

**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 9 A. M. on Friday the 21st October, 1960.

P R E S E N T

Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury, B. L. Speaker in the Chair,
Seven Ministers, Three Deputy Ministers and Sixty-nine Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Suspension of Railway line between Dangari and Saikhowaghat

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) asked :

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

- (a) Whether Government is aware that the Railway line between Dangari and Saikhowaghat was suspended due to flood subsequent to the great Earthquake of 1950 ?
- (b) Whether the State Government moved the Central Government to restore this portion of Railway line to remove the long felt want of the Public of Saikhowa and Sadiya area ?
- (c) When the last communication was made either with the Railways or with the Central Government for this purpose ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Transport) replied :

49. (a) — Yes.
(b) — Yes
(c) — The last letter to the General Manager, North-East Frontier Railway, Pandu was written on 1st July 1960 and an interim reply was received on 13th August 1960 saying that the proposal was under consideration with the Railway Board.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: Whether Government will move the Central Ministry to restore the Railway line in view of its urgency ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA : The Chief-Minister has already taken up the matter with the Railway Minister and we hope to get a reply soon.

Inefficiency of Government officials during the language disturbances

Shri TARUNSEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) asked :

- *50. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—
- Whether it is a fact that a good number of Government officials did not work efficiently to quell the language disturbances ?
 - Whether it is a fact that some of the officials with their activities helped the rioters ?
 - If so, whether these persons have been dismissed from service or other disciplinary steps have been taken ?
 - How many of such cases have been found ?
 - Whether any Police Officials have shown weakness of this nature ?
 - If so, what steps have been taken against the officers at fault ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD GHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied :

50. (a) & (b)—There have been some complaints of administrative failure on the part of some of the Government officers during the last disturbances. The matter is being enquired into.

(c)—Does not arise as the matter is under enquiry.

(d), (e) & (f)—As a result of preliminary enquiry a few cases have been disclosed and 20 officers including police officers have been placed under suspension.

(Starred Question No. 51 standing in the name of Shri Hamdhan Mohan Haplangbar was not put and answered as the hon. Member was absent.

Election of members to the Gaon and Anchalik Panchayats of the State

Shri TARUNSEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) asked :

*52. Will the Minister-in-charge of Rural Development be pleased to state—

- How many unpleasant incidents such as assault, criminal intimidation, etc., took place so far, during the election of members to the Gaon-Panchayats and Anchalik Panchayats in the State of Assam ?
- How many of such cases (both Group-rivalry and complaint) have been submitted in the Courts of Law ?
- What are the main causes of those incidents ?
- How many Gaon and Anchalik Panchayats have been formed so far under the new system of election ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Community Development, etc.) replied :

52. (a)—85.

(b)—Nineteen Group-rivalry cases and 2 complaint cases have been instituted in the Courts of Law.

(c)—Group-rivalry and complaints against non-inclusion of names of bonafide voters in the electoral roll, selection of polling centres and allotment of compartments, etc., are reported to be some of the reasons.

(d)—So far 36 Anchalik Panchayats and 1726 Gaon Panchayats have been duly constituted after the election.

Shri PHANI BORA (Nowgong): Does not the Government think, after the experience of the elections that the disturbances during the election to the Panchayat took place mainly and primarily due to the open system of voting ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Community Development, etc.): May be in some places but not everywhere.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara): Whether Government thinks it proper to change the system of open voting by ballot voting ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: That will be considered.

Assault on Hajis in West Bengal

Shri TARUNSEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) asked :

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that a number of Hajis lately coming from Bombay to Assam reported to the Assam Government that they were looted away by some miscreants in West Bengal ?
- (b) If so, how many of such Hajis have lodged information to the Government of Assam ?
- (c) Whether they were also assaulted ?
- (d) Whether protest has been lodged by the Government of Assam with the Government of West Bengal ?
- (e) Whether compensation has been given to them ?
- (f) If not, what other steps Government have taken ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA replied :

53. (a) & (b)—Yes. Information was received from five persons, one of whom was a Haji.

(c)—According to these reports 15 Hajis were assaulted on their way to Assam.

(d)—The matter was brought to the notice of the Government of West Bengal immediately.

(e)—No.

(f)—The Government of West Bengal were requested to issue necessary instructions to the Railway Police and Security Men to offer the Hajis protection *en route* from West Bengal.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED: Whether the miscreants were arrested by the Railway authorities ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: The difficulty as it appears, is that the victims did not report the matter to the Railway, Police there.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): How many persons were assaulted ?

Mr. SPEAKER: 15.

Officers suspended in the recent language disturbances in the State

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sarbhog) asked:

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

- (a) How many officers have been suspended in recent language disturbances ?
- (b) What are their names and designations ?
- (c) How many officers have been warned ?
- (d) What are their names and designations ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied:

54. (a)—Twenty officers have so far been placed under suspension.

(b)—The names and designations are—

1. Shri Rohini Kumar Sarma, then Subdivisional Officer, North Lakhimpur.
2. Shri Promode Kumar Das, Subdivisional Police Officer, North Lakhimpur.
3. Shri Jamaluddin Ahmed, then Deputy Commissioner, Nowgong.
4. Shri S. K. Bhattacharya, Additional District Magistrate, Nowgong.
5. Shri L. Gogoi, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Nowgong
6. Shri Mukti Nath Sarma, Sub-Inspector of Police, Kamrup
7. Shri Bhawani Das, Sub-Inspector of Police, Kamrup.
8. Shri Bhola Bora, Sub-Inspector of Police, Kamrup.
9. Shri Rajen Barua, Sub-Inspector of Police, Kamrup.
10. Shri Gnanendra Nath Gogoi, Sub-Inspector of Police, Sibsagar.
11. Shri Mafizur Rahman, Sub-Inspector of Police, Sibsagar.
12. Shri Boga Ram Dewri, Sub-Inspector of Police, Lakhimpur (Bihpuria).
13. Shri Samiruddin Ahmed, Sub-Inspector of Police, Nowgong.
14. Shri Kamini Kanta Sarma, Sub-Inspector of Police, Nowgong.
15. Shri Nabin Chandra Kalita, Sub-Inspector of Police, Nowgong.

16. Shri Matilal Das, Sub-Inspector of Police, Nowgong.
17. Shri Kali Kumar Dey, Sub-Inspector of Police, Nowgong.
18. Shri Daksha Prasad Deka, Circle Inspector, Gauhati-
(Palashbari).
19. Shri Keshab Chandra Das, Inspector of Police, Nowgong
(C. I. D.).
20. Shri Syed Abdul Kader, Inspector of Police, Nowgong.
- (c)—None uptill now.
(d)—Does not arise.

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog): May I know when their cases will be disposed of ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): It is difficult for me to give the exact time, but we will try to expedite the matter.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Whether the Chief Minister has received allegation against the S.D.O. and S.D.P.O. Karimganj regarding the disturbances ? I have got a copy of the representation .

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: I shall look into it.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARI (Panery): On whose recommendation these officers have been suspended ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: The enquiries were carried out by different officers in different places.

Shri PHANI BORA (Nowgong): Did the Chief Minister receive any complaint against Shri Hemendra Chakraborty in connection with the disturbances in Shillong ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: A question came up on this subject and I already replied to that in this house.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Alleged undue influence exerted by Shri Mahim Chandra Das, a Foreman of the Industrial Training Institute, Jorhat to the Cachar examinees during the recent language disturbances in the State

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katanigaon) asked:

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

- (a) Whether Government is aware that Shri Mahim Ch. Das, an Instructor, Industrial Training Institute, left Jorhat without informing the Principal ?

- (b) If so, when did he leave and submitted his leave application ?
- (c) Whether Government received any information to the effect that because of the influence of Shri Das the examinees from Cachar did not appear in their final examination though they arrived Mariani for the same ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that inspite of the Police escort and other security measures the examinees did not appear in the examination but went back from Mariani to Cachar ?
- (e) Whether Government has taken or propose to take any action against the Instructor for exercising undue influence on the Cachar examinees ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Education) replied :
141. (a)—Yes. (Shri Mahim Chandra Das is a Foreman).

(b)—He left on the 25th July, 1960 and submitted his leave application on 27th July 1960.

(c)—Yes. A report has been received to this effect.

(d)—Yes, a batch of 10 refugees trainees arrived Mariani ; but they did not come to Jorhat to appear in the examination although police escort was arranged.

(e)—An explanation has been called for from Shri Mahim Ch. Das, Foreman.

***Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West)**: In reply to (d) it is stated "yes, a batch of 10 refugees trainees arrived Mariani; but they did not come to Jorhat to appear in the examination although police escort was arranged." Are the Government aware that these refugee trainees went to Jorhat and approached the Deputy Commissioner there for help ?

***Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS** : They went to Mariani with the Police escort but they did not go to Jorhat although police escort was arranged for them.

Number of Political Sufferers who have been granted relief before and after the formation of the State Advisory Board for Political Sufferers

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog) asked :

142. Will the Minister for political sufferer be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the list of political sufferers in Assam has been finalised ?
- (b) If not, how long it will take ?

*Speech not corrected.

- (c) How many persons have been granted relief for political sufferings in each subdivision ?
- (d) How many petitions for relief on political grounds are pending ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Political Sufferers)
replied :

142. (a) & (b)—It is not clear what list the hon. Member means. If he means the list of the persons who participated in the Freedom Movement in Assam, I would like to say that the Government of Assam published a bulletin showing the names and particulars of the participants in the Freedom Movement in Assam. But due to public criticism the list has been cancelled. Another proposal has come from the Government of India for publication of a "Who's Who" of the persons who participated in the Freedom Movement in Assam. This proposal is under consideration.

(c)—Five hundred and eighteen political sufferers have been granted relief in the shape of monthly pension and lump-sum grant for medical treatment after the formation of the State Advisory Board for political sufferers, subdivision-wise figures are shown in the enclosed list.

Before the formation of the State Advisory Board as many as 1793 political sufferers were granted cash relief in shape of monthly pension and lump-sum grant. These sanctions were issued district-wise not subdivision-wise. The figures are shown in the enclosed list.

(d)—Cases of 479 political sufferers are under consideration for sanction of monthly pension.

List referred to in reply to question No 142 (c)

NUMBER OF POLITICAL SUFFERERS WHO HAVE BEEN GRANTED RELIEF AFTER THE FORMATION OF THE STATE ADVISORY BOARD FOR POLITICAL SUFFERERS

Subdivision	Numbers of cases
(1) North Lakhimpur	50
(2) Dibrugarh	3
(3) Tezpur	32
(4) Sibsagar	38
(5) Jorhat	60
(6) Golaghat	45
(7) Nowgong	107
(8) Karimganj	21
(9) Gauhati	25
(10) Barpeta	8
(11) Dhubri	3
(12) Goalpara	31
(13) Shillong	85
(14) Hailakandi	12
(15) Mangaldai	33
(16) Silchar	24
Total	518

NUMBERS OF POLITICAL SUFFERERS WHO HAVE BEEN GRANTED RELIEF BEFORE THE FORMATION OF THE STATE ADVISORY BOARD FOR POLITICAL SUFFERERS

District	Number of cases
(1) Lakhimpur	148
(2) Sibsagar	535
(3) Nowgong	370
(4) Darrang	287
(5) Kamrup	156
(6) Goalpara	91
(7) United K. & J. Hills	12
(8) Garo Hills	3
(9) Mikir Hills	2
(10) Cachar	189
Total	1,793

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog) : May I know why only 8 persons have been granted relief in Barpeta ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Political Sufferers) : These persons were only recommended for relief by the Subdivisional Board.

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR : Is it a fact that only 8 persons went to Jail from Barpeta during the freedom movement ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA : That does not mean at all.

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR : In reply to (a) & (b) it is stated that due to public criticism the list has been cancelled. I want to know why the list was cancelled due to public criticism ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA : Government published a bulletin showing the names of the participants in the Freedom Movement in Assam, but the public opposed it on the ground that some persons were not participants in the Freedom Movement. So, Govt. had to stop publication of that bulletin.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : Is it a fact that although many political sufferers made applications three or four years back no action has been taken on them either by the District or the State Congress ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA : Government have no information to that effect. But the procedure is that as soon as recommendations are received from the Subdivisional Board the State Advisory Board scrutinises them and grants relief. I may add that in no case the recommendation of the Subdivisional Board was turned down by the State Advisory Board.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : Will the Deputy Minister please enquire whether it is a fact that many applications submitted by political sufferers, particularly in the Tezpur Subdivision, have not been considered by the Subdivisional Board ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Political Sufferers) : I have no information. If specific cases are brought to our notice we shall certainly see that action is taken on them.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara) : May I know how many applications from the political sufferers are still pending from the Dhubri Subdivision ?

