to continue to retain its own machinery, viz. the Press Advisory Board, but I here submit that the Press Advisory Board is something distinct from the Press Advisory Committee as recommended by the Commission. Now in this Press Advisory Board there are leading journalists and newspaper representatives and I am constrained to say that it is a matter of regret that this Board was convened by the Director of Publicity of Assam, who on behalf of the Government became the Convener of this Board, only once in the recent months. In the past years also this Board was rarely convened. Therefore, we find that if anybody was responsible for not keeping the Press in order, it was primarily the Government which was responsible. I am not saying or submitting that the role of the Press was unquestionable during the last disturbances, as I am not going to say that the role of the Government or the Ministers or the public men was unquestionable. But as everybody more or less is to face an enquiry which is proposed, why should there be some measure whereby that enquiry may be put to certain difficulties. It has been said in some newspapers which I do not propose to quote, but I can just take up line of argument and may say that if somebody doubts that real object of this Bill is self-preservation of a group of political Jaunta by drawing an iron curtain in and around the State in utter disregard of the spirit of the Constitution. So I do not think that I am far from the truth. Now, Sir we have also seen that the Board which was constituted by the Government or its Standing Committee if convened, could be asked to lay down and administer its own code of ethics and thus not only maintain the best traditions and standards of Indian Journalism but also help Government by voluntary suggesting measures for checking publication of false or exaggerated news. This, at any rate, would have been a much better course than precensorship of news or censorship of news. While such co-operation was not

sought for by Government, the Government did neither do to counteract the false or exaggerated news appearing in the newspapers. We have got a costly apparatus known as the 'Publicity Department'. The Publicity Department totally and thoroughly failed and not only did they fail, there were also some distortion of truths made by this Department of the Government. The very first Press Note relating to the last disturbances or was released as late as July 4, though in the State the disturbances or the situation on the verge of disturbances had taken place as early as on May 1. But the first Press Note was only dated 4th July after the tragic police firing at Gauhati. This report itself was a distortion of facts and did not give the true picture. Now, when the Government itself distorted facts, has it got the check to come and curb the freedom of the Press. Now, the Press was left exclusively to the role of catering news to the public and find its own stories from whatever source it would be possible, once the Government had sealed its own source. If the Government would have given the truth, then of course this sort of distortion of facts by a section of the Press would not have appeared. Government have failed and now they are trying to cover up their own failure. When Government started issuing Press Notes, the same were found hopelessly cryptic and inadequate to meet the requirements of the situation or the needs of the wide awake Press. Often than not they were distorted informations as in the case of July 4, which I have just mentioned. After about a fortnight or so the Government again stopped giving its own version confining henceforward to only releasing of contradictions of news which had appeared days and weeks earlier. During the fortnight Government had reported through its Press Notes deaths of about a dozen and a half at the most. Now, the other day, the Chief Minister has given on the floor of this House the death figure as 40 and we have found from the Chief Minister's own statement to this House that there was a larger number of sufferers than was given by the Press report. Now, the only conclusion from this would be that while a section of the Press might have been found guilty of exaggeration, in many cases the Government were guilty of suppression and distortion of facts. In the case of Government the suppression can only be deliberate whereas in fairness to the Press it has to be said that the false and exaggerated reports were in a way inevitable under the circumstances which prevailed when there was restriction under section 144 and curfew. This was bound to be in a situation in which neither the Government issued its own authoritative version of incident promptly and fully nor had it taken the Press into confidence or consultation through the Press Advisory Board. Therefore, if anybody is responsible for what happened in the sphere of publication it is the Government who comes as guilty No. 1.

We find therefore that the result was that there was a large vacuum in the relationship between the Govt. and the Press, and this was Government's own creation. If the Press was wrong in certain fields, the Govt's guilt was very much more indeed. Inability on the part of the Govt. in dealing with the Press in a friendly manner and with a co-operative spirit and outlook was as much evident as it was in the field of actual suppression of disturbances, and there can be no justification now in laying the blame at the door of the Press, and trying to curb it and gag it. But what is worse, the Govt. have now come forward with a Bill which closes the door of Press Government co-operation and understanding. If there arise a misunderstanding and distrust between Govt. and the Press then democracy in our country will suffer to a very great extent.

As one goes through the statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill which by the way is a reproduction of the relevant portion in the Government's policy statement of August 30 last, it would appear as though the whole holocaust was the creation of the Press or at least it flowed largely from the writing in the Press. But I beg to submit Sir, that the boot, however, is on the other foot. The disturbances started and then the Press started reporting the incidents. In doing so there might have been instances of false and exaggerated reporting or even ill-informed criticism, but those could have been prevented then and such "activities" of the Press can be prevented even now and also in future as well if the relationship with the Press is maintained on a cordial basis, and the Press is taken into confidence in similar situation, and if the co-operation of the Press is sought through the Press Advisory Committee as suggested by the Commission. Now not choosing this normal course the Government in its wisdom has chosen to tread the wrong path which is the path of an all-out attack on the Press which on the last analysis is an attack on the most valued fundamental right of freedom of expression guaranteed in Article 19(2) of the Constitution of India. Therefore, I beg to submit that this Bill is an invidious attack on the principle of the Constitution of India itself.

True it is that Article enables a State to legislate in the manner it is proposed to do in the Bill in question. That is to say, this article itself gives reasonable restriction to the Govt. the power to impose reasonable restriction. But the word "reasonable" must be studied and enunciated with sobriety and with due regard to all the aspects of the matter. Such a legislation should be resorted to as the very ultimate measure when all other means available to Govt. had been exhausted. A relevant extract from the Report of the Press Commission I cannot help quoting here. The Report says, "The provisions contained in Art. 19 (2) of the Constitution are merely enabling provisions, and the ultimate sanction behind any legislation must be the will of the people. The Constitution merely lays down that certain fundamental principles may not be disregarded in attempting to harmonise freedom of expression of an individual with the requirements of the public good. Apart from such safeguards as the Constitution has laid down, there are two other lines of defence against undue encroachments over the fundamental right of freedom of expression. One is the Legislature itself and the other is the High Courts and the Supreme Court. Although the Constitution invests the Legislatures with power to place restrictions on freedom of speech and expression for certain purposes, the power would, we trust, be exercised with discrimination and circumspection. If any restrictions are placed by the Legislatures on the fundamental right, we have no doubt that the impartiality and the broad and realistic outlook of the High Courts and the Supreme Court will ensure the power is not exercised by the Legislatures in an arbitrary or unreasonable manner."

Here, in this portion of the Commission's Report we find two things, one is that the supreme thing is the will of the people; and therefore, it is only meet and proper that before going to take such an extraordinary measure the will of the people should be ascertained fully and adequately by circulating the Bill for elicitation of public opinion. The other factor in this portion is that might be that the validity of this law might be questioned in the Courts of Law, and the Constitution's validity will be

liable to be challenged in the High Court and Supreme Court. Not even the sanction of the judiciary will give this extraordinary measure to curb the freedom of press the moral justification which is the only real sanction of the law in a democratic State.

In the background of what I have stated already, the passage of the Bill could well be construed as both "unreasonable" and "arbitrary". It is very much so because the Government have not been able to say that the special powers sought for were necessary because they had found the normal law of the land inadequate for the purpose. A significant fact is that the Government had not come forward with even a solitary case of prosecution or specific warning during or after the last disturbances. The Government in its policy statement of August 30 last said inter alia: "The Government expresses the hope that the Press will help in every way in removing the existing tensions and apprehensions and play a positive role in the establishment of a sense of security". And only after expressing this hope the Government said that if found necessary, i.e., if this hope was not fulfilled, if their fears were justified, then only the Government will not hesitate to enforce by law such controls as may be considered necessary. Now, after expressing this hope and during this period when Government has not come across with a single concrete instance where the Government has found that a particular press could behave in a particular manner and the Press had behaved just the contrary. Government has now come with this extraordinary piece of measure. During the month and a half that followed this expression of hope, was there anything to say that this hope had been belied by the Press? I think there is not a single instance to that effect. Much bigger and more important States, where the Press is very much more powerful, could find the normal law of the land enough for the purpose of tackling the Press and not resorting to any special Press Law. The conclusion in the circumstances becomes irresistible that these special powers are required by Government not so much to prevent "the peace of State" being endangered as to ensure the peace of mind of the Ministers whose policies in various fields of State Administration the Press has a duty and right to criticise and condemn even if the same generate dismay and indignation in the minds of some of the Ministers—some of these who are at the helm of affairs. That is the irresistible conclusion.

The present Bill, therefore, is in an expression of this indignation and actually seeks under the garb of ensuring "public order" to fetter and suppress the Press.

This is not a stage for going into detailed provision of the bill, and I would only oppose the principle inherent in the bill. My proposal for circulating the bill for eliciting public opinion has the support of no less a personage than the Editor of the All India News paper Editors' Conference who I understand has written a letter to our Finance Minister to this effect. This gentleman, at the call of duty, came all the way from New Delhi to Shillong and discussed things concerning the Press Government relationship with Shri Ahmed only about a month ago. As an immediate measure of coordination with the Government, the President suggested constitution of a Press Advisory Committee on the pattern of similar bodies in other States of India and actually suggested names of constituting this body. Although it is matter of over a month, our Government do not appear to have found enough time to finalise the proposal and set up

this consultive machinery. Indeed, the Government had the time to bring forward a legislative measure before the House which would at once alienate this offer of cooperation from the Press of country. Such a consultive machinery on the one hand, be able to deal effectively with the newspapers in the State to do away with the necessity of provisions in the Bill of pre-censorship and total ban of reporting in regard to certain class of subjects, and on the other hand this All India Body of newspapers Editors could be utilised by Government in dealing with the newspapers of other States as well. Thus making it redundant to provide for ban on entry of newspapers etc. into Assam as proposed in the Bill before us. I do not know why and how their wisdom to take such a decision. But I can submit, Sir, that the proposal for eliciting public opinion should serve another purpose. This will ensure a period of time for the Bill to come up again before the House. And in the mean time, we might work to the situation whether there is any likelihood of any more public disorder taken place in our State. We do not think that disturbances of the type we witnessed in Assam last July might recur. It is curious that the State Govt. should anticipate such an emergency in the face of their statements that they would not allow such conditions of lawlessness to recur. Even if there is a possibility of such disturbances taking place again, let us hope that in dealing with the Press the Govt. would first try the method of consultation which the path of co-ordination and which this Govt. failed to do hitherto. If the Press fails to act up to the expectation in helping Govt. to prevent a breakdown of and order as far as it belongs to the Press to do, it could then be a case of legislation, if at all. Let us not try the other path which we should eschew in the matter concerning one of the most elementary fundamental right in a democracy the guarantee given to the Press of our Country. In Assam the Press is yet in a formative stage and needs the foreign care of all for its healthy growth to serve effectively the cause of the public by generating healthy public opinion without which our democracy is bound to degenerate into into a mockery. Let us avert it with all our might.

Therefore, let us not immediately rush to the measure as proposed. Let us first try the path of persuasion. There are also other dangerous features which this measure provides because we find in one place that here the measure wants to dictate the Press. It has been said that while the Editors will be deprived of their power to commend freely and publish any news item the Govt. are trying to arm themselves with the powers to dictate the Press, and the Bill provides that the Govt. may require any matter concerning any news item in not more than 2 columns published in any particular issue of Newspaper or periodicals on payment of adequate remuneration. So, here we find two things— in one hand 'Danda' and in the other hand money-beg. It is said that "if you do not behave in the manner I dictate, then your head will be broken" and on the other hand it is said, "if you behave at my behest as good boys and if you publish 2 columns of what I dictate then you get money." Is this democracy or hypocrisy? Or is this the height of corruption? This is not only Dictatorship but this is also a degeneration. You also purchase the Press, and if you cannot purchase it you want to break the head of the Press. If this sort of measure continues, is Fascism far far away? Therefore, Sir, I think that this measure is one which attacks the vital fundamentals of our freedom. It attacks at the very root of the

Constitution of India; it attacks the very high principles for which our National Movement—for which our freedom struggle—has given all the trial of the tower, and therefore, this Assembly should not agree to the proposal brought forward by the Minister, but should take the opinion of the country should take the opinion of the people whether they want that the road should be cleared for Fascism or whether they want that Democracy should flourish in this country.

Mr. SPEAKER: The motion moved is that the Assam Special Powers (Press) Bill, 1960 be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon giving amendments from Shri Tarunsen Deka, Shri Gopesh Namasudra and also from Shri Phani Bora; but these amendments are not in order. It is rather vague, because no dates are put as the last dates by which public opinions should be received. But, at any rate, they have the liberty to speak on the motion moved by Shri Bhattacheryya.

*Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panory) অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মোৰ বন্ধু শ্ৰীভট্টাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰায়াই যিটো প্ৰস্তাৱ আনিছে যে এই প্ৰেছ বিলখন জনসাধাৰণৰ মতামতৰ কাৰণে পঠাব লাগে; মই সেই প্ৰস্তাৱ সমৰ্থন কৰিছো। চৰকাৰে বিলখন বাচনি কমিটিলৈ পঠাব খুজিছে। বাচনি কমিটিলৈ fundamental কথাবোৰ সাল-সলনি কৰিব নোৱাৰে মাত্ৰ সৰু-সুৰা দুই-এটা কথাহে সাল-সলনি কৰিব পাৰিব। সেই কাৰণে বিলখন যদি জনসাধাৰণৰ মাজত বিতৰণ কৰা হয়, তেনেহলে জনসাধাৰণে স্পষ্ট মত ব্যক্ত কৰিবলৈ সুবিধা পাব। আজি জনসাধাৰণে উপলব্ধি কৰিছে যে তেওঁলোকৰ দৰকাৰী কথাবোৰ সময় মতে জানিবলৈ নেপায়। এই বিধান সভাতো দেখিবলৈ পোৱা যায় বহুত দৰকাৰী খবৰ চৰকাৰে দিব নোৱাৰে। চৰকাৰৰ টি-আই-ডি বিভাগ যে absolutely failed হৈছে ইয়াত দুই মত হব নোৱাৰে। সেই কাৰণে জনসাধাৰণৰ কথাবোৰ যদি বাতৰি কাকতৰ জৰিয়তেই প্ৰকাশ নহয়, তেনেহলে কি উপায়ে বাইজৰ মত প্ৰকাশ হবলৈ পাব। যোৱা অশান্তিৰ সময়ত বাতৰি কাগজে চৰকাৰৰ মনঃপুত নোহোৱা কথাবোৰ প্ৰকাশ কৰিছিল। যিসময়ত সান্ধ্য আইন জাৰি কৰিছিল, ১৪৪ ধাৰা জাৰি কৰিছিল সেই সময়ত প্ৰেছৰ বাহিৰে আনে কোনো খবৰ দিব পৰা নাছিল। যদি কোনো প্ৰেছে মিছা বাতৰি দিয়ে, তেনেহলে প্ৰেছ আইন মতে action লব পাৰে। ৩০১ ধাৰা মতে ১৯৫৪ চনত যি আইন কৰিছিল সেই আইন Supreme Court এ বাতিল কৰিলে। তাত ১০-১২ কোটি টকা ব্যয় হল। যদি চৰকাৰে ভাবে যে তেওঁলোকৰ ক্ষমতা আছে, সেই কাৰণে যি ইচ্ছা তাকে কৰিব পাৰে। প্ৰেছ মানে জনসাধাৰণৰ মত। কোনটো ঠিক কোনটো বে-ঠিক সেইটো জনসাধাৰণৰ ওপৰত ভিত্তি কৰে আৰু তাকে প্ৰেছে প্ৰকাশ কৰে। সেইটোত বাধা দিলে ১৯ ধাৰা মতে প্ৰেছৰ অধিকাৰ ক্ষুণ্ণ কৰা হব। প্ৰেছে যিবোৰ প্ৰকাশ কৰে তাৰ বেচি ভাগেই সচা কথা আৰু মিছা প্ৰকাশ কৰিলে contradiction আহি যায়। নহলে Press Act মতে ব্যৱস্থা লব পাৰে। আজি চৰকাৰৰ কৃপাত প্ৰেছ আৰু

* Speech not corrected.

জনসাধাৰণ থাকিব লগা হৈছে। প্ৰেছ বা বাইছব মতত চৰকাৰ থকা নাই। সেট কাৰণে এই বিল যদি বাইছব মতামতৰ কাৰণে পৰ্যেৱা হয় আৰু বাইছব মতামতৰ ওপৰত ভিত্তি কৰি যেনেকুৱা দৰকাৰ তেনেকুৱা বিল চৰকাৰে আনিব পাৰে। দেখাযায় যে, এই বিলখন, হৈ কোৱা ভাষা গণ্ডগোলৰ প্ৰসঙ্গত অনা হৈছে। এই সম্বন্ধীয় অনুসন্ধান কমিটিৰ বিপৰ্টৰ পিচত চৰকাৰে ভালকৈ জানিব পাৰিব আৰু এই ক্ষেত্ৰত আমাৰ বাতৰি কাগজবোৰে, বেয়া 'পাৰ্ট' প্লে' কৰিছিল নে নাই জানিব পাৰিব। যদি 'প্ৰেচে' বেয়া কাম কৰিছিল, তেন্তে তাৰ ওপৰত action লব লাগিছিল; কিন্তু চৰকাৰে action নললে আজি, আইনৰ শক্তিয়ে 'প্ৰেচ' বিলাকৰ ওপৰত দোষৰ action লবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰাটো চৰকাৰৰ উচিত হোৱা নাই আৰু এইটো নিশ্চয় জানিব পাৰিছে যে বিভিন্ন কাৰণৰ ওপৰত সেই disturbance 'হৈ গল। কাৰণেই, যদি Press ৰ ওপৰত এনে আইন প্ৰয়োগ কৰা হয়, তেন্তেহলে, জনসাধাৰণৰ সংস্কৃতি আৰু সাহিত্য ক্ষেত্ৰত বাধা পৰিব।

Mr. SPEAKER: We are discussing about the Assam Special Power^s (Press) Bill, 1960. This bill has nothing to do with the Public Account^s Committee, State Trading or U. P. Congress.

*Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Penary): I am putting these just to give some instances, Sir.

সেই কাৰণে মই বিলখনৰ মূল উদ্দেশ্য আৰু Provision বিলাকৰ বিৰোধিতা কৰি, শ্ৰীযুত ভট্টাচাৰ্য ডাঙৰীয়া সমৰ্থন কৰো।

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West): মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, এই বিলখন মই কেইবাবাৰো পৰি চালো আৰু এই প্ৰসঙ্গত ১৯৫৫ চনৰ প্ৰেছ কমিচন বিপৰ্টেটোও চালো। প্ৰেছ কমিচনৰ বিপৰ্টৰ যি মূল উদ্দেশ্য আৰু অৰ্থ তালৈ লক্ষ কৰিলে আমি পাও যে, 'প্ৰেচ' আৰু চৰকাৰৰ মাজত অতি নিবিড় সম্বন্ধ থাকিব লাগে। এই মূল উদ্দেশ্যটোকেই, আজিৰ এই বিলখনে খৰু কৰিছে। প্ৰেছ কমিচনৰ বিপৰ্টৰ ৬৪ পৃষ্ঠাত সংবিধানিয়া স্বত্বৰ কথা আছে, কিন্তু এই বিলে সেই স্বত্বও কাঁড়ি নিবলৈ ওলাইছে। এই প্ৰসঙ্গত, অসমত হৈ যোৱা দুৰ্ঘটনা অনুসন্ধান কৰিবলৈ পাৰ্লামেন্ট সদস্য সকলৰ যি 'পাৰ্লামেন্টাৰী' 'দেলিগেচন' আহিছিল তেওঁলোকৰ বিপৰ্টতো এই প্ৰেচ সম্বন্ধত মতৰ অমিল আছে। বিশেষকৈ, শ্ৰী গৌৰে কৈছে.....

Extract quoted from a note by Dr. Raj Bahadur Gour, M. P. appended to the Report of the Delegation of Members of Parliament to Assam.

'It cannot be denied that some sections of the Press both in West Bengal and Assam behaved irresponsibly and do not seem to be quite aware of the consequences of what they were writing. Display of news, the writeups and editorials went to rouse passion and thus proved extremely harmful in the situation. It is most unfortunate that even some of the very well established newspapers could not restrain themselves.

In a situation like this everyone would like to see the press playing a constructive part....."

Mr. SPEAKER: You need not read through the whole thing. Please give the substance,

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA : ইয়াৰ পিচত—

"and helping the forces of unity and peace.

I hope the newspapers concerned will draw the correct lesson from this grim experience.

The fundamental rights and the freedom of the press are far too important to be trifled with or restricted."

অৰ্থাৎ তেখেতৰ বিপোর্টত কোৱা হৈছে যে 'প্ৰেচ' ওপৰত নিষেধাজ্ঞাৰ নামত অধিকাৰ নষ্ট কৰিব নালাগে। যুদ্ধৰ সময়ত, যেতিয়া চম্ভালিব নোৱাৰা অৱস্থাৰ উদ্ভৱ হয়, তেতিয়া অগণতান্ত্ৰিক স্বাধীনতা সাময়িক ভাবেহে লোৱা হয়। যিহেতু, আজি আমাৰ তেনে অৱস্থা উদ্ভৱ হোৱা নাই এনে বিল অনা উচিত নহয়। তাৰ পিচত দেখা যায় যে, এই বিলে অকল খবৰ কাকতৰ ওপৰতেই নিষেধ আৰোপ কৰি এৰা নাই। ই, কিতাপ চপা কাৰ্য্যত বুলেটিন চপা কাৰ্য্যত, সাপ্তাহিক আদি আলোচনী কাকত চপা কাৰ্য্যৰ ওপৰতো প্ৰযোজ্য হ'ব আৰু তাৰ দ্বাৰাই, সাহিত্য সংস্কৃতি বিকাশত অন্তৰায় সৃষ্টি কৰিব। সেই কাৰণে মই এই কথা সদনত জোৰ দি ক'ব খুজিছো যে, এই বিলে অসমৰ জনসাধাৰণৰ প্ৰগতিৰ বাটত অন্তৰায় ঘটাব। এই বিল বৰ্ত্তমান সময়ৰ সমাধাৰণীয় হোৱা নাই আৰু এই বিল আইনত পৰিণত হলে, বাতৰি কাগজৰ সম্পাদক, 'প্ৰিটাৰ' আৰু 'পাব্লিচাৰ' সকলোকো সামৰি দিব আৰু তাৰ দ্বাৰাই সকলো চপাখানাৰ মালিক সকল পৰ্য্যন্ত ক্ষতিগ্ৰস্ত হ'ব। যদি সেয়ে হয়, তেন্তে, সকলো চপাখানা বিলাকৰ বেচি ক্ষতি হ'ব আৰু সাহিত্যানুৰাগী সকলৰ চৰ্চাকাৰ্য্যত বাধা পৰিব। এই বিলাক দমন কাৰ্য্যত আৰোপ কৰাতো আজিৰ গণতান্ত্ৰিক যুগত অইবধ আৰু ই সংবিধানী ফালৰ পৰাও বিৰোধী।

উদ্দেশ্য ও কাৰণ বৰ্ণনাৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত যি ধৰণে ব্যাখ্যা কৰা হৈছে তাৰ লগত বিলৰ ভিতৰৰ বিষয় বস্তুৰ উদ্দেশ্যৰ লগত বহু বিষয়ত অমিল। যদি সংকটৰ সময়ত বাতৰি কাকত বিলাকে কৰিব নলগা কাম কৰে, তেন্তে তাক দমন কৰিবলৈ যথেষ্ট সংখ্যক আইন আছে। সেই আইন সমূহৰ ধাৰাৰ বলেৰে দমন কৰিব পৰা যায়। তাকে নকৰি প্ৰেছ আৰু বাতৰি কাকতক দমন কৰিবলৈ বিশেষ ক্ষমতা বিচৰাটো উচিত নহয়। তাৰ উপৰিও এই আইনত সাম্প্ৰদায়িকতাৰ উল্লেখ কৰাটো এটা ঢাকনি দিয়াৰ প্ৰচেষ্টা মাথোন।

তাৰ পিচত, মই এটা কথা ক'ব খুজিছো যে, এই বিল আইনত পৰিণত হলে, শ্ৰমিক আৰু মজুৰ সকলৰ যি আন্দোলন হৈছে বা হ'ব ধৰিছে তাৰ বাতৰি বিকৃত কৰিবলৈ আৰু আওনকিয়া ভাবে হস্তক্ষেপ কৰি, ক্ষতিগ্ৰস্ত কৰাৰ সুযোগ বিচাৰি আছে। আগেত

ইয়াত হিন্দু মুসলমানৰ বি কাঞ্জীয়াৰ সময়ত জননিৰপেক্ষা আইন প্ৰণয়ন হৈছিল কিন্তু প্ৰয়োগ হল বাঙালীক আন্দোলনত আৰু নেতা সকলৰ ওপৰত। গতিকে এই আইন এই ধৰনে অপপ্ৰয়োগ কৰাৰ যথেষ্ট সন্দেহ আছে।

(সমন্বয় সংকেট)

এই বিলখন মই চিলেক্ট কমিটি লৈ দিয়াৰ বিৰোধিতা কৰো আৰু শ্ৰীমত গোদীশঙ্কৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্য্যই বিটো প্ৰস্তাব আনিছে তাক সমৰ্থন কৰো আৰু বাইজব মতামতৰ কাৰণে এই বিলখন পঠোৱাত দোষ দিও। বিশেষকৈ প্ৰেছ বাতৰিকাকত, প্ৰকাশ-ভবন, প্ৰকাশক আৰু বাইজব মতামত লোৱাৰ পিচতহে বিলখনৰ কি কৰা হয় স্থিৰ কৰিব লাগে।

এই বিলখন বেহেতু সংবিধান আৰু গণতন্ত্ৰ-বিৰোধী। মই এই বিলখনৰ তাঁৰ বিৰোধিতা কৰো।

ADJOURNMENT

The Assembly was then adjourned for lunch till 2 P. M.

