

GENERAL DIRECTOR OF THE BUREAU

MR. DEPUTY SECRETARY
MR. DEPUTY SECRETARY

Adjutant

THE CHIEF

ADJUTANT GENERAL

**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 10 A. M. on
Thursday, the 11th March, 1965.

PRESENT

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN GHOUDHURY, B.L., Speaker in the
Chair, nine Ministers, three Ministers of State, two Deputy Ministers and
sixty-two Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Re: Site for a Regional Engineering College at Silchar

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) asked:

*56. Will the Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to state what are the reasons of selecting Silchar as the place suitable for establishment of a Regional Engineering College?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH (Minister, Education) replied:

56.—In accordance with the suggestion of the Working Group of Planning Commission and in order to cater to the needs of Cachar and adjoining areas, Government have decided to establish this College at Silchar.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister for what reasons the Planning Commission recommended Silchar to be the best suitable place for establishment of a Regional Engineering College?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH: Evidently, they thought that, it would be suitable for Assam and also in order that it can cater to the needs of Silchar and the adjoining areas including Tripura and Manipur.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: Sir, when the adjoining areas would have been served by an ordinary Engineering College, may I know from the hon. Minister as to why the Regional Engineering College is going to be established there?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH: An ordinary Engineering Institute will cater to the needs of Assam, but it should cater to the needs of a number of adjoining States like Manipur, Tripura and Nagaland.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Sir, what are the factors that were taken into consideration while selecting the site for the Regional Engineering College at Silchar?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH: It has already been answered.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, whether any other sites in Assam were examined by the Working Group of the Planning Commission?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH: Naturally a number of places informally were taken up by the Planning Commission for consideration, and not for examination of the site.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: Sir, may I know what are the places which are examined by the Planning Commission?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH: I did not say for examination.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether there is any other members from Assam selected for the Expert Committee which visited Assam in connection with the establishment of the Regional Engineering College in Assam?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH: Yes. Members of the Expert Committee which visited Assam in connection with the establishment of the Regional Engineering College in Assam are—

Prof. A.C. Roy, Principal, Bengal Engineering College, Sibpur.

2. Shri N.C. Chakravarty, Assistant Educational Adviser (Technical), Government of India and Secretary, Eastern Regional Committee of the All India Council for Technical Education.

Assam Representatives:

Shri K. Barua, Chief Engineer, Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings).

Dr. S. K. Barua, Director, Technical Education and the Member Secretary of the Expert Committee.

Professor B. Behera, Principal, Regional Engineering College, Rourkela who is a member of the Committee could not come due to illness.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, may I know from the Minister what financial assistance has been received from the Government of India?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH: Rupees two crores.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, may I know what amount is going to be borne by the State Government for this purpose?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH: I am not quite certain now.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: Sir, when the College is meant for a Region, why the State Government should bear the expenditure?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH: The Central Government will also bear a portion of the expenditure.

Re: Development of Gauhati

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) asked:

*57. Will the Minister-in-charge of Town and Country Planning be pleased to state whether more money will be allotted for development of Gauhati?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Town and Country Planning) replied:

57.—Yes, subject to availability of funds.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether there is any probability of availability of funds?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: It has already been answered.

Re: Introduction of Underground Drainage for Gauhati in the Third Five-Year Plan

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) asked:

*58. Will the Minister-in-charge of Town and Country Planning be pleased to state—

(a) Whether any amount was set apart for introduction of underground drainage with sewage for Gauhati in the Third Five-Year Plan?

(b) If so, how that amount has been spent?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Town and Country Planning Department) replied:

58. (a) & (b)—There was a Third Plan provision of Rs. 40 lakhs for drainage and sewerage. Nothing was earmarked particularly for Gauhati, nor was any fund earmarked for underground drainage. However Government intended to spend the major portion of the amount for Gauhati. The entire amount was to have been advanced as interest bearing loan by the Government of India. The Gauhati Development Authority was given a sum of Rs. 74,400 for survey. After survey it

prepared a scheme for drainage and sewerage of 800 bighas of land for Uzan Bazar area to cost about Rs. 1 crore 30 lakhs. It was found that it was too costly scheme. Accordingly, Government directed the Gauhati Development Authority to revise the scheme. The Gauhati Development Authority submitted a revised scheme for Uzan Bazar and Kharguli areas, wherein the first part of the scheme would cost Rs. 43.55 lakhs. The Gauhati Development Authority, however, indicated that it was not prepared to undertake the scheme on the basis of loan. Hence, the matter was referred to the Government of India. The Government of India advised us to move the Ministry of Health, Government of India, for Central assistance. The Ministry of Health, Government of India, on our approach directed that fresh scheme should be prepared by the Public Health Engineering Department. The Public Health Engineering Department has accordingly been requested to do the needful.

Now the Gauhati Development Authority has prepared another scheme for increasing the capacity of the Bharalu river to clear the water of the town. The scheme is to cost Rs. 22 lakhs 74 thousand. The Authority has approached the Government to sanction the current year's available budget grant of Rs. 5 lakhs for implementation of scheme. The matter is under consideration.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: Sir, may I know when the scheme which is being prepared by the Gauhati Development Authority is expected to be completed?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: The matter is only referred to the Government. It has not come to the final stage yet.

Re: Meeting of the Assam Flood Control Board

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) asked:

*59. Will the Minister-in-charge of P. W. D. (F. C. and I. Wing) be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether any meeting of the Assam Flood Control Board was held in the year 1964-65?
- (b) If so, decisions taken in these meetings?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY [Minister, P. W. D. (F. C. and I. Wing)] replied:

59. (a)—Yes. Altogether 4 meetings have so far been held during 1964-65.

- (b)—Broad decisions taken in these meetings are given below—
 - (i) The Board approved taking up of protection works of a few towns, viz., Gauhati, Extension of Dibrugarh Towns Protection Works, Silchar, Golaghat and Karimganj, besides construction of few new embankments, drainage channels and sluice culverts and raising and strengthening of some existing embankments. The Board also decided to try Selective Dredging as an experimental basis as anti-erosion measures near Mohanaghat. The Board also decided to give more stress on investigation of long-term projects in the 4th Plan.

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (Bihpuria): Sir, whether the Government is aware that schemes for rehabilitation of flood affected people of Majuli and North Lakhimpur in North Lakhimpur Subdivision have been taken up?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: This Board is not concerned with the rehabilitation of flood affected people.

Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU (Majuli, Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): Sir, whether any scheme for closing the mouth of Kherkata Suti has been taken up by the Flood Control Board?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I do not know. All schemes do not come to the Board directly.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara): Sir, whether irrigation schemes are undertaken by the Flood Control Board?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: No, these are not under this Board.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): May I know whether there is any basis on which priorities are given to the schemes?

Shri MONIUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Yes, there are bases on which priorities are fixed.

Shri PULAKESHI SINGH (Sonai): May I know whether any scheme has been taken up for protection of Katakhal bridge, the only road link, which is being eroded by Barak river?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: The scope of this question should be limited to what it is meant for. If information about all schemes are asked for, separate notices will be necessary.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): What are the definite schemes that were taken up in that meeting?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: The question is not very clear to me.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is very broad: "Whether any meeting of the Assam Flood Control Board was held in the year 1964-65?"

If so, decisions taken in these meetings?"

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: All right, Sir. The following schemes were approved:—

1. Protection of Silchar town.
2. Extension of Dibrugarh protection works.
3. Protection of Golaghat town.

4. Protection of Gauhati town.
5. Protection of Karimganj town from erosion of Kushiara.
6. Survey for Model test for protection of Goalpara town.
7. Raising and strengthening of Brahmaputra dyke from Badati to Jamaguri.
8. Raising and strengthening the Dikrong embankment.
9. Raising and strengthening Brahmaputra dyke from Haldibari to Bessamara in Majuli.
10. Raising and strengthening the Brahmaputra dyke from Deorighat to Sissikalghat.
11. Preventing spill from Puthimari to Baralia.
12. Flood embankment along left bank of Manas in Titapani Mouza in Barpeta Subdivision.
13. Construction of embankment along left bank of Katakhal.
14. Provision of sluices over Porchai channel in Silchar subdivision.
15. Construction of tributary dyke along east bank of Subansiri from Gaugamukh to Samparaghat and Jangrimukh to Selemukh.
16. Extension of embankment along both banks of river Longai from Patherkandi to Nilambazar in Karimganj subdivision.
17. Construction of embankment along both banks of Champamati from Karigaon to Nayacherra, Phase I (from N.R. Road to railway line).
18. Closing of spill channels in Beki river at Jamakur village in Barpeta civil subdivision.
19. Providing sluices at Dustimukh and Singimari for reducing flood congestion in Upper Borbhag and Paschim Barigong Mouza.

These are some of the specific schemes approved by the Board apart from, as I have said, schemes for dredging on selective basis and improving the availability of technical personnel of the Department, particularly with a view to undertake investigation of the 4th Plan schemes.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: May I know the estimated total cost for these schemes?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: On each of the schemes ? I am afraid we are going too far. Anyway, Sir, I am giving the information.

	Rs. P.
1. Revival of Solangi river in Tezpur Subdivision ...	4,70,000·00
2. Improvement of drainage system of Singrajan and Manguijan in Tezpur subdivision.	2,31,000·00
3. Construction of Barnadi embankment along left bank from Patgiri Chuba to Khanapara in Mangaldoi subdivision.	4,38,000·00
4. Construction of embankment on the left bank of Desang from Pathaligarh to Rajgarh.	6,26,000·00
5. Construction of embankment on both banks of Pagladia from R. D. Road to Tamalpur Road.	4,50,000·00
6. Construction of embankment along both banks of Kopili from Ahatguri to A.T. Road.	5,47,000·00
7. Protection of Gauhati town from erosion by the Brahmaputra.	25,000,00·00
8. Construction of embankment along right bank of Barak from Lakhimpur P. W. D. Road to State Trunk Road.	5,89,000·00
9. Amjur river training scheme Phase III ...	4,18,000·00
10. Stopping Sonai spilling into Amjuri river area	1,17,000·00
11. Preventing spill from Puthimari to Borali ...	1,50,000·00
12. Flood embankment along left bank of Manas in Titapani Mouza in Barpeta Subdivision.	10,50,000·00
13. Construction of embankment from left of Katakhal.	6,65,000·00
14. Provision of sluices over Parchai channel in Silchar subdivision.	2,68,000·00
15. Raising and strengthening of Brahmaputra dyke from Badati to Jamuguri.	8,20,000·00
16. Raising and strengthening of Dikrong embankment.	7,41,000·00
17. Construction of cement godown at Gauhati ...	30,000·00
18. Construction of embankment along right bank of Barak from Ganirgram to Katigora.	10,38,000·00
19. Raising and strengthening of Brahmaputra dyke from Sisikalghar to Tekeliphuta.	18,73,000·00
20. Construction of tributary dyke along east bank of Subansiri from Gagamukh to Champarghat and Jangirmukh to Selemukh.	22,61,000·00

Rs. P.

21. Extension of embankment along both banks of Longai from Patharkandi to Nilambazar.	12,65,000·00
22. Raising and strengthening Brahmaputra dykes from Haldibari to Bessamara in Majuli.	12,96,000·00
23. Construction of embankment along both banks of Champamati from Karigaon to Noiachara	20,29,000·00
24. Raising and strengthening Brahmaputra dyke from Deorighat to Sisikalghar.	12,58,000·00
25. Investigation of Barak dam site (for mathematical model).	50,100·00
26. Construction of Brahmaputra embankment on the south bank of Brahmaputra from Neamati P. W. D. Road to Gohaingaon.	6,64,300·00
27. Raising and strengthening of Janji Marginal bund, phase I and II.	11,00,000·00
28. Construction of embankment along both banks of Nonoi river from M. P. K. Road to railway line.	10,70,000·00
29. Model study for protection of Bohari from erosion by Brahmaputra river.	44,470·00
30. Closing of spill channels in Beki river at Jamar-kur village.	1,92,000·00
31. Providing sluices at Dusutimukh and Singri-mari.	6,85,400·00
32. Protection of Karimganj town from erosion of Kushiara river.	

