

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 Tuesday, the 18th October, 1960.

PRESENT

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Electrification of the new Court Building at Golaghat

Shri RAJENDRA NATH BARUA (Golaghat-East) asked :

*36. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings) be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether any Scheme for electrification of the new Court Building at Golaghat has been received by Government ?
- (b) If so, whether Scheme will be materialised soon ?
- (c) Whether any Scheme was sent by the Subdivisional Officer, Golaghat or the Executive Engineer, Golaghat for improving the accoustic of the Court Building ?
- (d) If so, when the Scheme will be materialised ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings)] replied :

36. (a) & (b)—Yes. Administrative approval to the estimate is pending.

(c)—No such Scheme has yet been received.

(d)—Does not arise.

†**Shri RAJENDRA NATH BARUA** : May I know from the Government in view of public demand whether the Government have issued plans and estimates to improve the accoustic of the Court Building ?

†**Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, P. W. D., (R. & B.)]** : Sir, so far no such information has yet been received. The matter is still pending and we asked the Superintending Engineer, Roads and Buildings to take up the matter.

†**Shri RAJENDRA NATH BARUA (Golaghat-East)**: May I know from the Government whether the work has actually been started ?

†**Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, P. W. D. (R. & B.)]**: The Public Works Department has already been asked to take up the work immediately.

†**Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi)**: Are the Government aware that due to non-handing over the money to the Public Works Department the work is still pending ?

†**Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI**: We have already asked the Public Works Department to take the work immediately.

†**Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA**: Are the Government aware that though tenders have been invited for lack of sanction, the work has not yet been taken up ?

†**Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI**: I am not aware of that.

†**Shri RAM NATH SARMA (Lumding)**: Will the Minister be pleased to look into the matter ?

†**Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI**: Yes.

Repairing of Furkating State Dispensary Building

Shri RAJENDRA NATH BARUA (Golaghat-East) asked :

*37. Will the Minister-in-charge of Medical be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government received a wire, dated 29th March 1960, from the Questioner regarding bad and dilapidated condition of the Furkating State Dispensary ?
- (b) If so, what steps are being taken to repair the same ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that till the second week of September 1960 nothing has been done to this Dispensary ?
- (d) Whether the Doctor's quarters attached to this Dispensary are also not fit for human habitation ?
- (e) If so, what steps are being taken to repair the same ?
- (f) Whether it is a fact that the Doctor attached to this Dispensary had to hire quarters near about this Dispensary ?
- (g) Whether it is a fact that representations by the Doctor to the Civil Surgeon regarding the dilapidated condition of both the Dispensary and Doctor's quarters remained unheeded for about a year or so ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) replied :

37. (a)—Yes.

(b), (c), (d), (e) & (g)—A sum of Rs.7,472 has been sanctioned to effect repairs to the buildings by the Public Works Department.

(f)—Yes.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj): এই Dispensary টো আগতে লোকেল বোর্ডৰ আছিলনে কি ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical): হয়, আগতে লোকেল বোর্ডৰ আছিল।

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI: এইটো সচানে যে লোকেল বোর্ডৰ পৰা লোৱা আটাইবোৰ Dispensary ৰে এনেকুৱা দুৰ্দশা হৈছে ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: মাননীয় সদস্যই জানে যে লোকেল বোর্ডৰ Dispensary ঘৰ-দুৱাৰ বিলাক বেচিৰ ভাগেই ভাল নাছিল। সেই কাৰণে ঘৰ বিলাক মেৰামতি কৰিব লগা হৈছে।

Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding): সকলো ঠাইৰে ঘৰ মেৰামতি কৰিব লগা হৈছিল নে বেচি ভাগ ঠাইৰ ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: বেচি ভাগ ঠাইৰ।

Regarding holding of office of Gaon and Anchalik Panchayats by the teachers of Lower Primary, Middle Vernacular, Basic and High English School

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) asked:

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that two circulars of same nature debar-
ring the Lower Primary, Middle Vernacular, Basic and
High English School Teachers from holding any office of the
Gaon Panchayats and Anchalik Panchayats, have been
issued ?
- (b) Whether such circulars were issued after elections of some
Panchayats were over ?
- (c) If so, why ?
- (d) Whether such circulars are also going to be issued against the
College teachers ?
- (e) If so, when ?
- (f) Whether Government has received any objection from the
College Teacher's Association ?

Shri RADHIKARAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Education) replied :

38. (a)—Yes, but subsequently it has been decided by Government that in case any teacher wants to hold office in any Panchayat, his case will be individually considered for permission provided the teacher concerned remains on leave from School during the entire period of his holding such office. Necessary orders to this effect have also been issued.

(b) & (c)—Election of one or two Panchayats might be over. But in the conditions of grant-in-aid in respect of aided institutions there were already standing rule which debarred the employee of aided Institutions from accepting any office not connected with the school work, whether that office was paid or honorary, without prior approval of the Inspecting Officers. In respect of Institutions under the School Boards, Instruction were also issued in February 1958, completely debarring the employees from contesting any elections.

(d) & (e)—The rules and condition of Service of the College Teachers are under consideration of the Government.

(f)—No.

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West): Lower Primary, Middle Vernacular আৰু হাইস্কুলৰ শিক্ষক সকলৰ পৰা চৰকাৰে এই অভাৱ দিয়াৰ পিচত তাৰ বিৰুদ্ধে কোনো আপত্তি পাইছেনে ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: কোনো আপত্তি পোৱা নাই।

Departmental action against Shri N. M. Chanda, Subdivisional Officer, Nalbari

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) asked :

*39. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings) be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government is aware that the Subdivisional Officer, Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings), Nalbari, left his Headquarter during the first half of July 1960 without getting due permission from the authority concerned ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that since July 8, 1960 uptill now he has not yet returned to attend his office ?

(c) Whether Government is aware that due to his long absence, people have been suffering a lot ?

(d) What steps Government has taken against him ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings)] replied :

39. (a)—Yes. A report was received from the Executive Engineer, Nalbari, that Shri N. M. Chanda, S.E.S., Subdivisional Officer, Nalbari Sub-division was absent from duty applying for ten days casual leave from 8th July 1960 to 17th July 1960 and did not return after expiry of casual leave but applied for earned leave for 38 days from 8th July 1960.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—No. Works were managed by Subdivisional Officer, Dham dhama, in addition to his own duties and a substitute Subdivisional Officer, has since been posted on 26th August 1960.

(d)—The Department is making enquiry in this connection.

Regarding realisation of Land Revenue from the flood affected people of Nalbari Circle

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

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

- (a) The principle followed in granting remission of Land Revenue for floods ?
- (b) What is the reason for delay in grant of remission of Land Revenue in Nalbari Circle which was very badly affected by June 1959 flood ?
- (c) Whether Government is aware that due to delay in granting remission of Land Revenue on account of flood the poor peasants are greatly harassed by drastic steps for realisation ?
- (d) Why realisation was not suspended pending grant of remission of Land Revenue as is usually done ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied:

40. (a)—The principles as laid down under Executive Instruction Nos.107, 108, 109 and 110 of Part VI of the Assam Land Revenue Manual, Vol.I are followed in granting remission of Land Revenue.

(b)—The field to field inspection of the affected area takes time and hence the delay.

(c) & (d)—It is not a fact that the flood affected peasants were harassed by drastic steps taken for realisation of Land Revenue. The Land Revenue was suspended till 15th December 1959. Even after that not drastic steps were taken for realisation of Land Revenue. In the villages which were badly affected by June Flood of 1959, no coercive measures taken for realisation of Land Revenue.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): The other day the Minister said that if the destruction of crop is not less than 25 per cent of land revenue will not be remitted but if the destruction is more than 75 per cent the entire land revenue is remitted. May I know from the Minister, so far these villages are concerned whether any report was submitted, and if so, what the volume of destructions of crop in these villages ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: The report has not yet come.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOWDHURY: Does the Minister know that the orders issued in December have not yet been received by the Mauzadars and Collecting Officers ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: That I cannot say off hand. However, I shall look into it.

Shri PRABHAT HARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East): Does the Minister know that drastic actions have already taken by the Mauzadars in collecting land revenue in the areas worst affected by the floods?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): How can there be, Sir. It was suspended only with regard to six villages which were worse affected, but the land revenue for the entire area has not been suspended.

Shri RAM NATH SARMA (Lumding): Whether Government has taken drastic action against the Mauzadars who failed to realise revenue?

Mr. SPEAKER: In usual course action will be taken.

Shri RAM NATH SARMA: What are these six villages?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: They are—Upar-Barbhag, Bar-Sumali, Barbheta-Dakoha, Kumar-Kuchi and Bar Khetri.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY: Does the Minister also know that 13 villages of Upper Borbhag Mouza were declared dangerous areas when he personally visited the area?

Mr. SPEAKER: He said suspension of revenue collection was ordered in the worst affected areas.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): If the destruction of crop in those villages is to the extent of 75 per cent, will Government stick to its principle to give total revenue remission?

Mr. SPEAKER: He has already replied in (a).

Shri MAHANANDA BORA (North-Lakhimpur): The present procedure followed in granting revenue remission is a lengthy one and till the list is finalised collection of revenue continues. Will the Minister evolve a shorter procedure so that the worst sufferers get some relief?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: In such cases, generally the realisation of revenue is suspended.

Mr. SPEAKER: He said the enquiry is a lengthy one. Can it be cut short?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: It is difficult because the procedure for revenue remission is laid down in the law itself. It is also difficult to suspend revenue collection in the entire area. Though it may be flood-affected all the fields may not be affected.

Shri MAHANANDA BORA: Will Government consider this matter?

Mr. SPEAKER: Not possible, he says.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIZA (Saikhowa): Will Government instruct the local officers to enquire quickly and submit proposals in time so that there is no harassment of cultivators?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: Yes, Sir.

Construction of ring-bund in between Duarichiga and Ahompathar in Nitai Mauza of Sibsagar Subdivision

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) asked :

*41. Will the Minister-in-charge of Sericulture and Weaving be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that Government are only awaiting the administrative approval for sanctioning the ring-bund in between Duarichiga and Ahompathar in Nitai Mauza, Sibsagar Subdivision to protect the Muga-Chomani ?

(b) Whether the amount for this work has been sanctioned ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister, Sericulture and Weaving) replied :

41. (a)—Construction of the ring-bund is to be executed by the Public Works Department. The Administrative approval is expected to be accorded shortly.

(b)—The Planning and Development Department have allotted necessary fund for the construction of the ring-bund from out of the plan ceiling. Action is being taken by the Public Works Department to provide fund in their budget.

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : (এ) গড়কাপ্তানীৰ খাল—মথাউৰি বন্ধা বিভাগৰ ভৱিষ্যতে এই বোৰ—বান্ধ দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা হব। ইয়াৰ কাৰণে অতিসোনকালে প্ৰশাসনীয় সমৰ্থণ (administration approval) আশা পোষণ কৰা হৈছে।

(বি) পৰিকল্পনাত ধৰা নিৰ্দিষ্ট অৰ্থৰ বাহিৰৰ পৰাই এই বেৰা বান্ধ দিবৰ কাৰণে আৱশ্যকীয় পুঁজিৰ যুগুত, পৰিকল্পনা আৰু উন্নয়ন বিভাগে কৰিছে।

গড়কাপ্তানীৰ খাল আৰু মথাউৰি দিয়া বিভাগে তেওঁলোকৰ বিভাগীয় বাজেটত এই পুঁজি সন্নিবিষ্ট কৰিবৰ কাৰণে আৱশ্যকীয় ব্যৱস্থা গ্ৰহণ কৰিছে।

Establishment of Rearing and Marketing Centres in different areas of the Thowra Constituency

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) asked :

*42. Will the Minister-in-charge of Sericulture and Weaving be pleased to state—

(a) Whether a representation submitted by the questioner for improving the Muga-Chomanis in different areas of the Thowra Constituency and for establishment of rearing and marketing Centres was lately received by Government ?

(b) If so, when ?

(c) Whether Government propose to give effect to the proposal within this financial year ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister, Sericulture and Weaving) replied:

42.(a)—Yes.

(b)—In July, 1960.

(c)—This may not be possible. The proposals require considerable investigation including collection of statistical data such as whether the required quantity of seeds could not be met from the selected seed cocoon rearers as well as the availability of cocoons, etc. As such, it may not be possible to implement the proposals within this financial year. The proposals will be given effect to during the Third Plan Period if the data collected reveal that the proposals are feasible.

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: (এ) হৰ পোৱা হৈছে।

(বি) ১৯৬০ চনৰ জুলাই মাহত।

(চি) এইটো সম্ভৱ পৰ নহব। এই প্ৰস্তাৱৰ বিষয়ে বহুতো অনুসন্ধানৰ আৱশ্যক। যেনে— পলু পোহা লোক সকলৰ মাজৰ পৰাই বাচি লোৱা বাচক বনিয়া লোক সকলৰ পৰা আৱশ্যকীয় পৰিমাণ সঁচ সংগ্ৰহ কৰা সম্ভৱ হবনে নহয়? আৰু কিমান পৰিমাণৰ পলুৰ লাচি (মুপা) পোৱা যাব। এই বিলাক সংখ্যা আদি লোৱাৰ পিছতহে কোৱা সম্ভৱপৰ। গতিকে প্ৰস্তাৱিত বিষয় এই আৰ্থিক বিত্তীয় বছৰত কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰাসম্ভৱপৰ নহব। পৰীক্ষাৰ ফল যদি সন্তোষজনক হয়, তেনেহলে তৃতীয় পৰিকল্পনাত এই প্ৰস্তাৱ কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰিব পৰা হব।

Shri DEVENDRA NATH RAZARIKA (Saikhowa): মুগা খেতিৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰৰ ফালৰ পৰা বাইজক কেনে ধৰণৰ সহায় ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হৈছে?

Mr. SPEAKER: How that question arises?

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra): এই অনুসন্ধান বিলাক চলাওতে আৰু কিমান দিন লাগিব আৰু কেতিয়া শেষ হব?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: কিছু সময় লাগিব।

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon): এই অনুসন্ধানৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত বৰ্তমানলৈকে চৰকাৰ কিমান দূৰ আগ বাঢ়িছে?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: তেৱোৱেই নহয়— প্ৰশ্নৰ উত্তৰত অনুসন্ধানৰ আৱশ্যক। কাম আৰম্ভ হোৱা নাই।

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar): কি কি কথানো অনুসন্ধান কৰিব লাগে?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: (চি) প্ৰশ্নৰ উত্তৰত কোৱা হৈছে।

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra): 42 (a) মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে জানেনে—যে ঠাউৰা অঞ্চলৰ ৩৪টা নোজাত মূগাৰ চুমনি ভৰি আছে আৰু সেই অঞ্চলত তাৰ দ্বাৰা অৰ্থনৈতিক ক্ষেত্ৰত কিমান আগ বাঢ়িছে ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister, Sericulture and Weaving): হয় জানো । সেই কাৰণে অনুসন্ধানৰ কাম হাতত লোৱা হব ।

Shrimati PADMA KUMARI GOHAIN (Moran): এই বিলাকৰ পৰ সাহায্যৰ কাৰণে, কোনে আবেদন চৰকাৰে পাইছেনে ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: নাই পোৱা ।

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Number of mutation cases filed in the office of Sub-Deputy Collector, Dibrugarh Eastern Circle in the year 1956-57

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) asked:

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

- (a) The number of mutation cases filed in the year 1956-57 or before in the office of the Sub-Deputy Collector, Dibrugarh Eastern Circle and are still pending ?
- (b) The number of mutation cases filed in the year 1957-58 in the office of the Sub-Deputy Collector, Dibrugarh Eastern Circle and are still pending ?
- (c) How many of these pending cases were filed by cultivators ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that the number of dates fixed for hearing in respect of applications filed by cultivators are more in Dibrugarh Eastern Circle than in respect of non-cultivator such as Indian Planters and businessman ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied:

98. (a)—The number of mutation cases filed in the period in question was 556. No case filed in 1956-57 or earlier is pending.

(b)—The number of mutation cases filed in the period in question was 727 out of which 23 cases are pending.

(c)—Fourteen cases.

(d)—It is not a fact.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) : It appears 23 cases are pending since 1957-58. May I know why there should be delay of about three years in disposing of cases in the Sub-Deputy Collector's office ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : I cannot say off-hand the reason for delay. If the hon. Member puts a separate question about this I may enquire and reply.

Compensatory allowance granted to Doctors serving in N.E.S. Blocks

DR. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta) asked :

99. Will the Minister-in-charge of Medical be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the doctors serving in the N. E. S. areas are allowed Private practice ?

(b) If not, whether a compensatory allowance or non-practising allowance is given to them ?

(c) If the reply to (b) above is in the affirmative what is the amount ?

(d) Whether this non-practising allowance is given to the Medical Officer serving in Barpeta N. E. S. Block, Stage I, in the district of Kamrup since August 1959 ?

(e) If not, why ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Medical Minister) replied :

99. (a)—No.

(b)—Compensatory allowance is granted.

(c)—Rs. 75 per mensem for Assistant Surgeon I and Rs.40 per mensem for Assistant Surgeon II.

(d) & (e)—Due to some audit objections the Medical Officers posted to Blocks were not authorised to draw the compensatory allowance but the audit objection has been met and the Accountant General, Assam, has been requested to authorise the Medical Officers concerned to draw the same with retrospective effect.

Dr. SRIHARI DAS : May I know when the Accountant General was requested to authorise payment ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : It was done some time ago, but I cannot give the exact date now. If the hon. Member desires I may supply him the information later.

Doctors who are practising medicine in the Bhabanipur area, etc.

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta) asked :

100. Will the Minister, Medical be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government are aware that some quacks, styled themselves as Doctors, are practising medicine in the Bhabanipur area, Tapa area and Kharmabazar area under Barpeta Police Station causing great danger to the public ?
- (b) If not, whether Government will enquire and find them out and take necessary action on them ?
- (c) Whether under the circumstances that when the Doctors, after undergoing four years course and having got the diploma from the Dacca National Institute again have to undergo refresher course and examination to be qualified as Doctor. Government will take immediate steps against those quacks who are practising medicine merrily ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Medical Minister) replied:

100. (a)—No.

(c)—Yes. The matter is being enquired into.

(d)—Yes. After receipt of enquiry report.

Dr. SRIHARI DAS: With regard to (b), may I know since when the enquiry is being made ?

Mr. SPEAKER: (b) has not been replied. What about reply to (b)?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: The matter is being enquire into.

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA: As large numbers of quacks have been practising throughout the State, will the quiry be extended to the whole of the State ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: Whenever specific places are given and whenever necessary we will make the enquiry.

Regarding ferries on Silchar-Jowai Road

Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West) asked :

101. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department (R. & B.) be pleased to state—

(a) How many ferries are there on Silchar-Jowai Road ?

(b) Whether the Government made any provision or provisions to construct all-weather bridges on these ferries ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, P. W. D. (R. & B.)] replied :

101. (a)—There are two alignments connecting Jowai with Silchar, *viz.* (i) the Jowai-Badarpur-Silchar Road and (ii) the Jowai-Garampani-Haflong-Silchar Road. There are four ferries on the former and three on the latter.

(b)—Government have made provisions for constructing permanent bridges on three places only on the Jowai-Badarpur-Silchar Road, *viz.*, Lubha, Gumra and Kakrakhal.

***Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West)**: It has been replied in (b) that provision has been made for constructing three permanent bridges. May I know whether tenders have been invited and, if so, whether they have been accepted?

***Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI**: Tenders have been invited for these three bridges, but they have not yet been accepted.

***Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA**: What about the Boleswar bridge?

***Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI**: I cannot say off-hand.

***Shri BISWANATH UPADHYAYA (Patharkandi)**: What time will it take to construct these bridges?

***Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister)**: May I reply, Sir? So far as Gumra and Kakrakhal bridges are concerned, we hope the construction will be undertaken soon. But so far as the Lubha bridge is concerned, although this has been advertised many times previously nobody is coming forward to give tender for this bridge.

***Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA**: May I know from the Minister incharge whether the Government know that there is a river named Boleswar and whether any provision has been made for the construction of a bridge for that river also?

***Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI**: The reply is clear that there are provisions only for 3 bridges.

Regarding the fixation of pay of some Medical Officers who were serving previously in the Local Board.

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS [North Salmara (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] asked :

102. Will the Minister, Medical be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government is aware that some Medical Officers previously serving in the Local Boards are getting less than the pay, that was being drawn by them when these dispensaries were taken over by the Government?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken by the Government to remove these anomalies?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) replied :

102. (a)—Yes, there were some anomalies in the matter of fixation of pay at the beginning.

(b)—The matter has since been regularised and no one is now getting less pay than what he used to get.

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS [North Salmara (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]: May I know from the Minister whether steps will be taken to remove the anomalies ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : That will be examined.

Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari) : In answer to (b), it has been said that the matter has since been regularised. May I know when the matter has been regularised ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : I cannot tell the exact date, but they are getting the similar pay that was drawn by them in the Local Boards.

Regarding road communication towards the Southern side of Barpeta Subdivision

Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari) asked :

103. Will the Minister-in-charge of P.W.D. (R. and B.) be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that there is no road communication towards the Southern side of Barpeta Subdivision specially to Bagribari Mauza ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that public has given up their patta lands to have one very short and straight road from Patbausi to Kanchanpur, *via.*, Kahibari, Solimpur and Jadabpur ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that N.C.C. has constructed this Road upto Kahibari and Local public has done earth work up to Kanchanpur to a certain height ?

(d) Whether Government propose to take up this road very soon for construction ?

(e) Whether Government have received any representation to take up this road ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, P. W. D. (R. and B.)] replied :

103. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Government in P.W.D. have no such information. No such road has yet been sanctioned under any programme.

(c)—It is gathered that the existing Local Board road was repaired by the N.C.C. but it is not known whether any earth work was done by the villagers for the remaining portion.

(d)—There is no such proposal at present, but the matter will be examined if it is considered imperatively necessary and economical.

(e)—No

Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari) : May I know from the Deputy Minister whether a petition has been filed before the Government?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI (Deputy Minister) : No the Government has not received any petition.

Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMAD : Is it not a fact that when a petition is submitted to the Executive Engineer, it is also meant for the Government ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : Unless it is received by the Government it cannot be said to have submitted before the Government.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : Whether the Executive Engineer is an Officer of the Government and if so is it not a fact that an application or petition submitted before the Executive Engineer is also the application of or the Government ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : In a sense, it is right. But so long it is not received by the Government, it cannot be said to have submitted to the Government. It might be lying with the Executive Engineer.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : Sir, is it not duty of the Government to make an enquiry whether an application is lying in the office of the Executive Engineer after this question ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : An enquiry will be made whether such petition has been received or not.

Names of Police Officers in the S. D. O.'s Court Office, Barpeta

Maulavi TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari) asked :

104. Will the Minister-in-charge of Home be pleased to state—

- (a) Who are the police officers in the S. D. O.'s Court Office, Barpeta ?
 (b) What are the addresses of the said police officers ?
 (c) Whether Government propose to remove the local police officers if any, from this office for better administration ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied :

104. (a) & (b)—

Name of the officers	Home address	Date of posting
1. P. S. I., Lalit Chandra Kakati ...	Nowgong District.	6th November 1959
2. P. S. I., Megha Ram Bordoloi ...	Do.	20th June 1958.
3. A. S. I., Krishna Ch. Patowari ...	Nalbari, Kamrup District.	30th July 1958.
4. A. S. I., Robindra Nath Das ...	Barpeta, Kamrup District.	14th September 1959.
5. A. S. I., Nilmohon Singh ...	Cachar District.	14th September 1959

(c)—As no complaint has been received against any of these officers since their posting to Barpeta Court there is no proposal at present for their transfer from that Court except the officer at Sl. 3 above, whose transfer from the Barpeta Court has become due according to Rule 74 of Assam Police Manual III.

Sanction for the construction of the National Highway from North Salmara to Bridge approach at Amingaon

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East) asked :

105. Will the Minister-in-charge of P. W. D. (R. & B.) be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether after survey, estimates were sent to the Government of India for proposed National Highway from North Salmara to Bridge approach at Amingaon for sanction ?
 (b) Whether sanction has been received for construction of the said road ?

(c) If not, when sanction of the portion of the National Highway is expected ?

(d) Whether Government propose to move the Government of India to expedite construction of this important part of the National Highway ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, P. W. D. (R. & B.)] replied :

105. (a)—Survey estimates amounting to Rs.46,100 have already been sanctioned by the Government of India. The work of detailed survey and preparation of estimate and plan is in progress.

(b)—The detailed estimate will be framed and submitted to the Government of India for their approval and sanction on completion of the detailed survey.

(c)—Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

(d)—As (b) above.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHAUDHURY (Nalbari-East) : May I know whether the sanction from the Government has to be deferred only due to laxity of the Assam P. W. D. in submitting the details of estimates ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : No, the details of estimates were submitted to the Government of India by the Assam P. W. D.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHAUDHURY : Sir, the Deputy Minister says that the estimates have been prepared and these were sent to the Government of India. May I know the dates when these were sent to the Government of India ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : Sir, I shall supply the information to the hon. Members later on.

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sarbhog) : When the work of the National High Way will be taken up ?

Mr. SPEAKER : The hon. Member wants to know when the National High Way, i. e., North Trunk Road will be taken up.

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : Just after the finalization of the estimates. After receiving the administrative approval from the Government of India.

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) : প্রশ্নোত্তরত মন্ত্রীমহোদয়ে plan in progress বুলি কৈছে। মই জানিব খুজিছো সেইটো কেতিয়া শেষ হব—তাৰ অনুমানিক তাৰিখ দিব পাৰেনে ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : সঠিককৈ কোৱা টান। (b) প্রশ্নৰ উত্তৰত কৈছোৱেই, ইয়াৰ কাৰণে সময় লাগিব।

Shri PROBhat NARAYAN CHAUDHURY (Nalbari-East): Whether the old road from Amingaon to North Salnara is called as the approach road to the Brahmaputra Bridge, and if so when will it be taken up?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI (Deputy Minister, P. W. D. (R. B.)): Yes, it is treated as an approach road. When the sanction from the Government of India will be obtained, this road will be taken up.

Construction of Bridge over Doom Dooma River

Shri MOLIA TATI (Doom Dooma) asked :

106. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department (R. & B.) be pleased to state—

- (a) When the bridge over Doom Dooma River on the Hansara-Doom Dooma diversion road was started?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the work is incomplete and the work has been stopped since last six months?
- (c) Why the progress of construction of the bridge is so slow?
- (d) Whether Government is contemplating to abandon this bridge?
- (e) What is the amount of money that was sanctioned for this bridge and what amount has already been spent?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, Public Works Department (R. and B.)] replied :

106. (a)—Work on the R. C. C. bridge was started on 25th November, 1958.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—During sinking of well No.1 on Hansara side, in spite of all precautions taken, the well shifted by about 4'—5" as a result of which the design for the superstructure will require modification. The designs are now being modified by the contractors and every effort is being taken to expedite matters. The work will be resumed as soon as the designs are received, duly approved by the Government of India.