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery) : Is it a fact that the petition of one person from Dhekiajuli, who was wounded by bullet along with Shri Omeo Kumar Das, has not yet been considered ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA : Who is that one person, Sir ?

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY : Shri Omeo Kumar Das can give his name.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA : If the hon. Member means the Marwari gentleman, I may inform him that his case was sanctioned the other day.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : Does the Deputy Minister know that one Thagiram Ojha, who is a political sufferer since 1934, made an application and his application has not yet been acted upon ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA : No recommendation from the Subdivisional Board has been received.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara) : Is it not a fact that the application of one Tafazuddin Ahmed of Dhubri subdivision has not yet been considered ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA : How can I reply about these individual cases, Sir ?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : It is necessary to enquire into these individual cases as I find that in granting relief to political sufferers discrimination has been practised. For example, I know the cases of Bangshi Dutta and his wife of Jorhat of Mahendra Hazarika of Sibsagar where nothing has been done.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA : As I said, Sir, if specific cases are brought to our notice we shall certainly take action.

Mr. SPEAKER : But the Deputy Minister may note these names and make enquiries ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Duputy Minister, Political Sufferers) : Yes, Sir, I shall make enquiries.

Shri GHANASYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog) : Will the Deputy Minister go to Barpeta to enquire into these cases personally ?

Shri PHANI BORA (Nowgong) : In granting relief do Government consider whether the applicant is still in the Congress organisation and is there any discrimination on the basis of his political affiliation ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA : No, Sir.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery) : Does the Deputy Minister know that one Kanakeswar Konwar of Golaghat applied but has not got any relief till now ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA : I have no information.

Shri GHANASYAM TALUKDAR : Does the Deputy Minister know that Brajanath Sarma, who was a political sufferer have not got any relief now ?

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY : We find that only 32 Political Sufferers got relief in Tezpur Subdivision, which took a prominent part in the struggle for freedom whereas other districts have got much more.....

Mr. SPEAKER: You have missed one thing. In the Darrang District the number of political sufferers who have been granted relief before the formation of the State Advisory Board is 287. 32 have got relief in the Tezpur subdivision after the formation of the Board.

Shri GHANASYAM TALUKDAR : Will the Government place the list of the persons, who have got relief, on the library table ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: Yes, Sir

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara) : In the Dhubri subdivision, Sir, we find in the list there is none before the formation of the Board and only 3 after the formation of the Board.

Regarding ejection proceedings started against the Proprietor of Ghograjan Tea Estate

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) asked :

143. Will the Minister, Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that grazing reserve at dag No.393 of Phutahula village in Moderkhat mauza has been encroached by the Proprietor of Ghograjan Tea Estate since 1957 ?

- (b) Whether it is a fact that a grazing reserve at Dag No.87 of the same village (Phutahula village, Moderkhat Mauza) had also been encroached by this Indian Tea Planter since 1958 ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that necessary steps for removal of encroachment also has been taken by the Government ?
- (d) What is the progress of ejection proceedings ?
- (e) When the ejection proceedings were drawn up ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :

143. (a) & (b)—Government already replied to the questions, *vide* unstarred questions No.365 (a) to (c), dated 9th April 1960 answered in the Budget Session of the Assembly 1960.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—On receipt of eviction notice the Proprietor of the Tea Estate approached Government praying for stay of eviction and settlement of the land in exchange of equal area of his patta land and also offered to pay a sum of Rs.12,000 for development of the locality. The ejection proceedings have, therefore, been stayed by Government and the matter is under examination of the Deputy Commissioner.

(e)—The ejection proceedings were started against the Proprietor of the Tea Company on 14th March 1958 and 7th December 1959 respectively for removal of encroachment from the grazing lands under dag Nos.393 and 87.

Re: Eviction order issued on the Proprietor of Ghograjan Tea Estate

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) asked :

144. Will the Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur issued eviction order on the Proprietor of Ghograjan Tea Estate from unauthorised occupation of land at Dag No.393 of Phutahula village in Moderkhat Mauza ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur also issued eviction order on the Proprietor of Ghograjan Tea Estate from unauthorised occupation of land covered by Dag No.87 of the same village (*i.e.*, Phutahula village in Moderkhat Mauza) ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that the Proprietor of the Tea Estate is trying to resist eviction ?

(d) When clearance of these plots of land from unauthorised occupation can be expected ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :

144. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c) & (d)—No such report has been received. The Proprietor of Tea Company approached Government praying for stay of eviction and settlement of the land in exchange of equal area of his patta land. He also offered to pay Rs.12,000 for development of the local area. Government stayed the eviction. The matter is under consideration of Government and will be disposed of as early as possible.

Re : Extension of the benefit of trained Teachers' scale to the untrained Teachers of Middle Vernacular Schools

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked :

145. Will the Education Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government of Assam conveyed the extension of the benefit of trained teachers' scale to the untrained teachers of Middle Vernacular Schools on the same conditions as were imposed in the case of the untrained teachers of Lower Primary Schools who were given this benefit by Letter No.EPS.34/57/64, dated 23rd January 1960 from Under-Secretary to the Government of Assam, Education Department to the Assistant Director of Public Instruction, Basic Education, Assam, Shillong ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that the Middle Vernacular Schools were transferred to Basic Boards from Local Boards in the year 1954 ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that the untrained teachers of Lower Primary Schools who were in service for more than 15 year or whose age exceeded 40 years were given the trained scale from 1951 ?

(d) Whether the teachers of Middle Vernacular Schools of the above category are entitled to get the benefit from 1951 or from 1954 ?

(e) Why the benefit has not yet been given to the teachers of Middle Vernacular Schools of the above category by the School Boards as yet ?

(f) Whether Government propose to take proper steps against the officers for whose fault the teachers have been deprived of their legitimate dues up till now ?

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

145. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—1954.

(e)—Orders have already been issued and payments are being made by the School Boards.

(f) An enquiry is being made.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHAUDHURY (Nalbari-East) : It has been stated in reply to (d) that they are entitled to get the benefit from 1954. May I know when decision was taken in this respect ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Education) : In 1959.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHAUDHURY: It is stated in (e) "orders have already been issued and payments are being made by the School Boards". May I know how long it will take to complete the payments.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : Already seven School Boards have made payments and we are enquiring whether the other Boards have also made payments.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHAUDHURY : With regard to (f), may I know how long it will take to complete the enquiry ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : It will be finished within a month or two.

Re: Revised Pay Scale of the Chawkidars of Middle Vernacular School

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked :

146. Will the Education Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the sanctioning order of the revised pay scales of the chawkidars of Middle Vernacular Schools was communicated long ago ?
- (b) If so, why the arrear accrued as a result of the enhanced pay has not yet been given to the Chawkidars of Middle Vernacular Schools by the School Boards ?
- (c) Whether Government propose to direct the School Boards to pay the arrear pay of the Chawkidars of Middle Vernacular Schools without further delay ?

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

146. (a)—Yes.

(b)—An enquiry is being made.

(c)—Yes, if of course the enquiry reveals that they are yet to be paid.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHAUDHURY : The reply to (a) is "Yes". May I know when ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : In 1959.

Posting of midwife in Kamalpur and Bihdia State Dispensaries**Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur)** asked :

147. Will the Medical Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that there is no Midwife or Dhai in Kamalpur and Bihdia State Dispensaries ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact representations were made on several occasions to appoint a Midwife in each of the State Dispensaries of Kamalpur and Bihdia and the Medical Minister assured the questioner to appoint Midwives very soon ?
- (c) Whether Government will be pleased to post one Midwife in each of these two dispensaries for maternity welfare as was assured in reply to Unstarred Question No.9 on 5th March, 1959 ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) replied :

147. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The question of posting midwife in the dispensaries will be considered as soon as accommodation is made available.

Regarding the strength of the present Barpeta Civil Hospital Staff**Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta)** asked :

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

- (a) Whether Government propose to increase the strength of the staff (all categories) of the Barpeta Civil Hospital ?
- (b) Whether Government is aware that the present staffs of the Barpeta Civil Hospital cannot cope with the pressure and demand of the increasing number of patients both indoor and outdoors ?

(c) If so, when ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) replied :

148. (a)—Not at present.

(b)—The Government consider that the existing staff are sufficient to cope with the present demand.

(c)—Does not arise.

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta): The answer to (a) is "Not at present." May I know when will it be considered ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical): When the number of patients will increase we will consider what additional staff is necessary there.

Dr. SRIHARI DAS : Does the Minister know that the number of patients has become double or triple of what it was before ?

Sri RUPNATH BRAHMA : I may inform the hon Member that we have got adequate staff there to cope with the work. There are two Assistant Surgeons I and one Assistant Surgeon II working there.

Dr. SRIHARI DAS : What about Compounders ?

SHRI RUPNATH BRAHMA : There are as many as four Pharmacists there now.

**Number of posts lying vacant in Murkongsellek-Sadiya
M. P. C. D. Block**

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) asked :

149. Will the Minister-in-charge Community Development be pleased to state—

(a) The number of posts yet vacant in Murkongsellek-Sadiya M. P. C. D. Block ?

(b) What are the Officers yet to be Posted by the Development Commissioner or other authorities at Shillong ?

(c) What are the staff yet to be appointed by the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur in this Murkongsellek-Sadiya M. P. C. D. Block ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Community Development etc.) replied :

149. (a)—13. On considered by the District.

(b)—(i) Medical Officer.

(ii) Assistant Engineer.

(iii) Two Social Education Organisers.

(iv) Weaving-cum-Dying Inspector.

(v) Field Assistant (A. F. Manager).

(vi) Progress Assistant.

(c)—2 Gram Sevaks and the Cinema Operator.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) : Regarding answer (b) may I know what steps Government are taking to post these officers ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Community Development, etc.) : There is some difficulty with regard to the joining of those posted in this area. When we select an officer and give appointment, he does not go and join there. I can give detailed information to my hon. friend. The Director of Public Instruction has advertised for the post of Social Education Officers. As soon as selections are made, appointments will be given. It is hoped these officers will go and join there. The Director of Statistics has already selected one of the candidates for the post of the Progress Assistant and orders are being issued to him to join. The Medical Department posted one officer to the Block but instead of joining at Jonai the doctor resigned. We are pressing the Medical Department since then and pending posting of a full-time Medical Officer, the Director of Health Services directed the Assistant Surgeon II of Jonai dispensary to look after the block as well. Now so far as Weaving is concerned the person already recommended and the Dy. Commissioner of Lakhimpur has been requested to issue appointment orders. So far as the Weaving Inspector is concerned, instructions have been issued by the Director of Public Instructions. Accordingly the post was advertised; but no application was received. So far as the posts of Cinema operators are concerned and this appointment are concerned the Head of the Departments concerned are making efforts to post officers there as early as possible.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : What about the Assistant Engineer ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : We have been requesting the Public Works Department, but on account of shortage of personnel it has not been possible for them to specify an officer for appointment there. But, we are still pursuing the matter.

Purchase of land from Wilton Grant by the Proprietor of Moderkhat Tea Company

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) asked :

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the proprietor of Moderkhat Tea Co., procured for purchase only about 300 acres of land from Wilton Grant in Dibrugarh Subdivision ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the proprietor encroached or have been occupying now about 1,800 acres of land of that grant ?
- (c) Under what terms and conditions this Tea Company have been occupying this 1,800 acres of land in that Wilton Grant ?

- (d) Whether Government are aware that there is a large number of landless cultivators in that area in urgent needs of land ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :

150. (a), (b) & (c)—The hon. Member's attention is drawn to the replies on these points given in the Unstarred Question No.288 of the Budget Session of the Assembly, 1960.

(d)—There are landless cultivators in small or large number almost everywhere.

Shifting of Barpeta Sub-Registrars' Office to the S.D.O's. Court building

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDER (Sorbhog) asked :

151. Will the Minister-in-charge of Registration be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Sub-Registry Office at Barpeta has got its own building ?

(b) If not, whether Government propose to construct its own building ?

(c) Whether Government is aware that the present building is very much congested and unhygienic ?

(d) If not, whether Government propose to enquire about it ?

(e) What measures have been taken by Government to remove these difficulties ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister-in-charge of Registration) replied :

151. (a)—No.

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

(c)—The location of the office is not suitable but the building is not unhygienic.

