



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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong at 10 a.m. on Monday, the 24th October, 1960.

**PRESENT**

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

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**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**STARRED QUESTIONS**

(To which oral answers were given)

**Regarding filling-up of the post of Subdivisional Officer of Gauhati  
Embankment and Drainage Subdivision**

**Shri TARU SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West)** asked :

\*61 Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department (Flood Control) be pleased to state—

- (a) Who is the senior-most Overseer (Seniority in regard to period of service) in the State of Assam ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that one Overseer whose position was 9th in respect of seniority has been promoted to Subdivisional Officer and has been placed in-charge of Gauhati Subdivision since May 1960 ?
- (c) If so, why ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Flood Control and Irrigation Wing)** replied :

61. (a)—Shri Jadav Chandra Das, is the senior-most Overseer in the amalgamated Cadre of the Subordinate Engineering Service in the Public Works Department, Assam.

(b)&(c)—Late Shri Debendra Nath Das, Subdivisional Officer, Gauhati Embankment and Drainage Subdivision under the Kamrup Embankment and Drainage Division fell suddenly ill and proceeded on leave for 15 days from the 22nd April 1960 in the first instance which was subsequently extended for another 120 days. He had to be immediately relieved of his duties by Shri Kula Nath Chutia, Senior most Overseer in the Gauhati Embankment and Drainage Subdivision as a local arrangement. The Overseer was allowed to hold charge of the Subdivision in the interest of Public Service to avoid any dislocation of works during the flood season and without disturbing the senior-most Overseers who were in-charge of important flood control works at that time elsewhere.

The above was purely temporary arrangement and will not prejudice the claims of the Officers senior to him.

With the flood season receding, steps are being taken up for filling up the post of Subdivisional Officer, Gauhati Embankment and Drainage Subdivision permanently.

✓ **Shri SARBESWAR BARDOLOI (Titabar)** : May I know whether the seniority is counted on Subdivision-wise or Division-wise or State-wise ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY [Minister, P. W. D. (Flood Control)]** : Seniority is counted on State-wise basis.

✓ **Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI** : Why then the seniority is given here on Subdivision-wise ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY** : I have given the full reasons in my reply.

#### Regarding selection of Chairmanship of School Board

**Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West)** asked :

\* 62. Will the Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is the declared principle of Government that Education should be free from politics ?
- (b) If so, why many active leaders of Political Parties have been selected for the posts of Chairmanship of School Board ?
- (c) Whether there is dearth of Educationists ?

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

62. (a)—Yes.

(b)—A School Board has mainly two types of duties, one is Academic and other is constructive and development. The first involves inspection, teaching, routine, etc. for which we have the Inspecting officers. The second involves popularising education, opening of new schools, amalgamation of schools, construction and repairs of school buildings, settling disputes regarding sites of schools for which non-official men with mass contact is necessary. It is with this end in view Government nominated respected non-official persons as chairman of school Boards for the first term. From the 2nd term the chairman will be elected by the members themselves.

(c)—There is definitely dearth of educationists.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) :** Is it not a fact that inspite of the fact that there are people available who take keen interest in the development of education, prominent and active Congressmen who spend almost all their time in Congress work, have been made, in many places, Presidents or Chairmen of the School Boards ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Depnty Minister, Education) :** There may be some.

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon) :** What is the term of office of the Chairman and who selects them ?

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The terms and conditions are laid down in the Act,

**Shrimoti KOMOL KUMARI BARUA :** Just now the Deputy Minister said that Government nominates the Chairman. May I know who recommends the names for Chairmanship ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS :** The names are recommended by the Deputy Commissioner.

**Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Ponery) :** মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে কৈছে যে শিক্ষা popularise কৰিবৰ কাৰণে চেয়াৰমেন নিযুক্ত কৰা হয়। কংগ্ৰেছৰ কিছুমান চেয়াৰমেন সেই মহকুমাত একেবাৰে unpopular, এই কথা চৰকাৰে জানেনে ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS :** তেনে কোনো খবৰ নাই।

**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East) :** What are the reasons for anomalies in Gauhati School Board and also in Dibrugarh School Board ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS :** There are not much anomalies in Gauhati and Dibrugarh School Boards.

**Shri HIRALAL PATWARY :** কিছুমান ঠাইৰ চেয়াৰমেন আৰু চেক্ৰেটাৰীৰ মাজতে প্ৰভেদ থকা কথা জানেনে ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS :** দুই এঠাইত হব পাৰে।

**Shrimoti KOMOL KUMARI BARUA :** প্ৰভেদ থকা ঠাই বোৰৰ প্ৰতিকাবৰ কিবা ব্যৱস্থা চৰকাৰে কৰিছেনে ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS :** কৰা হৈছে।

**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY :** গোঁৱাৰাটি স্কুল বৰ্ডৰ অবস্থা উন্নত হৈছেনে ?

**Mr. SPEAKER :** হৈছে বুলি কৈছে নহয়।

**Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery)** : লোকেল বৰ্ডৰ হাতত থাকোঁতে লোকেল বৰ্ডৰ দুজন প্ৰতিনিধি লৈছিল। এতিয়া সেইটো কিয় হোৱা নাই ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Education)** : সেইটো এতিয়া কৰা হোৱা নাই, কাৰণ এক্সন সংশোধন কৰা হ'ব।

**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East)** : মিউনিসিপেলিটি আৰু টাউন কমিটিৰ পৰা দুজন প্ৰতিনিধি লৈছিল; কিন্তু এতিয়া গাৱলীয়া অঞ্চলৰ পৰা প্ৰতিনিধি লোৱাৰ ব্যৱস্থা হোৱা নাই কিয় ?

**Mr. SPEAKER** : কৈছে নহয়, এক্সন সংশোধন কৰিব।

**Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding)** : মন্ত্ৰীমহোদয়ে কৈছে যে পঞ্চায়ত আইন মতে পঞ্চায়তৰ তললৈ যাব। ইফালে স্কুল বৰ্ডে গঠন কৰিছে। তেন্তে স্কুলবোৰৰ অবস্থা কি হ'ব ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS** : পঞ্চায়তক দিয়া হ'বনে স্কুল বৰ্ডক দিয়া হ'ব, সেইটো ফাইনেল হোৱা নাই।

**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY : D.P.I.-এ**  
স্কুল বৰ্ডৰ আটাইবোৰ কাম পঞ্চায়তক দিয়াৰ আপত্তি কৰিছেনে ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS** : আটাইবোৰ নহয়, কেইটামানহে, যেনে—মিৰিলাক full fledged আঞ্চলিক পঞ্চায়ত আছে সেই বোৰত disbursement of teachers salary and the building grants পঞ্চায়তৰ জৰিয়তে দিবৰ কৰিণে গৱৰ্ণ মেণ্টলৈ ডি, পি, আই, suggestion দিছে আৰু state board-য়েও প্ৰস্তাৱ লৈছে।

**Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lohowal)** : চাহ বাগিছাৰ তৰফৰ পৰা কাৰোবাক সদস্য লবনে ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS** : এতিয়া কৰা হোৱা নাই।

**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY** : এক কৰোঁতে মিউনিসিপেলিটি বা টাউন কমিটিৰ বাহিৰৰ থকা বিৰাত অঞ্চলৰ প্ৰতিনিধি লোৱাৰ কথা বিবেচনা কৰিছিলনে ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS** : মিউনিসিপেলিটি আৰু টাউন কমিটিৰ সদস্য লোৱাৰ কথা আছে।

**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY** : যেতিয়া পঞ্চায়তৰ তললৈ আহিব তেতিয়া প্ৰায় ৭৫ হেজাৰ মানুহ থাকিব। তেওঁলোকৰ প্ৰতিনিধি সংখ্যা ভেতিত লোৱাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিবনে ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS** : সেইটো ব্যৱস্থা কৰা টান।

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon) :**  
 উপমন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে কলে যে, স্কুলবোর্ড স্কুলবোর্ড তলত থাকিবনে পঞ্চায়তৰ তলত থাকিব  
 এতিয়াও final হোৱা নাই। স্কুল বোর্ডবোৰ কাৰ তলত থাকিব স্থিৰ কৰি উক্ত সিদ্ধান্ত  
 ১৯৬১ চনৰ পৰা বলবৎ কৰিব পৰা হব বুলি চৰকাৰে ভাবেনে ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Educa-  
 tion) :** পঞ্চায়তৰ আইন মতে স্কুলবোর্ড পঞ্চায়তৰ হাতলৈ যাব। কিন্তু কিমান বছৰৰ  
 পাছত যাব কোৱা টান।

### **Appointment of Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors of Schools**

**Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) asked:**

\*63. Will the Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government have since filled in all the posts of Inspectors of Schools and the Assistant Inspectors of Schools as provided for in the Budget for 1960-61 ?
- (b) Whether Government have decided to appoint the officers from among the existing inspecting staff or from outside ?
- (c) Whether Government are aware that appointment by promotion to these posts will achieve better result than appointing some persons having higher qualifications but having no inspecting experience ?

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

63. (a)—Government have created two more posts of Inspector of Schools in addition to the existing four and these posts have already been filled up. Also Government created 9 more posts of Assistant Inspector of Schools for attaining better supervision and improvement of Secondary Education. Necessary steps have been taken to fill up these posts also.

(b)—In respect of Inspectors of Schools the posts have been filled up from the combined cadre of Assam Educational Service but in respect of Assistant Inspectors of Schools appointment is being made from among experienced Headmasters, Deputy Inspectors, Lecturers and Teachers.

(c)—Government have decided to make appointment on principle mentioned at (b) above.

**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari East)** : On what consideration the two additional posts of Inspector of Schools have been created ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Education)** : On consideration that there will be more supervision and inspection and inspection of the Schools. Both for inspection and administrative purposes these two posts have been created.

**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY** : I want to know from the Deputy Minister as to what is the basis for posting Inspectors. In case of Nowgong there are only 40 schools and for that there is an Inspector and in case of Kamrup there are 100 schools and for that also there is an Inspector. Then what is the basis of posting Inspector ? Is it one area basis or school basis ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS** : Inspectors are posted both on area basis as well as school basis. In Nowgong there is an Inspector because Mikir Hills is also included in Nowgong. In cases where there are sufficient number of schools, more Assistant Inspectors will be posted there.

**Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra)** ইনসপেক্টৰ দুজনক ক'ত post কৰিব বুলি চৰকাৰে ভাবিছে ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS** : এজনক গাৰোপাহাৰ আৰু গৌৱালপাৰাৰ কাৰণে আৰু আন জনক উত্তৰ লক্ষীমপুৰ আৰু তেজপুৰৰ কাৰণে Post কৰা হৈছে ।

**Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur)** : Whether these two posts of Inspectors have been created newly ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS** : Yes.

**Shri MOHANANDA BORA** : May I know from Government whether they propose to posts one Assistant Inspector in each Subdivision ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS** : I do not know whether it will be possible or not, but we will post two Assistant Inspectors along with the Inspector of Schools.

**Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar)** : Out of 9 Assistant Inspectors posts how many have been filled up and from which cadre they have been promoted.

**Mr. SPEAKER** : He has already said that in respect of Assistant Inspectors of Schools appointment is being made from among experienced Headmasters, Deputy Inspectors, Lecturers and Teachers.

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS** : The posts have not yet been filled up.

**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East)** : The Deputy Minister said that more Assistant Inspectors will be appointed where the workload is heavy. Will Government consider the desirability of appointing at least two more Assistant Inspectors in the North Bank of the Kamrup District where there are 74 recognised High Schools ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Education)** : It is difficult to say, but for the Kamrup and United Khasi and Jaintia Hills District we are considering for appointing three Assistant Inspectors.

**Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra)** : Inspectorsৰ Headquarterৰ লগতে এই Assistant Inspectorsৰ Headquarterও থাকিব নে আনঠাইত থাকিব ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS** : Inspectorৰ তলত থাকিব কিন্তু বেলেগে বেলেগে কাম কৰিব।

**Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North-Lakhimpur)** : উত্তৰ লক্ষিমপুৰক তেজপুৰৰ লগত সংলগ্ন কৰিলেও সুবিধা নহয় আৰু ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰ লগত সংলগ্ন কৰিলেও সুবিধা নহয় গতিকে উত্তৰ লক্ষিমপুৰত এজন বেলেগ Assistant Inspector দিয়াৰ কথা চৰকাৰে ভাবিবনে ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS** : সেইটো Appointment ৰ সময়ত ভবা হব।

**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHAUDHURY** : Do Government propose to appoint another Deputy Minister to cope with the workload of Education Department ?

**Mr. SPEAKER** : That question does not arise.

**Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS [North-Salmara (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]** : May I know whether Inspectresses and Assistant Inspectresses will be appointed to some of the posts ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS** : Inspectresses will be appointed.

**Shrimati KAMAL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon)** : How many Inspectresses will be appointed ?

**Mr. SPEAKER** : There will not be any appointment of Inspectresses as such, but women are also eligible for these posts. Isn't it ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS** : Yes, Sir.

Regarding Inspector General of Police, Assam (Now on leave)

**Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS [Patacharkuchi (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]** asked :

\*64. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that an increment of Rs.500 per month has been given to Shri S. M. Dutta, Inspector General of Police, Assam now on leave ?



- (b) If so, what is the reason for giving this sudden increment ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that Auditor of the Central Government after auditing the accounts in the Department under the said Inspector General of Police, found that a sum of Rs.80,000 was mis-appropriated ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that Rs.500 every month is deducted from the salary of the said Inspector General of Police, Shri S. M. Dutta to make up the loss ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister)** replied :

64. (a)—No.  
 (b)—Does not arise.  
 (c)—No.  
 (d)—Does not arise.

**Amount spent in Mizo Hills District for relief measures**

**Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West)** asked :

\*65. Will the Minister-in-charge of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Famine condition in the District of Mizo Hills still prevailing ?
- (b) What is the total amount of money spent for relief measure up till now ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister)** replied :

65. (a)—Although the famine condition in the District of Mizo Hills is likely to continue upto the end of the current month, the position is expected to improve to a great extent with the harvesting of early crops which will commence towards the end of this month. But a clearer picture will be available only after the harvesting of the major crop by the end of December next. At any rate the condition as it prevails at present will not continue next year.

(b)—So far the Government has incurred liabilities for relief measures to the extent of Rs.2,50,55,768.04 nP. But the actual expenditure figures are not immediately available.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur)**: May I know whether the recommendations made by the Study Group of this Assembly have been implemented for combating the famine in the Mizo Hills ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister)**: They have been substantially implemented though I am not in a position to give details now.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI**: What is the number of vehicles used for carrying rice to Lungleh and Aijal ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister)**: I will require notice to give the exact figure, but I may tell the hon. Member that we purchased about 60 new jeeps, some one-tonners and power wagons. Hired vehicles were also used for this purpose.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur)**: What is the amount spent for airdropping of rice?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA**: The figure cannot be given now because of the fact that we have yet to know from the Air Force what they would charge for the operation.

**Shri SARBESWAR BARDOLOI (Titabar)**: Is relief continuing there still?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA**: Yes, Sir.

**Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi)**: What are the conveyances that have been used for carrying rice?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA**: To some are by boats. Three-tonners ply upto Aijal, also jeeps and power wagons, besides, air-dropping.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI**: Could arrangements be made for carrying of rice from the East Pakistan side to Aijal or Lungleh?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA**: Actually we booked rice to Demagiri *via* Chittagong.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI**: Has it been possible to bring rice from Chittagong to Aijal?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA**: It was possible but there were difficulties as the river Karnafuli was not navigable for a considerable time because of the dam the Pakistan Government is building there.

**Dr. GHANASYAM DAS [North Salmara (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]**: May I know whether the Central Government has contributed any amount towards relief of the famine in the Mizo District and, if so, what is the amount?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA**: There is a pattern scheme of the Government of India and we have written for their share of contribution.

**Dr. GHANASYAM DAS**: What is the amount?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA**: The exact amount has not yet been determined.

**Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery)**: May I know whether the people of the Mizo District are satisfied with the relief operations of the Government?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):** The situation immediately after rat menace was one of great uncertainty and on account of communication difficulties there was considerable difficulty in maintaining adequate supplies. Subsequently things gradually stabilised. Although at one time the people were somewhat resentful, now my report is they are satisfied with what we have done and are doing.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** Was there any reported case of death during the famine period ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA:** There were some reported cases of death.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Were they verified ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA:** Many of them were verified, but we have yet to receive confirmation from the Deputy Commissioner.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** What is the total number of such cases ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA:** I cannot say the exact number off-hand. At one time the number of cases reported, has 45.

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North):** *Re:* Air-dropping of rice, how can Government account for the number of bags actually dropped in different places ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA:** There are dropping zones—where there are people, either Government officers or representatives of the village councils, to take charge of the rice.

**Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi):** May I know what is the subsidised rate of rice supplied to different areas of the district ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA:** It is about Rs.21. The entire transport cost, whatever it may be, is subsidised and rice is given against distress loan.

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS:** Are Government aware that there is some anomaly in the quantity of rice loaded and the quantity actually dropped ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA:** We received some reports like that. Sometimes air-dropping becomes a hazardous job due to the difficult nature of the country; for rains and also jhum-smoke it becomes difficult for the pilot to carry out the air-dropping operation.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Sir, may I know whether any complaint was received against the handling agents in Silchar and Aijal ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA:** Some complaints were received. It is however not possible to give details now.

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North):** Sir, did the Government receive any complaint that there was any arrangement between the contractors and the air people, *viz.*, the crews who dropped the rice bags and also the persons who received the gunny bags that 50 per cent of the bags were being dropped there and that the bags were being taken into account?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY (Minister, Supply):** Such a complaint was received by the Secretary, Supply. He was asked to enquire into the matter and also the Deputy Director of Supply was asked to enquire into the same.

**Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North-Lakhimpur):** Sir, the Government of Assam and the Assam Provincial Congress Committee made some appeal in connection with the famine which took place in the Mizo Hills district for outside help. May I know what was the response from outside the State in this regard?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):** Sir, so far my information goes, in response to the appeal made by the Government quite a large number of people responded immediately with help both from outside and inside the State.

#### Regarding non-payment of pensions to the Political Sufferers

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog) asked :**

\*66. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the list of Political Sufferers in Assam has been finalised?
- (b) If not, what is the reason?
- (c) When the list be finalised?
- (d) How many Political Sufferers are there Subdivision-wise?
- (e) What are their names?
- (f) Why the pensions granted to Political Sufferers have not yet been paid?

**Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister for Political Sufferers) replied :**

66. (a), (b), (c), (d) & (e)—Hon'ble Member's attention is invited to the replies to Question No.142(a) and (b), dated 21st October 1960.

(f)—The actual payment of the pension is made by the treasury officers concerned on receipt of a payment order from the Accountant General. This payment order is issued by the Accountant General on receipt of the descriptive rolls, showing full particulars of the grantee, from the district officers concerned. In some cases the payment order is held up for non-receipt of the descriptive rolls from the district officers.

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR:** Sir, is it a fact that there are many Political Sufferers who have not yet received any help from the Government?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The reply is already there.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** Will the Government consider the advisability for fixing a dead line for receiving applications from the Political Sufferers and expedite the disposal of their cases ?

**Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister):** Sir, Government will certainly consider that question.

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):** Sir, our intention is to close this scheme of ruling to Political Sufferers as soon as possible. But the difficulty is that the number of applicants are many. The cases are very old also. As such it takes a lot of time to decide the cases. Previously, for the information of the House I would like to say that we used to take decision straightaway from here. But when we received complaints as a result of following their system on established these Advisory Boards that payments have been made to non-deserving persons these Boards consider every applications on its merit and send their recommendations.

✓ **Regarding summoning of Special Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly**

**Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) asked:**

\*67. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) How many resolutions, petitions and telegrams were received by the Government to make necessary arrangements for summoning of a special Session of the Assembly to decide about the official language issue and to discuss the situation arising out of it ?
- (b) Whether Government received a telegram, dated 6th July, copies of which were given to the Governor of Assam and the Chief Minister by the questioner for holding extraordinary Session of the Assembly over language issue ?
- (c) Why a Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly could not be summoned earlier than the 6th of October, 1960 ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA replied :**

67. (a)—Government have received requests from eight members of the Assembly to summon a Special Session of the Assembly to decide about the official language issue and to discuss about the situation arising out of it.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Because at that time the leader of the Houses was seriously ill and moreover Government felt that the presence of M. L. As were necessary in the affected areas to help in restoring normalcy.

**Condition of Assamese students studying in different Institutions in Calcutta**

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa)** asked :

\*68. Will the Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government are aware about the number of students studying in different higher Institutes in West Bengal for want of such facilities in Assam ?
- (b) How many of them are still studying there and how many of them did not return there as yet ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that atmosphere in Education Institutes in West Bengal became adverse for the Assamese students for their study since June 1960 and heads of Educational Institutions expressed inability to give security to Assamese students there ?

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

68. (a)—As far as Government are aware, there were 73 Assamese students studying in different Institutions in Calcutta.

(b)—According to reports, 62 students left Calcutta and 11 students continued to stay.

(c)—The Assamese students did not feel safe in Calcutta ; but some of the authorities asked the Assamese students to return after Puja vacation.

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa)** : Sir, may I know whether this Government moved the Government of India or the West Bengal Government to ensue security for our students reading in Calcutta ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Education)** : Yes, the West Bengal Government was moved in this regard.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur)** : Sir, may I know what was the total number of students involved ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS** : Sir, there are 73 students in Calcutta. Out of this number, only 62 students left Calcutta, 11 of them were still there.

**Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery)** : Sir, is it a fact that the Principal of one college had informed our Government that the Assamese students reading in Calcutta were not safe ? Whether our Government had taken any step in this regard ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS** : We have received an application from one student.

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUAH (Katoni Gaon)**: Sir, may I know from the Government whether any Assamese student was assaulted in Calcutta ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Deputy Minister)**: Sir, one Assamese student was assaulted.

**Shri SARBESWAR BARDOLOI (Titabar)**: Sir, may I know from the Government what was the arrangement made for their education who left Calcutta for Assam ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS**: Sir, the Principal of the Calcutta Engineering College personally came to Gauhati and met the students and requested them to go back to their college in Calcutta. If I remember aright the Rector of the Jadavpur University made an appeal and we have informed the students accordingly.

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa)**: Sir, may I know from the Government whether any body from West Bengal came to persuade the students to go back to Calcutta ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS**: Sir, the Principal of the Calcutta Engineering College came personally to take back the students.

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUAH**: Sir, may I know whether he was taking any student with him to Calcutta ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS**: Shri Triguna Sen came to Assam, I think, in the middle of August, 1960. He also met the students and requested them to go back.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur)**: Was the matter of sending back the students to Calcutta taken up at Ministerial level by our Government ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS**: Sir, I have already written a D. O. to the Chief Minister of West Bengal Government in this regard.

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister)**: Sir, we have discussed the matter with the Chief Minister of West Bengal.

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUAH**: Sir, my question is whether the Principal who came to Assam from Calcutta brought the students along with him ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS**: No, Sir, the Principal had come to Gauhati only.

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA**: Sir, may I know what was the outcome of the discussion with the Chief Minister of West Bengal ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):** We discussed the matter with the Chief Minister, West Bengal and other Principals of the colleges in Calcutta and that they expected that the students in Calcutta would be requested to rejoin their colleges.

**Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Landing)** ৬২ টা লৰাৰ ভিতৰত কিমান লৰা ফিৰি গল ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Education):** তেওঁলোকৰ খবৰ দিয়া হৈছে তেওঁলোকৰ কলেজ আজি খুলিব এতিয়াহে গম পোৱা যাৰ কিমান ছাত্ৰ ফিৰি গল।

**Shri RAMNATH SARMA** বিবিলাক লৰা ঘূৰি যাৰ নোৱাৰিব তেওঁলোকৰ শিক্ষাৰ নিমিত্তে ইয়াত কিবা ব্যৱস্থা হব নে ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS** ঘূৰি যোৱা অসম্ভৱ হলে তেওঁলোকৰ শিক্ষাৰ ব্যৱস্থা ইয়াতে কৰিব লাগিব।

**Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery):** Sir, is it a fact that the food was not supplied to Assamese students reading in Engineering Colleges in Calcutta for 3 days ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Deputy Minister):** Sir, we have no such information.

### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the library table)

**Regarding beating of certain persons by the Police at Sibsagar on 22nd June, 1960**

**Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri)** asked :

172. Will the Minister, Home be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the police had beaten some persons mercilessly on 22nd June, 1960 after sunset in Sibsagar town ?
- (b) How many persons were beaten and on what fault ?
- (c) How many injured persons were removed to Hospital and who are they and what are their occupations ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that one Assistant Sub-Inspector of Jorhat Thana, who happened to come and pass through Sibsagar Town on the very same day in civil dress, to give evidence in the court next day, is also beaten and later removed to Hospital ?
- (e) If so, why ?



**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister)** replied :

172. (a) On 22nd June, 1960 the police had to disperse an unlawful assembly in front of Sibsagar Court by resorting to mild lathi charge.

(b)—A few persons were affected by that lathi charge. A crowd of about 400 persons collected, shouted slogans and demanded unconditional release of persons arrested the previous day at Sonari in connection with the language disturbances. The crowd became violent and rushed to the court lock-up. Hence it was declared an unlawful assembly.

(c)—Only two injured persons were removed to Hospital and they were (1) Zambada *alias* Tikhar of Murnoi Kinar and Chiranjilal Agarwalla of Delemukh Chariali. The former is a cultivator and the latter a shopkeeper by profession.

(d)—Yes. The Officer is a Sub-Inspector of Police and not an Assistant Sub-Inspector. He is reported to be in uniform at the time of the incident.

(e)—The Sub-Inspector who happened to pass by the place of occurrence, became a target of attack by some members of the dispersing crowd and was assaulted causing bleeding injury.

**Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri)** : Whether that S. I. who was injured had to be down as indoor patient in Sibsagar Hospital for few days since 23rd June, 1960 ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA** : He was injured and had to be taken to hospital. That is our information.

**Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH** : Whether it is a fact that the man was beaten while he was returning from his duty after sinking tube well in Moran, ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA** : We have no information as to from where he was returning.

**Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH** : Whether that Zambada who was one of the injured was a Government employee ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA** : I have no information.

**Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH** : With regard to (c), whether it is a fact that the house of this gentleman, Shri Agarwalla, was broken down and then he was taken out and beaten while he was in his own house at night ?

**Mr. SPEAKER** : Your information will be taken note of by the Chief Minister.

**Issue or Cancellation of Pattas under the Assam Evacuee Property Act, 1951**

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog)** asked :

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

- (a) Why Pattas have not been given to those persons who have been allowed to occupy evacuee properties such as lands ?
- (b) How long these will remain as evacuee properties ?
- (c) What is the amount to be paid for occupation of such land ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister)** replied :

173 (a)—The Evacuee Property Management Committee which administers all evacuee properties has no right to issue or cancel any Patta. Under the Assam Evacuee Property Act, 1951 the Committee can only allot, under the Provisions of the Act, the properties taken over by it for management. The Committee has only such rights over the lands as the evacuees had before their migration to Pakistan.

(b)—So long as the evacuees have rights and interests in these properties under the provisions of the Assam evacuee Property Act.

(c)—At present at the rate of Rs.10 per bigha per annum.

**Members of the Subdivisional Minority Boards of Goalpara and Dhubri**

**Md. SHAHADAT ALI (North Salmara)** asked :

174. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) When the Minority Board of Goalpara and Dhubri Subdivisions were last constituted ?
- (b) Who are the Members of the Boards for Goalpara and Dhubri ?
- (c) Whether these Boards have submitted any resolution for the interest of the minority to the Government ?
- (d) If the answer is in affirmative, whether the resolutions submitted have been duly considered and acted upon ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister)** replied :

174. (a)—On 2nd February, 1960 and 5th August, 1960 respectively.

(b) (i)—The following are the Members of the Subdivisional Minority Board, Goalpara :—

1. Subdivisional Officer, Goalpara, *Ex-Officio* Chairman.
2. Shri K. N. Nath, M. L. A., Goalpara.
3. Shri S. M. Sen Gupta, Advocate, Goalpara.
4. Khan Bahadur Mizanur Rahman, B. L., Goalpara.
5. Shri Asraf Ali, Goalpara.
6. Shri Mahiuddin Ahmed, Goalpara.

(ii) The following are the Members of the Subdivisional Minority Board, Dhubri :—

1. Deputy Commissioner, Goalpara, *Ex-Officio* Chairman.
2. Shri Md. Umaruddin, *Ex-M. L. A.*, Dhubri.
3. Shri Tamijuddin Pradhani, M. L. A., Dhubri.
4. Shri Syed Ahmed Ali, Chairman, Local Board, Dhubri.
5. Shri S. C. Singha.
6. Kumar Prakritish Chandra Barua, M. L. A., P. O. Gauripur, Goalpara.

(c)—No.

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

**Regarding abandonement of the project in Namdang river**

**Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri)** asked :

175. Will the Minister, P.W.D. (E. & D.) be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Government had abandoned the Project of making the sluice-gate in Namdang river near the A. T. Road in Sibsagar Subdivision ?

(b) If so, what are the reasons which led to the abandonement of this project ?

(c) If not, why it is not yet completed ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY** [Minister-in-charge, P.W.D., (F.C. & I. Wing)] replied :

175. (a)—Yes.

(b)—After diversion of the Namdang into the Mitong through Kumarjan it is not proposed to proceed further with the work due to technical reasons.

(c)—In view of reply to (b) above it does not arise.

**Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri)** : Whether Government received some demands from the people to the effect that the project was necessary in the public interest?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY** : Government received such a demand from a section of the people but there is also an opposite demand from another section that it was not necessary.

**Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH** : Who are those people that do not want it ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY** : I do not think any answer to this is necessary.

**Alleged misappropriation of Government money by the outgoing Headmaster of Silchar Government Higher Secondary School**

**Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West)** asked :

176. Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Government is aware that there has been temporary misappropriation of Government money by an outgoing Headmaster of Silchar Government Higher Secondary School ?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken by the Government in the matter ?

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

176. (a)—A complaint has been received only recently in this regard.

(b)—The Internal Auditor of the Department has been asked to submit a report after auditing the accounts of the School.

**Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA** : What is the name of the Headmaster of that School ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Education):** Shri Chandra Kumar Barooah.

**Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West):** When was the information about this received and how long do Government expect to get the audit report in question ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS:** We got the information recently and we expect the report from the Internal Auditor soon.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** Sir, what is meant by 'recently' whether it is two months or three months ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS:** It was in the month of September last.

### Starting of M. A. Classes in Bengali in the Gauhati University

**Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West)** asked:

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

- (a) What arrangements have been made so far to train the Teachers in Bengali to qualify themselves in Master of Arts degree for Higher Secondary Schools in Bengali speaking areas ?
- (b) Whether the Government realise the immediate necessity of starting M. A. classes in Bengali in the Gauhati University ?

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

177. (a)—No. specific steps have been taken. Those who want to do M.A. in Bengali are however eligible for Post-Graduate Scholarships under the development Scheme.

(b)—It is for the University to decide, however Government of Assam request the Gauhati University to examine the question.

**Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA:** Has the name of anyone been forwarded for Post-graduate scholarship under that development scheme ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS:** No, we have not received any application from any one, if anyone apply for it then he or she will be awarded this scholarship.

**Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA:** May I know from the Government as to whether they have advertised for these scholarships ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS:** We always advertise those scholarships.

**Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA:** When there is no course for M. V. classes in Bengali in the Gauhati University, how the scholarship-holders, if any can be trained in that subject ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Education):** So long M. V. classes in Bengali are not started in the Gauhati University, the students may be allowed to avail of that scholarship in the Calcutta University if they so desire.

**Non-graduate Headmaster or Headmistress in the Government School**

**Mrs. JOYTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West)** asked :

178. Will the Minister, Education be pleased to state whether there is any non-Graduate Headmaster or Headmistress in any of the Government Schools of the State ?

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

178. Yes.

**Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA:** Who are those teachers and what are their names ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS:** There is only one Headmistress in the Shillong Girl's High School, Jail Road.

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Kotanigaon):** Sir, what is the minimum qualification of a Headmaster or Headmistress ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS:** Graduate and B. T. degree.

**Mrs JYOTSNA CHANDA:** How then Government could appoint one who is not qualified for the post ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS:** She is a much experienced lady and also passed L. T. degree.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The appointment was made on promotion.

**Regarding the construction of a permanent bridge over the river Rupohi**

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog)** asked :

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

(a) Whether a permanent bridge will be constructed over the river Rupohi on the Sarupeta-Bhuyapara Public Works Department Road ?

(b) If so, when ?

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

179. (a)—At present there is no proposal for construction of a permanent bridge.

(b) Does not arise.

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog)**: Will Government construct a bridge over the Rupohi river ?

**Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI**: There is no proposal like that.

**Accommodation of Kakapathar Police Out-Post  
in a rented house**

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa)** asked :

180. Will the Minister-in-charge for Home be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that Kakapathar Police Out-Post in Dibrugarh is accommodated in a rented house ?

(b) What is the monthly rent of the house ?

(c) Whether Government propose to construct its own houses for this Kakapathar Police Thana ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister)** replied :

180. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Rs.20 per month .

(c)—Steps are being taken to find out suitable land for construction of building for Kakapathar Police Out-Post.

✓ **Regarding the Assamese book "Ashirbad"**

**Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West)** asked :

181. Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state—

(a) Under what principle the Assamese book "ASHIRBAD" was approved by the Director of Public Instruction of Assam ?

(b) How many copies of this book were purchased by the Education Department for the State and District Libraries ?

(c) Under whose instruction these purchases were made ?

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

181. (a)—The procedure for selection of books for approval as prize and Library Books is as follows—

- (1) The publisher or the author applies to Director of Public Instruction with specimen copies.
- (2) The book is gone through by the Secretary of the Text Book Committee. He is to see that the language and content is suitable for the school children.
- (3) On his report the books are approved by the Director of Public Instruction and a gazette notification is issued.

This was the old procedure. Now-a-days, the books along with the report of the Secretary, Text Book Committee is placed before the Text Book Committee. On recommendation of the Text Book Committee the books are approved by Director of Public Instruction.

আশীর্বাদ was approved by Director of Public Instruction in 1955.

(b)—99 copies.

(c)—On the recommendation of the selection committee constituted by Government in their letter No. EAS. 13/57/52, dated 21st March, 1959. The members are the following—

1. Director of Public Instruction.
2. Special Officer, Secondary Education.
3. Librarian, State Library, Shillong.

**Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West):** May I know from Government whether Government know that the book "Ashirbad" is partially responsible for the last incidents of riot in Assam?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS:** I don't think so.

**Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur):** How can that be? The book was published in 1955?

**Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA:** But this book was mentioned in the report of the Parliamentary Delegation also.

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS:** I have heard about that.

**Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA:** Has Government taken any action to find out as to who is responsible for this Book?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS:** I have already replied to that question Sir.

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North):** In the reply it is said that the book was approved by the D. P. I., but so far the report of the Parliamentary Delegation was concerned it appears.....



**Mr. SPEAKER:** To which page of the report you mention ?

(Shri Ranendra Mohan Das was looking at the page when)

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** Was the whole book translated into English for the information of the Parliamentary Delegation ?

**Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Education):** I know nothing about the Parliamentary Delegation in this regard.

**Regarding Construction of the bridge over the Bhalukadoba  
P. W. D. Ghat**

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog)** asked :

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

- (a) Whether Bhalukadoba P. W. D. Ghat is situated on the North Trunk Road ?
- (b) If so, why engined marboats are not provided there ?
- (c) When engined marboats will be provided there ?
- (d) When the bridge over the Bhalukadoba P. W. D. Ghat will be constructed ?

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

182. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Traffic being practically negligible on this portion of the road, Government have not considered it worthwhile to provide engined marboats there.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—Survey for construction of the National Highway in connection with construction of the approach to the Brahmaputra Bridge is in progress. Location of the proposed bridge over the Bhalukadoba, which falls on this portion of the National Highway, will be finalised on completion of the survey work. Thereafter, necessary action for construction of the bridge will be taken up.

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR:** When the survey for the National Highway will be completed ?

**Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI:** The survey will take some time Sir.

**Regarding the improvement of the P. W. D. Road from Barpeta Road to Katajar**

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog)** asked :

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

- (a) Why Government has not improved the P. W. D. Road from Barpeta Road to Katajar in Barpeta Subdivision ?
- (b) How many representations were received by Government ?
- (c) Whether this portion of the road will be improved ?
- (d) If so, when ?

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

183. (a)—This is an existing P. W. D. gravelled road and is being properly maintained.

(b)—No representation regarding this road appears to have been received.

(c) & (d)—There is no proposal at present for its further improvement.

**Reduction of the examination charges of urine, stool, sputum, skiagram, etc.**

**Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta)** asked :

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

- (a) Whether the Government propose to reduce the examination charges of urine, stool, sputum, skiagram from its present rate to a reduced rate (*i. e.*, charging only for the costs of chemicals used).
- (b) Whether the examiners of these specimen gets any percentage of the examination fees ?
- (c) If so, whether that can be stopped and the whole amount of the reduced charge can be deposited in the State exchequer ?

**Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Medical Minister)** replied :

184. (a) & (c)—The matter is under consideration of Government.

(b)—Yes, 60 per cent of the examination fee.

**Dr. SRIPATI DAS (Barpeta)**: Since when was the matter under consideration of Government?

**Mr. SPEAKER**: The kind of answer that the matter is under consideration should be avoided as far as practicable. I found in a lot of replies from the Government that "the matter is under consideration" and hon. Members pulling supplementaries again as to how long the consideration will take this kind of question and answer does not help. Whether the questioner or the people at large. Therefore, I hope hon. Members will desist from pulling such supplementaries in future.

**Proposals for constructions of the roads from Gauripur to Motirchar E. & D. Road and Gauripur to Dhubri Railway Station**

**Shri TAMIZUDDIN PRADHANI (Dhubri)** asked :

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

(a) Whether there are proposals for constructions of the roads from Gauripur to Motirchar E. & D. Road and Gauripur to Dhubri Railway Station via Jhagarpar (from Jhagarpar to Dhubri Railway Station) under Dhubri Subdivision?

