



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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong at 9 A.M. on
Friday, the 17th March, 1961.

PRESENT

Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury, B.L., Speaker in the chair. Four
Ministers, Three Deputy Ministers and Fifty-five Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

**Legal expenses borne by Shri Pabbi, Superintendent of Police in the
Gauhati firing Enquiry Commission**

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) asked :

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

- (a) Whether Mr. Pabbi, Superintendent of Police at Gauhati on July 4, 1960 was represented by any advocate before the Gauhati firing Enquiry Commission ?
- (b) If so, who, whether Mr. Pabbi personally or the State Government, bore his legal expenses ?
- (c) If the State Government bore the expenses, how much it came to ?
- (d) Whether Mr. Nani Gopal Banik, former Special Superintendent of Police was engaged to help the State counsel in the Enquiry ?
- (e) When Mr. Banik retired from service ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance for Chief Minister) replied :

34. (a)—Yes, by two advocates from Calcutta, Sarvashri Dhiren De and Niren De.
- (b)—The legal expenses were borne by Shri Pabbi himself.
- (c)—Does not arise.
- (d)—Yes.
- (e)—Shri Banik retired on superannuation on the 30th July 1960.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : Has Mr. Banik paid any remuneration for his work during that period ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : No, because he was re-employed recently.

(Starred Question No.35 was not put and answered as the Questioner Shri Radha Charan Choudhury was absent.)

Regarding scales of pay for the teachers in Sanskrit Tols

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) asked :

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

- (a) What are the scales of pay sanctioned for the Teachers in the Sanskrit Tols ?
- (b) When were these scales applied ?
- (c) Whether Government propose to revise these scales ?

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

36. (a)—There are no prescribed scales of pay for the teachers in Sanskrit Tols. The teachers of the Sanskrit tols are paid by the Tol authorities. Government give grants to the tols which varies from Rs.15 per month to Rs.100 per month according to the size and requirement of the tols.

(b) & (c)—Do not arise.

(Starred Question No.37 was not put and answered as the questioner Shri Dandeswar Hazarika was absent.)

Construction of Circle office and Sub-Deputy Collector's quarters at Bokakhat

Shri NARENDRA NATH SARMA (Dergaon) asked :

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

- (a) Whether there is any proposal to construct the Sub-Deputy Collector's office at Bokakhat in Golaghat Subdivision since 1957 ?
- (b) If so, what steps are being taken to construct the building ?
- (c) What are the causes for such delay in constructing the said buildings ?
- (d) Whether Government propose to take early steps for completion of the work within this financial year ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :

38. (a)—Yes.

(b), (c) & (d)—Instructions were given to Deputy Commissioner, Sibsagar for submission of plans and estimates for construction of Circle office, Sub-Deputy Collector's quarter, etc., in the letter conveying sanction to creation of Bokakhat Circle. The plans and estimates were received by Government in 1958 but these needed revision to provide for some other structures. The revised plans and estimates were received in 1959 and accordingly provision in the Budget for 1960-61 was made for execution of the work. In the meantime the plans and estimates were finally checked by the Chief Engineer and thereafter the administrative approval for construction of the Circle office, Sub-Deputy Collector's quarter, etc., at Bokakhat was accorded on 30th January 1961.

(Starred Question No.39 was not put and answered as the questioner Shri Hareswar Goswami was absent at the time of putting the question.)

Re: Stacking of stones on both sides of Gauhati-Nowgong, Nowgong-Jorhat and Gauhati-Shillong Road.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) asked :

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

- (a) Whether he is aware of stacking of stones on both sides of the road of the Gauhati-Nowgong, Nowgong-Jorhat and Gauhati-Shillong Road ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that stacking of stones in this manner has narrowed the road ?

(c) Whether he is aware that this narrowing of road has become a cause of many motor accidents ?

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

40. (a)—Yes. During repairing and widening work of the road, tones are sometimes stacked on both sides and in some portions only on one side of the Gauhati-Nowgong, Nowgong-Jorhat and Gauhati-Shillong Road.

(b)—Yes. Sometimes roads are slightly narrowed due to stacking of stones on the road side, but efforts are always made to maintain the overall road width available for traffic. Stones stacked for repairing the road are always utilised speedily for the purpose and caution boards are boldly displayed for traffic in such places.

(c)—No accident has been reported so far on this account.

Re: Finalisation of the alignment of the National Highway and starting of work for the same

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sarbhog) asked :

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

(a) Whether the alignment of the National Highway has been finalised ?

(b) If so, what is the alignment and how many bridges will be required to be constructed and what are their names ?

(c) When the work for National Highway will be taken up ?

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

41. (a)—It is not indicated in the question which particular National Highway it relates to.

If it be for the portion from Amingaon to North Salmara to connect Brahmaputra Bridge at Pandu-Amingaon under construction this alignment has not yet been finalised by the Government of India.

(b)—The alignment has not yet been finalised as stated in reply to (a) above but the tentative alignment recommended by this State Government is along North Gauhati-Jhargaon Road from 4th mile to Charali, North Trunk Road West with diversions/bye-pass here and there and at bridge sites, from Charali to Kuchiakata and thence to North Salmara. Besides existing bridges, there are proposals to bridge the unbridged rivers over Beki, Bhalukdoba, Manas and Aie.

(c)—The main work beyond Charali to North Salmara will be started after finalisation of alignment and sanction of estimates by the Government of India. The works in the south bank approach road at Pandu and in the portion from Amingaon to 4th mile of North Gauhati-Jhargaon Road have already been taken up as National Highway projects and that for the portion from 4th mile of North Gauhati-Jhargaon Road upto Charali has partly been taken up as Border Road Schemes.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East) : Whether the State Government has recommended the diversion of the Brahmaputra approach road *via.*, Duliachar and Hajo ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister (Public Works Department)] : Yes, it has been sanctioned and works are in progress.

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sarbhog) : What is the proposal beyond Charali *via.*, North Salmara ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : The portion of the North Trunk Road from North Salmara to Charali going through Nalbari, Rangiya, Barjhad, Raha, Kuchiakata, etc., is recommended to the Government of India. The other alignment going from Charali to North Salmara *via.*, Roha, Langtsinga Kolgasia, etc., is not recommended.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY : Will the Deputy Minister be pleased to say what is the total estimated cost of this National Highway ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : Three survey estimates amounting to Rs.46,100 in all have been sanctioned. The second estimate amounting to Rs.33,54,700 for constructing approach road from Brahmaputra bridge to North Gauhati-Jhargaon Road, and the third amounting to Rs.5,47,000 for diversion of North Gauhati-Amingaon-Hajo Road have been sanctioned by the Government of India.

So far as the Charali to North Salmara is concerned, Central Government is moved for sanction.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY : If there is any proposal for diverting the road where there are railway crossing from Charali to North Salmara ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : As I have said Sir, there are some crossings on this road. We referred to the Government of India whether the over bridge has to be constructed or not. We have not received any reply as yet.

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR : Whether it will touch Manipur and Bijni ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : I do not know.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj) : Whether there is any proposal for diverting the National Highways beyonds Bagribari ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : This is a new question.

Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYA (Gauhati) : Is it not a fact the that question pertains to that National Highway, the alignment of which has not been finalised and not National Highways whose alignment has already been finalised ?

Mr. SPEAKER : Yes, I think so.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morangi) : May I know whether the diversion of the Numaligarh-Dimapur Road has been finalised ? That is also a National Highway.

Mr. SPEAKER : That is relevant.

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI : I want notice, Sir.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI : May I know whether there is any proposal for diversion of the National Highway beyond Bogribari ? Is it a fact that survey has already been made for the said diversion ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister (Public Works Department)] : As I have already said, the present project is the National Highway from North Salmara to Charali and from Charali to Amingaon approach road.

Industrial Grants to other backward classes artisans in the State during 1959-60

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj) asked :

- *42. Will the Minister-in-charge of Industries be pleased to state—
- Whether Government have sanctioned any industrial grants in the shape of looms, implements for carpenters, etc., to other backward classes in the State in 1959-60 ?
 - If the reply is in the affirmative, whether the grants were distributed to the proper allottees ?
 - If so, when ?
 - The names of different allottees showing the allotment against each ?
 - Whether it is a fact that all these are grants and nothing will be realised from any allottee for any item of implement ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY (Minister, Industries) replied :

42. (a)—Yes. Industrial grants have been sanctioned in the shape of carpentry and smithy tools, sewing machines, etc., to other backward classes artisans.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The grants were drawn in March 1960 according to the requirement of each Subdivision and distributed to the deserving artisans from the other backward classes subsequently.

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

(e)—Yes.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj): Is it a fact that the allottees are asked to pay some amount towards the cost of the looms supplied to them ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY (Minister, Industries): No cost is being charged.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): Who distributes the materials ? Is there any Committee ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY: The Assistant Director in the Subdivision distributes and for assisting him the M. L. As and M. Ps of the area are associated.

Shri BISWANATH UPADHAYA (Patharkandi): May I know whether any industrial grants have been given to the tea garden labourers and if so, what is their number ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY: I have no information. If a notice is given I may be able to reply.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS: It is a fact in some Subdivisions looms have not been distributed up till now ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY: The only Subdivision where they have not been distributed is Hailakandi, but our information was that by 7th March distribution should have taken place there.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) : Is it a fact the allottees have been made to pay some money for the looms and other materials received by them ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY (Minister, Industries) : I have no information.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery) : Is it a fact that looms have not been distributed in the Mangaldai Subdivision also, and if so, will Government make an enquiry about it ?

Mr. SPEAKER : I think the information can be found in the statement which has been placed on the table.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj) : Will Government enquire whether it is a fact that in the Goalpara district the allottees have been asked to deposit Rs.15 per loom ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY : If specific information is given we will certainly enquire into it.

Shri RAMNATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled castes)] : The hon. Member has already given the information that in the Goalpara district allottees are asked to deposit Rs.25 per loom. Why should not the Minister make an enquiry about it ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY : If the transaction are of a clandestine nature, specific information would be necessary, like who gave the money, who received it, etc. But if the allegation is of a general nature a general enquiry can be made.

Shri RAMNATH DAS : The allegation is that the allottees of the Goalpara district were asked to deposit Rs.25 for each loom ?

Mr. SPEAKER : Everyone of them ?

Shri RAMNATH DAS : Yes, Sir.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY : That general enquiry will be made.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Number of deaths due to Cholera in Moripatty during 1959-60

Shri BISWANATH UPADHYAYA (Patharkandi) asked :

138. Will the Minister-in-charge, Medical be pleased to state—

- (a) What was the number of deaths due to cholera in Moripatty near the Amingaon Railway Colony during the year 1959-60 ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that Government failed to extend any medical facilities to the families who suffered from cholera in the above mentioned locality ?
- (c) Whether Government have arranged filtered water for the people residing in the Moripatty area ?

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

138. (a)—Total number of deaths due to cholera in Moripatty near the Amingaon Railway Colony during the year 1959-60—5 only.

(b)—All Medical facilities have been rendered to the families who suffered from cholera in the above mentioned locality.

(c)—The staff deputed there advised the local people to use filtered and boiled water. The tanks and wells, etc., of that locality were thoroughly disinfected.

Shri BISWANATH UPADHYAYA (Patharkandi) : It is stated that in reply to (b) that ‘all medical facilities have been rendered to the families who suffered from cholera in the above-mentioned locality’. If I say this reply is false will Government make an enquiry into the matter ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY (Minister, Industries) : Yes, Sir.

Regarding Shri Pabindranath Choudhury, Mauzadar and Ex-President of Bahjami Rural Panchayat.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East) asked :

139. Will the Minister-in-charge of Panchayat be pleased to refer to the Circular No. DP.124/59/130, dated 20th April, 1960 and state—

(a) Whether Shri Pabindranath Choudhury, Mauzadar and Ex-President of Bahjami Rural Panchayat was debarred from holding the office of Vice-Chairman of Pachim Nalbari Anchalik Panchayat ?

(b) Why the Government violated the spirit of the letter in respect of the particular Mauzadar who is not an elected Member, but Additional Member of Anchalik Panchayat eligible to the Office ?

(c) Whether Government is aware that there is discriminatory treatment between such Additional Members of Panchayats to hold office under the same Mahkuma Parishad ?

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

139. (a)—Now having proposed the name of Shri Pabindranath Choudhury for the Office of Vice-President of Pachim Nalbari Anchalik Panchayat, he was neither debarred nor such a question could then arise.