(d)—Does not arise.

(e)—The question of shifting this office to the S.D.O's. Court building now under construction is under consideration.

Re: Sub-Registrars' Office at Barpeta**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDER (Sorbhog)** asked :

152. Will the Minister-in-charge of Registration be pleased to state —

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the present Sub-Registrar's Office at Barpeta is housed in an unhygienic and congested building ?
- (b) If so, what measures have been taken by the Government to improve the same ?
- (c) Whether building will be constructed by the Government ?
- (d) If so, when ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Registration) replied :

152. (a) to (d)—Replies given in Question No. 151 may be referred to.

Assault on Assamese students at Mariani in the month of June last✓ **Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa)** asked :

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

- (a) Whether the Government are aware that in the month of June last a number of Assamese students and young boys were assaulted at Mariani while travelling in a Train ?
- (b) If so, the number of boys assaulted and the nature of injuries received as well as the names of the boys injured and date of occurrence ?
- (c) Whether any body has been arrested and case has been instituted by the Police ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied :

153. (a) & (b)—Yes. A batch of Assamese students and young boys were alleged to have been assaulted by some miscreants at Mariani Railway level crossing gate at 19.05 hours on 18th June 1960, while travelling by 7 Up Express Train. Among them, 15 boys sustained simple injuries (3 from sharp weapon and 12 from blunt weapon). Their names are:—

- (1) Lila Gogoi.
- (2) Sukumohan.
- (3) Paresb Konwar.
- (4) Drcno Gohain.

- (5) Devendra Phukon.
- (6) Arun Mustra.
- (7) Tileswar Gogoi.
- (8) Kameswar Gogoi.
- (9) Ratnadhhar Bordoloi.
- (10) Harendra Gogoi.
- (11) Radhaneswar Mohanta.
- (12) Purna Ram Gohain.
- (13) Narjudhon Chutia.
- (14) Bhuban Ch. Gohain.
- (15) Iktar Hussain (He is a Loco khalasi of Mariani).

One more boy was reported to have sustained injury, but he could not be contacted.

(c)—Eighteen persons have so far been arrested in this connection and a case U/S. 121/127, Rly. Act./113/364, I.P.C. has been registered.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) : With regard to reply (c), may I know from the Honourable Minister who were the 18 persons, and whether they were railway employees and their relatives ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) : I cannot give the names, nor can I say whether they were railway employees or their relatives.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : May I know whether any body regretted publicly the incidents at Mariani on the 18th June, 1960 ?

Mr. SPEAKER : How that question arise ?

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : Because this violence was started first and that led to the disturbances to other areas in Assam.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : Many people have regretted about these incidents.

Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding) : Is this the first instance of violence in the last disturbance ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : I do not think so.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) : Whether any charge-sheet has been submitted against anybody, or whether any investigation is going on ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) : I want notice.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar) : Are those persons only wanted by the police or there are some body still to be arrested ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : That I cannot say.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) : Whether there was any act of violence previous to this occasion ?

Mr. SPEAKER : Already replied.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : I have placed the whole list of incidents on the library table.

Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding) : Whether it is a fact that a running train was stopped by the miscreants to create this violence ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : That is the report.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI : What is the information of the Government as to how many people were actually involved in this assault ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : I do not have much information beyond what I have already given.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI : Is Government aware that there was a big procession of more than 200 men of Bengali Community shouting violent slogans against the Assamese people on the same day ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : Yes, there was a procession.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUA (Amguri) : May I know the addresses of the persons assaulted ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : I do not have the addresses with me now.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI : Are Government aware that certain shops were also looted and a bus was damaged by those processionists on that day ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA : There were incidents of this type but I can reply to questions which relates to this particular question.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI : Are Government aware that there was not a single assault to any Bengali people by any Assamese people at Mariani ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): I do not have information about that. I cannot reply categorically.

Veterinary Minister's further information re : reply to a question on 17th October 1960.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Veterinary): Mr. Speaker, Sir, before commencing item No. 2, I want to submit that on 17th October 1960 while replying to starred question No. 33 tabled by the hon. Member, Shri Hareswar Goswami, I promised to convey the information to the House as to whether Shri Mehra who was under suspension was receiving any subsistence allowance. I would like to convey the information to the House with your permission. He is being given subsistence allowance equal to one-fourth of his pay, plus Dearness Allowance of Rs. 44/- since 23rd April 1956, and it is continuing.

The Assam Special Powers (Press) Bill, 1960

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon):

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় মই সিদিনা কৈছিলো যে যোৱা জুন জুলাইত ষটা অপ্ৰতিৰূপ ঘটনাৰ সময়ত মিছা আৰু ভিত্তিহীন অপ্ৰচাৰ কৰি দেশৰ পৰিস্থিতিক আৰু অশান্তি কৰাত পেছা বিলাকে যি ভূমিকা গ্ৰহণ কৰিছিল সেইটো বাবে ভবিষ্যতে হব নোৱাৰে তাৰ বাবেই এনে এখন পেছা বিলাক আৱশ্যক হৈ পৰিছে। সেই সময়ত অসমৰ ইয়ুৱৰ পৰা সিমূৰলৈ অতি-বঞ্জিত বাতৰি প্ৰচাৰ কৰি যিটো পৰিস্থিতি সৃষ্টি কৰিছিল তেনে বাতৰি প্ৰচাৰ বন্ধ কৰিবলৈ ৰাইজে ৰাজহুৱা সভাপাতি পুস্তাৰ গ্ৰহণ কৰি চৰকাৰক দাবী কৰিছিল এইটো অকল মোৰে মত নহয় সমূহ অসমবাসীৰ মত। আনকি অসমৰ বাহিৰৰ পৰা সেই সময়ত যি সকল নেতা আৰু প্ৰতিনিধি দল অসমলৈ আহিছিল তেখেতসকলৰ সকলো পৰ্য্যায়ৰ ৰাইজে প্ৰতিবেদনৰ বোণে অভিমত দিছিল যে পেছাবোৰ যদি ভাল দৰে শাসন কৰা নহয় সংযত কৰা নহয় তেনেহলে এই অশান্তি দূৰ কৰা টান।

Delegation of Members of Parliament to Assam এ Role of the press সম্বন্ধে কৈছে

Representatives of different organisations-political as well as non-political—and individuals, who met us, invariably complained about the role of the press in West Bengal and/or Assam during the disturbances which contributed considerably towards aggravating the situation and intensifying feelings of suspicion and distrust making it difficult for the administration to restore peace and confidence.

সেই কাৰণে মই ভাবো যে এই বিলাক অতি সময়োপযোগী হৈছে। ইয়াত স্পষ্টকৈ লিখা আছে “for the maintenance of law and order and the preservation of peace.....” আৰু তাকে জৰুৰী অৱস্থাৰ সময়ত মাত্ৰ দুমাহৰ কাৰণে আৰু বঢ়ালেও খুব বেছি ৬ মাহৰ বাবে। সেই কাৰণে মই ভাবো যে এই বিলাক জনমতৰ কাৰণে পঠোৱাৰ কোনো আৱশ্যক নাই--বিশেষকৈ জনমত আমি এই বিষয়ত পাইছোৱেই। তাহানিখন Political Science ৰ ছাত্ৰৰূপে পঢ়া মনত পৰে যে Right always implies duty অধিকাৰ সাব্যস্ত কৰিবলৈ যাওঁতে যদি কৰ্তব্যৰ কথা পাহৰি যোৱা হয় তেন্তে তাৰ ফল অতি মাৰাত্মক হয়। বাতৰি কাগজৰ যেনেকৈ অধিকাৰ দিয়া হৈছে তেওঁলোকৰ সেইদৰে কৰ্তব্য পালনৰ দায়িত্বও আছে। এই আইনৰ দ্বাৰা তেওঁলোকৰ মৰ্য্যদা কুণু হৈছে বুলি মই নাভাবো। মহোদয় আমি ভাবো গণতন্ত্ৰৰ সম্পূৰ্ণ সফলতা নিৰ্ভৰ কৰে পেছা আৰু প্লেটফৰমৰ পূৰ্ণ সহযোগিতাত। তেওঁলোক নিৰাপক পৰিত্ৰ সংবাদ সেৱাৰ সুষ্ঠু জনমত গঢ়ি তোলাত।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, এই সদনত একাধিক বাৰ কোৱা হৈছে যে বাতৰি কাগজৰ অপপ্ৰচাৰ আৰু অতিবঞ্জিত প্ৰচাৰৰ ফলতে অসমৰ কেতিয়াও ভাৰি নোৱাৰা অশান্তি আৰু বিশৃঙ্খলাৰ সৃষ্টি হৈ অসমৰ সুনামত কালিয়া পৰিল।

এই প্ৰসক্ত Delegation বিপৰ্টিতো কোৱা হৈছে—

There is enough evidence that the two principal newspapers of Assam namely, the "Assam Tribune," and "Natun Asamiya" and several news papers of Calcutta, in particular, the "Amrita Bazar Patrika," "the Ananda Bazar Patrika," "the Hindustan Standard" and the "Jugantar" had adopted not only unhelpful but extremely provocative attitude.

যেতিয়া কেন্দ্ৰীয় মন্ত্ৰী শ্ৰীঅলোক সেন আহিছিল তেতিয়া তেওঁক মই কৈছিলো যে আমাৰ বাতৰি কাগজ বোৰে যি ভূমিকা গৃহণ কৰিছে তাৰ যদি সংশোধন কৰা নহয়, তেনেহলে ৰাইজৰ মাজত মিলাপ্ৰীতিৰ ভাব গঢ়ি তোলা সম্ভৱ নহয়। তেখেতে বোৰহাটত পদৰ্শন কৰাৰ দিনাই অৰ্থাত ৯ আগষ্টত যুগান্তৰ কাগজত এটা খবৰ ওলাল যে বোৰহাটৰ ৪নং কেম্পত শ্ৰীমতী সুষমা বাণী ষোষ নামৰ এগৰাকীক তেওঁৰ সদ্যজাত কেছুৱাৰ সৈতে প্ৰায় ১৮ দিনৰ আগতে অৰ্থাত ২১ জুলাই মানতে কৰ্তৃপক্ষই কেম্পৰ পৰা খেদাই দিয়ে। পিচত তেওঁ গৈ তেওঁৰ ঘৰ দুৱাৰ পুৰি ভগ্নীভূত হৈ থকা অৱস্থাত দেখি তেওঁৰ স্ত্ৰীয়ে তেওঁক পশ্চিম বঙ্গলৈ লৈ যাবলৈ বাধ্য হয়। মাননীয় কেন্দ্ৰীয় মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই ঘটনাটোৰ সত্যতাৰ সম্বন্ধে নোক সোধাত মই খবৰ লৈ official document ৰ প্ৰমাণৰ সৈতে তেখেতক জনালো যে কথাবোৰ সম্পূৰ্ণ মিছা, শ্ৰীসুখমা বাণীৰ বোৰহাট civil hospital ত কেচুৱা হোৱাতো সঁচা—কেচুৱা হোৱাৰ পিচত hospitalৰ পৰা released হৈ তেওঁ ৪নম্বৰ কেম্পত আছিল আৰু তেওঁৰ স্ত্ৰী শ্ৰীঅৰ্জুন লাল ষোষ ২ আগষ্ট তাৰিখে ration আৰু gratuitous relief লৈ সম্ভ্ৰীক campৰ পৰা ঘৰলৈ গৈছে। তেওঁৰ ঘৰ বোৰহাট খানাৰ ওচৰতে আৰু তাত ঘৰটোৰ বাহ এদালো ইফালে সিফাল হোৱা নাই। আৰু এনেকুৱা আৰু অতিবঞ্জিত আৰু পৰোচনা মূলক বাতৰি প্ৰচাৰ কৰিলে অসমৰ বাহিৰৰ মানুহৰ কেনে মনোভাব হব তাক সহজে অনুমান কৰিব পাৰি। এনেকুৱা অপপ্ৰচাৰ আৰু মিছা বাতৰি যে কলিকতীয়া প্ৰথম শ্ৰেণীৰ বাতৰি কাকতে বৰ বৰ আখৰেৰে কিমান প্ৰকাশ কৰিলে তাক সাত দিন সাত ৰাতি কৈ থাকিলেও মোৰ কোৱাৰ শেষ নহব। সেইবাবে মই কওঁ বিলখনে প্ৰেছৰ মৰ্য্যদা কুন্না নকৰে। বৰং বৰ্ত্তমান প্ৰেছৰ সম্পৰ্কে যি অভিযোগ আহিছে তাৰ পৰা বিৰত থাকিবলৈ সহায় হৈ কৰিব। মই ভাবো দেশৰ বৃহত্তৰ স্বাৰ্থৰ কাৰণে দেশৰ শান্তি সৃষ্টি কৰাৰ বাবে বৰ্ত্তমান বিল খনে সহায় কৰিব এই ক্ষেত্ৰই মই প্ৰেচবো সম্পূৰ্ণ সহানুভূতি আৰু সহযোগ কামনা কৰো।

মহোদয়, Delegation বিপৰ্টিতো কৈছে যে—

For the emotional integration of different groups, the creation of an atmosphere of amity and peace is essential. In this the Press has a significant role to play. We regret to say that both the Assam and Calcutta presses have failed to maintain a reasonable standard of impartiality and accuracy. We are fully aware of the importance of the freedom of expression but when the misuse of that freedom by some persons leads to the supersession of fundamental rights and endangers the life and property of a large section of people, we think there is justification for applying checks on that freedom.

