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ASTOR LENOX AND TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

**Proceedings of the Ninth Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly
assembled after the Third 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 5th March, 1965.

PRESENT

Shri MA HENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY, B.L., Speaker in the Chair, Seven Ministers, Three Ministers of State, Two Deputy Ministers and Fifty-three Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Re: Construction of Wooden Spur at Mohanaghat, Dibrugarh

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) asked :

*24. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department (Embankment and Drainage) be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether construction of wooden spur at Mohanaghat, Dibrugarh, has been completed ?
- (b) If so, when and what is the amount spent for this ?
- (c) When was the tender called ?
- (d) Who was the tenderer who has been finally offered the contract ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY [Minister, P. W. D. (Flood Control and Irrigation Wing)] replied :

24. (a) to (d) --Honourable Member's attention is drawn to replies given against Question No. 201 on 19th November 1964 during the last session of the Assam Assembly on the same question.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: When the construction of the spurs were completed ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: The hon. Member may please refer to the answer to the same question replied to last year.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : It is not there.

Mr. SPEAKER : It is here. The reply was "The above work was completed and an approximate expenditure including liabilities as worked out comes to Rs.9,02,539-00."

Re: Agricultural University in the State

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) asked :

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

- (a) Whether Government has contemplated to have an Agricultural University for the State ?
- (b) If so, whether any site has been selected ?
- (c) If so, where ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) replied :

25. (a)—(i) A Committee has been constituted to examine the necessity and feasibility of setting up an Agricultural University in Assam with the following members—

Chairman—Shri Ramesh Chandra, I.A.S.

Secretary—Principal, Assam Agricultural College, Jorhat.

Members—(1) Director of Agriculture, Assam.

(2) Additional Director of Agriculture, Assam.

(3) Director of Veterinary, Assam.

(4) Principal, Veterinary College, Assam.

(ii) The terms of reference of the Committee are—

(1) To examine the necessity and feasibility of setting up an Agricultural University in Assam.

(2) To recommend to the Government the pattern of the proposed University.

(3) To suggest necessary steps for the setting up of the Agricultural University.

(4) To make such other relevant recommendations which the Committee may consider necessary or desirable in this regard.

(b) & (c)—The site for the proposed University has not yet been elected.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH: When can we expect this Committee to submit its report?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, the Committee has been requested to expedite. Some of the members have asked permission from the Government to go and see the working of some such Universities in other parts of India. Therefore, they may take a little time.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): Has any date been fixed for submission of the report?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: No date has been fixed.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Sir, the Committee has been constituted in 1963 considering the importance of the University. May I ask the Government on what date we can expect the finalisation of the site and implementation of the scheme?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: No date can be fixed.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS: Sir, one of the terms of reference is whether there is any necessity for the establishment of an Agricultural University in Assam. May I ask the Government whether the Government is not convinced about the necessity of an Agricultural University in Assam, if so, why should this Committee be formed?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: The question of necessity arises in this way: the quality and the quantity of the boys going to the Agricultural College is so poor that it has got to be examined whether setting up a University will be commensurate with the economics—'economics of education' will have to be looked into and examined amongst other matters.

Shri MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN (Dhubri): Sir, have Government any idea about the capital expenditure involved in the establishment of the University?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, I have some idea from discussion with colleagues in other States; it will be 2 to 5 crores of rupees.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, the Minister has stated that the present quality of the students going to the Agricultural College is so poor that it has got to be examined about the feasibility of setting up a University. May I know from the Government whether any new procedure is being followed in regard to the admission of better qualified students into the Assam Agricultural College like that of other States which have already started with such Universities?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: As far as I know in other States 98 per cent of the students seeking admission in Agriculture and Veterinary Colleges are not third Divisioners.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: The question of admission will come later on. The question of establishment will come first. As such the question of classification of students will not come into the picture now.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : When in the Agricultural College itself we do not get 1st or 2nd Division students, with what materials I am to run a University? I give an example. If for one or two students for Post-Graduate studies in Agronomy, say, I am to spend five lakhs of rupees annually or so, it is better to send some students to study such subjects in some other University within the country or abroad by giving scholarships liberally.

Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN (Karimganj-North) : Sir, by now several like Committees have been constituted by the Government, but do they actually function?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : I cannot say about other Departments ; but so far as this Committee is concerned, it is functioning.

Shri MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN : Sir, under the existing arrangements whether any part of the capital outlay, in the event of the proposal being approved by the Planning Commission, will be borne by the Central Government as well?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Sir, that is not yet decided. We have provided tentatively establishment of such a University in our draft 4th Plan, and it will depend on the result of the discussion between this Government, the Planning Commission as well as Central Government as to whether, if ultimately we decide about setting up of such a University, they will come forward with grants, and if so, what shall be the pattern.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara) : Whether the report will be published before the finalisation of the 4th Plan?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : That is our endeavour.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS : Sir, how many times the Committee have sat?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : I want notice, Sir.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Sir, whether this scheme has been included in the 4th Plan?

Mr. SPEAKER : He has already replied. It is provided in the plan.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS : Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that one of the fundamental condition is the quality of the students. If the Government is quite convinced about the poor quality of the students then what is the necessity of constituting a Committee for the purpose of establishment of a University?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : This is one side of the picture. On the other side there are some good arguments for the establishment of a University. Therefore, it was necessary for a Committee to instruct the Government.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) : Sir, how many students have been sent by this time to other Agricultural Universities ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Sir, I want notice.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Have the Government taken any steps to enrol qualified students from now onwards ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : This is a very big question as to how to improve the general education and to have more 1st Divisioners in the Matriculation examination so that all our technical institutions can get good boys in adequate numbers.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Sir, my question was whether any procedure has been prescribed to have qualified students in the College ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Sir, if I prescribe a minimum limit about merit for admission all the seats in the Agricultural College and Veterinary College will possibly remain empty.

Shri PABINDRA NATH SARMA (Nalbari-East) : In view of the reply given by the hon. Minister that there are not enough students to start with a University, is there any sense or meaning in incorporating this proposal in the plan ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : If I am forced to give answers to every thing, I cannot tell lies.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : The Minister said that the standard of education was low. May I know whose fault it is for which the standard of education is going down ?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH (Minister, Education) : The politicians who start students' agitations.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora) : In view of the reply given by the Minister, what is the necessity of incorporating this scheme in the 4th Five Year Plan ?

Mr. SPEAKER : The Minister has already replied to it. He has said that the establishment of a University does not depend on the quality of the students alone. There are so many factors to be considered. Taking all these factors into consideration Government have formulated a scheme for the 4th Five Year Plan and they will push it before the Planning Commission.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA : May I know whether this University will cater to the needs of NEFA, Manipur, Tripura and other States in the region ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Even our Agricultural College is catering to the needs of all the States and areas in this region.

Mr. SPEAKER : All Universities are open to all students throughout India and this University will also be open to the students from not only NEFA, Manipur and Tripura but also Punjab, Maharashtra and other States

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : When the University is basically dependent on the quality of students, as the hon. Minister said, if there are no qualified students, what is the necessity of taking other measures for setting up of this University?

Mr. SPEAKER : He has already replied to it.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA : May I know how without taking a tentative decision the Government can incorporate this scheme in the 4th Five Year Plan? There must be some tentative decision first.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Whenever a scheme is included in the draft plan by the State Government, it does not mean that it automatically goes through. For having it through adequate arguments will have to be adduced before the Government of India and the Planning Commission. One argument of some of the officers of the Government of India had been that because of the non-availability of students in sufficient number and also because of their poor standard there was no necessity for an Agricultural University. Therefore, I said that that was one side of the picture. But there are other reasons for having a University. For example, in the United States of America, which is the foremost country in the world in Agriculture, researches are made in the Universities and the knowledge acquired is disseminated both to the agriculturists and the officers of the Department from there. In other words, a large part of the work done by our Agriculture Department is done by the Universities or Land Grants Colleges in the United States of America. This is also another side to the picture. If this Committee goes into all such matters and finds out the justifiability of such a University, it will strengthen our hands with regard to the Government of India and the Planning Commission for pushing through this scheme which we have provided in the Plan in anticipation.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : When the Committee has not taken any final decision, how can the Government include this scheme?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Is it the hon. Member's wish that we drop it from the draft Plan? If it is, let him say so.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : When we are going with a proposal we must give sufficient materials.

Mr. SPEAKER : The Minister has already stated the reasons for which this scheme has been included in the draft 4th Plan. He has said that the quality of students is not the sole criterion for establishment of such a University. He has said that research work, which is very essential for the purpose of agriculture, is one of the things which can be done in the University. Taking these and other factors into consideration, Government have included this scheme in the draft Plan.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : That is not my question. My point is that when submitting a scheme Government should give sufficient materials for its inclusion.

Mr. SPEAKER : That is why he has set up this Committee to find out sufficient materials.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : But till to-day the Committee has not come to any final decision.

Mr. SPEAKER : It is going to do it.

Re: Erosion and Flood in the Northern side of Kaziranga in the Sibsagar District

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) asked :

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that there is constant erosion and flooding in the Northern side of Kaziranga in the Sibsagar District ?
- (b) What is the total area eroded during the last five years ?
- (c) Whether Government propose to construct revetment, etc., for protecting the game sanctuary from the menace of flood and erosion ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY [Minister, P.W.D. (Flood Control and Irrigation Wing)] replied :

26. Hon. Member's attention is drawn to replies given to Starred Question No. 269 during the September-November session of the Assembly on 19th November, 1964 on the same question.