After lunch

Shri PHANI BORA (Nowgong): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I consider this Bill to be a black Bill. This is the blackest Bill ever produced in this august House. Sir, I do not want to dilate on the points that are raised by our Hon'ble Members. I agree with many of the Hon'ble Members who have expressed the view that there should be a good relationship between the Government and the press, but I find it very difficult to understand how this kind of a Bill can fulfil that desire. On the contrary, I am afraid, this kind of a Bill, if allowed to pass, will bring about time and again a very bad relationship between the Government and the press. Sir, the tragic events that took place in our State during the months of July are taken as the background or the reason for which such a Bill is necessitated. But I do not think that even the tragic events that took place in the State of Assam justifies this kind of a legislation, Sir, is this that if the Government is armed with this kind of a legislation, it is bound to be used to cripple democracy and to vitiate the atmosphere that we want to build in our country. I know, Sir, there may be bad press, but in the conditions in which we are put today in the State of Assam, I consider that quantity is necessary and I am sure that without quantity, we cannot produce quality. There may be wrong done by certain press and a particular press, as such, may be taken to task. For that matter, the Govt. is armed with provisions of law and I do not know how many times in the history of Assam, our Govt. was obliged to take recourse to those of powers that they already had. Sir, I wonder how the Govt. could dare to bring a kind of bill like this? It is not very important how a fine piece of legislation that is being passed, but it is very important, rather vitally important as to who execute that kind of a legislation, under whose guidance and who are the people who implement that kind of a legislation. In our class society where the capitalists & bourgeoisie are on the top I am sure, Sir, our masses are to fight again and again for their life and liberties, for democracy, and this kind of a Bill this kind of a legislation,

is bound to be used by the rulers against those people. It is said that certain press, certain newspapers carried on false, malicious and exaggerated propaganda during the time of riot, during the time of language disturbances in our State. It may be true, Sir. I may agree that there were false propaganda, there were distorted versions of events that took place in our State. There were exaggerations and also extreme falsehood, but what the Govt. did? Did the Govt. furnish the correct information to the press? Did the Govt. furnish correct information to the public throughout the country? It is the failure on the part of the Govt. who encouraged or created a condition in which falsehood and exaggeration could be resorted to. Even after the declaration of the policy statement of the Govt. of Assam, I do not know how many such falsehood and exaggeration has taken place. I find that press has show restraint-press has shown an attitude of co-operation and under these circumstances, I do not find any reason whatsoever for the Govt. to bring in this kind of a Bill at this stage. Sir, I am constrained to mention here one fact which came to my knowledge that even at the time of July disturbances, 2nd week or so of July, all kinds of false informations, all kinds of exaggerated informations were published in different press and I am told, Sir, that Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy telephoned to the Govt. of Assam asking whether the informations that are furnished in the Bengal Presses were correct or not. Sir, I am very sorry to say that so far my information goes, so far my knowledge goes, certain news items that appeared could neither be confirmed nor contradicted. This is the State of affairs which obtained at that time. Is it not a clear failure on the part of our Government which created all these kinds of false propaganda and exaggerated publication of news? Sir, in this connection, I may point out that when our party, the Communist Party, was in office in Kerala State 88 daily papers used to carry on propaganda of all kinds. There was one paper called Dipika which was owned by the Church. My personal knowledge is that I was present in Kerala at that time I found that this particular paper carried on propaganda of all kinds of violence and even that paper came out with a call for murder of the Communists on the street and beheading the Chief Minister. Comrade Nambodiripad who at that time was the Chief Minister of Kerala. This kind of propaganda was carried on by the press in Kerala State at that time.

88 daily papers run in the State of Kerala. Even then our party did not consider it necessary to bring a Bill like this. It was left to the public to read and see for themselves, to judge for themselves, and it was ultimately left to the public to come forward and see what is false and what is correct. Therefore, Sir, I think this makes the attitude of our Party clear towards the freedom of the Press. Sir, I do not find any reason whatsoever for bringing in such a Bill which I already characterised as a Black Bill. I do not know what queer democracy we are going to follow in our country. With these few words, I totally oppose this Bill.

*Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my name has been proposed for the Select Committee to go into the various clauses of this Bill and it is the convention in this House that when a member's name is proposed it is not unusual for him to speak at this stage. But on a very important piece of legislation like this I feel that I should express my opinion now.

Sir, in normal times I will never support such a Bill. The freedom of the Press has been secured after long years of struggle and it is a precious freedom which we cannot allow to be curtailed. Moreover, Sir, there are other provisions of law—ordinary law in the country—through which the illegal activities of the Press can be stopped. Therefore, Sir, to have a Bill like this is to go against the current of the society. But we must also remember that we have in our country Preventive Detention Acts and other Acts which curtail the liberty of our people. Article 19 of the Constitution guarantees us certain freedoms and, at the same time, this very article abridges these freedoms to a certain extent. Therefore, it is no use saying that we have absolute freedom for doing a particular thing. After all, when we have curfew orders, the liberty of the citizens is curtailed to a large extent. Under Section 144, Cr. P. C. when curfew was imposed in Gauhati, the people's liberty of moving about freely, even to go to neighbours' houses at night after certain hours, was curtailed. This curtailment we cannot approve. But emergencies do occur when it might become necessary to curtail some freedoms. I do not put the freedom of the Press at a higher plane than the freedom of the individual. Therefore, when we have to discuss a Bill like this we have to remember that these freedoms are equally available to all and we must not very light-heartedly infringe those freedoms. So far as this Bill is concerned, I find, Sir, that the necessity which caused the formulation of this measure has long passed. We find also that the Bill gives sweeping powers to Government, under Clause 2, to control publication. I could have understood if a state of emergency had been declared and after declaration of the emergency Government wanted to have certain emergent powers. Then, of course, this Bill could have been considered in its proper perspective. But there is no such emergency. Clause 2 says "the State Government or any authority so authorised in this behalf (mind, these powers can be given to any authority), if satisfied that such action is necessary for the purpose of preventing or combating any activity prejudicial to the maintenance of communal harmony affecting or likely to affect public order, may, by order in writing addressed to a printer, publisher or editor prohibit the printing or publication in any document" and so on and so forth. My submission is that under this clause these powers can be used at any moment and even against political opponents if certain views are strongly expressed against certain actions of the Government. Even that can be prohibited under the provisions of this clause. Therefore, Sir, I cannot support this as I cannot support also the unregulated use of various provisions of the Preventive Detention Act. Then, Sir, we find in Clause 2(b) "require that any matter, covering not more than two columns be published in any particular issue or issues of a newspaper or periodical on payment of adequate remuneration and may while doing so specify the period, etc." This is also another provision which is very stringent and it may result in publishing news which is only favourable to the Government. And that is also sought to be done by paying money, by giving temptation. I think discretion in this matter should be left to the Press. If there is something very important even to-day the Government can indirectly make the Press to publish certain communiques of their own. Newspapers are patronised by Government by issuing advertisements to them for publication and therefore most papers will willingly publish Government communiques. So far as the last disturbances are concerned, we would have been glad to know from the Government which paper in Assam, so far as papers outside Assam are concerned, that will be a different thing, did not publish any

communicate or any information that the Government wanted them to publish. If this is not the case there is no justification for incorporating this clause here. Sir, the Bill says that the Bill has been necessitated by the experience of the last disturbance. I myself, Sir, addressed a letter to the editors of Hindusthan Standard, Ananda Bazar Patrika, Jugantar and the Amrita Bazar Patrika when I felt that the publications there were directly provoking the people, existing the people, I felt it my duty to address that letter and in that letter I most humbly requested them that at times it is necessary to exercise some amount of restraint on ourselves so that the people may not be excited. However, that letter was misinterpreted and I feel even now that had there been a code of conduct amongst the newspapers that in an emergency like this it is necessary to exercise restraint then perhaps, Sir, we would not have to blame the press for certain actions of theirs during the last disturbance. Sir, when the Parliamentary Delegation came a question was put to me whether in an emergency like that I would like to have some amount of control over the press. I replied in the affirmative and in an emergency like this it is necessary to have some amount of control. What is that control? How that is to be exercised? When I go through the Bill I find that the control that is sought is very sweeping. Control is sought to negative the freedom of the press. So Sir, I would like the Minister in charge to consider these points because we do not want that these powers should be there to cover the lapses of the Government. We are not willing to give powers to the Government to cover their lapses because it is also a fact that during this critical days Government was silent. They did not come forward with any press statement, they did not call press meetings and give the correct things. If they had done that and if the press had published these things in that manner then there would have been a very strong case. We must also confess that the Government failed to keep the public both inside and outside Assam informed by their communique about the day to day happenings and therefore it was possible for the press to publish all sorts of information. It is also true that many papers carried on exaggerated news. I know of one paper of 10th July when I was coming back from Calcutta after the Siliguri incident it was said that ten persons were killed in Rangiya. It was given in a banner headline and it was a very exciting news on that day and therefore these things excite the people. So the newspapers have to behave in a very responsible manner and I would have liked that the press had some code of conduct among themselves and all these things would not have been necessary. If after all such a legislation is passed my submission is that such powers should be exercised more sparingly only during emergency and that emergency should also be declared so that these powers may not be taken advantage of to stop expression of honest opinion. On the other hand, I have also said that so far as the Govt. is concerned, Govt. must also do its duty. If it fails them it should not make somebody scapegoat and if that is the purpose of Bill then certainly we will oppose the Bill.

Shri HARINARAYAN BARUA (Teok) : মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই ওকালতি পাচ কৰা লোক নহওঁ। গতিকে আইনৰ মেৰপাচ বোধ বুজিবলৈ মোৰ অলপ টান হয় তথাপি মোৰ সাধাৰণ জ্ঞানে যিবোৰ কথা সত্য বুলি কয় সেই বোৰকে এই সদনৰ আগত ডাঙি ধৰিব খুজিছোঁ। আজি যিখন বিল

সদনত উপস্থাপিত কৰিছে সেই প্ৰসঙ্গত বিবোধী দলৰ সদস্য সকলে যোৱা অশান্তিৰ আলম লৈ যি টোকা সমালোচনা কৰিছে মোৰ সাধাৰণ স্তৰে কৈছে যে সেই সমালোচনা এই বিলৰ সম্পৰ্কত খাপ খোৱা নাই। দেশত কিছুমান ঘটনা ঘটিছিল যেনেকৈ সকলো দেশতে ঘটে; সেই ঘটনা অন্তত হল আৰু দেশলৈ শান্তি যুৰি আহিস যোৱা ঘটনা আকৌ ঘটিব পাৰে বুলি চৰকাৰে সন্দেহ কৰা কথাটো মোৰ পক্ষে বিশ্বাস কৰিবলৈ টান হৈছে।

Mr. SPEAKER : Recent disturbance বুলি বিলত লিখা আছে।

Shri HARINARAYAN BARUA (Teok) : যি অশান্তি আমাৰ দেশত হৈ গল, সেই অশান্তি লক্ষ কৰি আৰু ভবিষ্যতেও যাতে দেশত অশান্তি গলে যথোচিত ব্যৱস্থাবে শান্তি যুৰাই আনিব পৰা যায় তাৰ নিমিত্তেহে বিলখনৰ দৰকাৰ হৈছে। ধৰি লক যি ঘটনা হৈগল তেনে ঘটনা নহৈয়োটে অন্য ৰাজনৈতিক গুৰুত্বপূৰ্ণ অৱস্থাৰ সৃষ্টি হব পাৰে? মই বুজিব পৰা নাই ভবিষ্যত সাবধানী ব্যৱস্থা এটি কৰাত সদস্য সকল আপত্তি কাৰণ কি? আমাৰ উত্তৰ সীমাত চীনা সৈন্য এতিয়াও বহি আছে আৰু হয়তে আক্ৰমণো কৰিব পাৰে। সেই সময়ত যদি আমাৰ দেশৰ কোনো প্ৰেছে বা বাতৰি কাগজে চীনক সহায় কৰা প্ৰচাৰ কাৰ্য্য চলায়, সেইটোত বাধা জনাবাৰ কাৰণেও চিন্তা কৰা উচিত নহবনে? যোৱা গণ্ডগোলৰ সময়ত আমাৰ দেশৰ কোনো প্ৰেছে বেচিকৈ লিখিলে বা কম লিখিলে সেই কথাৰ বিচাৰ কৰাৰ আজি লাভ নাই অথবা দেশৰ স্বার্থৰ বিৰুদ্ধে প্ৰচাৰ কাৰ্য্য চলায় গণ্ডগোল বৃদ্ধি কৰিবৰ কাৰণে প্ৰচাৰ কাৰ্য্য চলনেও আজি তাকেই ধৰি থাকিলে আমাৰ সমস্যাৰ সমাধান নহব। আমি ভবিষ্যতৰ যে নগা সমস্যা বোৰ সমাধান কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থাহে আজিয়েই কৰি থোৱা বুদ্ধিমানৰ কাম হব। (টেবুলত ভুকুৱাই)

Mr. SPEAKER : Mr. Barua, please avoid fistng as far as possible.