এই বাবে মই নিবেদন কৰিব খোজো অসমত যি অশান্তি হৈ গল তেনে পৰিস্থিতিৰ কাৰণে এই বিলৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা বিশেষ প্ৰয়োজন। তাকে নকৰিলে ভবিষ্যতে আৰু বেচি অসুবিধা হব পাৰে। এই সম্পৰ্কে Delegation বিপৰ্টতে কৈছে যে—

We realise the supreme importance of freedom of speech and expression, which have been guaranteed by the Constitution, but we cannot afford to overlook occasions, when the misuse of freedom of speech and expression by some may create conditions which deny fundamental freedoms and security of life and property to large sections of the people. We therefore, recommend that Parliament should enact law.

একেই কথা যদি পালিয়ামেন্টত আইন কৰিব পাৰে আমিও আমাৰ প্ৰদেশৰ শান্তি শৃঙ্খলা আৰু সম্ভাৱ বন্ধাৰ বাবে আমাৰ আইন কৰিব পাৰো বিধান সভাত এনে আইন পাচ কৰিব পাৰো। আজি আমাৰ দুৰ্গত সকলক পুনৰ সংস্থাপন কৰাই পুথু আৰু পুথান কাম বুলি মই ভাবো এই ক্ষেত্ৰত পেছসমূহেও সম্পূৰ্ণ সহায় নকৰিলে Psychological rehabilitation—মানসিক পুনৰ সংস্থাপন কেতিয়াও সম্ভৱ হ'ব নোৱাৰে। আমি যিমানহে যত্ন কৰো তাৰ কাগজ বিলাকত উত্তেজনা পূৰ্ণ অপপ্ৰচাৰৰ অবসান নহলে আমাৰ বঙালী ভাইভনী সকলৰ অন্তৰৰ ভয় কেতিয়াও নাযায়। আমি কেম্পৰ পৰা যোৱা পিচত আমাৰ বঙালী ভাই সকলক অসমীয়া স্থানীয় বাইজে বাতি পাহৰা দিও অভয় দিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰোতে বঙালী ভাই সকলে আমাক অনুৰোধ কৰিছে যে আপোনালোকে কিবা এটা কৰি খবৰ কাগজবোৰ বন্ধ কৰি দিয়ক নহলে আমাৰ ভয় আৰু দুশ্চিন্তা নাহবে। সেইবাবে মই ভাবো বৰ্তমান বিলখন Select Committee লৈ পঠাব লাগে আৰু আমাৰ সম্পূৰ্ণ বিশ্বাস Select Committee য়ে আৱশ্যক হলে জন স্মাৰ্থৰ বাবে বিলখনৰ বাচতুৰ্তাবোৰ ঠিক কৰিব, সেইবাবে মই বিৰোধী পক্ষৰ মাননীয় সদস্য সকলে হনমতৰ কাৰণে বিলখন পঠাব লাগে বুলি যিটো প্ৰস্তাব আনিছে তাৰ বিৰোধীতা কৰি Select Committee লৈ পঠাব লাগে বুলি অন্য প্ৰস্তাবটো সম্বন্ধ কৰিছো।

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) : অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমাৰ চৰকাৰে Assam Special Powers (Press) Bill নামেৰে এই বিলখন সদনত উত্থাপিত কৰাত মই চৰকাৰক ধন্যবাদ জনাইছো। আমি যেতিয়া সৰু আছিলো আৰু বাতৰি কাকত যেতিয়া কম আছিল তেতিয়া বাইজৰ মাজত প্ৰচাৰ হয় তেতিয়া বাইজে এইবিলাকৰ বাতৰিত সম্পূৰ্ণভাবে বিশ্বাস কৰিছিল। কিন্তু আজি কালি এনেকুৱা হল যে বাতৰি কাকত বেচিহে যোৱাৰ লগে লগে উক্ত কাকত বিলাকৰ জৰিয়তে বহুত অসৎ প্ৰচাৰ হ'ব ধৰিছে। অলপতে আমাৰ দেশত যি ঘটনা হৈ গল আৰু কাকত বিলাকত যি অসত্য আৰু অতিৰঞ্জিত প্ৰচাৰ হল যিবিলাকক উৰা বাতৰি বুলি ক'ব পাৰি। আৰু সেই বিলাকে বাতৰি কাকত প্ৰচাৰিত বাতৰিয়ে যথেষ্ট সহায় কৰিলে। এনেকুৱা ক্ষেত্ৰ বাতৰি যদি বাতৰি কাকতত অসত্য অসত্য আৰু উচতনি প্ৰচাৰ কৰে তেন্তে উন্নয়নৰ কামতো বহুত বাধা পৰিল। আমাৰ দেশৰ শতকৰা ৬০ জন মানুহে লেখা-পঢ়া নাজানে আৰু এই বিলাক অসত্য বাতৰি যদি তেওঁবিলাকৰ হাতত আহি পৰে তেন্তে ভাবে যে এইবিলাক মিছা বাতৰিও সচা। বাতৰি কাকতৰ কথা যে সদায় সত্য নহয় তেওঁলোকে বিশ্বাস নকৰে গতিকে এই বিলাকত যাতে অসত্য বাতৰি বাইজৰ মাজত প্ৰচাৰ নহয় আৰু সময় অতিৰঞ্জিত কৰি বাইজৰ মাজত শৃঙ্খলাবিহীন নহয় তাৰ বাবে আইন প্ৰনয়ণ দৰ্কাৰ। শ্ৰীযুত কমলকুমাৰী বৰুৱাই কৈ গৈছে ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰা কেনেকৈ গণতন্ত্ৰ ভঙ্গ নহয় আৰু Constitution ও ভঙ্গ নহয়। আমি বাতৰি কাকতক অন্যায়ভাৱে দমন কৰিবলৈ ইচ্ছা নকৰো। কিন্তু বাতৰি কাকত বিলাক বঙ্গ দেশৰ অগ্ৰগতিৰ পথত

অন্তৰায় হয় তেতিয়াহলে বাতৰি কাকত বিলাকক কিছুমান নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰা উচিত। তাৰ গণতন্ত্ৰ ভঙ্গ নহয় আৰু Constitution ও ভঙ্গ নহয়—এইদৃষ্টি ভঙ্গি বন্ধা কৰি। অলপতে দেশত Central Government employees strike হৈ গল। এই Strike ৰ পৰা দেশৰ বৃহত্তৰ স্বার্থ ভঙ্গ হয় আৰু সেই কাৰণে বাস্তৱপ্ৰতি মহোদয়ে এটা বিশেষ আইন জাৰী কৰিছিল আৰু পাৰ্লামেন্টত এখন আইন উত্থাপিত হৈছে যে যিবিলাক Government employees Trade Union ত যোগ দি দেশৰ স্বার্থৰ বিৰুদ্ধে স্বংসৰ কাম কৰিব নোৱাৰে তাৰ কাৰণে Parliament ত আইন প্ৰণয়ন কৰিবৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হৈছে। তেওঁবিলাকৰ Trade Union ৰা ধৰ্ম্মঘটৰ অধিকাৰ আছে কিন্তু তথাপি কিয় এনেকুৱা আইন প্ৰযোজ্য কৰাৰ দৰ্কাৰ হৈছে? তাৰ কাৰণ হল যাতে Trade Union অনুষ্ঠান বা যিকোনো ব্যক্তি দেশৰ ভবিষ্যত নষ্ট কৰিব খুজে তাৰ অধিকাৰ চৰকাৰে ভঙ্গ নকৰিব কিয়? কাকত বিলাকে কিছু সময়ত যিভাবে অসত্য প্ৰচাৰ কৰিলে তাৰ ফলত দেশত এনে ঘটনা হব পাৰিলে সেই কাৰণে দেশত শান্তি আৰু স্বাধীনতা বন্ধা কৰিবৰ কাৰণে আৰু প্ৰগতিৰ পথত আগ বঢ়াই যাবলৈ সকলো ব্যৱস্থা নলয় তেওঁ কেনেকৈ চৰকাৰে আগ বাঢ়িব পাৰে।

গতিকে মই ভাবো, এই বিলখন সম্পূৰ্ণ সময়োপযোগী হৈছে আৰু ইয়াৰ ধাৰাত কোৱা হৈছে যে, বিলখন আইনত পৰিণত হলে—ইয়াক normal অৱস্থাত প্ৰয়োগ কৰা নহব—মাত্ৰ কোনো বিশেষ abnormal সময়ত কামত খটুৱা হব। সেই কাৰণে মই ভাবো এই বিলখন জনমত সংগ্ৰহৰ কাৰণে দিয়াৰ কোনো আৱশ্যকতা নাই। কাৰণ ইয়াৰ ওপৰত জনমত আগেয়েই হৈ গৈছে যে, বাতৰি কাকত সমূহে অসমৰ হৈ যোৱা ঘটনাৱলীত—ইমান কিছুমান অতিবিক্তিত সংবাদ পৰিবেশন কৰিলে, তাৰ ওপৰত কিছু নিষেধাজ্ঞা থকা প্ৰয়োজন। এই বাতৰি কাকত বিলাকৰ নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কৰাৰ ক্ষমতা নাইনেকি বুলি প্ৰত্যেক মানুহেই, যেতিয়াই বাতৰি কাকতখন হাতত লৈছিল—তেতিয়াই মুখে মুখে এই প্ৰশ্ন তুলিছিল। বাতৰি কাকতে অপপ্ৰচাৰ আদি কৰিলে—normal time-ত তাৰ ওপৰত মোকৰ্দমা কৰিব পৰা যায়: যেনেকৈ আমাৰ Agriculture Minister মহোদয়ে কৰিছিল। কিন্তু সেই ব্যৱস্থা abnormal time-ত নচলে। সেই বাবেই, মই পুনৰ কওঁ যে, জনমতৰ কাৰণে এইবিল পৰ্টোৱাৰ কোনো যুক্তি বা কাৰণ নাই আৰু সেই কাৰণে, মই এই বিলখন সমৰ্থন কৰোঁ আৰু আশী কৰোঁ সদনৰ মাননীয় সদস্যসকলেও এই বিলখন সমৰ্থন কৰিব।

Shri RADHA KISHAN KHEMKA (Tinsukia) : মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় ! आज विधान सभा की सेवा में जो Assam Special Powers (Press) Bill पेश किया गया है उसपर अपने विचार प्रकट करना चाहता हूँ। इस बिलपर विशद रूप से आलोचना हुई है। विरोधी दल के सदस्यों की ओर से इस बिल का घोर विरोध हुआ है। उनका कहना है कि यह बिल जनमत संग्रहार्थ भेजा जाय। मैं इस मत का विरोध करता हूँ। क्योंकि इसकी अब कोई आवश्यकता नहीं है। पिछली आशातियों के समय हमारे समाचार पत्रों ने, विशेषकर पश्चिम बंगाल के समाचार पत्रों ने अपने मनगढ़न और उत्तेजित समाचार प्रकाशित करके अशांति की आगमें जो धी डाला था, उसपर कहीं से किसी प्रकार की रोकथाम न होने के कारण प्रदेश में काफी अशांति और उत्तेजना की सृष्टि हुई थी। हमें यह जनमत मिल चुका है कि हमारे समाचार पत्रोंपर उचित रोकथाम हो ताकि भविष्य में वे ऐसी हरकतें न कर सकें। वे अशांति न फैला सकें। आज हमारा कर्तव्य है कि हम ऐसी चिंता करें, ऐसा कोई उपाय अवलंबन करें, ऐसी कारवाई करें जिससे भविष्य में इस तरह की अशांति की पुनरावृत्ति न हो। तथा हमारे यहाँ शांति, श्रृंखला और पारस्परिक सहार्द बराबर रहा करे।