This scheme will ultimately require Rs. 50,00,000·00. The present estimate is limited to Rs. 16,00,000

The total cost of all these Schemes is likely to come to near about three crores of rupees.

Shri MOHANANDA BORA: চাৰ, মোৰ প্ৰশ্নটো আছিল যে মাজুলি আৰু লক্ষীমপুৰৰ বান প্ৰপীড়িত লোকসকলৰ পুনৰ বসতিৰ কাৰণে উত্তৰ লক্ষীমপুৰৰ কেইটামান অঞ্চল প্ৰস্তাৱ কৰা হৈছিল আৰু এই অঞ্চল কেইটা বাসৰ উপযোগী কৰিবৰ কাৰণে কেইটামান মথাউৰি বন্ধাৰ প্ৰয়োজন ; এই প্ৰয়োজন পূৰা কৰা বান নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ বিভাগৰ দায়িত্ব । কেইবাটাও আঁচনি বান নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ বিভাগলৈ পথোৱা-ও হৈছে, গতিকে বান নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ বিভাগে সেই আঁচনি কেইটাও top priority দি বুভগীয়া মানুহবিলাকক সহায় কৰিবনে ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : মাননীয় সদস্যই বেলেগে এটা প্রশ্ন দিলেহে তাৰ উত্তৰ দিব পৰা যায়। তথাপিহে কওঁ যে Flood Control Board এ বাইজৰ পৰা সৰাসৰি অহা প্ৰস্তাৱ বিবেচনা নকৰে। প্ৰস্তাৱবোৰ প্ৰথমে Technical Board লৈ যায়। যেতিয়া Technical Board এ অনুমোদন কৰে তেতিয়াহে আমি বোৰ্ডত বিবেচনা কৰোঁ।

Re: Construction of two over-bridges on the Railway level crossing at Gauhati

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) asked :

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

- (a) Whether Government propose to construct at least two over-bridges on the railway level crossings, one at Dr. B. Barua Road and the other at A. T. Road at Athgaon at Gauhati?
- (b) If so, when the work is expected to be started?

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

60. (a)—Not during the current Plan period as there is no fund. If recommended and funds are made available, these may be considered in the Fourth Five-Year Plan.

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

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: May I know whether the construction work will be started and completed within the 4th Plan period?

Mr. SPEAKER: First of all, funds must be available, only then the work can be taken up. The Minister said that there was no fund at the moment. If any funds are available during the 4th Plan he will consider it.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara): May I know from the hon. Minister whether this project will receive priority in the current Plan in view of the great traffic congestion in the Gauhati Town?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: If it is recommended by the Road Communication Board and funds are available.

Shri Sriman PRAFULLA GOSWAMI (Nalbari-West): Sir, do the Government realise the necessity to give top priority to the project?

Mr. SPEAKER: If it is recommended by the Road Communication Board?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: Any way, Sir, these things are being pursued by the public since long and this time the project is included under the Third Plan. Under the Fourth Plan two over bridges, one at Tinsukia and the other at Dibrugarh were taken up for construction at the instance of the Chief Minister. So far as Gauhati over-bridge is concerned, it is a question of not only priority, but of top most priority, but it depends on the Road Communication Board and the Leader of the House.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar): Is the State Minister, P. W. D. aware that the level-crossing on the B. Barooah Road falls within the shunting range of the Goods-shed ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: Yes, Sir, I am aware of that.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: Sir, may I request the Chief Minister to take up this matter with the Government of India ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): Sir, the whole question rests on the availability of funds. So far as the P. W. D. plan allocations are concerned, it is completely exhausted. As a matter of fact P. W. D. has not been able to take up any more work for want of funds. If funds are available, the over-bridge which is very important will have to be taken up.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: Sir, may I know whether the hon. Minister is aware that these projects are of utmost importance from the public point of view ?

Mr. SPEAKER: It has been admitted by the Chief Minister.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: So, Sir, whether these projects will be actually taken up in the Fourth Plan ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): Why Fourth Plan, Sir, we would like to take them up even next month as soon as funds are available, work cannot be taken up without funds.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Sir, the hon. Chief Minister has stated about insufficiency of funds. But as this is somewhat a concern of the Government of India, are the State Government approaching the Government of India—the Railway authorities—to allot some fund ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: Sir, so far as the over-bridges are concerned, a portion of the expenditure is borne by Railway and we have to meet the rest. Of course, Railway portion is small as the Railway is concerned with the bridges' portion. The difficulty with the Government of India is that funds at the disposal of the Transport Ministry are very limited. The hon. Members might have heard the criticism of the hon. Member from Dibrugarh about the condition of the National High Way—the deteriorating condition of the National High Way from Makum onward—it is because of the fact that Government of India did not provide adequate funds in time.

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (Bihpuria): Sir, in the construction of the bridges on the Rangapara-North Lakhimpur line the entire expenditure was borne by the Government of India. In view of that are the Government approaching the Railway authorities, Government of India, to make these over-bridges here also ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: Sir, that may be put as a separate question.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): Sir, what is the apportionment of share of the State Government and the Central Government in the construction of the over-bridges?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: Sir, so far bridges are concerned, State Government will have to do them and so far the over-bridges are concerned Government of India will make the necessary funds available and the approaches for the State Government to construct.

Shri Sriman PRAFULLA GOSWAMI: Whether the State Minister, P. W. D., will be able to save something out of the P.W.D. funds for making provision for the two over-bridges?

Mr. SPEAKER: It depends on the recommendation of the Communication Board and the availability of funds.

Re: Survey on Family Budget of Middle Class Family in Assam

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora): asked:

*61. Will the Minister-in-charge of Planning and Development be pleased to state—

(a) Whether any survey on family budget of middle class family has been conducted in Assam?

(b) If so, whether the report has been published?

(c) If not, why not?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Planning and Development) replied:

61. (a)—Yes. The survey was conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation, Government of India, in two towns of Assam, viz., Gauhati and Shillong.

(b)—Yes. Out of three parts of the report, one part has already been published by the Central Statistical Organisation, Government of India.

(c)—Does not arise.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: May I know, Sir, by whom the survey was conducted and in which year?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: It was conducted in the year 1958-59, Sir.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Whether the survey was conducted by the Government of India in collaboration with the State Government?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Sir, for such survey Government of India uses the States' statistical organisations generally.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar): Sir, has the report been published ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Only one part of three has been published.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): May I know, if the Government will circulate the portion already published ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Sir, that is published in a book and it is perhaps priced publication. I hope, therefore, it is available for the hon. Members on payment.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, when the other parts will be published ?

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

Re: Requirement of Mustard Oil per year in the State

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) asked :

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

- (a) The requirement of Mustard Oil in the State per year ?
- (b) Whether the price of Mustard Oil has gone up rapidly and also there is scarcity ?
- (c) If so, what steps Government have taken to reduce the price of Mustard Oil and to supply it adequately ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Supply) replied :

62. (a)—Thirty-six thousand metric tonnes approximately.
 (b)—It was so in the last few months. The price of Mustard Oil is gradually coming down at present.
 (c)—Scarcity and high prices of Mustard Oil in the last few months were mainly due to low production of Mustard seeds in the State and restrictions imposed on export of Mustard Oil by the Government of Uttar Pradesh. To cope with the situation and to maintain supplies and to bring down the prices of Mustard Oil to a reasonable level, orders were issued in August 1964 under the D. I. Rules banning unauthorised export of Mustard Oil and Mustard seeds to outside the State and for the compulsory declaration of stocks by traders, etc. Release of Mustard Oil from Government buffer-stock was also ordered to maintain supplies as far as possible. Strict vigilance has also been exercised by the local officers in relation to the provisions of the Assam Food-stuffs (Export) Control Order, 1956. Besides, Government have decided to place check-gates on important traffic points to prevent unauthorised movement of Mustard Oil/Seeds to outside the State as also to strengthen the enforcement staff of Supply Department for strict enforcement of Government orders and regulations.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): May I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a question which is of public importance? As replied by the hon. Chief Minister that there is a restriction on the movement of mustard seeds and mustard oil outside the State, the hon. Chief Minister stated yesterday that this restriction has already been abolished after the discussions in the last Chief Ministers Conference. But today, the hon. Supply Minister has come again with the proposal that this restriction is still there.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: Sir, we are watching the situation and if the movement of mustard seeds and mustard oil is allowed to go outside the State, it will be very difficult and unwise on the part of our State. If we lift this ban at this very moment, these mustard seeds and mustard oil may go outside the State. And I have stated that the matter is still under examination of the Government.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, according to the Chief Ministers' Conference, the restrictions on the movement of mustard seeds and mustard oil have been abolished and if our State does not lift this ban and if the other States also take the same attitude, then I am afraid, the present quantity of these commodities that we are having will not be sufficient to cater to the needs of our State. In that case what Government has prepared to do ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: Sir, we are simply watching the situation and as soon it is possible, the ban will be lifted.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora): Sir, whether the Government has communicated their opinion to the Central Government ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): Sir, we have informed the Government of India before we imposed this restriction and the reasons for which we thought it fit for imposing this restriction was also intimated.

Re: Construction of a fresh Bund at Amguri in Goalpara Subdivision

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

*63. Will the Minister-in-charge of P. W. D. (E. & D.) be pleased state—

- (a) Whether Government have any proposal of constructing a fresh Bund at Amguri to protect the Srijangram area in the North Bank of Goalpara Subdivision ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the old bund has not been properly maintained ?
- (c) When Government propose to extend the Borghola-Lenglinga Bund ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY [Minister, P. W. D. (F. C. and I. Wing)] replied :

63. (a)—Yes. Construction of a retirement of the Aic embankment near Amguri village has been taken up for execution.

(b)—No. The existing bund was properly maintained. But, owing to rapid erosion, the breach could not be prevented.

(c)—There is no proposal for extension of the Borghola-Lenglinga Bund at present.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Re: Thousand acres of cultivated land falling outside Saikhowa protection bund

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahool) asked :

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

(a) Whether it is a fact that more than thousand acres of cultivated land have fallen outside Saikhowa Protection bunds ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that Lowpani village is a very growing village in that area ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that annually the cultivation of the above area is damaged by flood water ?

(d) Whether it is a fact that the P.W.D. is extending the National Highway up to the river ?

(e) If so, whether the villagers outside the bunds are in great danger ?

(f) Whether Government has taken any measure to protect the above villagers ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, P. W. D., Flood Control, etc.) replied :

33. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes, it was reported to be so before 1950 earthquake.

(c)—The area being situated outside the Brahmaputra Bund, cultivation is subjected to some damages by flood waters.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—Yes, to some extent.

(f)—There is no such proposal with the Government, at present.

Shri SANTIRANJAN DAS GUPTA (Lumding): In reply to question No. 33(f) it is stated that there is no such proposal with the Government at present. I draw your attention to the question whether the Government has taken any measure to protect the above villages which are in difficulty?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is the reply.

Shri SANTIRANJAN DAS GUPTA: Yes, Sir, but whether Government will take any measure now to protect the villages?

Shri M DINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Regarding the villages which fall outside the bund, there is no way to protect them. The only way for the villagers of such villages is to shift themselves within the bund.

Re: Hindi Training College at North Gauhati

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOŚWAMI (Kamalpur) asked:

34. Will the Education Minister be pleased to state what progress has been made for the establishment of the Hindi Training College at North Gauhati and what amount has been allotted for construction of the buildings during this year?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH (Minister, Education) replied:

34.—A site for establishment of Hindi Training College has already been selected by the State Government. The plan and estimate for the College is now under preparation by the State Public Works Department. No provision has been made in the budget of 1964-65 for the purpose. The scheme with the plan and estimates will have to be sent to Government of India for their approval and also provision of funds.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora): Sir, whether this Hindi Training College is going to be included in the 4th Plan?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH: Sir, this is a centrally sponsored scheme and therefore it does not form part of our Plan.