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

(e)—An amount of Rs.8,83,931 was sanctioned out of which Rs.3,78,384 has been spent for.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) : Sir, it has been said the construction work was started in the year 1958, may I know why it could not be finished up till now ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, P. W. D. (R. & B.)] : Due to some unforeseen troubles the work could not be finished.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : Sir, in reply to (c) it has been said in spite of all precautions taken the well shifted by about 4"–5" as a result of which the design for the superstructure will require modification. Sir, may I know at whose fault—either for the fault of the Contractor or for the fault of the Officer this defect occurred ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : This has not been ascertained as yet as to whose fault this defect occurred.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : Sir, out of the 8 lakhs, about 4 lakhs have been spent in this work. So what will be proportion of loss in this bridge out of this 4 lakhs of rupees.

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : At this stage this cannot be said what will be percentage of loss.

Establishment of Public Health Dispensary at Dighalturrong Village in Dibrugarh Subdivision

Shri MOLIA TATI (Doom Dooma) asked :

107. Will the Minister-in-charge of Medical be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that there is no medical facility for the rural population of Hapjan Mauza in Dibrugarh Subdivision ?

(b) Whether Government propose to establish a Public Health Dispensary at Dighalturrong village in that Mauza ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) replied :

107. (a)—Being enquired.

(b)—Necessary action will be taken on receipt of the report.

Establishment of a Technical School at Doom Dooma in the Third Five Year Plan

Shri MOLIA TATI (Doom Dooma) asked :

108. Will the Minister of Planning and Development be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government is aware that there is no facility of Technical Education in the eastern part of Dibrugarh Sub division ?
- (b) Whether Government is aware that a Technical School at Doom Dooma will be in a central place of 4 Assembly Constituencies, i. e., Saikhowa, Doom Dooma, Digboi and Tinsukia ?
- (c) Whether Government propose to include the proposal for establishment of a Technical School at Doom Dooma within the Third-Five Year Plan ?
- (d) If so, when the commencement of the work can be expected ?

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

108. (a)—Yes.

(b), (c) & (d)—Proposal for establishment of 7 additional Industrial Training Institutes has been made under Third Plan. The selection of actual site will be made in consideration of all available facilities for such institutions.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) : Sir, in reply to (c) it has been said that there is a proposal for establishment of 7 additional Industrial Training Institutes. May I know whether these 7 additional Institutes will be for Dumdooma area or for that District or for the entire state ?

Shri RADHIK ARAM DAS: Sites have not been selected; but these are meant for the entire State.

Regarding a bull purchased by the Charing Panchayat, Sibsagar

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) asked :

109. Will the Minister-in-charge of Panchayat be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Charing Panchayat, Sibsagar Subdivision, was given a bull ?
- (b) If so, when ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that some one had sold the bull and misappropriated the amount ?
- (d) If not, where the bull at present is ?

Shri F. A. AHMED (Minister, Community Development, etc.) replied:

109. (a)—Government did not give any bull to the Panchayat, but a bull was purchased by the Panchayat from its own fund.

(b)—Panchayat purchased it in 1955.

(c)—No. The bull was stolen by some miscreant. The matter was duly reported to Police; but the bull could not be recovered.

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

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri): May I know the date and time when the bull was stolen, whether from the grazing ground or from the stall and whether in day time or at night?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I will enquire and let the Hon'ble Member know.

Regarding grievances of the Ministerial Officers' Association

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH asked:

110. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether all the terms of agreement made between the Chief Minister and the Ministerial Officers' Association, have been enforced?

(b) If not, what are the agreements still remaining un-enforced and why?

(c) Whether it is a fact that Finance and Appointment Departments are callous to the above agreements and putting all sorts of hurdles to frustrate some of the terms of agreement?

(d) If so, what steps have been taken to break this dead lock over an already decided matter?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied:

110. (a)&(b).—In all, 10 points were raised by the Ministerial Officers Association before the Chief Minister. There were no agreed decisions but the Chief Minister had agreed that he would have all these points looked into. The items still remaining under consideration are as follows:—

(1) Creation of Supervisory and Intermediate posts in Heads of Departments—In view of the financial implications involved in the proposal, the matter is under scrutiny and a decision is expected soon.

(2) Accommodation for Ministerial Officers and Grade IV staff—As regards "construction of 20 units of Assistants' "quarter at Shillong" Administrative approval has already been accorded and arrangement is being made by Executive Engineer for starting the work.

(3) Formation of Co-operative Societies—A specific proposal for formation of a Co-operative Society has been prepared and in view of the financial implications, it is under scrutiny in the Departments concerned.

(4) Health Insurance Scheme—A contributory Health Insurance Scheme has been prepared and approved by Government. The Scheme will be put into operation after entertainment of necessary staff as soon as possible.

(5) Allowing increments to continue without adjustment of *Ad-hoc* dearness allowance against future increments—This concerns a contributory scheme of *Ad-hoc* dearness allowance formulated by the Government of India for relief to low paid employees. The decision of the Government of India for its continuation during the Third Plan period has not yet been received. The matter has been taken up with them. Until a decision is received from the Government of India, the matter cannot be pursued further.

(c)&(d)—As has been stated under (a) above, the points which have been agreed to and could be implemented without delay have already been implemented. In regard to the other matters, no definite decision was arrived at in the meeting with the Chief Minister. Specific Schemes were required to be prepared in certain cases and final sanctions accorded to their implementation. As indicated above, considerable progress has been made in regard to all outstanding items. The Departments concerned are trying to come to a final decision as expeditiously as possible.

**Establishment of Dispensary at Sondarbhitha in
Bizni Mouza of Barpeta Subdivision**

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDER (Sorbhog) asked :

111. Will the Minister-in-charge of Medical be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Government consider the necessity of establishing a dispensary at Sondarbhitha in Bizni Mauza of Barpeta Subdivision ?

(b) If so, when ?

(c) If so, whether a dispensary will be sanctioned there ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) replied :

111. (a)—Not at present.

(b) & (c)—Do not arise.

Regarding the construction of a Hospital at Jonai

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) asked :

112. Will the Minister-in-charge of Medical be pleased to state—

- (a) When the provision for a hospital at Jonai was made in the budget ?
- (b) When the construction of the building had commenced for this hospital ?
- (c) The progress of the work towards completion of the same ?
- (d) When the completion of the construction of the work may be expected ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) replied :

112. (a)—In 1958-59.

(b)—On 14th October 1959.

(c)—About 35 per cent of the work is completed.

(d)—It is rather difficult to say precisely as to when the construction will be completed.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : The sanction for construction of a hospital at Jonai was made in the year 1958-59. The work was started on 14th October 1959 and the work now appears to have been completed upto 35 person only. Then what was the reason of delay or slow progress of the work ?

Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA : As the Hon'ble Member is aware that there is difficulty of communication to that area and the place itself is very unhealthy and it is very difficult to take the materials to that area.

Mr. SPEAKER : Is it because of the unhealthiness of the place ?

Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA : Communication difficulties are very great there.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : When there is communication difficulty whether the materials are supplied to that particular locality in instalments or at a time from Dibrugarh ?

Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA : We have asked the P. W. D. to speed up the construction work.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) : The progress of the work is only up to 35 person. My question was whether the materials were sent there by instalments or at a time.

Mr. SPEAKER : At convenience.

Shri RAM NATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] : The Hon'ble Minister has asked the P. W. D. to expedite the matter. May I know when the P. W. D. was asked to do that ?

Mr. SPEAKER : Repeatedly asking.

Shri RAM NATH DAS : May I know the approximate time and date when the P. W. D. was asked to expedite the matter ?

Mr. SPEAKER : It is not handy with the Minister at the moment, I suppose.

Shri RUP NATH BRAHMA : Yes, Sir.

Shri RAM NATH DAS : Whether the Government will take action to expedite the matter.

Mr. SPEAKER : He has already replied to that .

Inclusion of roads from Assam Trunk Road-Desang Siding and from Moran-Naharkatia Road—Moranhat Railway Station under Public Works Department

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) asked :

113. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings) be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the representation made by questioner to the Chief Minister and Deputy Minister, Public Works Department to include the following roads under Public Works Department within this year was received by Government—

1. Road from Assam Trunk Road to Desang-Siding ; and
2. Road from Moran-Naharkatia Road (Sologuri Road) to Moranhat Railway Station ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that these are the only roads leading to the Railway Station ?

(c) The length of each of the above roads ?

(d) The approximate amount that may be required for their development ?

(e) Whether Government propose to improve these roads within this financial year ?

Shri G. N. GOGOI [Deputy Minister, Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings Wing)] replied :

113. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The length is mentioned below—

1. Road from Assam Trunk Road to Desang-Siding—
5 Furlong.

2. Moran-Naharkatia to Moranhat Railway Station—
0.23 miles.

(d) (1)—Rs.15,000.

(2)—Rs.4,500.

(e)—No. The proposals have been forwarded to Mahakuma Parishad for consideration and allocation of Priority. Works may be taken up if and when the proposals are included in the approved programme.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) : যোৱা জুন মাহতে মহকুমা পৰিষদে এই Proposal কেইটা দ্বিতীয় পঞ্চবাৰ্ষিক পৰিকল্পনাৰ ভিতৰতে ল'ব লাগে বুলি Recommend কৰি পঠিয়ালে। তেনেস্থলত যদি উপমহাত্মীয়ে এতিয়াও Proposal পোৱা নাই বুলি কয় তেন্তে মোক জনাবনে শিৱসাগৰৰ পৰা ছিলঙলৈ ডাক আহোঁতে কিমান দিন লাগে? দ্বিতীয়তে সেই বিষয়ে তদন্ত কৰি Consider কৰিবনে?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : দ্বিতীয়টো তদন্ত কৰি বিবেচনা কৰা হ'ব। প্ৰথমটো ক'ব নোৱাৰি P. & T. Department হে ক'ব পাৰিব।

Recruitments of labourers to Tea Gardens in Assam

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA asked :

114. Will the Minister in-charge for Labour be pleased to state—

(a) If it is a fact that there is the system of recruiting labourers to tea gardens in Assam?

(b) If so, what is the number of persons recruited during the last 3 years?

(c) Whether Government received complaints of illegal recruitment from different Branches of Assam Chah Mazdoor Sangha and, if so, what is the total of persons who were so illegally recruited?

- (d) Whether there are surplus labourers in Assam tea gardens and if so, what is the number and what step Government have taken to employ them ?
- (e) How many of the surplus labourers have already been employed during the last three years ?
- (f) What is the Government scheme for absorption of surplus tea garden labour ?
- (g) Whether there is any system of employing them under contract basis ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister in-charge for Labour) replied :

114. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Number of recruitments reported to the Controller of Emigrant Labour by Tea Districts Labour Association is as below—

1957	...	..	...	...	..	3,809
1958	...	...	...	...	...	5,427
1959	...	...	...	...	...	4,602

(c)—No complaints from such organisation appears to have been received by the Controller of Emigrant Labour. Government however received a report from Assam Chah Mazdoor Sangha to the effect that labour has been recruited from outside though local surplus labour was available. According to the Controller of Emigrant Labour the number of cases of illicit recruitment was—

1957	...	...	...	...	...	1,172
1958	...	...	...	...	...	3,302
1959	...	...	...	...	...	2,991

(d)—A sample survey carried out by the Statistics Department in the year 1958 worked out the total unemployed persons in Tea Estates at 68·44 thousand.

Government have requested the employers both in the public and private sector, particularly the Tea Industry to employ these available labour. A Central Tripartite Committee and four regional Committees have also been set up to deal with the problem and to help in mobilising such labour from surplus to deficit areas with the assistance of Employment Exchanges. The Industrial Committee on Plantations decided recently that all possible steps would be taken to recruit the available surplus labour and emigrant labour might be brought only with the permission of the Central Government when local labour was not available.

(e)—Information is not available.

(f)—Please see reply to (d) above. A scheme reported to be drawn up by the Indian Tea Association is being obtained for consideration by Government. A proposal to set up a special Employment Exchange for this work is also under consideration of Government.

Besides, craft training scheme for helping them to get Subsidiary occupations has also been included in the Draft Third Plan.

(g)—There is a practice in some tea gardens to employ workers on a contract basis; it is however not known if surplus labour is employed under such system.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra): মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে প্রশ্নোত্তর (বি) ত কৈছে যে ১৯৫৭ চনৰ পৰা ১৯৫৯ চনলৈকে ১৩৮৩৮ জন বনুৱা বাগানত নিয়োগ কৰা হৈছে; তাৰ ভিতৰত বে আইনি ভাবে নিয়োগ কৰা বনুৱাৰ সংখ্যা ৭৪৬৫ জন। অথচ ১৯৫৮ চনৰ গণনা হিচাবে মোট ৬৮৪৪০ জন চাহ বাগানৰ অতিৰিক্ত বনুৱা এনেয়ে আছে বুলি কৈছে—তেনেস্বলত এই বেআইনি ভাবে কৰা নিয়োগ বন্ধ কৰাৰ কোনো আইনৰ ব্যৱস্থা নাইনেকি ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY (Minister, Labour): এই বিষয়ে অলপতে আগষ্ট মাহত দিল্লীত এখন সভা বহিছিল। তাত Districts Labour Association টো with up কৰিবলৈ সিদ্ধান্ত কৰা হৈছে বহুমান এখন ত্ৰি দলীয় কমিটি আৰু ৪ খন Regional কমিটি গঠিত হৈছে এই কমিটিৰ জৰিয়তে এই Surplus বনুৱা বিলাকক Employment Exchanges Co-সহায়েৰে নিয়োগ কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব।

Industrial Committee on Plantation এ অলপতে সিদ্ধান্ত কৰিছে যে এই Surplus বনুৱাসকলক নিয়োগ কৰাৰ যথা সম্ভৱ ব্যৱস্থা লব। বা বাহিৰৰ পৰা চাহ বাগানৰ কাৰণে বনুৱা আনিব লগীয়া হলে ভাৰত চৰকাৰে অনুমতি পত্ৰ লাগিব। যেতিয়া স্থানীয় বনুৱাৰ অভাৱ ঘটে তেতিয়াহে ভাৰত চৰকাৰৰ অনুমতিলৈ বাহিৰৰ পৰা বনুৱা আনিব পাৰিব।

গতিকে আমাৰ যিখন বৰ্তমান আইন আছে, সেই আইনখন সংশোধিত হলে, স্থানীয় বনুৱা থাকোতে আনিটাইব পৰা বনুৱা অনাটো আমি নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰিব পাৰিম। জনা গৈছে যে, Indian Tea Association য়েও এই মন্ত্ৰে এটা আচনি তৈয়াৰ কৰি চৰকাৰৰ বিবেচনাৰ কাৰণে দিব। ইয়াৰ উপৰিও ইয়াৰ কাৰণে এখন Special Employment Exchange গঠন কৰাৰ বা এটা Proposal চৰকাৰৰ বিবেচনাধীন হৈ আছে। গতিকে মই এই বিলাক ব্যৱস্থা ১ হোৱাৰ পিচত স্থায়ী Surplus বনুৱা নিয়োগ কৰাত অস্বীকাৰ নহব।

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA: বাহিৰৰ পৰা যিবিলাক মানুহ আনিছিল সেই বিলাক অস্থায়ী হিচাবে আহিছিল নেকি ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY: অস্থায়ী হিচাবে আনিলেও বহুতে এই ঠাই পোঁৱাৰ পিচত ফিৰি যাব নোখোজে।

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra): তাৰ পৰা গৈ থাকে নেকি ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY (Minister, Labour): সিমান খিনি ভানিব পৰাৰ উপায় নাই।

Shri SARBESWAR BARDALOI (Titabar): ইতি পূৰ্বে এই Tea District Labour Association এ যথেষ্ট সংখ্যক স্থানীয় বনুৱা Recruit কৰিছে ; গতিকে সেই Association টো পুনৰ কাম আৰম্ভ কৰা হব নে ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY : সেইটো এতিয়া Windup কৰিছে। অসম চৰকাৰে কিছুদিন আগতে এখন সভা কৰিছিল ; তাত নানা চৰকাৰী বেচৰকাৰী উদ্যোগৰ বিশেষকৈ বাগানৰ মালিক সকলক কোৱা হৈছে যে স্থানীয় surplus labour হে Recruit কৰিব লাগে। তেখেত সকলে সন্মতি প্ৰকাশ কৰিছে। সেই মৰ্মে এখন Special Employment Exchange গঠন কৰাও চৰকাৰৰ বিবেচনাধীন হৈ আছে। এতিয়া অসুবিধা হৈছে যে আসাৰ বনুৱা সকল নিজে আগবাঢ়ি নাহে। Employment Exchange আদিৰ সহয়ে আৱশ্যক মতে প্ৰচাৰ আদি কৰি এই কাম কৰিব পৰা হব পাৰে।

Shri SARBESWAR BARDALOI: Tea district Labour Association যে স্থানীয় বনুৱা নিয়োগ কৰা আচনিনো ত্যাগ কৰিলে কিয় ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY: আমাৰ কৃষি মজদুৰ সকলে Recruitment প্ৰথা নজনাৰ কাৰণেই হবলা আহিবলৈ ইচ্ছা নকৰে। তেওঁলোকৰ মাজত আৰু কিছু উদগনী লাগিব। ঠায়ে ঠায়ে সভাপাতি তেওঁলোকৰ মন আকৰ্ষণ কৰি এটা সুব্যৱস্থা কৰিব পৰা হব। যিহওক সেই Association এতিয়া Wind up কৰা হৈছে।

Regarding timing of Express Train between Pandu and Dibrugarh

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) asked :

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

(a) Whether Government are aware that formerly up and down Express Trains between Dibrugarh and Pandu had connection with the bus timing of Gauhati-Shillong Services of State Transport ?

(b) Whether Government are aware that the present timing introduced from 1st April, 1960 disconnected the connections of Express Trains between Dibrugarh and Pandu with that of bus timings of Gauhati-Shillong Services of State Transport ?

(c) Whether Government propose to move the Railway authorities to restore connections with Gauhati-Shillong Bus Services with Express Trains to avoid public difficulties ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Labour) replied :

115. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The matter will be brought to the notice of the Railway authorities for consideration by their Time Table Committee.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): The timing of the Express Train was changed from 1st of April 1960 but the Government did not take up the matter so long. What was the difficulty of the Government for not taking up the matter with the Railway authority so long ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: The Government has already taken up the matter with the Railway authority after the receipt of the question.

Construction of houses for the labourers in the Tea Gardens of Assam

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) asked :

116. Will the Minister-in-charge for Labour be pleased to state—

(a) How many tea gardens, small or big are there in Assam ?

(b) What is the total number of families in these gardens ?

(c) Whether there was any agreement either bilateral or tripartite about construction of labour houses and if so, what are those ?

(d) What is the total number of houses constructed permanently or semi-permanently till 31st March, 1960 since the enforcement of the agreement ?

(e) Whether all the houses are under the standard specification or as decided in the Housing Board ?

- (f) If the answer is in the negative, what is the number of houses constructed according to the company's plan approved by the Chief Inspector ?
- (g) Whether there is any decision about extension of the old labour houses according to the size of families and if so, what are the agreements and when those were adopted ?
- (h) Whether Government is aware that due to improper construction, a house lately collapsed causing death to a person there-in at Joboka T. E. in Sibsagar Subdivision ?
- (i) If so, what are the contents of the Labour Officer's report about the collapse of the said house ?
- (j) If it is a fact that even some houses were constructed at the cost of Rs.1,000 per house in Doom Dooma area due to competition of contractors and if so, whether Government will enquire into such matters and communicate the findings ?

Shri K. P. TRIPATHI (Minister-in-charge for Labour) replied :

116. (a)—There are altogether 789 tea estates in Assam out of which 666 gardens are covered by the Plantations Labour Act.

(b)—The exact number of families in all these gardens is not available. Approximately it will be about 2,50,000, including the families of staff members.

(c)—In the Tripartite Conference held in New Delhi in the year 1947 it was decided to draw up a proper scheme of housing with the object of providing approved type of houses to all workers over a period of 10 to 15 years. It was followed by a Tripartite Conference in 1948 at Dibrugarh where it was agreed that 8 per cent houses will be constructed annually.

(d)—In a recent survey made, information was furnished by 488 estates and it was found that 77,275 houses (for labour) were constructed in these estates upto 31st December, 1959 since the date of the said agreement. The information upto 31st March, 1960 is not available.

(e) No physical verification of all the houses has been made and it is therefore not possible to say whether the houses conform to the standard specification or the specification approved by the Housing Board.

(f)—As far as information is available, the number of houses reported to be constructed in accordance with plan approved by the Chief Inspector of Plantations is as under :—

	New construction				Adapted			
	1957	1958	1959	Total	1957	1958	1959	Total
Pucca ..	7,588	6,809	8,054	22,451	1,033	4,747	..	5,780
Semi-Pucca ..	488	172	2,263	2,923	..	1,824	..	1,824
Kutchra ..	1,764	2,836	2,116	6,716	..	120	..	120
Total ..	9,840	9,817	12,433	32,090	1,033	6,391	..	7,724

(g)—Information is not available regarding any decision for extension of old labour houses according to size of the families.

(h)—It is a fact that a person died recently of injuries as a result of a house collapse in Joboka T. E. A judicial enquiry is being made to ascertain the cause of the accident and if the house collapsed due to constructional defects.

(i)—The report received from the Labour Inspector, Sibsagar states that a strong wind passed over Joboka T. E. in the afternoon of 16th May, 1960. One Khoka Goaloa who was employed as cowherd took shelter in the veranda of a labour quarter and within about 10 minutes the house collapsed. An iron girder hit 'Khoka' directly on the chest and a piece of brick pillar fell on his body. He further stated that the house was semi-pucca, built in the year 1948, with C. I. Sheet roof on iron girders, brick pillars 14½" square size, 4½" brick wall upto window sill and rest ikra plastered walls and kutchra floor. He also opined that the proportion of cement applied to the pillars was inadequate. The Labour Officer, Sibsagar also endorsed the report of the Inspector and stated that he found too little of cement and cement also appeared to be only cement-watered-sand.

(j)—Houses built with local materials may cost less than Rs.1,000 per unit. Government is not aware of anything happening as a result of competition of contractors. Specific complaints, if any may however be enquired into.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra):

(এফ) উত্তরত কৈছে যে যোৱা ৩ বছৰত মাত্ৰ ৭৭২৪ টা ঘৰ সাজিছে, অৰ্থাৎ শতকৰা ৩.৭৫ টা ঘৰ সজা হৈছে। কিন্তু হৰ লাগিছিল শতকৰা ৮ টা ঘৰ। চৰকাৰে সেই বাগিছাবোৰক শান্তি বিহাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছেনে কি?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY (Minister, Labour):

৭৭২৪ টা ঘৰ adopted হৈছে, New construction হৈছে ৭৭,২৭৫ টা, (ডি) উত্তৰত কোৱা হৈছে। এইটো কথা ঠিক যে শতকৰা ৮টা ঘৰ সাজিব বুলি মানিক সকল সন্মত হৈছিল আৰু সেই মতে ঘৰ নেসাজিলে এই আইন মতে ব্যৱস্থা লব পাৰি। কিন্তু ঘৰ সাজিবৰ কাৰণে বহুত materials দৰকাৰ আৰু চৰকাৰে সেইদৰে বস্ত্ৰ যোগাব দিব পৰা নাই। সেই কাৰণে শান্তিমূলক ব্যৱস্থাও লব পৰা নাই। এতিয়া আমাৰ নীতি হৈছে persuasion; বঢ়াই বুজায় কাম আদায় কৰা।

ইপিনে তেওঁলোকে কৈছে যে আটাইবোৰ ঘৰ গাৰ্জিবলৈ হলে প্ৰায় ৬০ কোটি টকা লাগিব। সঁচাকৈ যদি ইমান টকা লাগে তেনেহলে চাহ শিল্পত invest কৰা টকাত-কৈও বেচি লাগিব। তেওঁলোকে চাহ শিল্পত invest কৰিছে ৫০ কোটি টকা মাত্ৰ। মালিক সকল শতকৰ ৮ টা ঘৰ গাৰ্জিবলৈহে মান্তি হৈছিল। আমি ভাৰত চৰকাৰক কৈছিলো যে যি বিনাক un-economic বাগিছা সেই নিয়ন্ত্ৰণৰ কাৰণে আইন কৰক কিন্তু ভাৰত এতিয়াও তেনে আইন কৰিব পৰা নাই। গতিকে ঘৰ সজাৰ কথা টানি ধৰিলে কিছুমান নাগাঁন বন্ধ হৈ যাব আৰু ক্ষমতাৰ অভাৱত সেইবোৰ চলাবলৈ সম্ভৱ নোৱাৰিম।

Shri SARBESWAR BARDALOI (Titabar): ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰচাহ কোম্পানীয়ে এটাও ঘৰ সজা নাই। এইটো সঁচানে ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY (Minister, Labour): নাটিব লাগে

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): ডুমডুমাত কিছুমান ঘৰ defective বুলি মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে জানেনে ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY: হয়।

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: Defective ঘৰবিলাকৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত কি ব্যৱস্থা লৈছে ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY: তদন্ত কৰিবলৈ দিয়া হৈছে।

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra): ৬৬৮ খন বাগিছাৰ ৪৮৮ খনত ঘৰ গাৰ্জিছে আৰু বাকী ১৭৮ খনত সজা নাই। সেইবোৰৰ নাম দিব পাৰেনে ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY: দিবলৈ যত্ন কৰিম। এই সদনৰ সদস্যৰ দ্বাৰা এটা কমিটি কৰি তদন্ত কৰিবলৈ কোৱা হৈছে। এই কমিটিয়ে Plantation Labour Act ৰ কথাবোৰ পৰীক্ষা কৰি এটা বিপৰ্ট দিব আৰু সেই যতেই ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হব।

Speaker's announcement of the names of the Members elected to the District Minority Board, Sibsagar District

Mr. SPEAKER: I have to announce the results of the election of Members to the District Minority Board, Sibsagar. The number of candidates being equal to the number of seats vacant, the following have been elected uncontested.—

1. Md. Saleh Ahmed, Member, Municipal Board, Jorhat,
2. Md Saifuddullah, Sibsagar.
3. Md. Abdul Matlib, Golaghat,

The Assam Official Language Bill, 1960

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

“I recommend under Art. 207(3) of the Constitution of India that the Assam Official Language Bill, 1960 be taken into consideration by the Assam Legislative Assembly.