(b) & (c)—Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY : Will the Minister-in-charge of Panchayats let this House know whether there is any discrimination between Mauzadars appointed as additional members and Mauzadars elected as members with regard to holding of Panchayat offices ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Panchayats) : As the hon. Member is aware, under the provisions of the Act persons holding any office of the profit are debarred from seeking election to the Panchayats. But all members of the different Rural Panchayats under the Panchayat Act, have been made the additional members of the Anchalik Panchayats for the interim period, *i.e.*, till the life time of the Rural Panchayat. So, even if the Mauzaders fell within the category of persons holding office of profit and may thus be debarred from seeking election they shall become and continue and to be additional members of the Anchalik Panchayat if they were members of the old rural Panchayats.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East) : Whether these additional members are eligible to become office-bearers of the Panchayat ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : They are eligible and can seek election but my personal view is before they seek election they should resign their Mauzadarship.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : May I know whether the personal view of the Minister has any legal basis ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : That is the view of the Government also. If any one feels dissatisfied he can test the legality of their view.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : Is it not a fact that the question whether the Mauzadars can be President or Vice-President of an Anchalik Panchayat is still *sub judice* ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : This matter might have gone to the High Court. I have heard some people have filed a petition.

***Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery) :** Is it a fact that Government has given directions to all S. D. Os to remove all the Presidents who are Mauzadars and is it a fact that the S. D. Os have not respected the Government order.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED :** Government have not issued any instructions.

***Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY :** Will the Minister make an enquiry that in respect of this particular election, the Magistrate in-charge forbade the candidate to seek election as he is a Mauzadar ?

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED :** Our information is that his name was not proposed by anyone.

***Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla)**: Are Government aware that some of the Mauzadars are not only additional members under this Section and some of them are not only Presidents and in some cases, they are also Vice-Presidents of Mohkomah Parishad ?

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Community Development)**: Yes, Sir.

***Shri RAMNATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]**: Will the Minister be pleased to state whether an ex-Mauzadar can seek election to the Anchalik Panchayat and hold office ?

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED**: It is not a question of Government forbidding or not forbidding. It is entirely a legal matter.

***Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East)**: Will the Minister enquire whether the magistrate forbade a particular mauzadar to seek election of Vice-President ?

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED**: The enquiry is directed and the Minister concerned has send to reply that his name was not proposed so the question of forbidding does not arise.

Re: Quantity of paddy given delivery of to the Government Godowns and the different mills of Nowgong District by the Primary Marketing Societies from October, 1960 to 31st January, 1961

Shri RAM NATH SARMA (Lumding) asked :

140. Will the Minister-in-charge of Co-operation be pleased to state—
- (a) Total quantity of paddy given delivery to the Government godowns by the Primary Marketing Societies in Nowgong District from October, 1960 to 31st January, 1961 ?
 - (b) The total quantity of paddy given delivery to the different Mills of Nowgong District by the Primary Marketing Societies till 31st January, 1961 from October, 1960 ?
 - (c) The total quantity of paddy remaining in the stocks of the Primary Marketing Societies of Nowgong District on 31st January, 1961 ?
 - (d) Total quantity of paddy remaining in the hands of Service Co-operatives on 31st January, 1961.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Co-operation, etc.) replied :

140. (a)—1,32,301 Mds. 35 Srs.
 (b)—5,20,515 Mds. 15½ Srs.
 (c)—4,09,298 Mds. 1 Sr.

(d)—There are about 500 Societies in the district. It will take some time to collect the information from all of them. Information when received will be supplied to the Hon'ble Member.

Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding) : Sir, in reply to (c), the Marketing Society বিলাকৰ হাতত যিবিলাক ধান প্ৰায় চাৰি লাখ মৌন stock হৈ আছে সেইবিলাক চৰকাৰে লোৱাত কি অসুবিধা ? মই জানিব পাবোনে ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Co-operation) : সেই stock যোৱা ৩১ জানুৱাৰীলৈকে আছিল। এতিয়া হয়তো খালি হৈছে।

Mr. SPEAKER : His question is whether this stock position has swelled up because January was a lean month and the busy period was February and March. He wants to know whether the accumulation has gone up or gone down.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA : I want notice for that, Sir.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : Whether this quantity of 4,09,298 maunds and 1 seer which was remaining in the stocks of the Primary Marketing Society at Nowgong District was lying there due to the Marketing Society not offering this stock of paddy to Government or to the millers or due to the non-lifting of this stock by the millers ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA : I cannot say exactly about this matter.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Whether this stock of paddy was not lifted due to the fault of the millers ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA : I shall enquire, Sir.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery) : Is it a fact that in the month of January when allotment is made by the Government that allotment is generally refused by the millers ?

Mr. SPEAKER : To which question is this supplementary ?

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY : Is it a fact that the allotment which is made by Government is refused by the millers generally in the month of January ?

Mr. SPEAKER : He has already replied that he wants notice.

Shri RAMNATH SARMA : জানুৱাৰী মাহৰ ৩১ তাৰিখ পৰ্য্যন্ত মাৰ্কেটিং চচাইটিবিলাকৰ হাতত ৪ লাখ মৌনৰ অধিক আৰু চাৰি লাখ চচাইটিবিলাকৰ পৰা অধিক ২৩ লাখ মৌনটকৈ হলেও প্ৰায় ৭ লাখ মৌন ধানৰ stock যদি মাৰ্কেটিং চচাইটিবিলাকৰ হাতত থাকে তেনেহলে খেতিয়কসকলৰ পৰা নগদ টকা দি ধান কিনিব পৰা অৱস্থা এই চচাইটিবিলাকৰ আছিলনে ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA : এই বিষয়ে তদন্ত কৰিলেহে জানিব পৰা যাব।

Regarding Political sufferers of Cachar District

Shri TAJAMMUL ALI BARLASKAR (Udarband) asked :

141. Will the Minister for Political Sufferers be pleased to state—

- (a) How many cases of political sufferers were recommended by the Subdivisional Boards of Cachar District up-to-date (Answers to be given Subdivision-wise) ?
- (b) How many cases have been sanctioned in each subdivision ?
- (c) How many cases are awaiting sanction in each subdivision and why they are being delayed ?

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

141. (a)—Two hundred and eighty cases of political sufferers have so far been recommended by the Subdivisional Advisory Boards of Cachar District, as detailed below :—

(1) Silchar	...	...	..	...	..	154
(2) Karimganj	...	...	..	...	...	67
(3) Hailakandi	...	...	...	...	...	59
				Total	...	<u>280</u>

(b) One hundred and twenty-two cases have been considered for pension as detailed below :—

(1) Silchar	...	...	...	...	...	75
(2) Karimganj	...	...	...	...	...	35
(3) Hailakandi	...	..	...	...	...	12
				Total	...	<u>122</u>

(c)—Thirty two cases are awaiting sanction for want of some particulars regarding age, dependents, etc. Action is being taken to collect the particulars and issue sanction at an early date. One hundred and twenty six cases have been rejected as they are not covered by the existing rules. Some of these cases were recommended for lump-sum grant which is not admissible under the rules. Some cases were recommended for pension but they have neither attained the pensionable age nor submitted any medical certificate regarding their invalidity.

Test Relief Scheme in Golaghat Subdivision

Shri NARENDRA NATH SARMA (Dergaon) asked :

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

- (a) Whether Government has sanctioned any Test Relief Scheme in the flood affected areas of the State in the current year ?
- (b) If the answer to the question is in affirmative the allotted amount may be mentioned Subdivision-wise ?
- (c) Whether the Subdivisional Officer, Golaghat had submitted some Test Relief Schemes for the affected people of the Subdivision ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that the Golaghat, North Anchalik Panchayat had submitted such Test Relief Schemes to the Subdivisional Officer, Golaghat ?
- (e) Whether the Subdivisional Officer, Agriculture of Golaghat, had also submitted such Test Relief Schemes of some small irrigation projects ?
- (f) Whether the Government propose to construct the Inspection Bungalow at Ahatguri in Test Relief Scheme ?
- (g) Whether Government propose to sanction substantial amount for Test Relief work in Golaghat especially in Northern portion of said subdivision ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :

142. (a)—Yes.

	Rs.
(b)—Dhubri	50,000
Goalpara	50,000
North Lakhimpur	40,000
Gauhati	49,000
Sibsagar	21,000

(c)—Yes, two proposals were received from Subdivisional Officer only on 24th February, 1961 and 27th February, 1961.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Yes, the same was received from Subdivisional Officer on 24th February, 1961.

(f)—There is no such proposal.

(g)—Not within the Financial year ending on 31st March, 1961. The proposals were received from the Subdivisional Officer, Golaghat in the last week of February, 1961. One of the proposals was incomplete and has been returned to Subdivisional Officer for clarification. There will be no time now to execute the work before the end of the financial year.

Shri NARENDRA NATH SARMA (Dergaon): In (d) এই বিষয়ে Subdivisional Officer ব পৰা proposal কেতিয়া পাইছিল ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): We received the proposal from the Subdivisional Officer on 24th February 1961 and on what date the Subdivisional Officer received it from the Agricultural Officer is not known to us.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East): Whether the recommendation of the Deputy Commissioner or the Subdivisional Officer is required for sanction of these test relief grants? If so, in respect of Gauhati Subdivision, the Government have themselves sanctioned an amount of Rs.40,000 disregarding the proposal of the Deputy Commissioner for Rs.1,45,000.

Shri HARESWAR DAS: Government is not bound to accept the proposal of Deputy Commissioner or Subdivisional Officer; but the proposal should come from them.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY: Whether any proposal came from the Deputy Commissioner, Gauhati, for sanction of Rs.40,000 for Gauhati Subdivision?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: I require notice for that.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): Why test relief work has not been sanctioned for some of the Subdivisions such as Dibrugarh Subdivision?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a new question. The question is with regard to Golaghat Subdivision only.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: There is a Subdivisionwise list, Dhubri, Goalpara and other Subdivisions. Then why some of the Subdivisions have been omitted.

Shri HARESWAR DAS: According to need, the proposals are submitted by the Deputy Commissioners, and if no proposal was submitted, it means that there was no need.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: When the request was made to the Deputy Commissioner and when it was pointed out to him about some productive schemes, why no scheme was given by the Deputy Commissioner? Whether the Minister will enquire into this?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: Yes, Sir.

Shri NARENDRA NATH SARMA: Who is responsible for the delay in sending this proposal and whether the Minister will enquire?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: The authority who sends it is responsible.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi) : Are Government aware that on the 15th August 1958, there was severe flood in Golaghat Subdivision and as a result 10 persons have lost their lives and many of the P. W. D. and Local Board Roads were damaged ? Will Government be pleased to state the reason why no sanction was made for restoration of flood-damaged properties by Government ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : I am not in a position to say. I shall have to collect the information and I may either accept or reject the steps suggested.

Shri NARENDRA NATH SARMA (Dergaon) : এই প্রপোজাল বিলাক এই বছরত চৰকাৰে বিবেচনা কৰিবনে ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : No, the money has already been exhausted and within the financial year there is no chance of fresh proposal being sanctioned.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj) : এই টেটে বিলিফ স্কীমবিলাক কি কি ধৰণেৰে কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰিব পাৰি ? Construction বিলাকেদি কৰিব নোৱাৰিনে ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : We cannot agree to that. So some of the proposals which are merely for construction of roads and Inspection Bungalows though they are submitted by the Deputy Commissioner or the Sub-divisional Officer are rejected.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery) : In connection with reply to (b), I would like to know from the Minister why no grant for test relief scheme was sanctioned for Mangaldai Subdivision ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : It is not clear, Sir.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East) : Does the Minister propose to sanction some test relief grants for Gauhati Sub-division in the next year ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : When we come to the bridge we shall cross it.

Shrimati LILY SENGUPTA (Lahowal) : পঞ্চায়তবিলাকে Test Reliefৰ কাৰণে যিবিলাক চৰকাৰতৈল direct লিট পঠাইছিল সেইবিলাক কিয় বিবেচনা কৰা নহয়—মই জানিব পাবোনে ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : সেইবিলাক তেনেকৈ consider কৰা নহয় ; সেইবিলাক Deputy Commissioner আৰু Subdivisional Officer সকলক পৰীক্ষা কৰাৰ বাবে পঠোৱা হয় আৰু তেওঁলোকৰ পৰা আহিলে বিবেচনা কৰা হয়।

Shri RAMNATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] : Sir, it appears from the reply to question 142(g) that the Golaghat Sub-division and the people of Golaghat suffered because of the delay caused by the Subdivisional Officer in sending the proposal. In view of that will the Hon'ble Minister ask the Subdivisional Officer not to delay such proposals in future ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : Yes, I have no objection to it.

Shrimati LILY SENGUPTA (Lahowal) : মই এটা প্ৰশ্ন কৰিব খুজিছো। Deputy Commissioner ৰ পৰা নিষ্টবোৰ সময়মতে আহি নোপোৱাৰ কাৰণেই যদি স্কীমবিলাক fulfil কৰিব নোৱাৰে তাৰ বাবে চৰকাৰে কি action লব ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : Particular case নোপোৱাতলৈকে একো কৰিব নোৱাৰি।

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi) : Sir, may I give a concrete instance ? In respect of Golaghat no proposal was sent by the Subdivisional Officer in spite of the fact that there was high flood and many people were affected. Will the Government enquire into this matter ?

Mr. SPEAKER : It is too late. The damage was caused in 1952. The Minister has promised to have an enquiry made.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARI (Panery) : Whether Government will make an enquiry in respect of Mangaldai also ?