महोदय ! एक कहावत है कि “आवश्यकता ही अविस्कार की जननी है।” आज इस बिल की आवश्यकता इसलिए हुई है कि पिछली अशांतियों के समय कुछ समाचार पत्रों ने जो रूप अपनाया था, उत्तेजनापूर्ण मनगढ़ंत गलत समाचार प्रकाशित करके जो अशांति फैलाई थी उसके कारण यह प्राज लावश्यक हो गया है कि उनपर समुचित दृष्टि रखी जाय, एवं उनपर समुचित रोकथाम हो। इसलिए आज ऐसे एक बिल की आवश्यकता हुई है।

महोदय ! गुवाहाटी के एक समाचार पत्रने गुवाहाटी गोलीकांड के शिकार श्री रंजित बरपुजारी की तसवीर के प्रकाशनपर इस सदनमें कई सदस्योंने आलोचना की है। किन्तु बंगाल के समाचार पत्रोंने भी ऐसे गलत खबर ही नहीं बल्कि, गलत खबरों की तसवीरें छापकर लोगोंमें उत्तेजना और अशांति फैलाई थी। सदन के सदस्यों को अपने अपने इलाकोंमें घटी सारी घटनाओं को पूरी जानकारी है। किन्तु कलकत्ते के कई समाचार पत्र बेरोकटोक गत घटनाओं के विषयोपर गलत समाचार छापते रहे जिसके परिमाण स्वरूप पच्छिम बंगाल में अल्पसंख्यक विशेष करके हिन्दी भाषाभाषी लोगोंपर कई स्थानोंमें काफी जुलम एवं अत्याचार हुआ। यही नहीं, बल्कि उन्होंने कईएक ऐसी तसवीरें छापी थी, लेकिन ऐसी कोई घटना नहीं घी थी। हमारे पास झूठी खबरें और उनकी बनाई हुई तसवीरें, जो उनके समाचार पत्रोंमें छापे गये, बहुत-से उदाहरण हैं। जैसे दो चार उदाहरण मैं सदन की सेवामें पेश करता हूँ। १६ जुलाई युगान्तर में तसवीर के साथ एक खबर छपी थी कि तिनसुकिया के पास एक जगह पर एक घर में आग लगा दी गयी। तसवीरमें लड़के का हाथ टूटा हुआ, उसपर पट्टी बांधी हुई अवस्था में दिखाई गयी थी, यह भी कहा गया था कि शिर्फ घर ही नहीं जला घर के लोगों का पता तक नहीं है कि वे लोग घर में जल गए या क्या हुआ इतना ही नहीं, उसके साथ यह भी कहा गया कि उस लड़के की एक १४ वर्षीया बहन मुसलिम गुंडों ने उठा लिया में तिनसुकिया में रहता था। मैं आपको यह विश्वास दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि तिनसुकिया में इस तरह की झूठी घटनाओं की खबर युगान्तर एवं आनन्दवाजार पत्रिका में कई बार छपी थी लेकिन इस तरह की कोई घटना नहीं घटी थी। इस प्रकार की झूठी और उत्तेजित खबरों से तिनसुकिया में काफी उत्तेजना कि सृष्टि हुई थी। मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि तिनसुकिया या उसके आस पास इस तरह की कोई भी घटना नहीं हुई थी।

अध्यक्ष महोदय ! मैं अपनी किसी दुर्बलता को छिपाना नहीं चाहता। मैं यह भी नहीं चाहता कि सत्य खबर छापनेमें समाचार पत्रों पर कोई रोक थाम हो। हम यही चाहते हैं कि झूठी खबरें और उत्तेजित समाचार पत्रोंमें प्रकाशित न हो। हम चाहते हैं कि समाचार पत्र समाज और देश गठन में सहायक हो। हमारे प्रदेश के कल्याण में समाचार पत्र आत्म नियोग करें। इसलिए मैं इस बिलका हार्दिक समर्थन करता हूँ।

Swami KRISHNANANDA BRAHMACHARI (Kokrajhar) :

माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, हे योयां असमब अप्रीतिकब घटनाबनीत वातिबि काकत समूहे घटनाबिनाक भाल कबक चाबि बेयाहे कबिले ताक सकलोरुे जाने। उदाहरण स्वरुपे चेप्रेयुबब ५ ताबिके बिजनी आक पातिलदहाब माजत सेइलटेइनब इञ्जिन लाइनच्युत हेछिल। ताकेइ ‘युगांडब’ कागजे संवाद परिबेशन कबिले ये, असमीया गुंठुइ बेनब लाइनब पब। सेलटेइन लाइनच्युत कबि तात थका बगुली यात्रीसकलक अत्याचार कबिले। ताबिपिचत उचछापब बेनबरे कर्मचारीये तदन्त कबि जानिब पाबिले ये, इन्जिन लाइनच्युत होबाब काबण बेलेग। सेइ दवे, कूकबाबाबत अग्नि संयोगब कथा एटा अतिबञ्जित, भित्तिहीन संवाद प्रचार कबिले। এইদৰেই বাতৰি কাকত বোবে দেশত, শান্তিৰ

ঠাইত আশান্তিৰ সৃষ্টিকৰি দলাদলিৰ সৃষ্টি কৰিছে। কাজেই চৰকাৰে আজি সি বিল এই সদনত আনিছে—সি যুক্তিসূক্ত হৈছে। কাৰণ দেশৰ মঙ্গল আৰু সত্য, সংবাদ প্ৰচাৰৰ কাৰণেই বাতৰি কাকতৰ প্ৰয়োজন যদি তাকে বাতৰি কাকত সমূহে নকৰি, তাৰ ঠাইত অশান্তি আৰু দলাদলিৰ সৃষ্টি কৰে তেন্তে বাতৰি কাগজে সমগ্ৰ ৰাষ্ট্ৰৰ অমঙ্গল সাধন কৰে। কাজেই, আজিৰ সদনত বাতৰি কাকত সমূহৰ ওপৰত প্ৰয়োজনীয় সংকটৰ সময়ত আনিব খোজা বাধাৰ বিলখন মই সমৰ্থন কৰো আৰু এইবিল জনমতৰ কাৰণে পঠোৱাৰ প্ৰয়োজন নাই বুলি ভাবো। ইয়াকে কৈ মোৰ বক্তব্য সামৰিলো।

Shri BISHWANATH UPADHAYA (Patharkandi) : মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় ! সদন কী সেবामें जो बिल पेश किया गया है, मैं उसका समर्थन नहीं कर सकता। मेरा यही अनुमान है कि सरकार इस बिल की आड़में अपनी सारी गलतियोंको छिपाना चाहती है और अपनी सारी गलतियोंकी जिम्मेदारी समाचार पत्रों पर डालना चाहती है। मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि पिछली अशांतियों की सारी जिम्मेदारी सरकार की है। सरकार ही उसके लिए जिम्मेदार है। हमारी सरकार और नेताओं का कहना है कि पिछली अशांति के लिए बहुत हदतक समाचार-पत्र जिम्मेदार हैं। मुझे पता नहीं कि यह कहाँ तक सत्य है।

महोदय ! हमने देखा है कि मुख्य संवाद सेवा की शिक्षा के लिए हमारे यहाँ किसी भी तरह की संस्था नहीं है। हमारे नवयुवक I. A. या B. A. का इम्तहान पास कर लेते हैं और संवाद दाता का दायित्वपूर्ण पद ग्रहण कर लेते हैं। न उन्हें किसी तरह की अभिलाषा होती है और न उनके लिए संवाद सेवा की शिक्षा के लिए कोई व्यवस्था है, मैं यही कहना चाहता हूँ कि शिक्षा के लिए ऐसी कोई संस्था या शिक्षानुस्थान की व्यवस्था हमारी सरकार को करनी चाहिए।

गत २१-६-६० को शिलांग में जो जुलूस निकाला गया और उसमें जो नारे लगाए गए उनको अशांतियों का कारण बताया है। यह कहा गया है कि समाचार-पत्रों में उसकी खबरें छपी गयीं और उनकी प्रतिक्रिया स्वरूप अशांति फैली। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि हमारी सरकार इस तरह की खबरों को Contradict क्यों नहीं किया ? मैंने देखा है कि हमारी सरकार की Machinery बिलकुल फेल कर गयी। महोदय ! केवल कलकत्ते के समाचार-पत्रों झूठी और मनगढ़ंत खबरों को बढ़ाचढ़ाकर प्रकाशित नहीं किया था, बल्कि, आसाम के पत्रोंने भी वही किया। आपको मालूम है कि Assam Tribune मे एक खबर प्रकाशित हुई थी सिलचर में असम साहित्य सभा का कार्यालय जला दिया गया। जब मैं दूसरे दिन सिलचर पहुँचा तो मुझे बड़ा अचरज हुआ कि साहित्य सभा का वह कार्यालय जला नहीं। उसपर अांचतक नहीं आयी। क्या, इस तरह की झूठी खबर आसामके पत्रोंने नहीं छपी थी ? सरकार ने इन बातोंका खंडन नहीं किया ? इसलिए मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि पिछली अशांतियों के लिए समाचार-पत्र नहीं बल्कि हमारी सरकार जिम्मेदार है।

इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं इस बिलका विरोध करता हूँ और विरोधी पक्ष के संशोधनी प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करता हूँ।

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Law) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to hon. Members who have made their observations as far as this bill is concerned. Sir, I appreciate their unstinted support which has been given by the Members of the Congress Party to this Press Bill. I am also thankful Shri Hareswar Goswami who has given a mixed reception to this bill. But my friend from Gauhati has passed a very wild and sweeping observations in opposing this measure.

* Speech not corrected.

Sir, my friend from Gauhati as usual, utilised the opportunity of blaming the Government because he has not mentioned any good thing which has been done by the Government. He has gone to the extent of expressing that what we are doing is nothing but the negation of democracy and is against the fundamental rights as guaranteed by the Constitution for freedom of expression. Sir, the ideology in which our people have faith, certainly does not practise a kind of expression of which he has today become the votery.

I do not know what kind of freedom of Press is enjoyed in the Communistic countries. I have read it, I have seen the newspaper and I have seen everything of the kind of freedom which has been given to the individual and the Press. Our country to-day should be proud for the freedom of expression given to the Press. I know that for proper functioning of the Democracy, equal opportunity should be given to the Press and individual for putting forward the ideas which is likely to benefit the society. And for successful working of the democratic society which requires that these ideas should be allowed to live and grow and the people may be given the freedom of expression so that they accept the good ideas which are good for the society and reject the bad ideas. This democratic principle should take the firm root in our country and in our State. But why should we cherish this idea, why should we want our democracy to take a firm root in our country? Because, the ultimate objects of these ideas should be utilization for the ultimate good of the people, and these ideas should be supported. If the right of the freedom of expression is likely to go against the interest of the people, we cannot grant the license. The license should not be granted which is likely to enlarge the society which is likely to harm the society. If such things happen, we should try to stop such activities. My friend has said that this is nothing else but brow beating with a danda in one hand and luring the press, with money by another hand. I submit, Sir, that except the wide and sweeping observations which have been made, there is no substance whatsoever in the allegations made by him. If he is honest to himself, if he carefully reads the provision of the Bill, he will be satisfied and he will have to admit that the Bill which has been placed before the House is neither an attempt to muzzle the press, nor has this been introduced with an idea of brow beating or of luring the press with money. There are two main provisions in the Bill. One of the main provisions says that if at a particular time, publication of some information or news is likely to incite communal passions which will endanger public order, then and then only, publication of such reports will be controlled and the other provision says that when such and such things happen and if such news are propagated which are likely to incite communal passion endangering public order, then those news which are brought from outside, their entry will be prevented, I do not know what objection can be taken so far as the provisions of this Bill are concerned. If under any of the sub-clause anything is not very clear which is likely to disturb these two provisions, the Select Committee will be entitled to make things clear, so that only these two purposes may be served. Now, Sir, this Government would have been the last to bring the measure of this kind, but what we have seen during the last disturbances, no one—no same person can shut eyes to these glaring facts, so that when such circum-