Shri HARINARAYAN BARUA : যিবিলাক 'প্ৰেচে', দেশৰ স্বার্থ আটুত ৰাখি সমস্যাৰ সমাধান কৰিবলৈ প্ৰচেষ্টা চলাইছিল, সেই বিলাকৰ আমি অভিনন্দন জনাও। যিবিলাক প্ৰেচে, যোৱা গণ্ডগোলৰ সময়ত কিছুমান কথা প্ৰকাশ কৰি, দেশৰ মানুহক বিভ্ৰত কৰি তুলিছিল, সেইবিলাক প্ৰেচৰ ভিতৰত যে ইচ্ছাকৃত কিছুমান অভিসন্ধি আছিল তাত কোনো সন্দেহ নাই। এইটোও সত্য যে, যোৱা

গণ্ডগোলৰ সময় ছোৱাত ভাষাসম্ভাৰ অন্তৰালত কিছুমান অভিসন্ধিলৈ, কিছুমান মানুহে, বা দলে দেশৰ নীৰ্বিহ লোক সকলৰ বিভ্রান্ত কৰি তুলিবৰ কাৰণে প্ৰচুৰ প্ৰচেষ্টা চলাইছিল।

(কোন দলে..... voices)

নিজকে সূধি চোৱাই ভাল হব। আচৰিত কথা তথাপি আজি সদনৰ বক্তৃত্তা প্ৰসঙ্গত সেইদলৰ সদস্য সকলে কয় যে যোৱা গণ্ডগোলৰ সময়ত কোনে প্ৰেচে আহকাল কৰা নাছিল আৰু ভবিষ্যতেও তেনে কোনো অৱস্থাৰ সৃষ্টি নহব অথচ চৰকাৰে প্ৰেচৰ মুখ বন্ধ কৰিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিছে বুলি তেখেত সকলে কৈছে। কিন্তু সেইটো প্ৰকৃত কথা নহয়। মোৰ মনে কৈছে যে— এই বিলে প্ৰেচবিলাকৰ সহায়ৰ কাৰণেহে অনা হৈছে। আকৌ তেওঁলোকৰ লোকেই কৈছে যে, বহু দেশৰ কাগজ বিলাক অগ্ৰায় ভাবে নানান কথা প্ৰকাশ কৰি, গোটেই ৰাষ্ট্ৰৰ লোক সকলক বিভ্রান্ত কৰিবৰ কাৰণে চেষ্টা কৰিছে আৰু এই বিলাক অসমৰ বিৰুদ্ধে মিছা সংবাদ পৰিবেশন কৰিছে অসমত চৰকাৰ নাই নেকি যে এই বিলাক বন্ধ কৰিবলৈ? আৰু আজি সদনত কৈছে যে— প্ৰেচৰ মুখবন্ধ কৰিবলৈ যত্ন কৰিছে আচৰিত কথা সেই সময়ত আমি বহুতো সভা সমিতি কৰিছিলো; তাতে অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় তেখেত সকলৰ তৰফৰ পৰা কৈছিল চৰকাৰ কলৈ গল যে দেশ খনক মিছা প্ৰচাৰেৰে বিভ্রান্ত কৰিব খুজিছে; বাতৰি কাকতৰ মিছা প্ৰচাৰ বিলাক বন্ধ কৰাৰ যত্ন নলয় কিয় বুলি আমাক শোধে, আৰু চৰকাৰেও কোনো যত্ন সেই বিষয়ত লোৱা নাই বুলিও আমাক শোধে। গতিকেই এই বিল খন যে জনসাধাৰণে আগ্ৰহেৰে সমৰ্থন কৰিব তাতকোনো সন্দেহ নাই। আমি বহু সভা সমিতিত এই প্ৰশ্নৰ সম্মুখীন হব লগিয়া হৈছিল। মই নেজানো বিৰোধী দলৰ সদস্য সকলে এনে প্ৰশ্নৰ সম্মুখীন হৈছিলনে নাই।

Mr. SPEAKER: আপোনাৰ সময় হল।

Shri HARINARAYAN BARUA (Teok): আৰু অলপ সময় দিব লাগে, অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় মোৰ কবলগীয়া বহুত আছে ॥

Mr. SPEAKER: বাক— দুই মিনিট।

Shri HARINARAYAN BARUA: যোৱা জুলাই মাহৰ ৫ তাৰিখে যোৰহাটৰ এখন দিবাট সভাত, যত ময়ো আছিলো, মোৰ মনত কিছু লোকে

মোক খঙেবে প্ৰশ্ন কৰিছিল আৰু চৰকাৰক আক্ৰমণ কৰি কৈছিল যে দেশত চৰকাৰ আছে, আৰু দেশত এই বিলাক মিছা প্ৰচাৰ চলিব লাগিছে আৰু কাগজে পত্ৰে মিছা সংবাদ পৰিবেশন হ'ব লাগিছে— এই বিলাক বন্ধ কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা চৰকাৰে কিয় নলয়? গাৰে গাৰে মই যাওতেয়ো এই বিলাক কথা প্ৰত্যেক ঠাইতেই কৈছিল, আৰু কৈছিল 'চৰকাৰ কলৈ গল?' আমাৰ ইয়াৰ খবৰ বিলাক ইমান উত্তেজিত কৰি কলিকটাৰ কাগজত ইয়াৰ পৰা কোনো পৰিবেশন কৰিছে সেই সাংবাদিক সকলক যদি বাহিৰ কৰিব নোৱাৰে তেন্তে আমাক চৰকাৰ কিয় লাগে?

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, এই প্ৰশ্ন কাৰক সকলক সন্তোষ কৰিবৰ হলে আমাৰ নিশ্চয় এখন আইন লাগে। বিৰোধী দলৰ সদস্য সকলে দেশৰ জনসাধাৰণক শান্তি শৃঙ্খলাৰে বন্ধ কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থাত কিয় আপত্তি কৰে মই বুজিব নোৱাৰে। তেওঁ বিলাকে দেশখনক কি কৰিব খুজিব? দেশখনক জ্বলাই দিব খুজিছেনে কি? তেনে কাৰ্য্য আমি কেতিয়াও সমৰ্থন কৰিব নোৱাৰে। হয় এই বিলাক লাচতে আহি গৈছে। (হাঁহিব বোল) অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় মই এই কথাই সদনত ব্যক্ত কৰিব খুজিছে যে, ভবিষ্যতে যাতে এই গণ্ডগোলৰ পুনৰাবৃত্তি নহয় যদি হয় তাত চৰকাৰৰ এটা দায়িত্ব আছে আৰু সেই দায়িত্ব নিয়েই, ভবিষ্যতে যাতে কোনো সংকটাবস্থাত শাসন ব্যৱস্থা ঠিক থাকে আৰু সেই পৰিবেশত যাতে কোনো সাম্প্ৰদায়িকতাৰ সৃষ্টি নহয়, মিছা প্ৰচাৰ যাতে হ'ব নোৱাৰে, কাগজ পত্ৰত মিছা সংবাদ যাতে পৰিবেশন হ'ব নোৱাৰে তাৰ কাৰণে এই বিলাক প্ৰস্তুত কৰা হৈছে বুলিয়েই মই বুজিছো। এইয়াও ভগবানৰ ওচৰত ভৰসা ৰাখিছে—যেন ভবিষ্যতে আমাৰ ৰাজ্যত এনে ধৰণত ভীষণ গণ্ডগোলৰ সৃষ্টি নহয়। আজি আমাৰ ৰাজ্যত যি আভ্যন্তৰীণ ৰাজনৈতিক পৰিস্থিতি হৈছে, সেই পৰিস্থিতি সমুখত ৰাখি যদি জাতি-বৰ্ণ বা দল নিৰ্বিশেষে নিজৰ পৰিহাৰ কৰি দেশখন ৰাখিবলৈ চেষ্টা নকৰে তেন্তে দেশখন যে খেলিমেলি হৈ বিপদাপন্ন হ'ব তাত কোনো সন্দেহ নাই। মই অলপতে এখন চপা কৰা কাগজ দেখিছো, সম্ভৱতঃ বিৰোধীদলৰ দলপতিয়েও দেখিছে—সেই কাগজৰ অন্তফালত এটা বেয়া উদ্দেশ্য বিহিত আছে যে তাত কোনো সন্দেহ নাই। সেই কাগজখনত হিন্দু মুছলমানৰ ভিতৰত সঙ্ঘৰ্ষ হোৱাৰ কথাই লিখিছে। সেই বিলাকৰ প্ৰতি লক্ষ ৰাখি কাম নকৰিলে সময়ত সেই সকলে যে গণ্ডগোলৰ সৃষ্টি কৰিব তাত কোনো সন্দেহ নাই। এই বিলাক পৰিস্থিতিলৈ লক্ষ কৰি জি পাৰি যে, এতিয়াও দেশক ধ্বংস কৰা এটা চক্ৰান্তকাৰী দল আছে।

এই দল বিলাকৰ হাতৰ পৰা দেশখনৰ স্বাৰ্থক নিশ্চয় বাদ দিব লাগিব। সেই কাৰণেই জনসাধাৰণৰ স্বাৰ্থৰ লগত, দেশৰ বৃহত স্বাৰ্থ বজাই ৰখাত চৰকাৰে নিজস্ব এটা দায়িত্ব আৰু কৰ্তব্য আছে আৰু সেই দায়িত্ব পালন কৰিবৰ কাৰণেই চৰকাৰে চেষ্টা কৰিছে। সেই নিমিত্তেই যদি যি সাম্প্ৰদায়িকতাৰ সজঘৰ্ষৰ আশঙ্কা দেশত স্পৰ্শ হৈ উঠে তেন্তে বিৰোধী দলৰ তৰফৰ পৰা দেশৰ শান্তি আৰু শৃঙ্খলা ৰক্ষা কৰাত মনোনিবেশ কৰিবই লাগিব দেশৰ আৰু জন সাধাৰণৰ মঙ্গলৰ কাৰণে। আজি দেখিবলৈ পাইছো যে, ভাষা সংক্ৰান্ত লৈ দেশত যি পৰিস্থিতিৰ উদ্ভব হৈছে— আৰু যি সকলে কু অভিপ্ৰায় লৈ যোৱা ভাষা সংক্ৰান্তত ; হোৱা গণ্ডগোলৰ কাম কৰিছিল সেই বিলাকে কি ধৰণেৰে এই পৰিস্থিতিটো সামৰিব খুজিছে—বুজা নাযায়। যি বিলাক প্ৰেচত মিছা কথা প্ৰচাৰ কৰি দেশৰ লোকত বিভ্ৰান্ত কৰিবৰ কাৰণে চেষ্টা কৰিছিল দেশত অৰাজকতা আনি President Ru'e ৰ অভিহিত কৰিব খুজিছিল—সেই বিলাক কাৰ্যকলাপ তেওঁলোকৰ কাৰণে একোৱেই নহয়। যদি এয়ে হয়, কব লাগিব—তেওঁলোকৰ উদ্দেশ্য ধ্বংসমূলক হৈছে—সেইটো বিৰোধী দলে পৰিহাৰ কৰিব লাগিব। তেতিয়াহে সেই সমস্যাৰ সমাধান হব আৰু এই গণ্ডগোলত জঞ্জৰিত হোৱা সকলৰ পুনৰ বসতি সাধন হব। কাজেই আজি ৰাজ্যৰ শান্তি স্থাপনৰ—কি কংগ্ৰেচ কি P. S. P. কি অন্যান্য দল সমূহ সকলোৱেই সহযোগীতা কৰিব লাগিব ; নহলে তাৰ অৰহেলা কৰিলে আমাৰ দেশৰ বাইজৰ অনিষ্ট হে সাধন কৰা হব।

যদি বিৰোধী দলৰ সদস্য সকলে প্ৰেচৰ অগ্ৰায় কাৰ্য্য সমৰ্থন কৰি বক্তৃত্তা দিয়ে মোৰ বিশ্বাস প্ৰেচ এই কাৰ্য্যত কেতিয়াও সম্ভৱ নহব। কাৰণ মই জানো—প্ৰেচৰ লোক যথেষ্ট বুদ্ধিমান। তেওঁবিলাকে জানে—কেনেকৈ জন সাধাৰণৰ মত সংগঠিত কৰিব পাৰে।

সেই কাৰণে মই বিৰোধী দলৰ সদস্য সকলক এইটো অনুৰোধ কৰিছো তেখেতে সকলে যেন দেশৰ শান্তি শৃঙ্খলা ৰক্ষাৰ কাৰণে সহযোগ কৰে। দেশ যদি জীয়াই থাকে তেওঁলোকেও তেওঁলোকৰ ৰাজনৈতিক মতবাদ প্ৰকাশ কৰিবলৈ পাব। আৰু যদি দেশেই মৰি যায় তেতিয়া তেওঁলোকৰ মতবাদ কত প্ৰকাশ কৰিব? সেই কাৰণে মই কওঁ যে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্ট যি বিল আনিছে তাৰ দ্বাৰা প্ৰেচৰ মুখ বন্ধ কৰিবলৈ আনিছে সেইটো মই বিশ্বাস নকৰো ইয়াত কেৱল যদি কেতিয়াবা দেশত শান্তি ভঙ্গ হয় তেতিয়া প্ৰয়োজন হলে আইন প্ৰয়োগৰ ব্যৱস্থা মাত্ৰ এই বিল কৰিছে।

Sri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur): মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই এই বিল প্রসংগত বিবোধীদলৰ নেতা গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ লগত একমত। যি সময়ত দেশত গণ্ডগোল হৈছিল সেই সময়ত এনেকুৱা খবৰ কাগজ নাই যি অতিৰঞ্জিত আৰু অসত্য কথা প্রচাৰ কৰা নাই। ভট্টাচাৰ্যী ডাঙৰীয়াই কৈছে এই বিলখন জনমতৰ কাৰণে পঠাব লাগে। কিন্তু জনমত আমি পায়োই আছো। সেই সময়ত জনসাধাৰণে কৈছিল যে খবৰৰ কাগজৰ এনেকুৱা ভুল বাতৰি বোৰ চৰকাৰে বন্ধ কৰিব নোৱাৰেনে? এতিয়া যিখন বিল চৰকাৰে আনিছে সেই বিলত যি বিলাক clause আছে সেই বিলাকে যদি ক্ষমতা অতিক্রম কৰে সেইবোৰ clause আমি সংশোধন কৰি লব পাৰিম। ময়ো এইটো কোৱা নাই যে প্ৰেছক মুখ বন্ধ কৰিব লাগে। কিন্তু প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী পণ্ডিত নেহেৰু যেতিয়া অসমলৈ আহিছিল সেই সময়তো তেখেতক নানা দলৰ পৰা স্মাৰকপত্ৰ দিছিল যে প্ৰেছে দিয়া অসত্য বাতৰি বন্ধ কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে। ৫ জুলাই তাৰিখে শ্ৰীযুত ত্ৰিপাঠী আৰু আপুনি যেতিয়া গুৱাহাটী চাবকুইত হাউছত মেটিং পাতিছিল তাত শ্ৰীফণি বৰা আৰু ভট্টাচাৰ্যী ডাঙৰীয়াও উপস্থিত আছিল তেতিয়া শ্ৰীউমাকান্ত শৰ্ম্মাই কৈছিল যে প্ৰেছৰ অসত্য বাতৰি বন্ধ কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা হোৱা নাই আৰু তাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে। সেই কাৰণে এই বিলখনৰ প্ৰয়োজন হৈ পৰিছে যাতে নতুন নতুন বাতৰি কাকত বোৰে অসত্য পতৰি প্ৰচাৰ কৰাৰ পৰা যাতে বিতৰ্ক কৰিব পাৰি।

(Voice :—Do you mean Young Paper ?)