Mr. SPEAKER : (a) Yes.

(b) As per report of D. F. O. Jorhat, total area eroded during the last five years is approximately 10 sq. miles.

(c) At present there is no such proposal.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : May I know whether this matter has been considered by the Flood Control Department?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : No, Sir.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : In order to protect this game sanctuary, may I know whether Government will give urgent attention to this matter ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : It is for the Forest Department to decide whether they want to protect this game sanctuary. If they so decide and place funds at the disposal of the E. and D. Department, we will only be too glad to construct the embankment.

Re: Total number of Industrial Estates in the State

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) asked :

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

- (a) The number of Industrial Estates in the State ?
- (b) The number of trades in the Estates ?
- (c) The total investment by the Government ?
- (d) How the products are marketed ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture) replied on behalf of

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Industries etc.) :

28. (a)—6 (six).

(b)—35 (thirty-five).

(c)—Rupees 59,36,037.00 up to December, 1964.

(d)—The marketing is done by the Industrialists themselves.

Shri MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN (Dhubri): Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state where these industrial estates are located ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Gauhati, Dhekiajuli, Nalbari, Tinsukia, Sibsagar and Badarpur.

Shri MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: On what basis were these places selected ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : On the basis of necessity.

Shri SYED AHMED ALI (Gauripur): In 1963, Government announced in this House that an Industrial Estate would be established at Gauripur. It is 1965 now. May I know whether that proposal is still alive or dead ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : For that, a separate question will be necessary. We are concerned at the moment with the existing estates.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): May I know whether these estates are run on a no-profit, no-loss basis or whether we are getting something out of them ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Industrial Estates are not set up for profit. They are set up to stimulate industries by giving facilities to the industrialists.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara) : May I know whether the Marketing Corporation of the Government of Assam has been instructed to purchase products of these industries ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : If there had been any difficulty about marketing, I am sure the industrialists who had set up these industries in the Industrial Estates, would have come forward to Government. I do not know of any such difficulty, but the matter can be looked into.

Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHAUDHURY (Patacharkuchi): What is the total number of people employed in these estates ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : That is too far-fetched a question. I would request to the hon. Member to table a separate question.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH: May I know whether Government have any share in the capital invested ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: No, Sir. These Industrial Estates are built by Government and the private industrialists take them from Government on certain terms and conditions.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH : Whether Government has any control over it ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, the control is somewhat similar to that of the relationship that exists between land-lords and tenants.

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH (Minister, Education): Benevolent landlords !

Shri BISWADEV SARMA : May I know, Sir, whether any technical guidance is given to the Industrial Estates ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Sir, it is the duty of the Industries Department officers, who from time to time are to visit the estates to advise and to solve the difficulties, if there be any. Apart from that, all Industrial Estates are under certain officers of the Department and they are supposed to look after all these estates and their problems.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH : Sir, the hon. Minister just now stated that the relation between the Industrialists and the Government is like that of land-lord and tenants. But here in this case the entire capital belongs to the land-lord. Therefore, it means that these industrialists have their own money invested.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : Sir, there is a mis-conception. The sheds and the houses in the Industrial Estates belong to Government. Government lend them out to the industrialists. Say for instance the hon. Member is an industrialist and he takes the houses from the officer-in-charge on certain terms and conditions and rent and open his industry with his money. Therefore, the relationship is similar to that of one which exists between a land-lord and a tenant. But it is of the type of a benevolent land-lord, as has been remarked by the hon. Minister Shri Borooah. Because we are there with advice and technical know-how. This is being done for the mutual benefit so that the people of the State would be ultimately benefited by the State being industrialised due to such promotional activities.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH : Sir, do the tenants get share of the profit from the output ?

(Noise)

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, Order, Please.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH: Whether in this case the produce will go to the Government ?

Mr. SPEAKER: It will go to the Government.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: They are not Adhiars,

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): Sir, whether the Industrialists who occupy the sheds and houses and use the machinery placed at their disposal by Government are required to pay anything for the use and utilisation of the machinery and sheds, etc. ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY Sir, my information is that they pay.

Shri MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: Sir, may I know how many of these Industrial Estates have been functioning according to plan and how many are not ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY Sir, all the 52 sheds of the Gauhati Industrial Estate are occupied and functioning properly, but unfortunately in the Dhekiajuli Industrial Estate out of 20 sheds six are still lying vacant for want of entrepreneurs. The Industrial Estates at Nalbari and Tinsukia will also be completed after getting electricity and the sheds will be allotted to industrialists. Regarding the Sibsagar Industrial Estate, preliminary works were completed and the construction of buildings will be started soon. With regard to Badarpur, Sir, it has not yet been completed and this will function soon.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora): Sir, may I know from when the sheds in the Dhekiajuli Industrial Estates are lying vacant ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Since it was completed.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: To increase the tempo of industrial development of the country two things are required—technical guidance and marketing facilities. Are these facilities given to the Industrial Estates, Sir ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: That is precisely the job of the Industries Department and they should do it.

Re: Establishment of State Institute of Education in the State

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) asked :

- *29. Will the Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to state—
- Whether it is a fact that there is a proposal for establishing one State Institute of Education in the State of Assam to be located at Jorhat ?
 - Whether it is a fact that according to the instruction of Central Government other States have already established such institutions in their respective States ?
 - If so, reason for delay in implementing the said scheme in our State ?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH (Minister, Education) replied :

29. (a)—This State Government have already established a State Institute of Education. The Institute is at present temporarily located at Jorhat.

(b)—The Institute as per the desire of the Central Government was to be started in every State from June 1, 1964. We have no information if all the State Governments have established the Institutes.

(c)—The reason for slight delay in the State is that the Principal and Vice-Principal were not readily available.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, may I know what is the purpose of establishment of State Institute of Education in the State ?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH : Sir, the purpose is to improve the standard of teaching and instruction by research, extension and training.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: What is the estimated cost of this Institute ?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH: Under the scheme a Principal, a Vice-Principal, two teachers and two lecturers have to be appointed and this is a centrally sponsored scheme. It will be started at the end of the Third Plan and continued to be centrally sponsored scheme under the Fourth Plan. They have given us no promise to give money for construction of buildings and that is being negotiated.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Whether Government is making up their mind to keep it at Jorhat or is shifting it to some other place ?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH: Sir, it would have been convenient to establish it at Gauhati and we are looking for a site. But to avoid unnecessary delay we have started it in the B. T. College at Jorhat.

Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHOUDHURY (Patacharkuchi): Sir, who will be the students ?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH: The students will be teachers, inspectors and officers.

Re: Demand made by the State Transport Workers' Union, Assam

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) asked:

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

- (a) Whether there is a demand made by the State Transport Workers' Union, Assam in the form of a resolution adopted in its last annual conference held in Shillong for giving housing accommodation or increased amount of house-rent in lieu of that to all the IV Grade and III Grade workers of the State Transport Organisation ?

(b) If so, what steps Government have so far taken in this regard ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Health) replied on behalf of

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Minister, Transport) :

30. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Government has decided to provide housing accommodation to the S. T. employees in a phased manner. Payment of housing allowance to the State Government employees including those of the S. T., has not been recommended by the Pay Committee and, as such, the question of paying house-rent allowance to the S. T. employees alone in preference to the other State Government employees does not arise.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : May I know from the hon. Minister, Sir, whether any such phase has been already taken up in view of the statement of the Minister that housing accommodation will be provided in a phased manner ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Yes, Sir. 462 employees have been provided with accommodation.

Mr. SPEAKER : How many are left to be provided ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Sir, the total number is 3,398.

Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHOUDHURY (Patacharkuchi) : How many Unions of the State Transport workers are there, Sir ?

Mr. SPEAKER : That question does not arise. But the Minister may reply if he likes.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Sir, Government recognised one Union and on principle Government could not recognise another. I cannot give any further information now.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Sir, what is the principle on which it could not be accepted ?

Mr. SPEAKER : I have already said that these questions do not arise and that if the hon. Minister likes he could reply. Are you going to reply, Mr. Mookerjee ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : No, Sir.

Re: Abolition of Service Latrine System from the Municipal Towns in the State

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

*31. Will the Minister-in-charge of Municipal Administration be pleased to state—

(a) What steps have been taken by the Government to abolish the service latrine system from the Municipal towns in this State ?

(b) Whether Government will consider about making provision of loan to the people for constructing sanitary latrines ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance) replied on behalf of

Shri CHATRASING TERON (Minister, Municipal Administration):

31. (a)—Government cannot take any direct action in this field which is entirely within the jurisdiction of autonomous Municipal Boards and Town Committees. However, Government suggested to the Chairmen of the Municipal Boards and Town Committees in their meeting in June, 1963 to make sanitary installations compulsory in case of buildings worth Rs.5,000 or more. The Chairmen agreed to the suggestion. Government have also decided to amend the Assam Municipal Act to provide rebate on latrine tax up to 50 per cent in cases of holdings having only sanitary fittings and no service latrines.

(b)—In the 4th Five-Year Plan, a Revolving fund is proposed to be created from which loan may be given for installation of sanitary latrines.

Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN (Karimganj-North): Sir, can we not enforce this proposal upon each of the individual Municipality?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: This is for the Municipality to decide. If the hon. Member remembers about three years ago I had offered a loan and asked the Municipal Boards to draw up a phased programme to implement the scheme but the Municipal Boards did not take advantage of this. It is proposed to make provision in the Fourth Five Year Plan. This time, I hope they will take advantage of this.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): Sir, is it a fact that a sum of Rs.500 as loan was offered to the rate-payers which was not accepted by them, because it was too inadequate to construct a sanitary latrine with this money?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: So far as the Government is concerned, a lump sum of money was placed at the disposal of the Municipal Boards for this purpose and it was up to the Municipal Boards to utilise the money on whatever basis they liked.

Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN: Sir, the sweeper problem in the Municipal Boards is very acute. Sir, I desire that Government should give a large sum of money to start sanitary installations to get rid of these sweepers who threaten strike very often?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: What is possible for the Government will be done. It is up to the Municipal Boards to pursue the matter by giving a rebate of 50 per cent instead of 30 to 35 per cent so that people may be induced to construct sanitary latrines. It is not possible for the Government unless these autonomous bodies themselves try to solve the problem.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS: Sir, was there any direction to the Municipal Boards to give a loan of Rs.500 only?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Only to cover a large number of people the amount of loan should be as minimum as possible so that the scheme can be implemented as quickly as we want. Therefore, it was suggested that the people who can afford to construct should not be given this loan and it should be confined only to those who are poor with small holding.

Shri EMERSON MOMIN (Tura, Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether such kind of help or subsidy is extended to other Town Committees of small places ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: Yes.

Shri MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN (Dhubri): Sir, may I know whether the Municipal Boards will be provided with regular supply of water to take advantage of this loan ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: It is expected that this work will be undertaken only in the places where Municipal Boards and Town Committees have good water supply and in the meanwhile others should prepare estimates and scheme for obtaining water supply in their places.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Sir, whether this will be entrusted to the Municipal Boards or the Public Health Engineering Department ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: It will be done by the Municipal Boards.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, whether it is a fact that the Public Health Engineering Department is also undertaking the scheme for water supply in some towns in the State and if so, whether there is any co-ordination between these two departments ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: This has nothing to do with the water supply scheme.

**Re: Executive Engineers at Barpeta Public Works Department
Division**

Shri AKSHOY KUMAR DAS (Sarbhog) asked:

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Barpeta P. W. D. Division has been going on very frequently without an Executive Engineer ?
- (b) If so, the reasons therefor ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the Executive Engineer posted last to this Division has not joined for a long time ?

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

32. (a)—No. It is not a fact.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—It is not a fact.

Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHOUDHURY (Patacharkuchi): Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister who is the Executive Engineer in Barpeta and since when he is there ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: Mr. B. Kharmalki is the Executive Engineer who took over charge of Barpeta Division from Shri R. A. Singh on 22nd January, 1965.

Shri AKSHOY KUMAR DAS: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister when he was ordered to join ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: On 2nd November, 1964.

Shri AKSHOY KUMAR DAS: Who was his predecessor and when did he leave the Division ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: His predecessor was Shri R. A. Singh and he left on 2nd November, 1964

Shri AKSHOY KUMAR DAS: May I suggest that he left the Division earlier ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: I want notice.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table).

Re: Permits given for C. I. Sheets and Cement in Dibrugarh Sub-division

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahool) asked:

15. Will the Minister-in-charge, Supply be pleased to state—

(a) Total permits given for C. I. Sheets and Cement from the Consumer Goods quota in Dibrugarh Subdivision in the years 1962 to 1964 year by year ?

(b) Name of the permit-holders ?

(c) The basis of distribution ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Supply) replied :

15. (a)—C. I. Sheets—

1962	1963	1964
31	8	6
Cement—		
49	16	27.

(b)—Two statements are placed on the table of the House.

(c)—The materials were distributed taking into consideration the genuineness of the cases and also the urgency of their need.

Re: Construction of Court Buildings at Tezpur

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) asked :

16. Will the P. W. D. Minister (R. & B.) be pleased to state—

(a) What was the estimate for the construction of the Court Building at Tezpur ?

(b) Why the work has not been commenced up till now ?

(c) When do the Government propose to commence the work ?

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

16. (a)—The estimated cost of the Building is Rs.3,68,045.

(b)—Administrative Approval for the project is yet to be accorded due to the change in the original estimated cost.

(c)—As soon as the administrative approval to the work is accorded.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister when the original estimate was made ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: The original estimate was prepared on 27th October, 1961.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS: May I know from the hon. Minister what was the cost of the original estimate ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: I will give it later on, Sir.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): May I know from the hon. Minister what was the reason for changing the original estimate ?

Mr. SPEAKER: Because of the high cost of materials.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara): Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister why such long time is taken to get the administrative approval sanctioned ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: Because it was not received from the sponsoring department, *i.e.*, the Revenue Department.

Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN (Karimganj-North): Sir, the reply in item (b) is not categorical. This matter should have been known to the Government.

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: I have asked the department to send the information from the district also.

Re: Retention of S.D.O., T. C. in the same capacity for eight years

Shri SANTI RANJAN DAS GUPTA (Lumding) asked :

17. Will the P.W.D. (R. & B.) Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that some S.E.S., S.D.Os. are working as S.D.O., T.Cs. for the last 8 (eight) years ?
- (b) If so, who are those S.D.Os, and what are the reasons for their retention in the same capacity for such a long time ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that there is a Circular to the effect that no one should remain in the Circle for a period of 6 years and 3 years in one Division ?
- (d) If so, why these people who have completed 3 years of service as S.D.O., T.C. were not posted elsewhere ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that posting in the Technical Branch as S.D.O., T.C. is a punishment ?
- (f) If so, whether the works in the Technical Branch will not suffer for posting these unwanted men in those posts ?
- (g) Whether Government propose to train graduate Engineers as S.D.O., T.C. so that the Department may derive better services from these qualified Engineers ?
- (h) Whether any such posts of S.D.O., T.C. are in existence in any other State P.W.D. ?
- (i) Whether Government propose to do away with this category of posts ?
- (j) Whether it is a fact that some S.D.Os. posted in the Chief Engineer's Office or in the Divisional offices as S.D.O., T.C. were transferred to outdoor duties not even before completion of one year service as S.D.O., T.C. ?

(k) Who are those personnel and how long they remained as S.D.O., T.C. and in which office (C.E's office, S.E's office, E.E's office) and what are the reasons for their immediate transfer ?

(l) Whether it was at their own request the transfers were made ?

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

17. (a)—Yes.

(b)—There is only one S.D.O. His name is Shri Khitindra Mohon Dutta, now S.D.O., T.C. in the office of the S. E., Southern Assam Circle, Silchar. He was retained as S.D.O., T.C. as his services are required in the interest of public service. He has particular aptitude for such works and desires to be posted as such.

(c)—There is no such Circular. In case of Sub-Engineers only there is a circular stating that they should not be transferred from one Section to another before 3 years and in one Circle they should not serve for more than 6 years.

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

(e)—No.

(f)—Does not arise in view of (e) above.

(g)—There is no such particular training required to hold charge as S.D.O., T.C.

(h)—Not known.

(i)—No. These posts are required in the interest of public service, i.e., to supervise and work in Technical Branch of E.Es and S.Es and C.Es Office which is very essential.

(j)—Yes.

(k)—They are (1) Shri Sati Jiban Barua who was posted as S.D.O., T.C. in Chief Engineer's Office (R. & B.) on 23rd July, 1960 and later transferred as S.D.O., S.W. Gauhati Subdivision on 12th January, 1961 and as S.D.O., North Gauhati Subdivision on 3rd February, 1961 and (2) Shri Ghanashyam Das who was posted as S.D.O., T.C., Barpeta, on 10th June, 1960 and transferred as S.D.O., Doboka on 19th September, 1960.

(l)—No. The transfers were made in the interest of public service.

Calling Attention to the growing menace of cholera throughout the different parts of the State, especially in the Districts of Cachar and Kamrup

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora): Mr. Speaker, Sir, cholera broke out throughout the State and especially in Barpeta and Cachar during the months of October, November and December, 1964. Sir, in the district of Cachar alone, according to the information received from the Government, more than 1,500 people fell ill out of which 455 people died. Sir, there was no medicine in the District Hospital, even saline was not available in Silchar Civil Hospital. One Fourth Grade

employee was admitted into the hospital but his relatives were asked to purchase saline from outside. Sir, when cholera was taking the lives of the people Government sat tight and did not take any action. Moreover, on the 28th October last our Minister, Health, delivered a speech through the All India Radio, but unfortunately he did not mention about this disease which was at that time prevailing throughout the State, especially in Cachar and Barpeta. I could not understand why he was silent and did not mention a word about these victims. Moreover, my question is that when so many people were attacked and so many people died of cholera—about 37.5 per cent died of cholera—why there was not sufficient medicine provided in the District and Subdivisional Hospitals, not to speak of other hospitals which are situated in the remote corner of the district. Sir, there are mobile dispensaries—we have heard about these mobile dispensaries in the Assembly—but these dispensaries did not work at that time. So, I have called the attention of the Minister, Health to this serious situation which was created throughout the State, more particularly in the District of Cachar and many people died for want of medicine and I want to get some assurances at least so that in future people may not die without medicine.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister, Health) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am afraid, I may incur your displeasure.