Sd/- S. M. SHRINAGESH,
Governor of Assam.
13-10-60.”

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Official Language Bill, 1960 be taken into consideration.

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved is that the Assam Official Language Bill, 1960 be taken into consideration.

Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West): অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মাননীয় মুখ্য মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের কাছ থেকে আমি জানতে চাইছি ১৯৬০ ইংরেজীর Official Language Bill যেখনা ১০ তারিখে উপস্থিত করা হয়েছে তার এনং ধারা মতে উহা Assamese English Bilingual না Unilingual? কেননা আমরা নতুন Legislator বা সদস্য এর পক্ষে উহা বুজা শক্ত। আমি মুখ্য মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের কাছ থেকে সে বিষয়ে Clarification চাইছি।

Mr. SPEAKER: The Chief Minister need not reply to this question. The hon. Member may have her own interpretation.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Rangiya): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have been passing through one of the most critical periods in our national life. More than 13 years ago, there had been an occasion when we had to pass through such similarly difficult time. Religion had been the emotion which roused our people at the time to such a pitch that our State had to be partitioned.

At the present moment, we have been passing through such a similarly difficult situation. Emotions of the people have been roused over the question of language. Members of this House are certainly aware of the consequences of this emotional outburst, which had caused an enormous amount of sorrow and misery in the State. The House is certainly aware of the context of these incidents which resulted in this situation. The House will pardon me if I relate the circumstances, for recollection of the Members.

It was on the 3rd of March last that the Leader of the House our Chief Minister had to make a statement on the floor of the Assembly in reply to a debate on the Budget discussion in which demand was made to declare Assamese as an official language of the State. But it was unfortunate that his statement that Government would consider if “the same demand come

from the minorities" was misunderstood. The feeling that the minority had been given the right to veto the decision of the majority roused the sentiments of the people of the Assam Valley. While on the other hand, the same was welcomed by the people of Cachar and that of the Hill districts. Situated as we are, and with the population as it is composed, it had been certainly a good thing for Chief Minister to mention about the minorities in Cachar and those in the Hills. He tried to assure these people that there would not be any question of imposition of any language on them.

But this statement roused the sentiment of the people of the Assam Valley districts and there was a phase of excitement and consequent agitation. Chief Minister understood the force of this agitation and realised the depth of the sentiments of the people. And he requested me to call a meeting of the Congress Executive in March last and this meeting was held jointly with the party executive to decide what attitude Congress Parliamentary Party should take on this issue of it came specifically before the House. There was a prolong discussion in this meeting. The Members were anxious to find out a resolution for reconciliation of the different sentiment of the people. But they failed and the result was five sets of proposals. Owing to this, this joint meeting directed me to call a meeting of the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee for a further discussion. Assam Pradesh Congress Committee was accordingly called and it deliberated for 3 days. The members tried to find out the areas of maximum agreement. Accordingly a resolution was adopted on the 22nd April. It must be mentioned that there had been no unanimity; as a section of the members from Cachar could not agree to support it. However, this had been the majority view. It is however unfortunate that this resolution which was adopted by the Pradesh Congress Committee after a good deal of deliberation and which was consistent with the ideals for which the Indian National Congress stood for could not satisfy certain sections of the people of Brahmaputra Valley. That section of the people started agitation, by organising themselves into different Action Committees. But in spite of this, the reports received from different districts indicated at the time thin attendance in the meetings. But the situation began to change when press reports about a demonstration held in Shillong on the 22nd May appeared. The reported shouting of objectionable.....

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA [Phulbari (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: On a point of order Sir, here Rule 73 of the Rules of Procedure and Condu't of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly says: "On the day on which any such motion is made, or on any subsequent day to which the discussion is postponed, the principle of the Bill and its general provisions may be discussed, but the details of the Bill shall not be discussed, further than necessary to explain the principle," therefore, Sir, the hon. Member in making his observation at this stage should confine himself only to the main principle of the Bill

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order, is it your opinion that the hon. Member has deviated from the provision of this Rule ?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA : I think it is not necessary for him to give the entire history of the Bill in making his statement. I think that is a mistake.

Mr. SPEAKER : That is no point of order.

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Rangiya): The reported shouting, of objectionable slogans against the Assamese language which came out in the Press excited the people whose sentiments had been already roused on the question of language. Subsequent contradiction had no contrary effect. The students who had not been taking any interest in the movement so long were now drawn into the movement. The atmosphere of the international world was at this time highly surcharged with explosive elements. Day in, and day out, the Press catered about the news of various countries where the student were reported to be taking active parts in the politics of their countries. Japan, Korea, Turkey—these Asian countries were at this time passing through national crisis. It is unfortunate that some of the political leaders in their speeches urged the students to emulate them. The lesson of non-violence, which we had learnt at the feet of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, during the National Struggle, was thrown into the gutter. Besides this, Press inside and outside while publishing reports about incidents took a partisan view. While the Calcutta Press tried to exaggerate the incident, in which the Bengalees were victims, the local Assam Press minimised the same. The confusion which was growing in, the atmosphere of the country was thus worse confounded. The nerves of the people were thus brought to a pitch when they took any resource to be gospel truth without caring to ascertain whether these rumours were true or baseless.

I do not propose to narrate the incidents which took place in this atmosphere. But when the atmosphere gradually cooled down, members of the Pradesh Executive Committee again met in the middle of September at Gauhati and took steps to find out ways and means to bring about a reconciliation between the different views on the language question.

This Committee clarified the previous resolution of the Pradesh Congress Committee assuring the minorities that the same does not imply any imposition and would welcome a satisfactory solution that may be arrived at in consultation with the various political parties, various organisations and representatives from Cachar and the Hill districts. The Pradesh Executive Committee felt that such consultation should be done without further delay and as such it authorised the Chief Minister, Finance Minister, Mr. Ahmed also my humble-self as the Pradesh Congress to hold discussion with the different parties and groups. Every one was anxious to find out a satisfactory solution on the language issue without dismemberment of the State.

The Chief Minister and myself organised this discussion. For a number of the days it took place at Shillong towards the end of the 4th week of September and in the first week of October. We also invited Shri G. B. Pant, Union Home Minister to help in this matter, who was pleased to come on the 4th October last. All the different political parties Communist Party, Revolutionary Communist Party, Praja Socialist Party, Council of Action, All Party Hills Leaders' Conference, the Assam Sahitya Sabha, Eastern India Tribal Union, the Chief Executive Officers of the Autonomous District Councils representatives from District Congress Committees of the

United Khasi and Jaintia Hills, Garo Hills, North Cachar Hills, Silchar, Hailakandi and Karimganj. The Legislative Assembly members and M.P's from Cachar, Representative from the Silchar Bar Association, Language victim—Relief and Security Committee, Nagarik Samity and All Assam Manipur Association were consulted accordingly. These discussions indicated three divergent views. The Sahitya Sabha and other representatives from the Assam Valley demanded that Assamese should be declared as the only official language for the State while the Cachar representatives wanted Bengali to be one of the official languages along with the Assamese. They wanted continuance of English till such a time when it would be replaced by Hindi. In opposition to these views, some of representatives from the Autonomous Hill districts are of the view that they would never accept Assamese as the official language now or at any time in future that is they stood by the resolution adopted on the 22nd and 23rd August at a meeting of the All Party Hill Leaders' Conference. There was another view amongst some Hill members that Hindi alone should be the official language for for the State of Assam.

The bilingual formula, as Shri Pantji made it clear on the eve of his departure to New Delhi should not be taken as an imposition from him or the Union Government. This suggestion was offered by some members during interviews with him. Every one of us was searching for a key to the solution of the language problem. Each of the political parties were perplexed as to find out, how to assure protection to the linguistic minorities. The hill representatives were on the one hand adamant as not to accept Assamese now or at any time. The Government in this context felt the necessity of continuing English along with Assamese side by side as the official language. English language cannot be expected to continue in our country for ever. Our Constitution has also provided for its continuance for some years only. In our State too, this would continue till it is replaced by Hindi. I am fully aware of the difficulties of the people of the Hills in learning Hindi. But they themselves offered to accept Hindi. In this context, Government felt the necessity of presenting the Bill on this formula with the promise for consideration of any proposal for improvement of the Bill, so that we may meet the wishes of the different sections of our people. In the meantime we have noticed the reactions of the different sections of the people. As it appears the reactions on this Bill are varied. It is bound to be so in the circumstances we are in to-day. But this Bill offers us a near solution of this intricate and long-drawn problem. The Chief Minister in his introductory speech has requested the members to offer any suggestion for improvement of the Bill. I feel there is ample scope for improvement of Bill. That can be achieved by tabling amendments. We may search for them and come up with them in due time.

The Members of the House are aware that we had accepted linguistic basis for the formation of State. In this context different states have been constituted recently. The desire cherished by the people of Assam received a strong impetus from this atmosphere in India. We are certainly aware of the difficulties. We are not certainly blind to the complexity of the problem. We are also strongly opposed to the dismemberment of our State. We do not want that the different areas which compose our State

should be taken out. We are certainly conscious of our Geography, being situated on the frontiers of India, we are conscious also of the responsibilities which geography has entrusted on us. In this context I appeal to all Members of this House, that we should not forget the historic role we have to play in this frontier. We should always remember that Geography looked us together in this part of India. But on the other hand, we cannot ignore the sentiment of our people. I appeal to my brothers in the Hills to think calmly.

I refer to Mahatma Gandhi—why he urged on the people of India to accept Hindi as the National Language. A large majority of the people of India can exchange their thoughts and ideas in this language. It is in use in many places of the country.

We are to-day using a foreign language English, for official purposes. It is an artificial situation. Mahatmaji wanted the end of this artificial situation and he wanted a language which would bring about unity. He did not want that the different languages should be suppressed. In the same way, we do not want that the other languages in our State should be suppressed. We cannot do this nor do we want this.

While suggesting amendments to the Bill this broad principle should be kept in view. Bengali language is there in Cachar. This Bill has not sought to eliminate it. And who can eliminate Bengalee? It is one of the Regional languages accepted in the Constitution. Besides, it is one of the world's major languages—rich in modern literature

The Hill brethren cherish a fear that they will be eliminated from the Services, if Assamese is declared as an official language in the State of Assam. To remove this fear the Bill has provided to maintain English in the Secretariat till it is replaced by the National Language of India—Hindi. Replacement of English may take more than 15 years or so. At present, the people of India has decided to maintain it till 1975. It may be that this decision may again be changed. Our Hill brethren will have enough time and opportunity to learn the language.

Regarding the District administration, it has been left to their choice. It is for the District Council to select. The other day in private discussion some friends of Khasi and Jaintia Hills wanted that the Khasi language should be mentioned on the text of the Bill. I feel that such insertion would curb the powers of the District Council—guaranteed by the Constitution. I do not propose to prolong this discussion. While concluding, I propose to repeat the appeal to all Members. This is a historic occasion for us. My mind goes back today to those times in history when our Hill brethren fought shoulder to shoulder with men of the plain against foreign invaders. May these historic memories of the past inspire us today to stand side by side and join us in solution of this problem.

Thank you, Sir.

***Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of Assam's Official language has been ripping the minds of our people ever since the Constitution of India came into force. During the last few months this demand was boldly raised by the people, and the movement for the realisation of this demand will remain as a bright chapter in the history of our State. But it also brought a dark chapter due mostly to the failure of the Government to take appropriate action in time. This demand has become irresistible and the Government have bowed down to the demand of the people and after much painful labour they have delivered this Bill which is described as the Official Language Bill. But in reality this Official Language Bill has given a concept of bilingual State and nobody in the State is claiming this Bill; neither the people of the Brahmaputra Valley nor the people of Cachar, nor the people of the Hills. The people of the Brahmaputra Valley, after the introduction of this Bill, have organised many public meetings in almost all the towns and townships, and they have demanded that Assam should be declared an unilingual State and Assamese should be the only official language of the State. This demand has been made not only by the Assamese people but also by all the linguistic groups residing in the Brahmaputra Valley. Whether Bengalee or Behari or Rajasthanis or Oriya or Nepali or Punjabi, all have demanded that Assamese should be declared as the only official language of the State. Now, the people of Cachar, particularly the big section of the people, do not find any shape of their aspiration in this Bill, and they are not claiming this Bill. The hill people also find that in this Bill there is the danger of future Assamisation of the whole hill people and so they are also not claiming it. Naturally, therefore, a question arises—what is the solution that will reasonably satisfy the whole people of the State? That question takes us to the basic question: why a State language is necessary and why a provision in Article 345 of the Constitution of India was inserted by the framers of the Constitution? Now the Constitution of India reflects the basic policy of the Indian National Congress. The Indian National Congress in the British days raised the concept of Swaraj before the people and that conception gave the people of India an idea that they would be able to run the Government in their own way and in their own language, which they speak and understand. That gave the concept of linguistic State. The Indian National Congress not only believed in this policy, they actually implemented this policy. During the British days the Congress organisation was linguistically divided and the Congress provinces were also divided accordingly. Now, that is a very healthy concept and I think it is a correct policy that the Congress has taken. But that also created a new problem. What is that problem? From one nation it has given rise to conglomeration of small nationalities. There is unity in diversity. But even then the movement started by Gandhiji gave rise to the national sentiment. But I do not hold that that national sentiment is progressive which is rather capitalistic and reactionary. Nationalism is progressive because in it lies the development of a nation or small nationalities to a certain extent, and for that it is necessary. We find in the whole world that there is movement for liberation from colonialism and fight against Imperialism and that is on national basis. Whether in Indo China or in Arab countries we find that the movement for emancipation, movement for throwing away the shackles

of colonialism take a national shape. So, that is progressive and healthy. Here in India also the national movements of every linguistic group have their own aspirations. They like their own customs and they want to go up in the ladder of progress, and that is a healthy sign.

But nationality should be allowed to develop. Now if Soviet Russia or U.S.A. practise nationalism to the full they would be called reactionaries, because they must think in terms of the whole world. But here the sentiment of nationalism should be allowed to develop to a certain extent. That policy automatically root out from the conception of linguistic states. Now, what is linguistic States? In the Statements of Objects and Reasons of the Bill it has been correctly stated that in order to allow the people to have a closer participation in the administration of the State so that they can participate in the different branches of administration, we must have an official language, *i.e.*, the language of the people. The Government must be run by the language of the people; and for full play of democracy, that is necessary. For the full play of democracy two things are essential. First of all, decentralisation of power, *i.e.*, power should be given at the base, and at the same time people must have a chance to run their administration in their own way, in their own language. People want to participate, people want to understand the rule of the Government want to understand the policy of the Government and for that purpose it is necessary, otherwise people would not understand the rules of the Government.

Now, if this principle is correct that the people should be allowed to run their Government in their own language, and if this principle is allowed to all the linguistic groups then the people of Cachar may legitimately claim that they should have a right to run their own Government in their own language; people of the Hills also have a right to claim that they should be allowed to run their own administration in their own language. Once we accept this principle, the people of the Hills who speak different languages also have a right. Their language may be undeveloped, but they are proud of their language, they aspire that their language should prosper and their language should have a proper place in the comity of Languages. So, that aspiration should also be respected.

Now what is the formula in this Bill? We are speaking so many languages. Everybody should have a right to run their own administration in their own language. But how one language is going to solve this problem of unilingual State. Here in the modern world we do not find a single State nor even Sikkim or Bhutan which is unilingual. In Switzerland there are as many as 10 languages, but no State in India is unilingual. Majority of the people have accepted Hindi to be the *lingua franca* or national language of India; but not more than 14 crores of the people speak in Hindi. Then why Hindi has been made the national language? Because another 14 crores of people understand it, and it is the only language which can be picked up by other language groups. That is why it has been chosen as the national language for India.

Here, in our State we find that population of Assamese speaking people is 49·71 lakhs.

Bengali speaking people 17·17 lakhs.

Assamese speaking people constitute	..	..	56·29 per cent.
Bengali speaking people constitute	...	...	19·4 per cent.
Hindi speaking people constitute	...	...	3·35 per cent.
Garo speaking people constitute	...	...	2·36 per cent.
Khasi speaking people constitute	...	...	2·30 per cent.
Bodo speaking people constitute	..	...	1·74 per cent.

All the rest are below one lakh only.

So, what we find here. We find that the major linguistic group is the Assamese speaking people, *i.e.*, 56·29 per cent people speak Assamese. That is the Census figure, and in 1960 this figure may be a bit higher, because in the mean time some people have adopted Assamese, or they have lent their support to the Assamese language to be the official language. Therefore we must look into the interest of the other linguistic groups and also the major group. We should try to have our official language by mutual respect and understanding, by adjustment and persuasion. Here, no other language has the claim to be the official language other than Assamese. If we think of constitution of a linguistic State, if we think that our State must be run with the language of the people, then Assamese alone should be declared as the sole official language. But in doing so, all other linguistic groups must be respected, and given a right to run their own administration in their own way and own language.

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order. I have got requests from many hon. Members who are willing to take part in the debate. But time is limited ; we shall have to complete our debate on this subject to day by 4 p.m., and I propose to reserve the last half an hour for the Leader of the House to reply. So it would be proper if we divide the time so that all the speakers can take part in it. Therefore, I propose to fix the time limit for any hon. Member not more than 10 minutes ; but in case of Party or Group Leaders some concession should be given. I think it will satisfy the Members.

I feel that as many hon. Members as possible should take part in the debate because this is an important subject and they have their own say in the matter. Therefore, they should be given chance. So, if you do not adhere to the time-limit then most of the Members will be deprived of the chance to speak.

(Voices : yes, yes).

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA [Phulbari (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this being a very important Bill, I do not know whether it will be desirable at all to limit the time. Moreover, it appears that for discussion of the Bill, limitation of time is not prescribed by the rules. Therefore, in view of that, will it be desirable for the House to come to a decision to fix the time limit for discussion on this very important Bill ?

Mr. SPEAKER : The right of fixing the time-limit lies with the Speaker. But as the Bill is an important one, I want to be guided by the sense of the House, and as far as I understand, the sense of the House is that there should be some time-limit, because I think the hon. Members will feel very much boring to hear repetition of speeches, or repetition of some point by every Member. Therefore, as far as possible, Members will try to avoid repetition; and if they avoid repetition, I think our time will be sufficient.

***Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh):** Democracy means the rule of the majority. In modern age the concept of democracy is not only the rule of the majority, but the majority must take responsibility and interest of protecting the legitimate rights of the minority. Similarly, the minority should see that the mooring from which the minority suffer is realised when caught up and that the minority do not stand an impediment in the development of the majority. Unless these things are combined, we cannot have fair play. Now, here, it is the duty of the minority group to seek protection of the majority group that they should get the full scope and at the same time they should also get the fullest scope for the development of the minority language in the State, which unifies the people. Here, Sir, the problem arises from the district of Cachar and Autonomous Hills Districts. They have their own language, tradition and culture. But I purposely call the people of the Hills non-tribal. Because if Shri Sangma is a tribal, then I myself is a man of pre-historic age. In pre-historic age everyone was tribal. Now he is a perfect specimen of nuclear age.

Now, Sir, the people of the Hills should realise that they should have their own language to develop, so they must co-operate with the majority linguistic group of the State. Otherwise, it is not possible for them to develop their languages. In this connection, I must appreciate the statement made by the Chief Minister in October last. But had he been made this statement in March, much of the trouble would have been averted. Unless we have taken that conception we cannot have unilingual State. We have diversity and there must be unity in diversity.

Our State Symbol is Rhino and it is correct because the two have the similar characteristic, i.e., the skin and the force. But in my opinion, the symbol should have been the Brahmaputra having so many tributaries bringing different kinds of water with different colour from different origins and they have all combined to make this river a mighty one. So is the case with our State. We have different tributaries which represent their dependence and integrity. They represent their separate entity and at the same

time, they contribute to the formation of this mighty Brahmaputra. Likewise, we find so many different languages and culture which contribute to the growth of the Assamese language, and welfare of the State. In this connection I should like to emphasise one point. The speciality of the State is the beauty of our State. This diversity of the people of different nature lends colour and speciality to our State. But if we remain united our development will be quicker and if our brothers and sisters of the Hills feel that it is not possible to develop their own language if they remain with Assam, in that case, I think, it is better, we separate as brothers. I strongly believe and appeal to them that in that way different tribes and groups of hill people will be able to retain their integrity. So, I think that will be the correct solution.

Even in the matter of official language I am very much dissatisfied that English has been brought as official language.

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order, your time is over. Now, Mr. Thanglura.

Shri A. THANGLURA [Ajal-West (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Mr. Speaker, Sir though the other day, as the Chairman of the Council of Action of the All Party Hills Leaders' Conference, I opposed the motion of the introduction of the Bill, yet today I shall be failing in my duty, if I do not express my thanks to the Chief Minister for placing this matter before the House for discussion as I believe that the world will know who are the people in Assam who are really eager to maintain the integration of the State or who are the people in Assam who happened to be merely swayed by the sentiment of the language fanaticism or the political greediness. Well, Sir, in this House, quite a number of good bills had been introduced and passed which really benefited this august House. But today, with all apology, I must say that owing to this language issue which is rather disruptive in nature this House which has got terrific tradition behind it, seems to me like a theatrerroom where the sick man of Assam is being operated. And the condition, indeed, is very critical too. As such I feel somewhat diffident to express myself over this sorry state of affairs. Sir, as we know the members of Negotiating Committee and others have been making an earnest effort to find a solution by way of this so-called compromise Bill. But its effect is little worse than useless. In fact, it is like trying to put out fire in a house with kerosine oil or petrol. While the process of reasoning applied to this Bill could be more spacious even than sound the Bill all the same, becomes quite pathetic as it neither satisfies the people of the plains nor the people of the Hills. So today, I rather take my stand to lame it for the departed spirit of the bill. Sir, we have exerted ourselves in quite a number of discussions and quite a good deal of talks had taken place, but so far our efforts seem to be fruitless. The more we engage ourselves in the talk, the more the matter get flared up. Sir, I do not know how the honourable Members take it, but I for one, will still maintain that the stand taken by the Chief Minister during the last Budget Session seems to be the most conducive and the best one. At that time, the Chief Member was considerate and sympathetic enough as to say that the Government should prefer to wait till the demand of the Assamese as official language of the State comes from the non-Assamese

people. As a tribal myself, I had been very much taken up by that statement. I felt quite heartened and a sense of security too. But Sir, while the sad music of that humanity is still pervading in this House, the Chief Minister had to make another statement which completely buried the previous statement of his delivered during the Budget session. Sir, I feel that the Statement of the Chief Minister given in the month of June presented itself before the Tribal as the perfect picture of the death of our hope in the Assam Government. Though I feel rather afflicted and distressed by the remarkable commitment of the Chief Minister, I do not blame him altogether. I rather resign myself to the thought that the voice that had won Mr. Chaliha tremendous reputation specially amongst the Tribal people, now seems to be vanishing along with his failing health. In fact, I really associate myself with him over his agony that had been caused by cruel circumstance of today that I nearly drown myself in the depth of his sorrow. ✓ Sir, today as a layman who has been suffering from intellectual proverty, I do not consider myself to be qualified enough to comment on the Assamese language. But Sir, even assuming that Assamese is the most beautiful language and the richest language of the world, I just want to know whether we are more concern with the declaration of Assamese as the official language of the State or the Intregation of the State. As I said, Sir, Assamese might be a very beautiful language and the richest language, but I feel that we must think rather in terms of the in'egration of the State of Assam more than anything else. And this really is the challenge to the Assamese brethren. Sir, actually I have no ill feelings towards the Assamese brethren. I do respect the their sentiment. But Sir, I feel that the Assamese brethren should have the wisdom and decency to realise the feeling of the minority. After all in a healthy Democracy, it is the majority that always show good gesture by accommodat-ing the view and feelings of the minority. Sir, now the Assamese brethren are speaking about their apprehension that they might be wiped off by the Bengalee. If the Assamese people who are quite advanced and who have got facilities and security could entertain such apprehension, then what about the Tribals who have less security and facility. At least in the Constitution, there is provision for the Assamese language, but so far as the Tibals are concerned there is no such provision. There is no security for their language like the Assamese language.) Anyway, apart from this, I want the hon. Members to know that, After all, (history reveals that Assam happens to be united state just because of its neutral language—that is English.) It cannot be said that is an artificial language as maintained by Shri Siddhi Nath Sarma Dangaria. Sir, English is a neutral language for us it keeps us all on the footing of equality. Then apart from English, Hindi somehow or other has become neutral language for us. Sir, keeping in view the integrity of the State of Assam I do advocate for a neutral language so that peace, amity and love may prevail amongst the people of Assam. That is why I still appeal to the Assamese brothers to come to their proper senses whether they have more regard for the integration of the State or for the language. What is language after all when there is no charity or love amongst ourselves. What is also important is the spirit of mutual understanding and co-operation amongst ourselves.) As St. Paul said in his first letter to the Coriathians—"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling symbol."

So what is it, supposing Assamese to be as good as the angelic language, in view of the cricumstances that confronted the State? We should

approach this problem with a sense of integration. Meanwhile I must also say that I really understand the position of the Assamese people, but when the State is to go through a crisis, it will be better if we step back to the ideal statement of the Chief Minister. That will be the proper solution for us. But if the Assamese people insist by dint of their majority that then Assamese should be the official language and press the passing of this bill, they do not blame us. Personally I am not fascinated with the terms of separation. But when the aspirations of the Assamese people cannot be stopped, then we shall move for separation. Although we shall have to come across difficulties and hardships, yet with full inspiration, as a song says "Onward christian soldiers marching as to war" we shall march towards our 'promised land' where Assamese shall have nothing to do there. After all, christianity taught us that there is no resurrection without crucifixion.

But, Sir, if we can adopt Hindi which is the neutral language as our official language, it will be an ideal. Hindi will be able to unite the Assamese, Bengalis and the Tribal as it was done by the English Language and all will have equality which is conducive to Democracy and which is most beneficial. Any way, Sir, this will be my last speech so far as this language bill is concerned. In fact when Assam is being murdered by the heavy blow of the majority, I will have no hand in it.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Mr. Speaker Sir, I have listened very carefully to the speech made just now by my friend Mr. Thanglura. I appreciate his sentiments and I appreciate his desire to work with us and to live with us, I reciprocate all these. But Sir, we have to take into account the feelings of the people we are representing. While doing so, we shall try to have maximum adjustment. Sir, I am not in favour of separation. At one time I wanted even Manipur, Tripura and N.E.F.A. to be tagged to Assam so that this region in the East of East Pakistan could develop and flourish and live in peace and amity. Having that mission in my mind I cannot think for a moment the dismemberment of the present State of Assam. I believe that we the plains people and hills people living together can benefit each other and develop this State. Keeping this in our mind—with all humility I would also request them to consider the very purpose of an official language—to consider the large volume of opinion in favour of one language being declared as the official language of the State. Sir, my friend Shri Thanglura has said that English should remain as the neutral language which will bind us altogether. He has said that what has united us is the English language. I cannot, Sir, agree with this proposition and reading of history. If anything has united us, it is our history, it is our geography and the very fact that we live together. Therefore, Sir, I have always considered, especially after Independence, the English language to be a language of convenience and not a neutral language of our people through the medium of which we can express ourselves.