সেই কাৰণে গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টেৰ হাতত এটা ক্ষমতা থাকিব লাগে। Clause II ত কৈছে Preventing or combating any activity prejudicial to the maintenance of communal harmony. . . গতিকে public order maintain কৰিবৰ বাবে আৰু সাম্প্ৰদায়িক উত্তেজনা যাতে নহয় তাৰ বাবে এনেকুৱা এটা ক্ষমতা চৰকাৰে বিচাৰিছে। কাৰণ গণ্ডগোলৰ সময়ত চাৰ্ভিউফালৰ পৰা চৰকাৰক গৰিহনা দিছিল যে চৰকাৰে এনে অবস্থা কিয় হবলৈ দিছে? এই বিলৰ প্ৰয়োজন আছে। ভট্টাচাৰ্য ডাঙৰীয়াই কৈযোৱা কথা খিনি মই স্বীকাৰ কৰিব নোৱাৰো। এই বিলৰ প্ৰয়োজনীয়তালৈ চাই আশা কৰো প্ৰেছেও এই বিলত সহযোগীতা কৰিব। ডাঙৰ ডাঙৰ কাগজৰ খবৰ বোৰ চকুত পৰে কিন্তু এনে সৰু সৰু কিছুমান কাগজ আছে সেই বিলাকে কিছুমান অসত্য খবৰ প্ৰকাশ কৰি আমাৰ সামাজিক ঐক্যতাৰ ক্ষুণ্ণ কৰিছে। এই বিলাকক চৰকাৰৰ আয়ত্বাধীনত আনিবাৰ কাৰণে এনে কোনো ক্ষমতা

নাই। গতিকে এই বিল খনৰ জৰিয়তে চৰকাৰে যি ক্ষমতা বিচাৰিছে সেইটো সমীচীন হৈছে। ইয়াৰ উপৰি এখন Select Committee গঠন কৰি দিছে আৰু তাৰ সদস্য সকলে আমাতকৈ বেচি জানিব যে চৰকাৰে যাতে এই বিলৰ ক্ষমতাৰ অপব্যৱহাৰ নকৰে। তেনে ধৰণে বিবেচনা কৰি এই বিলখন সম্মতি প্ৰদান কৰিব। মোটৰ ওপৰত এই বিলখন গৃহীত হোৱা অতি দৰকাৰী বুলি মই বিবেচনা কৰি এই বিল খন সমৰ্থন কৰিছো।

Sri SARBESWAR BARDALOI (Titabar):—মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, চৰকাৰে অনা বিলখনৰ সম্পৰ্কে মই এই কথা জনাব খোজো যে আমাৰ অসমত অলপ দিন আগতে যি অশান্তি হৈ গৈছে সেই সময়ত আমাৰ চপাখানা বা খবৰ কাগজে জ্বলা জুইত ঘী ঢালিছিল। কিছুমান মানুহৰ মনত এনে এটা ভাব জাগিছিল যে এই Press আৰু কাগজ পত্ৰৰ দ্বাৰা উত্তেজনা হ্রাস কৰিবলৈ পৰা চৰকাৰৰ হাতত কোনো ক্ষমতাই নাই।

সকলোৱে জানে যে এই বাৰ কলিকটাৰ কাগজত অসীময়া সকলৰ মাতেই স্থান পাইছিল, সকলোৰে সেই সময়ত মনত হৈছিল যে এই অশান্তিৰ মূলতেই কলিকতীয়া কাগজ কেইখন। যদি চৰকাৰৰ হাতত এই কাগজ বিলাক নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰাৰ কিবা ক্ষমতা থাকিল হেতেন তেন্তে অসমত এনেকুৱা অশান্তিৰ সৃষ্টি নহলহেতেন।

সেই কাগজ বিলাকত মই এনেকুৱাও কিছুমান খবৰ পঢ়িছিলো অৱশ্যে আপোনা-লোক সকলোৱে জানে, যে টোকালয় নৈ ত মৰাশ উঠি গৈছে আৰু ভোগদৈ নৈ তেজেৰে ৰাঙলী হৈ গৈছে। এনে ধৰণৰ মিছা আৰু সন্ত্ৰাস পূৰ্ণ খবৰ বিলাক আগষ্ট মাহলৈ ওলায়েই আছিল এনেকুৱা Press আৰু কাগজ পত্ৰক যদি নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰা নহয়, তেন্তে এই Press এ দেশৰ অবস্থা শোচনীয় কৰিব।

মোৰ মনেৰে ভাৰতৰ লোক সভাত আৰু অসমৰ আৰু আন আন ৰাজ্যৰ বিধান পৰিষদতহে চৰকাৰ ভঙ্গা পতাৰ গণতান্ত্ৰিক অধিকাৰ দিয়া হৈছে। এনে গণতান্ত্ৰিক অধিকাৰ খবৰৰ কাগজক এৰি দিয়া অকনো উচিত নয়।

৩ৰঞ্জিত বৰপূজাৰীৰ কোনখিনি ঠাইত খুন হৈছিল তাত ধেনু কাড়েৰে অক্ষিত কৰি ৰাজ্যত উত্ৰপৎ অৱস্থাতে থিক পিছদিনাই চৰকাৰি সমস্ত অসমতে প্ৰচাৰ কৰি থকাত ৰাজ্যত অশান্তিৰ সৃষ্টি হোৱা স্বাভাৱিক। থিক সেই মতেই ৰাজ্যত অশান্তি হল।

এনেধৰণৰ গণতান্ত্ৰিক অধিকাৰ থকা প্ৰেচ আমাৰ দেশৰ বাহিৰে আন গণতান্ত্ৰিক দেশত নাই যেম লাগে। আমি জনাত কমিউনিষ্ট দেশত এনে ধৰণৰ খবৰ ক গজব স্বাধীনতা নাই। তাত গবৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ বিৰুদ্ধে একে; প্ৰকাশ কৰিব নোৱাৰে। সিহঁতক, এই আইনে ভাৰতীয় খবৰ কাগজৰ কোনো স্বাধীনতা থকা কৰিব বিচৰা নাই। মাত্ৰ দেশৰ শান্তি বক্ষা কৰিবলৈ দুমাহৰ কাৰণেহে এই আইন প্ৰয়োগ কৰিব বিচাৰিছে। ৬ মাহতকৈ বেছিদিন এই আইন প্ৰয়োগ কৰি বাধিব নোৱাৰিব। তাক সকলোৱে জানে। যদি আকৌ পৰিস্থিতিত প্ৰয়োজন হয়, তেন্তে এই আইন প্ৰয়োগ কৰি আমাৰ দেশৰ শান্তি বক্ষা কৰাত চৰকাৰে সমৰ্থ কৰিবলৈহে এই আইনৰ আৱশ্যক হৈছে। আমাৰ দেশৰ গভৰ্ণমেণ্ট ভাঙিব—কোন মন্ত্ৰী হব কোন নহব, এই বিলাক কথা এই বিলাক জল্পনা কল্পনা কৰি প্ৰকাশ কৰাটো একেবাৰে অগণতান্ত্ৰিক। বন্দুকৰ শক্তি দমন কৰি জনমতৰ শক্তি প্ৰয়োগ কৰাৰ অধিকাৰ বক্তৃমান সময়ত অপবিহাৰ্য। দেশৰ শান্তি শৃংখলা বক্ষা কৰিবলৈ এই আইন প্ৰণয়ন কৰিব লগীয়া হৈছে।

এই আইন এতিয়াই গৃহীত হলেহে কাম হব নহলে পিচত হলে তাৰ লক্ষ ব্যৰ্থ হব।

Maulavi JAHANUDDING AHMED (Bilasipara): Sir, in supporting the amendment motion moved by my friend Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya, I like to stress that this bill should be circulated for public opinion. Because, Sir, we are going to give power to the Govt. to promulgate this Act against the Press. So the public in general should be enlightened in the matter in what way we should give Govt. power to deal with the Press. The public opinion, in this connection is very essential, because, Sir, we should think and scrutinise this bill in a very clam and quit way. Because, Sir, in the statement itself it is written that "during the recent disturbances, and after, certain section of the Press, by instigating and etc. etc. Sir, really I like to think that whether Govt. at the time of disturbances was really sleeping in the matter. Because Sir, the government have had power to promulgate Ordinance through the Governor when such an emergency has come. They could have contralled the Press through the Oridinance, even if this Bill is not passed into an Act, Government has the power in an emergency to make an Ordinance whenever it is necessary, So Sir, when the heat has not died down, till now we should not be in a haste and should consider it very coolly whether this Act will be really beneficial to our State when we are going to restrict even the fundamental right of the Press.

(A voice came from the Congress Bench)

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order, Mr. Ahmed you please continue.

Maulvi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara): I think Sir, the Press could have been stopped from publishing such an exaggerated news by the Government by making an Ordinance immediately, if the Government would have been alive to the gravity of the situation. But because the Government were sleeping, the Press could publish such news to inflame and endanger the life and property of our people in this State. It is sought in the Bill that whenever the Government go to take any action, it will remain only for 2 months. That is the life of the promulgation of this Act is only for 2 months which is a extremely temporary measure. And then also it can be extended for another 2 months if the situation does not improve. After this extension of 2 months, this can again be extended for another 2 months. That means this promulgation can be extended upto 6 months only in all. Here we presume that the Government is incapable of maintaining law and order for 6 months and even for that short period it is required. It envisages in the Bill itself to suppress the Press. That should not be the idea of the government that they should require 6 months to bring down peace and harmony in the society. Sir, therefore, I see that when the Government is going to make a very drastic law against the Press, they should be allowed to consider it rather coolly whether this Act will be beneficial to the Society as a whole. So, Sir, the heated speech in this regard will not be of any good to us. When we are going to give such a power to the Government, we should very carefully consider it so that this cannot be mis-used on the pretext on this and that. So a calm atmosphere is necessary to promulgate such a piece of legislation and I hope the honourable members who are not lawyers should not bring any heat over it at the moment. I therefore request all to consider this bill in a very calm and cool atmospheres. So Sir, the people, should be given a chance to express their opinion before the enactment of this Bill.

*Shri MAHIKANTA DAS (Barchalla): অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, চৰকাৰে দেশত শান্তি আৰু শৃঙ্খলা বক্ষার্থে যিখন বিল সদনত ডাঙি ধৰিছে তাক অভিনন্দন জনোৱাৰ আগতে কওঁ যে এইখন belated bill যোৱা জুলাই আৰু আগষ্ট মাহত আমাৰ দেশত যি ভীষণ অৱস্থা হৈ গল, সেই অৱস্থাৰ কাৰণে যে কিছুমান প্ৰেছ দায়ী সেইটো সৰ্বসন্মতি ভাবে গত প্ৰচাৰ হৈ গৈছে। কলিকতীয়া কাগজেই বোলক বা অসমৰ কাগজেই বোলক, তাত যিবোৰ ঘটনাৰ কথা উঠাইছিল আৰু উত্তেজিত কৰি প্ৰকাশ কৰিছিল আনকি মিছা-প্ৰচাৰ আৰু অপ-প্ৰচাৰ কৰিছিল তাৰ কথা সকলোৱেই জানে। শ্ৰীসৰ্বেশ্বৰ বৰদলৈদেৱে ৩৮বছৰিত বৰপূজাৰীৰ নিৰ্মম হত্যা কাণ্ডই কি ভয়াবহ অৱস্থাৰ সৃষ্টি কৰিছিল তাৰ কথা উল্লিখিত হৈ গৈছে। It caused widespread fire throughout the whole state. তাৰ দ্বাৰা ৩৮বছৰিতৰ সন্মান কৰা নহল আৰু ৩৮বছৰিতে সেইটো আশাও কৰা নাছিল।

আজি প্ৰেছৰ মতে সকলো খবৰ প্ৰকাশ কৰি অশান্তিৰ সৃষ্টি কৰক কোনো ক্ষতি নাই, দেশ বিশৃঙ্খল হওঁক কোনো ভয় নাই, মানুহ হত্যা কৰক তাৰ কাৰণেও কোনো চিন্তা কৰিব লগা নাই। মাত্ৰ তেওঁলোকৰ বাতৰি কাগজৰ যশ বাঢ়িব লাগে। দেশত ছ'ৰ্টনা ঘটক

কোনো কথা নাই। সেই কাৰণে মাত্ৰ moderate provision হৈ দিল খনত কৰা হৈছে। তথাপি আকৌ বাচনি কমিটিলৈ দি সংশোধন কৰি মনঃপূত কৰা চেষ্টা কৰিছে। শ্ৰীহৰেশ্বৰ গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াও পৰোক্ষ ভাবে সমৰ্থন কৰিছে। বোৱা জুলাই অশান্তিয়ে আমাৰ দেশত বি বিপদাপন্ন অৱস্থাৰ সৃষ্টি কৰি অসম আকাশ কলা মেঘেৰে মেঘাছন্ন কৰি পেলাইছিল। সেই অৱস্থাত এটো বিলৰ বিশেষ প্ৰয়োজন : তেনে অশান্তি অৱস্থা হোৱা স্বৰূপেও আমাৰ চৰকাৰে আধ্যাদেশ জাৰি কৰা নাছিল। আমাৰ চৰকাৰ ইমান মাজিত আৰু বিবেচিত। Ordinance just to check the dissemination of the news which will go to excite the people.