Mr. SPEAKER : Why do you apprehend that you will incur my displeasure ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Sir, you may not like my introductory sentences. Sir, I do not want to be disturbed while I speak. I was hearing the hon. Member silently and I expect that with three years experience the hon. Member will show that much of courtesy to me. Sir, on the 10th November last I made a statement and I mentioned the names of the very two places which have just now been mentioned by the hon. Member Shri Tarapada Bhattacharjee, in his calling attention motion, namely, Barpeta and Cachar, and your record will show that. I have stated at the beginning that I am afraid that I might incur your displeasure because as a matter of course this motion should not have been allowed after I had made a statement on the same matter in November last. But when you have allowed this, Sir, I am bound to make a statement. Sir, neither I am a Doctor nor my friend is a Doctor. Sir, if every ailment of stomach is taken to be a case of cholera than God help the patients, myself and my hon. friend who has moved the Motion. It is very unfortunate that these people died but the insinuation made to this poor self and to the Department has not been fair. The people of Cachar highly praised the Department for taking prompt action. Now, instead of giving credit to the Department, the Department is being accused. Sir, I am going to state the facts once again. As I have stated already, unfortunately it is a fact that stomach trouble of a severe type broke out in the District of Cachar in 1964.

Mr. SPEAKER : Stomach trouble of an unusual type.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE : Choleraian type !

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : I have noted it and I will request my Department also to note it. Not that all the cases were of cholera. Detailed examination in the laboratory has shown that the percentage of cholera is very little. Most of the cases were of gastro-enteritis. The symptoms of this disease to a lay man like my friend and myself are more

or less akin to that of cholera. So, all the cases of gastro-enteritis were presumed by the people to be cholera cases. Government do regret very much case of any death, whether it is due to cholera or some other ailment or any other cause. It should not be misunderstood that simply because the deaths were due to causes other than cholera, Government were apathetic and were sitting tight without taking any action. That was not the case. Whenever any outbreak of these diseases has taken place Government have been immediately taking all possible steps for curing those affected and for preventing further out-break.

Mr. SPEAKER : The disease broke out in an epidemic form.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : In every case Medical and Para-Medical staff have been rushed to the affected areas with the greatest speed; and inoculation and medicines, etc. have been sent with the maximum speed. Large-scale inoculation was made and large-scale disinfection of sources of drinking water supply, etc. have been effected. Public eating places have been closed and sale of exposed food has been stopped and all safety measures were taken. But unfortunately the evil habits of our people in throwing of dead bodies and the dirty linens of the cholera patients into water or flowing river very greatly help in spreading the germ and infecting the people in large number. So, Sir, I would draw the attention of every person present here to teach the people how to dispose of the of the dead bodies and dirty linens and other materials which are likely to spread the diseases. We have been requesting the Government of India to treat Cachar specially as an epidemic area for the purpose of water supply scheme so that a Crash Programme for the supply of pure drinking water may be taken with central financial assistance. Government of India have not yet decided the matter. Meantime we are doing whatever best is possible. Now, Sir, gastro-enteritis broke out in Cachar district during the later part of July, 1964, and subsided in December, 1964. The total number of attacks and deaths from Gastro-enteritis were 920 attacks with 209 deaths. Cholera broke out in Cachar district and some other districts of the State since November, 1964 and subsided in December, 1964.

The total number of attacks and deaths in the State from cholera were 781 attacks and 312 deaths. The first attack of cholera was reported from the Subdivision of my friend Shri Bhattacharjee; of course it is in my district also, namely, Silchar Subdivision, Barpeta Subdivision and Mizo District. Later on reports of outbreak of cholera were received from Nowgong and other Subdivisions of the State. The Government of India has sent a research team to find out the cause and remedy. They have visited places at our request and done necessary investigation. Their report is awaited. Occurrences of Gastro-enteritis like this was not limited to Assam alone. A few other States also had such attacks.

Now, Sir, as I have already mentioned and the people were inoculated, extra staff were rushed.

Mr. SPEAKER : What about inoculation for Gastro-enteritis ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Inoculation was simply for cholera, Sir. Now I shall give some idea which will convince those hon. Members who want to be convinced. Now, Sir, as it is known to all hon. Members we have got our Pasteur Institute here from where we

get our cholera vaccines and supply the same to other States also whenever it becomes necessary. When the epidemic situation turned grave and demands come from affected districts in larger numbers at a time and from some Districts where there were no such cases fortunately, for preventive measures, we indented 700,000 cc. cholera vaccines from Kasauli Central Research Institute of the Government of India and 300,000 cc from West Bengal and at the same time we manufactured as much as possible by increasing the shifts. Now, out of this Silchar Subdivision was supplied with 1,90,000 cc; Hailakandi 1,25,000 cc; Karimganj 1,28,000 cc; Hailakandi Municipal Board, 200 cc; Karimganj Municipal Board 13,000 cc; Tea Estates of Cachar district 300,000 cc; Gauhati Subdivision 85,000 cc; Barceta 1,40,000 cc; Dhubri 1,30,000 cc; Goalpara 100,000 cc; Kokrajhar 65,000 cc; Nowgong 300,000 cc; Diphu 13,000 cc; Mizo District 5,000 c.c. Sibsagar 10,000 cc; Jorhat 20,000 cc. Golaghat 10,000 cc; Garo Hills 92,000 cc; Tezpur 10,000 cc; Mangaldai 22,000 cc; Dibrugarh 5,500 cc. and North Lakhimpur 5,000 cc. Then Municipal Boards and Town Committees other than Cachar district were supplied with 54,000 cc; Tea Gardens other than Cachar District 48,000 cc. and we supplied 5000 cc. to the Railways also. Sir, all possible steps were taken. At present we have kept a stock of about 50,000 cc.

Now, another point which was raised by the hon. Member coming from the same District, not only Mr. Bhattacharjee but Mr. Malah also in another occasion raised that point.

Mr. SPEAKER: You must confine your remarks to the Motion before the House.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Yes, Sir, the point that I am going to give is quite relevant. It was complained that there was no saline. He mentioned about saline and just to satisfy him also I am explaining the position. Sir, there is a limit for keeping some kinds of medicines in stock. Nobody expected that such a large number of people would be affected in this way. But when there was an epidemic there might have been a temporary shortage of saline. But, Sir, my friend forgot one thing. That in the advanced stage of medical science at the present day even without saline and with antibiotics cholera cases can be treated. So just to put a bad name and condemn the Department is not at all desirable. Sir, nobody died because of temporary shortage of saline, because as I have stated before saline may not be necessary in each and every case.

Mr. SPEAKER: He wants to say that due to shortage saline could not be used.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Yes, Sir, that is quite so and that is what I am going to explain. When there was a temporary shortage purchases were made from the local market. Nobody denies that temporary shortage was there; as I have said already that not only in the hospital but also in the market it was not available. We stock a certain quantity of medicines but if the demand becomes all of a sudden very large, in that case there is every possibility of temporary shortage but even due to that shortage nobody suffered because there are other substitutes by which a patient can be treated and we rushed saline as soon as shortage was intimated to us.

Mr. SPEAKER: What about the mobile units?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : I am coming to that, Sir. But I want to explain some points raised by the hon. Member. Now in the Explanatory Notes it was given by the hon. Mover at 12,000 but now my friend has raised it to 15,000 cases of attack. You have heard about it, Sir, it is in the record, so it becomes very difficult for me to remember if such changes are made. Now, Sir, you have mentioned about mobile units. These mobile units were sent as many times as necessary, but a machine is a machine. When it had to work too hard naturally at times it required some sort of repair and servicing and the drivers also required some rest. (*A voice*—it required overhauling).No, I do not say complete overhauling, but what I mean is this. Because the roads on which these poor vehicles had to ply were so bad at places—and when there is an epidemic, it had to work day and night; just as when a patient is ailing in the hospital he wants that the nurses or the doctors must give him special attention. So, Sir, when a man or a lady is ailing, they naturally expect that special attention should be given to him or her. So in every place that was affected by this fell disease we tried as far as possible to meet the demands. But as I have already said, not only the vehicles need some sort of repairs but also the drivers need rest when they had to work day and night especially during the epidemic period. But even then as soon as it was brought to the notice of the authorities, all possible steps were taken to repair the vehicles and bring them to such a condition so that they can serve the purpose for which they were meant. I hope, Sir, that my friends instead of accusing the doctors who had to work day and night, if they hear these unfair criticisms, they will be very sorry. After all we always say that medical profession is a noble profession and really so. The people who in times of need give solace and comforts to the ailing patients, should not be treated in this way as my hon. friend has done.

Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN (Karimganj-North) : Sir, we quite appreciate the Statement given by the Hon. Minister and we appreciate also that it is only natural that there will be temporary shortage of medicines but what we want is that : why not the Civil Surgeons be authorised to purchase, such medicines instead of asking the patients themselves to purchase many of them being extremely poor. So what we suggest is that the Civil Surgeons be authorised to make purchases of those medicines that are found short in the Hospital stock.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : At the time of epidemic not only power was given to purchase medicines but they were allowed to employ as many extra hands as necessary by the Civil Surgeon.

Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN : Sir, if the Minister can shout we can also shout. Can the hon. Minister deny that patients were asked to buy medicines from the market ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Sir, I cannot say that each and every medicine can be made available to the patients and I cannot assure that there will be a stock of so many thousands of varieties of medicines in a dispensary or hospital. There are certain medicines which have to be bought by the patients. I have made categorical reply that all types of medicine cannot be supplied by the Government free to one and all.

Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN : Will the Government issue a Press Note ?

Mr. SPEAKER : Do not get excited ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Sir, there should not be any question after my statement.

Mr. SPEAKER : I have allowed only one question to be put by one hon. Member.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) : Sir, may I know whether the Government is making any specific provision of medicines to meet the emergent situation in epidemic ?

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is not very specific. Are you going to say that there is discriminatory treatment ? That is patient of one district gets better treatment than the other districts ?

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Sir, my question is whether Government has kept any reserve stock of medicine to meet the emergent situation during epidemic ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : In every district some stocks are maintained and whenever necessary immediate sanction is given for additional medicines.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara) : Whether Civil Surgeon can purchase saline at the time of emergency ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : Yes. Not only that. Civil Surgeon is empowered to purchase any medicine or drug, etc., upto a value of Rs.300 at a time.

Further information in connection with Unstarred Question No.16 dated 5th March, 1965 re : Construction of Court Buildings at Tezpur

Shri GIRINDRANATH GOGOI [Minister of State, P. W. D. (R. & B.)] : Sir, in reply to Unstarred Question No. 16, today I promised to supply some information to Shri Mohi Kanta Das later on. I have got the information now. The estimated amount was Rs.3,30,000 and revised amount was Rs.3,68,000.

General Discussion of the Budget

Sari DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I like to congratulate the Finance Minister for his illuminating speech and also for the introduction of budget for the year 1965-66. I congratulate him because he has not imposed any new tax on the people who are already overburdened with tax. The financial position of the State as revealed in his speech is not very bright, rather a bit gloomy. He has said in his speech that the year is expected to open with a deficit balance of Rs.402 lakhs. On revenue account the receipts have been placed at Rs.7,078 lakhs. This increase is due to higher estimated receipts on the following heads: Under Agricultural Income tax Rs. 7 lakhs ; under various items of Land Revenue Rs.51 lakhs, under Excise Rs.2 lakhs; under Taxes on Vehicles Rs.24 lakhs;

under Sales-tax Rs.103 lakhs ; Interest Rs.13 lakhs ; Rs.13 lakhs from Road Transport ; Rs.12 lakhs from Forest Revenue and Rs.47 lakhs from Union Excise Duties ; Rs.212 lakhs as Grants-in-aid from Government of India on various accounts and estimated receipt of Rs.150 lakhs included as arrear collection of Carriage-tax and some other minor variations amounting to about Rs.34 lakhs.

Sir, the expenditure on the Revenue side is estimated at Rs.7,040 lakhs and revenue receipt was estimated at Rs.7,078 lakhs. Thus it shows that a nominal amount of Rs.17 lakhs will be surplus in this year but on account of the implementation of the recommendations of the Pay Committee there would be a deficit of about Rs.5 crores. Sir, the Finance Minister has not mentioned how the gap will be covered within this year. Sir, we are completing the 3rd Five Year Plan and we are entering into the 4th Five Year Plan. As a result of the implementation of the plans what we have achieved today : (i) rising prices ; (ii) scarcity of food and other essential commodities. We have these two major problems facing us. The main problem is that of rising price. This rising price has hard-hit the common people and they have been brought to misery. So there is no happiness in the minds of the common people for high price and for want of the food-grains and other essential commodities. There have been shortage of various essential commodities and the Supply Minister has not been able to meet the requirements of the people. In this respect, *i.e.*, the reason for high price, I would like to mention about the money circulation in the year 1951-52. Sir, in that year total money circulation stood at Rs.1,848 crores, but in the year 1964 the total money circulation stood at Rs.3,834 crores. During the First and Second Five Year Plans money circulation increased to Rs.119.8 crores. But during the Third Five Year Plan it rose to Rs.263 crores. Therefore, steps are to be taken to curb deficit financing if the rising of price is to be checked. If this is not done the price structure will not go down, particularly the prices of the food grains and other essential commodities, and the common people will be hard-hit and they will not be happy and all the good work done by the Government will result in callousness. Sir, the Finance Minister has been pleased to mention about how to curb the rising of prices. With his recommendations, I would like most humbly to give the following suggestions for the Government to consider and implement :—

(1) The main point is the shortage of production and low-level of productivity in our country. Therefore, we should put first priority on production front. In the production front important changes are called for. In this respect I can humbly suggest that proper schemes should be examined and taken up for controlling flood and extension of irrigation facilities and more and better use of them.

- (2) Introduction of mechanised cultivation.
- (3) Increased application of fertilisers.
- (4) Intensive prices of crops.
- (5) Larger credit facilities to producers.
- (6) Introduction of a scheme for crop insurance.
- (7) Better seed supply.
- (8) Proper arrangement for procurement and storage of essential foodgrains so that there may not be hoarding and speculation on foodgrains.

(9) Free movement of foodgrains throughout the entire length of the country.

Sir, if these are done then I think, the price level would be brought down and also our production would be increased.

Our main problem is the production—which must be increased at any cost if we desire to achieve our goal—that is, establishment of democratic socialism in our country. If we fail to adopt these we fail in all our schemes. I most humbly appeal to the Government to take urgent steps so that our production, more particularly in the agricultural sector, gets increased.

Sir, the Finance Minister had mentioned about the transport problem. The problem which requires re-examination, by re-examination I mean the transport problem of the State which has been improved to certain extent but which has not improved to our expectations. The Government of India in the Ministry of Railways has introduced broad-gauge line upto Jogighopa. That is good. But the same bottleneck might be there at Jogighopa, if there is no extension of broad-gauge line upto Gauhati. I humbly request our Government to move the Government of India to extend the broad-gauge line upto Gauhati.

Next thing is that of power. We are glad that our production is getting increased but for fuller development of the State we require more, so I would urge upon the Government to see that our Kopili Valley Project comes into being immediately during the beginning of the 4th Plan period.

Sir, so far industrial production of our State cannot be achieved, a backward State like Assam cannot be prosperous. During these three Plans our achievement in this sector is not appreciable. We have not been able to establish any major industry in our State. We have not been able to establish paper or pulp mill, jute mill, cement factory, full scale weaving and cotton mill and so on and so forth. I would now request the Government to see their best so that these big industries come into being in our State. We have got our natural resources in our State, more particularly in Garo Hills. So proper and immediate schemes should be drawn up and carried on to tap the natural resources so that we get our desired result from these natural resources.

Sir, there is sillimanite, a rare thing, available in our State and so far as I know it is not available in any other State in this country. We have so far not been able to manufacture anything out of sillimanite excepting exporting the same to some other places outside the State to derive the benefits by others from that commodity. I appeal to Government to see that some refractory plants are installed in Assam so that sillimanite can be processed here.

The economy of Assam would be improved provided we increase our industrial production out of natural resources. The other day also I said here that the pressure on land in the State has become very acute and it is increasing year after year on account of various reasons. If we fail to remove this pressure on land and engage a sizable population from agriculture to other occupations then we cannot expect to have our economy improved. So, I appeal to Government to think very seriously about this matter. I consider this matter to be more vital because the cry for land settlement is every where in the State—but land is not available. We should think to reserve a certain percentage of

land for our future generations or for future purposes. But what do we find? We are giving settlement of whatever land is available without thinking anything for future; it is because we have no other alternative but to give land settlement wherever or whatever is available for their livelihood as there is no other occupation excepting cultivation or agriculture in our State. I fear a day will come when we will not be able to give one Katha of land to any person for dwelling purpose even. So, it is my earnest request to Government to see very carefully that some percentage of our population be removed from agriculture to other occupation.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up and you please conclude.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: Yes, Sir, I am concluding. Sir, in the Budget Speech the hon. Finance Minister did not mention anything about the urban population. The Government of Assam, it seems, is not giving due attention to this population. In his speech also we do not find anything about the improvement or developmental work of the urban population. In his connection I would like to mention one thing. Sir, in the last year the hon. Finance Minister stated in this House that at least one Railway Overbridge will be constructed in Gauhati. But that did not materialise in that year and we do not find any hint in the coming year also about this construction. I, therefore, appeal to the Government to see to it because the traffic problem of Gauhati is getting acute day by day as the population is increasing. In the last census it rose up to one lakh but if a census of Gauhati is again taken it will not be less than 2½ lakhs. The population has increased. The vehicular traffic has also increased and the slow-moving vehicles have also increased at Gauhati. So an acute traffic problem has been created at Gauhati. Therefore, I would request the Government to see to it so that at least two Railway Overbridges are constructed at Gauhati. Sir, I understand the difficulties of the Finance Minister to find out the finance for this project. But as it is too essential from the serious traffic point of view finance for these projects shall have to be found out anyway.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: Sir, I am completing my speech.

Sir, I would like to mention slightly about the improvement of the financial condition of the State. In this respect I would suggest that some device should be made how to improve the financial condition of the State and how to increase the resources of the State. Unless resources are increased we shall not be able to develop our State and at the same we cannot go in for begging before the Central Government for each and every matter. Ours is a State which produces tea, jute and petrol and these three commodities earn the foreign exchange. When this State earns foreign exchange, I do not find any reason why this State remains deficit and economically poorer. I, therefore, appeal to the Government to seriously think over this matter how to improve the economic condition of this State. I say that Assam produces tea, jute and petrol and yet this State remains economically backward; the people will never believe it. So, I would request the Government to think seriously over this matter how to

improve the economic condition of the State and increase the resources of the State. I have also suggested that our production must be increased and at the same time we must place our case before the Finance Commission which will be coming to this State in next April so that we can get our due share, our legitimate share out of Central Excise from the Government of India. Otherwise we cannot expect to improve the economic condition of the State.