If you look, Sir, to articles 343 (2) and article 345 (2) both are separate. In both cases English comes independently and we find that English has been retained not as a national language but as a language of convenience only so as to make it easy for the switch-over. Therefore, Sir, we are not opposed to retention of English till it ought to be retained. Article 345

unlike article 343 does not put a time limit for it. As I have said under the provision of Article 345 English comes independently as a language of convenience and, therefore, it is not necessary that when English will be removed at the Union level, it should also be removed immediately at the State level. So I would have liked to see a spirit of working this formula as while this will make Assamese the State language, English will continue side by side. Nobody in the State may feel any inconvenience and if in the meantime we can work together and understand each other better and remove our misunderstanding prejudices perhaps we shall be able to accept Assamese as the sole language and give goodbye to English for ever. That is a challenge for all of us and let us accept it.

Sir, I have also thought whether it is possible or not for Assam also to have a Linguistic Commission as envisaged under article 344 (1) and develop that language as envisaged in article 351 by borrowing from tribal languages. I am not a puritan in the matter of languages. I want that all languages, the languages of the tribal brethren, to develop side by side. I know there are some words in the tribal languages which are more expressive and would like to borrow those words and expressions so that Assamese will not be the monopoly of the Assamese people but shall be shared by all sections of the people and it will be language of the people of Assam. During this interregnum we shall try for it and if we try, I have faith in human ingenuity and in human capacity and I feel that we can develop this language. But for this we have to decide here and now—not because it is the common language of the Assamese people but because it is understood and spoken by the majority of the people, no matter what is the percentage of the people speaking it—give a star to the process of developing that language to the process of unification. Can we not engage ourselves to that task? Can we not engage ourselves to make the State beautiful? I have thought that by declaring Assamese as the State language, we shall not deride other languages. If any one considers his language to be superior on that account, because it is made official language I will consider him to be a traitor to the Assamese language itself. I want that we must respect all languages. I respect the Bengali language; it is one of the richest in the world. By making the Assamese language as the State language we do not want to suppress any language, we do not want to deride to any language. If that is done that will be end of our language too.

What are the purposes of an official language? One of its purposes is to bring the administration closer to the people. If that be the purpose, then we must fall back upon a language which is immediately understood by the majority of the people. In that view if we accept that languages be the primary official language will also be limited in its scope. So far as the primary education is concerned, I reiterate that article 350A is applicable but I want the Assam Government to make it mandatory so that every child may learn the three R's in his mother tongue. I also want Bodo to be a language at the primary stage and it claim such a place. Similarly, so far as the secondary education is concerned article 29 and 30 are there to give guarantee or safeguards the interest of the minorities to start secondary Schools and get grant at par with others. Therefore, so far as education is concerned, official language will have nothing to do. So far as inter State communication, is concerned, article 346 is there and article 346 makes

not the Assamese language as the language of inter-State communication but the English language now and Hindi at a later date. So far as debates in this House is concerned, we are our own masters. I cannot conceive of a day when this House will make the Assamese language compulsory for the purpose of debate. Then, the High Court has its own language. So far as representation is concerned, under article 350 anybody can submit it in his own language. Therefore the scope of an official language is very limited. It is not going to suppress or affect any other language. Therefore, I humbly request those who have not been able to reconcile with the idea of having one official language for the entire State to consider this aspect of the matter. Let us develop Assamese the language of the majority of the people comprising words from every vocabulary so that we can be proud of our own achievement.

Sir, I do not propose to go into the Bill in detail. The present Bill which is before us does not envisage that thing. The present Bill is a bilingual one which satisfies nobody. I read in the paper a few days ago a report of a speech of Shri Khagendra Nath Nath in the A.P.C.C.—and criticising the Bill. He is reported to have posed the question as—‘whose baby’ is this. I think that is a very correct approach. And, therefore, Sir, I would say that we do not disturb the language of the people in the district level of the administration where the languages are bound to be different. Let us have at least one language in the State level for a very limited propose which will not affect anybody in any sphere. If we do that, we shall be able to progress. Sir, I have seen the A.P.C.C.’s recommendation. I have kept an open mind. I appreciate what the Chief Minister said. He has also kept an open mind and I can assure him that our opposition will also be responsive and constructive in this matter. We want not to impose our language on any one. Mr. Thanglura used the words linguistic fanaticism. It is fanaticism, Sir, to demand that language of the majority be made the official language of the State. Does it preach hatred against any language. Then, Sir, all the States are to be blamed. There is language fanaticism everywhere because in all the States, although there are minorities one language has been made the official language. There are huge numbers of tribal people in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, but they did not make any demand in the same manner. Even Bihar passed a Bill making one language the official language. Therefore, Sir, I would once more appeal to every body to tackle this problem with reasonings and we also reiterate that all the constitutional safeguards must be fully implemented so that nobody can suffer here. We reiterate that if Government failed in implementing these safeguards and cause any wrong, I can say we would see that the Government implement these safeguards, scrupulously and strictly. And in that background, I would request you all to have one official language and only one, so that we can develop, and live together with full trust and sympathy to each other.

Shri KHAGENDRA NATH NATH (Goalpara): মাননীয়
অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমি অসমৰ সকলো জনসাধাৰণে বহুদিন ধৰি দাবী কৰি আহিছো। যে
অসমত অসমীয়া ৰাজ্যিক ভাষা কৰিব লাগে। আমি সকলোৰে জানো যে চৰকাৰে
যোৱা ১০ অক্টোবৰত এখন Assam Official Language Bill এই সম্পাকিত
সদনত দাঙি ধৰিছে। মই ভাবো আমাৰ মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰীয়ে যিখিনি বিল দাঙি ধৰিব

প্রতিশ্রুতি দিছিলে এই বিলে সেইখিনি প্রতিশ্রুতি বক্ষা কৰিব পৰা নাই। আৰু তেওঁ লগে-লগে ভাষণত যিখিনি কৈছে “মই এইটো আদৰ্শ প্ৰস্তাৱ বুলি দাবী কৰিব নোখোজে। কিন্তু বৰ্তমানৰ নানান কঠিন বাস্তৱ অৱস্থাৰ প্ৰতি লক্ষ্য ৰাখি ইয়াতকৈ উপযুক্ত প্ৰস্তাৱ চিন্তা কৰিব পৰা নাই। এই এইটো পৰিস্থাৱ কবি কব খোজে যে এই প্ৰস্তাৱৰ স্পৰ্শত কোনো আকোৰ গজালি মনোভাৱ নাই আৰু এই সন্মানিত সদনে যদি আইন খন আৰু ভাল কৰা উদ্দেশ্যে কোনো প্ৰস্তাৱ আগ বঢ়ায় তেন্তে সকলো পৰামৰ্শকে আমি আনন্দেৰে বিবেচনা কৰিম।” আইন খন কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰাৰ বাবে সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱ আগ বঢ়াবৰ কাৰণে তেওঁ কেনেকুৱা খোলা মনোভাৱেৰে যি পৰামৰ্শ দিছে তাৰ কাৰণে মই তেখেতক ধন্যবাদ জনাওঁ।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় ৰাজ্যিক ভাষাৰ বিষয়ত আলোচনা কৰি মই দীৰ্ঘ বক্তৃতা দিয়াৰ দৰকাৰ আছে বুলি বিবেচনা নকৰো। কিন্তু বিলখনত এনেকুৱা কিছুমান কথা আছে যাৰ কাৰণে বিলখন আমাৰ পৰ্ব্বতীয়া অঞ্চলৰ নাইবা ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ উপত্যকাৰ ৰাইজ সকলৰ মতামত সম্বন্ধে মই যি দেখিছো ধুবুৰীৰ পৰা ডিব্ৰুগড়লৈকে সকলোৱে তাত প্ৰতিবাদ কৰিছে। আমাৰ গোৱালপাৰা জিলাৰ পৰা মই অসংখ্য টেলীগ্রাম পাইছো যে বিলখন দ্বিভাষী হব নালাগে একভাষী হব লাগে। আৰু কাছাৰৰ ৰাইজেও মানি লোৱা নাই। কিন্তু এটা কথা মনত ৰাখিব লাগিব যে ভাৰতৰ সংবিধানত উল্লেখিত ১৪ টা ভাষাৰ ভিতৰত অসমীয়া ভাষাও এটা। মই মুখমন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ ভাষণত কোৱা কথা খিনিৰ উল্লেখ কৰিছো। তেওঁ কৈছে “ভাৰতৰ সংবিধানত উল্লেখিত ১৪ টা ভাষাৰ ভিতৰত অসমীয়া ভাষাও এটা। সংবিধানৰ অন্যতম অনুসূচিত বিভিন্ন ভাষা সমূহ উল্লেখ কৰাৰ উদ্দেশ্য হ'ল উল্লেখিত প্ৰত্যেকটো ভাষাকে সেই সেই ৰাজ্যত বা অঞ্চলত ৰাজ্য ভাষা বা চৰকাৰী ভাষা হিচাপে গণ্য হ'বলৈ সুবিধা দিয়া।” সেই কাৰণে সংবিধানৰ ধাৰাৰ মতে ভাৰতৰ সেই সেই ৰাজ্যত বা অঞ্চলত ১৪ টা ভাষা ৰাজ্য ভাষা বা চৰকাৰী ভাষা হিচাপে গণ্য হ'বলৈ বাধ্য। এই ব্যৱস্থাৰ কাৰণে উল্লেখযোগ্য ভাষাভাষী অঞ্চলত বাঢ়ি ভাষাৰ দাবী উঠিছে। অসমীয়া ৰাজ্য-ভাষা অসমত নহলে আৰু ক'ত হ'ব পাৰে ?

সেই কাৰণে মই আমাৰ চৰকাৰক কওঁ যে বিলখন সকলোৱে সংশোধন কৰি ল'ব আৰু এই বাবে মই কেইটামান সংশোধনী পৰামৰ্শ আগ বঢ়াইছো। তাৰ (১) প্ৰথমত অসমীয়াই অসমৰ একমাত্ৰ ৰাজ্য-ভাষা হ'ব (২) Secretariat ত অসমীয়া চলিব। আৰু ইংৰাজী সাম্প্ৰতিক ভাবে চলি থাকিব। আৰু (৩) আমাৰ পাৰ্ব্বত্য জিলা বিলাকত তেখেত সকলৰ জিলাত থকা পৰিষদে নিজা-নিজা ভাষা দুই তৃতীয়াংশ ভোটৰ দ্বাৰা কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰিব ল'ব। কাছাৰত বঙ্গলা ভাষা কাৰ্য্য কৰিব হ'ব কিন্তু ভোটত মহকুমা পৰিষদে ধাৰ্য্য কৰিব ল'ব। আমাৰ চৰকাৰক এইবোৰ সংশোধন থকাৰে বিলখন দাঙি ধৰিবলৈ অনুৰোধ কৰো। মই বিশ্বাস কৰো ৰাইজে মানি ল'ব। আমাৰ চৰকাৰে ৰাইজৰ আগ্ৰহ আৰু প্ৰবল জনতমৰ প্ৰতি শ্ৰদ্ধা ৰাখি চলিব লাগিব। ৰাইজে বিশ্বাস কৰে যে জনমতৰ বিৰুদ্ধে তেওঁলোকে এখন আইন পাচ নকৰিব। আৰু ইয়াকে কৈ লগে-লগে কাছাৰৰ বন্ধু সকল আৰু পৰ্ব্বতীয়া এলাকাৰ বন্ধু সকলক বিনীত ভাবে অনুৰোধ কৰো যে অসম ৰাজ্য-ভাষা আইন খনত তেওঁলোকে সমৰ্থন দিয়ে যেন। ইয়াকে কৈ মই বক্তব্যৰ সামৰণি মাৰিলো।

*Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : Mr. Speaker Sir, if the term “democracy” should have its real meaning, if the masses are really to be the masters of their own lives, state affairs must be conducted

*Speech not corrected.

in a language in which they can be most at their ease. The language question must not be made a matter for political wranglings. It has to be considered from the stand-point of bringing the administration closer to the masses, of bringing about the actual participation of the common people in Government. It is on the basis of this understanding that the democratic forces in the country have always stood and campaigned for the replacement of English by respective regional languages of the State as the official language, i. e. as the language of administration, education, court, and the legislatures. Though Hindi is the official language of the Union, it would be quite wrong to attempt to make Hindi to take the place of English in the regional sphere as the non-Hindi speaking States are concerned. For All-India purposes, gradually and in a planned way, Hindi has to replace English. It is in this spirit that the Constitution of India has made Hindi the Official Language of the Union of India under Art. 343 and has authorised the Legislature of a State under Art. 345 to adopt by law any one or more of the languages in use in the State or Hindi as the language or languages to be used for all or any of the official purposes of that State, subject of course to the proviso that until the legislature of the State authorise provides by law the English language shall continue to be used for those official purposes within the State for which it was being used immediately before the commencement of the Constitution.

Sir, let us not forget that the beauty of India is its unity in diversity. Let us not forget that with the growth and development of our national movement among the broad masses of our people two complementary tendencies developed side by side in the linguistic field. Hindi in the All-India scale symbolised the unity of India against imperialism and began increasingly to be used as the common medium at national gatherings. Side by side with this, and no way antagonistic to it, increasing attention and devotion to regional languages could be seen. As the national and democratic movements penetrated to the very thick of Indian humanity, Indian unity began to manifest itself in the wonderfully rich diversity of our country and its culture. The different provincial Congress Committees were formed on linguistic basis and the field was being prepared for linguistic States after the attainment of independence. Those who talk too glibly of "linguism and banter as fissiparous the trend for unilingual States would do well to ponder a little over this aspect of the history of our national movement.

While taking a firm stand on the principle of a unilingual State, one can not ignore the duty and responsibility of safeguarding the rights and interest of linguistic minorities within each region. It is necessary to ward off any chauvinism towards the languages of minority groups

We should approach the language question in Assam bearing this clearly in mind. We must remember that Assam is epitome of India. It is a composite State and a rural society with various peoples at different levels of civilisation and speaking various languages and dialects of different stages of development. Our language problem is a difficult one. It has been made more difficult and complicated by the wrong policies pursued by the Government as well as by its lack of policy in many respects. Pointing out these difficulties some people advise us to solve the problem to indefinite future. These counsels must be rejected. It must be remembered that the language problem is a part and parcel of our total problem on national reconstruction

and precisely for this reason, correct policies on this question have to be evolved and implemented. It would be dangerous and destructive to allow the present position of drift and chaos to continue. There are disruptive and chauvinistic forces already at work to whip up animosities and divide the people. These disruptive forces can be countered only by a correct, just and democratic policy. Let us approach the problem from that angle.

According to the census of 1951 there are as many as 182 Indian and 23 foreign languages and dialects prevalent in Assam. There are as many as 10 principal languages with speakers numbering one lakh or more. The principal ones are—Assamese with about 55 per cent population, Bengali with about 19 per cent population and Hindi with about 3 per cent population. We are, therefore, facing the same problem as the framers of the Constitution faced in deciding what Indian language should be the official language of the Union of India. Except for the transitional period, we are to rule out English as the Constitution did. Though the number of Hindi-speaking people was only about 43 per cent of the Indian population, though English played a unifying role in the formative stage of Indian nationhood, though English had established itself as the language of the Indian intelligentsia, though for international purposes, learning of English was inevitable and though acceptance of Hindi meant that the Hindi speaking population of 5 to 7 crores would find itself to be more advantageous position vis-a-vis the rest, Hindi has to be chosen as the official language of the Union because that was the language of single major group of Indians. In the context of Assam, therefore, the choice of Assamese as the official language of the State is inevitable and quite reasonable. It should be remembered that the 3 lacs and odd Hindi-speaking people in Assam are scattered throughout the State and they are not concentrated in any particular place or places. In contrast, Bengali, Khasi, Lushai and Mikir speaking people are concentrated in the district of Cachar, United Khasi and Jaintia Hills, Garo Hill, Mizoram and Mikir Hills. Hindi has no better claim than any one of these languages to be an official language at the State level. If the principle of bilingualism at the State level with Hindi therein is accepted, the logical and inevitable consequence will be far reaching. We are totally and unequivocally opposed to the principle of bilingualism at the State level with Hindi as one of the two languages whether you mention Hindi as the first paragraph or in the second paragraph—whether you mention it in the opening clause or in the proviso. In our opinion Assamese should be the State language of Assam. Though the latest resolution of the A. P. C. C. proposes slightly to raise the status of Assamese from a very subsidiary position as originally provided in the Bill it has retained the bilingual formula. In some other respects the A. P. C. C.'s latest is crude moreover to bluff the people and disrupt their unity as we shall presently see.

Once we accept the position of Assamese language as the State language it follows naturally and logically that subject to the continuance of English side by side with Assamese for the transitional period, under proviso to Art. 345, Ordinances, Acts, Bills, Orders, Regulations, Rules, By-laws, etc., shall of course be made in Assamese. The second proviso to clause 3 therefore, is not only unnecessary but is an indication of the secondary and subsidiary status given to the Assamese language at the State level. It is not the Assamese language, but the Bengali language and the languages of

the Hills which have not been made State languages for which these provisions are necessary.

The A. P. C. C.'s latest proposal regarding Cachar is a crude and mischievous attempt at sowing the seeds of disruption. As there could be no doubt about the status of the Assamese language in the districts of the Brahmaputra Valley, there can be no doubt about the status of Bengali in the district of Cachar. As we consider as provocative and disruptive any suggestion of any fool or knave that Goalpara district or any subdivision thereof is anything but Assamese-speaking, as provocative or disruptive, the same is bound to be the feeling of the people of Cachar, more than 80 per cent of whom are Bengali speaking, that there should be any question-mark about the status of Bengali language there. No parallel can be drawn between Cachar and the Hills districts. If any parallel is to be drawn it must be between the Plains districts of the Brahmaputra Valley and Cachar. It is incorrect to equate a Mahakuma Parishad with a district or Regional Council. While the district or regional council under the 6th Schedule of the Constitution is formed and recognised by the Constitution itself with some legislative powers and functions as though they were diminutive legislatures, Mahakuma Parishads by no stretch of imagination can be given that status,

We should also remember that the opposition to the Bill from wide sections of hills population are also—and more so—due to other reasons like the in smarting grievances in matters administrative, legislative, financial and cultural. The majority community's approach to these problems and aspirations should be tempered with humility and understanding. What they need are not safeguards but special rights and privileges for developing their language, culture, economy and ways of life. They must have full and unfettered rights and opportunities to grow according to their own genius. All other minorities also should be unfettered rights and opportunities to take equal and intelligent part in the cultural and administrative spheres of the State.

In view of the statement of the Chief Minister that he has kept an open mind and that he would consider suggestions for improvement of the Bill from all quarters, we on behalf of the Communist Party of India venture to suggest that the Bill will not be acceptable and will not be the best interest of the country unless and until it is amended on the following lines:—

(1) No bilingualism in any shape, in any form at the State level. Assamese shall be the State language of Assam.

(2) The use of English shall not continue beyond what has been provided in Article 345 of the Constitution of India, i. e., beyond the interim period.

(3) While there will be every encouragement left to Hindi as India's national language it shall not be brought from that pedestal to the State level in Assam.

(4) In addition to the State level, Assamese shall be used upto and including district level in the districts of Goalpara Kamrup Darrang Nowgong Sibsagar and Lakhimpur.

(5) Bengali shall be the language upto and including the district level in Cachar.

(6) Upto and including District Council status-quo shall be retained in the 6th Schedule Districts unless and until the District and Regional Councils concerned decide otherwise.

(7) The State will provide all possible opportunity, aid and assistance for the use of the languages of the Hills and Cachar as the medium of education upto the University level for the people of these areas.

(8) In the State Public Service Examinations provisions shall be made for the candidates to choose the language in use in the State which was the medium of their University education.

(9) There shall be provision for the use of the minority languages for administrative purposes including the making available in those languages of important Government decrees, orders, and enactments in those districts where the said minorities are in a majority together with the continued implementation throughout the State of the obligatory Constitutional provisions as regards the rights to petition and education upto the Secondary stages in their own language, the right to receive State aid to their educational and cultural institutions without discrimination and guarantee of equal opportunities and no discriminations in the State Services.

We hope and trust that these are ample and adequate 'safeguard' or 'special rights' whichever term you prefer should remove every doubt in the mind of the minorities about their future in the State.

If the Bill is amended in the lines indicated above, it should be acceptable to all sections of people in the State and should be able to set a line and pattern for the solution of intricate linguistic problem in the country.

Sir, let me finish my speech by reciting one sloka which the official language commission of the Government of India had incorporated at the very beginning of their Report.

यहै काङ्क नाभविष्यन्त धर्मो ताधर्मी व्यज्ञापधिष्यत् ।
न सत्यं नानृतं न साध ना सार्धं न हृदयज्ञी नाहृदयज्ञी
वात वै तत्स वै विज्ञापयति वाचर्मपा स्पृति ॥

छान्दीस्यपनिषत्—७—२—१

The meaning of it is; if there had been no speech neither the virtue nor voice could be known; neither the true nor false; neither the good nor bad, neither the pleasant nor unpleasant. Speech alone makes known all his. Meditate upon the speech,

18.6.60

Capt. WILLIAM A. SANGMA: [Phulbari (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have clearly indicated at the time of introduction of the Bill in the House, I and my people are strongly opposed to the very principle of the Bill. I, therefore, once again I take my stand to oppose the motion for consideration of the Bill.

Sir, I appreciate the desire of my friends of the Brahmaputra Valley to have their own language, namely Assamese, declared as the Official Language of the State. I would, however, earnestly request the hon'ble members of this august House to seriously consider as to whether by doing that they would be able to provide equality of opportunity to different sections of people of the State as guaranteed under Article 16 of the Constitution of India. Sir, it has been time and again argued by Assamese speaking friends that since Assamese has been recognised by the Constitution as one of the Regional Languages of the Country it should be the Official Language of the State of Assam. This argument is one sided. Because by declaring Assamese as the Official Language of the State the non-Assamese speaking people and particularly the Hills people will be put to serious handicaps and disadvantages. They will thus be deprived of the equality of opportunity granted by the Constitution referred to earlier.

Sir, I have heard a number of speakers talking about safeguards any protections of the linguistic minorities and particularly the Hills people by inserting certain safeguard provisions in the Official Language Bill. In this connection I may be permitted to state that the interests of the tribal people, whether in the plains or in the hills, are safeguarded under the Constitution as we are comparatively more backward economically, educationally, socially, culturally and politically. As you know, Sir, in view of this certain provisions have been incorporated in the Constitution in order to enable the Government of India and the State Governments to pay special attention to the welfare and advancement of the backward people and particularly of the Scheduled Tribes. The interests of the Scheduled Tribes throughout the whole country were to be constitutionally safeguarded, in the first instance, for a period of ten years from the date of the commencement of the Constitution. After the expiration of this period, it was, however, realised that these backward people had not been able to come to the level of development expected. In other words they have not been able to fall in line in the matter of development with the rest of the people of the country. The Government of India, therefore, decided to extend the period for another ten years. you will, therefore, realise, Sir, that we are yet to be seen from constitutional safeguards by raising the level of our development. (While we are still trying our best to raise the level of our development with the help of the Government and thereby to be free from constitutional safeguards and protections it is indeed a matter of great regret that our more advanced friends again talk of keeping us under another safeguard and protection by bringing Bill on Official Language. Sir, how long shall we remain under safeguard and protection? Are we not also the citizens of free India? Are we not also the citizens of free Assam? As citizens of free Country should we not also expect to be on the same footing along with our brother and sisters? Shall we be placed on the same footing along with Assamese speaking people in case Assamese is declared the Official Language of the

State? Is it the desire of our more advanced brothers and sisters who are majority that we should be handicapped and that we always remain as second-grade or third-grade citizens? Is that the way that our friends are going to encourage emotional and psychological integration among different sections of people of the State? Is that the treatment that we are going to receive from the majority community in the State, simply because in democracy the decision of the majority prevails?

Sir, we do not have any bias against Assamese language or Assamese culture. However, we cannot but fight for our rights. We must have equality of opportunity as guaranteed by the Constitution. Everyone should have equality of opportunity. ✓

Sir, I am grateful to the present Chief Minister. He is a man understanding. I have been able to form a high opinion about him as I have had opportunity to work together with him as one of his colleagues in his Cabinet. I have shifted from my former seat to here not to oppose him nor his ideas but to oppose the Bill on Official Language which he has introduced in this House being persistently prompted to do so by the people in the Brahmaputra Valley whom he represents.

Sir, while making his statement on the Official Language Bill, Shri Sidhinath Sarma has expressed his opinion against dismembrment of the present State of Assam. I had occasion to request the hon'ble members, at the time when the Bill was introduced, to go through the provisions of the Bill carefully and to see for themselves if there would not be enough scope for encouraging emotional disintegration in case the Bill as passed in the present form. Sir, it has been provided in the Bill that in the Brahmaputra Valley Assamese shall be the sole Official Language. As for the Hill Districts it has been left for the respective District and the Regional Councils to adopt any language of their choice for official purposes upto the District or the Regional level as the case may be. Naturally, what will happen? The Garo Hills District Council will undoubtedly pass a resolution not only by 3/4th. majority, a provision in the Bill, but by cent percent votes declaring Garo Language as the sole Official Language for Garo Hills District. Similarly the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills District Council will also declare Khasi Language as the sole Official Language for United Khasi and Jaintia Hill District. The Mizo District Council will also declare Mizo Language as the sole Official Language for Mizo District. What will be the result? The Language will be able to serve in different offices in Garo Hills District. Therefore what will happen to a large number of non-Garos living in Garo Hills District? These people will be deprived of opportunity in the matter of employment or appointment in any office within the District. Similarly in the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills only the Khasis and Jaintias and in the Mizo District only the Mizos will be able to serve in the various offices within those Districts. And in the Brahmaputra Valley they are ignorant of Assamese language as well as Assamese script. It will, therefore, be realised that we are going to encourage emotional disintegration by bringing the Language Bill. I, therefore, fail to understand how Shri Sarma and others who advocate for this Bill could still

talk about emotional integration. When we are going to allow emotional disintegration to take place through this Bill there cannot be any more sense in talking against dismemberment of the State. One should not be self-contradictory.

Now regarding equality of opportunity in services etc. The Chief Minister himself has admitted in his statement while introducing the Bill that the Assamese speaking people will be in an advantageous position as they will have their own language as the sole Official Language in the Brahma utra Valley and as one of the languages at the Secretariate level. He has also admitted that the non-Assamese speaking people and particularly the Hills people will not get equality of opportunity. I shall read out the relevant portions of his statement.