সকলো ক্ষেত্ৰতে প্ৰেচক কেতিয়াও লগত কৰা হোৱা নাই। Power to control Publication কৰিবলৈ two purposes. Preventing or combating any activity prejudicial to the maintenance of communal harmony effecting or likely to effect public order.

যদি এনেকুৱা সাম্প্ৰদায়িকতাৰ উদ্ভব হয় আৰু তাৰ পৰা যদি শান্তি ভঙ্গৰ উপক্ৰম হয়, তেনেহলে এই আইনৰ দ্বাৰা Printer সকলক prohibit কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা হাতত লোৱা হব। কাৰণ এতিয়ালৈক তেনে ব্যৱস্থা নাই আৰু তেনে পৰিস্থিতিত ৰাজ্যৰ শান্তি আৰু শৃঙ্খলাৰ কাৰণে সেই কাৰ্য বাধা দিয়াৰ কোনো উপায় নাই। কাৰেই এনে পৰিস্থিতিৰ সময়ত ই এফালে দেশক আনহাতে কাগজ বিলাকৰ সংবাদ পৰিবেশনত সহায়ক হব। আজি আমাৰ এই পৰিস্থিতি সম্মত ৰাখি যথেষ্ট চিন্তা কৰিব বিষয় হৈ পৰিছে। আজিৰ যি tension হৈছে, তাত, অসমীয়া লৰা ছোৱালী কলিকটাৰ কলেজত থাকিব নোৱাৰা হৈছে সেই অৱস্থা উপলব্ধি কৰি এটা শান্তি পূৰ্ণ পৰিবেশ সৃষ্টি হোৱাৰ প্ৰয়োজন। কাৰেই প্ৰেচৰ ওপৰত কিছু restriction আনিব। এই বিল অনাৰ কাৰণে তেখেত সকল অসন্তোষ হোৱাৰ কোনো কাৰণ নাই। শ্ৰীযুত হৰেশ্বৰ গোস্বামীয়ে শব্দটো ব্যৱহাৰ কৰাৰ কাৰণে মই বেয়া পাইছো। মই আশা কৰোঁ এই বিলখন select কমিটিলৈ যাব লাগে আৰু তাৰ লগতে এইটোও কামনা কৰো যেন—জুলাই মাহৰ ঘটনাৱলীৰ যেন পুনৰাবৃত্তি নহয়। এই ধৰণৰ পৰিস্থিতি যাতে হব নোৱাৰে তাৰ কাৰণেই, এই বিল যুগুত কৰা হৈছে।

শ্ৰীযুত গৌৰীশঙ্কৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্য্যই জনসাধাৰণৰ মতামতৰ কাৰণে বিলখন পঠাবলৈ যি প্ৰস্তাব কৰিছে, দেশৰ শান্তি আৰু শৃঙ্খলাত ই সহায় নকৰিব আৰু এই বিলখন এতিয়াই বহুত দেখি হৈছে। এতিয়া আমাৰ দেশৰ ৰাজনীতিক পৰিস্থিতি ইমান জটীল যে আমাৰ ৰাষ্ট্ৰৰ সীমান্তত চীনা চোৰাংচোৱা হয়তো ঘূৰি ফুৰিছে—কাৰেই এই পৰিস্থিতি সমুখত ৰাখি, এই বিলখন চিলেক্ট কমিটিলৈ দি, নিৰ্দিষ্ট তাৰিখত তেওলোকৰ বিপটলৈ, এই অধিবেশনতে পাচ কৰি দিব লাগে।

এনে অৱস্থাত যদি বিৰোধী দলৰ তৰফৰ পৰা, কেবল প্ৰেচৰ মুখ বন্ধ কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থাৰ প্ৰতি আঙ্গুলীয়াই তেন্তে বৰ ছখৰ কথা হ'ব আৰু যিবিলাক কথা হয়তো Press বিলাকে এতিয়াও ভবা নাই তেনেকুৱা কিছুমান সমস্যাই দেখা দিব। কাষেই ভবিষ্যতে যাতে অসমৰ জনসাধাৰণ শান্তিত থাকিব পাৰে, সেই উদ্দেশ্য লৈয়েই চৰকাৰে এই বিল আনিছে আৰু তাত প্ৰেচৰ মৰ্যাদা অক্ষুন্ন ৰাখিছে বুলি মই জোৰ দি কও। সেই কাৰণে সদনৰ মাননীয় সদস্য সকলক অনুৰোধ জনাও যেন ৰাইজৰ মঙ্গল কামনা কৰি এই বিলখন, সদনৰ এই বৈঠকতে পাচ কৰি দিয়ে।

..... It is the responsibility of us—the members of this House—to enunciate such a Bill so that there may not be a repetition of disharmony and breach of peace in the future. For this purpose I appeal to all not to raise unnecessary controversy out of party prestige but come forward to join hands so that this Bill may come out of the anvil of this House as an Act passed. With these words, Sir, I support this Bill and congratulate this Government for bringing it.

Shri KHAGENDRA NATH BORBARUAH (Amguri) : চাৰ, এই বিলৰ উদ্দেশ্য হৈছে গত সাম্প্ৰদায়িক গণ্ডগোলৰ সকলো দোষ প্ৰেছৰ ওপৰত জাপি দি প্ৰেছক বলি দিয়া। দুৰ্গা পূজাত, কালী পূজাত ছাগলী বলি দিয়া— যি বিলাকে পূজাৰ কাৰণে কৰে তেওঁলোকে ছাগলীৰ মূৰটো নিয়ে আৰু যি সকলে পূজা দিয়ে তেওঁলোকে গাটো লৈ যায়। এতিয়া চৰকাৰে প্ৰেছক বলি দি মূৰটো লৈ যাব খুজিছে আৰু গাটো প্ৰেছক ঘূৰাই দি বেচি যি পায় লবলৈ দিছে। এইটো প্ৰেছ বধ যজ্ঞ। *Delagation of Ministers to Parliament* ত কৈছে—

“At a time when the Ministry should have been in full command of the situation exerting its best endeavours to prevent and quell the disturbances and protect the minorities, the Council of Ministers of Assam became all but a ‘functus officio.’ This was the most unfortunate and calamitous development in the chain of tragic events.”

চাৰ আমাৰ মিনিস্তাৰ সকল একেবাৰে অকামিলা, সাহস নাই। তেওঁলোকৰ অস্ত্ৰ বহুত আছে কিন্তু সমৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত দৰকাৰী সময়ত কি অস্ত্ৰ প্ৰয়োগ কৰিব লাগে সেইটো পাহৰি যায়। বহুত ক্ষেত্ৰত আকৌ সৰু সূৰা বিলাকৰ ওপৰত চৰকাৰে আক্ৰমণ কৰে। ডাঙৰ ডাঙৰ কাকো দোষ দিব নোৱাৰি অবশেষত দোষটো দিলে কাৰ ওপৰত? *R. C. P. I.* ৰ ওপৰত। দমদম এয়াৰ পটত যেতিয়া কলিকতিয়া বিপটাৰে আমাৰ এজন মিনিস্তাৰক শুধিলে শিমলুগুৰিত ঘটা গণ্ডগোলৰ দোষী কোন? তেতিয়া মিনিস্তাৰে একো উত্তৰ দিব নোৱাৰি কলে শিমলুগুৰিত *R. C. P. I.* ৰ প্ৰতিপত্তি আছে। কাকো দোষিব নোৱাৰি প্ৰকাৰান্তৰে দোষ দিলে *R. C. P. I.* ৰ ওপৰত। শিমলুগুৰিত কংগ্ৰেছ-মণ্ডল কংগ্ৰেছ আছে। *R. C. P. I.* ৰ এজন সভ্য আছে সিও ছমাইল দূৰত। এই বিল যদি আইনত পৰিণত হয় তেন্তে গোটেই কথাটো *unconstitutional* অৰ্থাৎ সংবিধান বহিৰ্ভূত হ'ব। সংবিধানে প্ৰেছক কিছুমান

স্বাধীনতা দিছে, সেই ক্ষমতা খৰ্ব কৰা হব। প্ৰেছে যদি কিবা ভুল বাতৰি প্ৰকাশ কৰে তাক ওফৰাবলৈ চৰকাৰী গেজেট আছে— সেই গেজেটত ভুলটো শুধৰাই বাইজক জনাব পাৰে। তত্পৰি চৰকাৰৰ কি পইছা নাইকিয়া হৈছে দৰকাৰ পৰিলে প্ৰেছৰ ওপৰত কেচ দিব পাৰে। আৰু তাৰ ওপৰিও প্ৰেছ ন'ট উলিয়াব পাৰে। তত্পৰি চৰকাৰৰ হাতত কিছুমান imergency power আছে আৰু কেন্দ্ৰীয় Objectionable Press Act ও আছে। চৰকাৰে এই বিলাকৰ সহায় লব পাৰে। তত্পৰি আৱশ্যক বোধ কৰিলে চৰকাৰে Press Reporter সকলক মাতি আনি round the table কথা পাতি ভুল সংবাদ বা উত্তেজনা মূলক সংবাদ প্ৰকাশ নকৰিবৰ বাবে তেওঁলোকক অন্তৰোধ কৰিব পাৰে। মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰীয়ে প্ৰেছক নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰি আপোচ আলোচনা কৰিছে আৰু তেওঁলোকেও সহানুভূতিৰে মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰীৰ কথা শুনি আহিছে। গতিকে বিলখন জন মতলৈ পঠোৱা-মাতকৈ বিলখনকে এই অৱস্থাত উঠাই লব লাগে।

Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding): মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, গত জুলাই মাহত অসমত বি আপদীয়া অশান্তিৰ সৃষ্টি হৈছিল, তাৰ ওপৰত কলিকতাৰ Press ৰ যি ভূমিকা হৈছিল, সি এটা বিভিন্নিকা পূৰ্ণ আবহাওৱাৰ সৃষ্টি কৰাৰ ওপৰিও অসমত এটা বিপ্লব সৃষ্টিৰ বীজ যোগান ধৰিছিল। সেই সংবাদ পত্ৰ বিলাকে অপপ্ৰচাৰ কৰি গণতান্ত্ৰিক অধিকাৰৰ অপব্যৱহাৰ কৰিছিল মাত্ৰ। প্ৰত্যেকখন কলিকতীয়া কাগজৰ সংবাদ বিলাকৰ contradiction দিব লগা হৈছিল। সকলোৱে জানে যে এখন গণতান্ত্ৰিক দেশত জনমত গঠন কৰোত Press ও এটা প্ৰধান আলম। কিন্তু সেই দায়ীত্বশীল Press এ যদি দেশৰ শান্তি শৃঙ্খলা বক্ষাৰ পিনে ক্ৰক্ষেপ নকৰি, অপপ্ৰচাৰৰ দ্বাৰা দেশত বিভিন্নিকাৰ সৃষ্টি কৰে, তেন্তে চৰকাৰে শান্তি বক্ষা কৰে কেনেকৈ? সেই পিনৰ পৰা চৰকাৰৰ তেনে অপপ্ৰচাৰ কৰা কৰাৰ এটা দায়িত্ব আছে।

ইয়াতে এটা কথা উঠিব পাৰে যে, যদি তেনে এটা অৱস্থাই হৈছিল, তেন্তে চৰকাৰে এনে অপপ্ৰচাৰ বন্ধ কৰিবলৈ এখন Ordinance জাৰি নকৰিলে কিয়? কিন্তু যদি Ordinance জাৰি কৰে, তেতিয়া এই বিলৰ বিবোধীতা কৰা বক্তা সকলেই কব যে চৰকাৰ ইমান দুৰ্বল যে তেওঁলোকে এখান বিল আনি জনমতৰ সম্মুখীন হবলৈ ভয় কৰি পিছছৰাৰেদি এখন ordinance আনিছে। আনহাতে, যদি বিল এখন আনে তেনে কব যে চৰকাৰ ইমান দুৰ্বল যে সবল কৰিবলৈ বিল পাচ কৰি দিব লাগে? এনেধৰণৰ সমালোচনাই কাৰো উপকাৰ নকৰে।

যি সকলে বক্তৃতা দিছে, তেখেত সকলে নিশ্চয় দেশৰ শান্তি বক্ষাৰ অৰ্থেই বক্তৃতা দিছে; আৰু এইটো নালাগে, সেইটো নালাগে বুলি সমালোচনা কৰিবলৈ যোৱাতকৈ গভৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ এই বিল কাৰ্য্যত পৰিণত কৰাত যিটো কৰ্তব্য, সেই বিষয়ে যদি সমালোচনা কৰে তেতিয়াহে উপকাৰ হব।

প্ৰেছৰ অধিকাৰ খৰ্ক কৰিবলৈ কোনেও নিবিচাবে ময়ো নিবিচাবে আৰু এই বিল তাৰ কাৰণে অনা হোৱা নাই; এটা প্ৰেচ যদি ঠিক ভাবে চলি যায়, সেই প্ৰেচৰ বিৰুদ্ধে

এই বিলৰ কোনো কাম নেথাকে, তেওঁলোকে যদি নিয়মানুবৰ্তিতাৰ মাজেৰে সংবাদ নিদি তাৰ পৰা আতৰি যাই নানাৰকম অশান্তিৰ সৃষ্টি কৰাত উদপনি দিয়ে তেন্তে চৰকাৰে তাক নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰাৰ ক্ষমতা মাথোঁ এই বিলত বখা হৈছে।

মেতিয়া Parliamentary Deligation Disturbance ৰ বাবে অসমলৈ আহিছিল যেতিয়া Leader গৰাকীৰ লগত ময়ো কথা হবলৈ সূবিধা পাইছিলো; অসামৰ অশান্তিৰ সময়ত খবৰ বিলাক দেখি তেখেতো আচৰিত হৈছিল। গতিকে এই বিল জনমতৰ কাৰণে প্রচাৰ কৰি পলম কৰাৰ কোনো কাৰণ নাই। আকৌ ১৮ তাৰিখ আৰু ২৪ তাৰিখ বক্তৃতাত কিয়প লয়

(Voice :—গৰম বক্তৃতা দিব খুজিছে নেকি ?)