Sir, with these words I thank the Finance Minister once again because he has not imposed any fresh tax on the people and appeal to Government to give serious thought how to check the rising of prices of essential commodities in our State.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): Sir, I would like to inform the hon Member who had just spoken to go through pages 50-58 of the Study of Third Five Year Plan Achievements where reference has been made to urban planning and for the development of urban areas.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Finance Minister had taken two hours time to complete his Budget Speech which is a big one consisting of 50 pages. As this is a big book, I could not go minutely through all the points mentioned therein. It is very difficult to give our opinion at this stage because it will take more time to go through this volume. However, in this speech he has incorporated many things like an administrator, not as a Finance Minister.

In his speech he has mentioned China, the Nagas, Pakistan and Rani Gaidulu's gang, etc. But he has not given any solution. What should be done is not mentioned in his speech. Day before yesterday the Chief Minister had also delivered his speech like a frustrated leader. But, Sir, the Finance Minister here in his speech did not classify the society. I would like to know from the Finance Minister how many kind of people having economic status are in our State. Sir, what are those classes at present prevailing in our State? In our society there are two groups—the rich and the poor. The rich group consists of the foreign capitalists, Indian bourgeois, industrialists and landlords. The poor group includes peasants, labourers, clerks and some artisans, etc. It seems that he has not classified this society of poor class purposely and his classification reaches the goal of richer community only. Sir, this is our socialistic pattern of Society. Sir, day by day in some of our tea-gardens huge amounts of foreign capitals are invested and what is the policy they adopted for the employment, etc., it seems, it is not known to the Government. The Finance Minister is silent about this. Sir, you will find that some Indians are also investing huge amount of capitals day by day in their industries, such as, tea-gardens, etc. But how much capital is invested by them and how much profit they are reaping is not mentioned by the Finance Minister in this speech. Their policy of employment is also not mentioned by the Finance Minister. Sir, you will find that the landless people will have nothing to gain from ceiling Act because of the policy of the Land Revenue Department. You will find by this or that way the entire land remains with the landlord. They divide their land among their relatives and as a result poor landless people will have nothing to get.

So, Sir, I can say that 90 per cent of the land is with them this way or that way. What about the tillers? How the landlords are exploiting

the tenants—all these are not incorporated here. Secondly, Sir, so far as the poor side is concerned, we do not get any picture in the Budget Speech. Sir, so many beggars are here. May I ask the hon. Minister to go out for a minute and see the beggars on the foot-path? Has he done anything for the beggars? Is he not the guardian? Sir, the State is the guardian of these people. Sir, 25,000 beggars are in our State but only one certified institution has been opened at Gauhati for them. What about the rest?

The Budget Speech is silent because the Finance Minister has not done anything for them though the Government is the guardian. Then, Sir, there are so many landless people. Some persons' lands have been acquired by the Government in Naharkatia and at Gauhati. These persons have also become landless. Are the Government giving land to them? Where is the provision for these persons? The Minister is silent about these landless people. Simply it has been stated at page 34 that a total of 3,750 bighas in Naojan-Bokajan have been opened and that some V. G. Rs. and P. G. Rs. have been opened. Altogether 1,30,00,000 people are in Assam. The rate of growth of population in Assam is 3 per cent. Every year the population is increasing by 3,75,000, but how many you have settled? If you take the population every man will get 2 lechas which means 8' in length and 4' in breadth. What about the people who are landless? What about the people whose lands have been acquired and eroded by the Government? The speech is silent. What about the unemployed youths? In the Public Works Department itself more than 10,000 road workers have been driven out. Where will they go? Are you not their guardian? Sir, the other day I said in the House that Shri Hemen Barua of Jorhat has given notice for retrenchment of more than 330 workers of the Gotonga Tea Estate. By the meantime they must have been retrenched. Where will they go? What about the people who have been thrown out of employment? The speech is completely silent in this respect. What about the middle class people? What avenues have been opened for them? I must say, none. Sir, the hon. Minister says and also the hon. Member from Gauhati says that the goal of the State is for democratic socialism. If that is the goal of the Government, it must have plans and estimates of the entire things. Sir, socialism means the workers in full control over the means of production, distribution and management too. The profit motive is completely ruled out in socialism. Monopoly speculation for profit—all these are not in the picture of a socialistic State. In a socialistic State every man must have some sort of employment, some avenues for sustenance. In the socialistic State this is the declaration. Yes, Bulganin is not in power but he has been given a job as the Manager of a certain Farm. Khrushchev is off the political scene but he is getting a pension. But here who have been thrown out of employment, what about them? Where will they go? You are making them robbers, dacoits, pick-pockets and thieves. This is your creation. The society at present is infested with so many un-social elements and these un-social elements are your creation. Sir, the trading in a socialist State is with the Government. The entire production and distribution is taken in the hands of the Government, but here the industrialists are given full opportunity to sell things like anything, to produce things like anything and to check the capacity of the industries. Sir, yesterday the Minister of Industries said that he did not understand as to what did I mean by checking the capacity. The meaning is that the producing capacity of the industries is suppressed with a view to get more profit and less employment. But in a socialist State the entire trade is in

the hands of the Government. But what is the picture here? The entire trade is in the hands of some businessmen. Here the demand and supply is the controlling aspect; but in a socialist State it is not the fact. In a socialist State there is always a plan as to how much cereals will be consumed in a year and how many yards of cloth will be necessary—and according to this plan things will be produced. No individual is given any hand in trade. Here we get one smell for building a socialistic State and that is 'State farming'. Government is proposing that this year it will start some State farming where these refugees will be employed. Good! At page 37 it says so. I welcome this proposal. But one thing in this respect—Government should take notice that Government should not take this venture with profit motive and when these people will be engaged Government should see that the principle of State farming is strictly observed, otherwise it will be a farce I do not know what will happen in the hands of the capitalist Government. This much I can say that I am not very optimistic in this respect. With a corrupted Government machinery it is not possible to achieve successful State farming. Sir, Government want to say that achievement of socialistic State is gradually coming forth, and that is why Government is coming up for public sector enterprises. They want to say that capitalists and industrialists will be liquidated and at present therefore some mixed enterprise is going on. Under the Fourth Plan, Sir, the public sector investment will be less. In the Third Plan it was 59 per cent investment of 21 thousand crores 7,000 crores only will be spent in the coming Fourth Plan in the public sector. Government is opening public sector for what purpose? The purpose is investment of Indian capital. But Government have no funds and they have to look up for foreign capital as they cannot purchase necessary materials without foreign exchange. That is why Government is borrowing from other countries. Why Government is opening up some industries here and there, sometimes with Indian capital and sometimes with foreign capital? Because we are short of foreign exchange we are allowing foreign capital. The Planning Minister advised that an atmosphere should be created so that foreign capital and home capital may be invested here. He has cited instances of Bombay and Mysore Government who are doing it. Sir, it means the failure of Government. If Government have no money, no fund, it is a failure on the part of Government. Well, in the years 1921, 1931, and 1941, etc., people jumped into fires to sacrifice their lives to drive out the British and they did all kinds of sacrifices for that. Now for the industrial development you cannot mobilise the people. Still every man is ready to sacrifice everything. But you cannot mobilise the people. You are inviting foreign capital to Assam. You go on with your own policy, employ any people you like; we will not disturb you

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is almost up.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH: I want more time, Sir, at least two hours.

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot give every Member two hours.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH: I am only the person representing my group, Sir. I am representing the people of my deology.

Mr. SPEAKER: Any way, you are representing a constituency.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH: As regards foreign exports and imports, Sir, we see that our import is more than export. Therefore, there is fall of foreign exchange. We are exporting to the value of only 600 crores and importing to the tune of more than 1,100 crores. Therefore, every year there is deficit of more than 400 crores.

Sir, the hon. Minister stated that some unaccounted money is also working. What is that unaccounted money? Why you cannot account for them? Whose money is that? It seems that some capitalists keep two khattas, one for the Government Inspectors and one for themselves. Huge unaccounted money is working here in this State throughout the year. You are not checking them.

Sir, Government have constituted an Economy Committee. Sir, if the proposals and findings of this Committee are implemented it will accrue about 62 lakhs of rupees or something like that. But the Economy Committee's report has not been submitted to us. If it is an internal matter why you mentioned about it here? Unless the report is supplied to us to go through its findings, how can we give our recommendation. It gives some suggestion that some employees should be retrenched. One day Government will employ people and the next day they will retrench them. One day Government will take up one scheme and the next day they drop it. So like a frog they are jumping from one well to another.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): Are you not in favour of retrenchment then?

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH: No, Sir, certainly not. Where these retrenched people will go; what they will eat?

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH: Sir, I want some more time.

In the programme the Minister says one thing and the officers say another thing. Sir, we find that last year the target of paddy procurement could not be achieved and this year too the Government started purchasing paddy for about one crore mds. But from the 'Natan Assamiya', dated 24th it appears that only about thirty lakhs mds. of paddy are being purchased. Sir, here we find that the achievement is not even half of the total estimate. Sir, if Government cannot reach the target, naturally there will be scarcity of food. That is why there is scarcity of food-stuff everywhere. Even in Shillong, yesterday, we heard that there was no rice and people find it difficult to procure rice.