(b) If so, when Government propose to undertake the works of the said roads?

**Shri G. N. GOGOI [Deputy Minister, P.W.D. (R. & B.)]** replied :

185. (a)—There are at present no such proposals.

(b)—Does not arise.

**Regarding remission of land revenue to the cultivators of Khowang, Moran and Sepon mauzas**

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa)** asked :

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

(a) Whether there is a proposal to grant remission of Land Revenue to the cultivators of Khowang, Moran and Sepon Mauzas in Dibrugarh Subdivision who could not cultivate their land due to flood that caused as a result of breaches of the embankment near Halodhibari?

- (b) If so, what is the amount that would be granted as remission and the period from which this remission is proposed to be granted ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :**

186. (a) & (b)—The hon. Member's attention is drawn to the replies given to the unstarred question No.247 of the Budget Session of the Assembly, 1960, on the same subject.

**Establishment of a combined Post and Telegraph Office at Kamarkuchi**

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

187. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Public of Kamarkuchi requested him to move the Posts and Telegraphs Department for starting of a combined Post and Telegraph Office at Kamarkuchi ?
- (b) Whether Government is aware that Kamarkuchi being the worst flood pocket remains isolated during flood ?
- (c) Whether the Assam Government feel the necessity to have a Telegraph Office at Kamarkuchi from administrative point of view also ?
- (d) If so, whether Government propose to move the Posts and Telegraphs Department to establish Telegraph Office at Kamarkuchi on guarantee of State Government ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied :**

187. (a)—No public petition was received. But the Posts and Telegraphs Department is considering the matter on receipt of a proposal from the hon. Member.

(b)—During high flood the village is cut-off.

(c)—A Telegraph Office is not considered immediately necessary at Kamarkuchi from administrative point of view but nevertheless it will be an important facility for the public.

(d)—Does not arise.

**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHAUDHURY (Nalbari-East)** : When Government realised that this will be an important facility to the public, do Government propose to move the Posts and Telegraphs authorities to relieve the longstanding need of the public ?

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister)** : Unless there is specific public petition, it will be difficult for Government to do anything. So far as the Posts and Telegraphs Department is concerned this is their concern ; and as has been replied from the administrative point of view a Telegraph Office there is not immediately considered necessary. So it would be difficult for Government to come to a decision.

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**Shri Ranendra Mohan Das's Statement on the language issue on behalf of the Congress Members of Cachar**

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North)** : Mr. Speaker Sir, with your kind permission I want to make a statement on behalf of the Cachar members about the language controversy which is going on in the country. Sir, we the members from Cachar, from the very beginning.....

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati)** : Do you mean all members ?

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS** : Yes.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA** : He has no right Sir, I speak for the Communist member from Cachar.

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS** : All right I will leave out the Communist member. But, so far as the other members, at least all the Congress members, from Cachar from the very beginning we opposed to the very principle of the Bill. Some of our friends have taken part and stated their views.

Sir, Assam is a multilingual State. There are 3 linguists groups. One group is Assamese speaking, the Second group is Bengali speaking and the the 3rd group consists of Tribal people. There are may language amongst the Tribal people and so English is their medium of expression. The Hill people therefore demanded Hindi as their State language. Accordingly, we also demanded that there should be 3 State languages, viz., Assamese, Bengali and Hindi, in order to satisfy all groups. ✓

Sir, when I rise to speak I feel thousands of eyes of the Bengalees and other non-Assamese people, eagerly staring at me if I am properly placing their case before this august House. It is such a vital matter of far reaching importance that we should be very cautious in our deliberations, and we must on account, be swayed by the tremendous waves of sentiments on the either side of the House.

I have therefore decided to be guided upon the facts which are before us in the present moment.

Sir, I have read very carefully some of the speeches made by different members including the Chief Minister about the question of Official Language in the State. I am sure nobody would deny that Assamese should be one of State languages of Assam. But the question before us is whether Assamese should be the sole Official Language of the State or State should be declared a Multilingual one, it naturally depends upon the nature of the population of the State. In putting arguments for and against this Bill one should consider the geographical as well as Historical position of the State as it stands now.

In the year 1911 after partition of Bengal was annulled three districts of Bengal, namely, Goalpara, Sylhet and Cachar with more than 90 per cent of the Bangali speaking people, five other districts to the Brahmaputra Valley and some of the Hills areas were taken together and the present State of Assam was formed.

**Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding)**: Mr. Speaker Sir on a point of order. If the statement that in Goalpara there are 90 per cent Bangali speaking people is not correct should he be accepted?

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North)**: That may be contradicted by him later, Sir.

In order to make the State of Assam viable, these areas from Bengal with Bangali speaking people were and tagged to Assam. For economic the Government of India at that time gave these areas to Assam and the Bangali leaders of these areas did not raise any objection to it. These Bangali speaking people who are in Assam are as good Assamese of the Brahmaputra Valley.

Upto 1947 even through various difficulties the equilibrium of the State was maintained between Surma Valley and Brahmaputra Valley with Hills in the middle. Real trouble arose after transfer of the district of Sylhet to East Pakistan in 1947 as the weighing scale became heavier on one side with the numerical majority of the Brahmaputra Valley alone.

From a Historical point of view Assam seems to have been intended by nature to be the meeting the place of many tribes and races. Right through its History, there had been immigration into and settlement in the State from various sources with the result that till comparatively very recent times say upto 1931 when linguistic tabulation was last undertaken, Assamese was not in fact a language spoken by a majority of the inhabitants of the State.

Not only geographically but also racially, linguistically and culturally Assam is divided into various groups. In spite of all attempts, legal and illegal by the Government and the people for assimilation and assimisation about which the minorities in Assam have raised their voice of protest the heterogenous character of Assam has so far been substantially preserved and we cannot ignore this fact.

The members of the States Re-organisation Commission remarked "Linguistic complexion of the existing State establishes very clearly its composite character, in spite of the very interesting post-1931 spread of Assamese according to the census figure." "It is not surprising that the rapid increase in past two decades, in the number of persons speaking Assamese has been disputed and the veracity of the 1951 census figures has been questioned in certain quarters. .... In spite of this rapid increase the Assamese speaking population still constitutes only about 55 per cent of the population of the State".

Sir, no where in the human world you will find an increase of population by 200 per cent in twenty years—it is biologically impossible. These figures have been inflated to provide justification for introduction of the Assamese as the State language. Shri Ajit Prasad Jain Commission also made an adverse remark upon the Government. The report states—"We have tried to seek an explanation for this extraordinary increase, which is not warranted by trends of naturally growth of population, from the Assam Government. We were told that all the Muslim Bengali of the Brahmaputra Valley who had formerly registered themselves as Bengali speaking had in 1951 voluntarily declared themselves as Assamese speaking. We are not altogether satisfied with this explanation. "Sir without any comment I shall show you with documentary evidences as to how this word "Voluntarily" was used by the Government. One ex-Minister of Assam, Shri Abdul Matin Chowdhury and another member of this House Syed Abdur Fouf made a statement on this subject in 1938 which have been published as a Government document. They stated—"The spurious character of opposition to immigrants, on economic grounds, is evident from the peristancy with which it is urged that the East Bengal immigrants must 'assimilate' with the Assamese by adopting their language and culture'. The word 'assimilation' hardly admits of precise definition. To ask a Bengali to give up his mother tongue and inherited culture of which he is as much proud as an Assamese of his own in exchange for a patch of land to which he is as much entitled as an Assamese—is to ask him, to barter way his birth right for a mere mess of pottage. This attempt to convert the Bengali immigrants into an Assamese, under the duress of economic pressure is foredoomed to failure. .... Systematic attempt are being made to impose Assamese as medium of instructions even in Primary Schools, ..... Grants from Local Boards are refused to Primary Schools which use Bengali as medium of instruction. There ought to be limits to which even blatant aggressive Jingoism can go. "It is unnecessary for me, Sir, to make any comment, I can only add for the information of the House that three years after partition of the country the number of the Bengali Schools in the Goalpara district was reduced from 250 to 3. The same story had repeated itself in other districts of course "Voluntarily" in the terms of the Government.

Sir, if the census figures of 1951 are found incorrect and disputed, wherefrom should we get the figures about the different linguistic groups in the State? I have tried my best to present some other documents for your consideration. In a meeting at Nalbari, Shri Moti Ram Bora, the then Finance Minister of Assam, said in April 28, 1953—"Out of 96 lakhs of Assam's population only 80 lakhs were pure Assamese"—it was reported in the *Assam Tribune* of 5th May, 1953. Further I beg to state that Shri Bishnuram Medhi, the then Chief Minister of Assam, spoke about the

subject at Silchar in April, 1955. He said that various minority communities in Assam constitute 66 per cent of the population. This statement was published in the Statesman of the 15th April, 1955. In absence of any contradiction from any quarter, we can safely accept these figures as authentic Government figures, that Assamese speaking people constitute roughly only one-third of the total population of the State.

Now, Sir, is it fair and wise to impose the language of the one-third upon the rest of the population against their wishes? In the above context I am firmly of opinion that the Bengali speaking population in the State including up-to-date influx of refugees would not be less than 30 lakhs or so.

Considering all these factors the then Chief Minister, Shri Bishnuram Medhi, who wanted that integrity of the State should not be disturbed, like a wise statesman made it clear to the members of the State Re-organisation Commission in 1955, that Government had no intention to bring forward any legislation to make Assamese the State language. He further stated that the problem of language would only be settled with the concurrence of the minorities. This fact was brought to our notice by Dr. Kunjru and Mr. Pannikar, two members of the S. R. C. in their speeches delivered in the Rajya Sabha on 7th September 1960. Mr. Pannikar further stated that the position with regard to Assam has been noted by the S. R. C. that, it is a multilingual State in which no language has a prominent and a predominant position which can enable it to be considered the State language. The Jain Commission also stated that "Assam is a polyglot State where virtue of a linguistic formula will depend more upon its acceptability by the linguistic groups than on any other consideration and our effort should be directed to that end".

If we analyse the language resolution adopted in the meeting of the Working Committee of the A. I. C. C. held on 29th July, 1960 we would find very clearly that Assamese language has to be encouraged and progressively used by the people whose mother tongue it is. So, even in the Brahmaputra Valley, people having different mother tongues should not be disturbed by imposition of Assamese language upon them. They further stated that many areas of India are bilingual or multilingual and each of the languages in use has to be protected and encouraged. The question of language in Assam is one that should be settled co-operatively by representatives of various parts of Assam State.

Sir, here, I would be failing if I do not mention about the statement of our Chief Minister, Shri Chaliha, made in this House on the 3rd March, 1960. The most important portion of the statement runs like this—"Government would prefer to wait till they get the same demand from the non-Assamese speaking population for declaration of Assamese as the State language. Government feel that this question should be judged more from the view of appreciation and acceptance than from the point of view of majority or minority. If this issue is decided only the basis of majority or minority the Government is afraid, that its object would be defeated."

It is most unfortunate for us that the same Chief Minister within a very short time changed his entire policy and issued another statement on the 23rd June 1960 declaring that Government have now decided to introduce



a Bill on Official Language for the State more or less on the basis of the recommendation of the resolution of the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee with Assamese as the sole Official language of the State.

It it not a reversal of the stand taken by him on the floor of the Assembly on 3rd March 1960? We are afraid the liberal policies of the Government in dealing with the minorities were now being reversed under pressure from the opinion in the Brahmaputra valley. I want to know from the Chief Minister in clear terms, if he has changed his earlier policy under pressure, or he has changed his own conviction about the language policy of the State? As a true follower of Mahatma Gandhi, was it not his duty to stand alone with the principle and policy which he considered to be right, just and honest even when the whole country goes against him?

During the discussion of the Assam trouble in the Parliament, the whole House including the Prime Minister have spoken very highly of our Chief Minister, for which we are certainly proud of. The Prime Minister rightly stated in the Parliament—"In the Assam State Shri Chaliha has had a very special position, not only in the minds and hearts of the Assamese, but in Cachar among the Bengali speaking people and in the Hill areas too. So he has been a tremendous cementing factor in this complex and problem State."

Sir, today, after passing of the Language Bill by the majority in the House; will the Chief Minister claim the same position in the minds and hearts of the minorities, namely, Bengalis and the Hill people? Shri Chaliha is certainly a good man but History is as cruel as anything; two very important happenings in the history of Assam will associate with the Chaliha ministry, *viz.*, one of the greatest human tragedies that has taken place in Assam, the magnitude and intensity of it was so tremendous that the whole foundation of our country has been shaken. Secondly, the language controversy which is going to be decided here today, only on the basis of the numerical strength, with least regard for the wishes and aspirations of the minorities, will certainly sow the seeds for disintegration of the State of Assam in the immediate future. The people of Hills have clearly stated that their intention is for separate administration rather than to accept Assamese as their State language. The case of Cachar will be a natural consequence, if Hill State is conceded. Already I have received a demand from various Congress people of Cachar to dissociate from the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee and to request the Congress High Command for a separate Congress identity. I am afraid there will be no force in the country which can stop this disintegration of Assam. History will not allow Chaliha Ministry to escape from this position.

It has been argued by the Chief Minister while introducing this Language Bill that the map of India has been recently revised on the basis of language. That has further emphasised the claim of the Assamese language to become the Official language of Assam. I like to comment on this statement. Position of the State of Assam is completely different in the whole country. If Assam was formed on the linguistic basis like other States then, the Districts of Goalpara, Cachar, Hill areas and major portion of Nowgong.....

(Noise.....)

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Order, Order.

**Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North):** Which are predominantly non-Assamese speaking areas ought to have been transferred from Assam and there was a similar demand to the S. R. C. in 1955. It is due to these factors, mainly to maintain the integrity of the State the then Chief Minister Mr. Medhi ruled out the question of State language and a linguistic province in Assam.

It is more pertinent to consider the recommendations of the S. R. C. in this regard. According to them, a State should be treated as unilingual only where one language group constitutes about 70 per cent or more of its population. Where a substantial minority speak other language the State should be bilingual or multilingual as the case may be.

The Prime Minister also on various occasions stated that Assam is a multilingual State and it would be improper for the Assamese to impose the Assamese language on the non-Assamese speaking people in the Assam State, more specially Cachar and the Hill areas. Not only from the statement of the Prime Minister, the district of Cachar got a definite recognition of its Bengali language even by the Congress Working Committee as early as in 1948. But unfortunate as we are, a cunning provision giving powers to the Mahkuma Parishads, have been inserted there, only in Cachar with the motive of imposing Assamese language in the districts in the future by winning over the Mahkuma Parishads by the mighty resources of the State. If it is not so, then, Sir, may I ask why similar provisions were not kept in the Assam valley districts? These discriminatory provisions create bitterness and resentment, perpetuate racial antagonism and are impediments to the growth of friendly relations between two races.

It is unfortunate for us all that the language fanatics in Assam armed with majority votes, decided not to pay any heed to all these unquestionable arguments, suggestions and advice from eminent persons and leaders of the country. It is silly, they speak of the integration of the State, but all their actions move towards disintegration. ✓

Sir, in the new State that have been created in Andhra, in Kerala, in Maharastra, now in Gujrat—in all these areas minorities who speak other languages live comfortably without any sense of fear and hesitation. Their languages and culture are adequately safeguarded. But this is not the position in Assam, as will be evident from the great killing that took place in Assam in the name of language. Here, minorities are afraid of the process of assimilation and Assamisation which is said to be "Voluntary" by the Government and thereby there is genuine fear of the minority language and the culture being crushed. Both the then Governor and the Chief Minister of Assam just after the partition of the country in 1947 declared the policy of the Government that—"the native of Assam are now masters of their own house, they have a Government which is both responsible and responsive to them. The doctrine of the "sons of the soil" was also announced by them. The Bengali is not considered a native for the purpose. The policy of the Government as enunciated from time to time is to assimilate all non-Assamese people by imposition of Assamese language and culture. The people of Assam valley rightly or wrongly feel that the State

belongs to them, that, they are sons of the soil, and the others who are only settlers, should be satisfied with second class citizenship with whatever rights and privileges as the natives of Assam are prepared to give. It is for this short sighted and parochial policy, the linguistic minorities in Assam are afraid of their language and culture and this is why they demand a recognition of this language like that of Assamese language.

Sir, it has been said that Bengalees so long ruled over Assam and Assam has to repay it. People say that Bengalees are cliquish race with a superior feeling, yet nobody has ever denied education in his own language in Calcutta. There are Gujrati Schools, Hindi Schools, and Schools of all kind. The Khasi language has long been recognised in their University, but what do we find in Assam? Not to speak of recognition of the Khasi, Bengali languages for higher studies in Gauhati University, the Government has determined to wipe out the Bengali Schools as I have stated earlier.

I would like to remind the Assamese friends with a quotation from Shri Gokhale, President of the Banaras Congress in 1905 about partition of Bengal; he says "Gentlemen, I have carefully gone through all the papers which have been published by the Government on the subject of partition. Three things have struck me forcibly..... determination to dismember Bengal at all cost, anxiety to promote the interest of Assam at the cost of Bengal, and the desire to suit everything to the necessities and convenient to the Civil Service." This is the evidence of one of the greatest personalities of India, that, interests of Assam were enhanced at the cost of Bengal. Of course, there is no greatfulness in the world. What shall I say about it here? If Kerala Government could show respect to the Bengali language in recognising it in their University, the Assam Government could not do it here where Bengali population is the second major linguistic group in Assam. You are preparing for centenary celebration of Rabindra Nath, you are translating his writings, you are recognising him as the greatest poet of the country but the tragedy lies that you won't recognise the language of the poet himself.

Sir, it is said that the extreme exponent of the claim of Assamese language were prepared for disintegration of Assam rather than moderate their linguistic aspirations. To-day, I don't find a single man here, and in the Assam Valley who is prepared to fight this extreme view. So, be frank and simple and don't speak of integration while all your actions pave the way for disintegration. It has been further said, when none of the linguistic minorities could be satisfied, then why there should be a liberal language policy? You may pass the Language Bill to day by a majority but don't think for a moment that the problem is solved by it. The obvious result is separation of some areas from Assam. The matter would not rest there too. The non-Assamese people of the Assam Valley districts particularly from Goalpara and Nowgong who have been silenced by the reign of terror will certainly open their mind and raise their voice for protection of their language and culture some of them even to-day have done so before Sri Govind Ballav Pant. I would also remind, in this connection, to the linguistic fanatics the years of the German Rule failed to compel the people of Alsas and Lorraine to adopt German language and culture. Where mightiest forces in other parts of the world have failed, the protagonist of Assamese Language and culture are not

likely to succeed. Acharyya Kripalani has rightly said that "Assamese are living on a Volcano, they must settle the quarrels with the Bengalees and the Hill people. If they do not do it, they will suffer the Province will suffer and India will suffer".

So, as a humble citizen of the State I would tell you to read the writings on wall. For heaven's sake don't do anything which would embitter our feelings more, and make distintegration of the State a settled fact. I would, therefore, with utmost humility request you to give up this short sighted and parochial policy, and look to the path showed not only by the eminent persons of the country but also by the Government of India and Congress High Command—the path of emotional integration and cultivation of feelings of mutual respect and tolerance for the language and culture of others and this is only way to save Assam and its people in this critical period of History.

Sir, I am sure all the Members from Cachar would share with me the feelings I have stated. With these words I request my colleagues from Cachar to dissociate with the Bill completely and not to participate in any discussion whatsoever. Thank you Sir.

**Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS** [North Salmara (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]: On a point of order Sir, may I know whether we will be given any chance to make observation on the statement made by Shri Ranendra Das ?

**Mr. SPEAKER**: No debate can be allowed on the statement of Mr. Ranendra Das as it is a statement of a private member should be taken as it is.

### The Assam official Language Bill, 1960

**Mr. SPEAKER**: I pass on to item No.2 (Amendment No.1). Shri Tajammul Ali Barlaskar ;

**Shri TAJAMMUL ALI BARLASKAR** (Udarband): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not moving my amendment on the Bill, with your permission I would like to make a brief statement.

**Mr. SPEAKER**: First of all you move your amendment and later on you make the statement.

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA**: Mr. Speaker Sir, since we are not going to participate in the clause by clause consideration of the Bill, with your permission I want to make a brief observation.

**Mr. SPEAKER**: At the time of the passing of the Bill you will get ample opportunity to ventilate your points.

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA** [Phulbari (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Since we are opposed to the very principle of the Bill there is no need for us to participate in the clause by clause consideration.....

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Mr. Sangma had already made his statement on the introduction of the Bill when he had made it amply clear the stand he had taken on this Bill. But now there is no scope for a statement of the type Mr. Sangma envisages. The appropriate time is to make such a statement is at the time when the motion for passing of the Bill will be taken up at the time of the third reading of the Bill. At this state the scope is limited. I must go clause by clause and the hon. Members may speak on the amendments. I find no scope here, in course of the discussion clause by clause to allow a member, however important he may be, to make a statement. Therefore, I request Mr. Sangma to wait till the motion for passing of the Bill comes.

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara) :** On a point of order, Sir, may I know from you Sir, whether in moving the amendment, we can make statement also ?

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Yes, you can make a statement, but it must be relevant to the amendment.

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA [Phulbari (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, please allow me at least two minutes because we have decided not to participate in the discussion. I want to make just a brief observation, as a special consideration.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Mr. Sangma, I hope you will kindly appreciate my position.

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA :** Sir, through you I simply request the Hon'ble members to know that as a mark of protest not only in Shillong, but throughout the Hill areas, there is a complete Hartal and mass provision to day. If you consider that you have a right to dominate these people in spite of their protest which is being demonstrated to-day by the complete Hartal not only in Shillong but in other Hill districts and in Cachar also, it is up to you and the Hon'ble members to pass the Bill. But I can tell you Sir, that by passing this Bill to-day you are going to divide Assam. No body in this earth can stand against it, and you will have to reap the consequences.

**Shri GAURISANKAR [BHATTACHARYA (Gauhati) :** On a point of order, Sir, here it appears from the order papers that have been circulated amongst us that Mr. Barlaskar's amendment is with regard to the Long Title of the Bill. Now this Long Title should come last of all. Therefore, according to the procedure followed in this House, Mr. Barlankar should wait till the last.

**\*Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North) :** This is the discernion of the Speaker.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The amendments have been arranged in the list of the amendments in order of priority and therefore I think he comes first.

**\*Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** No Sir, I beg to suggest that because here there are so many amendments, if some of the amendments are accepted the very nature of the long title may be changed. Therefore, the question as to what will be the long title of the Bill or

the preamble will arise only after all the amendments are disposed of because it might be Official Language Bill or it might be Official Languages Bill: So that will be quite pertinent and relevant only after the amendments with regard to the character of the Bill are disposed of.

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Finance Minister) :** The preamble is generally put before the House after all the amendments have been disposed of, but I think there can no harm in taking up this as there is no provision in the rules that we cannot take any amendment of the long title of the Bill in the beginning and I hope my Hon'ble Friend will not insist on this and we can proceed at serials.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** I agree with the Minister of Law. He says there is no definite provision in the rules that we cannot take any amendment of the long title of the Bill in the very beginning. Because by the nature of the Bill there is certain scope to hold. Therefore I believe that there is no harm if Mr. Barlaskar move the amendment.

**Shri TAJAMMUL ALI BARLASKAR (Udarbond) :** I am not going to move this amendment.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** First of all you should move the amendment. Later on you can say I cannot press the motion.

✓ **Shri TAJAMMUL ALI BARLASKAR :** In this connection I like to move a very brief statement as to why I will not move the amendment.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I have amendments on the Bill—instead of moving the same with your permission—Sir, I like to make the following statement. To clarify our position as to why I am not pressing the amendment as authorised by the Congress M. L. As. of Cachar—Shri Nanda Kishore, Jyotsna Chanda, Gouri Sankar Roy, Ranendra Mohan Das, Hem Chandra Chakravarty and Ram Prasad Choubey. Sir, we the Congress members of this Legislature from the district of Cachar own an explanation to this August House in regard to the stand taken by us in deference to the wishes of the people of our district in connection with the Assam Official Language Bill 1960. The very principle of the Bill was not acceptable to us and as such we had to abstain from this House on the 10th October last when the said Bill was introduced by the Chief Minister. We made an attempt through our speeches on the 18th last to convey to this House the views of the people of our district on this Bill.

Our friends here in this August House heard from the President of the A. P. C. C. how this subject came up before the Pradesh Congress Committee in its meeting held on the 21st and 22nd April, 1960. The contents of the resolutions adopted by the A. P. C. C. in that meeting are known to all of us. That resolution was not an unanimous one and was opposed by all the members coming from the district of Cachar and also from Hill areas of the State of Assam.

It is also known to this House that we are permanent residents of the district of Cachar which is a Bengali speaking district. The constituencies we represent in this House are also in that district.

No Bengali speaking Assamese ever opposed the move for declaration of the Assamese language as an official language in the State but their only aspiration was and is that along with Assamese their mother tongue—Bengali language should also be declared as an official language of the State. The recognized Bengali speaking district of Cachar also never demanded for declaration of their language as the sole official language of the State of Assam.

The Chief Minister in his speech delivered in this House immediately after the introduction of the Bill while disclosing the different proposals regarding the different language or languages to be adopted as the official language had mentioned about this as proposal No. 3. This was in connection with the Bengali language and what are justification behind this? In this connection, I would not be out of place to quote the speech of the A. P. C. C. President, Shri Sharma, "It is one of the regional languages accepted in the Constitution. Besides, it is one of the world's major languages, rich in modern literature. Bengali is the mother tongue of a very big section of the population of Assam and they are residing in compact areas like Cachar district".

Against the decision of the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee taken in its meeting held on the 21st and 22nd April last at Gauhati, the three District Congress Committees—Hailakandi, Silchar and Karimganj of Cachar preferred an appeal to the All India Congress Committee.

The Working Committee of the A. I. C. C. passed a resolution on the 29th July, 1960 which said *inter alia*, "This language (Assamese language) like other national languages, has to be encouraged in every way and progressively used by the people whose mother tongue it is. In promoting its use in various public activities, it should be remembered that it use should not be enforced in areas where other languages prevail. Many areas of India are bilingual or multilingual and each of the languages in use has to be protected and encouraged". ✓

As Congressmen we are bound to be guided by this resolution. The A. P. C. C. set up a negotiating body for evolving an agreed formula on the language issue after the above resolution was passed by the Working Committee of the A. I. C. C. After taking into various viewpoints, certain principles about the official languages to be used in Assam were formulated with the maximum agreement and the evolved formula in that line received the blessings of Pantjee who was here at Shillong from the 4th to the 7th morning last. Broad out line of the same was disclosed by Pantjee in his statement made to the press on the eve of his departure from Shillong on the 7th instant in the morning hours.

Thereafter, on 10-10-60, this Bill was introduced in this House. We were shocked to find that this Bill did not truly embodied the principle contained in the evolved formula as enunciated by Pantjee the Union Home Minister in his press statement and also as discussed with us.

As this was a clear deviation from the main principle, we found ourselves quite unable to accept the introduction of the same in the House and as such we had to refrain from attending the House at the introduction of the Bill. Earlier on the same date, we wrote to our leaders for granting us freedom of voting and freedom of speech and he was kind enough to grant us freedom of speech only at the consideration stage of the Bill on the 18th instant.

We tried to place before the House through our speeches the view points of the people of Cachar as well as the different reactions that may happen in our State due to the adoption of this Bill. We feel and maintain that such legislation was not opportune at this critical juncture and may lead to even disintegration of our State.

In the mean time, on the 14th and 15th last, a Session of the A. P. C. C. was held here at Shillong and this Bill was placed before it for approval. The A. P. C. C. after long deliberation adopted resolutions recommending further changes in the Bill. This time also, it was not unanimous—the Cachar Members including the Food and Agriculture, etc., Minister voting against the resolutions. These recommendations of the A. P. C. C. have completely changed the feature of the Bill which is further detrimental to the interest of the linguistic minorities.

We Congress member from Cachar tabled some amendments for meeting the aspirations of the linguistic minorities as well as for the unity, integrity and solidarity of Assam. But we have not been granted permission for moving those amendments in the House, by our leaders. However, we have been permitted to make a statement as to under what circumstances the people of Cachar and their representatives head to take the present stand. Shri M. H. Choudhury, a colleague of ours and a member of the Cabinet, also shares the same view with us. As we have not been able to reconcile ourselves with the provisions of this Bill on the question of its very principle as well as some other provisions which fall far short of the genuine demand of the people of Cachar and also legitimate claims of all other linguistic minorities. There is no other alternative left to us then to withdraw the amendments with your permission, Sir, we withdraw from this house. We thank all our friends here for giving us a patient hearing.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Motion moved.

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):** I oppose this motion.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The question is that in the long title, the letter 's' to be added to the word "language to make it plural".

(The question was negatived)

(Voice from all corners).

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I am surprised when I see some sort of unrulines on the part of some Hon'ble Members. Kindly excuse me for saying so. We are always to maintain the dignity of this house. The Hon'ble Member Shri Ranendra MohanDas, was allowed to speak under certain circumstances



which I explained to this House in the beginning and the House withdrew all their objections to it. Then, I do not understand why the Hon'ble Members are insisting on again and again that Ranendra Babu said something else. I come to clause (1) of the Bill. One thing I want to know from this House because there are so many amendments to different clauses whether it will not be better that all the amendments are moved by different Hon'ble Members and then the House may take the main amendments first for voting.

(Voice: No. No.)

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** With your permission, in order to save time of the House, we may follow the procedure which is followed in the Lok Sabha. There, under a particular clause, all the amendments are moved, and thereafter the different movers speak and thereafter the different amendments are put to vote. Hence, it is not necessary for the sponsor of the Bill in that case to reply every time against each amendment. One omnibus reply covers all the amendments. That will, I think, save a lot of time of this House and this is the procedure we have been following in cut motions also.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** At the time of putting a motion, what should be the procedure to be laid down. On that point, I want your elucidation.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** We shall see which one we shall press for division and which not, with your permission.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** May I speak a way out, Sir. As my friend has said, we entirely agree with him so far as the long title and preamble are concerned. Presumably there are four amendments. Now in all the four amendments, some Hon'ble Members or others may not like to speak. If at the end, amendments are not withdrawn, you may put them to vote one by one because we want to go serially.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I am going clause by clause and there is no doubt about it. Suppose in one certain clause, there are so many amendments, say upto 20, I want to allow all the Hon'ble Members to move the amendments at a time and allow also every Member to speak on any of the amendments they would like. In that case, suppose we take the main amendments or the principal amendments and if we put them to vote, other amendments may not be put to vote again because it becomes infructuous.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** That is the main difficulty, Sir. If the main amendment is moved and passed, other amendments may not be put in. Therefore, Sir, serially is better.

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance):** May I take a submission in this behalf. So far as the principal amendments to a clause are concerned, I think, the proper procedure will be to ask all those Hon'ble Members, who have tabled the amendments, to move their amendments and then to throw them open for discussion. At the time of voting however it will be desirable that such amendments as are comprehensive may be put to vote first because at the House accepts them the other amendments will automatically be rejected. In this connection you may kindly look at Rule 84, it says, "When a motion that a Bill be taken into consideration has been carried, any Member may, when called upon by the Speaker, move an amendment to the Bill of which he has previously given notice:

Provided that in order to save time and repetition of arguments, a single discussion may be allowed to cover a series, of inter-dependent amendments". I find that so far as clause 3 of the recent bill is concerned, there are a number of amendments and with regard to the substantive portions of clause 3 and there is a comprehensive amendment dealing with matters increased in the proviso. Amendments to clause 3 have been split up in order to deal separately with regard to the main clause and the proviso. If this so, after an amendment to the main clause is accepted then amendments dealing both with the main clause and proviso cannot be taken into consideration at the main clause has been rejected. Therefore, my submission is that the amendments, which are comprehensive dealing with the entire clause, should be put to vote first and after, that has been done other amendments may be put to vote.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** We may not agree to, comprehensive amendments, but we may agree to a part of it and not with the whole of it. There may be an amendment—quite smaller, that we may agree. Therefore, it is not that the whole comprehensive amendment goes, then the smaller one should go. We may agree to smaller amendments but may not agree to vote.

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMA (Jorhat):** It is difficult to express an opinion because the rules clearly state what amendments are admissible and the sequence of taking up of amendments. The rules are mandatory perhaps the Chair will not be pleased to waive. If an amendment is once rejected, similar amendments forming part of a comprehensive amendment cannot be taken up. That is the trouble. I hope, I am clear. If a piecemeal amendment is taken up, if it is either accepted or rejected, it cannot be taken up again as a part of a comprehensive amendment. Therefore, the comprehensive amendments may be taken up first and the fortune of piecemeal amendments will depend on the verdict on it. I would submit for your consideration, Sir, according to rules, as my friend Shri Bhattacharyya has suggested and Shri Ahmed has accepted, let us all move our amendments. Let there be a discussion on all points which are included in and relevant to the amendments. At the time of taking votes the Chair will be pleased to consider what are the comprehensive amendments so that these may be put to vote first. Amendments with narrow scopes, will stand or fall with the comprehensive one. That will be convenient and will be according to rules also. Those comprehensive amendments will take their chance as they are listed. This is my submission.

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue):** Sir, you have asked for my views. I fully agree with the Finance Minister. If there is one comprehensive amendment to a clause and there are four others amendments to that very same clause, my opinion is that the comprehensive amendment should be taken up first because it might so happen that in the four amendments tabled for the same clause, one amendment may form a part of the comprehensive clause. If that amendment is rejected, then the comprehensive clause can not be split up. So, there will be difficulty. It may be like this that the first amendment, is carried or rejected. There may be two or three other amendments to the same clause. If the mover does not move these later amendment, difficulty will arise. One portion of the comprehensive amendment having been already carried or rejected, it will be difficult to accept the comprehensive amendment which can not be split up at this stage. The whole Bill, in that case, will be unworkable. So it stands to reason that the comprehensive amendments should be put first to vote and then the other amendments. This is my submission, Sir.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** So far as the first two points are concerned, there is no difference that all the amendments may be moved and discussed. Now, the only difference is about voting. I am not opposed to what Shri Ahmed, Shri Das and Shri Sarma has suggested. If the comprehensive amendment is moved and if there are other amendments which one wants to delete certain portion of the comprehensive amendment and if this is agreed to, we have no objection. Supposing there is a comprehensive amendment to clause 3 of the Bill that Assamese and English shall continue to be the language in the State level. If this is moved, because that is something different from the Bill, that can be done. But, supposing there is also an amendment that only Assamese should be the language at the Secretariat level, then because a comprehensive amendment is moved, therefore, this can not be allowed. If you allow this, Sir, we have no objection.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** Sir, let me give one concrete example. Here in clause 3 Shri Khogen Barbarua has an amendment wherein he wants Assamese with Assamese script shall be the State Language. We have got some amendments, others have also. Here the words "Assamese" is there. It may be that we do not agree with Comrade Khagen Barbarua's proposition, that is to say, though his amendment is more comprehensive yet the rejection of his amendment by us does not necessarily mean rejection of our amendments because the House may use Assamese without mentioning Assamese script. There is no harm if the one which more comprehensive, that is moved first, because if that is accepted, then others become unnecessary. But after that is rejected, then others may be taken into consideration.

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance):** What I wanted to say in reply to what Mr. Goswami has suggested that we may have no objection because that can be treated as an amendment, but it will be more or less of the same nature. If there is an amendment to the proviso, what we have said is that 'the amendment to the amendment'. That can be treated in that way and we can proceed with the comprehensive amendment.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** All right. Let us proceed on. I shall reserve my ruling for the time being. I shall give my ruling later.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Now, Clause I, Mr. Bhattacharyya,

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** Sir, there are two amendments in our names, viz., 6 and 7, but we are not moving them.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** As there is no other amendment to this clause and as the amendments tabled are not moved by the Hon'ble Members, I put the question. The question is that Clause I of the Assam Official Language Bill, 1960 does form part of the Bill.

(The question was adopted)

The motion is carried. Clause I of the Assam Official Language Bill, 1960 does form part of the Bill.

Now, Clause 2—Mr. Goswami.

**Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalgur):** Sir, I am not moving my amendment.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Mr. Das.

**Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchella):** I am not moving my amendment.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Mr. Bordoloi and Sarmah.

**Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar):** I am not moving my amendment.

**Shri RAMNATH SARMAH (Lumding):** I am not moving my amendment.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The amendment to this Clause are not put and so let me put the question. The question is that Clause 2 of the Assam Official Language Bill, 1960 does form part of the Bill.

(The question was adopted)

The motion is carried. Clause 2 of the Assam Official Language Bill, 1960 does form part of the Bill.

Clause 3—Mr. Borborua.

**Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI:** Sir, I beg to submit that of all the amendments that have been tabled, my amendment is the most comprehensive one.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** : It has already been decided that all the important amendments will be moved simultaneously and all the Hon'ble Member: will get scope to speak on any amendment they like. Then at the time of putting the question I shall decide which one of the amendments should be given priority.

**Shri KHAGENDRA NATH BARBORUAH (Amguri):** Sir, I beg to move that in Clause 3, after the word 'Assamese' occurring in the third line, the words "with Assamese script" shall be added and the words thereafter beginning with "and English" and ending with the words "Hindi in place of English" shall be deleted.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The amendment is moved.

**Shri. KHAGENDRA NATH BARBORUAH:** Sir, our National language is Hindi and in the Constitution of India it has been mentioned that Devnagri shall be the script. So the script has been mentioned in the Constitution. Any language without a script is almost a dialect. Therefore, Sir, when our Government has decided to declare Assamese as the State language of Assam, it should also mention the script in which it should be written. In Behar also they have mentioned the script. It is said in Behar's Official Language Bill that whereas it is expedient to provide for adoption of Hindi in Devnagri script as the official language to be used for all official purposes in the State of Behar. In other States also they have mentioned the script while declaring the official language.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Mr. Barboruah, in Hindi two scripts are used. Therefore to distinguish one from the other they have mentioned the script. But in case of Assamese there is only script.