“I am sure that the Assamese speaking people will realise and appreciate that while they will be in an advantageous position to have their own language as the Official language in the Brahmaputra Valley and as one of the two Official Languages at the Secretariate level, in due course is their duty and responsibility to see that the disadvantage of the non-Assamese speaking people is lessened and minimised.”

Speaking with particular reference to the Hills people he said: “They will thereby be provided with near equal opportunities with the people of the plains.”

Sir, you will, therefore, realise that that the Chief Minister himself has already admitted that by declaring Assamese as the Official Language of the State we, the Hills people, will be put to disadvantageous and will be deprived of equality of opportunity. Realising this he has suggested that the Assamese speaking people who will be in an advantageous position should see that the disadvantage of the non-Assamese speaking people is lessened and minimised. It is in view of this I oppose the Bill.

The previous speakers have expressed to have Assamese as the sole Official Language of the State. They have indicated their disapproval of certain so called safeguard provisions of the Bill. There is, of course, a provision in the present Bill that at the Secretariate and the Heads of the Departments levels English shall continue to be used till replaced by Hindi. However we have had enough indications, as I have already stated the other day, that this arrangement will not satisfy the people in the Brahmaputra Valley. In fact to-day we have heard some of the speakers saying that it does not satisfy them. They are all out for declaring Assamese as the sole Official Language of the the State. We have just now heard Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya saying that after declaring Assamese as the sole Official Language for the whole State it should be used both at the Secretariate and the Heads of Department levels and the continuance of English at that levels should not go beyond the provisions of Article 345 of the Constitution. Sir, in case it is agreed to what will happen? The hundreds of Hill Tribal employees in the Secretariat and in the Heads of Departments will be put immediately to serious disadvantage. They will all become illiterates overnight. Because in case Shri Bhattacharyya's suggestion is agreed to by this House and the Bill is accordingly adopted the use of English at the Secretariate and the Heads of the Departments levels will have to be discontinued as soon as

Assamese is declared the Official Language of the State under Article 345 referred to by him. Because according to the proviso to this Article the use of the English language for official purposes is allowed to be continued till the Legislature of the State declares a particular language or languages as the Official Language or the Languages of the State. As a result the Hill Tribal people at present working in the Secretariat and in the various Heads of Departments will be put to disadvantage and the moment the switch over from English to Assamese takes place they will become unfit for service. Sir, is this the way that the interests of the Hill Tribal brothers and sisters now in service are going to be protected? Let us not be let by more emotion. Let us have a practical study of the problem. We should, therefore, examine carefully if by bringing such a Bill are we not going to deny equal opportunities to the Hill people. If we examine carefully it will be realised that the Bill will provide adequate and undue opportunity to our friends in the Brahmaputra Valley and the same will be denied to the people in the Hills. Sir, while I do not want to go into the details of the Bill at this stage I have got, however, to make certain general observations in order to justify the objection to the Bill by the Hills people. As stated earlier the mover himself has indirectly admitted that the Bill will put the Hills people to certain disadvantage, though according to him not to serious disadvantage. He said that Hindi should also be the Official Language side by side along with Assamese so that non-Assamese speaking people might not be put into a serious disadvantage. I may also point out, Sir, that in the Bill which has been presented to this House there is no mention of Assamese being used side by side with English to be later on replaced by Hindi at the Secretariat and the Heads of Departments levels. The mover has, however, mentioned in his statement the side by side use of it at the Secretariat level. I cannot, therefore, really understand what is the actual intention of the mover. From his statement, however, it is clear that this piece of legislation should provide for use of Assamese at the Secretariat level side by side with English which is intended to be replaced later on by Hindi. It will, however, be seen that in the Bill presented by him there is no provision for use of Assamese at the Secretariat level: The first proviso to Section 3 of the Bill clearly states that English till replaced by Hindi shall be used for all official purposes of the Secretariat and the Heads of Departments of the State Government. The proviso does not mention of using Assamese at the Secretariat and the Heads of Departments levels side by side with English. Another proviso simply provides for publication in the official Gazette the authoritative translation of all Ordinances, Acts, Orders and Regulations etc. It will therefore, be admitted that the statement does not conform with the provisions of the Bill. The mover talks of something different which the Bill does not provide. It is therefore very difficult to know the actual working of the minds of our friends. It may be as it sometime happens that the mover has failed to express himself properly in writing, in other word through his Bill. It will, therefore, be admitted, Sir, that the Bill does not give the correct intention of the mover. He has a different idea but the Bill gives us altogether a different picture. It is, therefore very difficult to know the actual stand of the mover apart from our being opposed to the very principle of the Bill.

However, Sir, though we very strongly oppose the Bill we shall not be able to stand against the passing of the Bill by this august House as we are absolute minority. It is already known to the people of the entire State that we, the Hill people, are vehemently opposed to the introduction of the Bill. We are opposed to declaring Assamese as the Official Language of the State. However our stand is considered to be not justified, As you personally know Sir, ever since 1948 when the move for declaring Assamese as the State language the Hill Leaders including myself expressed our strong opposition to the proposal. Ever since that time the Hill Leaders made it very clear that they were not prepared to accept Assamese as the State language of Assam. It was not because we disliked Assamese or we had ill-feeling against our Assamese brothers and sisters. But we are convinced that by accepting Assamese as the Official Language we shall be handicapped. This time also we unitedly opposed the proposal. However our stand could not be appreciated. Sir, in support of my stand I may give an example. The Congress having realised that there is a strong opposition to the proposal from the Hills people and other non-Assamese speaking people has considered it desirable to constitute a Negotiating Committee. The Negotiating Committee was yet to start discussion with the various linguistic groups. But, Shri Sidhinath Sarma, though one of the members of the Negotiating Committee made a press statement that they would go ahead with the Official Language Bill declaring Assamese as the Official Language of the State whether there was threat or no threat from the Hill Leaders. This has given us an impression that our friends in the Valley are determined to go ahead with the Language Bill in spite of the strong opposition of the Hill people and the Negotiating Committee is nothing but a mere show. This kind of attitude has also given us a clear indication that they are determined to dominate us.

Mr. SPEAKER: I like to know from the hon. Member how long will he take to finish his speech ?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA [Phulbari, (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: If you kindly allow me, I would like to continue my speech after lunch.

Adjournment

Mr. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 2 P. M.

The Assembly was then adjourned for lunch till 2p . m.

After lunch

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not propose to take much more time of this House. Sir, many of the speakers have expressed their opinion that there should be no imposition. In the brief statement of objects and reasons of the Bill it is stated that "For better and more efficient disposal of official business at different levels in connection with affairs of the State and in order to bring the administration nearer to the people, it has become necessary to prescribe by legislation

language for official purposes, etc.” Accordingly it is intended to prescribe by law that in the Brahmaputra Valley Assamese shall become the sole Official Language. According to the statement of the mover Assamese will also be used side by side along with English at the Secretariat and Heads of the Departments levels. Assamese will thus become practically the sole Official Language of the State. Sir, it will, therefore, be realised that until and unless we are mentally and physically prepared to learn Assamese how can we be in services? I do not, therefore, understand how imposition can be averted. The people of the Hills who want to serve at the Secretariat and in the various Heads of the Departments will have to learn the Assamese language and Assamese script otherwise they will become illiterate and become unfit for service.

✓ Therefore, Sir, I beg to submit that there is indirect imposition to learn Assamese and the Assamese script, though there may not be direct imposition to do so. Sir, the Bill clearly provides that in the Brahmaputra Valley Assamese shall be used exclusively for official purposes. I believe that it is not the intention of the Government to deprive the Hills people of the services in the Brahmaputra Valley and confine their services to the Hill Areas. It will, therefore, be admitted that if we are to serve in the different offices in the Brahmaputra Valley we must first learn Assamese language in Assamese script. It will, therefore, be admitted, Sir, that there is indirect imposition. Apart from this consideration I may also refer to the observation made by Prof Swell which he made in reply to the contention of Shri Hem Barua during the Official Language conference. As Prof. Swell said the declaration of Assamese as the Official Language of the State against the vehement opposition of the Hills and non-Assamese speaking people itself amounts to imposition. Shri Hem Barua, M. P. further observed that in the Legislature of Assam there were more than 75 members speaking Assamese in a House of 105 and as such they could easily declare and should declare Assamese as the Official Language of the State. This statement gave us a clear indication that they would go ahead in declaring or in making Assamese as the Official Language even without first ascertaining the opinion of the Hills people.

Sir, in this connection, I am also to point out that imposition of Assamese has already begun this morning. We are yet to discuss the Official Language Bill which seeks to declare Assamese as the Official Language. I am sorry Sir, to make this passing reference. Sir, as you are well aware, whenever a particular question or supplementary to it is put in English reply should be also in English according to Rules and Procedure of this House. But, Sir, what has happened this morning. When Shri Patwari and Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika put certain supplementary questions in English Shri Tripathi, Minister, replied all along in Assamese. This is an indication how Assamese is going to be imposed. After all morning shows the day.

Sir, we are very unfortunate to absolute minority. We do not have any voice in this House. We have no right to give. We have the right only to accept. We are being forced to accept whatever is given to us it does not matter, whether we like it or not. Sir, under such circumstances how can we still talk about integration of Assam?

Sir, however, I take this opportunity to pay my respect to the present Chief Minister of Assam, Shri Bimala Prasad Chaliha, who gave me an opportunity to serve the people both in the Hills and in the Plains. Under his leadership we have tried to build up united Assam by bringing the people of the Hills and the Plains into closer relationship and understanding. I was indeed very happy to find that the people of the Hills and of the Plains were coming closer to each other. However this Official Language question has destroyed all our endeavours. Our two or three years' earnest efforts to build up better relationship between the different sections of the people of the State could not bear fruit due to Official language issue.

I entirely subscribe to the view expressed by my Friend, Shri Tianglura. He said that more importance should be given to integration of State than to language. We shall never accept the idea that the people of the Hills and other linguistic minorities should have the right to accept and thereby become second grade or third grade citizen. I, therefore, once again beg to submit that in case the Official Language Bill is passed the only solution is the separation of the Hills from Assam. Since there is persistent pressure from our Friends in the Assam Valley to have Assamese as the sole Official Language of Assam I would earnestly request the hon. Members from the Brahmaputra Valley to give full satisfaction to their people by declaring Assamese as the sole Official Language.

We shall also try to give to our people what they want. I would, therefore, earnestly request the hon. Members of the Brahmaputra Valley, through you, Sir, that since we shall have no more chance to stand against their Official Bill they should also give us an opportunity and a free hand to shape our destiny as we want. However I am to state that if on this question Assam is to be divided, the Leader of the House, Shri Chaliha is to be blamed for that. Some other leaders in the Valley are to be blamed for the disintegration of Assam on this question. As far as Shri Chaliha is concerned he has tried his best to bring about harmony among different sections of the people. He has however been compelled by circumstances in the Valley to bring this language Bill.

Having failed to find a meeting place we should now try to accommodate each other in a different way. We always talk about mutual accommodation. We will not therefore any more stand in the way of our Friends of the Brahmaputra Valley who want to make Assamese as the sole Official Language. They should not also stand in our way.

We have also learnt from the press reports that the ruling party, namely, the Congress Party has also decided in its recent meeting to bring an amendment to the present Bill in order to declare Assamese as the sole Official Language of the State in view of the persistent demand for it by the people of the Assam Valley. Sir, as I said at the time of the introduction of the Bill that it would not satisfy the people in the Valley nor was it acceptable to the Hills people. In the circumstances there is no other alternative except peaceful separation. I, therefore, humbly request the hon. Members of the Brahmaputra Valley to have their language but to please leave us alone. Give us also an opportunity to have equal rights as free citizens of free India. Lastly, I may tell this House that it is the

definite opinion of my people that separation is inevitable under the circumstances. Please do not blame us for that. Time and again we have tried to live together but circumstances have forced us to seek separation. This will be good not only for us but for all the people in the State and for India. There is no use to talk about integration when we cannot have common meeting ground. Assam is a frontier State. It should therefore be a strong State from the point of view of security and defence. It can become strong State not merely by integrating large geographical areas but by our being in a position to maintain emotional integration among the different sections of the people of the State. Emotional integration among the different sections of the people is what is needed most in this Frontier State. Having failed to maintain that integration the only course left is to separate from each other peacefully. Let us therefore part in a friendly manner. Let every one of us have the opportunity of enjoying fully the our respective fundamental rights. Thank you, Sir.

Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West) : অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, রাজ্যভাষা কি হ'বে এই প্রশ্ন নিয়ে আসামে যে জটিল সমস্যার উদ্ভব হয়েছে— তারই পরিপ্রেক্ষিতে মাননীয় মুখ্যমন্ত্রী মহোদয় গত ১০ই তারিখে আইন সভার ভাষানির্ধারণ উপস্থাপন করেছেন। যদিও আজ সকালে এই প্রসঙ্গে এই সভায় আমি একটি প্রশ্ন উপস্থাপন করেছিলাম যে, বর্তমান বিলখানা কি Unilingual না Bilingual? কিন্তু এই সদুত্তর আমি পাইনি। আমার কাছে এটা একটা হেঁয়ালী হয়ে গেছে। আশা করি মুখ্যমন্ত্রী মহোদয় তাঁর জবাবে এটা ভাল করে বুঝিয়ে দেবেন। আমার ক্ষুদ্র বুদ্ধিতে এবং আইন সভার নতুন সদস্যরূপে আমি যেটুকু বুঝতে পারছি তাই বলছি।

ভাষাবিলের ঠাণ্ডা ধারায় Assamese ও English রাজ্য ভাষা হ'বে বলা হয়েছে। কিন্তু যতদূর জানি আমাদের সংবিধানে English এর কোন স্থান নাই। যদি এই নিয়ে কেহ Court of Law এর অশ্রয় গ্রহণ করে তবে, English রাজ্যভাষা থাকতে পারে না—Assamese ই শুধু রাজ্যভাষা থাকবে। অথচ মাননীয় মুখ্যমন্ত্রী মহোদয় Language Bill আইন সভায় উত্থাপন কালে যে Statement দিয়েছেন তাতে চম পৃষ্ঠায় বলেছেন “But when English is completely removed from official use, it will be replaced not only by Assamese but also by Hindi” তাই যদি মেনে নিতে হয় তবে Assamese ও Hindi “বলতে কি আপত্তি থাকতে পারে? এভাবে বলায় অর্থ কী এই নয়—লোককে বিভ্রান্ত করা?”

আমার পূর্ববর্তী পার্বত্য ভাইরা আমাদের তথা ভারতের integrity, unity, solidarity, সম্পর্কে বলেছেন—তাদের সঙ্গে আমিও সম্পূর্ণ একমত। আসাম বহুভাষাভাষী অঞ্চল এর রাজনৈতিক ও ভৌগোলিক বিশেষত ও গুরুত্ব রয়েছে। আসামের সাম্রাজ্যবৈদেশিক রাজ্যের দ্বারা পরিকল্পিত। আসামের তথা ভারতের কল্যাণ কামনারয় আমাদের সংঘবদ্ধতা। একত্ববোধ ও সংহতি রক্ষা হয় তাহাই মুখ্য উদ্দেশ্য হওয়া উচিত। বিভিন্নজাতি বিভিন্ন ভাষাভাষীর ন্যায্যদাবীকে ক্ষুণ্ণ না করে আমাদের উচিত গ্রহণ করা। Parliamentary Deligation আসাম riot এ আসা পরিভ্রমণ করেনিয়ে লোকসভায় যে রিপোর্ট দাখিল করেছেন তাতেও তাঁরা আসামের integrity র উপরই জোর দিয়ে বলেছেন—

We feel strongly the intergrity of the present State of Assam is of areate importance for the future not only of Assam, but of the rest of India”.

আপনাদের স্মরণ থাকতে পারে আদাদের উত্ত পূর্ব মুখ্য মন্ত্রী শ্রীমেশী State Re-organisation Commission এর নিকট স্বীকার করেছেন—Assam multilingual State কিছু দিন পূর্বে রাজ্যসভায় Assam disturbance নিয়ে যে বিতর্ক হয়, তাতেও ডাঃ হৃদয়নাথ কঙ্কর যিনি S.R.C. এর অন্যতম সদস্য ছিলেন তিনিও বিশেষভাবে উল্লেখ করেছেন Assam multilingual State । তাই যদি স্বীকার করা হয় তবে সংখ্যালঘু ভাষাভাষীর ভাষাকে স্বীকার করা অন্যায় হবে—যেখানে সংবিধানেও তার ব্যবস্থা রয়েছে । গণ তন্ত্রের যুগে কি কেবল সংখ্যা গরিষ্ঠ দ্বারাই সব কিছু বিবেচিত হবে ? ইহাই কি সংহতি ও শক্তি রক্ষার পথ ?

বন্ধ গণ, আপনারা জানেন—ব্রহ্মপুত্র উপত্যকায় বাংলা ভাষাভাষীর সংখ্যা নগন্য নয় কাছাড় জেলা বাংলা ভাষাভাষী অঞ্চল বলে স্বীকৃত । আজ ১৯৫১ সনের census উল্লেখ করতে চাই না—কেননা উহার সম্পর্কে সন্দেহের অবশিষ্ট রয়েছে—উহা undisputable নয়—তবু, আপনাদের শুধু এই কথাটাই বলতে চাই এইযে বাংলা ভাষাভাষীর লোক তাদের ভাষা কী কোন মর্যাদা বা স্বীকৃতি পেতে পারে না ?

একটা ব্রাস্ত ধারণার সৃষ্টি করা হয়েছে যে, কাছাড় থেকে বলা হয়েছে আসামী ভাষা রাজ্য ভাষা হ'তে পারে না । অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় ! সংবিধানে আসামী ভাষাকেও ১৪টি ভাষার মধ্যে স্থান দিয়েছে । আসামী ভাষা আসামে রাজ্য ভাষা না হ'লে আর কোথায় রাজ্যভাষা হ'তে পারে ? কাছাড় দাবী জানিয়েছে—আসামী ভাষার সংক্ষেপে বাংলা ভাষাকেও সমান মর্যাদা দেওয়া হউক । আমার পার্বত্য ভাইদের মাতৃভাষা বিভিন্ন তাঁরা দাবী জানিয়েছে হিন্দি রাজ্য ভাষা হউক এবং যতদিন স্থান হিন্দি রাজ্যভাষার অধিকার করে English ই চলুক । তাদের দাবীরওকী কোন যুক্তি নাই ?

ভাষা সমস্যার সমাধান কল্পে Negotiating Committee's সদস্যগণ—আমাদের মুখ্য মন্ত্রী অথ মন্ত্রী ও পাদেশিক কংগ্রেস সভাপতি মহোদয়গণ দীর্ঘ সময়ও শান্তি ক্ষয় করে যখন কোন সমাধানে উপস্থিত হ'তে পারেন নাই—আমাদের সৌভাগ্য-সর্বভারতীয় নেতা শ্রীপঙ্ক এখানে এসে উপস্থিত হলেন । তিনিও এই ভাষা সমস্যার সমাধানে উদগ্রীব ছিলেন । তাঁর সঙ্গে আমাদের কাছাড়ের সভ্যদের এই বিষয়ে আলোচনা হয় আমি মনে করি সরকারের তরফ থেকে এবং প্রাদেশিক কংগ্রেসের পক্ষেও এই বিষয়ে বিশেষ আলোচনা হয়ে থাকবে । তিনি আমাদেরকে উপদেশ দেন যে, আসামের শক্তিকে রক্ষা করতে হ'লে বিশেষ ভাবে এর integrity solidarity, ও unity সম্পর্কে বিবেচনা করা উচিত এবং ইহাও বলেন যে, ব্রহ্মপুত্র উপত্যকা, পার্বত্য জেলাসমূহ ও কাছাড় যদি সবসময় কোন স্বীকৃতিতে আসতে পারে তবেই কেবল সম্ভব হবে আসামের integrity ও unity রক্ষা করা । এই প্রসঙ্গে যে পাঁচটি প্রস্তাব তিনি বিশেষ ভাবে বলেছিলেন বিবেচনা করার জন্যে আমি আপনাদের কাছে উহা পাঠ কবে শোনাচ্ছি আর, আমি জানি, তিনি চলে যাওয়ার পূর্বে এই পাঁচটি বিষয়ে Press Settlement এও বলে গিয়েছেন এবং মনে করি আমাদের কংগ্রেস সরকার এবং প্রাদেশিক কংগ্রেস কর্তৃপক্ষও এ বিষয়ে ওয়াকিবহাল আছেন

- (1) Assamese and Hindi will be the Official languages of Assam.
- (3) Assamese will be the official language in Brahmaputra Valley, districts in the district level.
- (3) Bengali will be the official language in Cachar district in the district level.
- (4) In Hills districts, language or languages which they choose in the district level.
- (5) In Secretariat and Heads of Departments, English will be continued till replaced by Hindi.

তাঁর এই উপদেশ বর্তমান বিলে স্থান পায় নাই বরং অনেক দূরে চলে গিয়েছে ব'লে আমার বিশ্বাস—

আর একটি কথা Assam disturbance এর পর All India Congress Committee যে, প্রস্তাব গ্রহণ করেছে—সেটাও আপনাদের কাছে উপস্থিত করেছে—

All-India Congress Committee Resolution—“The Assamese language is one of the national languages of India laid down in the Constitution of India. This language, like other national languages, has to be encouraged in every way and progressively used by the people whose mother tongue it is. In promoting its use in various public activities, it should be remembered that its use should not be enforced in areas where other language prevail. Many areas of India are bilingual or multi-lingual, and each of the languages in use has to be protected and encouraged.”

তাই যদি হয় আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করতে পারি কি A.I.C.C. A.P.C.C. ৰ parent body কংগ্রেস সরকার বা প্রাদেশিক কংগ্রেস এর parent body ৰ প্রস্তাবের বিরোধিতা করার অধিকার আছে কি না? আর অধিক কিছু বলতে চাই না—শুধু এই কথা জানাতে চাইছি—আপনারা আমাদের integrity, solidarity ও unity ৰ কথা চিন্তা করে সকল ভাষাভাষীকে আসামে স্থান দিন—আসামের তথা ভারতের অকল্যাণ ডেকে আনবেন না—আর তাই যদি নাহয় তবেকী কাছাড়ে আমাকে এই বাতাই বহন করে নিয়ে যেতে হবে—

“সবাই ছেড়েছে নাহি পর কেহ
তুমি আছ তার, আছে তব স্নেহ”

ভগবান ছাড়া আমাদের আর কেহ নাই ?

জয়হিন্দ

Sbri HEMCHANDRA CHAKRAVARTY (Kotigora) :
 অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, রাজ্য ভাষা সমাধানের জন্য আমাদের Assembly তে ভাষা সম্বন্ধে যে বিল
 উত্থাপন কর হইয়াছে সেই সম্বন্ধে দুই একটা কথা বলবার জন্য আমি দাঁড়াইয়াছি ।

আজ এই দিনান সভায় আমারপূর্ববর্তী বক্তা বন্ধুরা যে সমস্ত ভাষণ দিয়াছেন আমি
 উহা অত্যন্ত মনোযোগের সহিত অনুধাবন করিয়াছি । তাহাদের ভাষণ হইতে ইহা
 স্পষ্ট ভাবে প্রকাশিত হইয়াছে যে আজকে আমরা ভিন্ন ভিন্ন ভাবে আসাম রাজ্যের সমস্যা
 সমাধানের চিন্তা করিতে আরম্ভ করিয়াছি । আমাদের মধ্যে একটা সন্দেহের ভাব
 জাগরিত হইয়াছে । আমরা সকলে হয়ত এই বিধান সভায় এক সাথে মিলিত হইবার
 আর সুযোগ পাইব না । ইহা হইতে দুঃখের বিষয় আর কি হইতে পারে । কিন্তু
 বর্তমান পরিস্থিতি এবং পরিশেষে বিচ্ছেদ যেন অনিবার্য করিয়া তুলি হইয়াছে ইহা
 পূর্বভাষা আমরা পাইতেছি ।

আমাদের বন্ধু শ্রীনীলমণি বড়ঠাকুর বলিয়াছেন ব্রহ্মপুত্র নদীর কথা—কত নদী উপনদী
 ইহাতে মিলিত হইয়া বিশালকারী ব্রহ্মপুত্র নদ আসামের এক প্রান্ত হইতে অপর পর্বন্ত
 প্রবাহিত হইয়াছে । আসামকে সুন্দর ও শ্যামল করিয়াছে । আমার অপর বন্ধু শ্রীখগেন্দ্র
 নাথমহাশয় বলিয়াছেন আসাম রাজ্যের একমত রাষ্ট্রভাষা হইবে অসমীয়া ভাষা । তাহাদের
 উভয়েরই কথা হইতে কোথাও একটা আভাষ পাইলাম না যে আসামের পার্শ্বত্ব মধ্যমা
 বা কাছাড় জিলা আসামে আছে কি না । তাহাদের ভাষণে আসাম রাজ্যের ভৌগলিক
 মানচিত্র ।

আজ যে রূপ ধারণ করিয়াছে উহা আমাদের পরিচিত আসামের মানচিত্র নয়
 তাই আজ সত্যই মান মনে হইতেছে, আমরা কোথায় ছিলাম, কোথায় আছি এ
 কোথায় আমাদের যাইবার বাঁজনা সুরু সুরু হইয়াছে ।

অপনাবা বন্ধুরা কি আজ ভুলিয়া গেলেন সুবমা উপত্যকার মধ্যে দিয়াও বরাক নদীর
 নামে একটা শ্রোতস্বতী নাগা পাহাড়ে অন্তর্গত পাতকৈ অঞ্চল হইতে উৎপন্ন হইয়া মণিপুর
 রাজ্যের ভিতর দিয়া প্রবাহিত হইয়া কাছাড়ের সমতলভূমিতে প্রবেশ করিয়া ঐ উপত্যকাকে
 সশ্য শ্যামলা করিয়াছে । বরাকেরও অনেক উপনদী আছে যাহা উত্তর ও দক্ষিণ উভয়
 দিক হইতে প্রবাহিত হইয়া বরাক নদীকে আরও বৃদ্ধিত কলেবর করিয়াছে । যদিও
 ব্রহ্মপুত্র নদ, বরাক নদী বা ইহাদের উপনদীর গতি বিভিন্ন কিন্তু এই উভয় জলধারাই
 স্বলমভূমির বুক দিয়া অবশেষে মিলিত হইয়াছে মহাসাগরের বিশাল বক্ষে শুধু বরাক ।