Re: Number of Weaving Inspectors and Demonstrators and posting of one Demonstrator in every Anchalik Panchayat

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) asked :

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

(a) The number of Weaving Inspectors and Demonstrators in the State ?

(b) Whether Government propose to post one Weaving Demonstrator in every Anchalik Panchayat in the Districts of Brahmaputra Valley fixing his headquarters at the headquarters of the Anchalik Panchayat ?

(c) If not, whether Government propose to adjust the jurisdiction of the Weaving Demonstrators and make available the services of at least one demonstrator for each Anchalik Panchayat ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister-in-charge of Sericulture and Weaving) replied :

143. (a)—At present there are 22 Weaving Inspectors (including Co-operative Weaving Inspectors) and 252 Weaving Demonstrators in the field throughout the State.

(b)—Government will consider posting of a Weaving Demonstrator in each Anchalik Panchayat according to necessity but his headquarters will be fixed at a place where there is greater concentration of work and may not be at the headquarters of the Anchalik Panchayat where there may be lesser work.

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

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) : উত্তরত কৈছে, ২২ জন Inspector আছে তেনেহলে প্রত্যেক মহকুমাতে এজনকৈ আছে নেকি ?

Shri MAHENDRANATH HAZARIKA (Minister-in-charge of Sericulture and Weaving) : নাই ।

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : বিবিধাক আঞ্চলিক পঞ্চায়তত বোরা-কটা কৰা অভ্যাস নাই তাত Weaving Demonstrator দিয়া হয় নেকি ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : তেনেকৈয়ে দিয়া হয় ।

Shrimati LILY SENGUPTA (Lahowal) : Private হিচাবে বঙ কৰা অনুষ্ঠানবোৰতৈ demonstrator পঠাব বুলি ভাবে নেকি ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : সেইটো বিবেচনা কৰা হব ।

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) : কোন কোন আঞ্চলিক পঞ্চায়তত demonstrator দিয়া হৈছে ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister, Sericulture and Weaving) : তাৰ কাৰণে নোটিছ লাগিব ।

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : সকলো ধৰণৰ সুবিধা থকা আঞ্চলিক পঞ্চায়তত Inspector আৰু Demonstrator দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব নে ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : কৰা হব ।

**Regarding splitting up of the Barpeta and Patacharkuchi
Barma double member Assembly Constituencies**

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Ramgpur) :

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR : (Sarbhog)

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Berpetta)

} asked:

144. Will the Minister in-charge of Election be pleased to state—

(a) Whether there is any proposal to split up the Barpeta and Patacharkuchi Burma double member Assembly Coustituencies ?

- (b) If so, how they are proposed to be split up ?
 (c) Which are the Mauzas each of the two constituencies that are proposed to be put under general constituencies ?
 (d) Whether any opportunity will be given to the different parties to express their opinions on the proposal ?
 (e) If so, when ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister-in-charge, Election) replied:

144. (a)—Yes, along with all the other two-member constituencies in the State.

(b)—According to the provision in clause 3 of the Two-Member Constituencies (Abolition) Bill, 1960, the Election Commission shall divide every two-member constituency into two single-member constituencies, delimit their extent and decide in which of them the seat shall be reserved for the Scheduled Castes or, as the case may be, for the Scheduled Tribes, having regard to the following provisions, namely:—

(i)—all the single-member constituencies shall, as far as practicable be geographically compact areas and in delimiting them regard shall be had to physical features, existing boundaries of administrative units, facilities of communication and public convenience ; and

(ii)—The seat shall be reserved in that single-member constituency which in the opinion of the Commission has the greater concentration of population of the Scheduled Castes or as the case may be, of the Scheduled Tribes.

(c)—The matter is under consideration of the Election Commission.

(d) & (e)—According to the provision in clause 4 of the above Bill, the Commission will formulate its proposals and publish them in the State Gazette, together with a notice specifying a date on or after which the proposals will be further considered by it in the light of all objection and suggestions which may have been received by it before the date so specified.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : In reply to (b).....

Mr. SPEAKER : I think after the gazette notification of yesterday both the questions are redundant.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : Then should these be taken as unreplied ?

Mr. SPEAKER : There is no scope for supplementaries after the gazette notification of yesterday.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : I want to put just one question. In reply to (b)(i) I want to know whether the administrative unit will mean, under the present set up, the Anchalik Panchayat or Mauza ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Mauza.

Re: Complaints of growers being hard hit by the present method of State Trading in paddy by the marketing societies and the reported misappropriation of 1,500 (maunds) of paddy by the Tamulpur Marketing Society

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta) asked:

145. Will the Minister, Co-operative be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government is aware that peasantry are hard hit by the present method of State Trading in paddy ?

(b) Whether Government is aware that in the name of State Trading, Marketing Societies are giving much trouble to the growers.

(c) Whether Government is aware that in time of acute need, viz., in diseases, etc., the poor cultivator cannot sell even a maund of paddy without the permission of the marketing societies of the area concerned when sold to them, money is not available in time ?

(d) Whether the prices of the essential commodities of life are increasing ?

(e) Whether it is a fact that the Mill owners are benefited by this State Trading ?

(f) Whether it is a fact that the public in Tamulpara area of Gauhati subdivision on demanded enquiry by the Government about the misappropriation of 1,500 (fifteen hundred) maunds of paddy by the Tamulpur Marketing Society ?

(g) If so, what steps are taken by the Government by now to detect such crime to punish the culprits ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Co-operation, etc) replied:

145. (a)—No. So far as we know the growers are getting minimum fair price and fair deal from the agent and sub-agent societies under the State Trading Scheme.

(b)—The Government are not aware. Marketing Societies are also not directly concerned with growers because they are not purchasing paddy direct from the growers at the village level. It is the village societies who are purchasing paddy from the growers directly.

(c)—It is not a fact. The growers can sell upto 10 maunds of paddy to any person for his personal consumption without prior permission from anybody.

(d)—Yes. Prices of some essential commodities are increasing. There are also fluctuation of price from time to time. The price of rice however has slightly decreased during the last 2 years as a result of the introduction of State Trading Schemes through co-operatives.

(e)—The Government have not made any enquiry to ascertain whether the mill owners have been benefited or adversely affected. The idea of State Trading is to do greater good to greater number.

(f)—No. Government did not receive any public complaint about misappropriation of paddy by the Tamulpur Marketing Co-operative Societies, Ltd. However a shortage of 1,500 maunds of paddy was detected on physical verification. The matter was discussed in the General Meeting of the society and 2 Internal Auditors have been engaged to go into the details of the matter.

(g)—Action will definitely be taken if a case of misappropriation of stock as referred to in answers to Question No. (f) is detected after audit, for which Departmental officer have been engaged to make an upto date audit of the Society.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): In reply to (b) it is stated that "it is the village societies who are purchasing paddy from the growers directly". Is it not a fact that these village societies are almost entirely dependent on the money advanced by the Marketing Society ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Co-operation, etc.): They are not entirely dependent but to some extent they are depending on the Marketing Society. They also get financial assistance from the Appex Marketing Society.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Can the Government give an idea about the ratio of financial assistance that the primary societies receive from the Marketing Society and from other sources ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: For that I shall require notice, Sir.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: In reply to (d) it is stated that the prices of some essential commodities are increasing. May I know what steps have been taken by the Government to check the rise of prices of essential commodities ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: We are considering a scheme for supplying these commodities also through the District Marketing Society, Primary Co-operative Society and Service Co-operative Society also.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARI (Panery): In reply to (e) I like to know from the Government whether is it a fact that in that particular area one Ganesh Mill has been allotted only 4,780 maunds during the whole year though the Mill's capacity is about 93,600 maunds.

Mr. SPEAKER: How that question arise ?

Shri HIRALAL PATWARI: Will the Government make an enquiry whether the Mill owners have been benefited or adversely affected ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Co-operation, etc.) : We shall make an enquiry.

Mr. SPEAKER : How can you find out whether the Mill owners have been benefited or adversely affected ?

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur) : চৰকাৰে এইটো কথা জানেনে এনেকুৱা বহুত মাৰ্কেটিং চচাইটি আছে তেওঁলোকে যি shortage দেখুৱাই সেইটো একেবাৰে হাইউঠা কথা ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA : অৰ্ধি সম্পূৰ্ণ নোহোৱাকৈ সেইটো কৰ নোৱাৰি।

Mr. SPEAKER : Regarding Shri Patwari's question I would tell the Hon'ble Deputy Minister that he cannot make an enquiry to see whether the Mill owners have been benefited or not. He can make an enquiry as to whether discrimination has been made or not.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA : We will make an enquiry regarding Barpeta area.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) : What is the policy of the Government whether to benefit the Mill owners or the people in general ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA : To benefit the growers.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARI (Panery) : Whether Government has any definite policy to make payment arrangement to the cultivators by the societies ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA : Yes, there is.

Shri MAHANANDA BORA : এই case টোৰ বিষয়ে কৈছে যে Audit হোৱাৰ পিচত সেই বিষয়ে চৰকাৰে Step লব। সেই Marketing Society টোত Audit কৰিবলৈ কেতিয়া দিয়া হৈছে আৰু কেতিয়া Audit সম্পূৰ্ণ হব ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister) : এই বছৰ কৰিবলৈ দিয়া হৈছে, কেতিয়া সম্পূৰ্ণ হব কোৱা টান।

Shri MAHANANDA BORA : চৰকাৰে কিছুমান ঠাইতহে Marketing Society কৰিছে যিবিলাক ঠাইত কৰিছে সেই ঠাইবিলাকত খেতিয়কে দাম আদিও কমকৈ পায় আৰু পোৱাত বহুত বেমেজালীও হয়। সেই কথাটোৰ চৰকাৰে কি চিন্তা কৰিছে ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA : এই বিষয়ে মাননীয় সদস্যই জনালে তদন্ত কৰিম।

Shri HIRALAL PATWARI : Marketing Society ৰ জৰিয়তে ধান কিনাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰাৰ পিচত ধানৰ উৎপাদন যে কমি গৈছে চৰকাৰে জানেনে ?

Re: Increase of remuneration of Gaonburas

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked :

146. Will the Revenue Minister be pleased to state -

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Gaonburas have made several representations regarding increase of their remuneration ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that the Gaonburas having temple lands only do not get any remission of land revenue and thus they do not get any remuneration at all ?

(c) What is the average amount a Gaonbura gets as remuneration annually ?

(e) Whether the office of Gaonbura is necessary ?

(f) If so, whether Government propose to consider revision of the remuneration of the Gaonburas ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS, (Minister, Revenue) replied :

146. (a)—Yes.

(b) & (c)—Yes. Gaonburas who hold lands only as tenants under temples cannot get any remission of land revenue from Government. Gaonburas are granted an annual remission of Land Revenue for 20 bighas of best quality Khiraj lands held by them under the Government.

Other amenities to Gaonburas are as follows:—

(1) There is instruction to Local Officers for allotment of waste lands where available for Gaonburas who do not hold economic holdings.

(2) There is provision of Goldrings to be awarded to the best Gaonburas annually. The number of such reward has been increased from 24 to 44 for the whole State.

(3) Gaonburas are exempted from payment of ferry tolls while travelling on duty.

(4) They are granted free Medical treatment to the extent admissible to the State Government Servants.

(5) They are allowed cost of maintenance of notice Board at Rs.2 per annum per Gaonbura.

(e)—The office of Gaonbura will continue to be necessary till the duties entrusted to it are transferred to some other authority, *i. e.*, Gaon panchayats, etc.

(f)—The matter is under examination.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East): Sir, whether in the list of amenities, in regard to (1) the amenities proposed for allotment of waste lands to Gaonburas are only in paper and have not been implemented by the District Officers?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): If specific instances are supplied to me I shall make enquiry.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): গাওঁবুঢ়াবিলাকৰ লৰা-ছোৱালীক বিনা মাছুলে পঢ়িবপৰা যিটো কথা, সেইটো চৰকাৰে এতিয়া বিবেচনা কৰিবনে?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: সেইটো বাজহ বিভাগৰ জনা নাই, শিক্ষা বিভাগেহে কৰ পাৰিব।

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur): Sir, In regard to replies to question (b) and (c) যিসকল গাওঁবুঢ়াই দেৱালয়ৰ মাটি ভোগ কৰি আছে—সেইসকলে প্রজাস্বত্ব আইনৰ আমোলত থকা অন্যান্য গাওঁবুঢ়াসকলৰ নিচিনা remuneration ভোগ কৰিব পৰা নাই। গতিকে চৰকাৰে সেই গাওঁবুঢ়াসকলক আগৰ নিচিনা remuneration দিয়া কথাটো প্রশ্নোত্তৰ (f) ত কোৱাৰ নিচিনা বিবেচনা কৰিবনে?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: এই সকলোবিলাক কথা ইতিপূৰ্বেই বিবেচনা কৰা হৈছে, আৰু আনৰ প্ৰাপ্য remission দিব নোৱাৰিব। সেইটো পুনৰ বিবেচনা কৰিব পৰা নেযায়।

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY: Whether Government propose to extend the facility of exemption as in respect of Ferry Ghat in the State Transport Buses also?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): They do not get that advantage now; and if the Transport Department agree, I have no objection.