Shri DULAL CRANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Sir, whether the Government have convinced the Government of India about this?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH: There is no need to convince the Government of India as they are already convinced.

Re: Conversion of Barama High School to a Higher Secondary one

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

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

(a) Whether it is a fact that there is a proposal for conversion of Barama High School to a Higher Secondary one?

(b) If so, when the School will be so converted?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH (Minister, Education) replied:

35. (a)—Not yet.

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

Re: Standard of High and Middle English Madrassas

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked:

36. Will the Education Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the High Madrassas are of equivalent standard with High Schools and Middle English Schools?

(b) Whether the syllabus and curriculum are prescribed by the Board of Islamic Education for the Madrassas or by the Education Department or by the Board of Secondary Education?

(c) Which is the controlling authority in academic affairs such as inspection, recognition, supervision over the High and Junior Madrassas and traditional Madrassas in the State?

(d) Whether instruction imparted in High and Junior Madrassas is general education or special education?

(e) Who controls the appointment, discipline, approval, etc., of the teachers of the different categories of Madrassa, *i. e.*, whether by the Board of Islamic Education and the Special Officers or by the D.P.I. and the Inspectors of Schools?

(f) Who conducts the examinations of the High Madrassa, Board of Islamic Education or the Board of Secondary Education?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH (Minister, Education) replied:

36. (a)—Yes, High and M. E. Madrassas are of equivalent standard with High and M. E. Schools in general subjects.

(b)—Courses and syllabus for the High and M. E. Madrassas are prescribed by the authorities mentioned below:

M. E. Madrassa—

General Subjects:—By the Education Department.

Islamic Subject:—By the State Madrassa Education.

High Madrassa—

Islamic Subjects:—By the State Madrassa Education Board.

General Subjects :—Assam Education Department upto Class VIII.

General Subjects for High Ma- drassa Examina- tion (IX and X).	}	The courses and syllabus of the Secondary Education Board are followed.
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(c)—State Madrassa Education Board is the controlling authority in respect of Title, Senior and High Madrassas and those Institutions are inspected by the Assistant Inspector of Schools for Muslim Education and Secretary, State Madrassa Education Board. The grants-in-aid bills of the High Senior and Title Madrassa are countersigned by the Inspector of Schools concerned. The Deputy Inspector of Schools is the authority to countersign the grant-in-aid bills in respect of M. E. Madrassas.

(d)—Instruction, *viz.*, both general and special education are imparted in High and M. E. Madrassas in the State.

(e)—The Secretary, State Madrassa Board, controls, supervises and approves the appointments of the High and Senior Madrassas. The Director of Public Instruction who is the Chairman of the State Madrassa Board, controls the Title Madrassas and approves the appointments of Title Madrassas.

(f)—All the Madrassa Examinations, *viz.*, High Madrassa, Senior Madrassa and Title Madrassa examinations are conducted by the State Madrassa Education Board.

(Starred Question No.64 was not put as the hon. questioner was absent).

**Calling Attention to the observance of Protest Day by the
All-Assam Aided College Teachers' Association on
1st March, 1965**

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Sir, may I draw the attention of the hon. Education Minister to a matter of urgent public importance? Sir, the All-Assam Aided College Teachers' Association observed 'Protest Day' on the 1st March, 1965. Sir, in this connection, I want to draw the attention of the Government to the recommendations of the last Pay Committee which have been placed before this House. Sir, we do not find any measures and any such actions taken by the Government for the improvement of the lot of the Aided College Teachers. Sir, they observed this 'Protest Day' for non-fulfilment of their grievances by the Government. Sir, so far as their grievances are concerned, they said that various recommendations in respect of Aided College Teachers, particularly regarding their pay scales have been made by the University Grants Commission very recently and these Aided College Teachers have approached the Government to implement these recommendations. Now, Sir, we have observed in the Pay Committee Recommendations that Government dealt

only with the pay scales of the Government College Teachers and you are fully aware of the fact, Sir, that there is one Government College and 99 per cent colleges are Aided Colleges and almost 95 per cent students are to study in these Aided Colleges. So, Sir, if the Government do not take any effective measure to improve the lot of these low-paid Aided College Teachers, it will hamper and it will obstruct the smooth functioning of the educational institutions and at the same time it will affect the interest of the State in respect of education. Sir, this Association met our hon. Education Minister and it has been understood from the statement in the Paper that our hon. Education Minister assured them for looking into this matter. Till to-day, Sir, nothing effective has been done to improve the lot of these people.

Sir, the major portion, the major group of teachers have been left out intentionally by the last Pay Committee. I also wanted to have a clarification from the hon. Finance Minister the other day about this injustice. And I have also written a personal letter to our hon. Finance Minister few months back. But no reply has been received by me so far. Sir, what would be the fate of these low-paid College Teachers? So, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Education Minister through you what effective steps have been taken by the Government to improve the lot of these Aided College Teachers so that the present discontentment among these teachers does not prevail. With these words, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Education Minister to this important matter.

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH (Minister, Education): Sir, I quite appreciate the anxiety of the hon. Member to improve the standard of emolument of all those who are serving in the educational institutions in our State. Sir, our Government has taken effective steps in the matter of increasing the pay scale of teachers which I can claim is the highest in India. So far as the Aided College Teachers are concerned, their scale of pay is fixed by the University Grants Commission which pays a share of their pay and we also pay a share. And I think, it will be more or less 50:50. On this basis, the University Grants Commission has fixed the scales which range from Rs. 200--600 for Lecturers.

This could not come under the purview of the Pay Committee because so far the pay of the Aided College Teachers is concerned, it is fixed by the University Grants Commission and a part of it is also borne by the University Grants Commission; it is a joint responsibility of the University Grants Commission and the Government. This was agreed to by the members who represent more or less the Aided College Teachers; Shri Bipin Pal Das was at that time the President of the All-Assam Aided College Teachers' Association and Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami here who is also a teacher in an Aided College. After that some teachers met me in August and I readily agreed that the new scale fixed by the University Grants Commission may be fixed for them subject to the condition that these Colleges should be well established and should be eligible for full assistance under the rules. The University Grants Commission also recommended that their case may be sympathetically considered. I also suggested that so far as the Government is concerned we will help them. Another deputation met the University Grants Commission; I have got a copy of the proceedings

of that meeting which has been forwarded to me by the University on 31st August 1964. Dr. Kothari, Principal Pranjit Kumar Talukdar, Principal Bipin Pal Das, Principal Bhagwan Chandra Lahkar, Shri K. L. Joshi, Secretary, University Grants Commission, Dr. P. J. Philip, Joint Secretary, University Grants Commission and Dr. R. D. Deshpande, Education Officer, University Grants Commission were present. Sir, they have written that the Chairman mentioned that the Commission had decided to give the highest priority to the question of salary revision of college teachers during the Fourth Five Year Plan. He mentioned that a Committee appointed by the Commission to examine this question had recommended the following set of scales: Principal: Rs. 700—1100; Professor: Rs. 500—800 and Lecturer: Rs. 300—600. The Chairman further mentioned that even implementation of these scales would mean considerable expenditure, as many colleges had failed to implement comparatively modest scales of pay prescribed by the Commission during the Second Plan period. It would, therefore, be extremely difficult for the Commission to agree the higher scales of pay for college teachers in one State while denying the benefit of the same to teachers in other States. Keeping in view the peculiar circumstances in Assam, the Commission would be willing to make adjustments within the prescribed minima and maxima of the scales in order to suit local conditions. The Chairman, however, emphasised that the decision in this matter could only be taken by the Commission in consultation with the Gauhati University and the State Government. The University Grants Commission would arrange a meeting with the State Government at a suitable date either in September or in October 1964. The Chairman also stated that the Commission would view with sympathy the request of the Assam College Teachers to introduce the revised scales. Soon after that the Aided College teachers met me again and I told them that I am in entire sympathy with them and I am agreeable to give them the scale as recommended by the University Grants Commission but I have to consult the Finance Department in the matter. I have no doubt in my mind that when the University Grants Commission has fixed the scale, they would implement the same. So, that is the position, Sir, but the University Grants Commission or the Gauhati University have not met us to discuss this matter. As soon as this is done, I hope, we will be able to implement the scale.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora) : May we know from the Education Minister when this communication from University Grants Commission was received by the Department ?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH : This came in last September, I suppose.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Just now the Education Minister said that he would discuss this matter with the Finance Department. I want to know from the Minister whether this has been done, and if so, what is the result ?

Mr. SPEAKER : The Minister said that the proposed discussion had not yet taken place. Unless the discussion between the University Grants Commission, the Gauhati University and the State Government is held and decision arrived at, the question of approaching Finance Department cannot arise.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : When can we expect that discussion to take place ?

Mr. SPEAKER : That depends on the University Grants Commission.

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH : In this matter the sponsoring authority is the University Grants Commission and the grant also comes from the University Grants Commission. As I have stated earlier the scales were recommended by the University Grants Commission for other colleges also in India under the Fourth Plan because in the Third Plan period many States have not been able to implement the scales of pay recommended for the Second Plan, *i. e.*, Rs. 200—600. I can quote some instances. Take Kerala for example. In Kerala the Lecturers are in the scale of Rs. 200—400. I have also the figure for Uttar Pradesh. But the fact of the matter is that many States have not given the same scale of pay which was recommended for the Second Plan period and which we have implemented in the Third Plan. That is why the University Grants Commission recommended the present scale under the Fourth Plan and we have agreed to that.

Fixation of time for Discussion of a matter of urgent Public Importance, *Viz.*, Observance of Continuous No Work Day by the Assam Secretariat Service Association.

Mr. SPEAKER : Before I come to the next item I want to take the approval of the House on one matter. I received yesterday a note from Shri Dulal Chandra Barua Secretary, United Opposition Front in this House wherein he says: "Sir, we beg to state that some of our Members have got some important public engagement at 4.30 P. M. tomorrow and as such they will not be able to take part in the discussion on Observance of Continuous No Work Day by the Assam Secretariat Service Association.

So it will be highly appreciated if you kindly fix the time for discussion of this matter (under Rule 50, included in tomorrow's agenda) at 2 P.M. instead of 4.30 P.M. tomorrow.

We are prepared to forego the Private Members' Business in the afternoon Session."

After receiving this note from the Secretary of the United Opposition Front, I contacted the Leader of the House who has kindly consented to take up discussion of this matter at 2 P.M. to-day. I think we can take up this discussion under rule 50 at 2 P.M., and for this I want the approval of the House.

(Voices : Yes, Yes).

Then we come to item No.3, Shri Dulal Chandra Barua.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat); Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Assam Reservation of Industrial Employments Bill, 1965.

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved.

Shri SANTIRANJAN DAS GUPTA (Lumding): Sir, I want to draw your attention to the proviso to Rule 70 which says: "Provided that where a motion is opposed on the ground that the Bill initiates legislation outside the legislative competence of the House, the Speaker may permit full discussion thereon." Sir, while sympathising with the sentiments expressed in the Bill, I shall only refer to the matter to the House whether we have got that legislative competence. In this connection I would also like to refer to certain articles of the Constitution. Now Article 13(2) says: "The State shall not make any law which takes away or abridges the rights conferred by this Part and any law made in contravention of this clause shall, to the extent of contravention be void;" then Article 14 says: "The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India."

Article 15, clause (1) says: "The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them."

Article 15, clause (2): "No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex place of birth or any of them be subject to any disability, restriction or condition with regard to--"

Article 16 (1): "There shall be equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the State."

Article 16, Clause (2): "No citizen shall on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, residence or any of them be ineligible for or discriminated against in respect of any employment or office under the State."