Sir, the hon. Member from Gauhati has already mentioned here on the floor of this House that the price of essential commodities is rising high and to check the rise of price of essential commodities, Government takes the help of big industrialists and businessmen of the State. On the other hand, the Minister yesterday said that he would not bow down to the Government employees' threat. Sir, these people are our people. Their grievances should be paid heed to. Sir, in the other hand Government is bow

ing down to the capitalists. As for checking of rise of price it is appealing to the capitalists, merchants. Sir, at page 31, para 38 with a view to ensuring availability of these commodities at reasonable prices 8 measures have been taken by the Government. Sir, these are nothing but some manifestations how Government is bowing down to the capitalists.

Sir, again, regarding checking of Pakistani infiltration, Government is constituting only three or four Tribunals for checking or deporting illegal Pakistanis, or registering the infiltrants.

Sir, regarding Rani Gaidulu, during the British regime, our people agitated much for her release and again after Independence she was given pension. I do not understand why under this Government a friend became a foe? It is stated—"Recently reports have been received that members of Rani Gaidulu's gang have been active." Why so? These things should not be ignored.

Mr. SPEAKER: She is reported to be dead.

Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN (Karimganj-North): This is not confirmed by the Governor in his Address.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH: Sir, Government is not taking adequate measures for upliftment of the rural areas. Sir, No Work Day observance is going on in the Secretariat, and according to Economy Committee's decision there will be some reduction of staff. My suggestion is that, Sir, Government should not take steps against these employees by way of reduction of staff. Due consideration for their legitimate demand should be given. Sir, if the new pay scale is going to be enforced some scales will be affected and in that case there should be provision of some ad-hoc concession. I would like to mention, in this connection that the following ad-hoc concession should be given:—

Up to Rs.100	...	...	...	...	Rs.15
From Rs.100 to R.300	...	...	...	...	Rs.20
From Rs.301 to Rs.600	...	...	...	...	Rs.25

Sir, if we go through the Audit Report of 1964, page 32/33, "It would appear that the working expenses exceeded the receipts" and in many cases public money is misused and misappropriated. Why this is not checked before? Moreover, Sir, if any plan is done it should be done on the basis of some vital and important factors.

Sir, we should give importance for regularisation of our diet. What cereals we want and what should be the food value of our balanced diet, etc., should be taken into consideration. Sir, I am here citing a table of balanced diet for the maintenance of proper health from the book "Food Shortage and Agriculture written by M. K. Candhi:—

Cereals	...	...	...	14 ozs.
Pulses	...	...	...	3 "
Green leafy vegetables	...	...	...	3 "

Root vegetable	3	„
Other vegetables	3	„
Fruits	3	„
Milk	10	„
Sugar and jaggery	2	„
Vegetable oil, ghee, etc.	2	„
Fish and meat	3	„
Egg	One only.	

This diet yields about 2,600 calories. Whereas we are getting only 960 calories. We should find out some means to regularise our diet. For getting money for our schemes and plans profit tax should be levied. If Government have no money they should appeal for loan from other foreign countries on liberal terms. I think we will get response from friendly countries. It is the duty of the Government to raise the national income, standard of the living conditions and should take note for equal distribution of the national wealth. With these words, Sir, I conclude my speech.

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS (North Salmora, Reserved for Scheduled Castes): Mr. Speaker, Sir. I thank the Finance Minister for his illuminating and exhaustive speech wherein he has explained the difficult financial position of the State and the activities of the Government. Sir, although it is a deficit budget, I am personally not happy to see it. He has, of course, explained the reasons why it was unavoidable. Now, the question arises how to make up this deficit. But how to explore the possibility of increasing the revenue income and other resources, that is, of course, left to the Government to think over. Sir, as my friend Shri Devendra Nath Sarma has already suggested about various sources like tea, coal and other things which can earn foreign exchange, I also endorse his views in this regard. In this regard I specially want to suggest that some other resources should also be explored. We should try to explore the resources of forests, particularly, in the district of Garo Hills and other districts. But I have not seen any attempt made in this regard.

Sir, our State is full of forest wealth particularly in Garo Hills. So far as our knowledge goes, it is rich in forest wealth, cotton, timber, bamboo, lac, coal, etc. But nothing has been done as yet to explore these things and utilise them. That would have indirectly added to the income of the State. Similarly in the Forest Department we have seen that the Department has not been able to make so much improvement in regard to the revenue income. I think if plantation can be done extensively and if illegal felling of Sal trees and the unclassed ones in forests is checked and the forest flora is explored then this will also add to the revenue income of that Department. Sir, our State is full of natural resources. I was telling previously that the Government should make an endeavour to invite industrial concerns which may consume these things as raw materials so that these resources can be profitably utilised. From these forest resources drugs can also be manufactured at a cheaper rate and thereby we can also

increase our income. In this way the other Departments should also try their best to increase their revenue income. Through the Medical Department, through people think that it is an expensive Department, we can also earn something, of course, its earning will be very negligible. During the last cholera epidemic we have seen that there was a heavy demand for cholera vaccine and the Pasteur Institute produced huge quantity of vaccines but even then it could not cope with the demand. Sir, the demand for such vaccine is there throughout the country and so, if some amount is invested and this Pasteur Institute is developed then we can earn some amount. Sir, the Pasteur Institute has a good reputation and there is heavy demand for vaccine even from the neighbouring countries like Pakistan. But this Institute has not been able to meet the demand fully. So also the case of Vaccine Depot which can earn more revenue by producing more lymphs for use outside the State. Similarly in the Hospitals and Medical Colleges also there is scope to earn some money. Hospitals have also some earning by way of X-ray fees, examination charge of specimen, operation fees and so on. A percentage of this income is now distributed amongst the Doctors concerned. I think this should be stopped for the reason that this income should come to the State exchequer and at the same time it will also avoid jealousy of the other Doctors in the Pre-Clinical section who do not get any share at all. It will also stop corruption. In this way, if every Department looks to the revenue income then it may help the Government.

Then, Sir, in the Revenue Department we have seen that Government is losing huge amount of money on the fisheries. In my own constituency there is a fishery which used to be sold for about Rs.12,000 or Rs.13,300 a year, but for the last two or three years this fishery is not being sold but private persons are earning money by fishing. In this way there are so many fisheries in the State which are not sold and are being utilised by the people and are earning some money. If these fisheries are sold perhaps they would have earned some income. This question should be thoroughly examined. So far as my knowledge goes there are many small fisheries in the State and the people are using them and earning some money without paying any revenue to the Government at all. This could have helped the Panchayats to increase their income.

Sir, I am very much interested in the Medical Department. The allocation shown in the Budget for the Health Department is disappointing to me. Top priority should have been given to the Health Department. Sir, we have been pressing for the establishment of Health Units and Dispensaries and the only reply the Department gives is that for paucity of funds they have not been able to implement the Plan scheme. There is demand for the establishment of a Primary Health Unit and a dispensary from my constituency also for a long time but these could not be materialised. Government should go ahead with the scheme of establishing more and more Health Units in the State. What I mean to say is that every year Government should establish at least two or three such units; otherwise I do not understand how we can cover the blocks with Health Units during the Plan period. Sir, all our efforts for development depends on the health of the people, a healthy nation. Prosperity of the country depends on a healthy nation. If we cannot maintain the health of the people I think it will not be possible to materialise our schemes properly. How can we achieve our objects unless our people are in good health and well-nourished? Most of the people, perhaps the majority of the people in the rural areas are ill-nourished and have not been able to maintain their health. A large

number of people are suffering [from mal-nutrition. At the same time I feel that those voluntary organisations which are doing some work by way of giving relief to the T. B. and Cancer patients, have not been given due importance by Government. I would like to cite here the instance of Lokapriya Bordoloi T. B. Hospital, Gauhati. Sir, the hospital was established in 1956-57. We started with 50 beds and the Government then was pleased to allot Rs. 1 lakh. But now the number of beds has considerably increased, from 50 to 140, still the grant remains the same. Yesterday I saw in the budget that only Rs. 1,25,000 has been sanctioned for this Hospital. The Department would say that they have increased the grant but the Government has asked us to maintain 18 beds. At the same time we are also facing the crisis on account of increased pay scales and rise of prices. The employees are asking for the same benefit as are available to the Government employees. Moreover, this institution will have to do now domiciliary treatment. Of course, I understand that there is need for such hospital in other parts of the State. But Government should at least give us some amount to manage the hospital; otherwise it has become very difficult to manage it. The Government should either give adequate grant or they should take it over and manage it itself.

Sir, Tuberculosis is increasing in the State and this fact is known to the Department also. Of course it is difficult to accommodate all patients in the hospital, therefore, all attempt should be made to start domiciliary treatment. That would no doubt cost some amount but so far as this question is concerned, the Central Government is prepared to supply Anti-T. B. drugs at a very cheap cost to the Department for distribution to the poor patients. This question should be examined very seriously and I hope the Department or the Government will take advantage of this offer from the Central Government.