শুধু ব্রহ্মপুত্র কেন সব নদনদীর মিলনের শেষ আশ্রয় স্থল সেই মহাসমুদ্র । আপনাবা
 এখানে যাহারা আছেন এই ভাষা সমস্যার সমাধানের জন্য কি মিলনের ধ্বনি তুলিতে
 পারেনা না ? আমরা কি পারি না সুসঙ্গত ন্যায়ানুগ পন্থা গ্রহণ করতে ? আমাদের
 কাছাড়ীয়া ভাইদের সঙ্গে একত্রে মিলিত হওয়ায় একটি স্থান রাখা কি সর্বাধিক কর্তব্য
 নয় ।

শ্রীযুক্ত জ্যোৎস্না চন্দ মহাশয়া বলিয়াছেন যে কাছাড়ের জনসাধারণ আসামীয়া ভাষাকে
 সমৃদ্ধ ভাষা বলিয়া অস্বীকার করে না এবং যে ভাষায় মহাপুরুষ শঙ্করদেব কার্য রচনা
 করিয়া গিয়াছেন সে ভাষার প্রতি বাঙালীর কেন কাছাড়ও হিংসা বা অবহেলার ভাব থাকিতে
 পারে না । কিন্তু আজ আমি ভাবিতেছি আসাম রাজ্যের প্রকৃত সমস্যার বিষয় কে চিন্তা

কৰিতেছেন। ভাষাৰ প্ৰশ্ন প্ৰশ্ন আজ আসামেৰ বড় প্ৰশ্ন নয়। আজ আসামেৰ সম্মুখে সবচেয়ে বৃহৎ এবং জটিল সমস্যা আসামেৰ একতা, অখণ্ডতা, সংঘবদ্ধতা ও নিৰাপত্তা সুব্যৱস্থা কৰা। সেই কথা চিন্তা কৰিয়াই আসাম ৰাজ্যেৰ ভবিষ্যৎ কৰ্ম পথ নিৰ্দ্ধাৰণ কৰা স্মৃতিস্তা ও স্মৃতিস্তিৰ পৰিচায়ক হইবে। আসামেৰ মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী তাঁহাৰ প্ৰাৰম্ভিক ভাষণে এৰূপ ইঙ্গিত দিয়া গিয়াছেন, এইজন্য তাঁহাকে ধন্যবাদ দিতেছি।

আজ যাহাতে আমরা একটা Common meeting place এ অহংকাৰ, আত্মস্তৰিতা ও সংখ্যা গৰিষ্ঠতাৰ মোহ ভুলিয়া মিলিত হইতে পাৰি তাহাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰাই কৰ্তব্য। যদি আমরা সকলে কাহাৰও প্ৰতি হিংসাৰ ভাষা না ৰাখিয়া বা কোন ভাষাকে অবজ্ঞা বা অবহেলা না কৰিয়া সকল মানুহ ও তাঁহাদেৰ ভাষাকে সমদৃষ্টিতে দেখাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিতে পাৰি তাহা হইলে আমাদেৰ পাৰ্বত্য অঞ্চলেৰ ভাই বন্ধুৰা এবং সন্তলেৰ অধিবাসীদেৰ সম্পৰ্কে ক্ৰমে ক্ৰমে উন্নত হইতে থাকিবে, এবং আমাদেৰ মध्ये মিলন সেতুৰ দৃঢ় বুনিয়াদ প্ৰোথিত কৰিবাৰ পথ সুপ্ৰসস্থ হইবে। সেই মিলন সেতুৰ বুনিয়াদটা কোথায় উহা আসাম ৰাজ্যেৰ Secretariat আমি পূৰ্বেই বলিয়াছি সব নদ-নদী উপনদীৰ চৰম মিলন কেন্দ্ৰ হইল সাগৰেৰ বুক, ঠিক তেমনি ভাবে বহু ভাষাভাষি আসাম ৰাজ্যেৰ সকল অধিবাসীৰ জন্যই এমন একটা স্থান থাকিতে হইবে যে স্থানকে আসামেৰ প্ৰত্যেক অধিবাসীই যেন বলিতে পাৰে ইহা আমাৰ।

শ্ৰীযুক্ত জ্যোৎস্না চন্দ মহাশয়ৰা বলিয়াছেন আসাম ৰাজ্যেৰ ভাষা সমাধানেৰ জন্য কিৰূপ সত্ৰ সৰ্বভাৰতীয় নেতা পশুজীৰ নিকট আসামেৰ নেতাৰা উত্থাপিত কৰিয়াছি। এবং পশুজী কিতাবে বিগত ৫ই এবং ৬ই অক্টোবৰ সুবহু সেই স্বীকৃতি প্ৰস্তাব গুলি কাছাড়েৰ প্ৰতিনিধিগণেৰ সম্মুখে তুলিয়া ধৰেন। বৰ্তমান ভাষাবিলে পশুজীৰ দ্বাৰা যে পথ সমখন কৰা হইয়াছিল উহাৰ কোনও চিহ্ন আছে কি ?

আমাদেৰ কাছাড়েৰ জনসাধাৰণেৰ দাবী বাংলা ভাষাকে অসমীয়া ভাষাৰ সত্ৰে সম-সমপৰ্ব্যায় স্থান দেওয়া। তাহাদেৰ এই দাবী ন্যায় সঙ্গত এবং উহা সমৰ্থনে জনসংখ্যাৰ দিক হইতেই হটক বা পুৰাতত্ত্বেৰ দিক হইতেই হটক পূৰ্ণ বক্তি এবং পৰিপূৰক তথ্য ৰহিয়াছে। বাংলা ভাষাভাষী কাছাড় জেলাৰ বাঙালীদেৰ সংখ্যাৰ চেয়ে ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ উপত্যকাৰ অনেক অধিক সংখ্যক বাঙালীৰ বাস। তাই ন্যায়, সত্য ও বক্তিৰ দিক হইতে বাংলা ভাষাকে আসাম ৰাজ্য অন্যান্যতম Official language না কৰাৰ জন্য যাহাৰা আজ অগ্ৰসৰ হইয়াছেন তাহাদেৰ দূৰদৰ্শিতাৰ অভাবই অদৰ ভবিষ্যতে প্ৰমাণিত হইবে।

আমরা জানি আমাদেৰ অসমীয়া ভাই-ভগ্নিৰাও বাংলা ভাষা ও বাঙালীৰ কৃষ্টিৰ প্ৰতি সহানুভূতি পৰ্ণ। পশ্চিমবঙ্গ আমাদেৰ পাৰ্শ্ববৰ্তী ৰাজ্য। পশ্চিমবঙ্গে ছাড়িয়া আসামেৰ economy কদাপি গঢ়িয়া উঠিতে পাৰে না। আসাম ৰাজ্য বহু ভাবে পশ্চিমবঙ্গেৰ উপৰ নিৰ্ভৰশীল। তাই বলিয়া কাছাড় জিলাৰ অধিবাসীৰা তাহাদেৰ নিজ ৰাজ্যেৰ সমাধানেৰ জন্য পশ্চিমবঙ্গেৰ উপৰ নিৰ্ভৰশীল কখনও হয় না। কাছাড় বাসীদেৰ বিশ্বাস আছে যে তাহাদেৰ সমস্যা—তথা বাংলাভাষাভাষী আসামীদেৰ সমস্যা আসামেৰ নেতাৰাই সমাধান কৰিবেন।

আমাদেৰ পাহাড়ীয়া ভাই শ্ৰীসংমা বয়সে প্ৰবীন না হইলেও দূৰদৃষ্টি সম্পন্ন। তিনি বলিয়াছেন যে উপস্থাপিত ভাষা বিলেৰ ৪র্থ ধাৰাৰ বিধানমতে—Tribal area তে

জেলা পর্যায়ে বর্তমানে যে ভাষায় কাজ চলিতেছে তাহা থাকিবে, যে পর্যায়ে না ঐ সমস্ত অঞ্চলের District Council ২।৩ অংশ সভ্যদ্বারা ঐসব অঞ্চল কোন ভাষা গ্রহণ করিবে উহা নিদ্ধারণ করিতে পারিবে। এই প্রসঙ্গে শ্রীসংমা বলেন যে ২।৩ অংশ কেন শতকরা একশত অধিবাসীই পারো পাহাড়ে পারো ভাষা, খাসিয়া পাহাড়ে খাসিয়া ভাষা এবং মিজোরামে মিজো ভাষা পাস করিয়া নিতে পারিবে। কিন্তু একরূপ করিলে কি সমস্যার সম্মুখীন হয়? কখনও নয়। Shri Sangma বলিয়াছেন তাহাদের Scheduled হেলার অধিবাসী—অন্যান্যদের কথাও গভীর ভাবে চিন্তা করিতে হইবে।

আপনাদের উচিত এই ভাবের চিন্তা বারা নিয়া এক জায়গায় বসিয়া নিজেদের সমস্যার সমাধান করার সমবেত চেষ্টা। পূর্বেই বলিয়াছি Scheduled level এ Hindi ভাষাকে দিয়া আমরা Common Platform গড়িয়া তোলিতে সক্ষম হইব। আসানের integrity, Security এবং Solidarity র দিক হইতে বিশেষ চিন্তা করিয়াই আমি ইহা বলিতছি। আমি বলিয়াছি কেবল হিন্দী ভাষাকে (ইংরাজী যাপ্তার পর) Secretariat পর্যায়ের নিয়া গেলে কাহারও কোন সন্দেহ করিবার কিছু থাকিবে না। শ্রীমুক্তা জ্যোৎস্না চন্দ যে প্রয়োগের অপব্যবহারের অবকাশ রহিয়াছে বলিয়াছেন কেবল হিন্দী সেক্রেটারিয়েটে থাকিলে সেই ভয়ও প্রশমিত হওয়ার কথা।

Bilingual বলিয়া ব্যাখ্যা দেওয়া বর্তমান বিলটির উপর ভাষা ও গাঁথুণী উদ্দেশ্যমূলক বলিয়া অনেকের মনেই সন্দেহ জাগরিত হইয়াছে এবং সেই সন্দেহ অমূলকও নয়। যদিও বর্তমান ভাষা বিলটি Bilingual বলিয়া প্রচারিত করা হইতেছে কিন্তু কার্যত উহা unilingual হইয়া পড়িবার যথেষ্ট আইনসঙ্গত ফাঁক রহিয়াছে। আমি বিশ্বাস করি যে সত্র পত্তঞ্জী দ্বারা ছিলেন সেই সূত্র আনাদের সংঘবদ্ধতা বজায় রাখিবার যথেষ্ট সাহায্য করিত এবং বর্তমানে যে অন্ধকার দিকে আসাম রাজ্যকে ঠেলিয়া দেওয়া হইতেছে উহা রোধ হইত এবং আসামবাসী সকলের এবং বর্তমান আসাম রাজ্যের ভবিষ্যৎ উজ্জ্বল হইতে পারিত।

আমাদের কাছাড়ের বেলায় আমাদের অসমীয়া বন্ধু যারা আছেন গভীর ভাবে চিন্তা করিয়া দেখিবেন আমরা কাছাড় বাসীরা কি করিব। আমরা চাই আসামকে নিচ্ছেদ পড়ে, কাছাড়ের জনসাধারণ উহা স্বীকার করিয়া নিবে এবং আপন ঘর বাঁধিতে সর্ব শক্তি নিয়োগ করিবে। শ্রীশ্রীভগবান তাহাদের সহায়।

Shri HAMDHAN MOHAN HAPLONGBAR [North Cachar Hills (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]:

মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় !

राज्य भाषा के वारेमें इस माननीय सदन में जो बिल पेश किया है तथा उसपर जो बहस हो रहा है उसमें मैं भी भाग लेना चाहता हूँ और उसके जरिये अपनी constituency की जनता का मतमत्त व्यक्त करना चाहता हूँ। आप को मालूम है कि हमारा यह इलाका वृटिश के जमान में Excluded Area था। शिक्षा

और आर्थिक दृष्टि से हमारे यहाँ के लोग बहुत ही पिछड़े हुये हैं। इसके अलावा यहाँ विभिन्न भाषाभाषी अलग-अलग जनजातियों का बसवास है। इसलिये न हम और न हमारी जनता सिर्फ असमिया को ही राज्यभाषा मानन को तैयार नहीं है।

हमारे यहाँ हिन्दी भाषा का काफी प्रचार है। वहाँ के लोग हिन्दी रुगझने हे टूटीफूटी होनपर भी वहाँ के लोग हिन्दी बोल लेते हैं। इस बारे में detailed आलोचना नहीं करना चाहता। हमारे नेता बोल चुके हैं। हम हिन्दी चाहते हैं।

मैं यही बोलना चाहता हूँ कि हम इस बिल का समर्थन नहीं कर सकते। Mikir Hills के सदस्यों से भी इस बारे में मेरी आलोचना हुई थी। वे भी इस बिल का विरोध करते हैं।

Shri GAURISANKAR ROY (Katlicherra): Mr. Speaker Sir, we are discussing the complicated language issue which has been brought to the forefront of all the problems of the State at present. For some time past it is heavily agitating the mind of the people in various ways and feelings have grown to such an extreme point that strong protests have been pouring in from the non-Assamese speaking areas against the introduction of such a language Bill. The people of Cachar and Hill districts, who do not know Assamese have started vehemently protesting against this linguistic imposition. The State is passing through a very critical time and it is our duty to think over the matter coolly and to take decision judiciously.

Sir, the geographical situation and strategic position of Assam and adjoining areas bounded by foreign countries, some of whom have aggressive designs—almost on all sides should be kept in front of our eyes for consideration of the vital issue. It has got diversity of races, languages and culture and I feel that the imperative need of the State is unity, solidarity, security of the people and to maintain integrity of the State. We require at this critical juncture a strong and united community of people who can defend themselves from foreign aggression and subversion. Therefore, the language Bill in the present form for the State of Assam which is intrinsically multilingual in character, is really undesirable and cannot help progress and integration of the State.

Sir, in the Bill provision has been made for Assamese and English to be the official languages but I doubt, Sir, whether English can be given the status of a State official language when the same has not been given place to be as such in the Constitution of India. It would be better if the word 'Hindi' is used clearly along with Assamese in place of English which will continue in all levels until it is replaced by Hindi. So, I think that the Bill is not a bilingual one though attempt has been made to make as understand by the complicated clause on this point. Apart from this there are other points which also could not satisfy the people,

The Hill people are demanding Hindi very strongly. There is strong demand for Bengali also and Assamese has been demanded by the people of Brahmaputra Valley. I think all these languages should be given adequate status for legitimate demand and claim. Sir, Shri Gobind Ballav Pant, the Home Minister of India visited Assam just a few days ago and discussed

with all concerned on this issue and expressed of an evolved formula to the Press and others and I think, that formula only can bring a solution to the problem and unity, solidarity and integrity of the State can be maintained.

Sir, no language could be made rich through force and that is why the Prime Minister of India during his last visit in Assam in April 1960 advised in a meeting the Gauhati University students that Assamese should not be forced on the unwilling minorities. The State Re-organisation Commission in its report (page 194) says "The linguistic complexion of the existing State (Assam) establishes very clearly its composite character" etc. About Assam the S. R. C. Report's conclusion is also very clear. "The task of economic development can be undertaken and substantial cultural autonomy can be enjoyed by various linguistic and Racial groups only if two conditions are fulfilled, namely, that the State of Assam is compact, rich and resourceful and that there exists within this State mutual tolerance and good-will. Particularist and, if we may say so, chauvinistic trends are bound to retard the progress of the State. They should therefore, be discouraged in every way." (Pages 194 195).

Therefore, in the interest of unity, strength, solidarity, prosperity, security and justice we feel that effort should be spared to save Assam from disintegration and disaster. With this background on language issue I appeal to all members of this august House to consider the official language of Assam, accepting at least the formula evolved during the visit of Shri G. B. Pant, the Home Minister of India, who expressed the same to the Press and others during his departure from this State.

With these few words, I conclude my speech.

***Shri KHAGENDRA NATH BARBARUA (Amguri):** অধ্যক্ষ

মহোদয়, আজি শিল্পৰ যুগত কোনো দেশ বা ৰাইজ অকলশৰীয়াহে থাকিব নোৱাৰে; বিভিন্ন ভাষা-ভাষী লোকৰ সমাবেশ হবই। এই সমাবেশ প্ৰগতিৰ পথত অন্তৰায় নহয় বৰঞ্চ সহায়হে হব। অসমত বিভিন্ন ভাষা-ভাষীৰ লোক আছে। এই বিভিন্ন ভাষা-ভাষীৰ মাজত সম্প্ৰীতি স্থাপন কৰি যাতে প্ৰগতিৰ পথত আগবাঢ়ি যাব পাৰি আৰু জনসাধাৰণৰ মাজতো ওচৰ সম্বন্ধ হব পাৰে, সেই উদ্দেশ্যেই এটা উমৈহতীয়া ভাষাৰ প্ৰয়োজন। সেই উমৈহতীয়া ভাষাটো সংখ্যা গৰিষ্ঠৰ ভাষা হবনে—সংখ্যা লঘিষ্ঠৰ ভাষা হব সেইটো লৈয়ে আজি হেচা-ঠেলা হৈছে। সকলোৱেই আজি অনুভৱ কৰিছে যে সেই উমৈহতীয়া ভাষাটো অসমীয়া হব লাগে। ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰা সংখ্যা গৰিষ্ঠই সংখ্যা লঘিষ্ঠৰ ওপৰত জাপি দিয়া হোৱা নাই। কাৰণ প্ৰত্যেকৰে নিজ নিজ ভাষাৰ বিকাশ সাধনৰ সুবিধা নিশ্চয় পাব বা দিয়া হব। মই মিঃ ঠাংলুৰা আৰু মিঃ চাংমাৰ বক্তৃতা ভালকৈ শুনিলো। কিন্তু তেওঁলোকে অসমক একত্ৰিত কৰি ৰখাৰ কোনো সমিধান দিব নোৱাৰিলে। মিঃ ঠাংলুৰাই মাত্ৰ সুকীয়া ৰাজ্য দাবী কৰিলেই সমস্যাৰ সমাধান হব বুলি কবলৈ বিচাৰিছে। সেইটো কৰিলেও এই ভাষা সমস্যাৰ সমাধান হব নোৱাৰে। কাৰণ তাতো বিভিন্ন ভাষা-ভাষীৰ লোক থাকিব। খাছীয়ে খাছী বিচাৰিব, গাৰোৱে গাৰো আৰু মিজোৱেও তেওঁলোকৰ ভাষা বিচাৰিব। পৃথিবীৰ এনে দেশ নাই; যত সংখ্যালঘু নাই। গতিকে তেওঁলোকে protection পাবই।

বৰ্তমান যি বিল আনিছে, এই বিলত এটা ভাষা দিয়া হৈছে। ইয়াত এটা ভাষাৰ কথা নাই। চেক্ৰেটৰীয়েট আৰু ডিবেঙ্কৰেটতে চলিব অসমীয়া, ইংৰাজী আৰু পিছত হিন্দি আৰু জিলাবোৰত চলিব নিজৰ-নিজৰ ভাষা, অৰ্থাৎ ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ উপত্যকাত অসমীয়া, কাছাৰত বঙালী আৰু পাহাৰী জিলাত পাহাৰী ভাষা। এই হিচাপে চালে হয় বহু ভাষী। মোৰ মনেৰে বঙালী অকল কাছাৰতে কিয় য'তে বঙালী সংখ্যা গৰিষ্ঠ ভাৱে চলিব লাগে।

সংবিধানৰ ৩৪৭ ধাৰাত কৈছে.....:

“On a demand being made in that behalf, the President may, if he is satisfied that a substantial proportion of the population of a State desire the use of any language spoken by them to be recognised by that State, direct that such language shall also be officially recognised throughout that State or any part there of for such purpose as he may specify”.

শ্ৰেণীভেদে পাবে—যদি সংখ্যালঘু সম্প্ৰদায় আপত্তি কৰে আৰু সেই আপত্তিৰ ওপৰত ভিত্তি কৰি কোনো এক খণ্ডত বা গোটেই ৰাজ্যত; কিন্তু তাত কোনো উল্লেখ নাই ৰাজ্যিক বিধান সভাই কি কৰিব পাৰে। আৰু ৩৪৫ ধাৰাত কৈছে “ব্যৱহৃত” ভাষা.....এই ব্যৱহৃত ক্ষেত্ৰতো দেখা যায়, যে, অসমীয়া, ইংৰাজী আৰু বঙালী চলি আছে। কিন্তু মূল ভাষা হিচাবে অসমীয়া ভাষা। যদি ব্যৱহৃত অৰ্থত লোৱা হয় তেন্তে, অসমীয়া ভাষাকেই ৰাজ্যিক ভাষা হিচাবে স্থান দিব লাগে। যদি সৰু সৰু ভাষা-ভাষী সকলৰ ভাষাও ৰাজ্যিক গুৰুত্ব বা District level স্থান দিয়া হয়—তেন্তে এনে এটা দিন আগত বৈ আছে—যিদিনা সকলোৱে সমন্বয় কৈ উঠিব—আমাৰ ভাষাত লাগে। কিন্তু এইটো কি সম্ভৱপৰ? যদি সেয়ে হয়। তেন্তে কাছাৰৰ লোক সকলে তেওঁলোকৰ জিলাৰ বাহিৰেও—কিয় বঙালী ভাষা হব লাগে বুলি কৈছে—বুজি নাপাও।

(সময়ৰ সংকেট)

ৰাষ্ট্ৰীয় ভাষা হিচাবে হিন্দি লোৱাত আমাৰ আপত্তি নাই; কিন্তু ৰাজ্যিক ভাষাৰ ঠাইত কেনেকৈ হিন্দিৰ কথা, অসমত উঠে বুজি নাপাও।

তাৰ পিচত, এই বিলত বহুতো আসোৱাহ আছে যিবিলাক জটীলতাৰে ভৰা আৰু জটীলতাৰে ভৰা ক্ষেত্ৰত বিল নিৰ্মাত। সংখ্যা লঘুৰ ভিতৰতো বহু শ্ৰেণী আছে; বঙালী মানুহে অসমত সিচৰতি হৈ আছে—আৰু তেওঁলোকও মাতৃভাষাৰ গৰ্যাদা উপলব্ধি কৰিব লাগে এই দৰে বিভিন্ন ভাষা সম্পৰ্কে, District level ৰ ঠাই পাব লাগে। এই বিলত ইয়াৰ provision নাই।

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order.

*Shri KHOGENDEA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) :

যিবিলাক কথিত ভাষা আছে—সেইবিলাক অসমীয়া ভাষাত সোমোৱাই দিব লাগে। কিন্তু এই বিলাক সেই ক্ষেত্ৰতো নিমাত। হিন্দিত দেব নাগেৰী আখৰৰ কথা আছে—আৰু আমাৰ কি script হব লাগে—এই বিলত নিমাত। এই কথিত ভাষা বিলাক প্ৰাইমেৰী বত শিক্ষাৰ ব্যৱস্থা থাকিব লাগে।

(সময়ৰ সংকেট)

তাৰ পিচত. অন্য দেশৰ লগত Correspondence কেনেকৈ কোন ভাষাত কৰিব লাগিব তাৰ কোনো নিৰ্দেশ নাই। তাৰ পিচত, Six Schedule ৰ ভিতৰৰ জিলা বিলাকত অসমীয়া ভাষাৰ লগত যোগা-যোগ ৰাখি কৰা বা Couversant হব পৰা ব্যৱস্থা বিলত নাই।

(সময়ৰ সংকেট)

মাননীয় সদস্যই নিজৰ আসন লয়।

Shri MOHIKANTA DAS (Barchalla): মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় মই মাননীয় মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰীক ধন্যবাদ দিও যে তেখেতে ইমান জটিলতাৰ মাজেদি নিৰ্দিষ্ট সময়ত ভাষা সম্পৰ্কীয় বিলখন এই সদনত দাঙি ধৰিব পাৰিলে। ইয়াৰ উপৰিও তেখেত যি: আহম্মদ আৰু প্ৰদেশ কংগ্ৰেছৰ সভাপতি দেৱে সকলো দল অনুষ্ঠান আৰু বিভিন্ন সংখ্যালঘু সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ লোক সকলৰ লগত আলোচনা কৰি সম্মিলিত ভাবে এখন বিল আনিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰাৰ কাৰণে তিনিও জনকে অভিনন্দন জনাও। বিলখন ল'ৰালৰিকৈ অনাত তাত নানা আসোঁৱাহ থাকিব পাৰে সেই দেখি মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে বিল প্ৰবৰ্ত্তনৰ সময়ত দিয়া ভাষণত স্পষ্ট ভাবে বিলৰ সম্পৰ্কত সংশোধনী আৰু মতামত আহ্বান কৰি তেখেতে খোলা আৰু উদাৰ মনৰ পৰিচয় দিছে। বিলখন প্ৰবৰ্ত্তন কৰাৰ পিচতকি অৱস্থাৰ উদ্ভৱ হৈছিল তাক সকলো সদস্যই জানে। বিলখন আজি কি ট্ৰাইবেল কি ক্লাছাৰ কি ব্ৰুক্সপুত্ৰ উপত্যকাৰ বাইজে গ্ৰহণ কৰা নাই। নানা ঠাইৰ পৰা জাউৰিয়ে জাউৰিয়ে প্ৰতিবাদ আহিছে। আমি বাইজৰ প্ৰতিনিধি সকলে সেই সকলো জননত সন্মান কৰি বিলখনৰ সম্পৰ্কে আমাৰ পৰামৰ্শ চৰকাৰলৈ আগ বঢ়াব লাগিব। বিলখনৰ মৌলিক আপত্তি হৈছে বিলখন দ্বিভাষী; এই কাৰণেই গোটেই ব্ৰুক্সপুত্ৰ উপত্যকাৰ বাইজে এই বিলখনৰ প্ৰতিবাদ কৰিছে। বিলখনত অসমীয়া আৰু ইংৰাজী তাৰ পাচত হিন্দী ৰাজ্যিক ঠাষা আছে বুলি লিখা আছে। কিন্তু এই বিষয়ে গুৰুত্বৰ আপত্তি হৈছে আৰু আপত্তি বোৰ যুক্তি-যুক্ত গতিকৈ তৃতীয় clause টো সংশোধন কৰি অসমীয়া আৰু ইংৰাজীৰ ঠাইত একমাত্ৰ অসমীয়াহে ৰাজ্যিক ভাষা হব লাগে বুলি মই পৰামৰ্শ আগ বঢ়ালো। এই বিষয়ে যোৱা ১৪।১৫ অক্টোবৰত বহা প্ৰাদেশিক কংগ্ৰেছ কমিটিয়ে এই মৰ্শে পৰামৰ্শ আগ বঢ়াইছে। বৰ্ত্তমান বিলখনত Secretary আৰু Heads of Department কেৱল ইংৰাজী আৰু হীন্দি ব্যৱহাৰ হব বুলি কোৱা হৈছে। অসমীয়াক ৰাজ্যিক ভাষা বুলি গ্ৰহণ কৰিলে চেক্ৰেটাৰী পৰ্য্যায়ত অসমীয়া আৰু সম্পতিক ভাবে ইংৰাজী আৰু ইংৰাজী যদি উঠি যায় তেন্তে তাৰ ঠাইত হিন্দী ব্যৱহাৰ হব পাৰিব বুলি সংশোধনী গ্ৰহণ কৰিব লাগে যাতে পাৰ্বত্য অঞ্চলৰ লোক সকল অসুবিধাত পৰিব নালাগে এই পৰামৰ্শটি চৰকাৰে বিবেচনা কৰিব বুলি আশা কৰিলো। অসমীয়াক ৰাজ্যিক ভাষা বুলি গ্ৰহণ কৰিলে সকলো বিল অডিনেঞ্চ আদি অসমীয়াত গেজেটত প্ৰকাশ কৰিব লাগে অসমীয়া ৰাজ্যিক ভাষা হলে ব্ৰুক্সপুত্ৰ উপত্যকাত জিলাপৰ্য্যায়ত অসমীয়া ভাষা স্বাভাৱিকতে ব্যৱহাৰ হব। গতিকে এই বিষয়ে বেলেগ clause নাথাকিলেও হব। কাছাড় জিলাত বঙালী ব্যৱহাৰ হব। কিন্তু যদি কোনোবাই কোনো সময়ত ৰাজ্যিক ভাষা ব্যৱহাৰ কৰিবলৈ ইচ্ছা কৰে তেন্তে কাছাড় জিলা বিভিন্ন মহকুমা পৰিষদৰ সদস্যসকলে বেলেগে বেলেগে বহি ২।৩ ভাগ উপস্থিত থাকি যি সিদ্ধান্ত কৰিব সেইটো সিদ্ধান্তই বলবৎ হব। এই বিষয়ে দিয়া সংশোধন বা suggestion বোৰ চৰকাৰে বিবেচনা কৰিব বুলি আশা কৰিলো। বাকী clause বিলাকত মোৰ কোনো পৰামৰ্শ নাই। সেই বিলাক যেনে আছে তেনেই থাকিব। এই মৰ্শে শ্ৰীযুত চাংমা চাহাবে যে