Sir, I have drawn the attention of the House to these Articles of the Constitution and I should also like to draw the attention of the House to another point. Sir, during the course of discussion on the Governor's Address hon. Member Shri Ram Prasad Choubey wanted a clarification from the Leader of the House about the definition of the local people and *bonafide* Assamese. He categorically placed before this House the above point. But unfortunately while replying to the Governor's Address the hon. Chief Minister overlooked this matter. No doubt I have full sympathy with this Bill but I doubt the competence of this House with regard to legislating such Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER: Do you mean to say that the Bill is *ultra-vires* ?

Shri SANTIRANJAN DAS GUPTA : Yes, Sir.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Sir, it is a very delicate point. Sir, it is said in Article 16, clause (III): Nothing in this Article shall prevent Parliament from making any law prescribing in regard to a

class or classes of employment or appointment to an office....., etc., and clause (IV) which provides: "Nothing in this Article shall prevent the State from making any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens which in the opinion of the State is not adequately represented in the services under the State." So, Sir, considering the backwardness of our State in respect of employment and in respect of economic condition I have brought this Bill before this House for consideration. Besides, Sir, Article 19, clauses (4), (5) and (6) empower the State to make such laws which protect the interest of the local people.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) : Sir, so far as the object of the Bill is concerned there can hardly be any two opinion but still the House cannot legislate something which is not permissible under the Constitution. From our side we cannot say that it is permissible. In any case it is a matter which should be properly looked into.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara) : Sir, can we hear the Advocate General on this point ?

Mr. SPEAKER : When the Bill was received by the Assembly Secretariat it was referred to the Law Minister and the Law Minister referred this matter to Legal Remembrancer. I have got the opinion of the Legal Remembrancer, which runs as follows :

"Social security and social insurance; employment and unemployment"—This being the subject of the Concurrent List, prior approval of the Centre appears to be necessary. Otherwise, if there be any law passed by the State Legislature it will be void to the extent it is found to be repugnant. This will be so void even if the Parliament passes a legislation on a subsequent date. To avoid this difficulty in a matter covered by the Concurrent List of the Constitution, prior approval of the Centre is always expedient. The introduction of the Bill on this ground may be objected to."

The next point that arises for consideration is whether it is hit by Article 16 of the Constitution. Article 16 provides, among other things, for equality of opportunity in the matter of public employment which is referred to by Mr. Das Gupta. No citizen on the ground only of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, residence or any of them be ineligible for or discriminated against in respect of any employment of office under the State. clause (3) of the Article 16 is an exception to the general rule. But here again, it is the Parliament which can make a law regulating the employment or appointment to an office under any State specified in the First Schedule or in the local or other authority within its territory. This brings us to the question whether the industrial undertakings as envisaged by the proposed Bill will come under "the local or other authority" within the meaning of clause 3 of Article 16. If it does, then the State Legislature will have no jurisdiction to pass any law in the matter. It will be the Parliament alone which by law can prescribe any regulatory measure including reservation of employment to the resident of a particular State. In considering whether "local or other authority" within the meaning of clause 3 of Article 16 will mean such undertaking within the meaning of the Bill, it will be necessary to make a reference to Article 12, which defines the word "State" in the following terms :

"In this part unless the context otherwise requires, the State includes the Government and Parliament of India and the Government and Legislature of each of the States and all local or other authorities within the territory of India or under the control of the Government of India."

On the principle of "ejusdem generis", the words "local or other authorities" should be taken in an analogous sense of the State. This has been also authoritatively held by different High Courts. The words "other authorities" would therefore mean authorities of a like nature of a State. So interpreted, the expression "other authorities" will only refer to public authority and not private authorities. Thus the management of a private institution like a private school or a bank or commercial concern, a factory and so on will not constitute an authority for the purpose of this Article and will not be covered by the expression "other authority" within the meaning of Article 12 of the Constitution. Taking this view of the matter, I am of opinion that the industrial undertakings envisaged by the proposed Bill will not be local or other authority within the meaning of clause 3 of Article 16 of the Constitution. Then perhaps the question of making any law by the Parliament will not arise and the State Legislature will be competent to pass a law in this respect. As I have already indicated, the equality of opportunity in the matter of public employment is restricted only to the employment or office under the State or under the local authorities, which should be taken to mean only State or State-owned or governed undertakings.

Now, the question arises whether the State, which is debarred from making any law providing for such reservation of employment or appointment in any industrial undertaking which is State-owned or managed, should proceed to make a law on the similar matter only to regulate employment in the private undertaking or broadly speaking no State undertaking.

Technically it may not come within the mischief of Article 16, but on the ground of broad policy, it will be a matter engaging serious thought of the Government before they should proceed with such legislation. On perusal of the Bill as a whole, I find that it has not been properly drafted and it will require recasting on a major portion of it. Under certain provision of the Bill, expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of the State will be involved. In that view, a Financial Memorandum will be necessary. This the Member himself will have to furnish as he is going to introduce the Bill as a Private Member's Bill.

There is no Central Act to govern employment in private companies. There is none in contemplation also, I believe, of the Central Government to bring such a legislation.

We need not discuss at this stage the merit of the Bill. The House will have the opportunity to discuss threadbare the implication of the Bill when it is presented there. Therefore the latter portion of Legal Remembrancer's opinion does not hold good for the purpose of introduction of the Bill.

I agree with Legal Remembrancer that the Bill does not come within the mischief of Article 16.

The Bill comes under Article 199, Sub-Clause (I)(d). A Financial Memorandum seems necessary. I believe a Governor's message for introduction of the Bill may be necessary. In any case this will be necessary at the consideration stage. The hon. Member Shri Dulal Chandra Barua may be requested to obtain the message. He should also be requested to submit the Financial Memorandum.

The drafting and other defects of the Bill may be rectified by amendments when it comes for discussion clause by clause.

(The Bill was introduced)

Mr. SPEAKER : Now we can pass on to item No.4.

(Further discussion on the Motion—"This Assembly do now take into consideration about the size estimate, etc., of the 4th Plan.")

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Minister-in-charge of Planning for placing before us the Preliminary Memorandum on the Fourth Five Year Plan of Assam. Sir, we have already finished two Five Year plans. Now, we are going to finish the Third Five Year Plan also. But we would like to hear the achievements so far made by these Plans. Sir, the Planning Commission have stressed on the following :—

- (i) to ensure a minimum level of living to every family,
- (ii) to provide employment to all those who seek it, and
- (iii) to remove social and economic disparities.

But, Sir, it is my keen duty to mention here that though we are marching forward, a considerable section of the people are still lagging behind in their economic advancement. This section of the people is not getting the minimum requirements of life. Therefore, Sir, I think the objectives of the Fourth Five Year Plan ought to be the covering of the minimum level of living to every family with necessary quantum of food and to create conditions and opportunities as required, thereby enabling them to secure the means of minimum level of living. Sir, it is a fact that the main objectives of the economic planning are to remove poverty of the people of our country. I admit that these three plans, that is the First Plan, Second Plan and the Third Plan which is almost going to be completed, have raised the national products very significantly. But it is a fact that the condition of life of less fortunate section of our population still continues to be far below the minimum essential for health and efficiency which appear to us as a challenge and we must be able to meet this challenge. Sir, after completion of all these Plans, we find that we have not been able to have self-sufficiency in our food, not to speak of anything else. So, food is the first item and if it is the first item then I think agriculture must get priority in our Plan. I, therefore, request the framers of our Plans to see that agriculture gets first priority in our Fourth Five Year Plan. Of course, I do not mean, thereby, that we should minimise the importance of other essential services also, like health, education and transport, therefore, I think that in order to achieve the objectives of our Plans, effort should be directed to increase the agricultural production so that the supply of food will increase. First priority should be given to agriculture and secondly, for the development of Heavy and Major Industries in order to strengthen the industrial base and thirdly for the establishment of adequate transport facilities and fourthly navigation and other essential services. Sir, in the Fourth Plan a total outlay has been suggested as Rs.29,765 crores. Of these, Rs.18,520 crores will be investment and Rs.2,245 crores current outlay in the public sector. Of course this is of the price level of 1960-61 and coming to our State we find that the total outlay suggested for Fourth Plan is Rs.375 crores and the estimated State National Income is Rs.505.3 crores and *per capita* income in our State has been indicated to be Rs.376.7 at the end of the Third Plan.

We have increased our State National Income by Rs.111.3 crores from 1960-61 to 1965-66, that is, during a period of five years. If this figure is correct then I think the total outlay of our State Fourth Plan amounting to Rs.375 crores is not sufficient in comparison with our State National Income. I think it ought to have been much more, and I appeal to the Government and more particularly to the Planning Minister to look into it and see whether at least the total outlay could be increased. Sir, I have

already stated that unless we can remove the disparity—the economic disparity that exists amongst the various sections of our people, our objective will never be achieved. I, therefore, appeal to the Government and more particularly to the Planning Minister to see that the disparities which exist in our State to-day get removed as a result of implementation of these schemes, otherwise the less fortunate people will not be happy and the meaning of this economic planning also will be absolutely meaningless to them. Sir, in this respect I cannot but say that to get the desired result of economic planning we must have an efficient administrative machinery without which we cannot expect to achieve our desired goal. In this respect from experience I may say that our administrative machinery is not so efficient and quick as we desire. So I also mention about the improvement of our administrative machinery. Sir, another factor is necessary for successful implementation of the Plan, that is, creation of public enthusiasm. Without public co operation and enthusiasm no democratic planning could be successful. I, therefore, appeal to the Government to create conditions so that the people get enthused and their co-operation is extended to implement the schemes of the Plan. Sir, we are going to have our country economically progressed through economic plan, a Plan which is democratic, that is, we want to achieve economic progress of our country through planning and through democratic methods. No country in this world has experimented up to date on economic planning through democratic method. This is India and India alone has started this experiment. If we succeed according to our method and ways then we shall not only be able to raise the living standard of our people but also be able to set an example to the world that the economic condition of the people of very backward and poor country could be improved through democratic planning. So we must be very cautious and at the same time we must have a very efficient machinery to obtain success in our Plan.

Sir, in this Memorandum our Government have shown the achievements of the last two Plans. If these figures are to be taken as correct then we must say that our previous Plans were successful to a great extent ; but we are not satisfied with these results achieved during these three Plans. Our State Government have allotted in the Fourth Plan for agriculture Rs.32 crores ; for power Rs.103 crores ; flood control Rs.25 crores ; industries Rs.30 crores, though I do not find in this Memorandum anything about establishment of any Major or Heavy industries. I would have been glad had I been able to see something about the establishment of Major industries and Heavy industries. Here I see only mentioning of medium and cottage industries. In this respect I would like to mention that without establishment of Major or Heavy industries we would not be able to achieve our desired goal of creating an industrial base in our State without which I believe, and believe very sincerely, that we cannot march forward towards economic progress. I, therefore, appeal to the Government and more particularly to the Minister of Planning and Industries that some amount is allotted for establishment of Heavy or Major industries in our State because there is sufficient scope for establishment of Major and Heavy industries here in Assam. Sir, another thing I have noticed in agricultural sector, which seems to me to be the most important, that only Rs.32 crores have been allotted which I do not consider to be sufficient for improvement of our agriculture. In this respect I humbly like to suggest for establishment of an Agricultural Development Corporation in our State like the Industrial Development Corporation. I believe that if such Corporation is established and if scientific schemes are drawn up and mechanised cultivation is introduced and our people, more particularly the

tillers of the soil, are aroused, then I am sure that our agricultural production will get increased to a great extent ; it will not only be able to supply the needs of the people of the State alone but it will be able to help the people of other States also. So I appeal to the Government to consider about the creation of an Agricultural Development Corporation.

Sir, I have not seen anything in the Memorandum of the Fourth Plan about establishment of any Major industry. I hope, Government will consider about this.

In Power also I do not find anything mentioned about the Kopili Valley Project which, I believe, Government is considering whether it is feasible to include the scheme in the Fourth Plan. I think it is feasible to include that project in the Fourth Five Year Plan.

Sir, our transport system still happens to be very poor. I do not consider that our transport system has improved to our expectation. The transport system should be improved progressively and more allocation should be made for the purpose.