stances or such a situation arises again. these mischievous activities of these people who want to indulge in those things in the name of freedom of expression, could be checked. Now my friend said that for all these, the Publicity Department and the Government are responsible. It is not desirable that we should complain or we should find fault with the press. I entirely agree with him provided he says that the trouble started not because of the press but what I want him to think over carefully is that what was the role played by the press after these disturbances. I am not prepared today to defend the Publicity Department. Government have faltered, but we have tried to do our best under the circumstances. What I wish to bring to the notice of this House is that if only actual facts and incidents had been published by the newspapers, if they had not taken one side or the other, well at least one thing they could help and that was the outflow of so many people from this State to Bengal. I have no doubt whatsoever in my mind that as a result of canard, unfounded news, and graphic accounts for which there was no justification, such an influx of refugees from this State to Bengal took place. Now Sir, my friend believe in making sweeping observations by saying that Government was not only responsible for suppression of news, but also gave distorted version of news. I was waiting to hear from him whether had any concrete instance from which he could point out that the Government was responsible for such distorted version. The only thing he referred to is the incident at Gauhati on the 4th of July. Sir for obvious reasons, I do not wish to go into that particular incident on this occasion because the matter is sub-judice and that the Judicial Inquiry which has been appointed will be able to examine the notification or the information through which the Government gave certain news regarding the incidents on the 4th July. Over and above that, my friend has not cited a single instance, or those of his friends who have supported him have not cited a single instance where it can be shown that Government can be accused of distortion of facts. Now, Sir, I would just remind him and I will ask him to be true to himself, whether the kind of news which he read during these momentous fortnight or three weeks were actually giving the exact picture as it prevailed in the State. or they were some sort of distortions and of likely to incite passions throughout the State. Now, I will refer to one or things and ask the hon. Members just to remember about these facts and say how far we were trying our best, and Government were taking the earliest possible opportunities to come out with communiques, but they were not heeded by the people who were interested with those informations. I am citing an instance and this is regarding Belu Rao of Gauhati. I am very sorry to say I have tremendous respect for a newspaper like Statesman but even in that newspaper, this information was published on the 4th of August. Hindustan Standard and other Calcutta dailies also published this piece of news and as soon as this news was published, our Deputy Commissioner issued a press note which says "My attention has been drawn to a report published in the statesman on the 4th August from Calcutta wherein it is stated that a house inhabited by a Maharastra family at Gauhati was set on fire, that a child died in the fire. A report has also been published in the Hindustan Standard of Calcutta on the 4th August that a Maharastra gentleman's son was killed by Assamese hooligans in Assam and that he has been sent to Maharastra by the State Government. Both these reports are completely false and baseless." My friend remains at Gauhati. Has he ever come across

this story or has he ever found that place? Were the Maharashtra family's house burnt and his son thrown into the fire? Now my friend has said that Government have failed in their duty. Before such news was published that such and such incidents have taken place, there was no incident actually and how could Government contradict that such and such incidents had not taken place. Soon after this was published in the paper on the 4th of July, a contradiction was given by the Deputy Commissioner. Nothing could have been done before or earlier than what has been done. Now, after this contradiction was given on the 4th August, we have here a paper, the *Hindusthan Standard* of August 10 together with a picture — I think my friends still remember about it.... This picture has the following caption :-

“A Maharashtrian couple, who lost their only offspring, a male child, and everything else in the hands of Ahamiya goondas, is at present sheltered in the West Bengal Government camp for refugees at Petrapole. The mother of the child has, since seeing the child being burnt alive before her very eyes by the cruel-hearted hooligans, gone mad with grief. The father is also half-mad”.

Now, I ask, can anyone consider this account to be a proper expression by the Press even after the contradiction that has been given by the Deputy Commissioner? Sir, not only this photograph was published in this paper but also a graphic account was made. This account says :-

“How irresponsible high officials of Assam Government conduct inquiry into Press reports on Assam disturbances declaring them ‘false and baseless’, and how they are trying to minimise the extent of brutalities, will be evident from the following’: Reports had appeared in Calcutta newspapers including this paper, on August 4 last, that the house of a Maharashtrian had been set on fire by hooligans in Gauhati on July 3 last and that one of his children dies as a result.

“The Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup, Mr. G. C. Phookan, in a Press Note issued on August 4 (the very day the reports were published here) referred to the news of the incident and said that, ‘these reports are completely false and baseless’.

“Here is an interview with the bereaved father himself who is today a pauper due the blind mob violence and a hymn of hatred let loose in that State but the incidents are sought to be belittled by an officer like the Deputy Commissioner.”

“I motored down to Petrapole, more than 50 miles from Calcutta—as hon. Members will understand, this is a statement of the staff reporter of this paper”—on Tuesday and met 25 years old Bhelu Rao and his wife Malati Rao, both still distracted from the terrible shock of the incident.”

Here is the account of the incident as related by Mr. Rao.

“The Raos used to live in a hut at Ulubari in the Kumarpara area of Gauhati. He was an automobile mechanic working in a private firm at

Gauhati for about a year or so. On July 3 last, he was away in the workshop when an Assamese mob, armed with lethal weapons, raided the locality of his residence at about 7 p.m.

“His wife, Malati, was then resting outside the hut, while their three-year old son was sleeping inside. The mob looted all their belongings and then set fire to the hut which was reduced to ashes along with many other houses of Bengalees in the locality.

“The fire lit by criminals had badly burnt the innocent child. He was lying dead by the side of the weeping mother when Bhelu Rao had returned home at 9-30 p.m. All around desolation and destruction started at his face and Rao said : “I was stunned”, I was speechless. My wife then broke into heart-rending sobs and lamentations. Our only child had died in the fire.

“Rao started weeping as he continued talking to me and I wished that the Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup were there at the Petrapole evacuee camp along with all those who had never lifted even their little fingers to save innocent people.

“We were appalled by what had happened’ Bhelu Rao said and then added : Look to my wife, the mother of the child who is no more’.

“Young Malati has not yet recovered from the shock. She has since lost her mental balance and is showing signs of insanity”.

“The insane in Assam had made sane Malati hover between sanity and insanity. I again wish Mr. Phookan, under whose signature the Press Note had been issued were at Petrapole”.

Bhelu said : ‘We had lost nearly everything we had’. The couple left Gauhati for Bongaigaon on July 4. From there they came down to Alipur Duar and then to Sealdah. From Sealdah along with other evacuees found temporary shelter at Petrapole near Bongaigaon.

‘I asked him : ‘Would you like to go back to Assam?’ He replied : ‘I would rather die than go back to that land of horrors’.

“Since their arrival, the West Bengal Government had contacted the Government of Maharashtra in Bombay and the latter was reported to have agreed to take charge of them. The West Bengal Govt. has also sanctioned the passage money needed for the couple’s journey”.

“The irresponsibility betrayed by Mr. Phookan had not ended with what had been narrated above. In his wonderful Press Note he, in his enthusiasm, had also sought to contradict that the State Government (that is, the West Bengal Govt as mentioned in the news item appearing in ‘Hindusthan Standard of August 4) had been arranging to send him to Maharashtra. This was being done by the West Bengal Government and there came Mr. Phookan’s statement all the way from Assam telling the world that the reports were ‘completely false and baseless’.

Now Sir, I submit that even after the contradiction was given the extent to which this newspaper went is really beyond explanation..... (Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya— Or a point of information Sir, has the Government started any action against this paper for such false statement?)... Please wait a minute, I am coming to that. What I want to ask of my Friend is, does he want to give freedom of the press for this kind of publicity? Now, even if we have taken any action the result of that action would be known only after 3 or 4 months but what will be the effect on those people who read this kind of newspapers? They will come to the conclusion that the people living in Assam are barbarous, that they have lost all senses of sanity and that no one would be safe to live in this State and so on. Can he deny that it was the news of this nature that was responsible for the influx of people to West Bengal from Assam. What happened after that. Here a contradiction was given by the Deputy Commissioner but in spite of that my Friend comes here to support that the Government is responsible and not the Press. As I said Sir, soon after these things appeared in this paper the Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup issued the following Press Note :

“I have seen in the news item with the head line “Facts about Brutality on one Maharashtrian family” published in the *Hindusthan Standard* on the 10th August along with a photo of the said Maharashtrian family published in first page of the same *Daily*. This report by the *Hindusthan Standard* is purported to be a rejoinder to a Press Note which I issued stating that the news item published in the *Hindusthan Standard* of the 4th August alleging setting fire to the house of a Maharashtrian family in Gauhati and killing of the some of the family is false and baseless.

“I reaffirm that (a) no Maharashtrian gentleman of the name of Bhelu Rao or lady of the name of Malati Rao lived at Ulubari, in the Kumarpara area of Gauhati within the last few years as could be ascertained from the detailed inquiry made from all sections of the people and municipal and other records. In fact, Ulubari is not in Kumarpara area and the two places are over a mile apart. Detailed inquiries were made in both the areas. (b) No house either in Ulubari or in Kumarpara area of Gauhati town was burnt on the 3rd July to speak nothing of reducing many other Bengali houses of the locality to ashes...” and so on. Now, Sir, this is the position. Here again, I will read out the statement issued by Srimati Sucheta Kripaliauni. Even she at the beginning was not convinced and she even at first would not accept my statement and she thought that the version given by the *Hindusthan Standard* to be gospel truth and that the Assam Government and the Assam officers were all telling lies. But afterwards when she found out the truth she herself issued a statement which I am going to read out to the House :

“Bhelu Rao and Malati Rao said to be a so-called Maharashtrian couple whose names were published in the Calcutta Press as being victims of the July disturbances in Assam are not real refugees according to Srimati Sucheta Kripalani M. P., who is now at Gauhati.

Narrating the interesting story how this much publicised Maharashtrian family posed) as refugees from Assam and were receiving Government doles in a refugee camp in Petrapole, 50 miles away from Calcutta, Shrimati Kripalani said that on receipt of the news with a photograph published in Calcutta papers, she and Shrimati Abha Maity, one of the General Secretaries of the A.I.C.C., contacted the said couple of the Petrapole camp and took down their statement that the Maharashtrian couple were residing at Gauhati.

Subsequently during her visit to Gauhati in August Shrimati Kripalani with Shrimati Adha Maity made a thorough investigation but they could not get any clue for confirmation of the statement of Bhelu Rao and his so-called wife.

Shrimati Kripalani added that she made further enquiry through an ex-Minister who is a medical man at Petrapole refugee camp which revealed that although in their statement Bhelu Rao and his wife claimed that they had children but lost them in the Assam disturbances, it was found that the reported wife of Bhelu Rao had no children at all and that it was doubtful if they were real husband and wife.

When, however, Bhelu Rao was asked to return to Assam for rehabilitation under police escort or go to Maharastra Bhelu Rao suddenly disappeared from the camp to the utter surprise of all.

This incident created a sensation at the Petrapole camp as it revealed that Bhelu Rao and his so-called wife were not real refugees but they misrepresented as victims of Assam disturbances in order to get Government charity and compensation.

So, these were the statements issued by the newspapers and these were relied upon as against the statements made by the Government and the Deputy Commissioner, and such kind of incitement was created among the people in Assam that many people must have left Assam after reading that story in the newspaper.

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** But for that there is Indian Penal Code and Cr.P.C.

***Shri HIRALAL PATWARI (Panery):** There may be some underground reasons.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Law):** My friend is very much over ground. I just want to inform the House that this is not the only instance.

Now, so far as the Ananda Bazar Patrika is concerned, they also published false rumours about systematic attacks on trains in Assam on 14th July. On 19th July they also published another false rumour about a Bengali girl named Bina Dasgupta that she was kidnapped. On 17th July they published that Nibarani Mahajan of Goreswar was beaten by his Assamese wife. I personally contacted that family and the wife of Nibarani Mahajan told me that she loves her husband so much that she cannot beat her husband. This is the statements made by the wife to me in front of my friend Shri Asok Sen. On 2nd August they published that Hill people and the Bengalis were attacked and oppressed. But I

did not hear any of my Hill friends here saying that they were attacked and oppressed by the Assamese. On 9th August they published that Non-Assamese officers were removed and replaced by Assamese officers. Fortunately or unfortunately, I was in-charge of the Appointment portfolio. I do not know a single instance where a Non-Assamese officer has been replaced by an Assamese officer. On 10th August, the said paper also published that children were attacked and thrown out of running trains and the Assamese doctors refused treatment of Bengali patients. In spite of all these things I do not know why my friend comes like an innocent child to plead for the newspapers. On the same day the said paper published a story "Ekdin Ehar Manuch Chila" the story narrated by Dipankar Bhattacharjee. On August 8, they published that heads of one thousand Bengali men and women would be chopped off. On 15th August they published false news about the murder of Himangshu Bhattacharjee, insanity of Miss Soha and Bengali girls made naked and raped in Gauhati roads. On 13th August they published a false letter of Chandra Kanta Phukan. Now, my friend comes from Gauhati and he knows that these are false.