**Shri KHAGENDRA NATH BARBORUAH:** Sir, movement is already going on, although it is insignificant, as to what should be the script. So, just to avoid trouble Government should mention the script in the Bill.

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance):** But Assamese is written only in Assamese script.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** He says movement is already going on.

**Shri KHAGENDRA NATH BARBORUAH:** Sir, if these three words are added in this Bill then I think Government will not be in trouble. The three words "with Assamese script" will rather help the people to understand the policy of the Government with regard to State language and the steps taken by the Government. So, Sir, I think these three words can easily be accepted. It is not a question of prestige. It is a question as to how this Bill can be made easier so that the people can understand as to what language and what script the Government is going to take.

Next, Sir, here I see that the latter part is in English. When the latter is replaced under Article 343 of the Constitution of India, Hindi shall be used for all or any of the official purposes of the State. If Hindi is also declared as another official language of the State then, Sir, this should be straightaway rejected and the Government should accept my amendment. Hindi should not be declared as another official language of the State. If Hindi is declared as another official language of the State of Assam then it will be a bi-lingual State and the nomenclature of the Bill will be Assam's official languages Bill. I think the Hindi should be eliminated. Moreover, Hindi is a national language and therefore it has a place throughout India. I do not understand why Hindi should be given another place as an official language in our State, the language of Hindi which is not in use in our State. Sir, what Article 345 of the Constitution of India says relating to official language or languages of a State. It says that subject to the provision of Article 346 and 347, the Legislature of a State may adopt any one

or more of the languages in use in the State or Hindi as the language or languages to be used for all or any of the official purposes of that State. Hindi, if it is made official language of our State the aspirations of our people will not be fulfilled. Moreover, Hindi is not also required for cultural purposes in our State. As Hindi is a national language of India our future generations will learn it. It should be introduced in the secondary Schools from Class IV to VI only.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** What about Article 345 of the Constitution of India? It says that subject to the provisions of Articles 346 and 347, the Legislature of a State may by law adopt any one or more of the languages in use in the State or Hindi as the language or languages to be used for all or any of the official purposes of that State.

**Shri KHAGENDRA NATH BARBORUAH:** Sir, I will give emphasis on the language in use in the State. Hindi is not in use in our State.

We all know, Sir, that Hindi is a national language which should be learnt by our people. But it should not be introduced in our school text books except from class IV to VI in secondary schools. For cultural development Hindi should not be accepted, as official language also. I do not understand why Hindi has been forcibly brought here in the Assam Official Language Bill. I hope the Government will accept my amendment that Hindi should be eliminated from the Bill. If Hindi is introduced in Assam that will be an imposition on our people and that will go against the very principle of emotional integration in the minds of our people. Moreover to bring administration closer to the people of our State we want one official language. If Hindi is introduced that will not bring our people closer to the administration. If Hindi and Assamese are going to be declared as official languages of Assam then we will have to incur unnecessary expenditure from our public Exchequer as our Government will have to spend a huge amount of money for publication of Hindi as well as Assamese. The introduction of Hindi and Assamese will also bring another complication for our Government employees as they will have to learn both Hindi and Assamese languages. If Hindi is declared as official language it will be taken as a basis of qualification for getting employment under our Government and our youths will have to learn Hindi and Assamese languages to get any employment in offices under the Government of Assam. Gradually, if I may say so, our Government is making conspiracy against the Assamese language with a view to push Hindi to the University standard. So, Sir, I feel if Hindi is introduced as official language in our State it will certainly bring complications for our people. From this point of view, I appeal to the House that my amendment with Assamese script be adopted and the other portion declaring Hindi as official language should be eliminated. I hope the House will accept my amendment.

**Shri PHANI BORA (Nowgong):** Sir, I beg to move the amendment No.11. It reads—In clause 3 delete the words “and English” and when the latter is replaced under Article 343 of the Constitution of India, “Hindis in place of English” after the word “Assamese” in the third line.

While moving this amendment, Sir, I do not want to prevent future development with regard to the script. As a matter of fact, I do not want to prevent anything which may emerge for the development of cultural and languages or any other good thing. Who knows that script may also have

to undergo a change. Sir, my amendment is aimed at the elimination of any possibility of declaring a multi-lingual Assam or as a multi lingual State of Assam and to make it very very clear that Assamese should be the State language of Assam. Why I say this? Sir, I find that in the beginning, that is in today's session, certain speeches have been made and certain arguments are put forward that the declaration of Assamese as the State language in Assam is not justified. First of all Sir, some wrong arguments are being advanced and census reports are being put forward in which the 1951 census is challenged. Why? It is supposed to be having certain anomalies. Sir, with regard to the other census reports also there were certain anomalies which our hon. Friends should not have tried to forget. I want to mention only a few. Sir, in the 1921 census Mr. G. T. Llyod said :

"As to the entries of Bengalees and Hindi I fear inaccuracy is as great as before in large two districts of Assam Valley. Our old Friend 'Coolie BAT' arose with all its former strength and Assamese enumerators were as prone as ever to enter Bengalee for any language that was foreign to them. In Goalpara the same conflict between Assamese and Bengalees arose".

Then Mr. C. S. Mullan said the following in connection with 1931 census :—

"The language returns in the case of coolies has improved considerably. This is shown by the fact that only 73,000 persons in Sibsagar district have been returned as speakers of Bengalee (a word which the Assamese will continue to use for any foreign language) against 1,31,000 in 1921 and 77,000 in Lakhimpur against 1,05,000 in 1921. These large decrease do not signify reduction in the total number of Bengalee speakers. They merely mean that the general tendency for Assamese enumerators to use the word Bengalee for any language which is not Assamese has been kept under stricter control than in the last census." Sir, I do not want to go in to this controversy in the census reports. There may be certain mistakes committed about census operations in every census. But that does not alter the fundamental truth that in Assam Valley districts the Assamese are in overwhelming majority.

Sir, it is astounding that if in these days in the background in which we are today if we are to find certain hon. Member resorting to certain tactics to divide the people even in the Assam Valley. I do not understand if this kind of thing goes on, how the amity and Friendship of the people can be strengthened? Sir, I am opposed to this bilingual claim. Bengali, for example. I have got full respect and admiration for this language which is one of the most developed languages in the world. I say this to my hon. Bengali Friends from Cachar who spoke today what is there to be afraid of? Is that language (Bengali) going to be crippled by any other language? I do not believe that. This language have thrived, this language has developed and it will go on developing. Sir, in a garden all kinds of flowers grow together, but if there is a banyan tree there over the garden, will a rose blossom? It will not. Under a banyan tree small flowers will not blossom. That is why Sir, in India today it is not accidental that linguistic States are being formed and it is not unjustified. It is quite justified that the States are being formed

on the basis of language so that there is no suppression of any language or of any culture. Sir, today when my Bengalee Friend from Cachar says these things, I want to quote what a very prominent Bengali writer has written I am quoting in Bengali from what was written by Shri Aninda Sankar Rai who is a very famous writer in Bengali and who is respected by all. He said that Hindus have got Hindi State, Tamil have got Tamil State, Malayalam have got Kerela State, so: আমাদেৰ ব্যপাৰটা বিচাৰ কৰাতে হ'বে এই পৰিপ্ৰেক্ষিতে। সবাই যদি যে য়াৰ ভাষাৰ ভিত্তিতে এক একটা ৰাজ্য আঁদায় কৰে নোহ, ওসে ৰাজ্যে নিজৰ ভাষাকে কৰে সরকারী-ভাষা তাহলে আসামেৰ অসমীয়াৰাই কি একমাত্ৰ ব্যতিক্ৰম হ'বে"? Then he says again " কথা হ'ছেছ ভারতেৰ অন্যান্য ভাষা যদি এক একটা ৰাজ্যেৰ ভিত্তি হ'য়ে থাকে, যদি এক একটা ৰাজ্যেৰ সরকারী ভাষা হ'য়ে থাকে তাহলে অসমীয়া কি এই প্ৰসেসেৰ বাহিৰে না ভিতৰে? Then again he asserts that এ যৌবন জলতৰঙ্গ ৰোধিবে কে?"

I must ask some questions to my hon. Friends. Why, if it is justified for Bengalee people to have their own Bengal State and a very strong State at that, why there should be objections to giving Assamese language also its own place for its independent development in a particular territory? If it is not in Assam, where is it to be? Is it to be in Kashmir? I do not understand that. I understand the rights of the Cachar people because it is contiguous territory where the majority of the people speak Bengalee, they should have the same right as is being demanded by the people of the Brahmaputra Valley for them in so far as their district is concerned. I have got no objection to that. I am strongly for Bengali in Cachar. But then why they stress it to all over the State in order to create perpetual crisis, in order to create perpetual conflict between the people speaking Bengalee and those speaking Assamese—and there will be no end to it.

Then Sir, comes the question of Hindi. This is also another bunyan tree in relation to the small languages, still undeveloped languages, still in the process of development and if together with the small undeveloped language then big languages are tagged, that will only hamper the natural development of these undeveloped languages and create new conflicts. I question, how Hindi can be imported to the status of State language of Assam State? I do not understand that. I can understand this Sir, that in order to facilitate working in the offices of the Heads of Department, in order to facilitate work in the Secretariat, the English, for sometime may be retained, only from the practical point of view I find it necessary and the Assamese should be brought to this level and declared as the State language of Assam. If Assamese is not made the State languages of Assam, where is the territory where Assamese can be made the State language.

Sir, I do not find any reason whatsoever to make the Hindi a State language. There are very small number of Hindi speaking people and there is no Hindi speaking area. At least, Sir, so far the Bengali speaking people are concerned, there is an area like Cachar. So far as the Hindi is concerned, there is no area or territory where the majority of the people speak Hindi. Hindi has already been made an All India language. It has become our National Language. I also say without any reservation that the Hindi should be our National Language and all of us should learn it. But for this we do not want to make the Hindi State language of Assam. Sir, many hon. Friends from the Hill areas have demanded



Hindi as a State Language and some other hon. Members from Cachar beside the Hill people also demand Hindi as the State languages. Sir, there argument in making the Hindi as the State language is that the English is the common inconveniences at present in the entire State and when the English will be replaced by the Hindi, it will occupy that place. Yes, I do not agree with it. Common inconvenience can not keep the unity of the people. Did English bring about unity and integration of the whole State? English could facilitate the work of the strata of the people the bureaucracy but in democracy that is definite impediment to its growth and development and dangerous. Hindi may be useful only for a few people living in the Town and Cities to exchange their views through Hindi. But what will happen to the villages? They will never be able to speak in Hindi for some time to come and thus instead of removing the common inconveniences, the adoption of Hindi as one of the State languages would create more inconveniences. So I assert that adoption of Hindi would not facilitate unity and integration would not help the growth of other languages this would create more inconveniences for all and create basis of further conflicts.

Sir, we really want to develop our regional languages. If Assamese is made the State languages of Assam, it does not mean that Assamese should dominate the other people and it will suppress the other people. Sir, it is said that if Assamese is made the State language, this will injure the development of some other people. But, I may be permitted to say that if Assamese is given its proper place and a fair deal, this will enable Assamese language to be developed without injuring anybody's cause. This will rather help the growth of other languages which are now in an infant stage. I admit that our Mizo language, Khasi or Garo languages, etc., has got to be developed and we shall have to develop it. No sensible person can deny this. We should not forget the basic reality. The reality is that a day will cause when these Mizo, Khasi and Garo people will demand their our languages and not Hindi and on the basis of the unfettered development of all languages in Assam including the Assamese—there will be unity and integrity. Let all flowers bloom. If there is suppression if any unreal thing is sought to be imposed well no body knows how it will have its own reaction.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Mr. Bora, please try to finish early.

**Shri PHANI BORA (Nowgong):** Therefore Sir, when I propose that these amendments should be accepted and that Assamese should be made official language I do not minimise these justifiable reasons that full opportunity should be given to the other languages to grow in an unfettered manner without any suppression by Assamese language and culture so that those languages may not have to be strangled by the Assamese languages like a benian tree. Let Assamese people keep it in mind and let also the non-Assamese brothers realise the aspiration of the Assamese people and their demand and let us all realise that for the purpose of unity and integrity of people living in this State, Assamese should be made the State language and Hills and Cachar should have theirs without imposition of either Assamese or Hindi. With these words, Sir, I commend the amendments for the acceptance of the House.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The amendment moved is:

In clause 3 *delete* delete the words "and English, and when the latter is replaced under Article 343 of the Constitution of India Hindi in place of English" after the word "Assamese" in the third line.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati)** : On a point of procedure may I crave your indulgence Sir, to allow me to make another submission ? Under clause 3 itself, there is quite a large number of amendments. In the name of one member, for example, Com. Bora, there are several amendments in this very clause. If discussions are held separately for each amendment and the sponsor of the Bill is to reply to the debate on each amendment, it will take a long time. The same member may also have to speak several times on the same clause. May I therefore, suggest that all the amendments under the same clause be moved first and let all the participants speak once and let the Sponsor of the Bill give a consolidated reply. That will save time of the House and make the debate more systematic and fruitful.

**Mr. SPEAKER** : Alright we shall follow this procedure.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur)** : Sir, I beg to move my amendment No.12 in clause 3 that "in clauses 3 *delete* the words" and English..... "Hindi in place of English" appearing between the words "Assamese" and "shall be used".

**Mr. SPEAKER** : The amendment No.12, moved.

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog)** Sir, I beg to that in clause 3 *substitute* the word "Hindi" by the word "Assamese" occurring in line four.

**Mr. SPEAKER** : The amendment 13 moved.

**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHAUDHURY (Nalbari-East)** : Sir, I beg to move that in clause 3 after the word "Assamese" in the third line substitute the words "shall be the official language of the State of Assam" for the words "and English and when the latter is replaced under Article 343 of the Constitution of India, Hindi in place of English shall be used for all or any of the official purposes of the State of Assam".

**Mr. SPEAKER** : Amendment No.14 moved.

#### Amendment No. 15

**Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta)** : Sir, I beg to move that :

In clause 3 *substitute* the words, "and English.....  
 ..... Hindi  
 in place of English" occurring in the third and fourth lines by the words  
 "shall be the official language for the entire State of Assam and."

**Mr. SPEAKER** : The amendment is moved.

**Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS [Patacharkuchi (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]** Sir, I beg to move that :

In clause 3, the words appearing after the word "Assamese" in the third line shall be substituted by the words "shall be the only official language in the State for the State of Assam".

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The amendment is moved.

17. ....

(The amendments Nos. 17 and 18 were not moved as the Members concerned were absent).

19. ....

**Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery)** :Sir, I beg to move that :

In clause 3 for the words "English and when the latter is replaced under Article 343 of the Constitution of India, Hindi in place of English" appearing in lines three to five substitute the following words, namely :—

"shall be the official language for the entire State of Assam and".

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The amendment is moved.

20. ....

(The amendment No.20 was not moved as the Members concerned were absent).

#### Amendment No. 21

**Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur)** : I move that in clause 3, —(1) *delete* the words "and English, and when the latter is replaced under Article 343 of the Constitution of India, Hindi in place of English" ;

(2) for the first and second provisos, *substitute* the following provisos, namely :—

"Provided that the English language, so long as the use thereof is permissible under Article 343 of the Constitution of India, and thereafter Hindi in place of English, shall also be used for such official purposes of the Secretariat and the offices of the Heads of the Department of the State Government and in such manner as may be prescribed :

Provided further that,—

(a) all Ordinances promulgated under Article 213 of the Constitution of India ;

(b) all acts passed by the State Legislature ;

(c) all Bills to be introduced or amendments thereto to be moved in the State Legislature ; and

(d) all orders, Regulations, Rules and Bye-laws issued by the State Government under the Constitution of India or any law made by Parliament or the Legislature of the State ;

shall be published in the official Gazette in the Assamese language".

(3) *delete* the third proviso.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The amendment is moved.

19A. ....

**Shri BISWANATH UPADHYAYA (Patharkandi) :** Sir, I beg to move that :

In clause 3 for the words "Assamese and English and when the latter is replaced under Article 343 of the Constitution of India, Hindi in place of English shall be used for all or any of the official purposes of the State of Assam" the following words shall be substituted :—

"Hindi shall be the official language of the State of Assam to be used for all or any of the official purposes of the State :

Provided that English shall be used in place of Hindi till it (English) is replaced by Hindi under Article 343 of the Constitution of India".

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The amendment is moved.

25. ....

**Shri BISWANATH UPADHYAYA :** Sir, I beg to move that :

All the existing provisos to clause 3 shall be deleted.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The amendment is moved.

26. ....

**Maulavi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED :** Sir, I beg to move that :

*Substitute* the first proviso to clause 3 by the following :—

"Provided English shall continue, to be used for all or any of the official purposes for which it was used immediately before the commencement of the Constitution, till such time as its use is discontinued under Article 343 of the Constitution or otherwise whichever date is later :

Provided further English along with Assamese shall be used for official purposes in the Secretariat and offices of the Heads of Departments of the State Government in the manner prescribed for such time as may be determined in previous proviso and without detriment to the legitimate interest of the non-Assamese speaking officers of the said offices".

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The amendment is moved :

27. ....

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) :** Sir, I beg to move that :

In clause 3 *substitute* the first proviso by the following :—

Provided English language, as long as its use is not discontinued either under Article 343 of the Constitution of India or otherwise whichever is latter, along with Assamese shall be used for official purposes in the Secretariat and offices of the Heads of the Departments of the State Government in the manner prescribed and without detriment to the legitimate interest of the non-Assamese speaking officers in the said offices.."

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The amendment is moved.

28. ....

**Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta):** Sir, I beg to move that :

*Substitute* the first proviso to clause 3 by the following :—

“Provided that Assamese and English shall be used for the official purpose in the Secretariat and offices of the Heads of Departments of the State Government in the manner prescribed by the Government. Use of English shall be discontinued when its use under Article 343 of the Constitution of India will be discontinued”.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The amendment is moved.

29. ....

**Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS [Patacharkuchi (Reserve for Scheduled Tribes)]:** Sir, I beg to move that :

*Substitute* the first proviso to clause 3 by the following :—

“Provided English language as long as its use is not discontinued either under Article 343 of the Constitution of India or otherwise whichever is latter, along with Assamese shall be used for official purposes in the Secretariat and offices of the Heads of Department of the State Government in the manner prescribed and without detriment to the legitimate interest of the non-Assamese speaking officers in the said offices”.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The amendment is moved.

30. ....

**Shri PHANI BORA (Nowgong):** Sir, I beg to move that :

In the first Proviso to clause 3 between the words “Provided” and “the English” *insert* the words “that side by side with Assamese” and after the word “language” and before the words “so long” *add* the word “also”.

31A. ....

**Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery):** to move : In the first proviso to clause 3, *add* the words “along with Assamese language” after the word “Act” at the end.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The amendment is moved.

33. ....

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara):** Sir, I beg to move that :

*Delete* the whole of the second proviso to clause 3.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The amandment moved is that the whole of the second proviso to clause 3 be deleted.

34. ....

**Shri PHANI BORA (Nowgong):** Sir, I beg to move that :

*Substitute* the second proviso to clause 3 by the following, namely,—

“Provided that arrangements will be made for the use of minority languages for administrative purposes including the making available in those languages of important Government decrees, orders and enactments in those districts where the minorities are in a majority”.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The amendment is moved.

35. ....

**Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS [Patacharkuchi (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]:** Sir, I beg to move that:

In the second proviso to clause 3 *substitute* the word “English” for “Assamese” in the first line.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The amendment is moved.

37. ....

**Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery):** Sir, I beg to move that :

(1) In the second Proviso to clause 3 *for* the word “Assamese” appearing at the end of the first line the words “English and when the latter is replaced under Article 343 of the Constitution of India, Hindi in place of English” shall be substituted.

(2) *Substitute* the word “Assamese” appearing in the sixth line of the item (d) of the second Proviso of clause 3 by the word “English” and *add* the following words after the newly substituted word “English”;

And when the English is replaced under Article 343 of the Constitution of India “Hindi” in place of “English”.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The amendment is moved.

**Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS:** Sir, I beg to move that :

In item (d) of the second Proviso to clause 3 *substitute* the word “English” *for* the word “Assamese” in the sixth line.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The amendment is moved.

38A. ....

**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East):** Sir, I beg to move :

*Delete* the last Proviso of clause 3 with the marginal heading.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The amendment is moved.

40A. ....

**Shri HIRALAL PATWARY:**

*Delete* the last proviso to clause 3.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The amendment moved is :

*Delete* the last proviso to clause 3.

41. ....

**Shri PHANI BORA (Nowgong)** : Sir, I beg to move :*Substitute* the third Proviso to clause 3 by the following, namely,—

“And provided further that the Assamese language shall be used in all spheres at the State level as well as in all levels in the districts of Lakhimpur, Sibsagar, Nowgong, Darrang, Kamrup and Goalpara.”

**Mr. SPEAKER** : The amendment is moved.

42. ....

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDER (Sorbhog)** : Sir, I beg to move :

For the last Proviso to clause 3 the following shall be substituted, namely—

“Assamese shall be used for administrative and other official purposes all throughout Assam”.

**Mr. SPEAKER** : The amendment is moved.

43. ....

**Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS [Patacharkuchi (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]** : Sir, I beg to move :

In clause 3, *substitute* the last Proviso by the following—

“Only the Assamese language” shall be used for administrative and other official purposes, throughout Assam.”

44. ....

**Shri KHAGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri)** : That in the last Proviso to clause 3 after the words “the district level” occurring in the third line the words “in the Plains districts of the Brahmaputra Valley, namely Lakhimpur, Sibsagar, Darrang, Nowgong, Kamrup and Goalpara districts” shall be substituted by the words “in all the districts of the State of Assam”.

**Mr. SPEAKER** : The amendment is moved.**Mr. SPEAKER** : Now, Shri Goswami—Amendment No.27.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur)** : Mr. Speaker, Sir, while moving my amendments to this clause and the provisos, I am really pained to hear the speech made by Shri Ranendra Mohan Das. Shri Das has very much dealt with the census figures. It is really too late in 1960 to dispute the census figures of 1951. I do not say that the census figures are accurate but I want to say that the Assamese population is bigger than what has been shown in the census. But, Sir, we have accepted the census. Government have accepted these figures for election purposes. These census figures have been accepted by all and we have been working on them for preparing and executing the plan. To-day to say that these figures are wrong, very wrong, very much exaggerated, in favour of a particular community, will be to undo the whole thing and will be a wrong proposition to start with. Sir, as I have said before in this House. I do not want to go by the census figures. We want to take into account how we stand to-day

in reality whether the Assamese speaking people are the majority in the State or not. From our experience and without going into what is the percentage of this or that community we can say that in Assam the Assamese speaking people are in a majority. A comprehensive tour in the State will prove that. Sir, the obiter dicta of the State's Reorganisation Commission has been wrongly cougth into this controversy. I say obiter dicta because the State's Reorganisation Commission was not under the terms of reference asked to reply to what should be the language of a particular State. Therefore, when it says that only if 70 percent of the people belong to a particular community, a particular State has to be treated as a unilingual State—it is at the most a obiter dicta which we may follow or may not follow.

### Adjournment

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

*After lunch.*

Mr. Speaker on the Chair.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was speaking about the points raised by my Friend, Mr. Das regarding Census. In this connection I would like to quote the remarks of Mr. Lloyd and Mr. Mullan. In 1921 Mr. Lloyd said :

“As to the entries of Bengalee and Hindi I fear inaccuracy is as great as before in large two districts of Assam Valley. Our old friend “Collie BAT” arose with all its former strength and Assamese enumerators were as prone as ever to enter Bengalee for any language that was foreign to them. In Goalpara the same conflict between Assamese and Bengalees arose.”

In 1931 Mr. C. S. Mullan said:

“The language returns in the case of coolies has improved considerably. This is shown by the fact that only 73,000 persons in Sibsagar District have been returned as speakers of Bengalee (a word which the Assamese will continue to use for any foreign language) against 1,31,000 in 1921 and 77,000 in Lakhimpur against 1,05,000 in 1921. Those large decrease do not singify reduction in the total number of Bengalee speakers. They merely mean that the general tendency for Assamese enumerators to use the word Bengalee for any language which is not Assamese has been kept under stricter control than in the last Census.”

Therefore, Sir, I do not want to go by the Census figures. The second point raised by my Friend Mr. Das is about S. R. C. which I have said it an absolute obiter dicta. Secondly I do not understand how if 69 per cent people of the State speak a particular language it will not be unilinguas and their language cannot be given the status of official language but if other 31 per cent of the minorities and they do not belong to one group, but several language groups—then what should be the language of the State? As a matter of fact, in deciding to make Hindi the National Language the same formula was applied as we have done here, Assamese speaking



people is surely the absolute major group in the State and not only a major group as in the case of Hindi, and therefore what we have applied in the All-India sphere, we want to apply in the State sphere also. My Friend Shri Ranendra Mohan Das has said that there are different language sphere and those people have a right to speak their languages. Nobody denies that right—rather I go a step further and say these languages be developed. Sir, in this regard I have also to place certain figures, and I find that not only in Assam, but West Bengal, Orissa, Rajasthan, Andhra, Hyderabad, U. P. and in other States also may be called multi-lingual, if the criterion is whether they contain population of more than one lakh speaking different languages. Here I give the population figures in Assam, community-wise as below :—

1. Assamese	49,48,092	7. Mikir	1,23,725
2. Bengali	16,54,904	8. (a) Bodo	1,16,884
3. Hindi	3,22,965	(b) Kachari	50,572
4. Garo	2,33,399	9. Oriva	1,12,039
5. Khasi	2,28,085	10. Nepali	1,11,755
6. Lushai	1,59,297		

If you look to West Bengal, you will find the figures as follow :—

1. Bengali	2,10,39,601	6. Oriya	1,82,618
2. Hindi	15,80,724	7. Rai	84,177
3. Santhali	6,63,516	8. Tamang	58,228
4. Urdu	4,57,981	9. Telugu	49,541
5. Nepali	2,12,562		

In Orissa, you will find the figures as follow :—

1. Oriya	1,20,65,272	7. Ho	1,81,598
2. Telegu	3,42,522	8. Urdu	1,59,017
3. Santhali	3,33,979	9. Paraja	1,46,938
4. Kandh	2,80,316	10. Hindi	1,23,979
5. Kui	2,06,509	11. Bhumi	99,687
6. Savara	1,91,401	12. Bengali	86,083

Even then Sir, in those States, one language has been made the official language. I would like to say with pride that we are more generous than those States. We have, in our Language Bill, provided for their development in a much better way than in other States. I have before me Sir, the Official Language Bills of other States, nowhere the provisions we have made, have been incorporated to safeguard the interest of linguistic minorities. What have we done here? Have we not kept Bengali in Cachar in the district level, and for the Hills have we not left it to the discretion of the District Councils to choose their own language in the district level? In no other State this has been done. Then Sir, where is the imposition? I have very carefully read out Prime Minister's statement before the Press Conference, and I am in full agreement with him. He has said that so far as Brahmaputra Valley is concerned, it is cent per cent Assamese. This is his own language, and he did not want that it should be imposed. We have not done that in Cachar and the Hills.

Now, so far as Hill people are concerned, have we tried to impose our language? District Councils have been given the discretion to choose any language they like in the district level and in Cachar also Bengali has been provided. After that in the Secretariat level, although I have difference with the Bill, also Assamese has been sought to be made one of the languages and English will continue. At least for a period of 20 to 25 years not a single hair of these people will be touched; they will be able to continue in their own language. Has any State in their Bills made any such provision? And yet if we are accused of parochialism, I would only say that they have not looked to our point of view with interest and sympathy.

Sir, I don't think that it is relevant here to discuss the State's Re-organisation Commission's Report or their obiter dicta. But Sir, so far as Hindi is concerned, Hindi has a place of its own. The Constitution makes two chapters—one for National Language, and under Article 343 Hindi comes as the National Language. We do not want to degrade the position of Hindi as a National Language and make it a State language in a State where it is not spoken. It will be there. Every one will have to learn it. We must learn it and we went to respect that position. Not that we have any grudge against Hindi for being made the National Language. The question is, can it be made or should it be made the State Language also? Under Article 345 Official Language for the State can be made, and the language in use can be made or Hindi. When a language in use cannot be found out then only Hindi will come. If a language in use can be found out actually Hindi may not come, and there will be one language as the official language or 2 languages. So far as Assamese is concerned it is the language in use. It is the language of the majority of the people after all. What is the purpose of official language? To bring the administration closer to the people. If Hindi is made the official language it will be very difficult to use that language immediately in the plains districts. Similarly in the hills, the percentage of Hindi-knowing people is less than the percentage of Hindi-knowing people in the plains. Therefore, I have a feeling that this demand for Hindi has been made not out of any genuine love for Hindi but simply as a counterblast to our demand. Hindi has been demanded as a means of obstructing our demand. Otherwise, why even the Cachar people should demand Hindi? The Bengali people did not want Hindi even as a national language. To-day their love for Hindi has suddenly grown even for State purposes. Therefore, Sir, I do not

think the demand for Hindi is genuine. As I said before, it is made just as a counterblast to our demand for making Assamese the State language. I also do not know, Sir, why my tribal friends should oppose this so much. They have said that Assamese as the State language or even one of the State languages they will never have. This is really a very difficult proposition to understand. If really my tribal friends want Hindi as one of the official languages let them come forward and say "We agree". So far as I am concerned, I am ready to face the people of Assam and tell them "here is an agreement between two brothers; let us agree to it". But they have not said so. They have simply said "We do not want Assamese as one of the official languages". Then, Sir, so far as the tribal languages are concerned, if my tribal friends say "here is one language (Khasi, Garo or Lushai), you give it official status at the State level", I would say I am personally ready because Hindi is not their language. Let them choose one of their languages and I would have no objection to giving it official status at the State level. It will be a very good thing. We would learn that language and there would be better exchange of ideas between us. Therefore, my submission is so far as clause 3 is concerned, I want that Assamese should be the only State language in the State of Assam and it should be used for all or any of the official purposes as may be prescribed.

Now, Sir, coming to the Bill before us, I find that although Assamese is made the official language it will not be used at the Secretariat level or in the Heads of Departments so long as English is not replaced by Hindi. Now, my submission is this is wrong. If you make Assamese the official language use it in the Secretariat and heads of departments offices. We do not have an official language just as an ornament. Mere declaration will not do. It must have its entry into the Secretariat. The Bill does not provide that. Now, the A. P. C. C. has suggested certain amendment and accordingly certain amendments have been tabled to clause 3. These amendments seek to continue the use of English so long as permissible under Article 343 of the Constitution of India. This is not a correct stand. My submission is that along with the Assamese, English can continue under Article 345. My reading of Articles 343 and 345 differs from that of the Government. So far Article 343 is concerned, it sets a time-limit till when English can be used. Originally the time-limit was fixed at 1965, now it has been extended to 1975. The article also provides that when English will be removed Hindi will take its place. But Article 343 says "Provided that until the legislature of a State otherwise provides by law, the English language shall continue to be used for those official purposes within the State for which it was being used immediately before the commencement of this Constitution". Article 343 provides for replacement of English by Hindi at the Centre after a specified period. But under Article 345 a State can continue to use English "until the Legislature of the State otherwise provides by law". Article 345 has nothing to do with Article 343. If this interpretation is accepted, my submission will be Assamese will be the official language at the State level and used in the Secretariat and heads of departments and along with it English will also continue till when, we do not say, till our friends decide "let us not have English any more, let us have us a chance to show our sympathy and understanding for our tribal brethren and whether we can live together. We have given them pinpricks in the past. Let us now begin a new chapter. Let us leave them along for 25 or 30 years till we win them over. But in any case, Hindi does not come in.

Article 343 is meant for replacement of English by Hindi at the Union level and not in States. Sir, to-day the Tribal friends in Shillong and other places are observing a *Hartal*. Here today understand they have taken out a bing procession. I hail their graving consciousness. But I wish this this consciousness be diverted in a different channel, the channel of better understanding and mutal respect, a tendency to live together and develop the State in a better way. They more they become conscious the more we will be conscious of necessity of learning the art of living together. Let English remain as long as they like. Article 345 of the Constitution gives us the right to use English at the State level as long as we like. After sometime we may understand each other's point of view better and it will be possible for us to make Assamese only the language at the Secretariat and heads of departments' levels. Therefore, I have tabled my amendment, No.27, like this: "Provided English language, as long as its use is not discontinued either Article 343 of the Constitution of India or otherwise, whichever is later, along with Assamese shall be used for official purposes in the Secretariat and offices of the Heads of the Departments of the State Government in the manner prescribed and without detriment to the legitimate interest of the non-Assamese speaking officers in the said offices."

Yesterday I went to Umiam and enquired how many Tribal people have been employed. I found that everyone who applied has been employed and nobody has been refused work. They will get sufficient scope for their development. If we take two things together, on the one hand opening up vistas of larger employment, better employment, more and more employment, on the other hand, this attitude of mutal understanding, mutual respect to each other's views, we can develope. With these words I would like that this amendment should be considered, that Assamese should be the only official language so far as the Secretariat and Heads of Departments are concerned. Let Assamese be gradually introduced and at the same time English should continue till it is replaced by Article 343 and in the meantime no non-Assamese speaking people will be put to hardship and will be forced to do something which is detrimental to their legitimate interest. I think all these things will be done and we shall be able to develop Assamese as the language of the whole State, Assamese as the language which will unify everyone of us which will bring about emotional integration and thereby and thereby the people of Assam, as a whole, will prosper. With these words I comment my amendment for the acceptance of the House.

**Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur):** I beg to move, Sir, my amendment. In support of my amendment, I beg to submit that in the Bill as it has been introduced before us we find that English should continue till it is replaced by Hindi. Sir, it gives a bilingual character and this has been objected to by the people. This Bill has not satisfied the people of the State and there is the persistent demand for declaring Assamese as the only official language. It has already been stated that Assamese should be the only State language of Assam for all purposes. The objection that has been raised by my friends here and also in the press against the Language Bill is not without foundation, for instance on official language must be for the official purposes of the State and has been said by my friend Mr. Goswami, the purpose of the official language is to bring the administration nearer to the people. The amendment seeks to do away with these defects of the Bill. Therefore, we must accept that language for all official purposes which is spoken and understood by the

majority of the people living in Assam. Then as regards the other persons, take for instance in the Garo Hills, it has been stated that the Garo people do not understand Assamese but everybody in the House knows that fair percentage of the Garo people understand and know Assamese, they speak in Assamese, there are also Assamese schools in the Garo Hills, in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills there are large number of persons near the Kamrup border who speak Assamese and also understand Assamese. I do not claim that Assamese is known by the people of the interior of the Khasi Hills and Lushai Hills but as regards other Hills Districts of Assam, Assamese is the language which is known by a fairly large number of persons. The Naga's have adopted Assamese as the common language for official purposes.

Much has been said about the census of 1951 and all the points have been made clear by my Friends, but one point which has been conveniently forgotten by all is that the number of Bengalee persons as has been shown in the Census Reports prior to 1951 was on the basis of the Bengalees of Sylhet District which has subsequently been partitioned. After the separation of Sylhet which had a population of 31 lakhs of people, of this, 7 lakhs have gone over to Pakistan, only about 6 lakhs of people are in the Karimganj Subdivision of Cachar District. All these things were very conveniently forgotten by the Census Superintendent Mr. Vaghaiwalla and others who disputed the Census figures of 1951. In the report of the other Census Superintendents a great deal of manipulation were done by the Bengalee officers, even in the District of Goalpara also. So I need not dialate on these things. (Our demand is that Assamese should be made the State language of Assam and it cannot be defeated by the fact that a large number of persons from outside Assam have come to Assam and they have settled here. There is thus an influx of population from outside and if we want to develop economically it is bound to be that persons from other States will come and settle here, but the homegenity of the State cannot be disturbed, because some persons from outside have settled here. So we demand that Assamese should be the only official language of the State. Assamese is spoken and understood by a large majority of the people in Assam. Further in the Bill we have safeguarded the interests of all sections of people. We know the composite structure of the people of Assam and there are also several languages spoken in different parts of Assam. In the Bill, *i. e.*, in my amendment we have provided for safeguards for all the different linguistic minorities not only very adequately but very liberally also. As regards the language issue we have kept all these things in mind that we must preserve the integrity of the State, that there must not be any imposition of one's language upon the unwilling persons and thirdly there must also be promotion and encouragement of all the other languages of the State. These are the three factors which we have considered very carefully in bringing about this Bill and also while suggesting amendments.

As regards the integrity of the State it has been said, that if Assamese be declared the official language of the State the Hill Districts will demand for separation of Hill State. The demand for Hill State is not new, of course those leaders who were trying to have the Hill State, they have demanded so, they have propogated this idea that because of this the Hills are bound to be separated, Sir, if the Bill before us and the amendments are very carefully analysed no where it has been said that we are going to impose Assamese language on anybody, rather even the legitimate right

that the official language can be a language at all levels, in the interest of our Hill brothers, in the interest of the non-Assamese speaking people, we have taken a liberal attitude to it and we have tried to show that the use of English will be replaced gradually by Hindi and the Hindi will be used for specific purposes in the Secretariat and also in the Heads of Department so that those of our Hill brothers who are not willing to take Assamese or those who cannot understand Assamese will not be inconvenienced. Then Sir, as regards this proviso that in the Secretariat and the Heads of Department in addition to Assamese that is Assamese will be used for the purposes of the State and along with Assamese for certain purposes as Government may prescribe. Thus we have given some latitude and if the Government finds that it will be difficult to run the administration or who are not willing to take up Assamese then this proviso also accommodates those people and they will not be inconvenienced in any way because Assamese will come to the Secretariat level. Then Sir, I feel that my friends have not considered this statement very carefully that in such manner as may be prescribed, Hindi when replaced by English will also come to the Secretariat level not for all purposes, but only for these purposes which Government may prescribe, and therefore, the contention of my friends that even at the Secretariat level, Hindi when substituted in place of English, will be one of the associate language with Assamese is not very correct. Then, Sir, as has been said by some of my friends that we would have accepted Hindi provided our hill tribes would have accepted it. I do not think, Sir, that we should bring Hindi something like a bargaining manner or with a bargaining mind. If we feel it is just and proper, then only we should do it without any bargaining motive. We have not made any bargain, but because we feel that our hill brethren are averse to Assamese at the present moment and that they do not or will not try to learn and understand Assamese and even it has been said that now or at no time, they will learn Assamese or take up Assamese, even then, we have accommodated them, so that our hill brothers will find no difficulty in accepting this Bill which adequately provides all the safeguards which they apprehend or imagine.