I have seen the Health Schemes also where there is no mention of anything else excepting the completion of scheme for establishment of two Medical Colleges, one at Gauhati and the other, most probably, at Silchar. I am glad that during the Fourth Five Year Plan Government has decided to complete the two Medical Colleges, but that is not sufficient. Health is the most important subject. The other day, I requested the Government through question for drawing up a scheme for free medical aid to our tillers and agriculturists at least during the time of cultivation so that our agricultural production may not suffer due to ill-health or illness of our cultivators. I would have been happy had such a scheme been included in the Memorandum. However, I appeal to the Government and the Minister of Health to see whether it is possible to include such an important scheme because our agricultural production must be increased by all possible means and I consider that this is one of the fundamental item for our cultivators and tillers to grow more and other commercial crops.

Sir, in this Memorandum mention has been made about the establishment of a State Trading Corporation. I welcome this venture, but we must be very cautious because we are to implement this through our bullock-cart agency which is not experienced. So, I would request the Government to take this matter into consideration very cautiously so that we may not get adverse result from it.

Sir, technical education is most important and we have not yet been able to develop our technical institutions to our expectation, so I would request the Government and, more particularly, the Minister of Education to include some more funds in this head because the money which has been allotted here for technical education is, I consider, not sufficient.

Sir, another thing is about the introduction of compulsory primary education. Our Constitution provides that within a certain period our country must have compulsory primary education in all the areas, but not to speak of introducing compulsory primary education, we have not yet been able take up all the venture Lower Primary Schools and we

have not been able to provide each Lower Primary School with two teachers. There is a large number of these schools having one teacher only but one-teacher Lower Primary Schools cannot function properly, so all one-teacher Lower Primary Schools should be provided with two teachers. Large sums of money should be spent for the spread and improvement of primary education. Therefore, I hope, the Government and our Education Minister will consider my suggestions and include them in the Memorandum.

Sir, I would like to mention here about prohibition. We have started prohibition in some of our districts but not throughout the State. I am a staunch supporter of prohibition but the result we have so far achieved is not at all encouraging, therefore, I appeal to the Government and the Minister of Excise to include some strong measures in the Fourth Plan so that our prohibition can be made successful.

Now, regarding land. Of course mention has been made about improvement of the land revenue collection system. In this respect, I should like to say that the Government is losing a very substantial amount every year for non-realisation of all the land revenue. There is a large number of people throughout the State who are in possession of Government land without paying land revenue. Therefore, I would urge upon the Government to draw up some schemes so that our entire land revenue is realised and the system gets improved. If our financial resources are to be improved land revenue is one of the main sources from which we can derive financial resources to a certain extent.

The other day, I requested for reservation of land for our posterity. I consider that some percentage of land available now should be kept reserved for our future generations. We should not open Forest Reserves for settlement purpose.

The other day, I said about Government's neglect on urban development. Government also admitted that. I appeal to the Government to take a serious view of this matter because our urban population is increasing year after year and most probably, today it is about 11 per cent of the total population of our State. This vast population should not be neglected. In our First, Second and Third Plans nothing had been provided for the development of urban areas. I earnestly request the Government, more particularly, the Minister concerned, to take up some special schemes for the development of Gauhati, the biggest town in Assam, having the largest number of population. On these considerations and various other factors, Gauhati deserves to be properly developed into a modern city.

If I am right, Sir, the hon. Chief Minister was kind enough to mention about this also. I hope if the Chief Minister fulfils the desire of the people, then Gauhati will be converted into a modern City. I also appeal to this House to lend all support and assistance so that Gauhati gets its proper development, because Gauhati should not be considered as a mere Subdivisional town, it should be considered on the State level. As Calcutta is not considered as the headquarters of 24 Parganas District of West Bengal, Bombay is not considered merely as a District headquarters of Gujerat and Patna is not considered a district headquarters of Behar, so Gauhati also should not be considered to be the headquarters of Kamrup district. So, I appeal to the Government and the Planning Minister to consider this matter seriously so that Gauhati gets proper treatment in the hand of the Government.

Sir, I now like to say a few words in respect of resources of our State before concluding my speech. Sir, our resources must be increased by increasing agricultural production and industrial production. Our aim should not only be to raise our income by increasing revenues out of land and forests, Sales-tax and Agriculture taxes but also we must have economy in our administration. There are many loopholes in our administration which should be stopped and economy be made. If these loopholes are not stopped, in spite of all measures taken to raise the resources, all will go in vain. By taking adequate measures to prevent such loopholes in our administration, we can increase our income, at least, three to four crores of rupees out of savings in the administration. Sir, I hope in the Fourth Plan we will be able to achieve our goal. With these words, I conclude my speech.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I am thankful to the Planning Minister for placing before this House the Preliminary Memorandum on the Fourth Five Year Plan of Assam wherein he has given the outlines for the proposed measures that the Government is going to take in different departments in the Fourth Five Year Plan. Now, Sir, in the case of framing Plans, it should always be remembered that Plans should be so prepared that in course of time the regional disparity in the matter of development in various spheres in every area may be removed. But, Sir, we find that we have not been able to remove this disparity in the matter of development of undeveloped and under-developed areas. Therefore, in the Fourth Plan there should be survey of different areas, backwardness of areas and people, and Plans should be so moulded that we can go ahead with the development of these undeveloped and under-developed areas. Now, Sir, the development of a State mainly depends on the development of agriculture and industries of the State so that ultimately economy of the people living in the State is raised. Therefore, in an agricultural country like ours, we should give highest priority to agriculture, and make all endeavours to see that our cultivators get all facilities for development of agriculture. Sir, in our Third Plan we have not been able to meet the requirements of our people so far as the food products are concerned. Every year we find that there is scarcity of essential food stuffs, which lead to black-marketing and profiteering and hoarding and consequently to spiral rise of prices of essential food commodities. Therefore, it is high time that in the Fourth Plan we should reorient our old methods and schemes and innovate special schemes for the the development of our agriculture in all its spheres. Our activities have been confined only to increase the paddy cultivation and no attempts have been made to grow other varieties of food-grains such as pulses, mustard oil seeds and similar such other essential commodities of food stuff. Sir, every year we have to depend for these varieties on the import from other States through the transport bottleneck which always handicaps free flow of these essential food stuff to our State. Therefore, in the Fourth Plan, there should be special measures for the cultivation of all the essential food grains which will be necessary to meet the requirements of the people of our State, and for that purpose in the Fourth Plan, sufficient funds should be provided so that these schemes can be executed. Another thing, Sir, we should not only make endeavour for developing cultivation of paddy and other food grains, but we should also try to revitalise the schemes for horticulture because our attempts for growing fruits have not been as expected. There is one skeleton scheme for horticulture. But fruits form an important part of our food items and therefore, it should also be envisaged in the

Fourth Plan, so that our horticulture, *i. e.*, cultivation of fruits is augmented and for that purpose individual enterprisers should be encouraged by financial assistance and also there should be endeavour for creating co operative societies for the purpose of horticulture.

Next thing, Sir, we should also pay more attention to poultry farming which forms an important part of our food and in this respect we have not been able to go ahead through these three plans. Our endeavours have not been so active and our schemes have not been able to produce the desired result. As fruits, poultry and meat, form part of our foodstuff and are essential for sustaining the health of the nation, provision for developing these should be made in the Fourth Plan.

Sir, we have not been able to go much ahead in respect of fishery. We have some fisheries, but some of them are becoming unsuccessful and some unproductive. It is, therefore, high time that we should investigate the causes of these failures. Therefore, in the Fourth Plan we should provide adequate funds for such schemes as will ensure the development of pisciculture.

As regards milk supply, which is an important item of food and on which depends the prosperity and health of our younger generations, we have not been able to do much in the three plans. We have got dairy farms which are not sufficient in number. Co-operative Societies should be organised under appropriate schemes for the purpose of increasing the production of milk supply in our State. For that purpose there should be sufficient provisions for increasing the dairy farms in our State. Also there should be certain loan scheme or grant scheme for the purpose of encouraging individual enterprise and for that purpose we should have publicity; we should take recourse to publicity of our schemes so that individuals also may come forward for the purpose of undertaking schemes for increasing milk supply. Sir, our intention is to build up a healthy and brainy nation. But unless we are successful in the production of essential foodstuff which give health, which give brain, then we will not be able to achieve our object of building a healthy, wealthy and wise nation. Therefore, I give formost importance on this item of agriculture along with the various other schemes that we have got at present and in which we have not been able to do much in the matter of production of the various foods.

After that, Sir, our intention is to raise the *per capita* income of the citizens of our country and therefore, agricultural development should be so achieved that it may ultimately increase the *per capita* income of the people of the country. In view of the fact that agriculture is the main subsistence of the people of our country and on which they depend for increasing their *per capita* income, no stone should be left unturned with a view to increase the food production through the endeavours of our agriculturists, so that ultimately these people may be benefited economically.

We have before us the huge unemployment problem. As I find from the Preliminary Memorandum of the Fourth Five Year Plan unemployment may go to 8 or 9 lakhs of people. Therefore, the unemployment number is gaining momentum eve y year. It is increasing in every plan. This unemployment problem is a serious menace even to the peace and security of the State, because if we cannot provide work to our unemployed labourers, unemployed agriculturists, and our unemployed educated youngmen then idle brain may be the devil's workshop and this may lead to many evils. Therefore, it should be our duty to provide avenue for employment in respect of unemployed agriculturists and unemployed labourers in the different industries, and also unemployed youths of our country.

It will not be possible to employ all these people in agriculture in our State. Sir, you know that we have already more than 2 lakhs landless people in our State and in our land we cannot afford to employ even these landless agriculturists. Therefore, we should make endeavour to divert a section of our people to other avenues of employment. We have opened up industries in the private sector and also in the public sector. We should try and take some measures so that our unemployed people, skilled or unskilled, may be employed in these industries. We have got local talents who should be utilised in the existing industries so that they may feel that they are the partners and shareholders of these industries. Otherwise, hostile reaction may come into the minds of the unemployed people which will not be favourable for the growth of our industries. We have natural resources enough in our State as well as mineral resources. But no efforts were made for exploitation of the natural and mineral resources of our State during British days. Since independence, our Government have taken steps for exploiting these mineral and natural resources and as a matter of fact and as a result of these endeavours, industries have cropped up and sprung up. These industries have been able to give some employment to the local talents and the unemployed labourers and the unemployed local agriculturists. So, our policy should be so shaped that in these industries whether in the private or public sector, our local talents, skilled or unskilled, may be utilised, and also that the people of our country may get opportunity and scope for participation in the development of these industries so that our people of the State may feel that these industries are their own. For that purpose our number of industrial I. T. Is. should be increased. In the I. T. Is. training facilities should be given to our boys in different trades so that when they come out after completion of training may find employment either in the private sector or in the public sector or they themselves may start certain industries with the financial assistance of the Government. So, in the 4th Plan, there should also be provision for financial assistance to these trainees, to our boys who have been trained in different trades in these polytechnic institutions or technical institutions or I. T. Is. This is one of the ways in which we can meet the growing menace of unemployment in our State. The hon. Members have suggested in their valuable speeches that in every Subdivision there should be at least one Polytechnic or Junior Technical institution or I. T. I. so that even the local boys who come from poorer homes and who have no financial capacity to go elsewhere to study in technical institutions may find scope. Now, Sir, in the course of the different Plans we have expended a lot of money for development activities but in certain sectors we are running short of staff to man the departments. As for example, in the Medical department, we are short of a good number of Doctors, Compounders and Nurses; and at present, a good number of dispensaries are running without qualified doctors, nurses and compounders and for that purpose our Government have taken a project to establish two more Medical Colleges—one at Gauhati and the other at Silchar. But still, the annual output of these three Medical Colleges have not been able to meet the demand of the people, the demand of the different dispensaries in our State. I have seen that the 4th Plan envisages only completion of the three Schemes—three Medical Colleges and there is no proposal of a 4th College. But still if our funds do not allow us to increase the number of Medical Colleges, we should see that in these three Medical Colleges, we can increase the number of seats. In the course of 4th Plan, we should complete the establishment of hospitals or dispensaries; steps should be taken

during this plan period so that there will be no dearth of doctors anywhere in our State. If we want to succeed in building the health of the nation, and in improving the health and hygiene of the nation, we should adopt measures in a planned way so that in the long run we may succeed. We want a healthy nation. We want a brainy nation and all that depends on the set up in the matter of health. For that purpose I would request the Government to make adequate provisions for additional seats that may be necessary to meet the entire requirements of doctors in our different dispensaries now and in those that may be completed within the 4th Five Year Plan.