Shri MAHADEB DAS [Barpeta (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]: যিবিলাক গাওঁবুঢ়াৰ ২০ বিঘা মাটি নাই তেওঁলোকক ২০ বিঘা মাটি দিয়া কথাটো Revision of Remuneration ৰ সময়ত বিবেচনা কৰিবনে?

Shri HIRALAL PATWARI (Panery): প্রশ্নোত্তৰ (b) (c) ৰ (5) ত কৈছে যে Notice Board ৰ কাৰণে প্ৰতি গাওঁবুঢ়াক বছৰি ২০ টকাটক দিছে; যিবিলাক গাওঁবুঢ়াই এতিয়াওপোৱা নাই, সেইবিলাকক এতিয়া দিবনে?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): এইটো যিবিলাকে পোৱা নাই তেওঁলোকে আগতে পাব লাগিছিল, আমি ইতিপূৰ্বেই নিৰ্দেশ দিছিলো।

Establishment of a Film Studio in Assam

Shri PHANI BORA (Nowgong) asked :

147. Will the Minister-in-charge of Publicity be pleased to state—

(a) What Government have done to help development of Theatres and the Film Industry in Assam ?

(b) Wh-ther Government propose to take up a scheme to establish one Film Studio in Assam and one modern theatre stage in each of the district towns, during the 3rd Five Year Plan ?

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

147. (a)—By participating in the dramatic performances in the Summer Drama Festivals in New Delhi and by staging of dramas in the neighbouring States in accordance with an All-India scheme, impetus is provided for development of theatres.

Besides, ten open-air theatres are being established in rural areas in the following places—

- (1) Hatbar in Kalibar N. E. S. Block.
- (2) Totoya in Majuli, Stage I or II Development Block.
- (3) Hailakandi Development (Stage I) Block.
- (4) Rani in Rani Development Block Stage I.
- (5) Surabhi Sangha, Kokoya, Kamrup.
- (6) Chapar Stage I Block in Goalpara District.
- (7) West Nalbari Anchalik Panchyat in Kamrup District (Kaihati Dramatic Club).
- (8) Biswanath Stage I Block in Darrang District.
- (9) Sibsagar Stage I Block in Sibsagar District.
- (10) Badarpur Stage I Block in Cachar District, with Central Assistance at Rs.1500.00 nP. each.

The State Government have also been giving assistance to the Assam Sangeet Natak Academy for development of dance drama, and music in the State.

By helping private Producers, when such help is sought for, in production of their feature films, and by taking steps to establish well-equipped Film Studio near Gauhati, incentive is provided for development of film industry in Assam. Government granted exemption of amusement tax in films of cultural importance.

(b)—Government have already taken up the work of establishing a Film Studio in outskirts of Gauhati. It will be a full-fledged and self-contained one during the Third Plan period.

Government are also taking steps to establish one modern Theatre at Gauhati with Central assistance in corroboration with the Rabindra Nath Tagore Centenary.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA (Gauhati): With regard to (a) it has been replied that Government have participated in the dramatic performances in the Summer Drama Festivals in New Delhi and by staging of drama in the neighbouring States in accordance with an All-India scheme, impetus is provided for development of theatres. May I know whether by this reply "Government" means the Council of Ministers or the entire Government machinery?

(There was laughter in the house)

Regarding Kahilipara Refugee Colony

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA (Gauhati) asked:

148. Will the Minister-in-charge of Rehabilitation be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the Government is aware that owing to a negligible amount of loan (Rs. 1,400) granted to the allottees of 'C' class housing of the Kahilipara Refugee Colony, the allottees could not finish construction of their houses?
- (b) Whether the Government proposed to enhance the loan so that the 'C' class houses are completed?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that there is dearth of water in the colony, and whether the Government has abandoned the project of building water supply tank in the colony?
- (d) What arrangement the Government wants to make for the education of the refugee children of the colony, and whether it will be possible to arrange transport for carrying children to town for prosecuting their studies?
- (e) What the Government proposes to do for the medical facilities and other civic amenities for the inhabitants of the colony?

Shri SAI SAI TERANG (Parliamentary Secretary-in charge, Relief and Rehabilitation) replied:

148. (a)—Government are not aware that the 'C' type houses could not be completed with an amount of Rs. 1,400 if the construction was made according to the standard specification laid down by the R. & R. Engineering Division.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—The Government have no information that there is dearth of water in the colony. All the ringwells meant for the colony have been constructed and there is no project of building water supply tank in the colony.

(d)—Government are going to establish a Primary School for the children of the colonists. The construction of the school building is being completed by the end of the current month. The High School and College students may take advantage of the institutions outside the colony. There is every possibility of a regular city bus service operating from the colony to the town as soon as a good number of displaced persons settle in the colony.

(e)—As the colony is at a distance of about 2 miles only from the town, the displaced persons can take advantage of the Medical facilities available from the Civil Hospital in the town. Moreover, Government are considering to assist the Municipal Board at Gauhati to put up a dispensary at Bishnupur to serve the needs of the displaced persons in the entire Fatasil, Bishnupur and Kahilipara areas. Other civic amenities will come from the respective sources, *viz.*, the Municipal Board and the Electricity Board when the Colony develops into a township.

Regarding Requisition and allotment of 375 bighas of land of Green Wood Tea Estate.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) asked :

149. Will the Minister-in-charge of Revenue be pleased to refer to Memo. No. RLQ. 43/59/11 dated 10th November, 1959 issued by the Under-Secretary to the Government of Assam, Revenue Department and state—

- (a) Whether 375 bighas of land has since been requisitioned as promised in reply to sub-question (2) of question No. 339 of Green Wood Tea Estate ?
- (b) If so, when it was requisitioned and whether allotment has been made ?
- (c) If not, what are the difficulties of the Revenue Officers, Dibrugarh for taking quick action in the interest of flood affected and landless people ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :

149. (a)—Not yet.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—To consider the question of desirability of requisitioning 575B. 1K. 3L. of land of F.S. Grant No. 4 under dag No.232(Pt.) at Kundulibari belonging to Green Wood T. E. Co. Ltd., the Manager, Green Wood T. E. was asked to submit the return on utilisation of land in his Grant. The Manager has not yet submitted the return in spite of repeated reminders. The Deputy Commissioner will however put up the case in the next meeting of the Land Settlement Advisory Board for final decision.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) : Sir, a promise for requisition of land for the erosion affected people was made in reply to a question during Budget Session of 1959. Here the reply has been given "not yet." Then why there is delay of over 2 years in fulfilling that promise made by the Government ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : Providing land to the erosion affected people is one thing but taking land from tea garden is completely a different thing. If land is to be taken from the tea gardens a separate procedure has to be followed. Subsequent to the replies given there was a Gentleman's Agreement according to which the Garden is entitled to twice the land occupied by tea. Accordingly returns were asked for from the gardens, some gardens have submitted returns and some have not. Reminders were given. In that way delay has occurred.

Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : Whether this Gentleman's Agreement was fortuitous or on the basis of some requirements ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : Requirement is there ; but because we require we cannot take another man's land ; the Tea Industry also cannot be injured. But it may be that some tea industry possess land beyond their necessity. So this Agreement was entered into.

Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Sir, my question was whether Government made any assessment about the requirements of a particular tea garden, that is to say, as to what percentage of land in fallow state should be there for a tea garden in addition to the area which is already under tea ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : An Agreement means two parties—Government is one, and the Garden owners another party. So we wanted co-operation of the garden owners and we wanted to take them into confidence as to how much land they possess in excess of the actual requirements. So when the returns will be received, the Government, *i.e.*, the other party, will examine the same.

Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : My question has not been replied. My question was whether the Government made any assessment about the requirements of the percentage of fallow land in a tea Estate in addition to the land which is already under tea.

Shri HARESWAR DAS : How Government can make that assessment ?

Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : By proper investigation. May I know whether Government made any such investigation ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : In making investigation Government has taken the owners themselves into confidence.

Mr. SPEAKER : His question is whether Government have set up a machinery to assess the requirements.

Shri HARESWAR DAS : Government have no machinery to assess,

Shri MOHIKANTA DAS (Barchalla): Whether the returns submitted by the tea gardens are examined and verified from the Governments side by any machinery?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): Yes, returns are examined.

Shri BISWANATH UPADHAYA (Patharkandi): Whether it is the policy of the Government to reserve a certain percentage of the requisitioned tea garden land for allotment of the same to the retrenched tea garden labourers. If so, what is the percentage?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: That is a policy followed in Cachar district that when some land from tea garden is taken, fifty per cent goes to the tea gardens' unattached labourers and fifty per cent to others.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): Sir, when there was a Gentleman's Agreement, and we find that Managers did not respond in spite of repeated reminders, then what are the measures Government is taking to make them to reply for the question.

Shri HARESWAR DAS: Then the procedure is that the Deputy Commissioner will follow the ordinary course. Land Settlement Advisory Board's meeting is called, the Manager is also called there and a decision is taken. The Deputy Commissioner has informed that since the garden did not respond he would put this matter in the next Land Settlement Advisory Board's Meeting.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi): It is a fact that the Director Land Record made an assessment of the available waste land a few years back and submitted report to Government.

Shri HARESWAR DAS: We have no such report.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARI (Panery): চৰকাৰে জানেনে যে কিছুমান বাগানত বহুদিনৰ পৰা কাম কৰি থকা বনুৱাক এতিয়া মেনেজাৰসকলে খেদাই দিবলৈ ব্যবস্থা কৰিছে?

Regarding exemption from land revenues of Pattadars for the land acquired for construction of embankment of Puthimari river

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked:

150. Will the Revenue Minister be pleased to state -

(a) Whether the pattadars have been exempted from paying the land revenue for the lands acquired for construction of embankment of Puthimari river?

(b) Whether the amount realised from them during these years from 1954 as land revenue has been refunded?

(c) Whether Government have completed the examination of this matter said to be under examination of the Government in reply to unstarred Question No. 116 asked by the Questioner in the Budget Session of the Assembly in 1958?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied:

150. (a)—Not yet.

(b)—Not yet.

(c)—Yes. Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers have been instructed not to charge Land Revenue from the pattadars in respect of lands possession of which has already been taken over by P. W. D. for E. and D. purposes. As regards land revenue already collected for these lands, it will be refunded on completion of the acquisition cases.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHAUDHURY (Nalbari-East): Whether Government are not responsible for the gross negligence in acquiring the lands of the embankments since 1954, thereby debarring the pattadars of the relief of remission of land revenue?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): We have already replied that without any proceedings land was taken and that is not irregular I admit that, but the amount realised will be returned and instructions have been issued not to realise further.

Regarding re-settlement in Goalpara district

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

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

(a) Whether Government is aware that many people are greatly disappointed after the result of re-settlement on the District of Goalpara due to corrupt practice of the field employees in the settlement?

(b) If so, what steps Government are taking to redress the grievances?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Revenue Minister) replied:

151. (a)—Government are not aware of general disappointment of the people of Goalpara district.

(b)—Whenever any instance of corrupt practices is brought to the notice of Government enquiry is made and if necessary disciplinary action is taken against the delinquent.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj): চৰকাৰৰ ওচৰত আৰু মিনিষ্টাৰৰ ওচৰতো ব্যক্তিগতভাবে, সমজুৱাকৈ আৰু বিভিন্ন অনুষ্ঠানৰ জৰিয়তে re-settlement সম্বন্ধে গোৱালপাৰাত হোৱা বেমেজালিৰ কথা আবেদন-নিবেদন কৰি থকা হৈছে। চৰকাৰে তাৰ কিবা ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছেনে?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: আবেদন-নিবেদন কৰিছে। কিন্তু আবেদন শুনাৰ procedure আছে। সেই কাৰণে সেইবোৰ চেটেলমেন্ট অফিচাৰলৈ পঠায় দিয়া হয়।

Regarding Political sufferers in Assam and the number who received state help from 1958 to 1960

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) asked :

152. (a) What is the total number of applications received from the political sufferers in the different districts of Assam (please give the figures district-wise) ?
- (b) How many of those political sufferers have been given help and in what form (please give the figure district-wise) ?
- (c) Whether Government will be pleased to lay on the table a list of political sufferers district-wise who have been given help during the years 1958-60 ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, in-charge, Political sufferers) replied :

152. (a)—Applications have been received from political sufferers since 1948. It is, therefore, not possible to give the total number of applications so far received from the political sufferers during the last 12 years since 1948.

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

(c)—A list is placed on the Library table.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : In regard to (c) whether the hon'ble Minister will enquire into the cases of those political sufferers whose list was submitted by me ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA : Yes, Sir, the list submitted was sent to the respective District Advisory Boards for their recommendation.