Then, Sir, the other provision is that English and Assamese will be introduced for all purposes of the States as soon as the Bill is enacted and other conditions are fulfilled. In the second proviso, all ordinances etc., will be also published in the gazette so that Assamese can acquire the respectability of its status as the official language.

With these words, Sir, I commend my amendment for acceptance by this house.

**\* Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery):** অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই সংশোধনীটো সমর্থন কৰি কবলৈ বিচাৰিছো যে যিখন বিল সদনত ডাঙি ধৰিছে, সেই বিলৰ ও ধাৰাত দুটা ভাষাক স্থান দিছে। ইংৰাজী ভাষা ভাৰতৰ পূৰ্বা আঁতৰাবৰ কাৰণে যিটো আন্দোলন চলি আছে, সেই আন্দোলনত জৰিত পায় ৪০ হেজাৰ মানুহ আজি জেলত আছে বা থাকিব লগা হৈছে। সেইকাৰণে ইংৰাজীক ৰাজ্যিক স্তৰত ৰখাৰ কোনো যুক্তি নাই। আজি জনসাধাৰণে এনে এটা ভাষা বিচাৰিছে যিটোৰ দ্বাৰা চৰকাৰৰ কামবোৰ কৰিব পাৰি আৰু বাইজেও তাক সহজে বুজিব পাৰে।

অসমীয়া ভাষাক লৈ আজি ৰাজনৈতিক নেতাসকলে—বিশেষকৈ পাহাৰী আৰু কাছাৰৰ সকলে যি খেলা খেলিছে; সেইদৰে ৰাজনীতি স্কুমলে ভাষা সমস্যা সমাধান কৰা টান হ'ব। আজি পাহাৰী সকলো যিটো শোভাযাত্ৰা কৰিলে এই বিলখনৰ বিৰোধিতা কৰি আৰু কাছাৰৰ সকলে পিয়লৰ কথা তুলি বেমেজালিৰ সৃষ্টি কৰিবলৈ বিচাৰিছে, তেনে ক্ষেত্ৰত জনসাধাৰণে বুজা ভাষা এটা ৰাজ্য ভাষা কৰা সম্ভৱপৰ নহ'ব যেন লাগে। চৰকাৰী ভাষা কৰিবলৈ পিয়লৰ বিশেষ আৱশ্যক নাই। পাহাৰী সকলেও ভয় কৰিব লগা একো নাই।

কাৰণ তেওঁলোকে বিচৰা ভাষা ইংৰাজী আৰু হিন্দী দুয়োটাই আছে, কিন্তু ভাষাটোয়েই লোকৰ একমাত্ৰ আপত্তি নহয়। তেওঁলোকক লাগে বেলেগ ৰাজ্য পাতি নিজৰ কাম নিজে কৰিবলৈ। সেইটোৰ পৰাও তেওঁলোকৰ বিশেষ কিবা লাভ হ'ব বুলি মনে নধৰে।

হিন্দী, অসমীয়া আৰু বঙালী ভাষাবহুভিত্তি হৈছে সংস্কৃত। সেই কাৰণে ইয়াক শিকিবলৈ একো টান নহ'ব। চেৰেক্টাৰীয়েটত অসমীয়া সুবিধাজনক হ'বনে নহয় সেইটো চিন্তা কৰিবলগা একো নাই যেহেতু সংস্কৃত ইয়াৰ গুৰি। আমাৰ আৰ্থিক অৱস্থা উন্নত হলে ভাষা সমস্যা বিশেষ একো কঠিন সমস্যা নহয়। ৰাজস্থানৰ চৰকাৰী ভাষাৰ অৱস্থাত অসমৰ দৰে। তাত ৰাজস্থানী জনসংখ্যা প্ৰায় ৪০ লাখ, মেট্ৰাবী ৩০ লাখ, ভীল ২ লাখ আৰু বাণ্ডুৱীয়া ৯ লাখ। মেট্ৰাবী সকল বানা প্ৰত্যাপৰ বংশধৰ আৰু চৰকাৰী ভাষা কৰিবলৈ সম্পূৰ্ণ দাবী কৰিব পাৰে। কিন্তু ৰাজস্থানী চৰকাৰী ভাষা কৰিলে। কাৰণ এইটো সুবিধাৰ কথা। ইয়াত মীলপ্ৰীতি থাকিলে এটা ভাষা শিকিবলৈ একো টান নহয়।

মই দেখিছো ৰাজ্য-ভাষাৰ প্ৰশ্ন ভাৰতৰ গোটেই ঠাইত অকল আমাৰ ইয়াতেই নহয় চাব। অসম খন আমাৰ আৰু ইয়াক শাসনো কৰিব লাগিব আমাৰ ভাৰতীয় ভাষাত। শাসন কৰিবলৈ যাওঁতে আমাৰ অৰ্থনৈতিক অৱস্থা চাব লাগিব। Secretariat level ত কেইবাটাও ভাষা বখা, হলে মই ভাবো, আমাৰ purpose serve টো নহ'ব। অসমীয়া inposition অসমীয়াৰ exploitation এই বিলাক কথাত মোৰ মনত বৰ বেজাৰ লাগিছে। Constitution VIII Schedule ৰ ভিতৰত অসমীয়া ভাষাত এটা One of the Indian major language বুলি মানিছো আৰু N.-E. F. A. ত অসমীয়া Primary Stage ত Government of India ই মানিছে। এইটো অৱস্থাতৰ মাজেদি exploitation বা imposition ৰ প্ৰশ্ন আছে কিয় মই ভাবি নাপাওঁ। মই ভাবো, চাব, অসমীয়া ভাষা চৰকাৰী ভাষা কৰিবলৈ যিমান দূৰ প্ৰচাৰ কৰিব লাগিছিল সিমান দূৰ হোৱা নাই। চৰকাৰে জানে ১৯৫০ চনৰ পৰা যে ৰাজ্য ভাষা কৰিব লাগিব। এই কথাটোত চৰকাৰে কি কৰিছে? নেতা বিলাকৰ কথাবাদ দি যি বিলাক সাধাৰণ মানুহ আছে সেই বিলাকক অসমীয়া ভাষা শিকাই ল'ব লাগিব। চৰকাৰে দেশৰ জনসাধাৰণৰ future টো নাভাৰে Integrity of the State আটাইতকৈ ডাঙৰ কথা। আজি এইটো অৱস্থা হ'ব পাৰে Congress ৰ দুৰ্বলতাৰ কাৰণে আৰু চৰকাৰৰ ভুলৰ কাৰণে। আজি এই সাত মাহৰ ভিতৰতে চৰকাৰে কিয় মন কৰা নাই? আমি এতিয়া দেখিছো যিকেইটা কংগ্ৰেছৰ বিদ্ৰোহী সেইবিলাকেই বাইজৰ লগত মিলি আহিছে—সেই কাৰণে বাইজে আৰু, কংগ্ৰেচক মৰম নকৰে। তাৰ লগত এইখিনি হৈ গ'ল। এনেকুৱা চৰকাৰৰ ওপৰত জনসাধাৰণ ভৰষা কৰিব নোৱাৰে। জন সাধাৰণে যিটো সমস্যা তাৰ সমাধানৰ পথ কৰি দিব পাৰিলে বেয়া পাবৰ কোনো কথা নাথাকে। আমি যদি জন সাধাৰণক বুজাই দিব পাৰো যে ৰাজ্যিক ভাষা বা

Official language কি—আৰু যিটো Official language ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰা শোষণ নহব Exploitation নহয়। মানুহে এতিয়া ভিৰাছে যে এইটো চৰকাৰে কৰিছে সেইকাৰণে বিৰোধিতা কৰিছে। মানুহে ভাবিছে যে হিন্দী ৰাজ্য ভাষা কৰিব বিচাৰিছে আৰু সেইটো নিশ্চয়ই ত্ৰিপাঠীয়ে আনিছে। যদিও আমি জানো এই বিলাক কথা ত্ৰিপাঠীয়ে কেতিয়াও অনা নাই। আমি যানো যিটো Language ব জৰীয়তে আমি আমাৰ কাম চলাব পাৰো সেইটোয়ে আমাৰ official language হব পাৰে কাৰণ এইটো মানুহৰ সুবিধা হব। কাছাৰৰ মানুহে ইয়াৰ বিৰোধিতা কৰিছে এইটো agreement ব জৰীয়তে সমাধান কৰিব পাৰি, মই বুজিবলৈ পাইছো। মই ৰাজস্থানৰ পৰা আহিছো আৰু আপোনালোকে মাৰোয়াৰী Commision ব ওপৰত জনসাধাৰণৰ ভাব বেয়া কাৰণে আমি Black marketer (Laughter) মই সেই Community মানুহ হৈয়ো; কিন্তু তথাপি মই জনসাধাৰণৰ প্ৰতি নিশ্চিহ্ন এই সদনত আহিব পাৰিছো। America ব পৰা আহি আমাক শিকাৰ পাৰে। Rough ক Raf কিন্তু আজি শ্বিলঙত কংগ্ৰেছে অসমীয়া শিকাৰ নোৱাৰে আৰু মানুহে কৰ Assamese is foreign to U. S. কেনেকৈ foreign হল? মাত্ৰ আমাৰ মন বিলাক foreign হৈ গৈছে। আমাৰ চৰকাৰ পক্ষৰ দলীয় ঐক্য নোহোৱা হৈছে আৰু কংগ্ৰেচৰ মাজত নিজৰ মিল ৰাখিব পৰা নাই। আজি দেখিবলৈ পাওঁ Cabinet ব ভিতৰতো দলীয় ভাব (সময় সঙ্কেত)

গতিকে মোৰ যিটো ammendment আনিবলৈ বিছাৰিছো সেইটো আমাৰ প্ৰধান মন্ত্ৰী পণ্ডিত নেহেৰু ডাঙৰীয়াইও কৈছে। ইয়াত party আহিব নালাগিছিল। সেই কাৰণে, চাব, মোৰ ammendment একদম clear অসমত ৰাজ্যভাষা অসমীয়াই হব লাগিব। Secretariat তো অসমীয়াই চলিব আৰু order বিলাক অসমীয়াতেই হব।

তাত অন্য কোনো অশ্লুবিধা নহয়। সেই কাৰণে ভাষালৈ যিটো ৰাজনীতি সৃষ্টি হৈছে সেইটো বন্ধ কৰিব লাগিব। যাতে ভাষালৈ কাজিয়া আকৌ গাওঁ অঞ্চলত গজি উঠিব নোৱাৰে। সেই কাৰণে মাননীয় সদস্য সকলে কঠোৰ। ভাবে কাম কৰিব লাগিব।

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Your time is up.

**Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery):** চাব ইয়াকে কৈ মোৰ টো দাঙি ধৰিছো।

**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to speak in support of my amendment and in doing so I want to refer to the provision of the Constitution wherein it is clearly stated that "until the legislature of the State otherwise provides by law, the English language shall continue to be used for those official purposes within the State for which it was being used immediately before the commencement of the Constitution." Here in our Bill we find that a redundant provision has been made that when English is removed another language should be brought and in doing so we have brought Hindi to the picture. It is clear that when the Bill was brought here some of us might be under some illusion and were thinking that we are ignoring Hindi or might be confused between



the National language and the State language. Our Constitution has already provided that Hindi should be the lingua franca of our country. It was argued, when we raised this point, that our children,—the children of the soiled—would not be easily allowed to take up Hindi. I cannot exactly follow what is meant by that. Hindi has already been declared to be the National language of India and so naturally it will have a bearing in so far as the different States are concerned. Hindi will have to be used for inter-State correspondence and also in correspondence with the Union. So what is the necessity of making a provision in our Bill for Hindi? I do not find any reason for making Hindi our State language, a language to be used and understood by the people. It has been clearly stated here by my friends that we want to take our administration nearer to the people, and we want to make our people understand as to what is going on here and also to express themselves in the Government level. It is for this reason that we want to do away with this foreign language English and to make Assamese the only State language for Assam. Sir, I will be failing in my duty if I do not mention a word of what our late leader Sadullah said, and it is he who brought the Assamese language to the forefront and it is for him that Assamese language got recognition as one of the State languages. We are all grateful to him for this. Sir, we have been lingering on this issue for so long but we have not been able to come to a decision during the last several years when some of our sister States have introduced their official languages.

Sir, I also want to make it clear that in the Secretariat level we should not make a confusion in bringing Hindi in place of English when Assamese is declared as the State language. There is a clear provision that Assamese when it becomes the State language has nothing to do with the correspondence with other States or it will not interfere with the National language. Sir, while discussing this Bill different opinion has been given here as to whether our State should be unilingual or multilingual. Our Assamese friends have expressed that our State should be unilingual and that Assamese should be declared as the only language of the State. Our hill friends also have expressed themselves and they also wanted that our State should be unilingual. But they wanted that English should be the State language. Now, we are to decide as to which one of the languages should be our State language. Our hill friends' contention is that English should be the only State language. But, Sir, if we make English as our official language the difficulty will be that our peasants and the majority of our people, for whose benefit we are going to have the State language, will not understand it. In deciding the language issue we should also have the democratic opinion of the country. Sir, everybody is in favour of one language being made the State language.

Sir, there is a section in this House led by my Friend Ranen Das. Shri Das went to such an extent as to challenge the statement of our Prime Minister. The Prime Minister observed that so far as Brahmaputra Valley is concerned, and all is in favour of Assamese being the State language. He also questioned the accuracy of the census figure. Sir, in the earlier census operation the enumerators were not conversant with the rules and most of them were Bengalees and they made a mistake. The Assamese people call all the outsiders 'Bongal' but the enumerators misunderstood it. Even the English people we used to call 'Boga Bongal'. In subsequent census operations that mistake was detected and so my friend now disputes that the census figure is not correct. Sir, we should not dispute the census figure

I remember that this very friend of mine told once that the census figures in different districts were correct and now for the sake of argument he said that these figures are incorrect.

Sir, in deciding this language question we should also take the instances of other States. Not a single State in India there can be found that all the people or the absolute majority of the people speak one language. Even in U. P. where Hindi has been introduced as the State language there are so many Urdu speaking people, and the number is sufficient. But in spite of that U. P. Government has introduced Hindi. In other States also this is the case. In Bengal also, there are non-Bengali speaking people but they are contemplating to declare Bengali as the State language. Of course they have not yet done so. In Madras and other Provinces also the language which is spoken by the majority of the people has been declared as the State language. In Assam the majority of the people speak Assamese and so we want to make Assamese our State language and in doing so, we have not closed the door for the other people or any other language group to freely express themselves or to develop their own languages. We have nothing to do with other languages. The use of Assamese is restricted to offices and administration and the Chief Minister has made it clear that the official language, if it is introduced will have nothing to do with schools and education, therefore, it is absurd to say that education in our State will be hampered. To say that the official language will hamper education, that is quite incorrect and improper.

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

**Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding):** মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় clause III ত মই যি amendment দিছো সেইটো শবত চক্ৰ গোস্বামীয়ে দিয়া amendment ব লগত খাপ খাই পৰিছে এই amendment যদি গ্ৰহণ কৰা যায় তেন্তে অসমীয়া ভাষা official language হিচাবে গৃহীত হৈ যাব। এই clause তেই কেজনমান সদস্যৰ দ্বাৰা অন্য ভাৱ প্ৰকাশ কৰা দেখা গৈছে; তেওঁলোকে অসমত অসমীয়া official language হোৱাত কেনেকৈ বাধা হোৱা বুলি দিয়ে বুলি নাপাও। তেওঁলোকে কয় অসমীয়াৰ লগতে বঙালী আৰু হিন্দীও হব লাগে ও আৰু কোনোমতে english ৰেই থাকিব লাগে। তেখেত সকলৰ বুলি শুনি আচৰিত হৈছো।

অসমীয়া অতি সাধাৰণতে জাতি hospitable তেওঁলোকে সেই কৰণে দোষেই হওক গুণেই হওক বঙালীৰ লগত বঙ্গালী আৰু হিন্দী ভাষিৰ লগত হিন্দ ৰে কথা কয়। তাৰোপৰি অসমৰ এখন জিলাত বেচি সংখ্যক বঙালী মানুহ বসতি। ইয়াৰে সুবিধা লৈ যদি তেওঁলোকে যুক্তি দেখুৱাই যে অসমীয়া ই ভালকৈ বঙ্গালী জানে, আৰু অসমত বহুত ঠাইত সিচৰতি হৈ বঙ্গালী মানুহ আছে আৰু চেঞ্চাচটোও সন্দেহজনক ইত্যাদি। এই ক্ষেত্ৰত মই কব খোজো যে বঙ্গালী ভাষাৰ নিজস্ব এটা জাগা আছে সেইটো হৈছে বঙ্গদেশ। যদি বঙ্গ ভাষাৰ স্থান নেগা কিলেহেতেন, তেন্তে সেইটো চিন্তাৰ বিষয় হ'ল, হয়; যেহেতুকে এই ভাষা এটা সম্মুখিশালি ভাষা; কিন্তু ঔপনিবেষক মনোবৃত্তিৰে যদি এই দাবি ধৰা হয় তেন্তে ই নিতান্ত অযুক্তিকৰ। চেঞ্চাচ সম্পৰ্কে মই পাঁচত আলোচনা কৰিম।

সেইদৰে হিন্দী ভাষাবো এটা নিজস্ব স্থান আছে আৰু ই এটা সৰ্ব  
 ভাৰতীয় ভাষা হৈছেই : গতিকে আকৌ অসমত স্কিকিয়া এটা স্থানৰ উল্লেখ  
 কোনো প্ৰয়োজন নাই । কিন্তু অসমীয়া ভাষাৰ নিজস্ব স্থান হৈছে অসম  
 আৰু যদিও এসময়ত ই সমৃদ্ধিশালী ভাষা আছিল, ষাট-প্ৰতিষাটৰ মাজত এতিয়া  
 ছালুকীয়া অৱস্থাত পৰিছেগৈ, এনে ক্ষেত্ৰত মই কব খোজো যে যদি  
 অসমীয়া ভাষাৰ স্থান অসমত নহয় তেনেহলে কত হব ? ইয়াৰ লগতে  
 ২।৩ টা ভাষা জাপি দিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰাৰ উদ্দেশ্য হৈছে অসমীয়া ভাষাৰ  
 বিকাশ আৰু সমৃদ্ধি লাভ কৰাত বাধা দিয়া । অৱশ্যে মই আগতে কৈ  
 আহিছো এসময়ত অসমীয়া ভাষা যিমান সমৃদ্ধিশালী আছিল, ভাৰতৰ খুব  
 কম সংখ্যক ভাষাই সিমান সমৃদ্ধিশালী নাছিল । ১৬ শ শতিকাত যে অসমীয়া  
 ভাষা সমৃদ্ধিশালী আছিল সেই বিষয়ে সন্দেহ নাই । Late Sir, P. C. Roy  
 said: "Assamese prose literature developed into a stage in far  
 distant sixteenth century which no other literature of the world  
 reached except the writings of Hoolder and Latins in England."  
 Biswakabi Rabindra Nath wrote to Pandit H m Chandra  
 Goswami". You may be very well proved of the author  
 of the Book who could handle prose in such a remarkable  
 and Lucid style more than a century before we had any prose  
 book in Bengalee." কিন্তু এই ভাষাৰ পতন ষাটবলৈ পালে  
 ১৮৩৬ চনৰ পৰা ১৮৭২ চনৰ ভিতৰত যেতিয়া অসমীয়া ভাষাৰ পৰিবৰ্ত্তে  
 ইংৰাজ শাসক সকলে বঙালী কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ প্ৰবোচনাত অসমত বঙালী  
 ভাষা প্ৰবৰ্ত্তন কৰি জাপি দিলে আৰু বঙালী কৰ্মচাৰীৰে অসমৰ চাকৰি আদি  
 ভৰপূৰ কৰি অসমক বঙ্গ দেশৰ এখন উপনিবেশত পৰিণত কৰাৰ দিহা কৰিলে ।  
 Census সম্বন্ধে বহুতে বহুত কথা কৈছে । তেখেত সকলৰ প্ৰধান যুক্তি হৈছে  
 আগৰ চেক্ষাচ বিলাকত অসমীয়া ভাষা-ভাষীৰ যিটো ক্ৰম বৃদ্ধি সেইটো ১৯৫১ চনৰ  
 চেক্ষাচৰ ক্ৰম বৃদ্ধিত কেতিয়াও খাপ নোখাই । তেওঁলোকে কয় যে ১৯২১ চনৰ  
 চেক্ষাচত কৈ ১৯৩১ চনৰ চেক্ষাচত কেৱল অলপ বেচি...২১ হেজাৰ অসমীয়া  
 ভাষা-ভাষীৰ সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি পাইছিল কিন্তু ১৯৫১ চনৰ চেক্ষাচত যি দৰলবো ওপৰ  
 হল—গতিকে এই চেক্ষাচ কেতিয়াও শুদ্ধ হব নোৱাৰে ।

কিন্তু ১৯২১ আৰু ১৯৩১ চনৰ পিয়লৰ figure বোৰ কেনেকৈ  
 লোৱা হৈছিল সেই বিষয়ে তেওঁলোক নিমাত । ১৯২১ চনৰ Census  
 Commissioner এ enumerator সকলক কৈ দিছিল যে যি ভাষা  
 তেওঁলোকে বুজি নোপাই সেই ভাষাকেই বঙালী বুলি ধৰিব লাগে ।

আৰু ১৯৫১ চন পিয়লত গণ্ডিকাৰক বোৰক কৈ দিয়া হল যে অসমীয়া  
 ভাষা-ভাষীৰ বাহিৰে অন্য ভাষা-ভাষী সকলোকে বঙালী বুলি ধৰি লবা । এনে  
 অৱস্থান এই দুটা পিয়লত যে বঙালী ভাষা-ভাষীৰ সংখ্যা অনেক বৃদ্ধি পাব সি  
 নিশ্চয় । গতিকে ১৯২১ **ভাষা** ১৯৩১ চনৰ পিয়লতহে যে যথেষ্ট  
 খণ্ড আছে সেইটো অস্বীকাৰ কৰিবৰ একো নাই ।

এই গন্তি সৰন্ধে Census Commissioner সকলে নিজে দিয়া remark আছে। অসমত শতকৰা ৫৭ ভাগ অসমীয়া বাকী খিনি বিভিন্ন ভাষা-ভাষী, যেনে হিন্দী, তেলেগু, পাঞ্জাবী ইত্যাদি, অকল বঙ্গভাষী নহয়। ১৯৫১ চনৰ পিয়লত অসমীয়া মানুহ কেনেকৈ ইমান বাঢ়িল এই ক্ষেত্ৰত তেওঁলোকে সন্দেহ কৰে। মানুহ বঢ়িব যথেষ্ট কাৰণ আছে। প্ৰথম কথা হল বহুত মানুহ অসমীয়া বুলি নিজকে পৰিচয় দিলে—যেনে চাহবাগিছাৰ বনুৱাসকলৰ বহুতে, পূৰ্ব বঙ্গৰ পৰা আহি ইয়াতে স্থায়ীভবে বসবাস কৰা বিশেষকৈ অহিন্দু সকল। দ্বিতীয় কথা Enumerator বিলাকে আগৰ ১৯২১ আৰু ১৯৩১ চনৰ ভুলটো নকৰা হ'ল। এতিয়া ধৰক আমাৰ শ্ৰীকমলা আগবঢ়ালা ডাঙৰীয়াৰ পূৰ্বপুৰুষসকল মাবোৱাৰ দেশৰ আছিল; শ্ৰীজিপাথী ডাঙৰীয়া হিন্দী ভাষা-ভাষী আছিল, এতিয়া যদি তেওঁলোকক কোনো লোকে মাবোৱাৰী বা হিন্দুস্থানী বুলি কয় তেওঁলোকে স্মৰণে এৰিবনে? সেইদৰে মহম্মদ ইদ্ৰিচ ডাঙৰীয়াৰ বঙালী বুলি ধৰিবনে বা তেওঁ কবনে? সেই কাৰণে ১৯৫১ চনৰ Census ত অসমীয়াৰ সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি পাইছে; যেহেতুকে অন্য ঠাইৰ পৰা আহি অসমত বসবাস কৰা বহু সংখ্যক লোকে অসমৰ সমৃদ্ধিৰ অসমীয়া ভাষাৰ সমৃদ্ধিৰ কাৰণে নিজক অসমীয়া বুলি পৰিচয় দি অসমৰ মঙ্গল চিন্তা কৰিছে।

অসমত অসমীয়া ভাষা চৰ্কাৰী ভাষা হিচাবে স্বীকৃতি পালে disintegrate কৰা হ'ব বুলি কিছুমানে ক'ব খোজে। কিন্তু মই কও যে বেলেগ বেলেগ ভাষা থাকিলেহে disintegrate হোৱাৰ সম্ভাৱনা। এটা Common বস্তুয়ে সাধাৰণতে integration হৈ আনে। কাছাৰৰ বন্ধু সকলে ভাষাৰ বিষয়ে ক'বলৈ গৈ Hill-brothers সকলৰ দোহাই দিয়া দেখিলে সচাকৈয়ে দুঃখ পাও।

আজি আমাৰ কলা, কৃষ্টি, ঐতিহ্য, সাহিত্য আৰু সাংস্কৃতিক ব্ৰহ্মপ নকৰি বা আওকান কৰি একশ্ৰেণীৰ লোকে উপেক্ষা মূলক ব্ৰহ্মপ ক'বলৈ বিচাৰিছে যে কাছাৰ অসমৰ নহয়, কাছাৰৰ সাংস্কৃতিক ঐতিহ্যৰ লগত অসমৰ ঐতিহ্যৰ কোনো সাদৃশ্য নাই। ই এটা ভয়ঙ্কৰ ভুল কথা। কাছাৰ অসমৰ নহয় যদি ক'ব? ঠিক একে দৃষ্টি ভঙ্গীৰে আমাৰ বন্ধু শ্ৰীৰবেন্দ্ৰ দাসে ভাষণ দিছে। মোৰ মনত পৰে যে অশান্তৰ সময়ত আনন্দৰাজ্যৰ, যুগান্তৰ আদি পত্ৰিকাত ঠিক এনে ধৰণেই কেবাটাও প্ৰবন্ধ পঢ়িছিলো। আজিও শ্ৰীৰবেন্দ্ৰ দাস ডাঙৰীয়াৰ ভাষণটো শুনি মোৰ চকুৰ আগত সেই আনন্দৰাজ্যৰ আদি পত্ৰিকাৰ প্ৰবন্ধবোৰ জল-জল পট-পটকৈ ভাহি উঠিছে। তেখেতেও আনন্দৰাজ্যৰ পত্ৰিকা আদি মনোযোগেৰে পঢ়ি তাৰ পৰা এই ভাবধাৰা উদ্ভূত কৰি দেশৰ এটা অমঙ্গলৰ সূচনা কৰিছে, কাছাৰবাসী অসমৰ নহয়; তেওঁলোক বঙ্গদেশৰ এক অংশ—হাহি উঠা কথা।

মই কও যে শ্ৰীৰবেন্দ্ৰবাবুৰ শ্ৰেণীৰ মানুহে যদি কাছাৰৰ অতিজৰ ইতিহাসত এডুমুকী মাৰে তেন্তে দেখিব যে ই এটা অবাস্তৱ উক্তি। তাত ইতিপূৰ্বে আমাৰ অসমৰ কছাৰী বজাসকলে ৰাজ্য পাতিছিল আৰু অসমৰ সৰহ সংখ্যক কছাৰী সম্প্ৰদায় তাত বাস কৰা কাৰণে তাৰ নাম কাছাৰ হ'ল। গতিকে কাছাৰৰ ঐতিহ্য, ভাষা, কৃষ্টি, কলাৰ উদয়স্থল হ'ল অসম আৰু অসমীয়া—এই পাহাৰ কেইখনৰ মধ্যস্থতাত কাছাৰ জিলাখন ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ উপত্যকাৰ পৰা কিছু পৰিমাণে বিচ্ছেদ হোৱাৰ ফলত তাৰ আদান প্ৰদান বহু পৰিমাণে বিচ্ছিন্ন হোৱাত আজি এক শ্ৰেণীৰ লোকে ক্ষুদ্ৰ স্বার্থৰ কাৰণে অপলাপ কৰিছে যে অসমৰ ভাষা, সংস্কৃতি ঐতিহ্যৰ লগত কাছাৰ বাসীৰ ঐক্যতা নাই। ভাষণৰ স্বাধীকাৰ আছে যেতিয়া শ্ৰীৰবেন্দ্ৰ দাস ডাঙৰীয়াৰ ইচ্ছা অনুসাৰে কৈ নিজক প্ৰবোধ দিব

পাবে—কিন্তু জগতৰ ওচৰত 'ই' অযুক্তিকৰ কথা। আজি আমাৰ ভাষা আমাৰ সংস্কৃতি আৰু ধৰ্ম্ম ই যদি কাছাৰত নাই তেন্তে সেই সংস্কৃতি ঐতিহ্য আহিল কিব পৰা? অকল সেয়ে নহয় বৈষ্ণব কবি মহাপুৰুষ শ্ৰীমন্ত শঙ্কৰদেৱে অসমীয়া ভাষায়েই তেৰাৰ প্ৰচাৰিত বৈষ্ণব ধৰ্ম্মত আমাৰ পাহাৰী, গাৰো, নগা, খাৰ্চীয়া আদি সকলো বিভিন্ন জনজাতিৰ ভিতৰতো প্ৰচাৰ কৰিছিল। এদিন সেই ধৰ্ম্মতেই সকলোৰে সন্মিলন হৈছিল—সেই ধৰ্ম্ম আৰু ভাষায়েই সকলোকে এক কৰিছিল, যি বৈষ্ণব ধৰ্ম্ম সুদূৰ কোচবিহাৰ, বংপুৰ আদি ঠাইত আজিও বিৰাজমান। কাছাৰৰ ভাষা, ধৰ্ম্ম আদি সেই বৈষ্ণব ধৰ্ম্ময়েই ৰূপান্তৰ মাত্ৰ। আজি সেই ভাষা কৃষ্টি আৰু সম্প্ৰীতিৰ বিলাট ঘটাবলৈ এদল লোকে উঠি পৰি লাগিছে। ইয়াৰ পৰা কাৰো উপকাৰ নহয়। ভাষা আৰু সম্প্ৰীতি ৰক্ষাৰ কাৰণে ঐক্যবদ্ধতা লাগে। এইটো অসমীয়া ভাষাৰ ঐতিহ্য ৰক্ষা কৰাৰ কাৰণে কোৱা নাই। ইতি পূৰ্বেই অসমত অসমীয়া ভাষাৰ ঐতিহ্য আছে। এক শ্ৰেণীৰ মানুহে মাত্ৰ তাকে ধ্বংস কৰিবলৈ নানা ধৰণৰ বজুতা দিছে যে তেখেতসকল অসমীয়া নহয়; অসমৰ ভাষা সংস্কৃতিৰ লগত তেওঁলোকৰ ভাষা সংস্কৃতিৰ কোনো সামঞ্জস্য নাই—ই এটা ধ্বংশাত্মক উক্তি। এই বিষয়ে মোৰ বন্ধু সকলে বহুতো কৈছে—মই বেচি কথা নকও।

মই মাত্ৰ কও যে যি ঠাইত ষোল্লশ শতিকাৰ পৰা সম্প্ৰীতিৰ মাজেৰে বিভিন্ন ধৰ্ম্ম, ভাষা, সংস্কৃতিৰ এডাল ডোলেৰে বান্ধ খাই যিসকল মানুহ আছে সেই পাহাৰ, কাছাৰ, ভৈয়াশ আদি সকলো অসমৰে—সকলো অসমীয়া আৰু, আজিও এই সকলো বিলাকক একত্ৰ কৰিবলৈ চৰকাৰী ভাষা অসমীয়া কৈই ঘোষণা কৰি সেই ঐক্যতা ৰক্ষা কৰাৰ প্ৰয়োজন হৈছে; অসমীয়া জাতিক জাতীয় বল দিবলৈ, অসমৰ শক্তি বৃদ্ধি কৰিবলৈ, অসমীয়া ভাষাৰ সৌভ বিস্তাৰিত কৰিবলৈ আৰু তাৰোপৰত ভাৰতৰ ঐক্য সাধনত সহায়তা কৰিবলৈ।

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Sāikhowa):** 'Mr. Speaker, Sir, I take my stand here to support the amendment moved by my Friend Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami. Sir, from the debates in this House I find there is no difference between the stand taken by the P.S.P., the Communist Party of India and that of the Congress Party. The aspiration of the majority people of Assam is to have Assamese as the only official language of Assam. The Praja Socialist Party is also desirous to have Assamese as the only official language of Assam. Similarly, if I am correct, the Communist Party of India, Assam Branch also is desirous to have Assamese as the sole official language of Assam with the condition that there should be safeguards for the minority. Language. These safeguards already appear in the Bill, as for example, the Hill people may have the option to choose any language they like. Similarly also the people of Cachar will have opportunity to have Bengali and they may also choose any other language if they like.

Sir, language is a cementing factor and besides it is used for this and that official purpose. Assamese language is the lingua-franca of Assam and through this Assamese language in the past there was unity between the hills and the plains as for example those people living in North Eastern Frontier Agency speak Assamese and even the people living in Naga Hills, our Naga brothers and sisters who wanted to be separated from us, if I am correct, they are going to have Assamese as their official language. In these circumstances Sir, I cannot see any reason why there should be opposition from any quarter for adopting Assamese as the official language

of Assam. Sir, the stand of the Congress Party is that Assamese will be the official language of Assam with the condition that it will not be imposed on anybody and I do not find any imposition on anybody who is not conversant with Assamese or on any region which is non-Assamese speaking area. Sir, the amendment moved by Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami, I find, is in accordance with the spirit that the Congress Party has been maintaining. Although some of my friends had raised objections to Hindi or English, I think in the present context this proviso in the Bill, is necessary because English will continue to be used unless it is decided by India to be substituted by Hindi in due course. As to the use of Hindi this will be defined by the Government. So I find that there is no fundamental difference on the provisions of the Bill from the stand taken by the Leader of the Opposition, the Praja Socialist Party, the Communist Party and our Congress Party. So, I think our friends will be able to support the amendment moved by Shri Goswami. Sir, sometime we find that there is a school of thinking which is encouraging separatist tendency in Assam. I do not know if they are correct in encouraging such thing. To-day Sir, one hon. member from Cachar Shri Ranendra Mohon Das made a speech which indicates that he is a student of that school of thought. He wants to prove that the Bengali language is the only language in Assam which should predominate in Assam. Sir, this tendency is very much harmful. This tendency will stand on way of unity of Assam.

Sir, I am representing a constituency where there may be some Bengalee residents besides in my district. These people gave us vote and I think I can claim better representative of those people than Shri Das. Mr Das will not be able to look after them when they are in difficulties. Sir, if such tendency is allowed to continue which was shown by Mr. Ranendra Mohon Das to-day morning in this House, I am afraid this thing will bring disaster not only to Assam but for the whole of India. Sooner such tendency is arrested, the better for not only Assam but for the whole of India.

Sir, with these words, I beg to support the amendments moved by my friend Shri Goswami and I request the hon. members to accept this amendment.

Thank, you Sir.

**\*Shri MAHIKANTA DAS (Barchalla):** অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আজি আমাৰ এটা গৌৰৱৰ দিন। বহুত আলোচনাৰ মাজত আজি চৰকাৰে এই সদনন্ত অসমীয়া ভাষাক অসমৰ ৰাজ্য ভাষা হিচাবে ঘোষণা কৰিবলৈ স্থিৰ কৰিছে। এইটো বৰ গুৰুত্বপূৰ্ণ বিষয়। কিন্তু এই গুৰুত্বপূৰ্ণ বিষয়েটো স্থিৰ কৰিবৰ বাবে সংবিধানত অধিকাৰ দিছে কাৰণ অসমীয়া ভাষা সংবিধানে স্বীকাৰ কৰা ১৪টা ভাষাৰ এটা। ১৯৫১ চনৰ পিয়লৰ পৰাও অসমীয়াই ৰাজ্য ভাষাৰ যোগ্যতা পাইছে, কাৰণ শতকৰা ৫৬ জন অধিবাসী হৈছে অসমীয়া। ইমান প্ৰমাণ থকা স্বত্বেও আজি স্বৰ্ণ জড়িত কিছুমান লোকে বক্তৃতাৰ দ্বাৰা সদৰি কৰি ফুৰিছে যে ১৯৫১ চনৰ পিয়ল fictitious and fraudulent তেওঁলোকে আৰু কয় যে অফিচাৰ সকলে চক্ৰান্ত কৰি অসমীয়াৰ সংখ্যা বোচকৈ দেখুৱা হৈছে। আৰু কৈছে যে এইটো সংখ্যা লক্ষিতৰ ভাষা, সংখ্যা গৰিষ্ঠৰ ভাষা নহয়। এই বিষয়ে মই মাত্ৰ ইয়াকে কওঁ যে ১৯৫১ চনৰ পিয়ল সফলোৰে স্বীকৃত আৰু তাক সকলোৱে গ্ৰহণ কৰিছে। গতিকে সেই বিষয়ে বাদানুবাদ কৰি একো লাভ নাই।

Sir, according to the Linguistic Survey of India there are as many as 179 languages and 544 dialects in our country, but according to our Constitution a dialect should be treated as a language because the word 'dialect' does not occur in the Constitution.