Now, so far as our Engineering Colleges are concerned, we have not been able to meet the demand of Engineers of the Public Works Department. We want a large number of Engineers even to complete the present schemes of the 3rd Five Year Plan. There will be more schemes in the 4th Five Year Plan, but with our two Engineering Colleges at Jorhat and Gauhati we have not been able to meet the demands and requirements of our State for the execution of the different schemes undertaken in the 3rd Plan and even there are some schemes which have spilled over from the 2nd Five Year Plan. In the 4th Plan there is no provision for another Engineering College. We should take steps so that the existing institutions may fill up the big gap of Engineers that will be required to man the different activities of the P. W. D. not only for the 3rd Five Year Plan but also for the 4th Five Year Plan. Since Engineers play an important role in the development of our country we should increase their number. Sometimes even Overseers are placed in charge of the works for dearth of personnel. Overseers also play an important role, therefore, I request the Government to see that the number of our Engineering Institutes are increased during the 4th Five Year Plan so that we will be able to get sufficient number of Overseers and other technical hands for the execution of the different schemes under the 4th Five Year Plan. In this way we can improve only very partially the economic problem that is staring our State in the face and we should be able to devise other means also how to employ these unemployed section of our people in other avenues, in business, in trade and in commerce for which financial assistance should be forthcoming to these unemployed people.

Secondly, Sir, hon. Members expressed their views during the discussion on the Budget as to what are the industries we should start in our State. We should send our boys and our Engineers abroad for receiving training in those would be industries. As a matter of fact we had to face great difficulties in setting up the present industries for want of adequately and properly trained staff. We could not envisage that we will require their services for these industries. In the British days or immediately after Independence we did not take serious steps for training our boys in technology and in such other technical lines. Now we should take steps to send our boys overseas for receiving education in engineering and also in other technical matters. I am glad that our Government have sent a number of educated boys from our State for receiving technical education and engineering education abroad. These are days of technology, engineering and electricity and if we cannot build up from our own State a set of qualified men in electricity, engineering and other technological subjects for the achievement of our schemes, we will fall back. We will always have to depend on the import of such staff from outside our State. Therefore, we should try to be self-reliant in all these matters. It is high time for

the Government to make adequate provisions in the 4th Plan for training facilities to our men for manning the different industrial schemes. We must prepare ourselves from now on for industries that may spring up twenty years hence.

Now, Sir, as regards Education, we have seen in the 4th Plan quite a substantial sum has been proposed in the Memorandum. In this respect also I beg most humbly to submit that there is a regional disparity in matters of educational development in different parts of our State. Therefore, we should plan in such a way that this disparity in the matter of educational development vanishes in the 4th Plan. We should pick up those areas which are highly undeveloped, which are underdeveloped in the matter of education and try to develop them. Our State consists of hills and plains and also there are people who are still educationally and economically very backward.

So there should be proper survey of these facts and then we should take up measures for the development of these people living in the backward areas. Sir, generally people living in the backward areas are very poor. So they have not the incentive for the establishment of educational institutions. In such cases no Government can look askance or indifferent to such a state of affairs. Initiative should in such cases should always come from the Government side for the establishment of institutions which would help the people and cater to the needs of education in these backward and underdeveloped areas. In the Hills also the people are generally very poor and backward like those of the plains. These backward people should be enthused to come under the light of education by measures adopted by the Government. Therefore, I would request the Government to consider this aspect of the matter and provide adequate funds in the Fourth Five Year plan for the education of these people and for the advancement of the backward classes. Sir, we should also see how these backward classes people are striving for receiving education. Up till now Government have spent huge sums of money by way of stipends and scholarships which have been given to these backward classes. They have made some advancement but still they have not been able reach the goal for which all these schemes were meant. Therefore, they require further encouragement and special measures so that they can come forward and ultimately be at par with the advanced section of the society for the benefit of the whole nation. Sir, unless these backward classes people are brought at par with the advanced section of the society, we will not be able to achieve our goal of socialistic pattern of society.

Sir, in the matter of female education, our State remains backward. I therefore, urge upon the Government to establish institutions for female education from the elementary stage to the University stage. I also suggest that all the Girls' colleges should provincialized and provision should be made accordingly in the Fourth Plan. The Girls' schools in the headquarters should be taken over by the Government so that these may be a nucleus for spreading female education to the rural areas.

Sir, as regards the schools in the Tea Gardens, only 25 per cent of the children go to schools and remaining 75 per cent do not go to school. Therefore, the schools in the Tea Gardens should be taken over by the Government and adequate provision should be made for this purpose in the Fourth Five Year Plan.

Sir, so far as the education of the students of the other backward classes is concerned, there are large numbers of such students in the colleges. About three-fourth of the students belongs to other backward classes. Only the First Division and Second Division students are given financial benefits by way of scholarships. As a matter of fact we have got a large number of students who pass Matriculation Examination in Third Division but they cannot come to colleges due to their poverty. The number of such students has become more and more every year. The educational benefit which the backward classes students passing in the Third Division used to get has since been withdrawn, as a result of which a large number of students had to leave the colleges. I would, therefore, request the Government to reconsider their decision and extend these benefits to the other backward classes students reading in the colleges and Universities. Now, Sir, with these words, I express my views about the shaping of our Fourth Five Year Plan and I hope the Government will give due consideration to the suggestions given by me and the hon. Members in this regard.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Planning): Sir, may I request the hon. Members to indicate the priority as well as the size of resources to meet the expenditure? Up till now I have found a catalogue of demands and nobody has indicated the size of resources so that allocation can be made.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabor): উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই আমাৰ পৰিকল্পনা মন্ত্ৰীক ধন্যবাদ জনাইছো কাৰণ তেখেতে ৪ৰ্থ পৰিকল্পনাৰ আঁচনি নিদ্ধাৰণ কৰি আমাক বিতৰণ কৰাৰ কাৰণে আৰু শ্ৰীবৰবৰুৱাকো ধন্যবাদ জনাইছো তেখেতে পুস্তকটো সদনত ডাঙি ধৰি আলোচনা কৰিবলৈ সুবিধা দিয়া বাবে। আমাৰ প্ৰথম এটা পৰিকল্পনাত এটা চেষ্টা চলিছিল যে **Plan from the people** অৰ্থাৎ ৰাইজৰ পৰা আঁচনি আদিৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হৈছিল। পিচত উনয়ন বিভাগে কি আঁচনি লব সেইটো আলোচনা কৰা হৈছিল। মই কওঁ যে পঞ্চায়তকো পৰিকল্পনাৰ আঁচনি লবলৈ সুবিধা দিব লাগে যাতে জনসাধাৰণে অনুপ্ৰেৰণা পায় আৰু তেওঁলোকেও পৰিকল্পনাৰ প্ৰণয়ন আৰু কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰাত অংশ লবলৈ পায়। দ্বিতীয়তে আঁচনিৰ কাম কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰিবলৈ হলে আমি যেনেকৈ ৰাজহুৱা কাম কৰোতে অভ্যৰ্থনা সমিতি কৰি লওঁ সেইদৰে কৰিব লাগে। অভ্যৰ্থনা সমিতি ভাল হলে কামটো ভাল হয় আৰু বেয়া হলে বেয়া হয়। সেইদৰেই আঁচনি কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰিবলৈ একোটা কমিটি কৰি লব লাগে যাতে লক্ষ্যত উপনীত হোৱাত সুবিধা হয়। আমি কৃষি ক্ষেত্ৰত লক্ষ্যত উপনীত হব নোৱাৰাৰ ইয়া এটা কাৰণ অৰ্থাৎ কৃষিৰ আঁচনি কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰিবলৈ যথোপযুক্ত অনুস্থান গঠন কৰি লোৱা হোৱা নাই।

তৃতীয় পৰিকল্পনাৰ এইটো শেষ বছৰ। আমি দেখিছো যে বহুত ক্ষেত্ৰত আমি আগবাঢ়িব পৰা নাই অথচ কিছু ক্ষেত্ৰত আগবাঢ়িব গৈছে। সেই কাৰণে প্ৰথমতে আঁচনিৰ লক্ষ্য আছিল ১২০ কোটি টকাৰ। কিন্তু পিচত গৈ ১৩২ কোটি টকাৰ প্ৰয়োজন হ'ল। আমি এনেকৈ আগবাঢ়ি গলো যে বেছি টকাৰ দৰকাৰ হ'ল। আমাৰ State Electricity Board এইদৰে আগবাঢ়ি গৈছে কাৰণ তাত বডে অনুস্থানটো এনেকৈ গঠন কৰিছে যে আঁচনি মতে কাম হৈ উঠিছে।

শিল্পৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত আমি অলপ আগবাঢ়িব পাৰিছো। ই আমাক শ্ৰেণী বোণাইছে আৰু সঞ্চিত ধন খটাবলৈ সুবিধা দিছে। অৱশ্যে **Survival of the fittest** কথাটো সন্মত ৰাখণ টকা থকা জনহে শিল্পত টিকিব পাৰে।

পৰিকল্পনাৰ কিছুমান কামত আমি Priority দিব লাগে। অৰ্থাৎ Productive আঁচনিত মনোনিবেশ কৰিব লাগে। কৃষি আৰু শিল্পত অভাৱ পূৰণ হলেহে বাকী বিলাকলৈ মন খেলিব পাৰি। কৃষি আৰু শিল্পত আগবঢ়াব পিচত Welfare আঁচনিৰ কাম হাতত লবলৈ সুবিধা হয়। সেই কাৰণে মই চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰোঁ যাতে উৎপাদন মূলক আঁচনিৰ কাম প্ৰথমে হাতত লয়। আনহাতে আমাৰ উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধিত কৈ জনসংখ্যা বৃদ্ধিৰ পৰিমাণ বেছি। ৪ৰ্থ পৰিকল্পনাৰ শেষত প্ৰায় ২০ লাখ জনসংখ্যা বাঢ়িব। কিন্তু সেই অনুপাতে উৎপাদন বঢ়াব নোৱাৰে আৰু আঁচনি অকৃতকাৰ্য হব।

Mr. SPEAKER : আপুনি মানুহ বঢ়াটো সমৰ্থন কৰেনেকি ?