কলে তেওঁলোকে অসমত free citizen বুলিলে অনভৱ কৰিব নোৱাৰে সেই কথাটো মই বুজি নাপালো তেখেতে আৰু কৈছে যে অসমত তেওঁলোক 2nd great citizen বুলি পৰিগত হব। আজি অন্যান্য ঠাইতো এনে বিন পাচ হৈছে সংখ্যা গণিত ভাষাই ৰাজ্যিক ভাষা বুলি গ্ৰহণ কৰাইছে, তাতে সংখ্যা লম্ব সমগ্ৰ ঠায়ে সকল free India ত free citizen নৱে বুলি কোৱা শুনা নাই। অসমীয়া একমাত্ৰ ৰাজ্যিক ভাষা হলে অন্য ভাষা ভাষি সকলৰ কোনো অস্ত্ববিধা নহয় বিনৰ ৭ নং clause এই বন্ধা কৰচ বোৰ দিয়া আছে। এই জটীল সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিব পৰা কোনো উপাই আছে নে নাই সেই বিষয়ে তেখেতে একো কোৱা নাই। এই খিনিমন্তব্যকে প্ৰকাশ কৰি মোৰ সংশোধনী বোৰ ডাঙি ৰবি বক্তব্যৰ সামৰণি মৰিলো।

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Schedule Castes)] Mr. Speaker, Sir. I am speaking today in English which is nobody's mother tongue in Assam but which is going to have an extra-official statue as an official language in Assam. The ordeal of things which Assam had to pass through to get this language Bill passed is a creation of the Congress party and the Congress Government of Assam and none else. The urge of the people of Assam for making their language the official language remains so long unfulfilled because of the utterly chauvinistic mentality of the Congress Government and their party who wanted to impose Assamese on all and at all levels in this composite State of Assam. When they found this to be an impossibility, they sat over the issue rather than recognise the joint aspirations of the majority and the minorities those living in the Assamese speaking as well as in the non-Assamese regions of the State. This justifiably irritated and roused the Assamese people and also others. The result was the last holocaust. This is a shame for all. For this shame and for this holocaust, the Congress Government and its chauvinistic leaders are mainly responsible.

Sir, now the Bill has come to this House. The firm and unanimous stand of my party over this issue is well known, based as it is on unity of Assam and justice to all.

Here in this Bill we find a strange spectacle which this Bill has recognised, *i. e.* the bilingual status of Assam. It does so by imparting language from outside the State and even outside the country while it clearly forgets the demand and the aspirations of large sections of the State's own people.

This is strange indeed—after giving all sorts of lectures regarding “bringing the administration nearer to the people.”

Sir, English from London and then Hindi from Lucknow and Patna have been imported but the aspirations of the Bengalis of Assam who form an overwhelming majority in the district of Cachar and also form 20 per cent of the State's population have been clearly forgotten.

In this context as I am from Cachar, I can say what the people of Cachar think. You cannot explain to them why you have forgotten their language while you have accepted the curious principle of bilingualism.

Sir, the proposal of bilingualism is the Government formula, not ours. But then they are afraid of their on logic for Assam. Sir, they speak about “bringing the administration nearer to the people” and they are importing English and Hindi from outside while forgetting to mention Bengali which alone can bring the administration nearer to the second largest linguistic group in Assam. Such is the absurdity to which they have descended!

Not satisfied even with this the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee wanted to make the language of Cachar to be decided by 2/3rd majority of Mahakuma Parishad. What is this? Is it not an effort to disrupt the people of Cachar through the State machinery and set brothers against brother?

In this context let me refer to the methods of representation in round table conference. So far Cachar is concerned, you have imported some so-called representatives from a particular community, though that community has an able representatives here in this House. Whom did they represent? Why do you impose them in such a serious conference? While you have invited this take representatives you did not think it necessary to invite the representatives of the linguistic minorities of Assam Valley. Your despicable tactics of divide and rule or rather divide and impose have come out. Why then will your bonafide not be suspected by the minorities?

Why all these absurdities and party tricks? Is not this playing with the vital aspirations of the people?

I am sorry to say but I must say that all this being done by the back-door. This is the same old policy of domination over and imposition on the minorities.

Domination over the minorities is one of the cornerstones of this Bill. Assurance of safeguards for the rights of the minorities are there but all the the same Bengali schools were burnt down and forcible conversion of Bengali schools into Assamese by the official channel is going on even today.

Sir, the Government harps on the slogan of "bringing administration nearer to the people" but the Bill does not admit of even such a mild demand as making the laws, decrees, circulars and important documents of the State available in Bengali, though it will be available in Hindi.

You have kept English only in Public Service Commission examinations for the present. You remain mum over the question for the future but we know what some people or the Government want to do. Thus you put burden on our youth for the present and also in future. You are keeping silent over the medium of instructions in the University level.

How can you explain this to the minorities? They will be simply frustrated and feel neglected if this Bill is passed as it is.

Sir, this is an unjust Bill and when you do injustice you saw the seeds of discord. It is the Congress Government and the ruling party which through this Bill are sowing the seeds of disintegration of Assam.

Our party in its own way has been trying to strengthen the unity and integrity of Assam by advocating proper adequate safeguards to all minorities while standing firmly on the bilingual formula with Assamese as the State Language. The ruling party has taken the other path, the path of disunity by denying justice to both the Assamese and the non-Assamese.

Sir, the Congress party and the Government have truly put the disintegration of Assam into Agenda. It shall have to face its own logic. None will be able to escape this logic.

This is the conclusion to which we have been compelled to arrive at. Government have lost the confidence of our brethren in the Hills by their linguism and I can say that they are going to lose Cachar also for the same reason,

Shri NANDA KISHORE SINHA (Sonai) : মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আসামের রাজ্যভাষা গত ১৯৪৭ ইং হইতে এই ১৩ বৎসর সারা রাজ্যে জরুরী-কল্পনার হইয়া আছে কিন্তু রাজ্যে এখার গত মার্চ মাস থেকে এই অক্টোবর পর্যন্ত এই কয়েক মাস সমস্ত প্রদেশে আলোরণের সৃষ্টি করিয়াছে এবং এই ভাষার আন্দোলনের পরিপ্রেক্ষিতে গত জুন-জুলাই মাসে যে অমানুষিক ঘটনা বিশেষ ভাবে আসাম উপত্যকার যাহা হইয়া গেল তাহাতে সারা ভারত বর্ষের মধ্যে আমরা এক কলঙ্ক রেখেছি।

আমার বিশ্বাস এই সংসদের সব সদস্যই অবগত আছেন যে গত ১৯৪৮ ইংরাজীতে কাছাড়কে কেন্দ্র করে—“পূর্বাচল” প্রদেশ গঠনের আন্দোলন যখন হয়েছিল তখন আমরা তাঁর বিরুদ্ধে আসামের integrity রক্ষার জন্য দাড়িয়ে কৃতকার্য হইয়াছিলাম আমরা কাছাড়বাসী সর্ববিস্তার আসামের এক্য ও ঐতিহ্য রাখার পক্ষপাতী।

গত মার্চ মাসে যখন এই সংসদে ভাষার প্রস্তাব উঠে, বহু বিবেচনার পর A.P.C.C. র বিবেচনার্থে পাঠানো হয় কিন্তু ২২ শে এপ্রিল প্রদেশ কংগ্রেস যখন একমাত্র অসমীয়া ভাষাকে রাজ্যিক ভাষা করার প্রস্তাব করলেন তখন হইতে সারা আসামে এক তীব্র আন্দোলনের ভাব দেখা দিল। কাছাড় জিলায় ও একমাত্র অসমীয়াকে রাজ্যিক ভাষা করার বিরুদ্ধে প্রবল উত্তেজনার লক্ষণ দেখা দেয়। কাছাড়বাসীরা আসাম প্রদেশের পারিপার্শ্বিক অবস্থা, বহুভাষা-ভাষীদের বাস বিবেচনা করিয়া বলিয়া ছিলাম যে অসমীয়া হিন্দী ও বাংলা এই তিন ভাষাকে রাজ্যিক ভাষা হিসাবে গ্রহণ করিলেই সমস্যার সমাধান সম্ভব বলিয়াছিলাম। এই অভিনত প্রতিনিধি হিসাবে আমরা বরাবরই দাবী পেষ করিয়া আসিতেছি। গত জুলাই মাসে বন্ধপত্র উপত্যকার ভাষার পরিপ্রেক্ষিতে যে অবস্থার সৃষ্টি হইয়াছিল তখন আমরা কাছাড়ের নেতৃবৃন্দ নিখিল ভারত কংগ্রেছ সভাপতি, প্রধান মন্ত্রী Union Home Minister প্রভৃতি ভারতীয় জননেতাদের সহিত দিল্লীতে সাক্ষাৎ করতঃ বলিয়া ছিলাম যে ভাষার পক্ষে আসামকে টুকরা টুকরা করার পক্ষপাতী আমরা নই এবং ভাষার পক্ষে সকলের মেলা-মেশার মাধ্যমে এক মীমাংসায় পৌছা উচিত। তখনই এক Round Table Conference র কথা উঠে। আমরাও স্বীকৃতি দিয়েছিলাম। আমরা খুবই আশা করেছিলাম এক সন্নিহিত মীমাংসায় পৌছিব। বহুবার নানা ভাবে মিলিত হইয়াছি। শেষ পর্যন্ত ৫ ও ৬ অক্টোবর Union Home Minister পৃষ্ঠপোষকতায় সঙ্ঘে দুবার দেখা করেছি। আসামের মুখ্য মন্ত্রী হইতে আরম্ভ করিয়া সব নেতৃবৃন্দই বিষয় আলোচনা করিয়াছেন। কাছাড়ের প্রতিনিধিদের তিন নানা ভাবে বুঝিয়ে বলেছেন এবং তাঁর Formula পত্রিকাদিতে বাহির ও হইয়াছে। আমরা পৃষ্ঠপোষকতায় দিয়েছিলাম Separate Hills State এর দাবীকে উপেক্ষা করিলে কাছাড় বাসীকে সেই Formula গ্রহণ করার জন্য সর্বপ্রকারের চেষ্টা করব কারণ আমরা আসামের Integrity চাই। এই বিশ্বাস নিয়াই আসামের নেতাদের আমরা পক্ষ suggestion গ্রহণের অনুরোধ করি। কিন্তু অতীব পরিতাপের বিষয় A.P.C.C. ১৫ই অক্টোবরের সভায় যে Resolution আনছেন উহাতে পাবর্ত্য জেলা সমূহকে পৃথক করার অভিপ্রায় প্রকাশিত হইয়াছে। এই প্রস্তাব আমরা কাছাড় প্রতিনিধিরা মানীয়া নিতে পারিনা। কারণ ইহা দ্বারা আসামকে খণ্ডিত করাই হইবে।

তদোপরি আরও দুঃখের বিষয় আমার বন্ধু শ্রীযুত খগেন্দ্র নাথ নাথ ও শ্রীযুত মহীকান্ত দাস তাঁদের বর্ত্ত তায় কেবল কাছাড় জেলায় Mahkuma Parishad এর অনুচ্ছেদ যোগ করার প্রস্তাব ও করিয়াছেন। Mahkuma Parishad কি কাছাড় জেলা ছাড়া আসামের অন্যান্য জেলায় নাই? এই তারতম্যের উদ্দেশ্যই বা কি।

এই ভাবের পৃথক মনোভাব বাস্তবিকই অতি নিন্দনীয়। আমরা মার হার বলিয়াছি এবং কাছাড়ের সব পুতিনিধিরা তাদের ভাষনে স্পষ্টভাবে বলিয়াছেন আমরা আছাদে অসমীয়া ভাষার একটা সম্মান জনক স্থান থাকা উচিত কিন্তু উহা এমনই ভাবে থাকবে যাতে করে আমাদের কোন অঞ্চলের সম্মান ক্ষুণ্ণ না হয় আর আসাম প্রদেশের ঐক্য ও ঐতিহ্য নষ্ট না হয়। এখন ও সময় আছে। বীর স্বীরভাবে আমরা যেন চিন্তা করি ভাবনাগে কিছুই করা উচিত হইবে না সংখ্যা গরিষ্ট সবাইকে সন্তুষ্ট রাখতে হইলে আমি Mr. Borbora মহাশয়ের পুস্তাব সমর্থন করি অর্থাৎ তিনি অসমীয়া, বাংলা ও হিন্দীকেই রাজ্যিক ভাষা করার কথা বলিয়াছেন। এই তিনি ভাষাকেই যেন Assam Official Languages হিসাবে গ্রহণ করতঃ আসামের Integrity রক্ষার জন্য যেন আমরা বন্ধপরিষ্কার হই।

✓ **Maulavi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara)**: অব্যক্ষ মহোদয় আমি আজ বাংলা বলব বলে ঠিক করেছি কারণ আমি আসামে অসমীয়া হিসাবে বাস করি তথাপিও বাংলা ভাষার পুতি কোন বিরূপ ভাব নাই। এবং আমি নিজকে আসামীয় বলিয়া পরিচয় দিতে গৌরব বোধ করি আমি এখানে প্রশ্ন করতে চাই যে আমাদের রাষ্ট্র ভাষা হিন্দী কেন করা হয়েছে Indian Union এর জন্য? আমাদের এসম্বলী মেম্বারদের বলতে চাই ভারতের একতা বা ঐক্য রক্ষা করবার জন্য Hindi কে national ভাষা করা হয়েছে। তাইবলে উক্ত হিন্দী ভাষা কি আমাদের নন হিন্দী ভাষা-ভাগীদের উপর Imposition হয়েছে বা জোর করে চাপিয়ে দেওয়ার পুমাণ নাই। ঠিক এই ভাবে যদি আজকে বিবেচনা করণ আমাদের আসামের রাজ্যিক ভাষা কি হবে? আমাদের Integrity একতা যদি সত্যই রক্ষা করতে হয় আমাদের বেছে নিতে হবে একটা মাত্র ভাষা।

যাহারা বলতেছেন বাংলা এবং হিন্দীকে অসমীয়ার সঙ্গে রাজ্যিক ভাষা করে Bi-lingual বা Multi-lingual করতে তারা কি এই State কে টুকরা টুকরা করতে চাইছেন? বাস্তবিক যদি আমাদের দুবদশিতা থাকে, আসামকে একত্রিত রাখবার জন্য তাহলে আমাদের লক্ষ্য করতে হবে কোন ভাষাকে গ্রহণ করব আর কাল বিলম্ব না করে এখনই তাহা ঠিক করে নিয়ে একমাত্র ভাষা রাজ্যিক ভাষা হিসাবে গ্রহণ করতে হবে।

আমাদের রাজ্য ভাষা হিসাবে গ্রহণ করে নিতে হবে অসমীয়া ভাষা। কারণ প্রদেশের সতকরা ৬২ ভাগ অসমী ভাষা-ভাষী এবং বাকী ১০ ভাগ, আসামী ভাষা বুজতে পারে বা বলতে পারে। আজকে আমাদের পাহাড়ীয়া ভাইদের ও কাছাড় জেলার ভাইদের অন্য রাজ্য ভাষা থাকবে তাহা হয় না। এই ভাষা শিখে আসামী ভাষাকে এরা সমৃদ্ধ করতে হয়ত চেষ্টা করবেন। এর মাধ্যমে আমরা একতা রক্ষা করতে পারব আশা করি। পাহাড়ী ভাইদের আপত্তির কারণ আমি কিছু বুঝি নাই। এক্স পার্লামেন্টারী চেম্বেরারী Mr. Thanglura মহাশয় বলেছেন English রাখা দরকার। ইংরেজীত আছেই এবং থাকবেও যে পর্যন্ত না national ভাষা Hindi গড়ে উঠবে। এতে তাহাদের আপত্তির কারণ কোথাই বা where is his difficulties আমার কথা হচ্ছে এবং আমি অনুরোধ করি এ বিষয়ে তারা পুনঃ বিবেচনা করণ। বাস্তবিক তারা যদি আসামের একতা রক্ষা করতে চান অদ্যই একটি মাত্র ভাষাকে বেছে নিতে হবে। আর দেরি করা কোন মতেই উচিত হইবে না। কারণ এই রাজ্যিক ভাষা নিয়ে ১২১৩ বৎসর দেরী করার জন্য আমাদের যথেষ্ট ভোগ করতে হয়েছে এবং শিক্ষাও যথেষ্ট পেয়েছি। আর যদি দেরী করা হয় তবে আসামের মঙ্গল কখনই হইবে না, বরং অবস্থা ক্রমেই খারাপ হইতে আরো বেচি খারাপের দিগে যাইতে বাধ্য হইবে। এই বলে আমার বক্তব্য শেষ করিতে চাই

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur): I do not like to go into the genesis of the Language issue as it has been very clearly stated by my friends here. The issue before us today is how to solve the problem that will serve the best interest of the State. It has been stated in the floor of this House and in the Press that different views regarding this issue could not be solved to one agreed formula. Now according to the provisions of the constitution and according to the precedent that has been adopted in other States and in the India Union, we shall have to proceed and we shall have to discuss the Bill before us in that light. The Bill that has been presented to us in the House could not satisfy any section of the people for whom it was meant. There has been great resentment in the Brahmaputra Valley and in the district of Cachar, Our Hill friends have not only expressed their resentment, but also have walked out of the Assembly, and the Minister and Deputy Minister and our Hill members have already crossed the floor. The very purpose of the Official Language Bill is to bring the administration to the people so that the people at large or the body politic can understand and appreciate the functions of the Government. Therefore the language spoken and understood by the majority of the people should be declared as the Official Language of the State with sufficient safeguards to the other linguistic minorities so that they may not feel any inconvenience. So from all canons of equity, justice, Constitutional right and feasibility, Assamese must be declared as the only Official Language of the State. But this Bill does not satisfy this aspiration of the people of the State. It has envisaged bilingualism which has been resented to by all. Therefore, the bill will have to be substantially amended and Assamese must be given its rightful place as the only Official language of the State. The other provisions of the bill also must undergo consequential amendments in conformity with this policy.

My friends from Cachar have tried to make out a case that the provisions of the Bill are not in conformity with the Resolution of the A. I. C. C. and they have tried to show that the A. P. C. C. Resolution passed recently recommending amendment of the present bill has also sought to contravene to the directives of the A. I. C. C. But, Sir, I beg to submit that the Bill before us or the A. P. C. C. Resolution have respected very faithfully the spirit of the A. I. C. C. Resolution. I beg to read the relevant portions of the A. I. C. C. Resolution referred to by my Cachar friends and this will show that the present bill or the A. P. C. C. Resolution have never contradicted or contravened the spirit of the A. I. C. C. Resolution which says:—

“The Assamese language is one of the national languages of India laid down in the Constitution of India. This language like other national language, has to be encouraged in every way and progressively used by the people whose mother-tongue it is. In promoting its use in various public activities, it should be remembered that its use should not be enforced in areas where other languages prevail. Many areas of India are bilingual or multi-lingual, and each of the languages in use has to be protected and encouraged.”

From this, it appears that the Bill and the A. P. C. C. Resolution have very clearly safeguarded the interest of the linguistic minority and all their interests have been sought to be protected and encouraged.

My friend Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacheryya has criticized the A. P. C. C. Resolution recently passed as mischivious and bluffing the people. But this is absolutely incorrect and I think that the Resolution is not before my friend Bhattacharyya. I do not think that there can be any better arrangement or alternative provisions for the best interest of the State. Keeping in view the integrity of the State and solidarity of the people, as well as satisfaction of the aspirations of the people. I feel that the Bill before us, if amended in the light of the recommendation of the A. P. C. C. Resolution is the best possible one and I request the Government to amend the provisions of the Bill accordingly. If my Hill friends and my friends from Cachar are really sincere and what the integrity of the State, then I request them to accept the provisions of the Bill in the amended bill. There is nothing like finality in law and if necessity and expediency arise the Act can be amended. But I feel that justice will be done to all sections of the people of Assam if the Bill is amended in the light recommended by A. P. C. C.

Thank you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have already made it clear to the House that half an hour time would be kept for the Chief Minister for his reply. Now there is only half an hour to 4, so if the House agrees to sit longer then I can allow some more members to speak. Already so many members have spoken.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Sir, it is an important Bill and therefore many hon. members may like to speak. So I suggest that the House may sit longer. We have also voluntarily cut our time, otherwise the members could have spoken longer than what they are speaking now.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is my discretion.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: That discretion is always there.

Mr. SPEAKER: This is only a motion for consideration. The members will be able to speak again when the passing stage will come. I cannot, in any way, await after 4-30 P.M. because I have my own engagement. Each Member will speak 5 minutes.

✓ **Maulavi TAZUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari):** অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমাৰ অসমবাসীৰ আশা ভৰণ আৰু ইচ্ছা আছিল যে অসমীয়া আমাৰ ৰাজ্য ভাষা ঘোষণা হ'ব লাগে। অৱশ্যে মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰীয়ে এখন ৰাজ্য ভাষাৰ বিল আনিছে। কিন্তু বিলখন অনাৰ আগতে আৰু পিচতো বহুত ভুল হ'ল। আগতে হোৱা ভুলৰ কাৰণে ৰাজ্যত বহুত অশান্তি হৈ গ'ল আৰু সেই অশান্তিৰ এতিয়াও ওপৰ পৰা নাই; আৰু পিচত হোৱা ভুল মতে আজি অসমীয়া ভাষাৰ স্থান প্ৰায় নোহোৱা হৈছে। এতিয়া যিখন বিল আমাৰ আগত আছে সেইখন অসমবাসীৰ আশা মতে নহ'ল, কাৰণ দ্বিভাষী হ'ল। আমি গুনিবলৈ পাইছো যে কংগ্ৰেছ দলে যি সংশোধনী আনিব সেই মতেও এটা ভাষা নহ'ল, এতিয়াৰ দৰে দ্বিভাষীয়েই হ'ব। গতিকে বিল অনাৰ আগতে ভুল হ'ল পিচতো ভুল হৈছে আৰু ভবিষ্যতেও ভুল হোৱাত আশা হৈছে। মোৰ অনুৰোধ যাতো আৰু যেন ভুল নহয়।

ৰাজ্যিক ভাষা অসমীয়া ভাষা হব লাগে আৰু বিভিন্ন বিবিলাক ভাষা দেশত আছে সেই বিলাকৰ কলা-কৃষ্টি বৰ্খাৰ সুবিধা দিব লাগে। ইয়াৰ লগতে আমি আটাই বিলাক যাতে ত্ৰৈক্য হব পাৰে তালৈও চাব লাগিব। এই ত্ৰৈক্যৰ মূলত হৈছে ভৌগলিক পৰিস্থিতি, ঐতিহাসিক সম্বন্ধ, আদান-প্ৰদানৰ ভাব আৰু ভাষা। ভৌগলিক ফালৰ পৰা সকলো ঠিক আছে। আদান প্ৰদানতো ঠিক আছে, বুৰঞ্জীয়েও বিবোধীতা নকৰে কেৱল ভাষাৰ ফালৰ পৰা ত্ৰৈক্যত সন্ধান কৰা বা সংকৃতি বক্ষা কৰাৰ কথা সিমান ভবা হোৱা নাই। অসমৰ কি পাহাৰ, কি ভৈয়াম সকলো ঠাইৰ মানুহেই অসমীয় আৰু অসমেই সকলোৰে মাতৃভূমি। কায়েই, সকলোৰে একতা সাধিত হব লাগে আৰু সকলোৰে কাৰণে এটা ভাষা হব লাগে— আৰু সেইটো হৈছে—অসমীয়া ভাষা।

Srimati LILY SENGUPTA (Lahowal): মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, অসমৰ ত্ৰৈক্য আৰু সংহতি অটুত বাৰ্ধিবৰ কাৰণে আমাৰ চৰকাৰে সদায় প্ৰচেষ্টা কৰি আহিছে আৰু ৰাইজেও যথায়ত তাৰে মৰ্যাদা দান কৰিছে। দেশৰ বিভিন্ন সমস্যাতে কাছাৰ আৰু পৰ্বতৰ ভাই সকলে আমাৰ লগত যুক্তহস্তে সদায় যি দৰে আগভাগ লৈছিল আমাৰ ক্ষেত্ৰতো সদায় আমি সেই সম্ভ্ৰাতি পাব আৰিম বুলি ভাবিছিলো।