কোন ফালে কি হয় কোনে জানে ? হয়তো আপনালোকৰ ফালেও গৰম হব পাৰে। যি হওক হুই এটা কথা ভালটো বিবেচনা কৰি এই বিলখন পাচ কৰিব লাগে।

তাৰ পিচত, আমাৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াই দিয়া ভাষণটো নিশ্চয় শিক্ষামূলক ভাষণেই হৈছে। তাক পঢ়ি আয়ত্ত কৰিব লগা বহুতো তথ্যই আছে। কিন্তু তেখেতে এই বিল সম্পৰ্কে বিশেষ একো সমালোচনা কৰা দেখা নাযায়।

আৰু এটা কথা মই লক্ষ কৰিছোঁ, আমাৰ বন্ধু বৰদলৈ ডাঙৰীয়াই কৈছে যে কমিউনিষ্ট দেশত প্রেচৰ কোনো স্বাধীনতা নাই। সেইটো সচা কথা তাৰ প্রেচ বিলাকে Parti-in-Power ৰ ঢোল বজাব আৰু জয়গান কৰিবহে পাৰে চৰকাৰক সমালোচনা কৰাৰ অধিকাৰ তেওঁলোকৰ অকনো নাই। এই কথাটো সিপিনৰ পৰা কিছুমান মাননীয় সদস্যই হাঁহিছে। ইয়াত হাহিব লগীয়া কোনো কথা নাই। ই একেবাৰে বাস্তব সত্য।

শেহত মই ভাবো যে এই বিলখন আয়ত্ত বিলেই হৈছে। যোৱা ২ | ৩ মাহৰ নিজা জড়িততাৰ পৰা বিশ্লেষণ কৰি চালেই দেখা যাব যে এই বিলখন যদি এতিয়াই পাচ নহয় তেন্তে আকস্মিক পৰিস্থিতি বিলাক আমাৰ আয়ত্তৰ পৰা আতৰি যাব।

সেই কাৰণে মই কব খোজো যে এই বিলখন পাচ নহলে কেতিয়াবা আমাৰ জনসাধাৰণ বিপদত পৰিব।

Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari): মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, এই বিলখন জনমতৰ কাৰণে প্রচাৰ কৰিব লাগে বুলি যিটো প্রস্তাব দিছে মই সেইটো সমৰ্থন কৰোঁ।

আমাৰ শ্ৰীগোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াই এই বিষয়ে কৈ গৈছে মই বেচি নকও।

মোৰ কথা হৈছে, আমি যেতিয়া পৰাধীন আছিলো, তেতিয়া আমাৰ দাবি আছিল যে আমাক ভাব প্রকাশ, আৰু প্রেচৰ স্বাধীনতা লাগে। আজি স্বাধীনতা পোৱাৰ পিচত আমাৰ জাতীয় চৰকাৰে আমাৰ প্রেচৰ স্বাধীনতা খৰ্ক কৰিব খুজিছে বুলি মোৰ ভয় হৈছে। গতিকে এই বিল জনমতৰ কাৰণে পঠাব লাগে।

অলপতে ঘটি যোৱা অশান্তিৰ সময়ত বহুতো খবৰ কাগজে বহুতো মিছা কথা প্ৰচাৰ কৰিছিল; তাৰ কলত আমাৰ অশান্তি বৃদ্ধি হৈছিল সচা, কিন্তু তাৰ ভিতৰত আমাৰ মানুহে কিছুমান কথা ভুলকৈ বুজা কাৰণেও তেনে অৱস্থাৰ সৃষ্টি হল। আমাৰ এই সদনত এটা কথা বাবে বাবে কৈছে যে ৬বৰ্জিং বৰপূজাৰীৰ মৃত্যুৰ পিচত তেওঁৰ মূৰৰ কোন খিনিত গুলি লাগিছিল সেইটো এডাল কাড়োৰে চিহ্নিত কৰি দিছিল যে এই ঠাইত গুলি লাগিছিল। কিন্তু তাকে যদি ভুলভাৱে লয় তেন্তে তাৰ কাৰণে বাতৰি কাকত খনৰ কি অপবাধ? মানুহে মনক যি ভাবে গঢ় দিয়ে সেই ভাবেই গঢ় লয়। অকুই হাতীটোৰ যি ঠাইতে ধৰে হাতীৰ আকাৰো তেনে বুলি অনুমান কৰে। অকুই যেতিয়া হাতী ঠেঙত ধৰে সি ভাবে আৰু তেতিয়া কয় যে হাতী কলগছৰ দৰে বা গাত ধৰি ভাবে হাতী খেৰৰ পুঞ্জিৰ দৰে নহ'ব। কানত চুই ভাবে হাতী কুলাৰ দৰে। মেই দৰেই আজি চৰণাৰেওাকি কৰিব লাগে সঠিক একো কব নোৱাৰে। নিজৰ সুবিধা। মেতেই আইন কৰিবলৈ বিচাৰিছে। যি বোৰ বাতৰি কাগজে অপপ্ৰচাৰ কৰিছে তাক বন্ধ কৰিবলৈ বহুত উপায় আছে— বিশেষকৈ প্ৰেছ আইন আছে ফৌজদাৰি দন্দবিধি আছে কাৰ্য্যবিধি আছে আৰু চৰকাৰী অডি'নেঞ্চ আছে অপ-প্ৰচাৰ কৰা অভিযোগত চৰকাৰে কোনো বাতৰি কাগজৰ ওপৰত মৰ্কটমা কৰা নাই বা অন্য ব্যৱস্থাও লোৱা নাই। আজিৰ বাতৰি কাগজ বাক-স্বাধীনতাৰ একমাত্ৰ বাহন তাৰ ওপৰতো যদি এইদৰে হস্তক্ষেপ কৰা হয় ই বৰ বেয়া কথা হ'ব। গতিকে এই বিলখন জনমতৰ কাৰণে পঠাব লাগে।

Shrimati LILY SENGUPTA (Lahowal): মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, দেশৰ বিজ্ঞ বিজ্ঞ নেতা সকল মই শ্ৰদ্ধা কৰো যিহেতু তেখেত সকলে দেশ নিৰ্ম্মাণ আৰু উন্নতিৰ পৰিকল্পনা কৰে সেই পৰিকল্পনাক আমি হাতে কামে সফল কৰিবলৈ যত্ন কৰো আৰু প্ৰেচ জনসাধাৰণক এই পৰিকল্পনা সমূহক শুদ্ধভাৱে বাট বুলিবলৈ প্ৰচাৰৰ দ্বাৰা সহায় কৰে, সফল কৰিবলৈ আমাক বৰঙণী যোগায়। গতিকে প্ৰেছকো মই একেধৰণেই শ্ৰদ্ধা কৰো।

ছথৰ বিষয় অলপতে অসমত যি অশান্ত পৰিস্থিতিৰ উদ্ভব হৈছিল সেই ক্ষেত্ৰত প্ৰেছৰ ভূমিকাৰ উপযুক্তভাৱে কাম কৰিব নোৱাৰাত মই দুখীত হৈছো।

মই যেতিয়া টি বিউন আৰু নতুন অসমীয়া পঢ়ো, মোৰ গাৰ তেজ কাছাবৰ ওপৰত, লামডিংৰ উপৰত ভীষণ গৰম হৈছিল, মই খংতে এদিন মাননীয় মন্ত্ৰী মৈনুল হক চৌধুৰী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ ট্ৰান্স্কল যোগে, কৈছিলো যে, “আপুনি কাছাবৰ প্ৰতিনিধি হৈ কিয় আজিও ছিলংত বহি আছে, কাছাডত গৈ এই গণ্ডগোল বিলাক বন্ধ কৰিব লাগে, তেখেতে কৈছিল কাছাবত তেনে পৰিস্থিতি এতিয়ালৈকে হোৱা নাই, তথাপি মই তাৰ বাবে দৃষ্টি ৰাখিছো।

আকৌ কলিকতাৰ কাগজ যুগান্তৰ খনে মোৰ নিজৰ জীৱনেই বিপন্ন প্ৰায় কৰিছিল। বমাই গাওঁৰ ২৭টি পৰিয়ালক মই পুনৰবাসন কৰো মোৰ সগঠিত, আৰু সেই পুনৰবাসন কাৰ্য্যত বমাই বাগিছা ইণ্ডিয়ানৰ সভাপতি বাষ্টিয় মজছৰ কংগ্ৰেছৰ সহকাৰী সভাপতি শ্ৰীযুত দলবীৰ সিং লোৱাৰ আদিৰ যথেষ্ট সহায় মই পাইছিলো। এই জাৰপানিত মোৰ লগত চৰকাৰী

পাবলিছটি অফিছাৰ শ্ৰীধীৰেণ চক্ৰবৰ্তী, অনন্দবাজাৰ পত্ৰিকাৰ ফটোগ্ৰাফাৰ শ্ৰীঅমূল্য চৌধুৰীও গৈছিল। গাওঁৰ বাইজে ৩৪ বাৰ পৰিচালনৰ বাবে মিটিং কৰিলে, যুৱক সঙ্ঘই, যথেষ্ট সাহায্য কৰিলে, কিন্তু যুগান্তৰত ওলাল, ডাঙৰ হেদিংএ “বঙালী আহিলে কাটিব লাগিব” তাত লেখিলে এই নটছ খন সেই ঘৰ বিলাকত আড়ি থোহা আছিল সেই বাবে স্থানিয় এম, এল, এ, শ্ৰীমতী সেনগুপ্তা পলাই আহিল, আৰু ভগনীয়া সকলো পলাই আহিল, এই বাতৰি পাই গাওঁৰ বাইজ বৰ গম্মাহত হল, মোক আহি তেখেত সকলে ইয়াৰ বাবে শুধিলে, যে, আনি ইমান সহায় কৰা স্বত্বেও কিয় এই ব্যবস্থা হল? সিদিনা মই প্ৰেছ ৰিপৰ্টাৰ সকলক মাতি এই সম্বন্ধে কাৰ পৰা ৰিপৰ্ট পালে তাৰ প্ৰহৃত্তৰ পাব নোৱৰিলো। পাছত মই কাগজত তাৰ প্ৰতিবাদ জনাইও নিজে শান্তি পোৱা নাছিলো। ইয়াৰ ছদিন মান পাছতেই আকৌ ওলাল এজন বঙালী চৰকাৰী কৰ্মচাৰীক অসমীয়া লোকে হত্যা কৰা আৰু চৰকাৰে তাত সহানুভূতি জনোৱা, এই ঘটনাটো মোৰেই পাৰাটোত ওলোৱাত তাত এটা আশান্ত পৰিবেশৰ সৃষ্টি হৈছিল। বাতি কামৰ পৰা ঘূৰি আহি মই এজন বুদ্ধলোকৰ পৰা জানিলো যে, মোৰ প্ৰতি এটা আক্ৰোশৰ ভাব সৃষ্টি হৈছে আৰু তাৰ প্ৰতিফল হিচাবে মই ভোগ কৰিবলগীয়া হব পাৰে। মই কলো যে, মই তাৰ বাবে প্ৰস্তুত আছো, যদি মই দোষি তাৰ প্ৰতিবিধান বাইজে নিশ্চয় কৰিব।

পিচদিনা প্ৰায় ১৫ জনৰ এটা ডেকা দলে মোক বিচাৰি ঘৰত নেলাই মোৰ অফিছত আহি বঙা চকুৰে মোক তিবন্ধাৰ কৰি শুধিলে এই খবৰ কৰ পৰা ওলাল কোনে দিলে মই কব লাগে? পাবাৰ দুৰ্গাম আমি কেতিয়াও সহ কৰিব নোৱাৰো, গতিকে আপোনি আমাৰ লগত ৰিপৰ্টাৰৰ তাত যাব লাগে।

এই ঘটনাত মই নিজেও বেজাৰ পাইছিলো আৰু পাবাৰ ৰিপৰ্টাৰ ছজনৰ কাৰণে মোৰ চিন্তা হৈছিল। গতিকে মই তাৰে কেজনমান যুৱকক লগত ৰিপৰ্টাৰ কেজনৰ ওচৰত গৈ এই সম্পৰ্কে শুধাত তেখেত সকলে কলে, যে আমি কলিকাতা কাগজৰ এজেন্সী “বিজাইন” দিছো, আমি কোনো ৰিপৰ্ট নপঠিয়াও।