Sir, if we are going to decide this question of the Official Language on the basis of majority and minority then I can say that Hindi has no claim to be the official language anywhere in India, neither in Bihar nor in U. P. nor in Rajasthan nor in Madhya Pradesh. Sir, take the case of Bihar. There are three major languages in Bihar. In south Bihar they speak south Bihari *i.e.*, Magahi; in north Behar they speak Maithili which is recognised by the University of Calcutta; and in the western part of the State they speak Bhojpuri. A few years back Sir, there was a movement in that area for a separate state of their own, namely, Bhojpur State. At different places they have got their social organisations named Bhojpuri Samaj.

Let us come now to U. P. In the eastern part they speak Bhojpuri, in the north-eastern part, Oudhi, in the south Bundelkhandi and Brajbhasha. And, Sir, Hon. Finance Minister Shri Ahmed will tell you that in the western part of U. P. they speak either Urdu or Hindustani. In Oudhi and Brajbhasha they have got excellent literacy products namely "Ramayan" and "Sursagar" respectively. Thus we see that Hindi has no claim in U. P. also.

Similar is the case with Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. In Rajasthan they speak Rajasthani and Marwari etc., and in Madhya Pradesh they speak Chhattisgarhi and Bundelkhandi. Sir, the time does not permit me to go into detail, but I can say without any fear of contradiction that Hindi is not the mother tongue of anybody in India.

Sri, in my opinion, Assamese is nothing but a modernised form of Brajbhasha. Mahapurush Shankardeo's language is nothing but Brajboli.

At present Hindi is in the process of development. Many new words are being coined in Hindi. Sometimes I am surprised to find that absurd words are being coined in this language. For example "Loh Pathgamini for engine", "Dhwanikshepak Yantra for Radio" and "Durbhasa for Telephone." The other day my Party leader was suggesting to develop a new language for our State by taking words from different languages of this State. This is a very good idea. Let us try it on an all-India basis also.

I would just say, Sir, that we should have only one language as the official language for the whole country. I hold the view that the fathers of the Constitution made a blunder by providing for so many languages in the Constitution, I am opposed to the very principle of a regional language as an official language of a State. I want only one language for the whole country as official language, whether for Union purpose or for State purpose. I am not opposed to Assamese. I am only opposed to the principle of a regional language being made an official language. Sir, I was the first man who supported Assamese as the State language of this State nearly two years ago in the conference of the Hindusthani Sammelan held at Tinsukia. But after that I have given a very serious thought to this matter and now I fear and have this apprehension that if a regional language is made the official language of a State than the Balkanisation of the country is inevitable.

Further, I feel, Sir, that if Assamese is made the official language people in some areas will have to face great difficulties. Take the case of my Constituency. There are Oriyas and Manipuris, etc. They have every right to read through the medium of their mother tongue. They will have to learn Manipuri in the L. P. School, Bengali being the language of the district, they will have to pick up Bengali, then Assamese as the State language, then Hindi and then English which is the present Official language of the country. Some boys take up Sanskrit also in their secondary stage. And now some of our national leaders such as Vinobha Bhave and Dr. Rajendra Prasad are advising us to pick up at least one south Indian language as well. Besides, if any one goes to Europe he must pick up French which is the lingua-franca of the Continent. Thus he will be required to learn 8 languages. Is it possible, Sir? Will it not be a great burden on them?

I, therefore, suggest that we should have only one official language for the whole country. And our mother tongues should have scope for full development. This will solve this vexed problem and save the country from trouble. Sir, the future problems of our country are to be faced by us and we must be bold enough to face and solve them.

Sir, let us see how in Russia they have solved this problem. In Russia there are 15 Republics, 18 Autonomous Republics, 10 Autonomous Regions and 10 Autonomous Areas.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Tell it to Shri Gaurishankar Bhattacharyya.

(laughter)

**Shri BISHWANATH UPADHYAYA (Patharkandi):** Sir, in Russia there are 120 languages out of which 15 languages are of longstanding. They have given written forms to 60 languages after the revolution and have developed them. The Russian language is the common language of the State. I am afraid, it would not be possible for me to go into detail as the time is up.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Now Mr. Bhattacharyya.

**\*Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not a linguist, and therefore, it will not be possible on my part to explain the growth and development of the Assamese language or any other language. But I understand that a language is the vehicle of thought and expression, and as such when we consider this problem to-day we are to approach the question from that angle. Of course to-day in this House we are rather in a very unfortunate situation because the representatives of the districts of Garo Hills, United Khasi and Jaintiya Hills, North Cachar Hills and Mizo Hills have decided to dissociate themselves with our deliberations and unfortunately for us, most of the members belonging to the Congress Party coming from the district of Cachar including the Minister himself, also has thought it proper to make us poorer by their dissociation in this very important matter. Yet, we shall have to come to a decision on this issue, and this clause 3 is the most important the most vital clause of the entire Bill. Therefore, let us decide our attitude in this bill very clearly and succeed.



At the outset, of course, I should make it clear that though I have very great respect for my Friend from Dibrugarh, Shri Hazarika, I cannot agree with him when he gave us the compliments that all the major political parties, viz., the Congress, the P. S. P. and the Communist Party, are united on one principal matter, i.e., that Assamese is to be the one and the only official language in Assam at the State level. Now even we have very broad difference because while we have said from this side of the House—while we have categorically said that Assamese shall be the Official Language of Assam, the Congress Party has brought by the back-door English, and thereafter Hindi. And we find that the back door is sufficiently wide and therefore we want to make it absolutely clear let there be no confusion that we are all united in the principal step, that is a different thing altogether, we are not united in the broad principle. Now it is said that Hindi being the all India language there should be provision for Hindi and my Friend Shri Upadhaya, who is perhaps the Vice-President of the Hindustani Sammilan, has said very highly about the Hindi language. Though I am a very poor student of Hindi, I also will not lag behind personally in eulogising the qualities of Hindi and I also wish that Hindi should develop and flourish in the State of Assam. But the point is whether Hindi is a language which requires certain safeguards here in this region of the country, whether Hindi should be the regional language or one of the regional languages in Assam. But the question here in this connection is that three languages have cropped up, Assamese, English and Hindi. Nobody in Assam including perhaps most of our brothers in the Hills will deny the right of Assamese people that Assamese should be at least one of the state languages. Now the difficulty has been whether it will be the only State language or whether it will be one of the State languages. So far as our Hill brethren are concerned they have placed certain problems before us and when we have decided to tackle this problem placed before us they have said that if Assamese be the only official language in the State level then that will overburden the Hills people with too many languages, namely, Hindi, vernacular their own District language, English and Assamese. While in the Brahmaputra Valley whose mother tongue is Assamese will do well by learning only two languages, namely, Assamese and Hindi. If we want to remain inside Assam it will suffice. If we want to be an inter-national figure, so far as the children of the Hill Districts are concerned they will have to learn four scripts in four languages and that is one of the difficulties they have placed. Of course I can say that so far as the scripts are concerned it will not be four, it will be three. Their District languages are Roman script and English is also in Roman script. The second point they have said that by adoption of Assamese as the official language they will be adversely affected in Government service because as my Friend Mr. Sangma has said the other day that quite a large number of people will be illiterate. The third argument is that according to their opinion Assamese speaking people are less than 50 per cent in the State of Assam and fourthly they say that there has been a lot of agitation and threat of violence and if there be Assamese there will of course be violence in the State. As Assam is miniature India, therefore the Indian language should be the language of miniature India, i.e., Assam. These are the suggestions which they have placed before us. I think we should approach these points with understanding and appreciation. Because we must remember that unless and until we can generate a sense of co-operation and usual love we shall not be able to solve the problem of State. We are here so many and some are outside the House. It will be quite easy for us to pass the Bill by a simple majority, but will it be equally easy to bring it down home to our brothers and sisters living in the Hills and the District of

Cachar. If they go on resisting the claim of Assamese as the State language then the purpose of which we are so very keen to introduce the Bill will be to a very great extent defeated. Let us convince our brothers and sisters in the Hills and in Cachar in a manner so that we may approach them and tell them that what we have done is the best under the circumstances. So far as their special rights are concerned we have appreciated their rights and we have guaranteed all these rights. Let us go ahead with the understanding and idea that though someone of them might be agitated and might go astray, we on our part refuse to be agitated, on the contrary we are ready to solve the problem with the utmost of coolness of head and steadiness of heart and I have no doubt that there are some people who may be quite well intentioned but yet ill informed that history of human civilisation began in 1872 when Assam was first brought under the British control. So far as the Assamese nationality is concerned it did not come to its birth in 1872. It is much older than that. So far as the Assamese nationality, Assamese language and Assamese literature is concerned they have a natural growth as any other language, as any other culture. Therefore our approach, the approach of everybody living in Assam be in the District of Cachar or Hills or Assam Valley we must approach the problem from a historical point of view and if we approach the problem from that view we shall see that there is no anomaly in the Census figures if we take them broadly. Yes it is a fact that at one time our people who were a little angular because of their angular situation and so anybody who used to speak any language slightly different from our forefathers used to call them Bongals that means foreigner. Even a man from Sibsagar would consider a man from Gauhati " " that is not an Assamese and so on and so forth. This is because of their angularity, of the geographical position of the State and because we did not come in contact with the outer world. Now that the modern means of communication and vehicles of expression have developed so has developed the sense of nationhood of Assamese people. Now they feel that they are one be he in Dibrugarh or in Gauripur, does not matter and therefore when the people of Goalpara who were, by some cunning and intelligent people I say so because of their earlier association with the western civilisation and English culture made to return as Goalparia in 1921 or 1931 Census, but when the people of Goalpara came to their own, they changed their declaration and the result was that there was a great change in the population composition of the State. Moreover, how can one just stick to the principle that the mother's ideas, mother's language must be rigidly adopted and he must not go a step forward. Might be my mother is an English lady and father an Assamese. If my Assamese father marries an English lady and if I am born, what shall I be? Whether I shall be an Englishman or an Assamese, if my parents live in Assam and make Assam their home for all purposes? So, we cannot take this mother tongue liberally. There are thousands and lakhs of people who at one time were in the districts which have now fallen in Eastern Pakistan and their mothers taught them a language which to a certain extent was a dialect of Bengali and to a certain extent a dialect of Kamrupi and from that bhasha, if some of them have chosen to chaste Bhagali and if others have chosen to be Assamese, how can you stop this trend? It is entirely to be left to them—whether they will change to this or that. If they would have chosen chaste Bengali, probably they would have been happy, but because they choose Assamese, they are very unhappy and therefore, think 1951 Census bogus. Was 1931 Census a gospel? Was 1921 Census a Bible? So all censuses are questionable, be that 1951 Census or 1931 Census or 1921 Census. No Census

has gone unchallenged. There is no good fighting over the Censuses. The fact is that taking India as a whole, Hindi is the language of the majority people and as it is the language spoken by the single majority group or understood by the single majority group, Hindi had to be taken as the National Language. Similarly, in Assam where undoubtedly Assamese happens to be the language of the single majority group. Taking even the minimum there is only a natural claim for the Assamese to be the State Language. Now I would have been happy if my friend Shri Ranendra Mohan Das would have been stoutly fighting for his own language, but instead what line has he taken? Well, let us all be in a common disadvantage—that is his stand. We were under the common disadvantage of being compelled to express ourselves or rather try to express ourselves, by a language coming from a distance of 7 seas and 13 rivers. Now let us at least take a language which is from far far away from this State. Therefore, Sir, they do not want common advantage, they want a common disadvantage. Why that should be? That is the attitude. Are the friends of the like of Shri Ranendra Mohan Das and my friends or enemies, if I do not see eye to eye, if I do not appreciate him simply because he comes from Karimganj. If he also does not, how can there be a unity in the administration and understanding. Simply being in one administration does not bring in a sense of understand. As is said by the poet, The Sun kisses the earth, the Moon kisses the sea. If we cannot live together, how can we work together and develop our country together? Therefore, the attitude which is taken by some of our very intelligent friends is an attitude which is very dangerous for the unity and solidarity and progress of the State. While we decry those sorts of disruptive tendencies, we should also appreciate that in such very vital matters like language, we cannot run rough shod and therefore, Sir, through this amendment which I have tabled, we have tried to appreciate the proper, legitimate and just demand of the majority and also the just and legitimate aspirations of the minorities, but so far as the hills brethren are concerned, they have got their own languages. Some may like to call them dialects, but I should like to call them language. A time will come when these languages will also develop to their full stature. So far as the Bengali language is concerned, it does not require any patronage, either from me or from Shri Ranendra Mohan Das for its growth and development. That is a fully developed language and literature and the people who are living in Cachar area or in other parts of Assam should not fear that this language would ever be submerged by the comparatively weaker Assamese language. This approach by my Friend Shri Ranendra Mohan Das and other Members of Cachar on this subject is a very dangerous one, because those people for whom they are ostensibly pleading were pushed to the dangerous position. He was claiming Goalpara as a part of Bengali populated area. What will be the reaction of the Goalpara people at this. Those people very strongly feel that they are Assamese and nothing but Assamese. They will not find Ranendra Babu there, but there might be even some poor innocent Bengali people there. If somebody by mistake thinks that here there is a man of Ranendra Babu's stamp, then if something happens, will Ranendra Babu run from Karimganj for his protection. Certainly he will not. Not only that he has been making very provocative suggestions, he has been claiming that Nowgong is a predominantly Bengali speaking district. What will be the position of the Bengali speaking population of Hojai, Lanka, Chaparmukh, Lumding, etc., if the Assamese speaking people feel that here there are certain spring boards to be punched upon us and catch hold of our neck, will Ranendra Babu come to protect those poor innocent individual there. Did these people go when holocaust was

running in the Assam Valley districts ? They were content by issuing long statements and precepts from a very safe distance. It is those common people living in the different parts of Assam, may be that Congress, Praja Socialist Parties or other parties, who are living in different parts of Assam in the Assam Valley. It is those helpless people who had to run here and there to seek shelter. Therefore, it is very dangerous to take this sort of provocative attitude. This does not help the Bengali speaking people of the Assam Valley. Ranen Babu may think that they are doing great service for the Bengali speaking people of Assam, but they are doing the greatest dis-service possible for the Bengali speaking people of Assam Valley district. Does he want that there should be a recurrence of this again ? Therefore, I am extremely sorry about the attitude which was expressed this morning. At any rate Sir, be that what it may. Now, that all has been said, it is our duty that in Cachar, among the vast masses of the ordinary people, these people may not reap harvest equally. We should create conditions for that. If the Cachar people's proper appreciation, the just appreciation are there, the stand here today taken by Ranen Babu and others will not have any ground here. But if we also become provocative and say that Ranen Babu has gone back on the promises he made, alright, we also bring in Mohokuma Parishad. Then Ranen Babu will have a field there for rich harvest. He will be able to go there to the common people of Cachar and say "You see, there the attitude is one of revenge. At one time they wanted to bring it, but at another time they have brought it so that they can take revenge. May be my expression was a little excessive, may be I ran a little astray. We do not want to strengthen others who want to sow the seeds of disruption. If we sow seeds of disruption, then the consequences, will be very serious. You sow the wind and you will reap the whirl wind. So, in the amendment we have provided that let Bengali be the language to be used in the District of Cachar and there is no question of bringing the Mohokumah Parishad or anything of the sort. We have suggested that so far as the important documents, etc., are concerned, let them be made available to the minorities when they constitute a majority in any particular district. From that point of view the Assamese common people also should be made to associate in the administration. So everything should be done in Assamese from the State level down to the village level. Similarly so far as the Cachar people are concerned, so far as the important documents, acts of the Government Bills etc., are concerned, they should be made available in their language, so that the people may get fully associated with the Governmental machinery. So is the case with Garo Hills. That is what we have suggested. Therefore, we feel that Hindi is not the language which requires any patronage from us. It has been said in the Constitution itself that the Government of India will take the necessary care for Hindi. In Art.351 it has been said that it shall be the duty of the Union to promote and spread Hindi language, etc. Now, therefore should be feel that if we do not encourage Hindi, Hindi will be in a precarious condition. As a matter of fact, my Friend, Shri Upadhaya brought in the question of Soviet Union and its language policy. I do not want to take much time of the House. So far as the different autonomous regions of the U. S. S. R. are concerned, they have their own regional languages as State language. There is no imposition of Russian language over them, but Russian is there and if anybody wants to learn Russian language side by side with the regional language he can do so. Hindi will also come to occupy its rightful place if it is allowed to come in the natural process of things. In the same manner, Assamese will also come to the district of Cachar and other Hills Districts if we do not push Assamese, if we develop the Assamese language

and literature and if we make it such a rich and acceptable that these people in their own interest and on their own volition will come to learn Assamese. As a matter of fact, my Friend, Shri Mohi Kanta Das referred to Assamese literature during the days of Shri Sankar Deva, I am sure it was in his mind that Shri Sankar Deva did not spread his culture, or literature or religion through the help of the State machinery. The Assamese literature was enriched by him and his disciples. Therefore, Assamese literature was accepted as it was made acceptable to the different sections of the people living here. We therefore in our patriotism should not be so much exasperated as to lose sight of the aspirations of others. I therefore most earnestly appeal that while not leaning upon Hindi, let us not also be unjust towards the other languages that are in our own State. Here, one point I want to submit is in regard to proviso to Art. 345 which has been a little wrong understood by some quarters. My Friend, Shri Goswami has already placed before the House that there is a difference between Art. 343 and also Art. 345. Now, while Art. 343 allows English language to continue in the national level for certain specific period, so far as Art. 345 is concerned, there is no such specific period. It is very clearly said that until the Legislature of the State otherwise provided by law the English language shall continue to be used for those official purposes within the State for which it was being used immediately before the commencement of this Constitution. Now, this transitional period, this interim period, may be five years, 10 years, 15 years or 20 years. It will be for this House, the Legislative Assembly to discuss and decide in appropriate time whether and how far English language should be removed from the spheres when it was from the time of the commencement of the Constitution. Therefore, in the present Bill we need not make any provision for English. There is the Constitution and Constitution has made all provisions. We have no right to override the provisions of the Constitution as in the present Bill. We have nowhere suggested that English is banned. Therefore we need not come and say that English should exist as one of the State languages. Similarly is the case with Hindi. Now, if the people of Hills or of Cachar, if they gradually change over to Assamese language due to our care and brotherly approach, they will themselves find that Assamese will be more easily understandable, more easily acceptable to them than Hindi. (After all, due to sentiments or emotions they might say that they do not understand Assamese, but a time will come when they will find that Assamese is more clear to them than any other language.) Let us also remember that as here in Assam because of our numerical weakness we sometime feel that we are neglected by the Indian Union and the rest of the country, though sometimes that feeling is too much subjective, the hill brothers also feel that because of their less developed condition they are neglected and their feeling is often subjective. We must appreciate that there is some reason for their subjectiveness, and if we take another spirit then instead of making them our loving brothers we shall make them angry people. As we all know that anger does not solve any problem, whether that anger is shown by the majority or by the minority. Our ancestor said—

So anger is the cause of destruction. Therefore, let us not be angry and let us help our brothers according to the best of our capacity so that they may not be angry.

**Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Katonigaon):**

মাননীয় সদস্য শ্রীশৰত চক্ৰ গোস্বামীদেৱে আমাৰ ৰাজ্যিক ভাষাৰ বিলখনৰ যি সংশোধনী আনিছে তাক মই সমৰ্থন কৰিছোঁ এই কাৰণেই যে ভাষাৰ ভিত্তিত্তে বৰ্ত্তমান আমাৰ ভাৰতৰ প্ৰদেশবোৰ গঢ়ি উঠিছে আৰু গণতন্ত্ৰৰ সফলতাৰ বাবে প্ৰশাসনীয় যন্ত্ৰটো সৰহ সংখ্যক বাইজে বুজিব পৰা ভাষা এটাৰে চলাবৰ কাৰণেই সংবিধানেই এই ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছে। অসমীয়া ভাষাটো সংবিধানে স্বীকাৰ কৰা চৌথটা ভাষাৰে এটা আৰু অসমৰ সৰহ সংখ্যা বাইজৰ ভাষা হৈছে অসমীয়া। এনে অৱস্থাত সংবিধানে দিয়া সুবিধা এটা, ন্যায় অধিকাৰ এটা পাবলৈ যোৱাৰ পথত যিবোৰ হেঙাব—যিবোৰ অন্তৰায় দেখা দিছে ই সচাকৈয়ে আমাৰ দুখৰেই নহয়, দুৰ্ভাগ্যৰো বিষয়।

আজি অসমীয়া ভাষাক কেৱল একমাত্ৰ ৰাজ্যিক ভাষা কৰিবলৈ কাছাৰৰ আৰু পাহাৰৰ মাননীয় সদস্য সকলে দোৰ্ষোৰ আপত্তি কৰে। কাছাৰৰ সকলে বঙালী ভাষাকো অসমৰ ৰাজ্যভাষা স্বৰূপে জাপিবলৈ বিচাৰে আৰু পাহাৰৰ সকলৰো কোনো কোনোৱে হিন্দী আৰু কোনো কোনোৱে ইংৰাজীক ৰাজ্যিক ভাষা কৰিবলৈ পৰামৰ্শ আগ বঢ়াইছে:

মহোদয়, এই সকলৰ যুক্তিৰ সত্যতা মই মোৰ ক্ষুদ্ৰ মগজেৰে বিচাৰি নাপালো। বঙালী ভাষাক ৰাজ্য ভাষা কৰিবলৈ বিচাৰে কাছাৰৰ সদস্য সকলে বঙালী ভাষাৰ প্ৰতি নোৰ যথেষ্ট শ্ৰদ্ধা আছে। এম, এ, পৰীক্ষা দিওঁতে Subsidiary language হিচাবে মই বঙালী ভাষাতে পৰীক্ষা দি পাচ কৰিছিলো। অসমত বঙালী ৰাজ্য ভাষা নহলেও বিশ্ব সাহিত্যত স্থান লাভ কৰা বঙালী ভাষা সাহিত্যৰ বিকাশতে বাধা নপৰে। বঙালী ভাষা ৰাজ্যিক ভাষা হবৰ কাৰণে নিজৰ থল আছে। পশ্চিম বঙ্গ চৰকাৰে বঙালী ভাষাক ৰাজ্যভাষা কৰিবৰ কাৰণে ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছে— এনে স্থলত আমি কোনোমতেই অসমত বঙালী ভাষাকো ৰাজ্যিক ভাষা হৈ বন্ধুমালা হবলৈ দিব নোৱাৰো। মহোদয়, আমি ১৮৩৬ ৰ পৰা ১৮৭২ চনলৈকে অসমৰ ইতিহাস পাহৰিব নোৱাৰো যি ৩৬ বছৰ কাল বঙালী ভাষাই অসমীয়া ভাষা সাহিত্যৰ ওপৰত মাৰ্ঘমাৰ শোধাই স্বপ্নৰ ১২ শতিকাতো ভাৰতৰ এটা সৰ্বশ্ৰেষ্ঠ সাহিত্য ৰূপে পৰিগণিত হোৱা অসমীয়া ভাষা সাহিত্যৰ বিকাশৰ পথ বোধ কৰি বহু পিছুৱাই দিলে। মহোদয়, উৰিষ্যা, উত্তৰ প্ৰদেশ, বিহাৰ আদি ঠাইটো বঙালী ভাষা ভাষী আছে, তাতটো কোনোৱে বঙালী ভাষা জাপি লোৱা নাই:—

মহোদয়, হিন্দী আমাৰ ৰাষ্ট্ৰভাষা ৰূপে আহিবই আৰু তাক ৰাজ্য ভাষাৰ পৰ্যায়লৈ অনাৰ যুক্তিও মই বিচাৰি নাপাওঁ। সৰহ সংখ্যক জনসাধাৰণে বুজিব পৰা ভাষাৰে প্ৰশাসন যন্ত্ৰটো চলিবৰ কাৰণেই যদি ৰাজ্যভাষাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হৈছে—তেন্তে আমাৰ শতকৰা কেইজনে হিন্দী বুজে। আৰু ইংৰাজী? সংবিধানে ইংৰাজীক বিদেশী ভাষাৰ বাবে যেতিয়া ভাৰতৰ পৰা বিদায় দিব তেতিয়া আমি ভাৰতীয় সংবিধানৰ বাহিৰলৈ গুচি যাম নেকি?

মহোদয়, আমি বুৰঞ্জীক উপেক্ষা কৰিব নোৱাৰো আজি হয়তো যি ঠাইৰ পৰাই পাহাৰী ভাই সকলে অসমীয়া ভাষা নেলাগে বুলিয়ে যুগ-যুগান্তৰৰ পৰা আমাৰ পৰ্বত ভৈয়ামৰ মধুৰ সম্বন্ধটো যান-বান কৰি আমাৰ পৰা আতৰি যাবলৈ উদ্যত হৈছে—সেই জয়ন্তীয়া দৰবাৰৰ পৰাই দশ বছৰৰ আগতে আহোম ৰজালৈ চিঠি গৈছিল—শুদ্ধ অসমীয়া ভাষাৰে য'ত জয়ন্তীয়া ৰজাই সোণ-ৰূপৰ আখৰেৰে

লিখিছিল “লুইত উজাই বব—কাক বগা হব— তেবেখে আমাৰ প্ৰীতি নাছাৰিব—গড়গাওঁ জয়ন্তী দই নাহয়”— মহোদয়, ই মোৰ সজা কথা নহয়—জয়ন্তীয়া বুৰঞ্জীত উজ্জল হৈ জিলিকি থকা খাছী-জয়ন্তীয়া বাইজৰ প্ৰাণৰ কথা।

মহোদয়, পাহাৰৰ আৰু কাছাৰৰ সদস্য সকলে এডোখৰ **Meeting ground** ব কথা কৈছে মই ভাবো ধৰ্মৰ দৰে ভাষাই আমাৰ ঐক্য আৰু সংহতি বন্ধাৰ একমাত্ৰ উপায়। অসমীয়া ভাষাহে আমাৰ সকলোৰে মিলনৰ একমাত্ৰ ক্ষেত্ৰ হ'ব। ভাৰতৰ দৰে অসমতো বৈচিত্ৰৰ মাজত যি ঐক্যৰ সন্ধান পোৱা যায়—সেই ঐক্য আৰু সংহতি বন্ধা কৰিব অসমীয়া ভাষাই।

মহোদয়, আমি জানো শ্ৰীমন্ত শঙ্কৰদেৱ এজন সংস্কৃতত বিদগ্ধ পণ্ডিত আছিল সংস্কৃত ভাষাত তেওঁ গ্ৰন্থ বচিছিল যদিও অসমীয়া ভাষাৰ জৰিয়তেহে সুদূৰ শদিয়াৰ পৰা কৰতোৱালৈকে অসমৰ ভৈয়াম আৰু কাছাৰক একতাৰ কটকটীয়া বান্ধোনেৰে বান্ধি অসমীয়া জাতিক এটা সকলো ক্ষেত্ৰতে উন্নত সৃষ্টি সৰল জাতিত পৰিণত কৰি গ'ল। এই ঐক্য আৰু সংহতিৰ কাৰণেই আমি গাঁবোপাহাৰৰ গোবিন্দ—নগা পাহাৰৰ নৰোত্তম, নিকিৰ পাহাৰৰ জয়হৰি আৰু মুছল মানব চান্দখাক গুৰুজনৰ অন্যতম শিষ্যৰূপে দেখিবলৈ পাওঁ।

কিন্তু দুখৰ কথা আমাৰ সেই মধুৰ সম্বন্ধক চুৰমাৰ কৰি দিলে সাম্ৰাজ্যবাদ বৃষ্টিৰ **divide and rule policy** য়ে—হয়তো এই বিভেদ নীতিৰ বাবেই এতিয়াও ইংৰাজীক ৰাজ্যভাষা কৰা নাইবা অসমৰ পৰা পাহাৰী ভাই সকল আতৰি যোৱা আদি অনুভৱিত অৱমান হোৱা নাই।

(ঘণ্টা বাজে)।

মহোদয়, এই বাবেই মই মাননীয় সদস্য সকলক অসমীয়া কে একমাত্ৰ ৰাজ্যভাষা ৰূপে সমৰ্থন কৰিবলৈ বিনীত নিবেদন জনাওঁ। সংখ্যালঘু সকলে তেওঁলোকৰ স্বকীয়া বৈচিত্ৰ সমূহ লোপ পাবৰ যি আশঙ্কাৰ কথা কৈছে—সেই আশঙ্কা সম্পূৰ্ণ ভিত্তিহীন যিহেতু সংখ্যালঘু সকলৰ বাবে বিলত আৰু সংশোধনীত যথেষ্ট বন্ধা কবচৰ ব্যৱস্থা আছে।

মহোদয়, আমি যি দেশত নিগাজীকৈ থাকো, য'ৰ জল-বায়ুৰে পুষ্ট হওঁ তাকে আমি আমাৰ নিজৰ দেশ বুলি অন্তৰেৰে গ্ৰহণ নকৰিলে সেই দেশৰ প্ৰতি মোৰ অন্যায় কৰা হয় বুলি ভাবো। সেইবাবে ইয়ালৈ অহা অনা-অসমীয়া সকলক মই অনুৰোধ কৰো যেন, তেওঁলোকে দেশৰ বৃহত্তৰ স্বাৰ্থত নিজৰ স্বাৰ্থক যেন লিপ্ত কৰি দিবলৈ যত্ন কৰে। এখন দেশত থাকি সেই দেশৰ থলুৱা সকলৰ লগত সম্পূৰ্ণভাৱে নিজক বিলাই নিদি স্বকীয়া মনোবৃত্তি গ্ৰহণ কৰি থাকিলে সেই দেশৰ যোৰ অকল্যাণ কৰা হয় বুলি আমি বিবেচনা কৰো আৰু তেনে মনোভাৱ দেখিলে আমাৰ অন্তৰে দুখ পায়।

মহোদয়, অসমলৈ আহিছিল এমুঠি আহোম। তেওঁলোকৰ স্বকীয়া ভাষা কৃষ্টি সকলো আছিল, কিন্তু তেওঁলোকে জনতাৰ সাংস্কৃতিৰ লগত নিজক বিলাই দি অসমীয়া সাংস্কৃতিক সুদৃঢ় আৰু সৰল কৰাৰ বাবেই স্বখ্যাতি আৰু দক্ষতাৰে অসমত ছণ বছৰ ৰাজ্যত কৰিলে ইচ্ছা কৰা হলে বজাঘৰে প্ৰজাৰ ওপৰত তেওঁলোকৰ ভাষা কৃষ্টি জাপি দিব পাৰিলে হেতেন, কিন্তু তাকে নকৰি তেওঁলোকে নিজক বাইজৰ লগত মিলাই দিলে। তাৰ বাবে আহোম জাতিটো নোহোৱা হৈ নগল তেওঁলোকৰ উদাৰতা অনন্ত কাললৈ অক্ষয় হৈ ব'ল।

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Your time is up.

সেই বাবেই মই দোহাৰি হলেও কাছাৰ আৰু পাহাৰৰ মাননীয় সদস্য সকলক পুনৰায় দেশৰ বৃহত্তৰ স্বাৰ্থলৈ এবাৰ চিন্তা কৰি চাবলৈ অনুৰোধ কৰো। মোৰ সম্পূৰ্ণ আশা যে এই অসমীয়া ভাষাই আমাৰ পূৰ্বত ভৈয়ামৰ আৰু কাছাৰৰ মধুমিলন ঘটাব।

মহোদয়, বুৰঞ্জীৰ পুনৰাভিনয় হয়, এদিন গৃহ-কন্দলেই আমাৰ সোণৰ অসমক চাবখাব কৰি মান তথা ইংৰাজক আমন্ত্ৰণ কৰি আনিছিল। এতিয়াও আমাৰ দুৱাৰ মুখত থকা আমাৰ শত্ৰু চীন আৰু পকিস্তানক আমি মজিয়াত বৰপীৰা পাৰি নিমন্ত্ৰণ জনোৱা হব যদি আমি নিজৰ ভিতৰতে খোৱা-কানোৱাকৈ নৰো!

ইয়াকে কৈ মই মাননীয় সদস্য শ্ৰীশৰত গোস্বামীৰ অসমত একমাত্ৰ অসমীয়া ভাষাকে ৰাজ্যভাষা ৰূপে ঘোষণা কৰিব লাগে বুলি অনা সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱটো সমৰ্থন কৰো।

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR :** (Sarbhog) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to speak in support of the amendment which I have moved. In support of my amendment I want to say that Assamese should be declared as the only official language for the State of Assam. In the Bill it has been stated that Assamese will be the State language and along with it there will be English until it is replaced by Hindi. Sir, this provision is not satisfactory for Assam. We the people of Assam want that Assamese should be the only language for Assam and there should be no Hindi as our second official language. It has been stated by many that in Assam there are many linguistic groups and so Assamese should not be made the only official language. Sir, according to the census figure out of 90 lakhs of people in Assam there are 49 lakhs of people who speak Assamese. Besides, there are 16 lakhs of Bengalees in our Assam, but for that they cannot demand another language. Sir, if we take the population figure in Bengal then we will find that there are 16 lakhs of Hindi speaking people also there but for that they are not going to declare a second State language. Sir, Cachar has demanded that there should be Bengali in Cachar and others have demanded that English should be our State language until it is replaced by Hindi. This is not a good proposal.

As we have seen, the Constitution has recognised 14 languages and Assamese language is one of them. We have seen from the publications in the newspapers that the Government of West Bengal stated that the Assam Government had manipulated the census figures and that the Assamese speaking people have in the past 20 years increased from 19,92,846 in 1931 to 49,72,493 in 1951, and that the number of Bengali speaking people decreased. About the correctness of the census figures the following Statements can be cited. In this connection, I can cite here the observation of Mr. Allen in his census report of 1961. The returns of foreign languages must of necessity be very incomplete. The enumerator has the very vaguest idea of the languages spoken in India and would prefer to enter everything as Bengali, Deshwali, etc, but it is doubtful whether Bengali in this case, means anything more than a foreign language *Viide* census of India 1901, Assam p.87,,. In the same connection, I would like to refer to



what Mr. F.M. Clifford, Deputy Commissioner and J.E. Friend Pertra, S. D. O. stated about the correctness of the census report." This enquiry was confined to Sidli and Bijni Duars only in the east of Dhubri sub-division and Goalpara subdivision covering a population of 2,25,485 out of the total population of 6,40,685 in the District. This enquiry consisted mainly in checking doubtful entries only. But this enquiry showed that the number of Bengali speakers should have been decreased by 30,607 and that of Assamese increased by 30,607". From this it is clearly seen that a good number of Assamese speaking people had been included in the Bengali speaking people. Over and above this, it is also seen that all people coming from out side were included in the population of the Bengali speaking people. From these facts we can see how the census figures were actually manipulated by the census officers. Sir, Assamese language is indeed a very old and rich language and is the language of the major portion of the entire population of the State. In fact Assamese language had already developed in the 16th century and this fact is proved by Biswakabi Rabindranath who wrote to Pandit Hem Chandra Goswami as follows—" you may be very well proud of the author of the Book who could handle prose in such a remarkable and lucid style, more than a century before we had any prose book in Bengali." Dr.P.C. Roy wrote Assamese prose literature developed to a stage in the far distant Sixteenth century, which no other literature of the world reached except the writing of Hooker and Latimer in England. The Katha Gita shows clearly that the Assamese literature developed to a standard in the Sixteenth century which the Bengalee literature had realised only in the time of Iswar Chandra and Bankim Chandra. In fact if some Assamese scholars now get up and say that it is the Bengali who has borrowed his prose from the Assamese literature and enreached his own, it will be very difficult to *aidodge* him". Therefore, this is a fact that Assamese language is a much more cultured language and Assamese is spoken by the major portion of the population of the State, hence Assamese language should be declared as the only official language of the State. There were suggestions that Bengali should be the National language of India, others suggested that Sanskrit should be the National language of India and others said that Hindi should be the National language of India but the Parliament did not hear or pay heed to all these and by a major vote the Parliament passed an order that Hindi should be the National Language of India, because Hindi is spoken by a good portion of the population of India. Then in the same line, when Assamese language is being spoken by the majority of the people of the State and when it is only a single absolute language of the majority of the people of the State, therefore, there should be no difficulty in declaring Assamese as the sole official language of the State. In this connection, I want to point out that in Assam, there are the Khasis, the Garos, the Mizos and all of them speak in different dialects and the Hills people also do not understand and speak Hindi, yet they want Hindi as an official language. But Assamese language is easier to learn than the Hindi language, so why our Hills people should not try to learn Assamese language. Why should we impose Hindi on them? The Government has brought this Bill but this Bill will not satisfy either the plains people of the Brahmaputra valley or the Hills people or the people of Cachar District. All of them are not satisfied with Clause 3 of the Bill. Therefore, we have brought our amendments that Assamese alone should be the official language of

the State. It is not known when English will be replaced by Hindi it may take 20 or 30 years to replace English by Hindi. In that case, since our Hills people do not know Hindi, they may try to learn Assamese, we may give them a guarantee say 20 or 25 years to learn Assamese language and so in meantime, our Hills people will be able to learn Assamese language.

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

Adjournment.

**Mr. SPEAKER** :— I hope the hon. Members know that there will be a tea party in the Conference Room, so I think it is better to adjourn the House now.

(Voices—Yes, yes).

The Assembly was then adjourned for tea time 5-30 P.M.

**Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj)** :

মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আজি যিটো ৰাজ্যভাষা সম্পৰ্কীয় সংশোধনী মোৰ বন্ধু, শ্ৰীশৰত গোস্বামীয়ে দাঙি ধৰিছে, সেইটো সমৰ্থন কৰিবলৈ গৈ নয়ো দুঘাৰ কথা কব খোজে।

মোৰ কোৱাৰ ইচ্ছা নাছিল কিন্তু ইয়াত মই দেখিছো যে অসমত গোৱালপাৰা জিলাৰ ভাষা সংস্কৃতিৰ সমালোচনা কৰি নানা ধৰণে নিকৃতাকাৰ উক্তি দাঙি ধৰিছে ইয়াৰ বিনিময়ে যদি গোৱালপাৰাবাসীৰ তৰফৰ পৰা অলপ নকণ্ড তেন্তে ভাল হব।

মহোদয়, মানুহৰ ভাৱৰ আদান পুঁদান কৰাত ভাষাৰ প্ৰয়োজন হয় এই কথা আজিও নহয় পূৰ্বকালৰ পৰা চলি আহিছে। ঠিক তেনেকৈ ধৰ্মপ্ৰচাৰ কৰিবলৈকো ধৰ্ম প্ৰচাৰক সকলে স্থানীয় ভাষাকেই ব্যৱহাৰ কৰে। শঙ্কৰদেৱে বৈষ্ণৱ ধৰ্ম প্ৰচাৰ কৰোতে ব্ৰজাৱলী ভাষাই ব্যৱহাৰ কৰিছিল। সেই একে-ভাষাই অলপ স্থান, কাল, পাত্ৰলৈ কিছু সালসলনি হৈ আজিও অসমৰ ইমূৰৰ পৰা সিমূৰলৈ চলি আছে। স্থান আৰু কাল হিছাবে অলপ ইফাল সিফাল হোৱাতো স্বাভাৱিক। তাৰ কাৰণে শ্ৰীৰবেন্দ্ৰ দাস ডাঙৰীয়াই তেনে এটা অমূলক উক্তি কৰি গোৱালপাৰা বাসীক বঙালী বুলি আখ্যা দিয়াটো মই কেতিয়াও সমৰ্থন কৰিব নোৱাৰো।

শ্ৰীৰবেন্দ্ৰ দাস ডাঙৰীয়াই কেতিয়া কৈছে যে আমাৰ পাহাৰী আৰু কাছাৰী ভাই সকলৰ কলা কৃষ্টি আদি অসমৰ লগত মিল নাই। আনকি গোৱালপাৰাৰ লোকসকলো বঙালীহে—কিন্তু মই তেখেতৰ উক্তিৰ ঘোৰ বিৰোধীতা কৰি কওঁ যে গোৱালপাৰাবাসী কেতিয়াও বঙালী নাছিল। আৰু এতিয়াও নহয়। আগৰে পৰা অসমীয়া ভাষা ৰাজবংশী ভাষাৰ সংমিশ্ৰণ, যেতিয়া অসমত কোচ ৰজাই ৰাজত্ব কৰিছিল তেতিয়া ৰাজবংশী ভাষাও চলিছিল ই অসমীয়া ভাষাৰে অপভ্ৰংশমাত, শঙ্কৰ দেৱেও বহু ধৰ্মপ্ৰস্তু এই ৰাজবংশী ভাষাতেই লেখিছিল। সেই ভাষা আজিও গোৱালপাৰাত চলি আছে। তেনে স্থলত গোৱালপাৰাক বঙালী কলে আমি কেতিয়াও সমৰ্থন নকৰো।

গোৱালপাৰা census সম্বন্ধে মোৰ বন্ধু শ্ৰীৰামনাথ শৰ্ম্মাই কৈ গৈছে, মই বেচি নক'ওঁ।

অসমীয়া ভাষাত আমি যিটো 'শ' বুলি কওঁ তাক বঙালীত 'চ' বুলি উচ্চাৰণ কৰি যিবিলাকে কয় সেই সকলো বিলাক জানো বঙালী মানহ হ'ব পাৰে? যদি সেয়ে হয়, তেন্তে এই বঙালী গ্ৰাহী বজা সকলে, বঙালী যি ঠাইত 'শ' বুলি কয়, তাত তেখেত সকলে 'হ' বুলি উচ্চাৰণ কৰে গতিকে মই ক'ব খোজো যে তেখেত সকল বঙালী নহয়— তেখেত সকল অসমীয়া, যি কাৰণত তেখেত সকল বঙালী ভাষাভাষী বুলি প্ৰমাণ কৰে তাক মই সমৰ্থন কৰিব নোৱাৰো।

মহোদয়, এটা জাতি উঠিবলৈ প্ৰথমতে ভাষাৰ দৰ্কাৰ। ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ উপত্যকাৰ হওক বা পাহাৰৰে হওক নাইবা কাছাৰৰে হওক সকলো অসমবাসী আৰু সকলোৱে অসমীয়াৰে গোষ্ঠী প্ৰমাণ স্বৰূপে • মই আমাৰ নগা ভাই সকলৰ কথা কৈ কওঁ যে তেওঁলোক যদিও আমাৰ পৰা আতৰি গৈছে তথাপিও তেওঁলোকে অসমীয়াৰ গোষ্ঠী বন্ধাৰ এটা মহান আদৰ্শ দেখুৱাইছে। তেওঁলোকৰ ৰাজ্যিক ভাষা হিচাবে অসমীয়াকে ৰাখিছে। আজি পাহাৰী ভাইসকলে আৰু কাছাৰৰ ভাই সকলে অসমীয়া ভাষা কিয় আয়ত্ব কৰিব নোৱাৰে বুলি ভাৱিছে মই ক'ব নোৱাৰো।

আমি অসমৰ বহুমুখী উন্নতি সাধন কৰিবলৈ সকলোৱে মিলামিলি কৰি আমাৰ তাকৰীয়া হীনদেবী বিলাকলৈ আওকান কৰিব লাগিব।

গতিকে মই ক'ব খোজো যে আমাৰ শ্ৰীশৰত গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াই যিটো সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱ আনিছে তাক সকলোৱে সমৰ্থন কৰিব লাগে।

ইয়াকে কৈ মই সামৰণী গাৰিলো।

✓ **Maulavi JAHANNUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I oppose the motion moved by my friend, Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami and in opposing the motion I like to say that the amendment moved by Shri Goswami's ammendment is not at all according to the desire of the people of this State. Sir, here we want to have one language for the whole of the State of Assam. Sir, at the consideration stage I said that to bring the integrity, unity and solidarity of Assam we must have one language because the Indian Union itself took its national language only one, that is Hindi for the integrity, unity and solidarity of India. So Sir, in the ammendment which has been moved by my Congress friend that they want Hindi after English abolished under the Constitution—when English will be replaced, i will be replaced by Hindi. When English will be replaed by Hindi, there will be two official languages for the State of Assam. We do not like to bring in our State Hindi when it is not wanted by the people. Sir, this clause will, I think, result in disintegration among the people, I mean among the Hindustani speaking people and Assamese speaking people. Sir, if we really want our State of Assam to be one and its solidarity should be maintained, then we must have one language for the whole State of Assam.

Sir, from the very beginning in to-day's debate there was objection from this side about the statement of my friend, Shri Ronendra Mohan Das. I do not know whether that statement was really in order, but when you, Sir, has allowed him to speak, we don't mind. But he has said something which is not at all congenial at this moment in our State. He has spoken about Goalpara district that in 1911 census 90 per cent. of the people of Goalpara were Bengalees and Bengali speaking. I strongly object to this Sir. How can he come to that figure I don't know? Does he mean that only 10 per cent of the people of Goalpara are indigenous? Does he mean to say that all the others are Bengalees?

This is not at all true Sir. As you know Sir, Goalpara is predominantly a Zamindari area and our Zamindars had their officers from Bengal. Now, if anybody looks at the Goalpara District, he will find that there were many Zamindari areas like Bijni, Mechpara, Gauripur, Bagaribari and Bilasipara. All the educational institutions were run by these Zamindars and the medium of instruction was Bengali because the officers who served under these Zamindars wanted their children to be educated through Bengali medium. Sir, it's about 5 or 6 years that the Zamindari has been abolished. When the people of these Zamindari areas came to know that the Zamindari would be abolished, and when the people could not exert their right, in 1951 they represented before the State Re-organisation Commission that they wanted to identify themselves as the Assamese and that they would take up Assamese as their *lingua franca*. Mr. Ronendra Mohan Das has also said that in 1951 about 250 Bengali Lower Primary Schools were converted into Assamese Lower Primary Schools and there is at present only 3 Bengali Lower Primary Schools. It is natural that when these people represented before the State Re-organisation Commission that they wanted Assamese as their *lingua franca*, they would like to have their children educated through the medium of Assamese, and naturally wanted to convert the Bengali Lower Primary School to Assamese Lower Primary School. That is the reason why so many Bengali Lower Primary Schools were converted to Assamese Lower Primary School. That is their voluntary action. What Mr. Das want to do with people's voluntary action?

Sir, there is no difference between the Assamese and the Bengali scripts. There are only slight difference in "ব" and "ব". So there will be not slightest difficulty for Bengali students to pick up Assamese scripts, read and understand Assamese.

Sir, about the hill people, I have not been able to understand their views. Even when Hindi was given as the State language in the original bill, they did not like to associate with us. Even if Hindi is now given now declared as the only State Language, the Hills people will not be satisfied, nothing will satisfy them but a separate Hill State, and we have nothing to do with it. It is upto centre what they want to do about Hill State.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Your time is up. Mr. Idris.

**Shri JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara):** Sir, I want to speak on the amendment. Please give only one minute. What I have found is that there must be an opportunity and scope either the people of the plains will have to be merged with the hill people or the people of the hill will have to be merged with the plains people. There is no other alternative. That is the reason why we want Hindi should not come at present. It might be that Hill people may accept Assamese or they may like to keep English and we the Assamese people may accept their view. With these few words I will like that the amendment moved by me may be accepted.

**Maulavi MAHAMMED IDRIS (Rupohihat):** মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মাননীয় সদস্য শ্রীশিবত চন্দ্র গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াই ৰাজ্যিক ভাষা বিলাক তৃতীয় ৰুজত যি সংশোধনী আনিছে সেইটো সমখন কৰি দুআঘাৰ কবলৈ উঠিছে। চৰকাৰী ভাষা সম্পৰ্কীয় বিল খনত যি যি বিশেষ কথা সন্নিবিষ্ট কৰা উচিত সেই সম্পৰ্কে আলোচনা হৈ গৈছে। আমাৰ মাননীয় সদস্য শ্রীশিবত চন্দ্র গোস্বামীয়ে দাঙি ধৰা সংশোধনীটিৰ লগত ময়ো একমত। এই সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱটি গৃহীত হলে ৰাজ্যৰ সকলো *Lingustie minorities* বা “চৰকাৰী ভাষা” সম্পৰ্কে কৰা ভিন্ ভিন্ দাবী পূৰণ হব বুলি মই ভাবো।

আজি মাননীয় সদস্য, শ্রীৰবেন্দ্ৰ মোহন দাস ডাঙৰীয়াৰ ২১৪ টা কথা শুনি আচৰিত হলো। তেখেতৰ কাছাৰ জিলাৰ সম্পৰ্কে আৰু কাছাৰৰ ভাষা সম্পৰ্কে কৰাৰ অধিকাৰ নিশ্চয় আছে। কিন্তু তেখেতে কৈছে যে নগাঁও জিলাত বহু সংখ্যক বঙ্গভাষী মানুহ আছে সেই কাৰণে নগাঁওতো অকল অসমীয়া ভাষা চৰকাৰী ভাষা হব নালাগে। নগাঁও, জিলাত বহু সংখ্যক বঙ্গভাষী মানুহ আছে যদিও মই এইটো জনাব খোঁয়ো যে তেওঁলোকে অসমীয়া ভাষাৰ বিৰোধীতা কৰা নাই। ১৯৫১ চনৰ census ৰ কথা কৈ তেখেতে কৈছে যে বহু সংখ্যক *imigrant* মানুহ আহিছে তেওঁলোক বঙ্গভাষী কিন্তু তেখেতৰ তেনে বক্তৃতা দিয়া উচিত হোৱা নাই। আজি কোনো জাতিয়ে কোনো এটা ভাষা নিজৰ ভাষা বুলি গ্ৰহন কৰে তাৰ বাধা দিবৰ ক্ষমতা বোধহয় পৃথিবীত কাৰো নাই। গতিকে আজি যি সকলে অসমীয়া ভাষাকে নিজৰ ভাষা বুলি গ্ৰহন কৰিবলৈ আগ বাঢ়ি আহিছে, তেওঁলোকৰ অন্তৰত এনেকুৱা কথাৰ দ্বাৰা নিশ্চয় আঘাত লাগিব। মোৰ বন্ধু প্ৰধানী ডাঙৰীয়াইও কৈছে যে এনে অৱস্থা গোৱালপাৰাতো হৈছে।

আজি অসমত বহুত জাতিৰ মানুহ বহুত দিনৰে পৰা আহি অৱস্থান কৰিছে আৰু ইয়াৰ সংস্কৃতি, কলা কৃষ্টি গ্ৰহণ কৰি অসমীয়া জাতিক শক্তিশালী কৰিবৰ কাৰণে প্ৰত্যেকেই বৰঙনী যোগাইছে। সেই দৰে বাকী যিবোৰ মানুহ অসমলৈ আহিছে তেওঁলোকৰও যদি অসমীয়া কৃষ্টি আৰু সংস্কৃতি গ্ৰহণ কৰি সকলোৰে লগত খাপ খাবলৈ ৰাজি হয় বা আগবাঢ়ি আহে তেনেহলে সেই সকলোকে অসমীয়া ৰাইজে আগ্ৰহেৰে আদৰি লব। মই কব খুজিছো যে ব্ৰাহ্মপুত্ৰ উপত্যকাৰ জিলাবোৰতো বিভিন্ন ভাষা ভাষীৰ বহুলোক থাকিব পাৰে। তথাপি তেওঁলোকে অসমীয়া ভাষাকে চৰকাৰী ভাষা বুলি মানি লৈছে কাৰণ তেওঁলোক এনে ভাবে অসমীয়াৰ লগত মিলি গৈছে যে অনা-অসমীয়া বুলিবৰ কোনো উপায় নাই। সেই কাৰণে অসমীয়া ভাষাৰ প্ৰতিবাদ কৰাৰ কথাই নাই। নগাঁও জিলাৰ কথা যি ভাৱে এজন সদস্যই কৈছিল, সেইটো একেবাৰে ভিত্তিহীন আৰু অমূলক। ইয়াকে কৈ মই প্ৰস্তাৱটো সমখন কৰিলো।

**Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari West):** অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, শ্রীশিবত গোস্বামীদেৱে যিটো সংশোধনী দিছে তাৰ লগত মোৰ সংশোধনীটোৰ প্ৰথম খণ্ডত মিল আছে। অৱশ্যে পিচৰ খণ্ড বেলেগ হল। তেখেতে দ্বিতীয় অংশত অসমীয়া একমাত্ৰ ৰাজ্যিক ভাষা কৰাৰ সম্পূৰ্ণ সমখন কৰা নাই সেই কাৰণে কৈছো যে,

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

মোৰ সংশোধনীৰ উদ্দেশ্য আছিল যে অসমীয়ক একমাত্ৰ ৰাজ্যিক ভাষা হিচাবে স্বীকাৰ কৰিব লাগে। যদি ইংৰাজী চলে তেনেহলে ইংৰাজীক প্ৰথম স্থান নিদি অসমীয়াৰ লগত একে স্থান দিব লাগে।

মোৰ ৩৪ নং সংশোধনীত কৈছে যে ষেবোৰ এক্ট, বিল আৰু ডিক্ৰি আদি পাচ কৰা হয়, সেইবোৰৰ সংখ্যালঘু সকলৰ সুবিধার্থে তেওঁলোকৰ ভাষাত তজ্জমা কৰিব লাগে যাতে প্ৰশাসনীয় কামত বাধা নজন্মে। বিলখনৰ ৩ নং ধাৰাৰ ৩ নং প্ৰতিজ্ঞা আছে।

“Provided further that only the Assamese language shall be used for administrative and other official purposes up to and including the Plains districts of the Brahmaputra valley, viz., Lakhimpur, Sibsagar, Darrang, Nowgong, Kamrup and Goalpara districts, তাৰ ঠাইত যি দিছে—provided further that the Assamese language shall be used in all spheres at the State level as well as in all levels in the districts of Lakhimpur, Sibsagar, Nowgong, Darrang, Kamrup and Goalpara”.

মোৰ কথা হৈছে যে, অসমীয়া ভাষাক ৰাজ্যভাষা কৰা হব যেতিয়া ইয়াক জিলা পৰ্যায়ত নেবাখি ৰাজ্যিক সৰ্ব্বদা দিব লাগে। Assam Public Service Commissionৰ পৰীক্ষাৰ বিষয়ত শ্ৰীগোস্বামীদেৱে আওঁপকীয়া ভাৱে হিন্দী কৰিবলৈ বিচাৰিছে। তেনে কৰিলে অসমীয়া ভাষাৰ ক্ৰমবিকাশৰ পথত বাধা জন্মৰ কাৰণ ই কেৱল ভৈয়ামৰ জিলা কেইখনতেহে থাকিব। মাননীয় শ্ৰীভট্টাচাৰ্য্য দেৱে কোৱাৰ দৰে পিচ দুৱাৰেদি আহি চৰকাৰী ভাষাক দ্বিভাষী কৰা হব। সেই কাৰণে শ্ৰীগোস্বামীৰ সংশোধনীৰ বিৰোধিতা কৰিছে। আশা কৰো সদনে মোৰ সংশোধনীটো গ্ৰহণ কৰিব।

আমাৰ সংশোধনীত হিন্দী ভাষাও ৰখা হৈছে। কিন্তু হিন্দীয়ে দ্বিভাষী কৰা নাই। কাৰণ ইংৰাজীয়ে বিদায় লোৱাৰ পিচত হিন্দী কোন কোন বিষয়ত প্ৰয়োগ কৰা হব, সেইটো ৰাজ্য চৰকাৰে নিৰ্দ্ধাৰণ কৰিবলৈ সংশোধনীত ব্যৱস্থা দিয়া হৈছে। গতিকে প্ৰকৃততে এম ভাষী কৰিছে সংশোধনী দিয়া হৈছে।

### Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar)

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মোৰ ২২ নং সংশোধনীৰ লগত মাননীয় সদস্য শ্ৰীশৰৎচন্দ্ৰ গোস্বামী, শ্ৰীৰাম নাথ শৰ্ম্মা, আৰু শ্ৰীমহীকান্ত দাসৰ সংশোধনীৰ সমস্যাতে মই কওঁ যে, বিলখন প্ৰথমে দাখিল কৰা অৱস্থাত দ্বিভাষী বা বহু ভাষী ৰূপত আছিল। আমাৰ সংশোধনীয়ে সেইৰূপ এটি কৰ্ত্তন কৰি একভাষী কৰা হৈছে। বিলখন এনে ধৰণে দাখিল কৰাত গোটেই অসমীয়া ৰাইজে এই বিষয়ে আন্দোলন কৰিছে যে কিয় একভাষী নকৰি দ্বিভাষী কৰা হল। এই সংশোধনীয়ে সেই ৰূপ পৰিবৰ্ত্তন কৰিছে। দুখৰ কথা শিলচৰৰ ৰাইজ সকলে আপত্তি কৰিছে যে তেওঁলোকক অসমীয়া নালাগে, বঙালীহে লাগে। বঙালী দিব নোৱাৰিলে হিন্দী হলেও তেওঁলোকৰ হয়। বিলখনত চিলচৰত বঙালী ভাষা দিয়া হৈছে। পৰ্ব্বতীয়া অধিবাসী সকলৰ এজনে এইসদনেতে বক্তৃতা দিছে যে তেওঁলোকক ইংৰাজী হলে ভাল হয়। ইংৰাজী লাগে বুলি এতিয়াও কোনোবাই বক্তৃতা দিব পাৰে সেইটো আতি শোচনীয় কথা। সেইমতে তেখেত সকল সন্তুষ্ট হবৰ কাৰণে আৰু তেওঁলোকৰ সন্দেহ নহবাৰ কাৰণে সাদ্যহতে ইংৰাজী আৰু পিচত হিন্দী বা অন্তৰ্ভুক্ত কৰা হৈছে। সেই কাৰণে সদনে অনুৰোধ কৰিছে সংশোধনীৰ সূত্ৰটো বিবেচনা কৰিবলৈ, যেহেতু হিন্দী প্ৰয়োগ নিষয় কৰিবলৈ চৰকাৰক কমতা দিয়া হৈছে।

আজি পৰ্বতীয়া ভাইসকলে যি আন্দোলন কৰিছে সেই আন্দোলন তেওঁবিলাকে ৰাজ্য ভাষাৰ আন্দোলনৰ লগত জড়িত কৰিব খুজিছে। আচলতে তেওঁবিলাকৰ আন্দোলন ৰাজ্যভাষাৰ আন্দোলনৰ লগত যোগ দিয়া উচিত নহয়। কাৰণ তেওঁবিলাকৰ এই আন্দোলন নতুন নহয়, বহুদিনৰ পৰাই চলি আহিছে। তেওঁ বিলাকৰ দাবী Hill State লাগে। দেখা যায় যে তেওঁবিলাকে ভাৰতীয় সভ্যতাৰ আস্থানা ৰাখি, পাশ্চাত্য সভ্যতা লৈহে আগবাঢ়ি যাব খুজিছে। সেই কাৰণে মই কওঁ যে তেওঁবিলাকে আন্দোলন কৰক ভাৰতীয় ৰাষ্ট্ৰৰ আৰু অসমৰ লগতে পাহাৰী ভাই সকলোৰো অগ্রগতিৰ কাৰণে। তেওঁলোকে ভাৰতবৰ্ষক আৰু অসমক আগবাঢ়ি যোৱাত সহায় কৰক। এই মোৰ অনুৰোধ।

**Shri BISHNU LAL UPADHAYA (Gohpur):** অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, অসমৰ চৰকাৰী ভাষা বিলৰ ৩ নং ধাৰাত শ্ৰীশৰৎ চন্দ্ৰ গোস্বামী দেৱে কৰা সংশোধনীৰ প্ৰস্তাবত সমৰ্থন জনাবলৈ সুবিধা পোৱাত মই বৰ আনন্দ পাইছো।

আমাৰ এখন ৰাজ ভাষা প্ৰশাসনী কামৰ কাৰণে লাগে যি ভাষা সৰ্ব্ব সাধাৰণ ৰাইজে বুজি পায় আৰু অসমীয়া ভাষাই এইটো স্থান পোৱাটো নিশ্চয় যুক্তি সঙ্গত। ১৯৫১ চনৰ Census মতে অসমত কেইবাতায়ো ভাষা কোৱা মানুহ থকা সত্ত্বেও দেখা যায় সৰহ ভাগ মানুহে অসমীয়া কথা কয়। সেই কাৰণেও অসমীয়া ভাষাই চৰকাৰ। ভাষাৰ স্থান পোৱাটো উচিত হ'ব। আনফালে সংবিধানে স্বীকাৰ কৰা ১৪ টা মুখ্য ভাষাৰ ভিতৰত অসমীয়াও এটা। সেই কাৰণে অসমীয়া ভাষাই সেই মৰ্য্যদা পাবই লাগিব। অসমীয়া ভাষা ৰাজ্যভাষা হ'ক এইটো আমি কামনা কৰোঁ। পৰিতাপৰ কথা এই বিলখনে পাহাৰী আৰু কাছাৰৰ বন্ধুসকলৰ সমৰ্থন নাপালে। মই কম যে পৰ্বতীয়া আৰু কাছাৰৰ লোক সকলৰ ইংৰাজী ভাষাৰ সুবিধা বখা হৈছে আৰু সেইটো উদাৰ দৃষ্টি ভঙ্গীৰেই কৰা হৈছে।

আমাৰ মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই যোৱা ৩ মাৰ্চৰ দিনা তেখেতৰ ভাষণত অন্যান্য সংখ্যালঘু সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ মানুহৰ মতামত জানিব বিছাৰিছে। যেহেতুকে মই নেপালী সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ মানুহ সেই কাৰণে অসমৰ নেপালী সকলৰ তৰফৰ পৰা দুই আঘাৰ মান কথা ডাঙি ধৰিব খুজিছো অসমত বহু বছৰ ধৰি বসবাস কৰি অসমকে নিজৰ মাতৃ ভূমি বুলি গণ্য কৰি অহা নেপালী সকলে অসমীয়াৰ জনমতৰ আশা আকাংখাৰ উপলব্ধি কৰিব পাৰিছে ১৯৫১ চনৰ চেষ্টাচত দেখুৱা নেপালী লোক সকলৰ সংখ্যা ১,১১,৭৫৫ জনৰ সমৰ্থনে যদি অসমীয়া চৰকাৰী ভাষা হোৱাত যথেষ্ট শক্তি নাপায় তেন্তে তেওঁলোকৰ বিশ্বাস কৰা অনুযায়ী উক্ত সংখ্যাৰ পিচত এটা শূন্য বহুয়াই দিলে যি সংখ্যা হ'ব পাৰে সেইখিনি নেপালীয়ে অসমীয়া ৰাজ্য ভাষা হ'বলৈ সহযোগীতা কৰিব বিছাৰিছে।

(সময়ৰ সংকেত)।

অসমত যি সকল লোক আছে ইয়াৰ উপৰিও বৰ্মা চিনা, মালয়, কলিম-পুং দাৰ্জিলিঙ বহুত ঠাইত নেপালী সকলে বসবাস কৰি আহিছে। আৰু সেই সেই ঠাইৰ ভাষা শিকিছে। অসমকো নেপালী সকলে নিজৰ ঠাই কৰি লৈছে। নিজৰ আৱশ্যকীয়, সত্তা ৰক্ষা কৰি এই ঠাইৰ অধিবাসীৰ লগত মিলি যাব পাৰিছে। এই খিনি গুণ আছে বুলিয়েই নগা ৰাজ্যতো তেওঁলোকে শান্তিৰে থাকিব পাৰিছে। অসম এখন সীমান্ত ৰাজ্য আৰু ইয়াত ৰাজ্য ভাষাৰ মাজত নানা ধৰণৰ পৰিস্থিতি দেখা দি দেশখন টুকুৰা টুকুৰা হৈ যোৱা কামনা নকৰে। তেওঁলোকে ভাবে ৰাজ্য ভাষাৰ প্ৰশ্নলৈ দেশখন টুকুৰা টুকুৰা হলে দুঃখৰ কাৰণ হ'ব। বহিষ্কৰণ

আৰু বহিৰাক্ৰমণৰ পৰা দেশক শান্তিত ৰাখিবলৈ তেওঁলোকৰ এটা অংশই নিজৰ মৰমৰ সংসাৰ এৰি, দূৰ দূৰান্বিত দুৰ্গম অব্যত নিজৰ জীৱন পণ কৰি সীমান্তত পহৰা দিছে, তেওঁলোকে অন্তৰ্ভূত ফলত দেশত অশান্তি হোৱা আৰু দেশ বিভক্ত হোৱা দেখিলে মৰ্মান্তিক বেজাৰ পাব। সেই কাৰণে আমি ভাবিছো যে এই ৰিলখনৰ জৰিয়তে যি সকল অন্যান্য সংখ্যালঘু সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ লোক আছে, তেখেত সকলক সংবিধানে দিয়া সুকীয়া সংৰক্ষণৰ সুযোগ দিব আৰু তেওঁলোকে আগ বাঢ়ি যাব পাৰিব। সেই কাৰণে মই এই সংশোধনী সমৰ্থন কৰো।

**\*Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister)** : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Clause 3 of this Bill, as has been mentioned by the Hon'ble member on the other side, is a vital clause of this Bill; it is therefore, natural that in discussing the amendments relating to this clause, all the pros and cons with regard to the official Language in our State have been discussed by the Hon'ble members.

Sir, our object is two-fold-one is to give the Assamese Language the status of an Official Language for the State, and the other object is to see that this language is not imposed on those who do not want to have it. Keeping these two ideas in view, we originally proposed in this Bill Assamese as well as English, later to be substituted by Hindi to be used for all or any of the official purposes of the State. Sir, we have repeated more the once that it is the least intention on our part to impose the Assamese language on those who do not want it, and when this assurance has to be implemented you have seen, Sir, the subsequent provisions of the Bill that option has been given to the Hill districts to chose their own language. Similarly, Bengali was provided for use as a language upto the district-level in the district of Cachar. But what about the top administration for those who do not want to have Assamese as the official languages of the State? We thought at that time that it would be in the fitness of things to keep the National Language as one of the official languages of the State. But as you know Sir, this was not welcomed by the people. At the same time you might have noticed Sir, from these amendments many of the hon'ble Members do not want to keep Hindi at all in use in the State later on. Sir, I do not know how we can reconcile between the two things, namely, that we do not propose to impose, at the same time we do not provide any alternative language for them. Some of the hon'ble members referred to Art. 345 of the constitution Sir, I do not understand the meaning of the Art. 345 of the Constitution in the same way as the hon'ble Member have said. My interpretation is unless there is protection for the English language we cannot use that language here. Even I accept the interpretation that has been sought to be given by the hon'ble Members on the other side, there is no harm if we repeat the same thing in our Bill. Therefore, Sir, this being our objection we will be quite prepared to accept those amendments which conform to these two ideas of ours. In the course of discussion various matter of general nature were also discussed here. I express myself fully about our views on the official language issue in relation to the State while introducing this Bill and I have also said how things have developed, now we have come to this stage. Sir, I also said in the said speech how undesirable it is on the background of all that happened in our State to keep this issue pending. So Sir, I am of the view that it is very desirable that this august House takes a decision of this issue. At the same time I assure the view of the hon'ble Members that we are not quite happy today because some



of our members more particularly from the Hills as well as from Cachar have found it impossible to associate themselves in discussion of this Bill. All the more, the responsibility for convincing those of our Hill brothers and sisters as well as the people of Cachar about the correctness of our decision on this official language issue rest on us and inspite of this language Bill to day we shall have to continue our efforts, I mean not only the Government but all of us who have to take a decision on this matter to bring them, to convince them about the justification of this Bill. We are not going to do any wrong to anybody whether they are in majority or in minority.

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AMMED (Minister, Finance):** Sir, we find that Amendment No. 21 tabled by Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami is acceptable to us. That is a comprehensive amendment.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** In view of what the Chief Minister has stated will the Hon'ble Members withdraw their amendments?

(Voice No No.)

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** It will better, Sir, to read out the number of amendments because some of the amendments will not be pressed.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I discussed this matter about putting priority to amendments at the time of voting and the matter was discussed then. I reserved my ruling on that point, but subsequently I thought that it is better if we arrange priority by an agreement between the Treasury Bench and the Opposition leaders. With that end in view, I requested Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, Judicial Minister, and Shri Hareswar Goswami, leader of the Opposition, and Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya, leader of the Communist Group, to sit together and give me an agreed list. Most probably they have prepared a list and I request Shri Ahmed to read it out.....

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** First of All, the amendments dealing with deletion have to be taken. Therefore, I made a series. First amendment No. 25.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I put the question. The question is that all the existing provisions to clause 3 shall be deleted.

(The question was negatived.)

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Amendment No. 33.

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara):** I withdraw the amendment.

(The amendment was withdrawn with the leave the House!)

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister Finance):** Then comes, Sir, 38(a)40(a) and sub-clause (3) of Amendment No.21. Our amendments are with regard to all these clauses.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** Sir, if 40(a) and 38(a) is accepted, then it will be only consequential.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** 38 (a) and 40(a).

**Shri HIRALAL PATWARI (Panery):** I am not going to withdraw, Sir.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Amendment No.21, sub-clause (3).—

Shri Prabhat Narayan Choudhury, are you going to withdraw ?

**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari East):** No, Sir.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Amendment No.38(a).

The question is that—*delete* the last proviso of clause 3 with the marginal heading.

You see in amendment No.21, sub-clause (3), *delete* the third line and amendment No.38(a) and 40(a), *delete* the last proviso of clause 3. Therefore, the question is that *delete* the last proviso of clause 3 with the marginal heading.

(The question was adopted.)

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** No.27, Sir, No.26 is also from the same party.

(Amendment No.26 was withdrawn with the leave of the House).

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Amendment No.27.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** I am not withdrawing, Sir.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The question is that in Clause 3, *substitute* the first proviso by the following:—“Provided English language, as long as its use is not discontinued either under Act. 343 of the Constitution of India or otherwise whichever is latter, along with Assamese shall be used for official purposes in the Secretariat and offices of the Heads of the Departments of the State Government in the manner prescribed and without detriment to the legitimate interest of the non-Assamese speaking officers in the said offices”.

## HOUSE DIVIDED

### Ayes.—17

- |                                   |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Shri Birendra Kumar Das.       | 9. Shri Mathias Tudu.               |
| 2. Shri Phani Borah.              | 10. Md. Matlebuddin.                |
| 3. Shri Gaurisankar Battacharyya. | 11. Shri Nilmoney Borthakur.        |
| 4. Shri Ghanashyam Talukder.      | 12. Shri Prabhat Narayan Choudhury. |
| 5. Shri Hareswar Goswami.         | 13. Kumar Prokritish Chandra Barua. |
| 6. Shri Hiralal Patwari.          | 14. Maulavi Sahadat Ali.            |
| 7. Maulavi Jahan Uddin Ahmed.     | 15. Dr. Srihari Das.                |
| 8. Shri Khogendra Nath Barbaruah. | 16. Maulavi Tajuddin Ahmed.         |
|                                   | 17. Shri Tarun Sen Deka.            |

## Noes—60.

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Shri Bimala Prasad Chaliha       | 31. Maulavi Kobad Hussain Ahmed.         |
| 2. Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed        | 32. Prof. (Shrimati) Komol Kumari Barua. |
| 3. Shri Rupnath Brahma              | 33. Swami Krishnananda Brahmachari.      |
| 4. Shri Debeswar Sarmah.            | 34. Shri Lila Kanta Borah.               |
| 5. Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tripathi.   | 35. Shrimati Lily Sen Gupta.             |
| 6. Hareswar Das                     | 36. Shri Mahadev Das.                    |
| 7. Mahendra Nath Hazarika           | 37. Maulavi Mahammad Idris.              |
| 8. Shri Biswadev Sarma.             | 38. Shri Manik Chandra Das.              |
| 9. Shri Radhika Ram Das.            | 39. Shri Mohananda Bora.                 |
| 10. Shri Girindra Nath Gogoi.       | 40. Mohidhar Pegoo.                      |
| 11. Shri Lalit Kumar Doley.         | 41. Shri Mohi Kanta Das.                 |
| 12. Shri Sai Sai Terang.            | 42. Shri Moliia Tati.                    |
| 13. Shri Chatrasingh Teron.         | 43. Shri Narendra Nath Sarma.            |
| 14. Maulavi Abdul Matlib Mazumder.  | 44. Maulavi Nurul Islam.                 |
| 15. Shri Baikuntha Nath Das.        | 45. Shri Omeo Kumar Das.                 |
| 16. Shri Bhuban Chandra Pradhani.   | 46. Shrimati Padma Kumari Gohain.        |
| 17. Shri Bishnu Lal Upadhyaya.      | 47. Shri Purnanananda Chetia.            |
| 18. Shri Dandeswar Hazarika.        | 48. Shri Radha Charan Choudhury.         |
| 19. Shri Dandi Ram Dutta.           | 49. Shri Radha Kishan Khemka.            |
| 20. Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika.    | 50. Maulavi Rahimuddin Ahmed.            |
| 21. Shri Durgeswar Saikia.          | 51. Shri Rajendra Nath Barua.            |
| 22. Shri Dwijesh Chandra Deb Sarma. | 52. Shri Ram Nath Das.                   |
| 23. Dr. Ghanashyam Das.             | 53. Shri Ramnath Sarma.                  |
| 24. Shri Hakim Chandra Rabha.       | 54. Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami.          |
| 25. Shri Harinarayan Baruah.        | 55. Shri Sarbeswar Bordoloi.             |
| 26. Shri Indreswar Khound.          | 56. Shri Siddhi Nath Sarma.              |
| 27. Shri Joga Kanta Barua.          | 57. Shri Surendra Nath Das.              |
| 28. Shri Kamala Prasad Agarwala.    | 58. Shri Tamijuddin Prodhani.            |
| 29. Shri Karka Chandra Doley.       | 59. Shri Tankeswar Chetia.               |
| 30. Shri Khagendra Nath Nath.       | 60. Mrs. Usha Barthakur.                 |

1. The question was negatived,

**Mr. SPEAKER:** We come to Amendment No. 28.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** We are not pressing it.

(Amendment No.28 was, with the leave of the House, withdrawn.)

**Mr. SPEAKER:** What about Amendment No.29 ?

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** This also we are not pressing!

(Amendment No.29 was, with the leave of the House, withdrawn.)

**Mr. SPEAKER:** We come to Amendment No.30.

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister Finance):** The effect of this amendment and the amendment No.27 is the same. Since amendment No.27 has been rejected I don't know how this amendment can now be moved.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** The last two lines of amendment No.27 are different.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** But substantially they are the same. Do you want to press it ?

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** Yes, Sir.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The question is that in the first proviso to Clause 3 between the words "Provided" and "the English" insert the words "that side by side with Assamese" and after the word "language" and before the words "so long" and the word "also".

(The question was negatived.)

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Then I come to amendment No.31(a). Mr. Patwary, are you withdrawing it ?

**Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery):** No, Sir.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The question is that in the first proviso to clause 3, add the words "along with Assamese Language" after the word "Act" at the end.

(The motion was negatived.)

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Then we come to amendment No.34. Is it going to be withdrawn ?

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** No, Sir, we do not withdraw it.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The question is *Substitute* the second proviso to Clause 3 by the following, namely:—

“Provided that arrangements will be made for the use of minority languages for administrative purposes including the making available in those languages of important Government decrees, orders and enactments in those districts where the minorities are in a majority”.

(The motion was negatived.)

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Amendment No.35. Is it going to be pressed ?

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** No, Sir.

(Amendment No.35, with the leave of the House, was withdrawn).

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Amendment No.37. Is it going to be withdrawn ?

**Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery):** No, Sir.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The question is: (1) In the second Proviso to clause 3 for the word “Assamese” appearing at the end of the first line the words “English and when the latter is replaced under Article 343 of the Constitution of India. Hindi in place of English” shall be substituted. (2) *Substitute* the word “Assamese” appearing in the sixth line of the item (d) of the second proviso of clause 3 by the word “English” and *add* the following words after the newly substituted word “English”;

“and when the English is replaced under Article 343 of the Constitution of India, Hindi in place of English”.

(The motion was negatived.)

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Amendment No. 38.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** We don't press it.