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI : কাৰণ মানুহ বঢ়াটো আমি কৰিবও নোৱাৰো। এক বিবাহ প্ৰথা প্ৰয়োগ কৰা হৈছে অকল হিন্দুৰ ওপৰত। এইটো মুছলমানৰ ওপৰত প্ৰয়োগ কৰা নাই। মোৰ বোধেৰে সকলোৰে ওপৰত সমানে প্ৰয়োগ কৰিব লাগে, তেতিয়াহে জনসংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি কৰাৰ পৰা হব। পাকিস্তানৰ পৰা পমুৱা সকল অবাধ গতিত আহি আছে। পাকিস্তানৰ গীমাৰ একাল মুকলি কৰি তাত অন্য মানুহৰ বসতি দিয়াৰ এটা সিদ্ধান্ত যোৱা বহুত হৈছিল কিন্তু দেখা যায় এতিয়াও সেইটো কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰা হোৱা নাই। জন সংখ্যা কম কৰাৰ সিয়ো এটা উপায় আছিল।

Adjournment

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

(After Lunch)

Discussion on a matter of urgent public importancee Re: the observance of 'No Work Day' by the Assam Secretariat Service Association from 3rd March, 1965

Mr. SPEAKER : Item No. 2(a). Shri Dulal Chandra Barua.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am taking my stand here today to raise a discussion on a very important matter relating to the administrative machinery of the State. Sir, twice from this side we wanted to raise a discussion by placing two Adjournment Motions on the observance of the 'Continuous No Work Day' resorted to by the Secretariat Service Association since 3rd March, 1965. Sir, due to this observance of 'No Work Day' as we have pointed out on many occasions, the entire administrative machinery has been paralysed, more particularly the Secretariat administration which is the nerve of the administrative machinery of the State. Today is the 8th day running and consequently all the normal functions of the State administration have collapsed. It has in its trial brought about tremendous loss to the State as a whole. It has also affected the interest of the entire people of the State. Therefore, Sir, our intention in raising this discussion from this side of the House is to break this deadlock if possible by discussing here and expressing opinions by the Members of this august House. Sir, in this connection we would like to mention here that we, the Opposition Members, also once met our hon. Chief Minister and placed our

opinions before him and requested him—practically we appealed to him—to make an amicable settlement of this matter, but I am sorry to say that even then our Chief Minister did not take us into confidence. Sir, the Members of the Treasury Benches are having a mandate from the Party. From our side we are equally responsible for the smooth functioning of the administration. Therefore, he agreed to discuss this matter and we had a prolonged discussion. We humbly suggested to him to meet some of the Members of the Association and discuss and try to arrive at an amicable settlement. Sir, you are aware that our Chief Minister is a true follower of Gandhian philosophy and a true follower of peace. But the behaviour he had meted out to these ministerial officers is like a Judge showing his attitude towards criminals. It is really surprising. Sir, we are not going to support fully that the stand taken by the Secretariat people is wholly correct; but our question is whether the Government has tried to examine the anomalies that have been pointed out by the Association. So far as I know on the 4th September, 1964 this particular Association submitted a long memorandum to all concerned pointing out all the anomalies and requesting for its rectification. After that they have issued several reminders but then they have not even received any acknowledgment from the Government. Last time also all the Members of this august House expressed concern at the anomalies that have cropped up in the recommendations of the Pay Committee, and from the side of the Government, specially from the Finance Minister, we got an assurance that all the anomalies will be looked into. But after the final recommendations have been published in the month of February, they have come forward saying that they have incorporated all the suggestions. We are very sorry to observe, Sir, that the suggestions were not taken into account, even the suggestions put forward by the hon. Members of this House. Sir, I want to pose a question to our hon. Chief Minister: 'Did the Government try to understand whether the grievances put forward by the Association in their memorandum are legitimate or not?' Sir, without going into the details I want to point out one thing, that is, that we are trying to remove unemployment in the country but the recommendations of the Pay Committee, if it is accepted, will throw out some of the employees of the Secretariat from employment, because, Sir, if the recommendations are given effect to, there will be reversion. How, Sir? That is one of the points raised by the Members of the Association. The Pay Committee has made some yard-stick. According to them one Assistant is to dispose of five receipts and not three receipts as had been done earlier. For that reason, Sir, there will be one Superintendent above twenty Assistants. Now will it be possible or is it feasible on the part of one particular Officer to dispose of one hundred files? It is not possible. Nowhere in other States these things are prevailing. Sir, apart from that also we have observed that the demands placed by the Secretariat Association shall have no financial implication. If there is any financial implication on the demands being accepted, then I would request the Government to show clearly what will be such financial implication.

Sir, so far I know, according to the recommendation of the Pay Committee, the number of higher posts has been increased, specially in the Finance Department. On the other hand, these people are to be reverted. Moreover, if the recommendations of the Pay Committee are given effect to, there will be stagnation. There will be no scope for promotion in the lower cadres even after 20 to 25 years of service. Therefore, Sir, it is no

use for Government simply to tell them that they have committed some wrong. I agree that they have committed something wrong, but this is not the way to reform them. You cannot reform them by using force and resorting to suppressive measures. Sir, the people of this State have strong faith in our Chief Minister, who is considered throughout the country as a strict follower of Gandhian philosophy. Gandhian philosophy does not teach us to take suppressive measures against ill-paid Government servants when they come forward with certain grievances.

Now, Sir, the Finance Minister has said that to meet their demands would involve financial commitment. I agree that there will be some financial implication. But I don't understand why in spite of our financial stringency a post of Director of Sports with a high salary has been created on the recommendation of the Pay Committee. When an Economy Committee is examining how economy can be affected in the administration, why this post should be created? This post could easily be amalgamated with the post of Director of Public Instruction. Sir, in this connection I am tempted to refer to Parkinson's Law. It is like this: when the question of crores and crores of rupees will come, the Cabinet will pass it in seconds; when the question of lakhs and lakhs will come, they will pass it within 15 minutes; when the question of thousands will come they will pass it in half an hour, but when the question of, say, one T. A. Bill for Rs.5.50 will come, they will discuss it hour after hour and then even the Cabinet may be postponed for this. In the same way, Sir, when the question of high-salaried officers will come, they will not raise the question of ratio of expenditure, etc. But when the question of ministerial officers will come, they will raise so many questions about financial implications and this and that. Sir, we are building up a socialistic pattern of society. In that context the cases of low-paid Government servants should be thoroughly considered. Sir, the Pay Committee's recommendations are not to be accepted blindly. Some members constituted the Pay Committee, they deliberated and made certain recommendations, but there can be no harm in making additions and alterations to meet the situation. I don't understand why Government should take this attitude. I feel, Sir, that negotiations should be conducted to break this deadlock prevailing in the State.

Sir, I do not like to take much time of the House. I would like to submit to the Chief Minister, through you, Sir, that it is not a question of prestige of Government, it is a question of human lives. It does not involve one individual but also those who are dependent on him. The lives of some innocent souls are involved. We should approach this problem from a humanitarian point of view. When children do something wrong, we have to try to reform them and not simply punish them. Our attitude should not be vindictive.

Sir, I would bring one thing to the notice of the Government. The Chief Minister said yesterday that some persons from the Service Associations may be associated with the cell in the Finance Department to go into the anomalies of Pay Committee's recommendations. But I

understand the Chief Secretary told a representative body of the Associations that there would be Review Committee consisting of himself, Finance Secretary and Commissioner, Shri Kagti. In the face of Chief Minister's statement in this august House, I fail to understand how can the Chief Secretary make such a statement. If things are allowed to continue like this, it will not bring any good to anybody. Sir, we the members of this House are here to protect the rights and privileges of the Government employees, which have been accorded to them by the sacred Constitution of India. Sir, in order to keep the prestige of both sides and to remove the legitimate grievances of the employees, I appeal to the Chief Minister to constitute an independent committee to go into the anomalies. The Chief Minister has stated clearly that some people from the Service Association will be associated with the cell in the Finance Department. Let him go a step further and constitute a committee to go into the merit and demerits of the recommendations of the Pay Committee. From his statement, it is apparent that the Chief Minister is also convinced that there are anomalies. The constitution of such a committee will clear the atmosphere. This will not affect the prestige of Government; it will rather enhance it. Some representatives from their side may also be taken into that committee.

Again, Sir, I should like to say that we feel, from this side of the House that there should be amicable and peaceful settlement and if these things of oppression and suppression continue, the problem will not be solved. I appeal earnestly to the hon. Chief Minister who is a believer of peace and tranquility and a believer of socialistic pattern of society and a true follower of Gandhian philosophy, he should forgive and forget whatever has happened in the meantime and come to a settlement, otherwise, I am afraid, Sir, that the situation may take a serious turn, which may even jeopardise the wealth and prosperity of the entire State. Considering the pros and cons of this serious matter, for settling this matter amicably, I would suggest that the Government should set up a Review Committee to go into the anomalies and if Government take this step, I am sure, within a day or two, this strike will be called off and this deadlock in the administration, which is affecting the working of this Assembly also, for which we are drawing daily allowance and spending a large sum of money will be over. To put an end to this chaotic condition, I appeal to the Chief Minister through you, Sir, to come to an amicable settlement. Sir, it is a question of the administration involving the benefit of the people.

Shri STANLEY D. D. NICHOLS-ROY (Cherrapunji, Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I just have a few words to add to what has been said by my friend, Mr. Dulal Barua. When we heard about the move from the Secretariat Association to have a 'No work day', it surprised us that Government had not taken any action up till 3rd March. We have seen that as far back as 4th of September, 1964, this Association submitted a memorandum to the Government regarding the various grievances and anomalies due to the recommendations of the last Pay Committee affecting them adversely, and we are told that this was not replied to, nor even acknowledged. Subsequently, a resolution was adopted by the Secretariat Association on 29th of September, 1964, giving notice or reminder that something should be done, otherwise, they would have to resort to

some sort of action. What surprised us, Sir, is that not until the 8th of March, Government did anything in regard to settling this matter but to think of declaring the action of the Association as illegal withdrawing the recognition of the Association, I believe, this course could have been avoided if the Government would have handled the matter earlier and in a wiser manner. It is no use going into what should have been done or could have been done; we are here to discuss this matter now as it involves the whole State as has been pointed out by Mr. Barua. Every one of us is representing some portion of our State and we feel that we should help in trying to solve this problem. Sir, a number of years ago a large organisation in the United State of America spent about 5 years and 5 million dollars to study various factors which would affect production, that was the Westinghouse Corporation, and after spending this 5 million dollars in research for 5 years, going into the various aspects of production, they came out with the report and the most important aspect of production that was found was that the labour in the factories should be made to feel that they were considered important. Five million dollars were spent and they found that the worker is the most important factor, who was responsible for improvement of production so that the labour should be made to feel as important as the manager or the director. Sir, labour relations in all fields of industry and Government are very important. The world today accepts the importance of good personnel relations and of having good labour relations and I believe it is just as important for the administration of the State Government. Today we have a situation in which a large part of the employees in the State are unhappy and they are made to feel that they are not being treated fairly. This is the crux of the whole matter. It is not a fight for more pay, if you examine the grievances mentioned in the memorandum. The main fact is that they feel they are not treated equally in comparison with others. It is injustice and inequality that seems to have crept into this Pay Committee's report.

Sir, now, I shall come to three examples of what appeared to me to be right, that they feel that they have been treated with injustice and inequality. Say, in the case of employees in the Secretariat, a Lower Division Assistant who used to get the same scale of salaries as other employees in the Government before, it was expected that they would be treated in the same way as all others drawing the same scale by the report of the Pay Committee. Before the effect of this Pay Committee's recommendations (before April, 1964) Lower Division Assistants were getting a pay almost similar to that of a Sub-Inspector of Supply who has similar educational qualifications and that the pay scale of the former by 1956 Pay Committee's recommended scale was Rs.80 to Rs.200 and of the Sub-Inspector of Supply Rs.100 to Rs.200, the final salary was the same, i.e., Rs.200. But by the recommendation of the last Pay Committee, the pay of a Lower Division Assistant is fixed at Rs.150 to 300, whereas the Sub-Inspector of Supply's pay scale is Rs.175 to 400. The difference is Rs.100 in the final pay. Therefore, the man who works as a Lower Division Assistant feels that somebody else has been given a greater share of the amount than himself. This is the crux of the whole matter that somebody getting the same scale of pay before has been given a lower pay scale on the recommendation of the last Pay Committee whereas someone else getting the same scale of pay is getting a higher scale of pay on the recommendation of this Pay Committee.

Now, there are certain cases where a little higher scale of pay is given and it is justified from the point of view of higher qualification or hard work or something of that sort. But, we do not understand why a Lower Division Assistant who is getting Rs.200 as final salary is getting now Rs.150 to 300 according to the Pay Committee's recommendation in 1964, whereas Sub-Inspector of Supply whose final pay was also Rs.200 in 1956, is given Rs.175 to 400 in 1964. We cannot find any justification for this. There is a difference of final salary of Rs.100 in these cases.