তাৰ পাছত মই তেওঁলোকক লগত লৈ কোট লৈ D. C. ক বিচাৰি গলো, D. C. নথকাত A. D. M. ডাঙৰীয়াক ইয়াৰ প্ৰতিবাদ কৰিব লাগে তেখেতে কলে যে মই বিবেচনা কৰি চাম, তেতিয়া মই তেখেতক কৈছিলো যে, এই অসত্য অপপ্ৰচাৰ বিলাক যদি প্ৰতিবাদ চৰকাৰে নকৰে, মই ‘কৰ্ট’ৰ পৰা নেবাওঁ, তেখেতে প্ৰতিশ্ৰুতি দিয়াৰ পাচত এখন সভাত শ্ৰীবিজয় চন্দ্ৰ ভাগৱতী দেৱৰ সভাপতিত্বত সভা অনুষ্ঠিত হয়, আৰু ৰিপৰ্টাৰ প্ৰোজ্যেতি বিশ্বাস তেখেতে বিজাইন দিয়াৰ কাগজ পত্ৰ দাখিল কৰে, তথাপি অলু এটা পাবাত তেখেতক প্ৰহাৰ কৰে।

এই অসত্য আৰু আক্ৰমণাত্মক প্ৰচাৰে দিনে দিনে অশান্তি বিলাক বৃদ্ধি পাইছিল আমাৰ পুনৰবাসন শান্তি স্থাপনত বৰ বাধা জন্মাইছিল, মইতো একেবাৰে বিবুদ্ধি উপায়হীন হৈ পৰিছিলো, আৰু সেই কাৰণে মই পশ্চিমবঙ্গৰ ভূদান নেতা শ্ৰীচাক্ৰ চন্দ্ৰ ভাণ্ডাৰী আহোতে

কৈছিলো মই যদি এই কাগজৰ বিৰুদ্ধে অনশন ব্ৰত কৰো তেতিয়া কিবা উপায় হবনে ? তেখেতে কৈছিল আপোনি কবিলে সম্ভব লাভ নহব, কলিকাতায় হে ব্যৱস্থা লব লাগিব।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় আজি এই বিলখন দেখি “চোব পালালে বুদ্ধি বাঢ়ে” এই কথা মনত পৰিছে, চৰকাৰে আগতেই ব্যৱস্থা লব লাগিছিল, যাঁহক আজি মই প্ৰেছক কিছু সংঘত বাধিব লাগে বুলি ভাবি এই বিলখন সমৰ্থন কৰিছো।

*Shri DHANDESWAR HAZARICA (Morongi): আজিৰ এই সদনত Special Power Bill খনৰ ওপৰত, বিৰোধী দলৰ ফালৰ পৰা শ্ৰীযুত গোবীশঙ্কৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াই যি সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাব আনিছে তাৰ বিষয়ে দুই এবাৰ কথা কম।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, যোৱা জুলাই মাহত যি অপ্ৰীতিকৰ ঘটনা হৈ গল তাৰ প্ৰধান কাৰণ সকলোৱেই কলে যে বাতৰি কাকত সমূহ আৰু অসমৰ অথবা অসমৰ বাহিৰৰ বাতৰি কাকত সমূহে এই অপ্ৰীতিকৰ ঘটনাৰলৈ দম কৰি কেনেকৈ দেশত শান্তি স্থাপন কৰিব পাৰি তালৈ কোনেও চেষ্টা নকৰিলে। গতিকে এই দুৰ্ঘটনা বিলাক যে হল, এই বিলাক অসমৰ বাহিৰত বাতৰি কাগজ বিলাকে বেয়াকৈ সংবাদ পৰিবেশণ কৰি, মানুহ বিলাকক উত্তেজিত কৰি তুলিলে তাৰোপৰি আমাৰ ৰাজ্যৰ ভিতৰত কিছুমান বাতৰি কাকততো যি বিলাক খবৰ ওলাল সেই বিলাক পঢ়িও সেই অপ্ৰীতিকৰ ঘটনাত কিছু পৰিমাণে ইন্ধণ যোগালে। এনেস্থলত এতিয়া কিয়, এই বিলখন, পাবলিক অপিনিয়নৰ কাৰণে যাব লাগে বুজি নাপাও। আজি সকলোৱে স্বীকাৰ কৰিছে যে বাহিৰৰ কাগজ সমূহ বিশেষকৈ কলিকটাৰ Press এ আৰু অসমৰ বিলাকেও এই ঘটনা যে বহু পৰিমাণে ভয়াবহ কৰি তুলিলে। ঘটনাৰ সময়ত ভাৰতৰ প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰীয়েও—এই ৰাজ্য পৰিভ্ৰমণ কৰি এই কথাই প্ৰকাশ কৰি কলে যে কিছুমান বাতৰি কাকতে ভিত্তিহীন কিছুমান কথা প্ৰকাশ কৰিছে আৰু পৰ্লিয়ামেণ্টৰী দেলিগেচন আৰু বাহিৰৰ বহুতো সৰ্বৰ ভাৰতীয় নেতাই এই কথাকেই কৈ গল যে, Press বিলাকে বহুতো কথা অতিৰঞ্জিত কৰি সংবাদ পৰিবেশণ কৰাই প্ৰধান কাৰণ গতিকে আজি সকলোৱেই স্বীকাৰ কৰিব যে Press বিলাকক কিছু restrict কৰিব লাগে। অবশ্যে সংবিধানত থকা freedom of speech বা freedom of Press ৰ ওপৰত এই বিলে হস্তক্ষেপ কৰা বুলি বহুকে কলেও মোৰ বিশ্বাস—এই বিলে কোনো বকম তাত হস্তক্ষেপ কৰা নাই আৰু প্ৰয়োজন অনুযায়ী চৰকাৰে আইন কৰিবও পাৰে।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, এই কথাও সকলোৱে স্বীকাৰ কৰে যে, যি ঘটনা হৈ গল, সেই বিলাক দূৰ কৰি, তাৰ speedy solution যাতে কৰিব পৰা যায় তাৰ কাৰণে সকলোৱে সহযোগীতা কৰিব লাগে। বিশেষকৈ এতিয়া আমাৰ কৰ্ত্তব্য হৈছে— কেনেকৈ এই সমস্যাৰ সমাধান কৰা যায়—তাৰ চিন্তা কৰা গতিকে প্ৰেচ বিলাকে যদি Psychological Rehabilitation কৰি চৰকাৰ আৰু ৰাইজৰ লগত সহযোগীতা কৰে তেন্তে—এই সমস্যাৰ সমাধান হব বুলি আশা কৰা যায়। শ্ৰীযুত বৰাই কৈছে যে, চৰকাৰ ইয়াৰ কাৰণে দায়ী কাৰণ, যি বিলাক ভিত্তিহীন খবৰ প্ৰেচে ঘনাই ঘনাই প্ৰকাশ কৰিলে, সেই বিলাকৰ contradict নকৰিলে মই কওঁ যে, চৰকাৰে বহুত খবৰ contradict কৰিছে; খবৰ ইমান বেচি যে দিনে দিনে contradict কৰি থাকোতে, দুই এটা contradict কৰা নহবও পাৰে সেইটো মই স্বীকাৰ কৰো। কিন্তু এতিয়া এই বিলখন বিবেচনা কৰিবৰ সময় হৈছে। অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় ৰাজ্যিক ভাষা বিল প্ৰসঙ্গতো কিছুমান বাতৰি কাগজে অশ্লভাবে প্ৰচাৰ কৰি কৈছে যে, এই প্ৰসঙ্গত আন্দোলন বন্ধ নহয়, চলি থাকিব। এই বিলাক উত্তেজনা মূলক কথা। তাৰোপৰি, যি বিলাক বিফিউজী বাহিৰত আছে, সেই বিলাক যদি এই কথা বিলাক পঢ়ে—তেন্তে তাকেই বিশ্বাস কৰিব আৰু আমাৰ চৰকাৰৰ পুনৰ বসতিৰ আচৰিত পুনৰ সমস্যাৰ দৃষ্টি কৰিব। সেই কাৰণে কওঁ যে, চৰকাৰে আজিৰ সদনত যিখন বিল এই প্ৰসঙ্গত আনিলে—সি সম্পূৰ্ণ সময়োপযোগী হৈছে। এই বিলৰ দ্বাৰা যিটো যুক্তি সঙ্গত কথা, সেহটো Press বিলাকে প্ৰকাশ কৰিব নোৱাৰাৰ কেনো স্থল নাই। এই বিলত কোৱা হৈছে.....

“Further provided that person against whom the order has been made may within 10 days of passing of the order make a representation to the State Government which may as consideration thereof modify, confirm, etc.”

গতিকে এই বিলাক ইয়াত আছে। তেওঁলোকে যদি, তথাপিও বেচি ক্ষমতা প্ৰয়োগ কৰিছে বুলি ভাবে তেন্তে দুখৰ কথা। আন এটা কথা এই প্ৰসঙ্গতে কওঁ যে আইনৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হৈছে আৰু এইটোও স্পষ্ট যে, যদি কেতিয়াবা এনে বিশৃঙ্খলাৰ অৱস্থা সৃষ্টি হয় তেতিয়া ইয়াক প্ৰয়োগ কৰিব। নহলে প্ৰয়োগৰ কোনো কথা নাই।

কাষেই মই এই সদনত মাননীয় সদস্য সকলক নিবেদন কৰো যেন এই বিলখন সকলোৱে সমৰ্থন কৰে আৰু ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰাই শ্ৰীযুত ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াই যিটো সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱেৰে জনমত আহ্বান কৰিবলৈ কৈছে, তাৰ বিৰোধীতা কৰো।

Shrimati KAMAL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon) : মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আজিৰ সদনত যিখন বিল উত্থাপিত কৰিছে, তাক মই সমৰ্থন কৰো। এই কাৰণেই যে যোৱা জুন জুলাই মাহত হোৱা অপ্রীতিকৰ ঘটনা বোৰৰ সম্পৰ্কে Press সমূহে অতি অনিৰ্ভকৰ ভূমিকা গ্ৰহণ কৰিলে যি বোৰৰ সম্বন্ধে সকলোৰেই কৈ গৈছে। সেই সময়ত অসমৰ ইমূৰৰ পৰা সিমুলৈকে সকলোৰে একবাক্যে কৈছিল। যি বাতৰি কাকত বিলাকৰ ওপৰত কিছুমান restriction impose নকৰিলে, শান্তিপূৰ্ণ অৱস্থা হব নোৱাৰে এই বিলখনত স্পষ্টকৈ লেখা আছে যে ভবিষ্যতে কেতিয়াবা এনে জৰুৰী অৱস্থা উদ্ভব হলেই ইয়াৰ প্ৰয়োগ কৰা হব তাকো সাময়িক ভাবে। পৰমেশ্বৰে নকৰক এনে অৱস্থা যদি উদ্ভব হয় প্ৰেচৰ ওপৰত এই ব্যৱস্থা নাথকিলে এইবোৰৰ দৰেই চৰকাৰে বৰ অসহায় হৈ পৰিব। মহোদয়, আমাৰ এটা কথা আছে—

‘এবাৰ সাপে খালে, লেজুলৈকো ভয়’, আমি আজি এইটো ন দি কব নোৱাৰো ভবিষ্যতৰ বুকুত আমালৈ কি সংবন্ধিত হৈ আছে। সেই কাৰণে, মই ভাবো বিশেষকৈ জৰুৰী অৱস্থাৰ সময়ত যাতে দেশৰ শান্তি শৃঙ্খলা আৰু আইন বক্ষাৰ বাবে বাতৰি কাগজ বিলাকৰ ওপৰত এই আজ্ঞা নিৰ্দেশ কৰিব পৰা যায় তাৰ বাবে এনে ব্যৱস্থা থকাতো নিতান্ত আৱশ্যক। আজিৰ গণতান্ত্ৰিক যুগত, বিভিন্ন প্ৰেচ সমূহৰ কাৰ্য্য কলাপ আৰু কাৰ্য্য সফলতাৰ ওপৰত দেশৰ কল্যাণ নিৰ্ভৰ কৰে। কাজেই গণতন্ত্ৰৰ নামত যদি সত্যৰ অপপ্ৰচাৰ হয়, তেন্তে ই কেতিয়াও বাইজৰ মঙ্গল-জনক হব নোৱাৰে। সংবাদ সেবীসকল সত্য সংবাদৰ মাজেদি বাইজৰ মঙ্গল সাধন হওক, এয়ে মোৰ কামনা কিন্তু সত্যৰ অপলাপ হোৱাতো কোনেও বাঞ্ছা নকৰে, সেই কাৰণে মই কব খুজিছো যে, এই বিল আইনত পৰিণত হলে বাতৰি কাকত সমূহৰ মৰ্য্যাদা কোনেও বৰমে ক্ষুণ্ণ নহয় আৰু আশা কৰো এই ক্ষেত্ৰত প্ৰেচবিলাক, বাইজৰ তথা দেশৰ মঙ্গল সাধনৰ বাবে নিজৰ পবিত্ৰ মৰ্য্যাদা অটুট ৰাখিব আৰু জৰুৰী অৱস্থাৰ কাৰণে এনে ব্যৱস্থাৰ বাবে অলপ ক্ষুণ্ণ নহৈ ইয়াত সহযোগীতা আগ বঢ়াব।

Mr. SPEAKER: Order order. All the unfinished business of to-day will be taken up to-morrow as soon as the business of to-morrow is finished.

A D J O U R N M E N T

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A. M. on Tuesday, the 18th October, 1960.

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