***Pu LALMAWIA:** Several news items appeared in the press and these are stated to be not correct. But the press people themselves replied to these charges. Now, even if they published something which are not correct, they cannot be blamed for that because they also published the Government contradictions. It is not always possible for the press to get correct information in such a situation.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AMED (Minister, Law):** I shall deal with that also. The Hindusthan Standard published on 19th July that Brahmaputra bridge machinery was damaged. On 29th July they published the same story of a Bengali girl Bina Dasgupta kidnapped. Then on 17th July they wrote that Jamunamukh station was set on fire. Now my friend comes from Nowgong and he knows that Jamunamukh station was never set on fire. On 21st July they published that a mob attack on Bengali staff of Natural Gas Commission and two Government of India Engineers killed. Now who will remain in Assam after reading such a news. On August 6, they wrote Assam situation—more cases of murder, assault and brother and sister of Sisir Kumar Ghosh of Nowgong murdered. As we were issuing contradictions they were also challenging our contradiction. They also published the story of Kaushik Choudhury, murder of Nantu Das, Pranati Das. Incidents in Victoria Girls High School, inactivity of Dibrugarh Police, State Bank workers in Assam death of Nihil Kundu, Centre may intervene in Assam Government affairs, obstacles to rehabilitate victims in Assam and indiscriminate arrests of Bengali youths. All these things were published. I can say in all fairness to Assam and its political workers, particularly Congress workers how seriously they worked during this time. They moved from one place to another just to help the victims and to bring down the situation to normalcy. After that serious effort the Calcutta papers should not have published that the people were not being rehabilitated. These false publications broke the confidence of the people who left Assam and as a result they refused to come back to Assam and preferred to remain in West Bengal camps.

The Jugantar Patrika also published wrong news. On 22nd July they published that 12 dead bodies were recovered from Sepon Tea Estate. I did never come across such a thing. I myself made an enquiry and did not come across any such thing. I think my friends know that the river which flows by the side of the Sepon Tea Estate is a small rivulet and the dead bodies cannot remain there. They also stated on 4th July that some persons lost their lives in Silpukuri area and the D.C., Lakhimpur transferred and G. C. Phukan appointed in his place. On 10th July they gave a false news that the house of Bharati Guha Choudhury has been burnt and she has been manhandled. On 14th July they published about the killing of a Rickshaw puller and Bengali students driven out of Assam Agriculture College. On 26th they published that a Bengali shop has been occupied by Assamese people at Jorhat and dead bodies were floating in Bhogdoi and Tocklai rivers. On 23rd August they published false news about the assault on Miss Bhawal, death of Manindra Saha, Tezpur Abastha and a Bengali labour leader threatened. On 7th September they published a rumour that Bengali students of Assam Agriculture College were living like prisoners.

The Statesman also spread such malicious and false propaganda. Assam Tribune also said that Assamese in Shillong were feeling insecure, and published some photographs with the heading "Assamese refugees in Assam". Some of my friends have already said how the picture, republished in some of the local papers, of Ranjit, who lost his life during the firing also infuriated or incited the people. With regard to all these matters, contradictions were given, and it is not only we held the opinion, but I would like to place before this House what the Parliamentary Delegation had to say with regard to the role played by these Newspapers. This is as follows:-

"We have already referred to the rule played by the Press of Assam and Bengal in relation to the language agitation and later occurrences. We realise the supreme importance of freedom of speech and expression, which have been guaranteed by the Constitution, but we cannot afford to overlook occasions, when the misuse of freedom of speech and expression by some may create conditions which deny fundamental freedoms and security of life and property to large sections of people. We, therefore, recommend that Parliament should enact a law that when the President is satisfied that a grave emergency exists where by the security of India or any part thereof is threatened by internal disturbance or when fundamental right and security of life and property is denied to any large section of the people, he may notify a state of emergency for any specified areas. On such notifications, all newspapers circulating in the notified area shall become responsible for the accuracy of news published and publication of any false and exaggerated news per se shall become an offence. The Newspaper would also be placed under an obligation to avoid headlines and pictures likely to inflame passions. It will also become obligatory on the Press to publish official contradictions of false and exaggerated news in such place in such manner as may be directed. A suitable machinery for detecting breaches of these conditions should also be evolved as also a summary procedure for trial and punishment of such breaches."

Now, they were led to make this recommendation because of those facts which they found here, and again they expressed at page 14 of their Report as follows:—

“Representatives of different organisations—political as well as non-political and individuals, who met us, invariably complained about the role of the press in West Bengal and or Assam during the disturbances which contributed considerably towards aggravating the situation and intensifying feelings of suspicion and distrust making it difficult for the administration to restore peace and confidence. Numerous instance of false reporting and of giving tendentious prominence to news of little or no significance aimed at inciting the Assamese or Bengalees were brought to our notice. One set of people complained against reports alleging that Assam was unsafe for minorities and that Government was incapable of maintaining law and order, while the other set of people complained against calling the Bengalees ‘strangers’ in Assam, which they have adopted as their home. We have tried to scrutinise these complaints. Though we could not get all the material we needed, there is enough evidence that two principal newspapers of Assam, namely, the “Assam Tribune” and “Nutan Assamiya” and several newspapers of Calcutta, in particular, the “Amrita Bazar Patrika”, the “Ananda Bazar Patrika”, “the Hindustan Standard” and the “Jugantar” had adopted not only unhelpful but extremely provocative attitude. The Calcutta Press showed little appreciation on natural and legitimate aspirations of the Assamese speaking people in regard to their language and culture, and the Assam Press showed equally scant regard for the susceptibilities and sentiments of Bengalee minority and the hill people. Even a casual glance at the headlines and manner of displaying news is sufficient to indicate that neither the Assamese nor the Bengali Press showed sufficient regard for truth and sometimes they maintained silence, when the withholding of facts was likely to create an atmosphere of doubt and suspicion. As an instance, as early as 29th June, 1960, the special correspondent of “A. B. Patrika” reported that the army had been deployed to quell the disturbances and that “troops have been placed at several points.....”

They anticipated all these things before anything happened in Gauhati and reported it in the newspapers, and this is what we want to guard against in future.

The report further says, “the above story was carried by the “Hindustan Standard”. Actually no troops had been ordered by the Centre for Assam on that date. The Chief Minister of Assam, Shri Chaliha, denied the report on the 1st July but his denial could not undo the mischief. The “Assam Tribune” published a canard that the Assam Sahitya Sabha Office at Silchar had been burnt down, but the building still stands there to give a lie to that news”.

And here from what I have said above, if we take action against the Press for such publication of mischievous report, then those people may be punished, but the mischief done in the meanwhile cannot be undone simply because we are taking action against them and that we want to prevent such mischief.

My submission is that I have not made of any observation which is not based on fact, and in reaching a conclusion I have the support of a very careful observation made by the Parliamentary Delegation which visited Assam. My friends were saying that in this matter public opinion should be elicited. I may tell my friends that I received not less than 50 telegrams from various places in the State of Assam where I was asked to do something against the mischief which was being propagated by the people, and no less a person than Shri Hareswar Goswami, the Leader of the P. S.P. Party, when he appeared before the Parliamentary Delegation Board, he had to say that control was essential and necessary, and I do not know that unless Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya wants to be a good boy, wants to be in the good book of the Press—how can he, responsible as he is to the people, can allow propagation of such news which are likely to incite communal passion and hatred endangering public order in our State. And I can tell you that nothing is more sacred nothing is more desired—than the lives and properties of the people who live in this State, and if that is attacked, if by a certain act that is endangered, is it not necessary for those people who are in responsible position and also for the Government to come out with the provisions which in the name of freedom of Press will not be abused and will not be taken as a license to indulge in all those activities? And this is only what this Bill seeks to do.

***Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** Why in such an emergency situation, emergency was not declared which would not have brought the Press in the grip of law?

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Law):** Even then it could not have brought the Press in the grip of the law.

Therefore, what I submit that to-day when we are asking this House to pass this legislation it does not mean that from to-morrow we shall issue orders on the newspapers curtailing their freedom. But if and when such occasion arises, if we find that any newspaper misbehaved or indulged in activities which are likely to incite communal hatred and passion endangering lives and properties in the State, it is only at that time that recourse to these provisions will be taken. It is not the case that the Government or those members who have supported this Bill want that as soon as this Bill becomes a law, from to-morrow Government will start action against those Press. Some of the members have been expressing the view that this is an attempt to muzzle the press. I deny the charge. I have no objection if my friends level this criticism against any individual member of the Cabinet, or the Ministry or against the action of the Government; we do not mind it. We welcome if the criticisms are constructive and help us to right the wrong, and even if we do not want if some times there are malicious criticisms we do certainly mind the spread of such news and information which are likely to endanger the life and property of the people. We cannot allow such activities to continue. It is only to prevent such activities that this Bill has been placed before this House. Now we have no intention whatsoever to brow-beat either the local Press or the Press outside. They are perfectly at liberty to go to any extent they like in condemning our action, criticizing our

action and saying whatever they like, so long as they do not incite communal hatred which is likely to endanger the lives and properties of the people in this State. If they keep within this limit, there will be no occasion to use this legislation. But the moment they go out of this limit whether we are here or any other Government—it may be that sometime my friend Shri Gaurishankar Bhattacharyya may be sitting here—he will bless us that such a useful weapon is in our hand (Shri Gaurishankar Bhattacharyya: There is no such weapon in Kerala). We know very well about the things in those countries from where our friends learn the lessons (Shri Phoni Bora: You should consider India now). Less said is better about these things.

Now, this is our intention. My friend says: why did the Publicity Department give the correct information. I want to tell him that it is not correct to say that the Publicity Department did not give the news of the incidents that took place in this State. I have myself seen that the Publicity Department from about 5th or 6th of July when all these incidents occurred all over the State, started collecting the news and news bulletins were issued. Apart from that the Deputy Commissioner concerned gave press communiques. Even then the people were not satisfied and rumours saying that so many houses were burnt went on.

***Shri GAURISHANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** The total number of death given by the Government was only $1\frac{1}{2}$ dozen, *i. e.*, 18 as it appeared from all these communiques. How could then the death roll rise up to 40?

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Law):** If the hon. Member is aware before the statement of the Chief Minister I also made a statement in which the death roll has been given as between 33 and 39 (39 being the highest). The fact is that some cases were reported to the Police but until and unless their bodies were found they could not be counted as deaths. If a report is made to the Police Station, the case is enquired and if a dead body is found and as soon as the information is received, we give the figure. That is why the exact number could not be given.

Mr. SPEAKER: Try to conclude early.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** In any case I would like to tell the hon. Members that in spite of the difficult task that the Publicity Department had to do at that time, the Publicity Department in various ways was doing its best to disseminate the correct news by issuing bulletins. Our District Officers were also supplementing these news by their communiques issued at district levels from time to time.

In view of what I have said I do not want to prolong the discussion today but I would assure the hon. Members that so far as the provisions of this Bill are concerned, it is not the intention of the Government to give a check to the freedom of expression because we feel that such expression of opinion is good for the functioning of democracy. Freedom of expression is a right for the common good and from that point of view so long that freedom of expression by individuals or by the Press is used for the common good of the people, I can assure this House and the Press that we shall not put any fetters whatsoever on their way. We shall use this Act only when we find some people or one Press are trying to spread rumours or news that are likely to incite communal passion and endanger public peace.

I would also like to inform this House that I have received a communication in this behalf from Shri Durga Das and we have given our utmost consideration to his view points. On his suggestion when he came to meet me, I immediately accepted the proposal for setting up a Press Advisory Committee in Assam. After seeing me he went back to Gauhati and met with a number of representatives from the Press there. Then Shri L. N. Phukan of *Assam Tribune* sent a list of newspaper representatives whom they wanted to be members of the Advisory Committee. As soon as I received it, I took action on it but on account of the illness of Shri S. K. Datta, the Chief Secretary, the order passed by me was delayed. That is why this was not received by them. Soon after this was passed by me I made enquiries and now I have been told the order has been long communicated and the list is possibly new in the possession of Shri L. N. Phukan who, I believe, has been appointed convener of this Committee. We would like this Committee to hold discussions on these matters and found out the way how matters can be dealt with. After this Committee comes into operation there will be no occasion for the Government to use the powers which we now seek to take under this Bill from this House.