Mr. SPEAKER : The list submitted by Mr. Goswami has been sent to the respective District Advisory Boards for their recommendation.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : When was the list sent ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, in-charge, Political Sufferers) : I cannot give the date, Sir, but I have sent the list immediately after the hon'ble Member sent those names.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : Will the Deputy Minister take steps to expedite a decision on this matter ?

Shri BISWADEV SARMA : Yes, Sir.

Regarding total receipt and expenditure of Forest Department each year since 1957 up to January 1961.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) asked :

153. Will the Minister, Forest be pleased to state—

(a) The total receipt and expenditure of Forest Department each year since 1957 upto January, 1961?

(b) What is the total Forest Reserve area in Assam State ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Forests) replied:

153. (a)—The total receipt and expenditure are as below—

Year	Receipt		Expenditure	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1957-58	1,08,59,659		85,95,428	
1958-59	1,25,17,778		91,59,581	
1959-60	1,52,72,579		1,09,24,426	
1960-61	81,84,728		78,36,174	

(upto December, 1960).

(b)—6,247 sqr. Miles.

Regarding construction of a Forest road from Kahitoma to Matharguri

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDER (Sorbhog) asked :

154. Will the Minister in-charge of Forest be pleased to state:—

(a) Whether Government propose to consider the necessity of constructing a forest road from Kahitoma to Matharguri for proper supervision of works ?

(b) If so, when the works of construction of this road will start ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Forests) replied:

154. (a)—No. From the forest point of view there is no need for direct communication between these two places.

(b)—Does not arise.

Regarding maintenance of quarters of Kahitoma Forest Office and the Construction of a Rest house at Kahitoma.

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDER (Sorbhog) asked :

155. Will the Minister in-charge of Forests be pleased to state—

(a) Why quarters of the Kahitoma Forest Office are not maintained well ?

(b) Why a rest house has not yet been constructed at Kahitoma up till now ?

(c) Why a bridge has not yet been constructed over the 'Dong' near the Kahitoma Forest Office to go to the Forest Office there ?

(d) When it will be constructed ?

(e) Whether the Conservator of Forests visited this Office and if so, when ?

(f) If not, when will he visit this office ?

(g) Why the staff of this office has not been increased ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Forests) replied :

153. (a)—The quarters of the Kahitoma Forest Beat Officer are well maintained within the permissible standard.

(b)—Need for such rest house has not been felt. Inspection of the Kahitoma Forest Reserve by Forest Officers can be done conveniently, from Barpeta Road the Headquarters of the North Kamrup Division.

(c)—Because no complaints of any inconvenience for want of such a bridge has been received from either the staff or the public.

(d)—There is no proposal at present for construction of such a bridge.

(e)—The Conservator of Forests does not appear to have visited the Kahitoma Beat Office.

(f)—As soon as necessity would arise. A Head of the Department normally does not inspect Beat Offices.

(g)—The question of strengthening the staff of this Beat Office as well as other Beat Offices and Range Offices of this Division (N. K. Division) is under examination by the Conservator of Forests.

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR : Will the Government consider construction of a bridge over the Dong near the Kahitoma Forest Office ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): That is absolutely for the Forest Department, Sir. If the Forest Department feels the necessity, it will do it, otherwise not.

Mr. SPEAKER: But that is a public utility concern also and that also has to be considered.

Shri HARESWAR DAS: Public utility is secondary, Sir.

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDER (Sorbhog): When the proposal for increase of staff will be finalised ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: I cannot give the date, Sir.

Re: Procedure of Consolidated system of placing indent of medicines on State level supply

Shri PROBHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari) asked:

156. Will the Medical Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government is aware that when formerly respective dispensaries used to indent medicine directly the poor people used to get supply of medicine timely ?

(b) Whether Government is aware that after introduction of the procedure of consolidated system of placing indent of medicine of state level supply of medicine to dispensaries has become very irregular ?

(c) Whether Government propose to revert to the former system of placing indent of medicine district-wise ?

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

156. (a)—The dispensaries never used to indent medicine directly. The people have been getting supply of medicine under the previous and present system.

(b)—No.

(c)—Not at present.

***Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY:** Do Government know that when the indent was made districtwise, it was swifter and quicker to get the supply of medicines, and now that it was done in the Directorate, there is unnsuale delay in supplying medicines ?

***Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY (Minister, Industries):** So far as interim situation is concerned, that is so.

***Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East) :** Will the Government consider the question of switching over to the system of indenting medicine districtwise ?

***Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY (Minister, Industries) :** I think the matter is not very clear. Because, so far as my information goes, 75 per cent of the medicine is still being indented according to the old pattern and only 25 per cent of medicine which was being directly placed orders by the district officers has been now brought through the Directorate here. So, there is only partial absence.

***Shri RAM NATH SARMA (Lumding) :** Whether this 25 per cent is procured by local purchase or indented from outside ?

***Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY :** Local purchase is a technical term which means purchases in Bombay and Calcutta also.

***Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY :** Will the Hon'ble Minister enquire if I say that what the Minister has said is not correct and that the medicines are supplied from Shilleng ?

***Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY :** May I explain the position Sir, ? The position is this that so far as the bulk of the medicine about 75 per cent of the medicine is concerned, for that indent is given by the district officers and it is countersigned here and sent on to the Medical Stores at Calcutta for supply. This was the position in the past also. So far as 25 per cent is concerned, formerly orders used to have been placed by district officers directly for local purchase, meaning purchases from Calcutta and Bombay also. That has now been centralised and purchases are made through the purchase Board. The Board sanctions and then the list is sent to the districts and orders are placed.

***Shri RAM NATH SARMA (Lumding) :** My question, Sir, concerns local purchase. The Minister, Medical, always made local purchases within the State and therefore according to the terms used by the Minister, Medical himself, local purchase means purchases within the State.

Mr. SPEAKER : Local purchases is a technical term and the Hon'ble Minister has already replied to that. Therefore unless he makes it clear as to what does the hon. Member actually mean about local purchase, it is difficult for the Minister to reply also. Therefore, I request the hon. Members to avoid such terms to save us from any insinuation.

***Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY :** Will the Minister enquire that many of the dispensaries and hospitals are now suffering for want of medicines ?

***Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY :** That is true, Sir.

***Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery) :** What arrangements Government are making for supply of medicine to those dispensaries ?

***Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY (Minister, Industries):** We are taking urgent steps to expedite supplies and for future arrangements are being made. The Principal of the Medical College will also be here and the future method of purchase will be finalised.

***Shri MAHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla):** Sir, is it a fact that apart from purchases for different hospitals and dispensaries, there has been Central purchase system also ?

***Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY :** Sir, the Central Purchase Board is a new creation and because it came in the middle, therefore this difficulty arises. I do not think this difficulty will arise in future. From the beginning of the year, the Medical Department will settle purchases through tenderers and then the list will be circulated every Subdivision, and in that case, the Civil Surgeons would be in a position to place orders.

***Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East) :** Do Government propose to delegate the powers of the Director of Health Services in the matter of purchase of medicines, etc., to the Doctors of the Regional Health Services ?

***Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY:** No such contemplation is there.

Re: Promotion of Licentiates Assistant Surgeon II of more than 10 years service to Assistant Surgeon I

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

157. Will the Medical Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the Medical Licentiates in service as Assistant Surgeon II serving for more than 10 years are going to be promoted to the Grade Assistant Surgeon I ?
- (b) If not, what are the difficulties in doing so ?
- (c) Whether Government propose to reconsider the question of Unification of Grades of Assistant Surgeon II and Assistant Surgeon I ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Medical Minister) replied :

157. (a)—No.

(b)—Scale of pay of Assistant Surgeon II has been raised by Government in 1956 as per recommendation of the Pay Committee. Their promotion quota has been made double in 1957.

(c)—Not for the present in view of (b) above.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): In regard to (b), whether it is a fact that the total number of promotion of both Medical and Public Health Departments was 17 before amalgamation and after amalgamation, the number was increased to only 18 which has been shown to the persons of Medical Department as double as well as to persons of the Public Health Department as double whereas the net increase was only one. On 17 it was made 18 only. Whether the Minister-in-charge will make an enquiry and examine the matter whether my suggestion is correct ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY (Minister, Industries) : Certainly, Sir.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : Sir, in reply to (a), whether the Minister-in-charge is aware of the fact that Government of India have accepted the policy of promoting these medical licentiates after 10 years' service to Assistant Surgeon Grade I ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY : I have no information, Sir.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : Whether he will try to have the information collected ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHY : Yes, Sir.

Adjournment Motion re: rising price of sugar in Gauhati

Mr. SPEAKER : I have received notice of an Adjournment Motion from Shri Gauri Sankar Bhattacharyya and Shri Tarun Sen Deka regarding the rising prices of sugar in Gauhati, but before I come to a decision on this motion I want to hear from the hon. member Shri Bhattacharyya as to whether this matter is of recent occurrence.

Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : Sir, I had been to Gauhati day before yesterday and immediely on my arrival there, I was met by a number of peopole and was told that all on a sudden there has been a rise in the price of sugar. I approached some of the retail dealers and they said that this is so because an artificial scarcity has been created by the wholesalers. I had not much time.....

Mr. SPEAKER : I want to satisfy myself that this is a matter of recent occurrence.

Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : I am coming to that Sir. As I said, I came back day before yesterday and again yesterday I received some telegrams from Gauhati that the situation far from easing

has during the last 24 hours worsened and therefore, there has been from yesterday morning a great consternation among the poor consumer because of this rise particularly in view of the fact that the Idd festival as also the Bihu festival are coming soon. It is at this time that the poorest of the poor also want a grain of sugar. I am satisfied Sir, that only during the last few days some unscrupulous profiteers have created an artificial scarcity so that taking advantage of this scarcity of sugar they can raise the price to an abnormal height and thereby squeeze the ordinary consumer. I am also satisfied that in this matter there is some connivance on the part of the Supply Department and therefore, I feel that this august House should take note of this situation as it is a matter of urgent public importance and it is also a matter of very recent occurrence as it has come out only during the last two or three days and it has created a lot of resentment in the minds of the public. I may also add here, Sir, that Gauhati controls, so to say, the entire sugar market of Assam so the scarcity which has been created at Gauhati from day before Yesterday will pervade the entire State and will create an acute situation in the whole State. So this is a matter of extreme public importance and urgency. I therefore, submit that my motion be accepted.

Mr. SPEAKER : Mr. Ahmed.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance) : Mr. Speaker Sir, notice of this Adjournment Motion was given to me only about 40 or 45 minutes ago when I tried to ascertain the correct position. I learn from one of our officers, who is in-charge of this work, that he was in contact with the Deputy Commissioner, Gauhati, only yesterday but the Deputy Commissioner of Gauhati did not bring to his notice that the price of sugar had risen. What however, the Deputy Commissioner pointed out to him was that there was likelihood a big demand for sugar in Gauhati on account of the Idd and Bihu festivals. On learning of this demand the officer has arranged for transport of about 150 tons of sugar from our Dergaon Sugar Mill which will be brought by trucks. It is expected that this sugar will reach Gauhati in a day or so. In addition to this some quota which is available and which can be released from other places has also been placed at the disposal of the Deputy Commissioner, Gauhati. In this connection however, I may inform the House that our sugar quota for the month of February has not yet reached here because of difficulties in securing the requiring number of wagons. As soon as this matter was brought to our notice we have taken up the question with the Government of India and we expect that this bottle-neck will also be removed very soon. After we are able to get our quota for the month of February, which has been held up in various places on account of shortage of wagons there will be no shortage. That Sir, is the only information I can place before the House. In view of the fact that we have already taken necessary steps to meet the demand at Gauhati, I do not think there will be any scarcity of sugar in that area. I shall also instruct the Department concerned to be vigilant and to see that those dealing in sugar are not permitted to take undue advantage.

Mr. SPEAKER : I quite agree with Shri Bhattacharyya that the matter is of great public importance but I am sorry, I cannot agree with him that it is of recent occurrence because in the course of the debate on the Governor's Address and also in the course of the Budget discussions the question of rising prices of essential commodities was discussed and even

Shri Bhattacharyya himself was of the opinion that the situation was deteriorating day by day. But this tendency of rising prices is not confined to sugar alone but to other essential commodities also. I therefore, fail to agree with Shri Bhattacharyya that this is a matter of recent occurrence. Again, as the Finance Minister has said on behalf of the Government that they have taken necessary steps to remove the bottle-neck and remove the scarcity condition of sugar caused by non-availability of the February quota and also by making arrangements for transport of sugar from the Dergaon Mill. Besides, the Finance Minister has said that he has taken steps and has advised the Deputy Commissioner, Gauhati to take necessary steps that the price of sugar is stabilised. So, in view of all this I cannot hold that this matter is of recent occurrence. At the same time, it be the desire of hon. members of this House as has been revealed from the discussions during the last few days that the Government should take adequate steps so that the prices of essential commodities can be stabilised. I hope the Government and the Minister in-charge will take steps to see that the people are not put to any difficulty on this score. It was also revealed from the speech of the hon. Member, Shri Bhattacharyya that on the every important festival such as Bihu, Idd and Christmas there is a tendency on the part of some unscrupulous traders at profiteering, it is the duty of the Government to see how this can be effectively checked.