আজি দহ বছৰ ধৰি অসমৰ ৰাইজে ভাষাৰ দাবী কৰি আহিছে আৰু সকলো স্তৰৰ পৰা সমৰ্থন পাবলৈ আশা পোষণ কৰি সকলোৰে বাবে দুৱাৰ মুকলি কৰি সম্বন্ধনৰ সুযোগ দান কৰিছে। কিন্তু এই প্ৰগতিশীল যুগত, জনমতৰ চকৰি সদায় এনে পৰ্য্যায়তে বৈ থাকি পাৰে জানো? ভাষাৰ ভিত্তিত আজি সকলো প্ৰদেশ প্ৰতিষ্ঠিত। অসমেও সংবিধানৰ ধাৰাতে স্বীকৃতি লাভ কৰিছে।

এই প্ৰশ্নৰ উত্তৰত, যোৱা বাজেট অধিবেশনত, মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে, সংখ্যা লঘ পৰা আহ্বান স্বাগত কৰিলে, কাছাৰে সংবিধানৰ ভেটাৰ্দি প্ৰতিবাদ কৰিলে। যদি সংবিধানেই, ভাষাৰ প্ৰতিবন্ধক হৈছিল— আকৌ এই বিধান সভাৰ পৰা মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে কেনেকৈ সংখ্যা লঘুৰ পৰা সম্বন্ধনৰ আহ্বান জনালে মই বুজি নাপাওঁ। মহোদয় এই অবস্থায় আমাক বিমোৰত পেলালে—এটা সাপ্ৰদায়িক ভাবৰ সৃষ্টি হল। নতুনকৈ যেতিয়া অসম উপত্যকাৰ বঙালী সকলক ৰাজ্যিক ভাষা কি হিচাবে সমৰ্থন কৰিব বুলি সভা-সমিতিত প্ৰশ্ন কৰা হল, শিক্ষিত লোক সকলেও বৰ অপমান বোধ কৰিলে। আমাৰ অসম উপত্যকাত 'চেনচাচ' মতে প্ৰায় ৮ লাখ বঙালী মানুহ আছে। আমি কেতিয়া কেনেকৈ অসমীয়া সিকিলো আমি নিজেই নাজানো। আমাৰ মাজত কোনো প্ৰভেদ বিভেদ কেতিয়াও নাছিল।

আমাৰ বঙালী ভাষা, সমগ্ৰ ভাৰত ও বিদেশত এটা সৰ্ব্বশিখালী ভাষা; অসমৰ এটা চুকৰ এখন-ঘিলাত চৰকাৰী স্বীকৃতি নাপালেও এই ভাষাৰ কিঞ্চিত মানো ক্ষতি নহয়। অসমৰ ভাষা সংখ্যা গৰিষ্টৰ মতবাদ কাছাৰে উপেক্ষা যুক্তি মই দেখা নাই। সিদিন আমাৰ মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়, কাছাৰ আৰু পাহাৰৰ এই প্ৰতিবাদ আৰু অশান্ততালৈ লক্ষ কৰি কৈছিল যে, যদি প্ৰয়োজন হয় এই সমস্যাত মই নিজক 'চেফ্ৰি ফাইজ' কৰিম।

এইখন গণতন্ত্ৰৰ ভিত্তিত প্ৰতিষ্ঠিত চৰকাৰ আৰু সেই চৰকাৰৰ মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী হিচাবে তেখেতে তেখেতৰ এই আবেগ শোভা নাপায় বুলি কব খোজো। গণতান্ত্ৰিক দেশৰ সংখ্যা গৰিষ্টৰ মত চৰকাৰে গ্ৰহণ কৰিবই লাগিব। গতিকে মই মোৰ শ্ৰদ্ধেয় 'দিদি' শ্ৰীমতি চন্দ্ৰক অসমীয়া ভাষাকেই একমাত্ৰ ৰাজ্যিক ভাষা বুলি স্বীকৃতি দিয়াৰ সমৰ্থন জনাবলৈ অনুৰোধ জনাওঁ আৰু চৰকাৰৰ এই বিলখন সংশোধন কৰিবলৈ পৰামৰ্শ আগ বঢ়াওঁ।

আজিব এই ভাষা স্বৰ্দ্ধীয় কথাটলৈ — মোটলৈ অসংখ্য 'টেলিগ্রাম' আৰু চিঠি-পত্ৰ আহিয়েই আছে; আনকি বান্ধীয় মজদুৰ কংগ্ৰেচৰ পৰাও মই 'টেলিগ্রাম' পাইছো যে বাজ্যিক ভাষা বিল খন সংশোধন কৰি অসম প্ৰদেশ কংগ্ৰেচৰ প্ৰস্তাৱটো সমৰ্থন কৰিব লাগে আৰু মই অসম প্ৰদেশ কংগ্ৰেছ কমিটিৰ যোৱা ১৪।১৫ তাৰিখৰ সংশোধনী মতে একমাত্ৰ অসমীয়া ভাষাকেই অসমৰ বাজ্যিক ভাষা কৰা দাবী জনাই মোৰ বক্তব্য সামৰিলো ।

Shri BISHAWNATH UPADHYAYA (Patharkandi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir . I thank you for giving me an opportunity to put my views before the House I find, Sir, there has been some misunderstanding in some quarters and I want, therefore, to remove the same. Perhaps many of the hon. Members know, Sir, that it was our Association, the Hindusthani Sammelan, which first passed a resolution nearly two years ago at Tinsukia, that Assamese should be the State Language of the State of Assam. After that, I had taken a different stand and the other day I walked out from the Assembly Chamber which has created surprise to many of the hon. Members. I am opposed to the very principle of the Bill and I, therefore walked out from this chamber, I want to put my views here. Sir, I am not opposed to Assamese because we feel that Assamese is also one of the languages recognised by the Constitution of India. So far as we are concerned, many people think that we are Hindi speaker, but this is not the fact. Hindi not our mother-tongue. Our mother-tongue is Bhoipuri which is very near to Assamese For example, I can cite an example, You say in Assamese: "kolai jaba"—and we say in Bhoipuri "kanhele jaiba".

Mr. SPEAKER : You need not speak on the language. You should speak on the Bill.

✓ **Shri BISHWANATH UPADHYAYA :** Sir, I do not oppose Assamese to be the State language. But my Friend should know that I do not represent the Sammelan here. I represent a particular constituency from the district of Cachar—Patharkandi constituency. At a conference at Silchar on the 3rd July, 1960 he decided to arrive at an amicable settlement at a round Table Conference. The round table conference is over.

I feel that the fathers of the Constitution made a blunder and I oppose the Bill because I oppose the very principle of a regional language being made the State language of a State. The fathers of the Constitution of India made recognition of more than one language under Arts, 343 to 351 of the Constitution in order to replace English for official purposes. 14 languages have been recognised as such. Now, under Art. 347 the President of India may recognise any language as official language which is spoken by a substantial proportion of the population of the State. According to the Linguistic Survey of India there are as many as 179 languages and 544 dialects in our country, but according to the Constitution a dialect should be treated as language because the word 'dialect' does not occur in the Constitution of our Country. To have integrity and unity of the State we must have one common language.....

Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS [Patacharkuchi (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, এই Official Language বিলখন কোনো শ্রেণীৰ মানুহেই গ্ৰহণ কৰিব পাৰা নাই। কিন্তু এইটো সকলোৰে মত যে এটা মাত্ৰ ভাষা ৰাজ্যিক ভাষা হ'ব লাগে। সেই কাৰণে অসমত এটা মাত্ৰ ৰাজ্যিক ভাষা হ'ব লাগে। আনৰ মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই ভেৰেভৰ ভাষণত কৈছিল যে অসমীয়া ভাষা বিভিন্ন ভাষাৰ সংমিশ্ৰণ। সেই কাৰণে পাহাৰীয়া ভাই সকলেও অসমীয়া ভাষাই একমাত্ৰ ৰাজ্যিক ভাষা হোৱাত সংমতি কিয় নিদিয় বুলি নাপাওঁ। তদুপৰি পাহাৰীয়া ভাই সকলৰ কাৰণে Constitutional right আছে। ভৈয়ামত ৬ লাখ বনো মানুহ আছে এই ৬ লাখ মানুহে অসমীয়া ভাষাকে একমাত্ৰ ৰাজ্যিক ভাষা বুলি গ্ৰহণ কৰিছে। সেই কাৰণে পাহাৰত থকা ভাই সকল আৰু বঙালী ভাই সকলক অসমীয়া ভাষাকে ৰাজ্যিক ভাষা কৰাত সমৰ্থন দিবলৈ অনুৰোধ জনালো। হিন্দী সৰ্ব ভাৰতীয় ভাষা সেইটো বিলত উল্লেখ থকাৰ প্ৰয়োজন নাই। গতিকে অসমীয়া ভাষাই ৰাজ্যিক ভাষা হ'ব লাগে বুলি অনুৰোধ জনালো।

Shri MAHAM SINGH [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Mr. Speaker Sir, when it was incidentally suggested by some hon. Members in the last Budget session that Assamese should be the official language of Assam I opposed. I opposed not because I have any ill feeling whatsoever against the Assamese language. As a matter of fact I wanted and still want now also that Assamese language should grow and grow from day to day, not as an official language, but in its literature and in other respect. I want Assamese language to progress and be progressively used by the people whose mother tongue it is. But then I oppose Assamese to be the official language because the conditions in Assam do not permit to have the language of only one community as the official language for the whole State. Later when it was decided that Assamese language should be the official language I find a sharp division between the Assamese speaking people and the other linguistic groups. We have the Brahmaputra Valley, where the majority speaks Assamese and on the other hand we have the Hill districts and Cachar. It is a division of our State into two parts. The Brahmaputra Valley, which is more thickly populated and on the other the Hill Districts and Cachar with a bigger area but less population. Many of my Friends have said that Assamese being the language spoken by the majority and as the majority want that Assamese should be the official language of the State. It should be declared so I consider it is not a majority based on any democratic principle but a majority of one linguistic group over other minority linguistic groups. In the discussions today also I find opinions are sharply divided on linguistic bases and I feel very unhappy and distressed. Eversince 1952 when I was elected as a Member of this Legislature I tried my level best to bring about unity among different sections of the people. But now I find this language question has brought about the greatest division between different communities leading to disintegration of the State. This question has brought a feeling of fear insecurity and inferiority in the minor linguistic groups. I appreciate the Government has made its best attempt and in this Bill has tried its best to accomodate different sections of the people,

but even then when the language of a major linguistic group is made the official language the fear and insecurity can not be easily removed from the minds of the people belonging to the other group. Since the time is limited, I will only make some suggestions. In order to bring about greater unity and integrity of our State it is very much essential that we should place all the people of Assam of whatever community they belong on an equal footing especially regarding language. No section of the people and no person should feel superior over others only because he belongs to a certain class or community and no one should have greater advantage and opportunity simply because he speaks a certain language. After all the differences and division that has taken place, I feel that in order to overcome them again and to bring about greater unity and integrity of the State we should declare Hindi as the official language of the State of Assam and other languages given their rightful place at the district level. That is in the Brahmaputra Valley we can have Assamese, in Cachar Bengali and in the Hills Districts the languages or languages to be decided by the respective District Councils to be used for official purposes in the district level only. Although different communities inhabit district pockets and places in the State of Assam and in some Districts we have more of one community and in other different Districts other communities, we find that as we are living together in our State, we are connected together at the State level of administration. At the State Level we should not allow one section of the people to have more advantage over the others. The other day the Chief Minister when he introduced this language Bill asked for certain suggestions. For the greater unity and integrity of the State I feel that we should have only one official language, *i.e.* Hindi, at the State level, when it replaces English. This will place all the linguistic groups of Assam on an equal footing. ✓

Shri RAM PROSAD CHAUBEY (Lakhipur) :

মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় আসামের রাজ্য ভাষা সম্পর্কে আসাম প্রান্তীয় হিন্দুস্থানী আন্দোলনের মতামত ইতিপর্বেই জ্ঞাপন করা হইয়াছে।

এখন কাছাড়ের লোকেরা বাংলা ভাষা-ভাষী, এবং আগরাও যখন কাছাড়েরই থাকি এবং যাবতীয় কাজকর্ম বাংলা ভাষাতেই করা হয় তাই কাছাড়ের মত প্রকাশ হইয়াছে যে বাংলাকে রাজ্য ভাষার মর্যাদা দেওয়াই হউক। কারণ আসাম উপত্যকাতেও অনেকগুলি M.E., M.V., L.P., স্কুল আছে।

কিন্তু যখন পাস্ত্রীকে নিমন্ত্রণ করে আনা হল তখন তিনি সকল সম্প্রদায়ের মতামত নিয়ে বললেন যে অসমীয়া একটি সংবিধান যুক্ত ভাষা ; এই ভাষা আসামে নাথাকলে থাকবে কোথায়? অসমীয়া ভাষা রাজ্যিক ভাষা হ'তে হবে। কিন্তু আমাদের পার্বত্য অঞ্চলের লোকেরা রাজ্যিক ভাষা হিচাবে একমাত্র হিন্দী চাহিয়াছে। আমাদের কংগ্রেছ সভাপতি শ্রী সিদ্ধিনাথ শর্মাও সেই সঙ্গে বলেছেন যে আসামের ৬ খানি জিলাতে যদি লোকেরা এখন থেকে হিন্দী নাশিখে তাহা হইলে যখন সকল competition হিন্দীর মাধ্যমে হবে তখন কি করবে। যারাউচচ-পদস্থ, ধনী লোক তাদের ছেলেরা Private Tutor এর সহায়ে পড়ে নেবে কিন্তু গরীবের ছেলের উপায় কি হবে? সুতরাং হিন্দী এখন হইতে থাকাই ভাল। যদি এরজন্য আমাকে Resign দিতে হয়, তবুও আমি এই Issue তে আবার Return করতে পারবো। এরপর পাস্ত্রী একটি Formola দিলেন যে অসমীয়া এবং হিন্দী

দুইটি ভাষাই রাজ্যিক ভাষা হবে। ইহাতে আসাম ভেলীৰও কোনো ক্ষতি হবেনা এবং পাৰ্ব্বত্য অঞ্চলৰও অসুবিধা হবেনা।

আপনারা জানেন যে বরো কাছারী সম্প্রদায় হইতে শ্রী বসুমতীৰী এক ভাষনে বালগা-ছিলেন যে আসাম ভেলীৰ ৬ লক্ষ বরো সম্প্রদায়ের লোককেও হিন্দী শিক্ষার সুযোগ দেওয়া দরকার।

এখন আসামভেলীৰ প্ৰবীণ ব্যক্তিত্বা বিবেচনা কৰিয়া দেখুন হিন্দী একদিন অসবেই আজ হইতে যদি হিন্দী থাকে তাহা হইলে পরে সুবিধা হবে। এই ভাবধারা নিয়েই পন্তজী সীদ্ধান্ত দিয়াছিলেন। সেটাকে অমান্য করে ইংৰাজী দিয়ে বিভাটের সঠিক করা হইয়াছে; যার পরিণাম খণ্ডতা অনিবার্য এই ভাষার বিষয় নয়ে একবার যদি খণ্ড হয়, তাহ হইলে সকলেরই ক্ষতি হবে সুতরাং আমি সমষ্ট বিজ্ঞ ব্যক্তিকে অনুরোধ কৰি, যে পন্তজীৰ Formula গ্ৰহণ কৰিলে কাহারো কোনো আশঙ্কা থাকিবে না। পান্তজীৰ Formula যদি আমরা মানিতে নাপাৰি তাহাহইলে আসামে অশান্তি বারবে, এবং এমনও হতে পারে এই ভাষা সমস্যার সমধান আমাদের জন্য শান্তির প্ৰতীক না হয়ে বদুৰংশের মঘলও হইয়া উঠিতে পারে তাই সমস্ত চিন্তাশীল ব্যক্তিদের নিকট আমার বিনীত-প্ৰাৰ্থনা এই বিল সম্বন্ধে পৰ্বে বিবেচনা কৰুন সংক্ষেপে ইহাই আমার বক্তব্য।

***Shri B'MALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to all those Hon'ble Members who participated in this debate to-day. I am also grateful to them for their criticism and also for the various suggestions with they have given. On this language issue I have explained myself fully in the speech which I delivered at the time of introduction of this Bill. I do not think, Sir, I have much more to say on this issue. But nevertheless I would like to speak a few words on some points which have been raised during the debate to-day. Sir I find that public opinion of the different parts of the State has been fully reflected to-day in this House during the course of discussion. Unfortunately, the people of our State have not been able to come to an agreed solution on this official language issue. The people of the Brahmaputra Valley hold one view, the people of Hills hold another and the people of Cachar hold still another view. Our difficulty to-day is that our people have not been able to come to any agreed solution on this language issue. Sir, that is a hard reality and that has been reflected to-day in this House. Then what are we to do? Shou'd we postpone this issue? Will that be desirable? This official language question was thought over and over again and the opinion of the people was taken on this matter. We consulted the representatives of the various parties, but nobody advised us, in view of all that had happened in our State and in view of the tense atmosphere prevailing in the State, that this issue should be delayed. Therefore Sir, when the different sections of our people have not been able to come to an agreed solution on this matter we cannot delay the decision on this issue and we have to take a decision. All these three things combined have put us into a very difficult position. We tried our best and as a matter of fact we left no stone unturned to bring about some adjustment of these different views. We tried our best but I am sorry to tell this House that that we did not succeed.

The Bill which we have presented before this House was based on a formula of two languages at the State level—Assamese, and English when it is replaced by Hindi. Now Sir, all of us have seen the public reaction to this proposal. I made it perfectly clear in the House on the date of introduction of the Bill that I do not claim this as an ideal proposal; but these are the circumstances under which we are compelled to come before the House with this proposal. We did not have a closed mind; we received all suggestions for the improvement of this Bill, and we have given very serious consideration to all those proposals.

Sir, why did we think about Hindi in this Bill? If I may say so, it was with the object of accommodating our Hill brothers and sisters. We appreciated their difficulties, and we felt that if we could provide Hindi also along with Assamese, that might be a possible solution of these difficulties. But you know Sir, the reaction to this bilingual formula also.

Reference has been made about Shri Pantji. In fairness to him I must say that he did not come here to impose anything on us. As a matter of fact, he came here at our request. His attitude was that this is your problem, and it is you, the people of Assam, who will have to solve the problem; but if you feel that I could be of any use, then utilise me. He did not come here to impose anything on us.

Now Sir, a question has been asked by Mrs. Chanda that whether the Bill is a bilingual one. Yes, it is bilingual at the State level, and at the district level the proposal as embodied in the Bill is multi-lingual, and with regard to English and Hindi, English goes out after a certain period and Hindi takes its place. That was the proposal.

My friend Capt. Sangma has asked something about my speech on this Bill. I mentioned in the speech that Assamese also would be in the Secretariat level. I think some thing like that he referred. If he kindly goes through the Bill he will find that first in the Bill for the declaration of Assamese and English to be replaced by Hindi. These two will be the State's Official languages. Then there is a provision for the transition period. For the transition period it is said that English would continue. When the transition period is over, the main clause becomes operative. But that was left open. It would have been a matter of Notification we issue that what language would be used in the Secretariat and the Directorates.

***Capt. WILLIAMSON SANGMA [Phulbari (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]:** I said with regard to proviso to section 3, which is as follows:—

“Provided the English language so long as the use thereof is permissible under Article 343 of the Constitution of India, shall continue to be used for all the official purposes of the Secretariat and the Heads of Department of the State Government for which it was being used immediately before the commencement of this Act.”

While in the subsequent proviso it was provided for giving authoritative translation in Assamese of various Acts and orders and that is to be used side by side as language at the Secretariat level.

***Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister)**: In any case that was the proviso for the transition period, that so long English continues, pending this the main proviso comes into operation.

I have already explained and every member of this House have been able to appreciate how difficult it is to find an agreed solution of this issue.

Many arguments have been advanced from the point of principle. Some of the members said that if you declare a State language it must have access to all the places; how can you stop it, and some friends said that we object to the very principle of the Bill, *i. e.*, the principle of declaring Assamese as the official language. On the other hand, there is demand for declaring Assamese as the sole official language. Naturally in such circumstances difficulties are really very great.

Sir, we have received many suggestions for improvement of this Bill and when this House would consider this Bill, clause by clause. Government will place its views before this House how Government feels about those suggestions.

One very important question has been raised that why not declare Assamese alone as the official language of the State; Don't have two languages. We feel that unless we keep Hindi and Assamese in the Secretariat and the Directorates our problems will not be solved. Therefore, we are now thinking as to how best to redraft this Bill or to examine the amendments which have come before us. I have an appeal to all the members of this House; whether they are people of the Brahmaputra valley, people of Cachar or people of the Hill districts, they are all your people. The people have differences of opinion on this issue. But you are the a credited leaders of those people. You have to give a proper lead to the people—that lead should be for the unity and not for anything else. I know it is a very difficult proposition, but nevertheless if we claim to represent the people, if you, the a credited leaders of the people do not try to solve these issues, then who is going to solve these? you will have to solve this problem however difficult it may be. Therefore, I would appeal to all the hon. Members to have a spirit of accommodation and consideration. you cannot ignore the sentiment of any section of your people. Respect the sentiments as far as possible; try to bring about an adjustment.

***Capt. WILLIAMSON SANGMA [Phulbari (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]**: The hon. Member, was questioning, "Why there is imposition?"

*Speech not corrected.

If I may say so, we are trying hard to make the provisions in such a way that there is no imposition at all. If an officer goes to the Garo Hills from the Brahmaputra valley and if he has to learn Garo there that becomes his duty to learn that language. We have also provided in the Bill that so long as an officer is not able to learn a district language, he will be given the option to write in English. Whatever difficulties are foreseen, those difficulties, I believe, could be removed or at least minimised to a great extent if we think in a spirit of accommodation.

Now, about our district languages. I have examined the resolutions of almost all the political parties of the State. Almost all political parties have reached agreement so far as district languages are concerned. As was pointed out by the Hon'ble Member Shri Hem Chandra Chakraborty our difficulty today is the language at the State level. There is the greatest difference of opinion Sir, as I said we are trying very hard to see how we may adjust things and satisfy our people. It is not our intention of putting difficulty on any section of our people. At the same time it is not possible to postpone this decision because we feel that it will do more harm than good. Therefore, we have to take a decision as best as possible and for that I appeal to all the members of this House for their full cooperation. Sir, we will have more occasion of discussing this Bill when it comes for consideration clause by clause and there will be many amendments. The other day the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee also has suggested some suggestions and I will wait for that date when we discuss this Bill clause by clause and when we give our opinion on all those suggestions. With these few words, Sir, I respect my thanks to the hon. Members.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that the Assam Official Language Bill, 1960 to taken into consideration.

***Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA [Phulbari (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]:** Before this question is put, Sir, I walk out of this House as I do not want to participate.

(Capt. Williamson A. Sangma, walks out).

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** Before the question is put, may I know from the Chief Minister whether the bilingual character of the Bill is going to be changed or not?

Mr. SPEAKER: It depends on the amendments.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** We have taken into consideration that the Bill is as it now stands.

*Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): The Bill as it stands now.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) : We have to consider the Bill as it is before the House today.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that the Assam Official Language Bill, 1960 be taken into consideration.

Ayes—54.

1. Shri Bimala Prasad Chaliha.
2. Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.
3. Shri Rup Nath Brahma.
4. Shri Deveswar Sarmah.
5. Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tripathi.
6. Shri Hareswar Das.
7. M. Moinul Haque Chaudhury.
8. Shri Mahendra Nath Hazrika.
9. Shri Biswadev Sarma.
10. Shri Radhika Ram Das.
11. Shri Grindra Nath Gogoi.
12. Shri Lalit Kumar Daley.
13. Maulavi Abdul Matlib Mazumdar.
14. Shri Bhuban Chandra Pradhani.
15. Shri Bishnu Lal Upadhyaya.
16. Shri Dandeswar Hazarika.
17. Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika.
18. Shri Dhirsingh Deuri.
19. Shri Durgeswar Saikia.
20. Dr. Ghanashyam Das.
21. Shri Hakim Chadra Rabha.
22. Shri Harinarayan Barua.
23. Shri Indreswar Khaund.
24. Shri Joga Kanta Barua.
25. Shri Kamala Prasad Agarwala.
26. Shri Khogendra Nath Nath.
27. Maulavi Kobad Hussain Ahmed.
28. Prof. (Shrimati) Komol Kumari Barua.
29. Swami Krishnananda Brahmachari.
30. Shri Lila Kanta Bora.
31. Shrimati Lily Sen Gupta.
32. Shri Mahadev Das.
33. Maulavi Mahammad Idris.
34. Shri Manik Chandra Das.
35. Shri Mohananda Bora.
36. Shri Mohindra Pegoo.
37. Shri Mohi Kanta Das.
38. Shri Narendra Nath Sarma.

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| 39. Maulavi Nurul Islam. | 47. Ramnath Sarma. |
| 40. Shri Omeo Kumar Das. | 48. Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami. |
| 41. Shrimati Padma Kumari Gohain. | 49. Shri Sarbeswar Bordoloi. |
| 42. Shri Purnananda Chetia. | 50. Shri Siddhi Nath Sarma. |
| 43. Shri Radha Charan Choudhury. | 51. Shri Surendra Nath Das. |
| 44. Shri Radha Kishna Khemka. | 52. Shri Tajuddin Prodhani. |
| 45. Shri Rajendra Nath Das. | 53. Shri Tankeswar Chetia. |
| 46. Shri Ram Nath Das. | 54. Mr. Usha Barthakur. |

Notes—17.

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| 1. Shri Brendra Kumar Das. | 10. Shri Khogendra Nath Barbaruah. |
| 2. Shri Bishwanath Upadhyaya. | 11. Shri Mathias Tudu. |
| 3. Shri Phani Bora. | 12. Md. Matlebuddin. |
| 4. Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya. | 13. Shri Prabhatnarayan Choudhury. |
| 5. Shri Ghanashyam Talukdar. | 14. Shri Kumar Prokritish Chandra Barua. |
| 6. Shri Gopesh Namasudra. | 15. Shri Ranendra Mohan Das. |
| 7. Shri Hareswar Goswami. | 16. Dr. Srihari Das. |
| 8. Shri Hiralal Patwari. | 17. Shri Tarun Sen Deka. |
| 9. Maulvi Jahan Uddin Ahmed. | |

(The question was adopted)

Mr. SPEAKER: Consideration clause by clause and Motion for passing of the Assam Official Language Bill, 1960, have been fixed in the Revised Provisional Programme of Business of the Assembly on the 24th October 1960. Hon'ble Members who desire to table amendments to this Bill, should send their notices so as to reach the Assembly Secretariat on or before 4 P. M. on 21st October 1960.

The outstanding business in today's Agenda will be taken up on Friday, the 21st October 1960. On Saturday, the 22nd October 1960, discussion of the Chief-Minister's statement regarding the last disturbances in the State has been fixed.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Thursday, the 20th October, 1960.

R. N. BARUA,

Secretary, Assam Legislative
Assembly.