Now, Sir, I am coming to the question of development. When I think of my constituency I become very much disappointed. As regards communications, I mean P. W. D. Roads, I have seen that nothing is being done for the last two years. I do not see any provision made in the Budget. Since two or three years back no new road has been constructed. Even ordinary repairs were not done. All these roads are being damaged by the repeated floods every year, yet for ordinary repair of these roads no provision has been made in the Budget. Of course if there is no fund I do not grudge but what I want to impress upon the Government is that there should be uniform distribution of funds to meet the requirement of all parts of the State but it appears distribution of funds for communication has not been done fairly at all districts.

Similarly, Sir, I have seen that Inspection Bungalows have been sanctioned for places where there is no or very little need for them. At places where even ten officers would not visit a year, the Government proposes to establish I. Bs. Sir, although the Government and some of our Ministers gave assurances, I do not see any proposal for the establishment of an I. B. in Abhoyapuri. A Guest House is available there of course at a cheap cost but this place has become very important on account of the establishment of Thanas and Police Stations and other offices. Similarly in the case of Jogighopa, it has now become a very important place where a park is going to be established besides it is being a terminal broad-gauge station, but I do not see any proposal for establishment of an I. B. there. I am sorry that his question has been left out. Instead I. Bs are sanctioned for other places

which, as I have already said, do not deserve so urgently. Of course I do not grudge them having such I. Bs but priorriy should be given to those places which are more deserving and growing. So I request the Government to examine this question also.

Then, again, Sir, the question of Health Units. No Health Unit has yet been established in Srijangram, not to speak of a dispensary at Bishtapur. Even an ordinary Maternity Centre has not been established in many places of my constituency. In Abhoyapuri, for example, the people are praying for establishment of a Maternity Centre. There is no dearth of space. So, Sir, whenever I think of my constituency I feel very much disappointed. I do not know what explanation I can give to the people of my constituency. Therefore, I hope Government will be pleased to find out some ways and means to help and see that these things are started as early as possible.

Then, Sir, about General Administration I want to say something. Government has been pleased to set up an Administrative Reforms Committee and we have given our views on the replies to the Questionnaire sent to us. In this connection again I would like to request Government to see that recruitment is done very carefully and at the same time only in unavoidable circumstances recruitment should be made. Personally I feel that smaller staff with better men who can manage the affairs properly and in a better way should be provided; if necessary even retrenchment can be resorted to. Those retrenched personnel can well be absorbed in some industrial undertakings because I have seen in some cases these industrial concerns are recruiting men from outside the State. This may create an apprehension in the minds of the local people that they will be unemployed. So attempt should be made to absorb these people in the industrial concerns. Then again, Sir, I have seen that there are some unnecessary officers. For instance, Government have created the post of Welfare Officers in each Subdivision, but in fact I have seen that these officers have very little work to do or they are not utilised for the purpose for which they were appointed. If these officers are at all necessary, they should be utilised for the welfare of these people like the tribal or backward classes in addition to the welfare of the scheduled castes. In other words my point is that these officers should be entrusted with the work for which they were meant otherwise these posts should be abolished. This question should be again examined properly.

Sir, complaints have been received from the public that Government is recruiting people from outside the State. In this connection I should say that only in exceptional cases such recruitment should be made. Another complaint has been made about imparting training to our local people in order to enable them to get some jobs in the industrial development of the State. This is a burning question. So, I request that Government should examine these questions and if possible should have training institutions to train people in technical subjects to be employed in the industrial concerns of the State. If necessary more scholarships should be provided to train our boys outside so that they can come back and take such jobs. This will go a long way to encourage our young people.

Sir, coming to the Medical Department again I am sorry that I have to repeat this question every year in the Budget speech, that is the question of Medical Licentiate Service. I am pleased to see that Government has decided to extend certain benefits by way of promoting these people, I mean A. S.

11 officers who have completed 10 years of service. I thank the Government for this. The other day while replying to a Question the Health Minister was pleased to announce that from 18 per cent it has been raised to 50 per cent.

But actually it was in the paper that 18 per cent will be promoted, in practice it is only 13 per cent. Then, Sir, the seniority of these people is not calculated when these employees were promoted as Assistant Surgeon I. Sir, these people have rendered more than 20 to 25 years' service but still they are not given this little benefit. Sir, there are various categories of posts such as Sub-divisional Medical Officers in our State. There are about 22 such posts. I therefore suggest that if not 50 per cent at least some percentage of such posts should be reserved and given to these employees, especially at the fag end of their life. They have got to educate their grown up children. So they should not be posted to the rural dispensaries because there they do not get the facilities to educate their children. In many cases such officers are posted to the rural areas. This is very unfair and by transferring them to the rural places at the fag end of their life, much injustice has been done to them. These officers had done very excellent work in the past, especially in eradicating the Kala-zar havoc, Malaria and other infectious diseases. So, they should be given some amount of benefit at least, otherwise they will retire disappointed.

Sir, coming to the question of general education I have felt that some anomalies have been going on in the management of schools and colleges. The Managing Committee and the Governing Body are not functioning well. The question of recruiting qualified teachers has been left to the Managing Committee and Governing Body. I am connected with various institutions and I can speak from my experience that there have been lot of anomalies in the matter of recruitment. I feel that the existing procedure of constituting Governing Body and the Managing Committee should be changed. I will of course give light about these anomalies when I get opportunity to speak to the Education Minister. Due to poor quality of the teachers it has been found that during the last 15 years not a single student could pass in the Second Division, not to speak of First Division. Similarly in a college the Professor is sometime recruited on the basis of merit-cum-political consideration. I, therefore, feel that constitution of these bodies should be changed.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up, Dr. Das.

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS: One point more and I finish. Sir, one point I forgot to mention. This is about the appointment of clerks who join colleges as students too. Personally I feel that those who join colleges as students after appointment as clerk cannot serve both the purposes simultaneously. So the standard of education falls and in the office work suffers. The efficiency deteriorates. So, Government should consider and examine this point.

Lastly, Sir, I want to point out that there is a huge wastage in the Agriculture Department. About 10 per cent of the food grain is spoiled by the rats. It is a huge quantity. I have not seen any scheme undertaken by the Agriculture Department to check this wastage by tackling the rat menace. I hope the Agriculture Department will

look into this matter.

Sir, regarding income from the Fishery Department, I would suggest that the Government should examine the question of giving fish license to the genuine fishermen of the State as has been done in other States. This will give a fair amount of revenue too to the State and this will stop indiscriminate fishing. The fishery mahals are being spoiled by the refugee fishermen by indiscriminate fishing. Moreover, our people are not getting adequate opportunity to earn their livelihood for want of cultivable land, hence such provision is necessary.

With this words I resume my seat.

Shri SURENDRA NATH DAS (Barama—Reserved for Scheduled Tribes):

মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমাৰ বিত্তমন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে যি সুন্দৰ পৰিকল্পিত বাজেটখন এই সদনত দাঙি ধৰিছে, তাৰ বাবে তেখেত ধন্যবাদৰ পাত্ৰ আৰু আমি আমাৰ আন্তৰিক অভিনন্দন জ্ঞাপন কৰিছো। তেখেতে আমাৰ ৰাজ্যৰ বাইজ সকলৰ যি অৱস্থা তালৈ লক্ষ্য ৰাখি আৰ্থিক ক্ষেত্ৰত তেওঁলোকৰ ওপৰত নতুন কৰ কাটল ভাৰ নিদিয়াতকৈ আগবঢ়াই নিবলৈ কৰা প্ৰচেষ্টা প্ৰশংসনীয় হৈছে আৰু তাৰ পৰা আমি আশা কৰিব পাৰোঁ। যে ভবিষ্যতে তেওঁলোকৰ নিজ নিজ কাৰ্য্য-কৰ্মত বিভিন্ন ক্ষেত্ৰত আগবাঢ়ি যাব পাৰিব। আজি আমাৰ দেশত অৰ্থনৈতিক উন্নয়নৰ কাৰণে কৃষিকাৰ্য্যত উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে, জনসিঞ্চন ব্যৱস্থাত পৰিকল্পিত ভাবে জোৰ দিবলৈ যি প্ৰয়াস কৰা হৈছে সেই মতে যদি ব্লক উন্নয়ন খণ্ড এৰিয়া বিলাকত প্ৰযোজ্য কৰিব পৰা যায়, তেন্তে বাইজে নিজে নিজে খৰচ কৰি বা শ্ৰমেৰে কৰা পানী যোগানৰ ব্যৱস্থা বিলাক অধিক কাৰ্য্যকৰী হব আৰু ওপৰলিহে সহায় পাব। ই এটা ভাল লক্ষণ। এই কৃষি ক্ষেত্ৰত লোৱা ব্যৱস্থা সমূহৰ পৰা ৰাজ্যত উন্নতি হৈছে আৰু বিশেষকৈ কাছাৰ জিলাত পেকেজ প্ৰোগ্ৰামৰ যোগে বহু কাম হৈছে। যদি অন্যান্য জিলা সমূহলৈও এই পেকেজ প্ৰোগ্ৰাম সম্প্ৰসাৰিত কৰা হয়, মোৰ বিশ্বাস ই বাইজৰ কামত আহিব আৰু বিশেষকৈ জনজাতীয় খেতি প্ৰধান অঞ্চলৰ বাইজ সকলৰ কৃষিকাৰ্য্যৰ উন্নতিত আৰু সৰহ শস্য উৎপাদনত সহায় হব।

Adjournment

The Assembly then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Saturday, the 6th March, 1965.

Shillong,
The 7th October, 1965 }

R. C. CHAUDHURI,

Secretary,

Assam Legislative Assembly.