With these words I rule this motion out of order I put it to the hon. members, Shri Bhattacharyya and Shri Deka that if they like they may table a separate motion to discuss this question of rising prices of essential commodities in our State.

Government reply to the general discussion of the Budget

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: (Finance Minister):**
Mr. Speaker, Sir, including two of my hon'ble colleagues in the Cabinet as many as 56 hon. Members have taken part in the discussion of the Budget. That only indicates the interest which the hon. Members have shown in the matter of the development of the State. In course of their discussions they have also given their suggestions to the Government. Sir, I am grateful to them for the various observations which they have made.

The Budget presented by me has been described by some as a Mahajani Budget ; by some as static budget ; by others as a stagnant budget. My friend from Gauhati went to the extent of saying that it has followed the pattern of the budget presented by the Government of India. This has been contradicted by my friend the hon'ble Leader of the Opposition saying that my budget has not followed the trend of India's budget. In this way various views have been expressed and I submit, Sir, so far as I am concerned and the Government are concerned, we do not mind in the least the criticisms or the suggestions which the hon. Members have to offer. But as I have said, Sir, that if any of the observations or criticisms is of the nature which is not indicative of continuous urge for improvement and development but only made for the purpose of some extraneous matters on account of the elections or on account of other factors, then

I submit, Sir, that detracts the value of criticisms and suggestions. That is neither helpful to the House nor to the Government nor is it good in the interest of the development of the country. From this point of view I shall take the various observations which have been made by the hon. Members in this House.

Sir, many general observations and many specific suggestions have been given by the various hon. Members who have participated in the discussion of the budget. I shall within an hour and 15 minutes try to deal with the general observations first and then if time permits I shall deal with the specific points raised by the hon. Members. But I may tell the hon. Members that if on account of shortage of time if it is not possible for me to deal with any of the item specifically raised by them, I shall have their suggestions sent to the departments concerned for taking necessary action.

Now, Sir, I shall first come to the observations made by my hon. Friend from Gauhati. He was the first speaker to initiate the discussion and I will deal first with his observations. I must confess that he has placed certain aspects of the question before the House which has enabled me to clear a number of difficulties of viewpoints which have not been understood by the hon. Members of this House. Sir, however, I was surprised when he tried to minimise the increase in the national income by illustrating the example of four persons travelling in a car; that is actually one person using the car the *per capita* rate of consumption is one for three persons who did not use it at all. Sir, I was really surprised because I am the last person to believe that my friend does not understand the implications when we give the national income or *per capita* income by quoting these figures. It is never intended that the *per capita* income arrived at in a particular year is the income derived by each and every individual in the State. It only indicates what is the *per capita* income. There may be in the State several people who are not earning at all; several people earning much less than that and others earning much more than that. The *per capita* income does not indicate the income derived by each and every person. The *per capita* income is arrived at by calculating the income of the State or the country and dividing it by the population. How, therefore, to belittle or to say that even though some rise has been indicated in my speech with regard to the national income or *per capita* income, it does not take us any far in the same way it does not take any far to say that our State has not all benefited the various investments or developmental programme undertaken by the Government. I submit, Sir, this is entirely wrong. We have to do these things not merely by assertions but on the basis of facts and figures. Not only the hon. Member from Gauhati but many hon. Members who took part in the discussion here made sweeping remarks that during that last 10 years this State of ours has not made any improvement—the condition of the people has remained stagnant and we are stationary and no benefits have been derived by the people at all. I submit, Sir, all these were mere assertions no facts and figures were cited by any of the hon. Members to indicate or to support their assertions. Now with regard to those things I would like to place certain facts and figures before the House and leave the matter to be judged by this House and the people outside whether there has been any progress or not during the past 10 years.

Sir, it is true that in order realise and appreciate the impact of the increase in the national income on the welfare of the people, it is necessary to ascertain how the increased income is distributed. At present neither the Government of India nor we have any machinery to collect and furnish any concrete figures how the increased income has been distributed among the different classes of the people. Recently however a decision has been taken to imitiate such a kind of study at the level of the National Development Council and a high-power committee consisting of Professor P. C. Mahalanobis, Rangachari, V. K. B. Rao and P. S. Methu has been set up for this purpose.

Though we have no machinery to collect these figures yet we have or we can know from the trend and indication and it is possible for us to ascertain whether the distribution of the increased income has been desirable or undesirable or has been favourable or unfavourable to the agriculturist and the people in the low-income groups. Now, Sir, between 1950-51 and 1958-59 the National income of India in real terms increased by 2,840 crores of rupees, and out of this 1,240 crores of rupees or 44 per cent came from the agricultural sector. Income person engaged in agriculture rose from 433 in 1950-51 to Rs.503 in 1958-59, *i. e.*, by 16 per cent. The State National income of Assam, as the hon. Members are aware, and I have indicated in my budget speech, rose by 17.5 crores between 1950-51 and 1958-59 and 30.5 per cent. of this increase represents contribution of Agriculture. State National income per person engaged in agriculture in Assam rose from Rs.520 in 1950-51 to Rs.537 in 1958-59, *i. e.*, by about 3.3 per cent. Over a decade of planning in India both agriculture and industry have been growing more or less symmetrically. The growth rate of income from these sectors has been about 3.5 per cent. every year. Therefore, the agricultural sector receives equal share and in Assam the agricultural income has kept pace with the increased National income as is borne out by the parity ratio between the price received and price paid by the farmers. Since 1950 the parity index, except in 1955 when the prices fell down, has been consistently above par, showing that the trend of farm income has definitely been in favour of the agriculturists. With the abolition of permanent settlement and other land reform legislations concentration of rural income in the hands of a few has also been avoided. It can safely be assumed that the increased income from agriculture has evenly been distributed amongst the different sectors. However, Sir, the rural income is subject to taxation to a lesser extent compared to increased urban income. Study in this line reveals that only 14 to 15 per cent of the increased rural income subject to taxation as against 40 per cent in the case of urban counterpart. Except only in few districts where resettlement operations have been completed, land revenue remains the same as they were three decades ago.

In regard to development plans of Assam, Hon'ble members are aware that large funds, greater part of which came from urban area and Agricultural labourers, are being spent in the rural areas. As for the Committee, 1956-57, reveal that income from Agricultural Labour during 1956-57 was higher than that realised during 1950-51 except in U. P., Rajasthan, Bihar, West Bengal and Kerala, which were affected by climatic factors during that year. According to the same committee the

income from occupation was higher in 1956-57 in the States of West Bengal, Orissa, Assam, Andhra, Madras, Kerala, Bombay and Mysore. Therefore, Sir, excepting the superficial observations made by the Hon'ble members, no facts and figures have been indicated that agriculturists have not been benefited during the past decades and the facts mentioned by me do not support the observations made in this connection by the Hon'ble members.

Coming to the non-agriculturist and the low income group the available indications are that people of this group also gained from the increased national income over the past 10 years. The average rates have kept on rising and have outstripped the rate of increase in the reduction of income. Even the lower grade employees in Government and private sector underwent periodical upward revision between 1950 to 1958. *Per capita* earnings of factory workers, a representative of the group of which data are available, increased by 53 per cent as against 40 per cent increase in the national income. In the industrial sector in the case of Assam, while factory employment increased by about 6 per cent during 1951-57, the average earning was also doubled during the same period. Similarly is the case with the tea gardens workers whose income also increased by 70 per cent between 1951-57. I have no hesitation in saying however that a part of the increased wage income is taken up by direct tax and rise in price. But indirect tax and price rise affects all income groups. On the other hand, high incomes are being mopped up through progressive direct taxes and taxation on consumption of luxury goods, which fact is known to the members.

In fact, one fundamental object of our National Planning is the reduction of the inequality of incomes, and various steps for reshuffling the incomes have been taken with a view to achieving this end. I submit, Sir, that neither the agriculturists nor the low-income groups have been denied the benefit of the increased national income. The benefits which we would like them more to agree to this class of people have, in fact, agreed, and this is as it should be, because of our acceptance of the objective for having a socialistic pattern of society.

Now, I would ask my Hon'ble friend particularly Mr. Patwari. I do not know if he has dissociated from that class who calls this Budget as Mahajani Budget, and whether after the figures are studied by him he will still hold his opinion that the Budget presented is a Mahajani Budget. Now, Sir, so far as the criticisms about national and *per capita* income and whether our agriculturist and persons of low-income groups have derived any benefit or not. One of the criticisms made by our hon. friend is that the increase of food production was very low under the Plans and it decreased from the level of 1956-57. They also complained about shortfall in expenditure as well as in target. They said that in spite of Embankment and Drainage Projects, agricultural production has not improved. Now, I beg to submit, Sir, that these observations also do not stand scrutiny of the facts and figures at my disposal which I would like to place them before this House in order to convince the hon. Members how wrong they are.

Sir, the target of additional food production was fixed at 3.82 tons of food-grains and this was revised again to 2.50 tons in 1958-59. It is

expected that this potentiality will be created and the potentiality created so far is as follows—

1956-57—57·00 thousand tons, 1957-58—55·4 thousand tons, 1958-59—37·77 thousand tons, 1959-60—50 thousand tons, 1960-61—71·23 thousand tons. The total comes to 257·27 thousand tons, as such it is expected that the revised estimate will be fully achieved and it is not correct for the hon. Members to say that this target will not be achieved by the end of the Second Five-Year Plan. But it is admitted that the protection potentiality could have been further improved. We could not do so because of certain difficulties which came in our way, and I need not again take the hon. Members' time in giving the various difficulties which stood in our way, particularly, during the last year, on account of the disturbances and famine and various other factors which hampered progress in this respect.

Sir, hon. Members have raised certain points regarding the yield per acre of paddy in the State as compared to other States of India. Assam stands third in the production of paddy per acre. In spite of this we are doing our best to increase the yield per acre by adopting various methods of scientific cultivation. The figures of last five years on the yield per acre are: 1956-57 was 948 pounds, in 1958-59 was 896 pounds, it went down due to severe flood in that year, 1959-60 it goes to 915 pounds and 1960-61 it went up to 1,032 pounds and in 1961-62 it went down to 932 pounds. This year's figure is a little lower which was due to heavy flood in the districts of Sibsagar and Cachar. But we have found out from our experiment that we are now touching roughly 1,100 pounds per acre on the average for the whole State. We are taking various steps to increase food production and we are concentrating our efforts on schemes for irrigation, fertilizers, improved seeds and so on and so forth. So, Sir, it is not correct to say that there has been no increase in our food production or that the yield of paddy per acre has deteriorated during these few years. Now, Sir, my hon. friend, the Leader of the Opposition has particularly criticised us for not doing well so far as the collection of taxes is concerned. My submission is that if he had been in possession of all these facts and figures, I am sure that he would not have made such an observation. I am just placing the statement before the hon. Members to show that so far as collection of taxes is concerned, there has been an increase from year to year.

Now, Sales-Tax in 1955-56 which was 1,19,88,000 rose to 1,45,91,000 in 1956-57, in 1957-58 to 1,60,31,000. Then it came down in 1958-59 for which I shall give the reason to the hon. Members just now, in 1959-60 it was 1,76,80,000. I shall inform the House that it is not a decrease because certain proportion of this is realised as an Excise Duty from the Central Government. Taking all these figures together, this will indicate increase in this respect. Now, the proceeds from the Sales-tax in 1956-57 was Rs. 12·56 thousands, in 1957-58—22·31 thousands and in 1958-59—21·00 thousands, 1959-60—15·27 thousands and for this decrease I shall give the reasons. Now, Petrol tax in 1955-56 it was 26·83 thousands, 1956-57—41·95 thousands and 1957-58—65·45 thousands, in 1958-59—69·22 thousands, 1959-60—74·33 thousands. Therefore, there has been a gradual increase from year to year.

Professions.—1955-56—Rs.8,10,000, 1956-57—8,57,000, 1957-58—9,25,000, 1958-59—9,35,000, 1959-60—10,07,000.

Amusement and Betting Tax.—1955-56—18.52 thousands, 1956-57—20.78 thousands, 1957-58—72.59 thousands, 1958-59—25.72 thousands, in 1959-60 it was 25.38 thousands.

Agricultural Income-tax.—1955-56 it was Rs.1,77,35,000, 1956-57—Rs.2,33,49,000, 1957-58—2,35,44,000, 1958-59—2,99,32,000 and 1959-60 it was 2,56,78,000.

Carriage Tax.—1955-56 it was at Rs.1,84,47,000, 1956-57—2,48,07,000, 1957-58—2,44,37,000, 1958-59 it was 2,70,52,000 and 1959-60 it was Rs.2,43,37,000.

Central Sales-tax.—In 1957-58 it was Rs.53,000, 1958-59 it was Rs.6,46,000 and in 1959-60 it was Rs.7,40,000. The total from all these receipts the hon. Members will please note is: In 1955-56 it was Rs.5,35,13,000, in 1956-57 it was Rs.7,83,07,000, in 1957-58 it was Rs.7,51,75,000, 1958-59 it was Rs.8,38,19,000 and in 1959-60 it was Rs.7,66,36,000.