With this appeal I hope the matter will be accepted both by this House and by the Press outside.

Mr. SPEAKER : One point Mr. Ahmed that your report has to be submitted by the 21st October, 1960. To-day is 21st October, the Select Committee has not passed it as yet. How it is possible then? I am afraid the Bill may not be passed during this Sessoin. Under rule 75 (page 20) of the Assam Legislative Assembly, it is said that "After presentation of the final report, a Select Committee on a Bill the member in-charge may move.

- (1) that the Bill as presented by the Select Committee be taken into consideration if a copy of the report has not been available for the use of member for days and such objection shall prevail unless the Speaker, in exercise of his discretion, allows the report to be taken into consideration,...

Again under Rule 77—says that

"If notice of a proposed amendment has not been sent to the Secretary two clear days before the meeting of the Assembly at which the Bill is to be considered, any member may object to the moving of the amendment....."

Therefore, after presentation of the report it requires 6 days for taking into consideration of the report, for final amendment. This Assembly is going to be prorouged on the 25th October of this month. We have only 4 days left. How do you reconcile this?

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance) :** I realise the difficulty. This motion was tabled by us on the 17th October when we expected that before the Session terminates, it may be possible to have the report from the Select Committee, fulfil all the restrictions placed under the Rules and have the matter considered by the 24th or 25th. In view of this demand, perhaps, it will not be possible to finalise this before the Session is

over. We have to consult the Leaders in this matter outside. In view of the circumstances, I will agree to have this matter referred to the Select Committee before the matter comes up to the House on condition that if necessary arises the House will not mind if we come forward with ordinance until such time...

Mr. SPEAKER : By tabling the motion, the right of making of ordinance should not be taken.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Law) :** In fairness to the House, I like to inform the House that our intention is to utilise this only when emergency arises. We take recourse to this provision, if the bill is introduced and then the House should not blame us.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) :** In view of the rules cited by the Speaker, it is not possible to pass the Bill. It is also not desirable. If the Bill remains pending no ordinance has to be made also. We cannot give our consent to it.

Mr. SPEAKER : Mr. Ahmed, I think, you will have to extend time.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED :** As it has to be discussed with the Select Committee, it may be required to extend time upto 24th of October, 1960.

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that the Assam Special Powers (Press) Bill, 1960 be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon by the 31st December, 1960.

After a pause

I put the question again. The question is that the Assam Special Powers (Press) Bill be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon by the 31st December, 1960.

HOUSE DIVIDED.

Ayes—18

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Pu Lalmawia | 10. U Jor Manik Syiem of Myllem |
| 2. Shri Birendra Kumar Das | 11. Shri Khogendra Nath Barbaruah. |
| 3. Shri Biswanath Upadhaya | 12. Md. Matlebuddin |
| 4. Shri Phani Bora | 13. Shri Prabhat Narayan Choudhury |
| 5. Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharya | 14. Kumar Prokritish Chandra Barua |
| 6. Shri Gopesh Namasudra | 15. Maulavi Sahadat Ali |
| 7. Shri Hareswar Goswami | 16. Dr. Srihari Das |
| 8. Shri Hiralal Patwary | 17. Shri Tarun Sen Deka |
| 9. Maulavi Jahan Uddin Ahmed | 18. Shri Mohi Kanta Das. |

Noes—53

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 1. Shri Bimala Prasad Chaliha | 27. Maulavi Kobat Hussain Ahmed |
| 2. Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed | 28. Prof. (Shrimati) Kom Kumari Barua. |
| 3. Shri Rupnath Brahma | 29. Shri Lila Kanta Borah |
| 4. Shri Hareswar Das | 30. Shrimati Lily Sen Gupta |
| 5. M. Moinul Haque Choudhury | 31. Shri Mahadev Das |
| 6. Shri Mahendra Nath Hazarika | 32. Maulavi Mahammed Idris |
| 7. Shri Biswadev Sarma | 33. Shri Manik Chandra Das |
| 8. Shri Radhika Ram Das | 34. Shri Mahananda Bora |
| 9. Shri Girindra Nath Gogoi | 35. Shri Mohidhar Pegoo |
| 10. Shri Lalit Kumar Doley | 36. Shri Mohi Kanta Das |
| 11. Shri Sai Sai Terang | 37. Shri Nanda Kishore Sinha |
| 12. Maulavi Abdul Matlib Mazumder | 38. Shri Narendra Nath Sarma |
| 13. Shri Baikuntha Nath Das | 39. Maulavi Nural Islam |
| 14. Shri Bhuban Chandra Pradhani | 40. Shri Omeo Kumar Das |
| 15. Shri Bishnu Lal Upadhyaya | 41. Shrimati Padma Kumari Gohain |
| 16. Shri Dandeswar Hazarika | 42. Shri Purnananda Chetia |
| 17. Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika | 43. Shri Radha Charan Choudhury |
| 18. Shri Durgeshwar Saikia | 44. Shri Radha Kishan Khemka |
| 19. Shri Dwijesh Chandra Deb Sarma | 45. Shri Rajendra Nath Barua |
| 20. Shri Emerson Momim | 46. Shri Ram Nath Das |
| 21. Dr. Ghanashyam Das | 47. Shri Ram Nath Sarma |
| 22. Shri Harinarayan Baruah | 48. Dr. Ram Prasad Choubey |
| 23. Shri Indreswar Khaund | 49. Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami |
| 24. Shri Joga Kanth Barua | 50. Shri Sarbeswar Bordoloi |
| 25. Mrs. Jyotsna Chanda | 51. Shri Siddhi Nath Sarma |
| 26. Shri Tamijuddin Prodhani | 52. Shri Surendra Nath Das |
| | 53. Shri Tajammul Ali Barlaskar |

(The question was negatived).

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. Ayes 18, Noes 53. Shri Bhattacharyya's amendment motion is lost.

I put the main question.

The question is that the Assam Special Powers (Press) Bill, 1960, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following members:-

1. The Chief Minister (Minister in-Charge).
2. Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, Minister, Finance, etc.
3. Shri Ram Nath Das, M.L.A.
4. Shri Siddhi Nath Sarma, M.L.A.
5. Shri Omeo Kumar Das, M.L.A.
6. Shri Hem Chandra Chakravarty, M.L.A.
7. Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya, M.L.A.
8. Shri Hareswar Goswami, M.L.A.
9. Shri Jor Manik Siem, M.L.A.

The report is to be submitted on or before the 21st October, 1960.

(The question was adopted)

The Assam Consolidation Of Holdings Bill, 1959.

Shri RAM NATH SARMA (Lumding): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following amendment.-

In Sub-clause (a) of clause 5, insert a "comma" after the word "made" and substitute the word "only" by the words "as far as possible"

This is necessary only for better interpretation in accordance with clause 2, proviso (2) occurring in the 3rd line.

Mr. SPEAKER: The amendment moved is in sub-clause (a) of clause 5, insert a "comma" after the word "made" and substitute the word "only" by the words "as far as possible".

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): I accept this amendment.

Mr. SPEAKER: I put the question that in sub-clause (a) of clause 5, insert a "comma" after the word "made" and substitute the word "only" by the words "as far as possible".

(The question was adopted)

Shri RAM NATH SARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following amendment:-

Substitute the second proviso to sub-clause (a) under clause 5, with the following :

“Provided further that the Consolidation Officer shall provide a person deprived of his land with land of the same value as he held before elsewhere preferably within the same area under the Scheme”.

This is necessary only to curtail the powers of the Consolidation Officer as well as to give facilities to the people. That is the purpose of my amendment.

Mr. SPEAKER : The amendment moved is substitute the second proviso to sub-clause (a) under clause 5 with the following;

“Provided further that the Consolidation Officer shall provide a person, deprived of his land with land of the same value as he held before elsewhere preferably within the same area under the Scheme”.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : I accept the amendment.

Mr. SPEAKER : I put the question. The question is that the second proviso to sub-clause (a) under Clause 5 be substituted with the following :

“Provided further that the Consolidation Officer shall provide a person deprived of his land with land of the same value as he held before elsewhere preferably within the same area under the Scheme.”

(The question was adopted.)

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is that clause 1 to 4 of the Assam Consolidation of Holdings Bill, 1959, do form part of the Bill.

(The question was adopted.)

The question is that clause 5 as amended does form part of the Bill.

(The question was adopted.)

There is no amendment and the question is that clauses 6 to 17 do form part of the Bill.

(The question was adopted.)

Shri RAM NATH SARMA (Lumding) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following amendment:

In sub-clause (4) of clause 18, insert the words “not exceeding” after the word “realise” and before the figures and words “50 per cent” occurring in the second line,

This is necessary only to give some relief to the poor people as also observed by many other Hon'ble Members.

Mr. SPEAKER : The amendment moved is in sub-clause (4) of clause 18, insert the words “not exceeding” after the word “realise” and before the figures and words “50 per cent” occurring in the second line,

Shri HARESWAR DAS: (Minister, Revenue) : I accept the amendment, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I put the question. The question is that in sub-clause (4) of clause 18, insert the words "not exceeding" after the word "realise" and before the figures and words "50 per cent" occurring in the second line.

(The question was adopted.)

I put the question that clause 18 as reported by the Select Committee and as amended by the House does form part of the Bill.

(The question was adopted.)

Clause 19 to 33 no amendment. The question is that clauses 19 to 33 as reported by the Select Committee do form part of the Bill.

(The question was adopted.)

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is that long and short title and Preamble of the Bill do form part of the Bill.

(The question was adopted.)

Shri HARESWAR DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Consolidation of Holdings Bill, 1959, as amended be passed.

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved is that the Assam Consolidation of Holdings Bill, 1959 as amended be passed.

Shri TARUNSEN DEKA (Nalbari-West): এই বিল সৰ্ব্বমুঠ ১ম বাৰৰ আলোচনাত বহুত সদস্যই বহু ধৰণৰ পৰামৰ্শ দিছিল আৰু ময়ো কেইটামান শৰামৰ্শ আগবঢ়াইছিলো। কিন্তু সংশোধনৰ দিবৰ সময়ত বিলখন পুৰাতনপুৰাতন ভাবে পঢ়ি চাই দেখিলো যে সংশোধনৰ কোনো সুযোগ আৰু সুবিধা তাত নাই সেই বাবেই কোনো সংশোধন দিব পৰা নহল, মাত্ৰ এজন সদস্যহে কেইটামান সংশোধনী দিছে। কিয়নো এই বিলখন এনেদৰে প্ৰণয়ন কৰা হৈছে যে তাত সংশোধনী দি উন্নত কৰাৰ সুযোগ নাই সেয়েই এজনত বাহিৰে অন্য সকল সদস্যই সংশোধনী দিয়া নাই। এতিয়া মই অনুৰোধ কৰিছো যে ভূমি সমিলকৰণ আৰু বিভাজন এই দুয়োটা বিষয়ত কৃষি উৎপাদনৰ লগত প্ৰয়োজনীয়তা আছে। কিন্তু বাস্তব দৃষ্টিভঙ্গিৰে চালে দেখা যায় যে এই বিলখন এই ধৰণে আইন হৈ গলে আমাৰ বৰ্ত্তমানৰ সামাজিক ব্যবস্থাত প্ৰয়োগ কৰিব পৰা নহব।

Mr. SPEAKER: Rule 95 defined the scope of the Bill, it says, the discussion on a motion that the Bill or the Bill as amended as the case may be, passed shall be confined to the submission of arguments either in support of the Bill or for the rejection of the Bill.

Shri TARUNSEN DEKA: আইনখন পাছ কৰাৰ বিৰুদ্ধে মই কব খুজিছো।

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): I believe in submitting arguments in support of the Bill an hon. Member can also say what are the impediments to the application of the Bill.

Shri TARUNSEN DEKA: অধ্যক্ষ মহাশয়, মই কব খোজো যে বিলখন পাচ হোৱাত মই সমৰ্থন কৰিব নোৱাৰো বৰং বিৰোধীতা হৈ কৰিছো। যি কাৰণে বিৰোধীতা কৰিছো তাৰ প্ৰথম কাৰণ হল যে বিলখন বাস্তব ক্ষেত্ৰত এইবাবে প্ৰয়োগ কৰা সম্ভবপৰ নহয়। দ্বিতীয় কাৰণ হল যি সকল দুখীয়া কৃষক আছে সেই বিলাকক উচ্ছেদ কৰি