(Amendment No. 38 was, with the leave of the House, withdrawn)

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance):** Sir, this disposes of amendments to proviso 2 and proviso 3 has been deleted. Therefore we should now take amendment No. 21.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Sir, the amendments Nos. 11, 12, 14, 16 and 19 are there. So amendment No. 11 should get the first priority.

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** Sir, as I said in the morning, after such amendment, in respect to proviso put by the hon. Members, have been rejected, the amendment No. 21 has to be placed before the House as it deals with the substantive clause as also proviso and that should, I think, satisfy the hon. Members who have tabled similar amendment so far as the substantive portion of the clause is concerned.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I want to give priority to amendment No. 21 over the others. My argument is that this amendment is a comprehensive one and amendment Nos. 11, 12, 14, 16 and 19 are only piecemeal. So I feel that amendment No. 21 should be given priority.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur)**: Sir, my submission is that Clause 3 by nature will have to be dealt with piecemeal. Therefore, as we have dealt with the provisos it is possible to deal with the substantial clause and there are as many as 5 amendments, all of which are similar.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati)**: The first amendment should be given first priority.

**Mr. SPEAKER**: Amendment Nos. 11, 12, 14, 16 and 19 are only parts and amendment No. 21 is a whole thing. So, I think it is better to give priority on amendment No. 21.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI**: Sir, I may suggest a way out. Amendment No. 11 being the first should be given priority. But if you insist that amendment No. 21 should be given priority then let the mover of the amendment say that he accepts all the other amendments.

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMA (Jorhat)**: Sir, he cannot say that because these amendments are not amendments to amendment No. 21.

**Mr. SPEAKER**: I think there is a ruling given in the Bombay Legislative Assembly. But our rule is silent on this point. In Lok Sabha rules also I do not find mention about it. The Bombay ruling is thus:

"Amendment to substitute a clause by another clause gets priority the other amendments to original clause fall through".

The Speaker further said that when there are a number of amendments to one clause, along with an amendment to substitute that clause by another clause, priority is given to the latter. If the amendment to substitute the clause by another is carried, the other amendments to the clause as it originally stood fall through.

Have you anything to say, Mr. Bhattacharyya?

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA**: Here only the judicial Minister could have given us a way out because we thought that as all the amendments are of the same nature he would accept them. But as he is not willing to do that, I think we should go according to the number.

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance)**: Sir, I understand the anxiety of the hon. Members that the amendments tabled by them should first be put to vote. But my humble submission is that that procedure will not be proper and would also be open to legal difficulty. When once an amendment dealing with a certain matter is passed the subsequent amendments on similar matters are barred. Now, the position is that so far as the amendments tabled by the hon. Members to provisos to clause 3 are concerned, most of them have been rejected. So if the amendment No. 21 tabled by Mr. S. Goswami is not taken up and the amendments to the main clause only is taken and accepted there will be difficulty.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA**: We took proviso separately. So let the proviso go one by one.

**Mr. SPEAKER**: Mr. Sarma has rightly said that amendment Nos. 11, 12, 14, 16 and 19 are not amendments to amendment No. 21. These are independent amendments. Therefore, I think, instead of taking all the amendments separately if we take amendment No. 21 all at once that will save time of the House as also it will save the House from many amendments. I thought that there might be an agreement between the

hon. Members as to which amendment should get priority; but as there is no agreement between the hon. Members, I want to exercise my own discretion. Mr. Bhattacharyya, what do you say? I put amendment No. 21.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** With the proviso?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Yes. I give priority to Amendment No. 21.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** Sir, it would have been better for the country if we could have passed the Bill unanimously. So far clause No. 3 is concerned, we expected that the Chief Minister or the Judicial Minister would make a statement saying that there are amendments from various political parties and not only from one person, and we accept in principle that amendment. If clause No. 3 will be taken along with the proviso, we will take our stand.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** When amendments are moved they will go to the proceedings and from the proceedings it will be clear on what points we will concur.

I put the question. In clause 3 (1) delete the words "and English, and when the latter is replaced under Article 343 of the Constitution of India, Hindi in place of English".

(2) for the first and second provisos substitute the following provisos namely:—

"Provided that the English language, so long as the use thereof is permissible under Article 343 of the Constitution of India and thereafter Hindi in place of English, shall be used for such official purposes of the Secretariat and the offices of the Heads of the Departments of the State Government and in such manner as may be prescribed provided further that:—

- (a) all ordinances promulgated under Article 213 of the Constitution of India;
- (b) all Acts passed by the State Legislature;
- (c) all Bills to be introduced or amendments thereto to be moved in the State Legislature; and
- (d) all Orders, Regulations, Rules and Bye-laws issued by the State Government under the Constitution of India or any law made by Parliament or the Legislature of the State, shall be published in the official Gazette in the Assamese language".

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** We oppose if you retain the Bilingual germs.

### HOUSE DIVIDED

Ayes—61

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Shri Bimala Prasad Chaliha.    | 31. Shri Khagendra Nath Nath           |
| 2. Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.     | 32. Maulavi Kobad Hussain Ahmed.       |
| 3. Shri Rup Nath Brahma.          | 33. Prof. Shrimati Komol Kumari Barua. |
| 4. Shri Debeswar Sarmah.          | 34. Swami Krishnananda Brahmachari.    |
| 5. Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tripathi. |  |
| 6. Shri Hareswar Das.             |  |

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|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 7. Shri Mahendra Nath Hazarika.     | 35. Shri Lila Kanta Borah.        |
| 8. Shri Biswadev Sarma.             | 36. Shrimati Lily Sen Gupta.      |
| 9. Shri Radhika Ram Das.            | 37. Shri Mahadeb Das.             |
| 10. Shri Girindra Nath Gogoi.       | 38. Maulavi Mahammad Idris.       |
| 11. Shri Lalit Kumar Daley.         | 39. Shri Manik Chandra Das.       |
| 12. Shri Sai Sai Terang.            | 40. Shri Mohananda Bora.          |
| 13. Chatrasingh Teron.              | 41. Shri Mohidhar Pegoo.          |
| 14. Maulavi Abdul Matlib Mazumdar.  | 42. Shri Mohi Kanta Das.          |
|                                     | 43. Shri Molia Tati.              |
| 15. Shri Baikuntha Nath Das.        | 44. Shri Narendra Nath Sarma.     |
| 16. Shri Bhuban Chandra Pradhani.   | 45. Maulavi Nurul Islam.          |
| 17. Shri Bishnu Lal Upadhyaya.      | 46. Shri Omeo Kumar Das.          |
| 18. Shri Dandeswar Hazarika.        | 47. Shrimati Padma Kumari Gohain. |
| 19. Shri Dandi Ram Dutta.           | 48. Shri Purnananda Chetia.       |
| 20. Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika.    | 49. Shri Radha Charan Choudhury.  |
| 21. Shri Dhirsingh Deuri.           | 50. Shri Radha Kishna Khemka.     |
| 22. Shri Durgeshwar Saikia.         | 51. Maulavi Rahimuddin Ahmed.     |
| 23. Shri Dwijesh Chandra Deb Sarma. | 52. Shri Rajendra Nath Barua.     |
|                                     | 53. Shri Ram Nath Das.            |
| 34. Dr. Ghanashyam Das.             | 54. Shri Ramnath Sarma.           |
| 25. Shri Hakim Chandra Rabha.       | 55. Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami.   |
| 26. Shri Harinarayan Baruah.        | 56. Shri Sarbeswar Bordoloi.      |
| 27. Shri Indreswar Khaund.          | 57. Shri Siddhi Nath Sarma.       |
| 28. Shri Joga Kanta Baruah.         | 58. Shri Surendra Nath Das.       |
|                                     | 59. Shri Tamijuddin Pradhan.      |
| 29. Shri Kamala Prasad Agarwala.    | 60. Shri Tankeswar Chetia.        |
| 30. Shri Karka Chandra Doley.       | 61. Mrs. Usha Barthakur.          |

## Noes 18

- |                                   |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Shri Birendra Kumar Das        | 10. Shri Mathias Tudu.              |
| 2. Shri Phoni Bora.               | 11. Md. Matlebuddin.                |
| 3. Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya | 12. Shri Nilmoney Borthakur.        |
| 4. Shri Ghanashyam Talukdar.      | 13. Shri Prabhatnarayan Choudhury   |
| 5. Shri Gopesh Namasudra.         | 14. Kumar Prokritish Chandra Barua. |
| 6. Shri Hareswar Goswami.         | 15. Maulavi Sahadat Ali.            |
| 7. Shri Hiralal Patwary.          | 16. Dr. Srihari Das.                |
| 8. Maulavi Jahan Uddin Ahmed.     | 17. Maulavi Tajuddin Ahmed.         |
| 9. Shri Khogendra Nath Barbaruah  | 18. Shri Larun Sen Deka.            |

(The question was adopted).

(Applause from the Treasury Benches.)



**Mr. SPEAKER:** Mr. Barbaruah, do you want to move your amendment No. 10?

**Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri):** Yes Sir.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The question is that in clause 3, after the word "Assamese" occurring in the third line, the words "with Assamese script" shall be added and the words thereafter beginning with "and English" and ending with the words "Hindi in place of English" shall be deleted.

(The motion was lost by a voice vote.)

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I have already made it clear that I shall abide by the verdict of the House. All the amendments, viz, amendments Nos. 11, 12, 14, 16 and 19 and for that matter of all amendments now pending are covered by the amendment No. 21 because we have already adopted amendment No. 21.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** Sir, it is for you to decide whether you put these amendments for vote or not.

**Shri GUARISANKAR BHATTACHARYA (Gauhati):** Sir, we shall abide by the ruling of the Chair.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Now I put the question; The question is that in clause 3 delete the words "and English, and when the latter is replaced under Article 343 of the Constitution of India, Hindi in place of English" after the word 'Assamese' in the third line.

(The question was negated.)

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Now Amendment No. 12.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** I like to press my amendment.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I put the question. The question is that in clause 3 delete the words "and English..... Hindi in place of English" appearing between the words "Assamese and shall be used."

(The question was negated.)

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Now Amendment No. 13.

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDER (Sorbhog):** I like to press my amendment.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I put the question. The question is that in clause 3 substitute the word 'Hindi' by the word 'Assamese' occurring in line four.

(The question was negated.)

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Amendment No. 14.

**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHAUDHURY (Nalbari-East):** I like to press my amendment.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The question is that in clause 3 after the word "Assamese" in the third line substitute the words "shall be the official language of the State of Assam" for the words "and English" and when the latter is replaced under Article 343 of the Constitution of India Hindi in place of English shall be used for all or any of the official purposes of the State of Assam."

(The question was negatived.)

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Amendment No.15.

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDER (Sorbhog):** Sir, I like to press my amendment.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The question is that in clause 3 substitute the words "and English..... Hindi in place of English" occurring in the third and fourth lines by the words "shall be the official language for the entire state of Assam."

(The question was negatived.)

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Amendment No.16.

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDER:** Sir, I like to press my amendment.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The question is that in clause 3 the words appearing after the word "Assamese" in the third line shall be substituted by the words "shall be the only official language in the State for the State in Assam."

(The question was negatived.)

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Amendment No. 19.

**Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery):** Sir, I like to press my amendment.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The question is that in clause 3 for the words "English and when the latter is replaced under Article 343 of the Constitution of India Hindi in place of English" appearing in lines three to five substitute the following words namely "shall be the official language for the entire State of Assam and"

(The question was negatived.)

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Amendment No.20.

The question is in clause 3 for the words "Assamese and English and when the latter is replaced under Article 343 of the Constitution of India Hindi in place of English shall be used for all or any of the official purposes of the State of Assam" the following words shall be substituted:—"Hindi shall be the official language of the State of Assam to be used for all or any of the official purposes of the State of Assam :

Provided that English shall be used in place of Hindi till it (English) is replaced by Hindi under Article 343 of the Constitution of India."

The motion is lost.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The question is the clause 3 as amended of the Assam Official Language Bill, 1960 does form part of the Bill.

(The question was adopted.)

*Clause 4—*

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Now clause 4. All the amendments should be moved at a time.

**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East):** Sir, I beg to move: substitute clause 4 by the following:—

“After expiry of the time limit prescribed by Article 343 of the Constitution of India, any language provided in the eighth Schedule of the Constitution, as may be decided by the State Legislature in connections with the District Councils, may be used for the purpose in the autonomous regions or Autonomous Districts of Assam to the District level.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The amendment is moved.

**Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur):** Sir, I beg to move. In clause 4, (1) in the fourth line, between the words “including” and “the”, insert the words “the level of”;

(2) in the seventh line, between the words “by” and “two-thirds” insert the words “a majority of not less than”.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The amendment is moved.

**Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar):** Sir, I be to move. In clause 4, (1) in the fourth line, between the words “including” and “the” insert the words “the level of”;

(2) in the seventh line, between the words “by” and “two-thirds”, insert the words “a majority of not less than”.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The amendment is moved.

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDER (Sorbhog):** Sir, I beg to move: substitute the words “by two thirds of the Members present and voting” occurring in the seventh and eighth lines by the words “by a Resolution”.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The amendment is moved.

**Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery):** Sir, I beg to move. In clause 4, substitute the words “by two-thirds of the Member present and voting” occurring in the seventh and eighth lines by the words “a resolution”.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The amendment is moved.

**Shri PROBHAT NARAYAN CHAUDHURI (Nalbari-East):** Sir, I beg to move my amendment in clause 4, of the Bill. Sir, in moving this amendment, I beg to state that the Constitution of India has provided

under section 345 for the replacement of English language by the State Legislature. So I do not find any reason as to why this powers are again to be delegated to the District Councils of the Autonomous Districts. In the Sixth Schedule districts there are distinct sanction for a language; but nowhere it has been mentioned that the language issue should be decided by the majority. So I want to move my amendment for the reason that we do not want to sign our death warrant and leave to ourselves. The Assembly has been given power to do so. In doing so, the Assembly can obtain the opinion of the Autonomous districts as to which of the recognised languages should be selected.

Therefore, Sir, I move my amendment and commend it for the acceptance of the House.

**Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur):** The amendment which I want to move is not very material. It is only for the better drafting of the provision under clause 4 of the Bill so that it becomes clear.

"In clause 4, (1) in the fourth line, between the words "including" and "the", insert the words "the level of";

(2) in the seventh line, between the words "by" and "two-thirds" insert the words "a majority of not less than".

As has been said by Shri Choudhury the languages which are given in Eighth Schedule of the Constitution are to be given a chance here. As has also been said in moving clause 3, we do not envisage to impose upon any person any language and here we want to give absolute freedom of choice as to what language the different District Councils for the Hills districts will have according to their own sweet will. So I oppose the amendment moved by Shri Choudhury and I commend my amendment to be accepted by the House.

**Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara):** In moving my amendment I like to place that by putting the words "by two thirds of the Members present and voting" the role of democracy itself is being affected. As things are now sought to be enacted, the minority will never find any opportunity to place their point of view and, therefore, Sir, I like to keep it open that even if some people find it possible to have their own language, for example Manipuri in the district of Cachar by a simple majority and also any language in the Hills districts by a simple majority through a Resolution, why should they not be given that opportunity to have their point of view? Therefore to give a more democratic basis to this problem, I place my amendment that "by a Resolution" will be a better substitute for the words "by two thirds of the Members present and voting."

**\*Shri HIRALAL PATWARI (Panery)** • অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মোৰ যিটো সংশোধনী তাত কোৱা হৈছে যে ঙ্গ ভাগৰ সলনি এটা প্ৰস্তাবৰ দ্বাৰা কৰিবলৈ কোৱা হৈছে। অথাৎ তেওঁলোকে যি ভাষা বিচাৰে সেইটো ঙ্গ ভাগৰ দ্বাৰা নকৰি এটা প্ৰস্তাবৰ দ্বাৰা তেওঁলোকক তেওঁলোকৰ ভাষা গ্ৰহণ কৰাৰ অধিকাৰ দিব লাগে। বৰ্তমান ভাৰতবৰ্ষ এখন গণতান্ত্ৰিক দেশ। এজন বেচি হলেই বিৰাত পৰিবৰ্ত্তন ঘটিব পাৰে। আগি যেতিয়া পাহাৰী সকলক আমাৰ ওচৰলৈ আনিব খুজিছো তেনেহলে তেওঁলোকৰ কাৰণে বেলেগ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে। আৰু

ভাৰ্গৱ গৰিষ্ঠতা কৰিলে তেওঁলোকৰ প্ৰতি অন্যায়া কৰা হ'ব পাৰে। তেওঁলোকৰ প্ৰতি আমি আন্তৰিকতা দেখুৱা ভাল হ'ব। তেওঁলোকে যেতিয়া imposition বুলি ভাবিছে তেনে ক্ষেত্ৰত by a resolution বুলি কলে ভাল হ'ব। মই এই সংশোধনীটো আনিছো যাতে তেওঁলোকৰ লগত সদভাৱ সৃষ্টি কৰিব পাৰো। এই সদভাৱ গঢ়িবৰ বাবে মই চৰকাৰকো অনুরোধ কৰিছো। মই সদায় ভাল কথা বা ব্যৱস্থা লবলৈ বিছাৰো। সেই সদভাৱ সৃষ্টি কৰিবৰ কাৰণেই সংশোধনীটো আনিছো। আশা কৰো সদনে গ্ৰহণ কৰিব।

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the amendments moved by Shri Jahanuddin Ahmed and Mr. Patwary. Although the amendment may appear very simple, it has got very far reaching implications. Today we will be passing this Bill by a simple method. There is no question of obtaining 2/3rd majority or 3/4th majority—nothing of the sort. The Bill will be passed by a simple majority. If for the purpose of the whole State we can pass this Bill by this usual procedure what reason can there be for insisting that that there should be 2/3rd majority in the case of the Autonomous Hills District Councils for choosing their own language? I think that is an injustice we are doing to them. Let us be very fair to them. Even if we insist for 100 per cent it will be possible, as Mr. Sangma said either in the Garo Hills or in the Khasi Hills to pass any measure they want. We know, however, that in practice there will not be any difference. Why then this difference in the procedure that has to be adopted in the case of this House and that to be adopted by the District Councils. If we are really sincere, that they should be able to adopt the language of their choice up to and including the District level, then we should not insist on a stricter procedure namely that a Resolution to that effect shall be passed by a 2/3rd majority? I have not been able to understand the logic of it and, I, therefore, oppose it and support the amendment moved by Shri Jahanuddin Ahmed and Shri Hiralal Patwary.

Sir, I feel in the matter of language we have given enough pin-prick to the tribal people. I can cite an instance. When the Round Table Conference was convened, the Eastern India Tribal Union was no invited. Their Council of Action of the Hill people was not invited and they took objection to that as a result of which the whole atmosphere became uncongenial and the failure of the Round Table Conference was a frequent conclusion. To-day we feel that no more such pin-prick be given to the tribal people in regard to such a tribal procedural matter. We feel that the procedure that we have followed in this House in order to adopt our official language should be also be allowed to be followed by the District Councils in having their language of choice. We must not insist on 2/3rd majority.

**\*Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding the amendment moved by Shri Prabhat Narayan Choudhury, this is the very reason for which the Hill people accused us that we do not want to trust them to manage their own affairs. So Mr. Choudhury has said that why give them that power, retain the power with you. Sir, our policy is to delegate powers so that they can manage their own affair in their own language. So, it is on this democratic principle we have made this provision.

I would now like to reply to the points raised by the Leader of the Opposition. He was good enough to associate himself in various discussion held with the tribal leaders, and there is no secret about their apprehension to the Language Issue. Their apprehension is that we would be forcing them to take Assamese. Therefore, as a matter of fact, in order to remove such an apprehension we have made the provision of 2/3rd majority. The hon. Leader of the Opposition rightly mentioned about some omission on the part of my office in issuing invitation to the two Organisation. It is true that there was some omission and invitation was not issued. But nevertheless, we spent hours and hours in discussion on this Language issue with the representatives of both the organisations. But I am sorry that on that day there was an omission on the part of my office, and I am very sorry for that.

With regard to Shri Sarat Goswami's amendment, I have no objection to accept it and include it in the draft Bill for betterment and this will not affect the clause.

**\*Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara):** On a point of information, Sir, whether the tribal people accepted that amendment moved by Shri Sarat Ch. Goswami, *i.e.*, whether the idea of the amendment was accepted by them.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The amendment is meant for better drafting ; it does not affect the Clause.

(Then with the leave of the House the amendment was withdrawn).

Amendments 50 and 51 are similar. So I put the question. The question is that in clause 4, (1) in the fourth line, between the words "including" and "the", insert the words "the level of"; (2) in the seventh line, between the words "by" and "two-thirds" insert the words, "a majority of not less than".

(The question was adopted)

#### Amendment No. 52

**Shri JAHANUDDIN AHMED:** Sir, I am not withdrawing my amendment.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Then I put the question. The question is that substitute the words "by two-thirds of the members present and voting" occurring in the seventh and eighth lines by the words "by a Resolution".

(The question was negatived)

I put the question: The question is that Clause 4 as amended does form part of the Assam Official Language Bill, 1960.

(The question was adopted)

## Clause 5.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Amendment No. 56. Shri Gaurisankar Roy, Shri Ram Prasad Choubey are absent.

**Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that clause 5 shall be deleted.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The amendment moved is that clause 5 shall be deleted.

**Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri):** Mr Speaker, Sir, support of my amendment I want to make a few observation. Sri, I find it difficult to understand as to why this provision is there in the Bill. Cachar is made a water-tight compartment, so that official language cannot enter there and have its place there. If Assamese or any language is declared to be the official language of the whole of Assam then Sri, automatically this language has its place everywhere. But here the arrangement has been made in such a way that the Assamese has no place in Cachar. There is another language, i.e., Bengali which will be the language used for the official purposes in the district level Sri, in the Government offices there are three levels—the Secretariat level is one part, Heads of deptts. level is the second part, and thirdly the district level. If in these 3 levels any language gets its place that is also an official language. Therefore, Sri, Assam is sought to be not only a bilingual State, but due to this clause it is a trilingual or a multilingual one. Sir, I have no hatredness against any language. I wish that all languages should flourish in the garden of languages. Sir, in Cachar certainly the Bengalees have the majority. But should we judge this on the district basis? In my view, the State Language should be judged from the State basis. If, taking all the Bengalees together, they are majority in this State then I have no hesitation to take Bengali as the Official language. But when Bengalees are minority throughou, Assam, Assamese have the privilege of being the major language and as such it must be declared as the only official language in Assam. There may be majority of a minority Community in a certain pockets or in certain parts of Assam, that should not be judged.

In Cachar where the Bengalees are in majority they demand that Bengali should be official language. This is encouraging, the emotional tendency and hatred among the people of different Community. If this is accepted then some people will say that the same formula should apply in their case also. So there will be demand for readjustment of district and subdivisional boundaries on linguistic basis. There will similarly be demand from the Tribal belts and other Hill District that their districts or subdivisions should be reorganised on the language basis, and the same privilege that has been granted to Cachar be extended to them also. There are some amendments which have been tabled and I am sure certain of these amendments will be accepted by Government and this will give rise to a permanent tug of war between the Assamese and the Bengalees and other communities in the district of Cachar and in different parts of Assam. In the amendment it says 2/3 of the members of Mohokuma Parishad will decide whether they will accept the language or not. Again there is another trouble. There will be permanent tug of war and conflict between the different communities in Cachar. From that angle of vision I say Sir, that this amendment which has been sought to be placed here by Shri Sarat Ch. Goswami and Shri Mohi Kanta Das will not also satisfy the people either in Cachar or elsewhere. So Sir, I say that Assamese language which is the

State language of Assam should have its place in Cachar. Whoever the majority might be that should not be taken in consideration. I say that when the Bengalees are a significant minority, some privileges should be given to them and that some privileges have been given to the community by the Constitution of India under Art. 29 and 30, which is quite enough. Moreover I say that only the Assamese be introduced there in Bengali Schools in Cachar and in other parts of Assam in Classes IV to VI. It is a fact that the Bengalees cannot develop their culture and language if Assamese is introduced further there and permanently imposed on them. In order to have exchange of ideas and conversation the Bengalees should also be conversant in Assamese.

For integrity and consolidation of the entire communities here Assamese language, the language of the majority should be the official language of Assam and all other communities should accept it. When only 35 per cent of the people speak Hindi and Hindi has been made the lingua franca, I am startled to find that some people are averse to take Assamese as the whole State language of Assam although Assamese is spoken by more than 60 per cent of the State. I again say that in Cachar also Assamese language should have its place and hence this provision barring entry of Assamese language in Cachar be withdrawn or deleted.

**\*Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla):** I beg to move that in Clause 5 the following may be substituted.

"Notwithstanding anything in section 3, the Bengali language shall be used for administrative and other official purposes upto and including the district level in the district of Cachar until the Mohkuma Parishads and Municipal Boards of the district in a joint meeting by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting decide in favour of adoption of the official language for use in the district for the aforesaid purposes.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The amendment is moved.

**\*Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** Sir, on a point of order, I beg to submit that this motion is out of order, because through this amendment, it is envisaged to delegate the legislative function of the Legislature to a body or to certain bodies which are not bodies subordinate to the Legislature. Now, so far as the legislative function in the State is concerned, it is the exclusive function of the Legislature and when it makes delegation to certain authorities, they can do it only when this authority is subordinate authority. That also can be only within the scope of the Bill. Now, here it has been suggested that the decision will be taken finally by Mohkuma Parishads and Municipal Boards concerned. It would have been a different thing if it would have been said that the opinion of Mohkuma Parishads and Municipal Boards will be taken and that will be considered by the Legislature. That would have been a different thing, but here that is not so what is envisaged is this that our responsibility, i.e., the responsibility of making law we are not going to bear—we are going to leave it to some other body which is not a legislative body. This sort of delegation is against the Constitution of India and therefore, I raise this point of order that you may be pleased to rule this amendment as out of order.



**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Finance Minister)**: I do not know what authority my friend has to substantiate the point which he has now made out that the amendment intends delegate the Legislative authority to Mohkuma Parishad. There is no delegation of Legislative authority at all. What is intended by the amendment is that the Legislature is going to provide today that for such period until the Mohkuma Parishad and the Municipal Boards in that area meet together Bengali in that District shall remain and after that Assamese or the official language will be accepted. Here delegation has not been given either by Legislative or any other power to the Mohkuma Parishad or the Municipal Board, but only an option has been given to these Boards to decide whether they would like to do it and the Legislature is going to decide that for such and such period Bengali will be the language upto the district level in the District of Cachar and if we find that two thirds of the people there adopt a resolution in favour of Assamese language, then they will have that option and the Assamese will be the official language of that district. I have not been able to understand the objection taken by my friend. He is playing hot and cold at the same time. On one hand, he is objecting and saying that we have by the back door provided for other languages than Assamese as the language to be used for that purpose. My submission is that the same provision has also been provided under clause 4 and at that time, my friend did not...

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati)**: On a point of personal explanation, Sir, I did not say anything on clause 4 because clause 4 envisages District Council which is creation of the Constitution of India with legislative powers in the Sixth Schedule.

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED**: Something has been pointed out in clause 4, Sir. As I have said that today we are not giving legislative power to the Mahakuma Parishads or the Municipalities. We are only giving them that option. It is only providing for a contingency. I submit, Sir, that his point of order should be ruled out.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA**: On a point of personal explanation, sir, the Minister has got every right to object to my point of order, but the Minister cannot anticipate certain things which I did not say.

**Mr. SPEAKER**: I have already ruled this as irrelevant. So, there is no point to argue.

Amendment No.61 only is a recommendatory one. It does not delegate the power of administration to the Mahakuma Parishad or the Municipalities or Local Boards of Cachar District. Government only after ascertaining their views by notification under clause 1, sub-clause 3 in the official gazette declare any other language or only one language in place of Bengali in the District of Cachar as recommended by a sitting of members of the Municipalities and also Mahakuma Parishads. Therefore, I hope it is not delegating the power of Legislature to those bodies. Therefore, I rule out this point of order.

**\*Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla)**: অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, সংশোধনীটো দিয়াৰ উদ্দেশ্য এই যে কাছাৰ জিলাত বঙালী ভাষা জিলা পৰ্যায়ত চলি থাকিব। কিন্তু clause ৫ত এই সংশোধনী দিয়া হৈছে যে তাত ৩ খন মহকুমা

পৰিষদ আছে আৰু এখন মিউনিসিপাল বোৰ্ড আছে, এই বিলাকে বাহি যদি ২।৩ ভাগে অসমীয়া ভাষা গ্ৰহণ কৰিব খোজে সেইটোত এটা সন্মতি দিয়া হৈছে প্ৰধান উদ্দেশ্য। সংশোধনীটো হৈছে in English কোনো কোনোৱে কৈছে যে এইটো imposition হ'ব—কিন্তু সেইটো কথা কেনেকৈ আহে মই বুজি নাপাওঁ। এইটোৰ দ্বাৰা মাত্ৰ এটা সন্মতি দিয়া হৈছে যদি তেওঁলোকে সময়ত অনুমতি কৰে যে অসমত intregation ৰ কাৰণে তেওঁলোকে অসমীয়া লোৱা উচিত তেতিয়া তেওঁলোকে এই সংশোধনীৰ দ্বাৰা সন্মতি এটা লব পাৰিব। গতিকে সদনে সংশোধনীটো গ্ৰহণ কৰিব বুলি আশা কৰিলো।

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Amendment No.61 moved.

(62. Not moved).

63 —Shri Ghanashyam Talukder.

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDER (Sarbhog):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move my amendment No.63, i.e., in clause 5 in between the words "only" and "the Bengali" in the first line, add the words "Assamese and". In moving my amendment, I want to say that when Assamese has been accepted as the official language of this State, then why not, along with Bengali, Assamese should find a place in Cachar district. Only Bengali has been provided as the language for administration and other official purposes at the district level in Cachar district. But, Sir, when Assamese has been accepted as the official language of the State, it will be very difficult for the Assamese officers in Cachar and again the people of Cachar district who are working in the Plains districts will find it very much difficult, to transact business. That is why, I am sure, Sir, that in Cachar district, let there be Bengali at the district level but along with Bengali, let there be Assamese language provided for which has been accepted as the official language of the State. With these words, Sir, I commend my amendment.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Amendment No.63 moved.

Amendment—64 Shri Birendra Kumar Das not moved.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** Sir, I beg to move in clause 5 delete the words "only the" appearing in the first line and insert word 'also' between the words "shall" and "be" in the second line.

Also in clause 5 delete the "full stop" at the end after the word "Cachar" and add the words "if the Mahkuma Parishad of Cachar district may by a resolution so decide".

Sir, I am moving my amendment No.65. In moving my amendment, I may, with your permission, move amendment No.68 because one without the other will be meaningless. Sir, I am not moving this amendment to wound anybody's sentiment. I know in Cachar the majority people are Bengali speaking people and up to the district level they have every right to use their language. My difficulty is quite a different one. I am looking at Article 345 itself and if you read, Sir, Article 345 you will find, Sir, subject to the provisions of Article 346 and 347 the Legislature in the State may by law adopt any one or more of the languages in use in the State or Hindi as the language or languages to be used for all or any of the official

purposes in that State and Article 347 gives power to the President if he considers it necessary on being represented or on his own initiative to declare even a language spoken by a substantial portion of the people as the official language for a part of a State. Under Article 345 if legislation is to be made it must be made for the entire State and the official language must be applicable for the entire State. Only under Article 347 an official language if declared by the President can be for a part of the State. Article 345 does not envisage usurping by the Legislature the power which vests in the President. Therefore, any language that is declared as the official language must be for the entire State the word used being in that State. Therefore, Sir, if we want really to make Assamese the official language it must be for the entire State. All that we can do is to keep in abeyance or stay as it is called in legal terminology the application of the section for a particular place and for a period of time but we cannot say that the official language will not be applicable to that place. Therefore, if Assamese has been declared the official language it must be applicable in all the places and therefore also in Cachar. Now, Sir, what I propose by my amendment is that although Assamese will be there, if by a simple majority in the Mohokuma Parishad a resolution is passed that Bengali should be the language, let that be done. My Friend Shri Bhattacharjee raised a question of delegation of legislation and you have just now given a ruling. My reading of delegated legislation is that unless the essential powers of legislation has been delegated it cannot be objected to. The essential power of legislation cannot to be delegated. If we read we will find that the essential power of legislation has not been delegated in this Bill. We know that the power of legislation can be delegated even to an individual. In the Sales Tax Act and many other Acts we have delegated that power and the High Court and the Supreme Court have held that this delegation is not *ultra vires*. Therefore, Sir it is not necessary that the power of legislation must only to be delegated to a legislative body. It can also be delegated to an individual or a group of individuals and the test is whether the essential power of legislation has been delegated. If the essential power has not been delegated, but only the minor matters have been delegated, there is no violation of the principles of delegation. What I mean to say here is that if the Mohokuma Parishads decide by a simple majority that Bengali should be the language upto the district level, let that be done, because then it will be in conformity with the Official Language Bill, namely, the official language has not been kept out of that district by the Legislature itself. But for all practical purposes, if the Mohokuma Parishads by a simple resolution decide that "well for our convenience, we want to use Bengali", then it can be done. I am in full sympathy with the Cachar people; but only with a view to keep in conformity with what I have said already that I want this amendment to be accepted. Therefore, Sir, I consider that this amendment is a necessary one, particularly when the word "only" is used which excludes all other language even the official language. Therefore I hope that this matter may be viewed from this point and not from the point of view of injuring anybody's sentiment. I therefore commend my amendments for the acceptance of this House.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The amendments are moved.

**Mr. SPEAKER :** I have received notice of one amendment, Amendment No.65 from Shri Lilakanta Bora and Shri Sarbeshwar Bordoloi,

**Shri LILAKANTA BORA (Kaliabor):** In view of the amendment of Shri Mohikanta Das, I am not moving the amendment.

**\*Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA (Patherkandi [Reserved for Scheduled Caste]):** মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, কংগ্রেস পক্ষ থেকে সংশোধনী আনছেন, সেই সংশোধনীটার আমি বিরোধীতা করেছি। এই সংশোধনী গ্রহণ করলে কাছাড়ে কোনদিন ভাষা সমস্যার সমাধান হবেনা এবং হইতে পারেনা; এবং কাছাড় বাসীরা সব সময় দল-উপদলের মধ্যে টানা-টানি করে থাকতে হবে। কোন উন্নয়নী কাজও হবেনা। সেই জন্য আমি এই মহকুমা পরিসরের সংশোধনীটার বিরোধীতা করেছি।

**M. TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari):** অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই শ্রীগোশ্বামী আৰু শ্রীতালুকদাৰ ডাঙৰীয়াৰ সংশোধনীটো সমৰ্থন কৰিছে মই মাত্ৰ দুটা কথা কম। অসমৰ ৰাজ্য ভাষা অসমীয়া হব লাগে, এইটোত কাৰো আপত্তি থকা উচিত নহব। এই ৰাজ্যভাষাৰ উন্নতিৰ পথত বাধা দিয়াত যুক্তি সংগত নহব আৰু ই সংবিধান বিৰোধি হব। সেই কাৰণে বঙালী শব্দটোৰ আগত থকা 'only' শব্দটো ৰাখিব নালাগে। only শব্দটোৰ অসমীয়া ভাষা কাছাৰত স্মৰাই নোৱাৰিব। আমাৰ কিন্তু অসমৰ ভিতৰত আৰু অসমৰ অসমৰ ৰাজ্য ভাষা হব অসমীয়া। মই কাছাৰব, দেখিছো অসমীয়া মানুহে আছে তেওঁলোক মানৱ আক্ৰমণত ভাগিগৈ তাত বসতি কৰিছে আৰু কিছুমান হিৰি ৰাজ্যৰ পূজা। এতিয়াও তাত অসমীয়া দোকান পোহাৰ আছে। অসমীয়া ৰাজ্য ভাষা হোৱাৰ পিচতো যদি তাৰ অসমীয়া মানুহে অসমীয়া সিকাত বাধা পায় তেনেহলে তেওঁলোকৰ প্ৰতি অন্যায় কৰা হব আৰু নিজৰ আত্মীয়ৰ লগত যোগা-যোগ হিগি যাব। সেই কাৰণে সংশোধনীটো গ্ৰহণ কৰি তাৰ অসমীয়া মানুহক নিজৰ মাতৃ ভাষাৰ সম্বন্ধ ৰাখিবলৈ স্মৰিধা দিব লাগে।

**Shri PHANI BORA (Nowgong):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am opposed to the amendments moved to clause 5 and are firmly in favour of retaining clause 5 as it is in the Bill. Sir, as the Assamese people want that other minorities having their full rights as minorities in the Assam Valley have got to accept Assamese as the official language, so also for the Cachar district which is recognised by everybody as a district which is overwhelmingly populated by Bengali speaking people, this clause 5 was provided in the Bill. Sir, I do not understand why this is to be changed. It may be, Sir, that some Congress members belonging to that district might have behave in a way which has enrage some of the hon. Members here, but that should not lead us to a position where in future this august House may be blamed. This is a very complicated situation and in this situation I would appeal to the hon. Members here to see that the maximum amount of unity is forged so that no opportunity is given to those forces who want to create a situation of bitterness. Therefore, Sir, considering the present situation in which we, the people of the whole of Assam are put and considering the great difficulties under which we are to work and legislate, I would appeal to the hon. Members, through you, Sir, to reconsider the whole position and agree to retain this clause as it is in the original Bill. With these words, I oppose the amendments moved to clause 5.