Now, from the statements it will be noticed that during the three years from 1955-56 to 1957-58 collection of taxes showed a increase from year to year. This trend continued in the year 1958-59, except in the case of Sale-tax and Finance Sale-tax. For the purpose of examination we may considered these two Acts as one. As a matter of fact they are one—the incident of one tax being the last point and the other being the first point. the total tax revenue during the year 1955-56—Rs.1,98,18,000, 1957-58—Rs.1,57,80,000 and 1959-60—Rs.1,49,07,000. I want the hon. Members to realise that on 14th December 1957 the Sales-Tax on textile, sugar and tobacco was replaced by the additional excise duty. This account for about 70 lakhs. The replacement did not affect the tax revenue of the year 1957-58 but in the next year there was no collection of sales-tax on these items except an amount of 30 lakhs of rupees due for the first half of the previous year. If this fact is taken into consideration then it will be seen that the year 1959-60 did not register any fall in the income but an increase over the previous year. If from the revenue of 1958-59 amounting to Rs.1,57,80,000, 30 lakhs is deducted then it comes to Rs.1,27,80,000 while the realisation in the year 1959-60 was Rs.1,49,07,000 which means an increase and not decrease. The hon. Members are aware that books and periodicals have been exempted from Sale-tax with effect from 15th September 1959. So, considering all these things it will be seen that the decline in revenue cannot be ascribed to any unaccountable feature. It may be noted in this connection that we have received an additional excise duty of about one crore of rupees per year for the above mentioned periods.

Now, Sir so far as amusement and betting taxes are concerned, these taxes have shown steady increase from the year 1958-59. In the year 1958-59 a circus party came to our State and we got an additional revenue of Rs.60,000. In the year 1959-60 no circus party came and so we were deprived of the tax. The hon. Members may be aware that from various institutions a number of applications for exemption have been

received and I am really considering the question whether the exemption should be restricted because that will affect our receipt which is very necessary for the purpose of development schemes.

So far as the agricultural income-tax is concerned, this tax is very inelastic and if the produces do not increase the tax will remain the same. The collection of this tax is primarily from the profit of the tea industry. During the year 1958-59 the collection was good because in that year a good deal of arrears were realised. During the year 1959-60 the collection was 2 crores and 22 lakhs and upto December 1960, the collection was 2 crores and 39 lakhs. This was because of the fact that in that year the business in tea industry was good.

The carriage tax during the year 1959-60 decreased. This was for the reason that we suspended realisation of this tax in Cachar and Tripura and therefore, this has affected our realisation to the extent of 23 lakhs of rupees. When the total year to year variations are taken into account, it will be seen that tax revenue has increased from year to year and not decreased, as stated by my hon. Friend the Leader of the Opposition. But I am prepared to say that though there is no decline in collection of taxes there is considerable scope for intensification and the necessity to stop evasion of taxes. This is what the hon. Members mean. I consider it as a very useful suggestion and the Government will keep it in mind.

Now Sir, I must reply to the points raised by my hon. Friend, Shri Sangma lest he should feel that I have not replied to the various points raised by him. My hon. Friend has raised 3/4 matters in the course of his speech. In the first place he said that the interests of the hill people are not safe in the hands of this Government. In the second place he said that expenditure under Article 275 has been diverted by this Government for purposes other than the purpose for which this money was given by the Central Government.

***Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA [Phulbari (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]:** I said in certain cases.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance):** He said that Rs 8,00,000 has been diverted to the Kamakhya Temple road. He has also personally accused me of violating the Constitution. I have been accused in very plain words that I have violated the Constitution. He has also accused me for quoting incorrect figures in my budget speech. These are the four main points raised by my Friend, Shri Sangma.

***Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA:** And also for using grant under 275 as substitute.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** Yes, yes. I will deal with all these five points. Sir, I have not taken least offence so far as these observations are concerned. My friend is entitled to hold such opinion as he feels and I will only say that it is good because it has given me an opportunity to make our position clear, so far as I am concerned and so far as the Government is concerned.

Now, Sir, I will, first of all, take the charges which he has levelled against the Government and deal with the specific charges against me later on. Now, one of his charges is that the interest of the people in the Hills are not safe in the hands of this Government. I am really sorry, Sir, that in spite of best efforts and the best feelings which not only the Government but also the people of the Plains have towards the people in the Hills, such accusation should have been made. I feel, Sir, that what we did in the Mizo district at the time of their distress is an instance—is a proof, of our sincerity—of our desire, to help not on the basis of region or sector but help all such people who are affected by natural calamity.

***Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA [Phulbari (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] :** With your permission, Sir, I like to point out that I said that the interest of the people of the Hills is not safe for the following reasons—

- (i) That Article 275 Grant has been taken as major grant ;
- (ii) There is a case of diversion of Art. 275 fund for other purposes ; and
- (iii) The performance of the approved schemes has been very unsatisfactory.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance) :** I hope the hon. Member will have patience. I am coming to the points. I hope, I will not be disturbed with this kind of interference.

Sir, I will effectively deal with all the points not only by mere superficial assertion, but by facts and figures and will leave no doubt in the minds of the House that it has been the anxiety, not only of the Government but each and every member of this House that the backward people of our State to whatever area they may belong to, should be brought up to the level of other people in the State, and we should be there to help. Now, Sir, I will deal with all these points, and I was just pointing out that that is a proof as to how willingly not only the Government but also the people throughout the State, were coming forward with their helping hands to our suffering brethren in the Mizo district.

*** *Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA :** This was done elsewhere, in flood-affected areas also.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED :** Sir, I am glad that this opportunity has been given to me to indicate that it is not because I want to show the figures but because my friend has asked I have to give these figures, to indicate that whatever is possible has been done and will be done by this Government to help the people of the Hills.

Now, Sir, may I just place before this House certain facts and figures. The revenue derived from the Hill areas are—

						Rs.
1958-59	...	...	...	...	...	13,19,883
1959-60	...	...	...	...	...	18,52,002
1960-61	..	...	...	..	...	21,47,784

Sir, this is the receipt. Now let us see what is the expenditure.

***Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA [Phulbari (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]** : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would be satisfied if the Hon'ble Minister please give us the information as to how much amount was spent under normal budget, how much was spent in the general sector and planned programmes and how much under Article 275 Grant. The comparative statements of receipts and expenditure will be of no use. The receipts of Dibrugarh was much more than any other district but the expenditure for Gauhati would be much more than Dibrugarh. So, the comparative statements of receipts and expenditure will be of no use. I want a correct picture.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Sangma, the Hon'ble Minister has said that he will reply everything. My difficulty is that I can only request a Minister to give replies to questions raised by certain members of this House, but I cannot compel him to give replies; and as he has promised to give replies to all your queries made in the course of your discussing the Budget, I think you will be satisfied.

* **Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance)**: Sir, now I am giving the whole figure, *i.e.*, the total expenditure from our Fund. The revised figure is—

						Rs.
1958-59	..	...	...	...	...	5,47,46,000
1959-60	..	..	...	...	...	6,20,05,000
1960-61	...	...	...	..	...	7,09,08,000

Out of this, plan provision is—

			Rs.		Rs.
in 1959-60	...	...	2,16,78,000	and non-plan—	3,26,96,000
1960-61	...	...	2,00,63,000	,,	3,00,82,063

*Speech not corrected

Out of this, except the receipts which I have shown to the Hon'ble members, are derived from revenue of the State which are only a few lakhs. We received from Government of India for Famine Relief Fund in the year—

						Rs.
1959-60	...	...	...	...	...	9,17,000
1960-61	...	..	...	...	...	9,99,000

Then Grant-in-aid for border relief we got in—

1959-60	...	...	...	...	...	7,50,000
1960-61	...	..	...	...	..	1,00,00,000

We also got Grants-in-aid from the Centre for developing the autonomous districts under clause (b), second proviso to Art. 275 as follows—

						Rs.
1959-60	...	...	...	..	...	1,35,00,000
1960-61	...	...	..	...	..	1,80,00,000

Now, Sir, these are the only grants we received from the Government of India under Art.275.

* **Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA** [Phulbari (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: There is also a recurring grant of 40 lakhs of rupees.

* **Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance)**: Yes, I am just coming to that.

These are the only grants we got from the Government of India and the total receipt, and the Hon'ble Member can easily find out what impact it has on the revenue and inspite of this, the Hon'ble Member says that the Government does not do anything or it has spent nothing for the welfare of the people at which I am really surprised. Now, Sir, there is another factor which I would like to place before the House. I do not know why there is a confusion with regard to grants received under art. 275 or similar grants or aid which are received by us from the Central Government for the Five-Year Plans because the purposes of these is to grants is to help the State, or a particular area of the State for undertaking a programme, but ultimately the impact of such expenditure falls on the State. As I pointed out in my budget speech, whatever development programme we are undertaking during these last five years, the recurring expenditure, the impact of those programmes is to the extent of Rs. 4.3 crores which has become the recurring expenditure from the next year and out of this Rs. 4.3 crores even the grants which came under Art. 275

for the hill areas, over 50 lakhs of rupees have become a recurring expenditure of the State. There is no question of not doing some work here and there. What amount was spent under Art. 275, it may be for a period of one year, it may be for a period, in some cases for 2 years, in some cases 3 years and in other cases 4 years, but ultimately this is an expenditure on the revenue of the State and therefore, the Hon'ble Member, when he says that nothing is being done by this Government in order to help these people, appears to be a fleshy argument. Not only for the tribals, we are also getting assistance from the Central Government by way of centrally sponsored schemes or by way of grants, etc., for a limited period and after this period is over, all that becomes our committed expenditure. Now, Sir, my friend wanted to know what has been done under various schemes. I think to a certain extent I have given indication in my budget speech what programmes have been undertaken for various schemes. Now I will also give him this information, Now, Sir, I come to expenditure on Agriculture. In 1951-52, Rs.3,38,000 were spent out of general plan and Art. 275, Rs.1,66,170. General expenditure for 1951-52—general plan, Rs.3,38,000, Art. 275, Rs.1,66,000. In 1952-53, out of general plan, Rs.1,42,000, Art. 275, Rs.1,86,000—practically equal. In 1953-54 Rs.1,65,000 out general, plan and Art, 275, Rs.3,26,853. In 1954-55 general plan, Rs.2,90,127 and Art. 275, Rs.5,26,026. In 1955-56 State revenue, Rs.1,22,000, general plan Rs.5,03,000 and Art. 275. Rs.6,93,474 So in the first five-Year Plan, out of total of Rs.33,67,193, Rs.1,22,000 was spent out of State revenue, Rs.13,49,123 out general plan and under Art. 275, Rs.18,93,070, Now 2nd plan 1956-57. Out of the State revenue, Rs.2,28,000, out of the general plan, Rs.4,88,123 and Art. 275, only, Rs.35,000. It is not a question of spending less. Sometimes we are spending more. In 1956-57, out of 7 lakhs, only Rs.35,000 have been spent under Art. 275. In the year 1957-58, State revenue, Rs.2,69,000, general plan, Rs.6,73,000, Art. 275, Rs.1,53,000 and the total expenditure, Rs.10,95,000, 1958-59, State revenue Rs.1,16,000, general plan, Rs.2,52,000 and Art. 275 4 lakhs and other programmes, *e. g.*, Community Project and so on for which we contributed 50 per cent as in other cases. 1959-60, State revenue, Rs.3,45,000 general plan 12 lakhs, Art. 275, Rs.8,45,000 and other programme, *e. g.*, Community Projects etc., Rs.12,75,000. 1960-61, State revenue, Rs.3,22,000, general plan Rs.13,43,000, Art. 275. Rs.9,25,000, other programme 26 lakhs and total 51 lakhs.

***Captain WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA [Phulbari (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]** : Other programmes under which heads ?

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance)** : Community Project and so on.

Total for the second five-Year Plan State revenue, Rs.12,80,129, general plan, Rs.45,56,123, Art 275, Rs.26,54,000, under programmes, Rs.45,74,000, total Rs.1,75,252. Similarly, I can give the figures in respect of Medical.

***Captain WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA** : Medical and also educational programme.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance):** I will give you the figures.

***Captain WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA [Phulbari (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] :** The figures about Medical and Education, so as to show how many schools have been provincialised.

Mr. SPEAKER : Mr. Sangma, just wait, he has his own procedure.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED :** Now, Sir, so far as the roads are concerned, prior to the First Plan 483 miles of motorable roads were taken up and 1543 miles of bridle paths. After the First Plan under Article 275, 613 miles of roads were taken up and under the general plan 170 miles. And in the Second Plan under Article 275, 625.50 miles of roads were taken up and under the general plan 363.85 miles.

***Captain WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA :** How much on the Petrol Tax scheme ?

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED :** I have dealt with that also in my Budget speech, if the hon. Member cares to look he will find that I have given a break up there also.

Now, Sir, I will deal with the point raised by my friend. He said that I have quoted wrong figures. I do not know how my friend comes to this conclusion, but if he will refer to page 13 of my Budget speech there he will see that I have said "Fifty-two dispensaries are expected to be established in the Autonomous Districts by the end of the plan". I repeat, by the end of the Plan. You will realise Sir, that I was reviewing the progress of the last ten years, therefore, I said that by the end of the Second Plan 52 dispensaries were expected to be established in the Autonomous Districts, and.....

*** Captain WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA :** I said that out of a target of 61 dispensaries for the Autonomous district in the Second Five-Year Plan only 6 were completed that is why this is not the correct picture of the achievements as given by the Finance Minister.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED :** I do not understand why my friend is so impatient, if he will hear me he will get all the facts. What I want to submit in this connection Sir, is that I stand by the figures which I have collected for my Budget speech and which was given to me by the Statistics Department who collected it from the Medical Department. Now, according to these figures this is the position: In the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills out of the State revenues 3 dispensaries have been completed, these are Boroto, Laisong and Byrnihat dispensaries and under the Article 275, Mawlong, Bhoilymbong, Diengieihill, Mawkyrwat and Padengshakati. In the Mikir Hills under Article 275 they are Gunjung, Umpani, Diphu, Kolonga and under the Community Development Programme are Howraghat, and Bokajan. In the Garo Hills under Article 275 they are Rongjeng, Garobeda, Rongrengiri, Bongehugiri and under the Community Development programme they are Resulpara and Dalu.

In the Mizo Hills, Aijal, Vuhai and Bvarpui and the Community Development programme they are Aijal Community Development Block and Thinsuthia. These Sir, are the dispensaries that have been completed in the First-Five Year Plan, that is, 3 from the State revenue, 6 from the Community Development programme and 17 under Article 275. Then again, under the Second Plan this is the position : in the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills, Jowai is completed, Umden is also completed and Jarain administrative approval was given on 26th October 1957. It is likely that this will be completed within the financial year. In the Mikir Hills, Howraghat is completed, Duhari for which administrative approval was given on 7th June 1960 and Delai was completed. In the Garo Hills, Salsella is completed, Sibbari completed, Kerapara completed, Rokshamgiri, administrative approval given on 3rd June 1960, Rongreng, administrative approval given on 24th September 1959. In the Mizo Hills, Kowartha completed and there are 6 others for which administrative approval has been given. In the North Cachar Hills, Horangajao has been completed, Mahur administrative approval given on 30th July 1959 and Hajadisa administrative approval given on 6th March 1958. Now, under the general plan in the the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills, Nongstoin and Laskin have been completed. In the Mikir Hills, Baithalungso and Gunjung have been completed. In Mizo Hills, Thingsalthing was converted into a Public Health dispensary and Chiphir administrative approval given on 7th March 1960. And under the Community Development programme, in the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills, Mairang and Saipung have been completed. In the Mikir Hills Rangkhong has been completed. In the Garo Hills, Dumbukaya has been completed ; in the Mizo Hills Lungleh and in North Cachar Hills, Diyung Valley have been completed.

Now, Sir, in view of these facts and figures I do not see how my friend can charge me of given an incorrect statement before the House. (There were interruptions from the Opposition side, but the Finance Minister did not give in). In regard to the observation made by my friend that the Deputy Director of Health Services could not give him the information about the number of dispensaries fixed as target or that were taken up, I made enquiries and I am told that the position is like this.

All the hospitals allotted under the Second Five-Year Plan have been completed, *i.e.*, 6 or 7 hospitals and about 2 or 3 are about to be completed. That statement should not be confused with the statement I have made with regard to the development and achievement upto the end of the Second Five-Year Plan.

***Captain WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA [Phulbari (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]:** It was under the Second Plan that 63 dispensaries were undertaken.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance):** Here are these figures I have given. I also gave you the names of the hospitals.

Mr. SPEAKER: There are certain procedure laid down in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly as and when a member can interrupt when a Minister is on his legs for

personal explanation and for elucidating certain informations and also on a point of order. Regarding elucidation of information if the Hon'ble Minister is not aware of that particular information, the Hon'ble Member has no right to interrupt. I am sorry that for constant interruptions the Hon'ble Finance Minister has been put in a very much handicapped position. He has not been able to reply to the questions raised by Hon'ble Members of the House. The replies should not be monopolised. The other members have also equal right to get replies from the Minister.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance):** I will briefly refer to another point. It was alleged by Mr. Sangma that the Budget estimates pertaining to the Autonomous Districts were spent for development purposes elsewhere. He alleged that Rs. 8 lakhs sanctioned for other backward classes were spent for the approach road from Kamakhya to Gauhati. The scheme of road construction from Kamakhya was initiated by the Home Ministry direct and the State Government was asked for the implementation of the work. The State Government had nothing whatsoever to do in this matter. The debit for the amount was raised for the other backward classes under Centrally sponsored schemes and for this also we are not to be blamed. First of all this construction took place before I assumed charge under Central direction. Mr. Sangma should have known this position.

There was a charge that Government has diverted the expenditure under article 275. I mean that the debit was raised under direction of the Central Government and we had nothing to do with it. We then referred to the District Council but their comments were not available. It is a very serious charge that I am violating the Constitution. The District Councils were sent the papers in connection with the Budget and at the same time we asked for their comments. I hope these were circulated to all the members. We received comments only from the Mikir Hills and North Cachar District. Till this date the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills, the Garo Hills, have not submitted their comments. They said they would not discuss these things. If these comments are not before us, how can we reply before the House? The comments in respect of the Mikir Hills were received on the 11th March and I am having them printed and circulated before the Hon'ble Members. For this when Mr. Sangma was a Minister in consultation with the Finance Department it was laid down that 20 days time in the case of the other districts and 25 days in case of the Khasi Hills would be given for inviting opinions of the District Councils. That is the procedure adhered to by us.

***Captain WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA [Phulbari (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] :** It was not done in Garo Hills District because it was received only 3 days ahead of the time.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED :** I am not sure of that.

However the date by which the comments had to be returned by the District Councils was 28th February. So far as this question of delay is

concerned, I am really amazed that a sharp charge could have been made by Mr. Sangma. For nearly three years he was the Minister-in-charge of this Department. He was given entirely a free hand in the matter and regarding the delay in expenditure it was his business to see that the expenditure was incurred.

***Captain WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA [Phulbari (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]** : Unfortunately I did not have the authority.....

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance)** : This is very unfair. So far as the question of delay is concerned, he would not be prepared to admit it. This question has not only been raised by Shri Sangma but by many other members that we are guilty of unnecessary delay. We are really thankful to the Hon'ble Member for drawing our attention to this aspect and we shall see how this matter can be improved.

Now, Sir, I am sorry I had to take such a long time. Now I shall hurriedly go through the other points of other members.

There was complaint regarding the delay in the disbursements of scholarships. My submission is that these merit scholarships are awarded on the result of the examinations of the Universities, such as Intermediate and Degree examinations. For this the marksheets have to be obtained from the University and the marks then have to be verified. Sometimes the heads of the institutions do not submit the full reports and these had to be obtained. Then particulars have to be obtained and verified in regard to reserved and technical scholarships. Over and above the students who are likely to get such scholarships change their institutions and hence delay occurs.

So far as award of special scholarships to poor and deserving students are concerned, these are recommended from the heads of institutions. As a matter of fact such applications come pouring in large numbers throughout the year. In some cases these applications are backed by responsible persons. Sometimes these applications are not made in proper forms. Besides these special scholarships can be awarded only when other types of merit scholarships are not received by the students. These are points on which delay occurs. Efforts on our side will be made to see that this delay can be avoided and the Hon'ble Members will also see that these applications are made in the proper form and that they are submitted in time.

Now, Sir, I briefly refer to the remark of my friend the Leader of the Opposition who said that the economy of the State has not followed the trend of the Indian economy. That is a correct observation and I wish the Hon'ble Member had tried to find out the reasons for it. The last three years I have been saying and I have been placing before this House that our economy has not made the

same progress as the other States or the whole of India because we have been spending much too much on social services. Time has come when this expenditure has to be reduced and we have to spend more on productive schemes. The hon. Members will find that in the next Five-Year Plan the percentage of allocation on social services has been reduced while that on productive schemes has been increased. It is, therefore, obvious that we are as keen as the hon. Leader of the Opposition that we should now spend more on schemes of productive nature. But, Sir, I do not agree with the observations made by him regarding the industries which are proposed to be set up by us. It is not a question of giving a licence to a person—to A or B. What we are interested now is that capital from outside should come to Assam. It is an admitted fact and the hon. Members will agree with me, that there is not sufficient capital formation within the State. Our people have not got sufficient capital to undertake many of the industries. It is, therefore, necessary for us to invite capital from outside. But I am afraid the observations made by the hon. Leader of the Opposition will scare away many of the persons who are wanting to invest capital in this State. In the Second Five-Year Plan period capital expenditure in this State either by the Central Government or by private industrialists was not to the extent we desired. During the Third Five-Year Plan period, apart from our schemes, nearly 40 or 50 crores of rupees will be spent by the Central Government for various schemes besides Rs.50 crores by way of capital from the private sector. If we do not permit private sector to come here and invest, how can we have productive schemes. That, however, does not mean that the claims of the local people or their interests will be ignored in any way. We are encouraging the local people to set up industries. They will get all necessary help from the Government. We are also thinking of securing some shares in the industries to be set up in this State. We are thinking of setting apart some shares to be purchased by the local people. If sufficient money is not forthcoming from them Government are also thinking of underwriting them. In the matter of employment also, we shall see that the local people got preference and necessary training. I hope this opportunity will be taken by our people and industries will be set up here in an atmosphere of peace and amity.

Sir, I am very thankful to many of the hon. Members who have given suggestions which will help me in placing our case before the Finance Commission. But somehow or other I could not agree with the Leader of the Opposition when he objected to the increase in the tax on petrol and diesel. Sir, this is necessary. He was a Member of the Resources Committee and he knows....

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** This decision was not taken in the Resources Committee.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance):** As the hon. Member is aware, the Resources Committee is committed to increase our resources by taxation. Unless and until we are prepared to do some sacrifice how will it be possible for me to go in for our development programme? If I had time I would have placed before the House facts and figures to show that

the incidence of taxation on our people is much less than that in many of the States and many of the countries which are going in for development. So, we shall have to make some sacrifice, but at the same time, the question of rising prices should be taken into consideration so that our cultivators and the people of low-income group get some kind of relief. This is a matter which is under the consideration of the National Development Council as to how the rising prices can be checked.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** The prices of petrol and diesel are highest in Assam.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance):** I think the hon. Member knows the reason for this. Uptil now the arrangement is that petrol lands Bombay or Calcutta and price at which it is landed is the price of petrol. For Assam the freight charges from Calcutta to Assam are added and for this the prices are higher here. I think the Central Government is doing something in this connection so that this disparity is removed. After all, when we shall produce our own oil, the people of Assam will get oil at a cheaper price.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY: Rose to speak something.

Mr. SPEAKER: As I have already observed, I cannot compel a Minister to reply to all the points raised by the hon. Members. Because of the limited time at his disposal he can only select some points for reply. The time allotted to the Finance Minister was only 1½ hours and much of it was taken away by the hon. Members interrupting him. How can he, therefore, reply to all the points?

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** Sir, Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami suggested imposition of the tax on betlenut and jute. We cannot do it as it is not permitted to us by the Constitution. His suggestion for imposing taxes on other things will be taken into consideration by us at the proper time.

As I said, Sir, I am sorry I could not deal with all the specific points raised by the hon. Members. I shall forward their observations to the Ministers concerned to look into them and do the needful. Sir, I am very thankful for the patient hearing given to me by the hon. Members. I wish I had more time to place more facts and figures to convince them that our budget is neither a *Mahajani* Budget nor a stagnant budget. Sir, when I look at things I come to one conclusion. That conclusion is; if we forget for a moment, for a period of 5, 10 or 15 years, such things as communalism; regionalism and controversies like them, we can make a big headway.

We are living in dynamic times, when, as the hon. Members are perhaps aware, there is a time to go at great speed and when particularly there is now travelling in space. When we are living in these times, is it not necessary for us to rise above these narrow objectives and look to greater and better objectives, that is the prosperity of our people and the welfare

of this State. Sir, sometime when I hear the hon. Members talking lightly in this narrow outlook, I feel somewhat dejected. But at other times when I look at things, I feel that someday we will achieve the greater objective. After all, we are to live in faith and I have no doubt and I have complete faith in the future of this State and the future of the people of Assam. I have no doubt that this faith will make us think of our greater objective and of working hand in hand and taking up such activities and programme as are likely to bring about prosperity to our people and to develop the State of Assam. With these few words, Sir, I again thank the hon. Members for their observations and I can assure them that such criticisms as have been made in good faith will be taken note of and we will certainly give our utmost consideration to those suggestions. Thank you, Sir.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M., on Thursday, the 23rd March 1961.

R. N. BARUA,

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.