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister)** Mr. Speaker, Sir, we recognise the district of Cachar as a Bengali speaking district and accordingly made provision and it is in the Bill. Against this provision, the criticism was "how can you and why do you legally bar the official language

of the State entry into a particular area? Give safeguards, leave it to their choice, but you should not by law bar its entry into any area." You know, Sir, in this Bill for the autonomous districts we have not mentioned what language they will use. There is no certainty that they will accept Assamese in those areas. Because we wanted to make specific mention that Bengali is the recognised District language of Cachar. Against that provision it was pointed out to us that it would not be proper to bar by law the entry of the official language of the State into the district. Therefore, these suggestions have come. Of course there is much force in the argument advanced by Shri Gopesh Namasudra, Shri Bora as also by the Leader of the Opposition. Sir, we had to meet the queries which were raised about barring by law the entry of the official language of the State to a particular area. So, from that consideration it seems that Shri Mohi Kanta Das's amendment while assures the use of Bengali in the district, does not bar the entry of the official language into that district, if the people want it. The provision of 2/3rd majority is the additional guarantee about their choice in this matter. Sir, I am sorry that the hon: Member Shri Namasudra made certain reference about the deputation of the Manipuri people. As a matter of fact these gentlemen met us in the Provincial Congress Committee and later on they also wrote to us. We thought that there would be no bar if they come and express their views. So, Sir, if everything is looked with suspicion then I am helpless.

The hon. Member was also referring to the communal riots in Cachar and he was blaming the Government officer there. I feel, Sir, that the people of Cachar should be grateful to the officers there for preventing riots not once but on many occasions.

**Shri GOPESH CH. NAMASUDRA:** এটা যদি গৃহন কৰ হয়।

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I put the question. The question is that amendment No.57 to Clause 5 that clause 5 shall be deleted be adopted.

(The question was negatived)

Then amendment No.61. The question that for clause 5 substitute the following, namely:—"Notwithstanding anything in section 3, the Bengali language shall be used for administrative and other official purposes upto and including the district level in the district of Cachar until the Mohkuma Parishads and Municipal Boards of the district in a joint meeting by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting decide in favour of adoption of the official language for use in the district for the aforesaid purposes.

(The question was adopted)

Now amendment No.63. I put the question. The question is that in clause 5 in between the words "only" and "the Bengali" in the first line and words "Assamese and",

(The question was negatived)

The amendment No.65. The question is in clause 5 delete the words "only the" appearing in the first line and insert the word "also" between the words "shall" and "be" in the second line.

(The question was negatived)

(Amendment No 68 is withdrawn with the leave of the House).

Now I put the question. The question is that Clause 5 of the Assam Official Language Bill, 1960 as amended do form part of the Bill.

(The question was adopted).

Clause 5 of the Assam Official Language Bill, 1960 as amended does form part of the Bill.

**Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla):** Sir, I have a consequential amendment. As Clause 5 has been accepted there should definition of the words "Mahkuma Parishad", "Municipal Board" and "prescribed". So, I beg to move that in Clause 2 after sub-clause (c), insert the following sub-clause as "(d)", "(e)" and "(f)" and renumber the existing sub-clause (d) as sub-clause (g), namely—

(d) 'Mahkuma Parishad' means a Mahkuma Parishad established under the Assam Panchayat Act, 1959.

(e) 'Municipal Board' means a Municipal Board established under the Municipal Act, 1956 and shall include Committee established under the said Act.

(f) 'Prescribed' means prescribed by rules made under this Act".

**Mr. SPEAKER:** As this is a consequential amendment, this should be allowed. The motion stands moved. I now put the question. The question is that in Clause 2 after sub-clause (c), insert, the following sub-clauses as "(d)", "(e)" and "(f)" and renumber the existing sub-clause (d) as sub-clause (g), namely—

(d) 'Mohkuma Parishad' means a Mohkuma Parishad established under the Assam Panchayat Act, 1959.

(e) 'Municipal Board' means a Municipal Board established under the Assam Municipal Act, 1956, and shall include Town Committee established under the said Act.

(f) 'Prescribed' means prescribed by rules made under this Act".

(The question was adopted).

Now Clause 2. I put the question. The question is that Clause 2 as amended do form part of the Assam Official Language Bill, 1960.

(The question was adopted).

Clause 2 of the Assam Official Language Bill, 1960 as amended does form part of the Bill.

(Clause 6.)

**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East):** Sir, I beg to move in Clause 6 for the words, "the English language shall continue to be so conducted, substitute the words "Assamese language with alternative arrangement for conducting in the English language".

Sir, this clause has been constructed in such a way that nobody will be allowed to sit in the Public Service Commission examination unless he knows English. Sir, we are adopting our Official language here and we have adopted Assamese as the official language. But if we do not make a provision. So that the people can appear in the examination in their own language, but Section 6 of the Bill proposes that only English will be the medium of examination, therefore, that is very dangerous for the people, so I have pressed by amendment that we do not want to seal anybody else to appear in the examinations in their own language. Therefore, we propose that Assamese should be introduced for the purpose of appearing in the Public Service Commission and some arrangements should be made for those who find any difficulty in appearing in the Public Service Commission examination in Assamese language. But here in this clause we find that it is practically sealed and that only English is proposed to be the medium for appearing in the Public Service Commission examinations. Sir, there is hue and cry in the State that our students are unable to succeed in the examinations of the Union Public Service Commission and other such examinations held by the Departments of the Central Government. But hereby this clause we are compelling our students to appear the examinations of the Public Service Commission in English language, so I am afraid, we are violating the main principle of adopting Assamese as the official language of the State. So in moving my amendment, I request the House to please accept it.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The amendment is moved.

**Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West):** Sir, I beg to move. Add the following proviso to clause 6: "Provided that a candidate shall have the right to choose the language in use in the State of Assam which way the medium of his University Examinations."

মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়: এই বিলত অসম পাব্লিক চাৰ্ভিছ কমিচনৰ পৰীক্ষা বিলাক মাথোন ইংৰাজীত হ'ব বুলি কোৱা হৈছে। ইয়াৰ ওপৰত মই এই সংশোধনী আনিব খুজিছো যে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ত যি যি ভাষাৰ মাধ্যমত ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰীয়ে শিক্ষা লয় সেই সেই ভাষাৰ মাধ্যমতেই পাব্লিক চাৰ্ভিছ কমিচনৰ পৰিচালিত পৰীক্ষা বিলাক হ'ব লাগে। মোৰ এই সংশোধন প্ৰস্তাৱৰ উদ্দেশ্য এয়ে যে পাহাৰ অঞ্চলৰ আৰু কাছাৰ জিলাত যেহেতু ভিন ভিন ভাষাৰ প্ৰশু জড়িত আছে আৰু সেই হেতু ইংৰাজীৰ বাহিৰে অসমীয়া বা অন্যান্য ভাষা আমাৰ ৰাজ্যত প্ৰচলিত আছে সেই বিলাকৰ মৰ্যাদা ৰাখিবলৈ আৰু ষাটাবৰ কাৰণে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ে স্বীকৃতি দিবলৈ যত্ন কৰিছে বা দিছেই।

এই বিলৰ উদ্দেশ্য হৈছে যেহেতু জনসাধাৰণৰ ভাষাতেই শাসন কাৰ্য চলোৱা আৰু যেহেতু বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়েও সিবিলাক ভাষাক স্বীকৃতি দিছে—গতিকে সেইবোৰ ভাষাৰ মাজেদিয়েই পাব্লিক চাৰ্ভিচ কমিচনৰ পৰীক্ষা দিয়াৰ সুযোগ থকা উচিত। যদি তাকে কৰা নহয় তেন্তে এই বিল আইনত পৰিণত হোৱাৰ পিচত ইয়াৰ উদ্দেশ্য অসম্পূৰ্ণ হৈ বৰ। মই ভাবো আনহাতে ৰাজ্যৰ সিবিলাক বিভিন্ন ভাষা সেই বিলাকৰ প্ৰতি উৎসাহ আৰু সমৰ্থন কমি যাব আৰু সূৰ্ত্ত আৰু সবল দেশ এখন ভবিষ্যতে গঢ়ি তোলা সম্ভব পৰহে নুঠিব। কাৰেই ভবিষ্যতৰ কথাও এতিয়াই ভাবিবলগিৰ আৰু উদৰাতাবে তিনুতিনু ভাষা বিলাকেদি যদি পৰীক্ষা আদি দিবলৈ সুবিধা দি উৎসাহিত কৰা নহয় তেন্তে ইংৰাজী ভাষাকেই আত্মসমৰ্পণ কৰা হব। ইয়াকে কৈ মই মোৰ প্ৰস্তাৱটো সদনলৈ আগ বঢ়ালো।

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The amendment is moved.

**Maulavi JAHANJUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara):** Sir, in Clause 6 substitute the words "as the use thereof..... Constitution of India" occurring in the fifth and sixth lines by the words "as its use is not discontinued under the first proviso to section 3"; and (2) add the following proviso to clause 6:—"Provided, however, Assamese shall be gradually used for such Examination conducted by the Assam Service Commission as may be prescribed."

Sir, in moving my amendment I want to give an opportunity to the Assamese speaking people that when they are to appear the Public Service Commission examinations, they may be given an opportunity to appear in Assamese language and as it is at present, our students are willing to appear in such examinations in their own mother tongue, that in Assamese should be the medium for the students to appear in such examinations. So provision may be made and rule is framed under this Act so that there may be some definite rules in order that the students may appear in such examinations in their own mother tongue. Therefore, Sir, I would request the House and the Government to accept my amendment and by accepting my amendment, it will give an opportunity for our Assamese students to appear in the Assam Public Service Commission examinations.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The amendment is moved.

**\*Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery):** I by to move add the following provision to clause 5 namely provided however Assamese shall be used for such examination conducted by the Public Service Commission as may prescribed. মাননীয় মহোদয়, আজি আমাৰ সদনত চৰকাৰী তৰফৰ পৰা আৰু আমাৰ তৰফৰ পৰা অসমীয়া ৰাজ্যিক ভাষা হব লাগে বুলি কৈছে। গতিকে A. P. S. C. ৰ পৰীক্ষা অসমীয়াতে দিব পৰাৰ যদি এটা provision বিলত নাথাকে তেনেহলে মই ভাবিম যে এই বিলাৰ অৰ্থই নাই। এই বিলৰ কথা বতৰা বোৰলৈ চাই মোৰ সন্দেহ হৈছে যে ইয়াত কিবা মেৰপাক আছে নেকি? এই বিলৰ মতে লৰাবোৰে A. P. S. C. ত ইংৰাজীৰে পৰীক্ষা দিব লাগিব। অবশ্যে আমি Hill area ৰ কাৰণে ভাবিব লাগিব— আৰু তেওঁলোকলৈ ভাবিয়েই বিল খন আজি এই বিকৃত আকাৰত পৰিণত হৈছেহি। গতিকে ইংৰাজী তেওঁলোকৰ নিমিত্তে খাওক কিন্তু যি সকলে অসমীয়াত পৰীক্ষা দিব খোজে তেওঁলোকৰ নিমিত্তে এটা provision কৰাৰ উদ্দেশ্য। এই সংশোধনীটো গ্ৰহণ কৰিব বুলি আশা কৰিলো।



**Mr. SPEAKER :** The amendment is moved

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, with regard to this provision in clause 6, I would like to give the background for which this provision was made. We do not want to create any apprehension in this language issue ; more particularly our hill friends thought that if simultaneously the Assam Public Service Commission's examinations are conducted in Assamese, then the Assamese speaking candidates would get better advantages over others. So with a view to meet that apprehension we made this provision. We also thought Sir, that for a number of years English will continue to be the medium of examinations in the Assam Public Service Commission. I have seen the amendment and I feel, Sir, that so far the amendment No. 75 moved by my friend Shri Tarun Sen Deka is concerned we are to prepared to accept this amendment as it will improve upon this provision.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Mr. Choudhury ?

**\*Shri PROBhat NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East):** Sir, in view of the Chief Minister's assurance, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my amendment.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his amendment ? (*Voice—yes, yes.*)

(Amendment No. 73 was withdrawn by leave of the House.)

Mr. Jahannudin Ahmed and Mr. Talukdar ?

**\*Maulavi JAHAN UDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara):** Yes, Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my amendment.

(The amendments was, with the leave of the House, withdrawn.)

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Now I will put amendment No. 75 moved by Shri Tarun Sen Deka:--

The question is: *Add* the following proviso to clause 6:—

“Provided that a candidate shall have the right to choose the language in the State of Assam which was the medium of his University Examination.”

(The question was adopted.)

The question is that clause 6 amended of the Assam Official Language Bill, 1960 does form part of the Bill.

(The question was adopted.)

Clause 6 as amended of the Assam Official Language Bill, 1960 thus forms part of the Bills.

**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East):** Sir, I beg to move in clause of at the end of item (d) of the proviso the 'full stop' shall be deleted and the words until five years after enforcement of the Act shall be added there after.

মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় এই ammendment দিয়াৰ উদ্দেশ্য হৈছে যে ইংৰাজীত যে নোট দিয়াৰ ব্যবস্থা কৰা হৈছে সেইটো কিমান দিনলৈ চলিব তাৰ কোনো নিদিষ্টতা নাই। এনেকুৱা ব্যবস্থা চলি থাকিলে ৰাজ্যিক ভাষা বিল পাচ কৰা নিৰ্বৰ্ধক হ'ব। গতিকে এই ammendment উদ্দেশ্য হ'ল ইংৰাজী নোট কিমান দিনলৈ চলিব তাৰ এটা red-line কৰি দিয়া। তাকে নকৰিলে অসমীয়া ৰাজ্যিক ভাষা কৰাটো অকল নামতহে থাকিব। সেই কাৰণে মই কও আগব কথা বিনিৰ লগত মই দিয়া সংশোধনী বিনি লগাই দিব লাগে অৰ্থাৎ ইংৰাজী নোট দিয়াটো আৰু ৫ বছৰলৈ থাকিব।

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The ammendment is moved.

**\*Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** Sir, I beg to move : At the end of item (d) to the proviso under clause 7 add the following words namely :

"So long as the use there after is permissible under Article 343 of the constitution of India". Sir, in moving my ammendment No.79, I beg to state that this bill as ammended will encourage noting in English so long as the use of the English is permissible under Article 343 of the Constitution of India. This ammendment is therefore necessary to save the bill from becoming trilingual at the State level as well as in the district level. Sir, we have already seen that our Official Language Bill has become trilingual. If anybody wants to give note in English because of his inability to note in the language in use, he will be permitted to do so even in the district level.

**\*Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance):** This is for all language, Assameses and Bengali also.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA** Yes I understand that. Anybody who does not know that language which is in use, he shall have right to note in English, because the heads of the department shall give permission to do so. If the noting in English is retained, then others must also know English otherwise what is the meaning of giving permission to note in English if others do not follow it. Secondly there is no time limit as to how long the use of English will continue I personally feel that there should be a time limit.

So I commend this ammendment for the acceptance of the House.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The ammendment is moved.

**Shri BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):** Sir the hon. Member will appreciate that according to our Bill there will be different regional languages in different districts and may be that different people shall have to serve in different districts. The people of the Hills may be required to go to Valley and vice versa. So Sir, by this proviso these people would not be in a difficulty to serve in different districts. So I hope the hon. Members will withdraw their ammendments.

(The ammendment with the leave of the House have been withdrawn).

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Now I will put amendent No.79 the question is that of the end of item (d) to the proviso under clause 7 *add* the following words namely : "So long as the use there of is permissible under Article 343 of the Constitution of India"

(The question was adopted)

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question is that the clause 7 as amended does form part of the Assam Official Language Bill, 1960.

(The question was adopted)

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Clause 8. There is no amendment. Quettion is that the clause 8 of the Assam Official Language Bill, 1960 does form part of the Bill.

(The question was adopted)

**Mr. SPEAKER:** Amendment No.2 and Amendment No.3: Mcmbers are absent. The question is that the Short and long title and the Preamble do form part of the Bill.

(The question was adopted)

**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister):** Sir, I beg to move that the Assam Official Language Bill, 1960 as amended be passed.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The motion moved is that the Assam Official Language Bill, 1960 as amended be passed.

✓ **Shri SIDDHINATH SHARMA (Rangiya):** Mr. Speaker Sir, today is a historic Day for Assam. Today we have put to an end to a long drawn controversy. The question of Official Language was agitating the minds of the people of Assam during the last decade.

After braving many a storm, Shri Bimalaprosad Chaliha the Chief Minister has given the House the benefit of passing this Bill. History will record this achievement. I congratulate him.

It is true that this Bill could not satisfy one and all of this State. The opposition to this Bill from whichever quarters it may be was more on sentimental grounds than based on reasons. The Hill Brothers, though the Autonomous Districts and regions of the State were left to themselves to decide any way they like, did not like the Bill. They could not appreciate the feelings of the Brahmaputra Valley people. They were reluctant to extend the right of self determination which they treasure so much to the people of the other region. It is difficult to account for their stand. They have demanded a separate Hill State comprising of the Hill districts of Assam. This is a matter with the Central Government and I do not like to comment on it.

As I have already mentioned in this connection that we do not favour disintegration of Assam and we shall be extremely sorry in case it is so done. I am a born optimist and I feel, before long, a day will come when we all realise the folly of partition of Assam and shall come together closer as brothers as heretofore.

This Bill also has not satisfied the aspirations of our Cachar Brothers in full. I am sorry to say that our Cachar brothers have decided not to be a party to passing this Bill. They are not here at this moment. But as I read and re-read the clauses of the Bill I fail to understand to get any scent of imposition in the Bill on any one much less on our cachar friends. The cachar people are indigenons people of Assam and their language is Bengalee, they naturally are proud of their heritage, literature and culture. We have not only have no quarrel with them in this regard but we respect this feeling of theirs. There is on provision in the Bill where there is even an indirect attempt to interfere with them. Cachar District people will have Bengalee as their official language and nobody tries to impose on them anything other than that or take away that right from them. As I have already stated that the opposition is based more on sentimental grounds. Let us hope that this is only a passing phase and in the long run, this opposition will die out and the echo melts away and reason prevails. We look forward for that day which may not be far away, and we shall be able to join our hands as we did where we fought for our independence and march shoulder to shoulder in the great task of building up Assam, prosperous, happy and beautiful.

Let us pray to Alimighty that He may grant us the wisdom and courage to eliminate all our differences whatever there remaining with mutual love, affection and understanding. This was the lesson we received at the feet of our Great Master. The Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. Let his invisible soul lead us from untruth to truth from darkness to light and from controversy to reason. I see that light discedding down and very soon we are sure we meet again together.

With these words I support the motion of passing the Bill.

### JAI HIND

**Sbri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, within about 15 minutes we shall come to the journey's end so far as this Bill is concerned. The Official language for the State agitated the minds of our people in an unhead of manner and in cause of our journey the storm of language controversy tessed us heavily and at one time we felt we shall not reach one destination. It was but a natural demand for the people of Assam to have Assamese as the official language of our State. Unfortunately this demand was misunderstood. This demand was given a different colour by interested parties and we had to suffer for all that.

Sir, I believe after passing of this Bill people will realize that the scope of this Bill is really very limited and we need not fight for it in the streets. I am, Sir, not happy fully will the Bill. I feel the germs of bilingualism has been retained here. I feel it could have been possible to do away with these germs and make the Bill fully satisfactory to the people of Assam. I do not think by retaining those provisions we have pleased anybody. On the contrary we have gone against logic and consistency. I am convinced, without retaining these germs we could have provided safeguards to the linguistic minorities. Actually as I said earlier today this Bill is in a way is a very generous of progressive Bill in comparison with the Bills passed by different Legislatures. In Bihar there are linguistic minorities in two districts. Even then nothing has been provided for them. Similarly in

other States there are linguistic minorities. Although we have been accused of parochialism we have always kept in mind the urgent necessity of not imposing the language on other people. In the District level in a reality every language will flourish and every language will find its own scope for development. I feel that in the provision under clause 3 it could have been possible to keep out Hindi altogether. That would not satisfy the people, and therefore, I feel that I cannot be a party to that. I consider that in companies to the Bill that was placed before us the amendments gone a long way to improve the Bill and fulfil peoples' demand but yet I have not been able to compromise myself to this position of introducing Hindi in the Secretariat level. Therefore, Sir, I do not want to vote for the passing of this Bill ; and I have decided that we shall go on fighting democratically inside this House and also outside this House democratically for taking out those defective provisions of the Bill so that we can make the Bill consistent, logical and at the same time satisfactory to all people.

With these words, Sir, I would only thank the House, the Members, and say that it was necessary to pass this Bill as early as possible and I hope that with the passing of this Bill the feeling that was roused and the passion that was given vent to will subside and we shall devote ourselves for building up a happier and more prosperous Assam. This passing of the Bill has cost a new responsibility on us safeguard the interests of the linguistic minorities and be friend us by our action and behaviour. I am opposed to the dismemberment of the State of Assam, I am opposed to offending anybody's sentiment and, therefore; I believe that if the whole problem is considered in the true perspective those who have dissociated with ourselves today will also find it possible to work with us in a democratic and friendly way and fight for the redress of their grievances but dismembering of Assam or by going out of Assam we help none. By doing so no problem can be solved and no part of the State can be served. Therefore our duty is to remain here and to fight for the redress of the just grievances with the help and co-operation of all and at the same time fight unitedly for the development of the State.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, now that the House in its wisdom has decided to accept the different provisions of the Bill, it is only a matter of moment that the Bill will be passed through the 3rd reading. By accepting this Bill to the Statute Book we are going to take a big step and a great responsibility, as also a big risk. This we must remember at this moment, because this has been a Bill which has not been able to satisfy fully any section of the people in this State. Some sections have been very strongly and stoutly opposed to it, and the others' feeling appears to be that 'half a loaf is better than no bread'. But so far as it goes, it must be admitted that this Bill heralds a victory, though partial, of the just and legitimate aspirations of the majority of the people in this State. The people will hail this piece of legislation to the extent that it will give provision for the people to take an intelligent part in the administration than hitherto before, and therefore, it will be as it should be the endeavour of all Leaders of public opinion to see that public agitation and public minds come to a tranquillity. Herein before us lie great problems. Several problems, as a matter of fact, are pending before us. This Language controversy has taken an inordinately long time, and if this controversy cannot be solved and settled here and now with the passing of the Bill then our going forward with different developmental plans are programmes, our fulfilling the targets of the Five

Year Plans will remain a distant thing. Therefore, though we are not fully satisfied with the provisions of the Bill, we on our part pledge that we shall be working for the growing harmony among different sections of the people, and also try our best to persuade different sections of the people to understand each other so that hand in hand we can solve the outstanding problems. So far as the majority community and the Government are concerned, we have got a very great, rather exceptional responsibility now. Let us not forget that this Bill is going to be placed on the Statute Book in the absence of the important minorities in this House. Their absence has increased our responsibility all the more because now that they feel frustrated, now that they feel that their grievances and their aspirations have not been properly appreciated, it will be our duty—bounden duty—to prove not so much by words but by deeds that we mean to respect their feelings and aspirations fully, and satisfactorily. That we can do provided the Government uses the powers that have been kept in this Bill through different prescriptions with a very cool head, but with a determined hand. There will be many a cry from many a quarter that now that we have got a vehicle we should try to run rough-shod. It is good that the Assamese people have got partially at least what they wanted. It is good that they can now stand with their heads more erect than before. But let this not lead to the feeling of victors and victims. It is not a question of victory. It is a question of great responsibility. As it said, when a tree or plant becomes laden with fruits it becomes all the more bowed down. We must, therefore, after taking this extraordinary responsibility behave in a most humble and responsible manner. We must also remember, “sanskrit विपदि बर्षाम्बाहुदये क्वण” when we were faced with so many difficulties in the recent past, it was an urgent necessity on our part to keep patience, to keep our heads cool. Now that we have partially achieved what we wanted, we must be humble and we must be able to persuade our other brothers by our action to stand side by side with us. Therefore, Sir, though we find it difficult to accept whole-heartedly the Bill because it has kept its bilingual character, we do pledge and promise that so far as it goes we shall try our best to give it a fair trial.

With these words, Sir, I close my observations.

**Shri KHAGENRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri):** Mr. Speaker, Sir This issue was agitating the minds of millions of people for years together. I am glad that this controversial issue is sought to be brought to an end by the Government. But I feel that the provisions of the Bill will not satisfy the aspirations of the people. At the same time I also feel that it is my duty to bring amity and work for promoting fraternal relationship amongst the different linguistic communities of Assam, and for lasting integration of Assam. With these words, Sir, I conclude.

**Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, Though we could not agree with the bilingualism of the Bill, still I stand here to congratulate our Chief Minister Mr. Chaliha, whose predecessors Shri Bishnuram Medhi and Late Shri Gopinath Bordoloi could not push the Bill, which he has succeeded. The great burden on him is now over and we have got here the Bill. The Bill does not close here, and I hope in due course we shall be able to bring up improvements or amendments we desire. We also want to express that we shall always be co-operating and associating with the Bill.

**Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery) :** মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, ভাষা বিল খন আজিৰ এই সদনত পাঁচ হোৱাৰ বাবে মই মুখ্যমন্ত্রী শ্ৰীচলিহা ডাঙৰীয়াক সম্বন্ধনা জনাওঁ। যি উদ্দেশ্য লৈ এই বিলখন আজি পাঁচ হব লাগিছিল সেই উদ্দেশ্য লৈ বিলখন সকলোৰে কাৰণে গ্ৰহণযোগ্য নহল। মাইনৰিতি কমিউনিতি বিলাককো সন্তোষ কৰিব পৰা নহল। এই কথা নিশ্চয় সদনে উপনন্ধি কৰিব পাৰিছে। আজি ছিলঙত যি শোভাযাত্ৰা হৈ গল সেইটোলৈ লক্ষ্য কৰিবলগীয়া কাৰণ, তেওঁলোকৰ কাৰণে এই আইন গ্ৰহণযোগ্য নহল। তাৰোপৰি মই আজি টেলিগ্ৰাম পাইছো তিনচুকীয়াৰ পৰা যে, অসমত বাসকৰা হিন্দুস্থানী সংঘ বা আন আন মানুহ বিলাকৰ কাৰণেও সন্তোষ জনক নহল। দেখা গৈছে এই বিলখনত অসমৰ কোনো শ্ৰেণীৰ লোকেই Satisfied হোৱা নাই। বিলত যিবিলাক ধাৰা আছে, তাত ৰাজনীতি সোমোৱাৰ যথেষ্ট পথ বৈ গৈছে আৰু ভবিষ্যতে ৰাজনীতি সোমাব পাৰে।

এই প্ৰসঙ্গতে মই এই কথাও কব খজিছো মোৰ যেনে অনভূতি তাতকৈ এই ক্ষেত্ৰত শ্ৰীযুত চলিহাৰ অনভূতি কণ আৰু দায়ীত্ব কম নহয়।

মাননীয় বন্ধু শ্ৰীযুত ত্ৰিপাঠিয়ে কোৱা মোৰ মনত আছে যে, অসমীয়া-কেই অসমৰ ৰাজ্যভাষা কৰি লব লাগে। আজি দেখিবলৈ পাইছো যে, ইয়াত অসমীয়া ভাষাৰ বাহিৰে অন্য ভাষাৰ ঠাই নাই অথচ ৰাজ্যিক ক্ষেত্ৰত অসমীয়াৰ বাহিৰে আন ভাষা কেনেকৈ আহিল বুজি নাপাওঁ আৰু দ্বিভাষী ৰাজ্য কেনেকৈ হয় তাকো ধৰিব নোৱাৰিলো। তথাপিও যেতিয়া bilingual হলেই অসমীয়া ভাষাৰো ক্ৰমবিকাশ সাধন হব বুলি আশা বাধিলো।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই আৰু বেচি নকওঁ আমি যি ধৰণৰ এই আইন খন (ভাষা আইন) হব বুলি ভাবিছিলো সেই ধৰণৰ নহল যদিও, ভবিষ্যতে আমি ইয়াৰ উন্নতি সাধন কৰিব পাৰিম। ইয়াকে কৈ মই মোৰ বক্তব্য সামৰিলো।

### **Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) :**

মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আজি এই বিলখন সদনে গ্ৰহণ কৰাৰ লগে লগে যেনেকৈ একালে আনন্দ পাইছো, যে বহুদিনৰে পৰা পৰিথকা বিষয় এটা সদনে সিদ্ধান্ত গ্ৰহণ কৰিলে আৰু অন্যফালে যিহেতু আমাৰ প্ৰদেশৰ সকলো লোকৰে সমখন নোপোৱাকৈয়ে এই আইন খন কৰিব লগা হোৱাত মনতে দুখ পাইছো। সদনৰ মাননীয় সদস্য সকলে এই বিষয়ে যথেষ্ট গুৰুত্ব উপলদ্ধি কৰিছে আৰু যি সকলে ৰাজ্যভাষা আইন ঘোষণা কৰাত বিশেষ ভাৱে দাবী কৰিছিল তেওঁলোকৰ দায়ীত্ব আজি বহুগুণে বাঢ়িল। ৰাজ্যভাষা সম্পৰ্কে লৈ এই প্ৰদেশৰ আন্দোলনত বহুলোকে বহু কষ্ট পালে:—আজি তেওঁলোকলৈ মোৰ মনত পৰিছে আৰু অসমৰ ভবিষ্যত সম্পৰ্কেও বহু কথাই মোৰ মনলৈ আহিছে। এইটো ঠিক যে, আমি আমাৰ ভাষা সূৰ্ত্ত আৰু সবল কৰি ৰাখিব লাগিব - ইয়াৰ উন্নতি সাধন কৰিব লাগিব কিন্তু অকল তাকে কৰিলেই নহব, আমাৰ প্ৰদেশৰ মানুহ বিলাকৰ মাজত সম্পূৰ্ণীতি বন্ধাৰ কাৰণে চেষ্টা কৰিব লাগিব আৰু যদি তাকে বন্ধা কৰিব পৰা

নহয়--আমি আগবাঢ়ি যাব নোৱাৰিম। এই সম্পূৰ্ণিতৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত যদি কিবা ব্যৱাচ পৰে - তেন্তে আমি কি অৰ্থনৈতিক, কি ৰাজনৈতিক কি সামাজিক সকলো ক্ষেত্ৰতে উন্নতি কৰিব নোৱাৰিম। যাই হওক যি হৈ গল তাক আৰু নোহোৱা কৰিব নোৱাৰি।

আজি আমি ভবিষ্যতলৈ চাব লাগিব কিয়নো কি পন্থা গ্ৰহণ কৰিলে যোগ্যতাৰে আমি আগবাঢ়ি যাব পাৰিম। আমাৰ দেশত, আমাৰ সমাজত কি কি বিলাক কাম কৰিলে সচাকৈয়ে সুষ্ঠু আৰু শক্তিশালী সমাজ গঢ়ি তুলিব পৰা যাব তাৰ কাৰণেও ভাবিব লগা হৈছে। ৰাজ্যৰ মানুহ বিলাকৰ ভিতৰত সদায় মিলাপ্ৰীতি ডাব যাতে অটুত থাকে তাৰ কাৰণে মই উপলব্ধি কৰি আছিছো। ইয়াত মোৰ ব্যক্তিগত কোনো স্বার্থৰ কাৰণ নাই। আমি উত্তৰ-পূব সীমান্ত অঞ্চলৰ নিবাসী সকলৰ সুখ-শান্তি আৰু নিৰাপত্তাৰ ৰক্ষা কৰিবৰ কাৰণে আমাৰ প্ৰথম কৰ্তব্য হিচাবে তেওঁলোকৰ মাজত সম্পূৰ্ণিত স্থাপন কৰিব লাগিব। কিন্তু দুৰ্ভাগ্য বশত : আজি ৰাজ্যৰ চৰকাৰী ভাষা প্ৰসঙ্গত আমাৰ মাজত বিভেদৰ সৃষ্টি হৈছে।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আপুনি জানে আমাৰ লগৰ সহকৰ্মী কেইজনমানে আমাক এৰি গৈছে। তেওঁলোকৰ লগত মিলাপ্ৰীতি আৰু সদভাৱৰ কাৰণে যে চেষ্টা কৰা নাছিলে সেইটো নহয়। এই ভাষা প্ৰশ্নই যেনেকৈ ব্ৰহ্মপত্ৰ উপত্যকাত প্ৰবল হৈ উঠিল ঠিক তেনেকৈয়ে তাৰ প্ৰতিক্ৰিয়া বিভিন্ন অঞ্চল বিলাকত হবলৈ ধৰিলে, তাৰ কাৰণে কোনোবা দায়ী হব পাৰে আৰু কোনোবা দায়ী নহব পাৰে। এই কথাটো মই নাযাওঁ। কিন্তু বাস্তৱ কথা যে, আজি ভাষাৰ প্ৰশ্নই আমাৰ প্ৰদেশৰ মানুহ বিলাকক ভাগ ভাগ কৰিলে - ৰাজনৈতিক দল বিলাকৰ মাজত মত-ভেদৰ সৃষ্টি কৰিলে, আৰু ইয়াৰেই প্ৰতিক্ৰিয়া, জিলাই জিলাই হৈ ভীষণ সমস্যাৰ সৃষ্টি কৰিলে। আমি এই বিষয়ত সন্তোষ পালোহেতেন যদি এই আইনখন পাচ কৰোতে সদনৰ সকলো মাননীয় সদস্যৰে সমৰ্থন লৈ পাচ কৰিব পাৰিলোহেতেন। কিন্তু সেইটো সম্ভৱপৰ নহল। আজি আমি যি পৰিস্থিতিত পৰিলো সেই পৰিস্থিতিত আমাৰ জ্ঞান বিশ্বাস মতে উচিত বিবেচনা কৰি, তেনেকৈয়ে কৰা হল। ইয়াৰ পিচত লাহে লাহে প্ৰীতি-সম্পূৰ্ণিতৰ পথ মুকলি ৰাখি একতা সাধন কৰাৰ আশা পোষণ কৰিলো। আমি যেতিয়া আইন কৰিছো, আইনখন পাচত ভাল কৰিবৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব পাৰিম। এই আইনখনৰ সম্পৰ্কত মই এই কথা ভালকৈ উপলব্ধি কৰিছো অকল চৰকাৰৰ পক্ষই নহয়, আমাৰ প্ৰতিনিধি সকলেও কিমান চিন্তা কৰিবলগীয়া হৈছিল। আজিৰ এই সদনত এই আইন বিষয়ত সকলো সভাই যেনেদৰে সহযোগ কৰি, চিন্তা কৰি এটা সিদ্ধান্তৰ গ্ৰহণ কৰিবলৈ আগবাঢ়াই দিলে তেখেত সকলৰ ওপৰত মই কৃতজ্ঞতা স্বীকাৰ কৰিছো। আশা কৰো এতিয়া আমাৰ ইয়াত শান্তি আৰু একতা ৰক্ষাৰ কাৰণে সকলোৱে চিন্তা কৰিব আৰু যিবিলাকে মনতে বেয়া পাইছে, তেওঁলোকে ভালকৈ বুজিব পাৰিব আৰু আমাৰ সমাজখন সচাকৈয়ে ভাল দৰে গঢ়ি দিব।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, সদনৰ মাননীয় সদস্য সকলক তেখেত সকলে আগবঢ়োৱা সহযোগীতাত মই আন্তৰিকতাৰে ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন কৰো।



**Mr. SPEAKER:** The question is that the Assam Official Language Bill, 1960, as amended be passed.

## HOUSE DIVIDED

EYES 56.

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Shri Bimala Prasad Chaliha.      | 29. Shri Khagendra Nath Nath.            |
| 2. Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.       | 30. Maulavi Kobad Hussain Ahmed.         |
| 3. Shri Rup Nath Brahma.            | 31. Prof. (Shrimati) Komol Kumari Barua. |
| 4. Shri Debeswar Sarmah.            | 32. Swami Krishnananda Brahma-chari.     |
| 5. Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tripathi.   | 33. Shri Lila Kanta Borah.               |
| 6. Shri Hareswar Das.               | 34. Shrimati Lily Sen Gupta,             |
| 7. Shri Mahendra Nath Hazarika.     | 35. Shri Mahadev Das.                    |
| 8. Shri Radhika Ram Das.            | 36. Maulavi Mahammad Idris.              |
| 9. Shri Girindra Nath Gogoi.        | 37. Shri Manik Chandra Das.              |
| 10. Shri Lalit Kumar Doley.         | 38. Snri Mohananda Bora.                 |
| 11. Shri Sai Sai Terang.            | 39. Shri Mohi Kanta Das.                 |
| 12. Shri Chatrasing Teran.          | 40. Shri Narendra Nath Sarma.            |
| 13. Maulavi Abdul Matlib Mazumdar.  | 41. Shri Omeo Kumar Das.                 |
| 14. Shri Baikuntha Nath Das.        | 42. Shrimati Padma Kumari Gohain.        |
| 15. Shri Bhuban Chandra Pradhani.   | 43. Shri Purnananda Chetia.              |
| 16. Shri Bishnu Lal Upadhyaya.      | 44. Shri Radha Charan Choudhury.         |
| 17. Shri Dandeswar Hazarika.        | 45. Radha Kishan Khemka.                 |
| 18. Shri Dandi Ram Dutta.           | 46. Maulavi Rahimuddin Ahmed.            |
| 19. Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika.    | 47. Shri Rajendra Nath Barua.            |
| 20. Shri Dhirsingh Deuri.           | 48. Shri Ram Math Das.                   |
| 21. Shri Durgeshwar Saikia.         | 49. Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami.          |
| 22. Shri Dwijesh Chandra Deb Sarma. | 50. Shri Sarbeswar Bordoloi.             |
| 23. Dr. Ghanashyam Das.             | 51. Shri Siddhi Nath Sarma.              |
| 24. Shri Hakim Chandra Rabha.       | 52. Shri Surendra Nath Das.              |
| 25. Shri Harinarayan Barua.         | 53. Shri Tamijuddin Prodhani.            |
| 26. Shri Indreswar Khaund.          | 54. Shri Tankeswar Chetia.               |
| 27. Shri Kamala Prasad Agarwala.    | 55. Mrs. Usha Borthakur,                 |
| 28. Shri Karka Chandra Doley.       |  |

## NOES—NIL

(The question was adopted)

**Mr. SPEAKER:** I am sure that the hon. Members are feeling tired and also getting hungry. I do not want to detain them any longer. Simply I want to express my sense of thankfulness to them for sitting very late and in giving me all co-operation in piloting this controversial piece of legislation.

**Adjournment**

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Tuesday, the 25th October, 1960.

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