The same thing also applies in the case of the Upper Division Assistant and a Receptionist. If one compares the pay scale of an Upper Division Assistant who used to get Rs.200-325 and who would now get Rs.300-425 in 1964, with Receptionist, whose educational qualification is supposed to be the same with that of the Upper Division Assistant and whose scale of pay is the same with that of the Upper Division Assistant, i.e., Rs.200—325 in 1956 and whose pay scale in 1964 is Rs.225 to Rs.600, one will find the glaring difference.

The same thing also applies in the case of Sub-Inspector whose educational qualification is supposed to be the same as the Upper Division Assistant. In 1956 when he gets Rs.150 to Rs.300—Rs.25 less than the Upper Division Assistant at the final stage, in 1964 his scale of pay will be Rs.225 to Rs.500 and in which case he will get Rs.200 more than an Upper Division Assistant at the final stage. The same thing also applies to Public Works Department Overseer whose scale of pay in 1956 is Rs.125 to Rs.175 and now it is raised to Rs.200 to Rs.500. Again, in the case of Sub-Registrar we find some glaring difference. His present salary is Rs.125 to Rs.275 i.e., Rs.50 less than the final salary of an Upper Division Assistant. But in 1964 his scale of pay is suggested to be Rs.225 to Rs.600. All Upper Division Assistants are supposed to be graduates and also Sub-Registrars are supposed to be graduates. In 1956, they all got the same scale of pay, but in 1964, the Sub-Registrar's scale of pay has been raised far greater. Sir, this is the main crux of the matter. Now, it is not that everyone is necessarily to get the higher pay scale. I posed a question to one or two employees of the Secretariat who happened to meet me. I asked them—"Well, if you get the same scale of pay as those in 1956 and only the final salary is changed so that instead of getting Rs.600 which is given to those three or four categories which I have just mentioned, you will get Rs.400 or Rs.500, would that satisfy you?" The answer is 'Yes'. So, Sir, it is only the change, social status and inequality which disturbed them. So, I think, Sir, there is a definite need for reviewing the Pay Committee's recommendations in regard to inequality and injustice that people feel has been done. Even if justice is done it is not only that it needs to be done, but that people should feel that it is done. In the minds of every person in the Secretariat there is a definite feeling that it has not been done by the Pay Committee. So, I appeal to the Government, i.e., the Finance Minister and the Chief Minister in particular to have this reviewed. Now, there is only one final word that I would like to add. Sir, Mr. Chaliha, our Chief Minister has been instrumental in the Peace Mission which is trying to bring about settlement with a group of people known as rebel Nagas who have set up a federal Government, fighting against the country and yet there is room for negotiation and Mr. Chaliha is the only fit person and we all congratulate him for trying to bring peace in Nagaland. Yet, here

in our State we find the attitude of the Government led by some individuals who are responsible for the trouble, is not the same in this very much smaller matter. We all appeal to him to use the same approach that is being used in the case of rebel Nagas that in spite of the fact that mistake might have been committed by the Secretariat employees—but they do not come to us for advice—they do not seek our help—yet they are the children of the State Government and our own people. We feel that some fatherly attitude should be shown to these people who have demanded some grievances and anomalies to be corrected. Sir, if the Review Committee is set up by the Government, I am sure that on the other side, the Secretariat Association will not be unreasonable. At this stage certainly we do not ask any one to commit that all will be put right, but the point of views put forward by the Secretariat staff, certainly should be examined by the Review Committee to be set up by the Government. As appealed by my Friend, Shri Dulal Chandra Barua, I also join in appealing to the Government to look into the matter. Sir, the happiness of the State depends on the happiness of our people who are in the Government machinery. During the last few days, we had a joint discussion in the debate on Governor's Address, I remember the words—that the Governor was looking for a 'smiling Assam'. Sir, unless we have a contented group of people in the Secretariat, I am afraid, a 'smiling Assam' will not come. Apart from the amount that is paid to them, the most important part of the whole thing is to make them feel that they are treated fairly and justly.

Shri PABINDRA NATH SARMA (Nalbari-East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am going to oppose the motion—i.e., the discussion. But, Sir, I find it difficult to compare the Secretariat employees with the rebel Nagas. The rebel Nagas are treated differently and these people are also treated differently. We know the aim and object of the rebel Nagas. They want to declare sovereignty outside the Government of India, but our employees are going to claim certain revision of pay scale. Our employees are subordinate to our Government and they are going to be compared with the rebel Nagas.

They have got no reason to think in the line as the rebel Nagas are thinking. If they do so, then our Government is competent enough to deal with the situation and our Government is not afraid of taking appropriate steps against them.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): This is not a motion.

Shri PABINDRA NATH SARMA: I have been informed like that. Anyway let it be called a discussion. Sir, this discussion is nothing but a repetition of the matter that was discussed a few months back and that discussion relates to the Pay Committee's recommendation. Every hon. Member of this House had the full opportunity to have their say upon the recommendation. After hearing every corner of this House Government ultimately came to the final decision and this House had the pleasure of giving their approval to that decision taken by the Government. Now, Sir, today in another form the same matter is again raised for discussion. On

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat); Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Assam Reservation of Industrial Employments Bill, 1965.

Mr. SPEAKER: Motion moved.

Shri SANTIRANJAN DAS GUPTA (Lumding): Sir, I want to draw your attention to the proviso to Rule 70 which says: "Provided that where a motion is opposed on the ground that the Bill initiates legislation out-side the legislative competence of the House, the Speaker may permit full discussion thereon." Sir, while sympathising with the sentiments expressed in the Bill, I shall only refer the matter to the House whether we have got that legislative competence. In this connection I would also like to refer to certain articles of the Constitution. Now Article 13(2) says: "The State shall not make any law which takes away or abridges the rights conferred by this Part and any law made in contravention of this clause shall, to the extent of contravention be void;" then Article 14 says: "The State shall not deny to any person equality before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the territory of India."

Article 15, clause (1) says: "The State shall not discriminate against any citizen on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them."

Article 15, clause (2): "No citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth or any of them be subject to any disability, restriction or condition with regard to—"

Article 16 (1): "There shall be equality of opportunity for all citizens in matters relating to employment or appointment to any office under the State."

Article 16, Clause (2): "No citizen shall on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, residence or any of them be ineligible for or discriminated against in respect of any employment or office under the State."

Sir, I have drawn the attention of the House to these Articles of the Constitution and I should also like to draw the attention of the House to another point. Sir, during the course of discussion on the Governor's Address hon. Member Shri Ram Prasad Choubey wanted a clarification from the Leader of the House about the definition of the local people and *bonafide* Assamese. He categorically placed before this House the above point. But unfortunately while replying to the Governor's Address the hon. Chief Minister overlooked this matter. No doubt I have full sympathy with this Bill but I doubt the competence of this House with regard to legislating such Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER: Do you mean to say that the Bill is *ultra-vires* ?

Shri SANTIRANJAN DAS GUPTA: Yes, Sir.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, it is a very delicate point. Sir, it is said in Article 16, clause (III): Nothing in this Article shall prevent Parliament from making any law prescribing in regard to a

class or classes of employment or appointment to an office....., etc., and clause (IV) which provides: "Nothing in this Article shall prevent the State from making any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens which in the opinion of the State is not adequately represented in the services under the State." So, Sir, considering the backwardness of our State in respect of employment and in respect of economic condition I have brought this Bill before this House for consideration. Besides, Sir, Article 19, clauses (4), (5) and (6) empower the State to make such laws which protect the interest of the local people.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) : Sir, so far as the object of the Bill is concerned there can hardly be any two opinion but still the House cannot legislate something which is not permissible under the Constitution. From our side we cannot say that it is permissible. In any case it is a matter which should be properly looked into.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara) : Sir, can we hear the Advocate General on this point?

Mr. SPEAKER : When the Bill was received by the Assembly Secretariat it was referred to the Law Minister and the Law Minister referred this matter to Legal Remembrancer. I have got the opinion of the Legal Remembrancer, which runs as follows:

"Social security and social insurance; employment and unemployment"—This being the subject of the Concurrent List, prior approval of the Centre appears to be necessary. Otherwise, if there be any law passed by the State Legislature it will be void to the extent it is found to be repugnant. This will be so void even if the Parliament passes a legislation on a subsequent date. To avoid this difficulty in a matter covered by the Concurrent List of the Constitution, prior approval of the Centre is always expedient. The introduction of the Bill on this ground may be objected to."

The next point that arises for consideration is whether it is hit by Article 16 of the Constitution. Article 16 provides, among other things, for equality of opportunity in the matter of public employment which is referred to by Mr. Das Gupta. No citizen on the ground only of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, residence or any of them be ineligible for or discriminated against in respect of any employment of office under the State. clause (3) of the Article 16 is an exception to the general rule. But here again, it is the Parliament which can make a law regulating the employment or appointment to an office under any State specified in the First Schedule or in the local or other authority within its territory. This brings us to the question whether the industrial undertakings as envisaged by the proposed Bill will come under "the local or other authority" within the meaning of clause 3 of Article 16. If it does, then the State Legislature will have no jurisdiction to pass any law in the matter. It will be the Parliament alone which by law can prescribe any regulatory measure including reservation of employment to the resident of a particular State. In considering whether "local or other authority" within the meaning of the Bill, it will be necessary to make a reference to Article 12, which defines the word "State" in the following terms:

"In this part unless the context otherwise requires, the State includes the Government and Parliament of India and the Government and Legislature of each of the States and all local or other authorities within the territory of India or under the control of the Government of India."

On the principle of "ejusdem generis", the words "local or other authorities" should be taken in an analogous sense of the State. This has been also authoritatively held by different High Courts. The words "other authorities" would therefore mean authorities of a like nature of a State. So interpreted, the expression "other authorities" will only refer to public authority and not private authorities. Thus the management of a private institution like a private school or a bank or commercial concern, a factory and so on will not constitute an authority for the purpose of this Article and will not be covered by the expression "other authority" within the meaning of Article 12 of the Constitution. Taking this view of the matter, I am of opinion that the industrial undertakings envisaged by the proposed Bill will not be local or other authority within the meaning of clause 3 of Article 16 of the Constitution. Then perhaps the question of making any law by the Parliament will not arise and the State Legislature will be competent to pass a law in this respect. As I have already indicated, the equality of opportunity in the matter of public employment is restricted only to the employment or office under the State or under the local authorities, which should be taken to mean only State or State-owned or governed undertakings.

Now, the question arises whether the State, which is debarred from making any law providing for such reservation of employment or appointment in any industrial undertaking which is State-owned or managed, should proceed to make a law on the similar matter only to regulate employment in the private undertaking or broadly speaking no State undertaking.

Technically it may not come within the mischief of Article 16, but on the ground of broad policy, it will be a matter engaging serious thought of the Government before they should proceed with such legislation. On perusal of the Bill as a whole, I find that it has not been properly drafted and it will require recasting on a major portion of it. Under certain provision of the Bill, expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of the State will be involved. In that view, a Financial Memorandum will be necessary. This the Member himself will have to furnish as he is going to introduce the Bill as a Private Member's Bill.

There is no Central Act to govern employment in private companies. There is none in contemplation also, I believe, of the Central Government to bring such a legislation.

We need not discuss at this stage the merit of the Bill. The House will have the opportunity to discuss threadbare the implication of the Bill when it is presented there. Therefore the latter portion of Legal Remembrancer's opinion does not hold good for the purpose of introduction of the Bill.

I agree with Legal Remembrancer that the Bill does not come within the mischief of Article 16.

The Bill comes under Article 199, Sub-Clause (I)(d). A Financial Memorandum seems necessary. I believe a Governor's message for introduction of the Bill may be necessary. In any case this will be necessary at the consideration stage. The hon. Member Shri Dulal Chandra Barua may be requested to obtain the message. He should also be requested to submit the Financial Memorandum.

The drafting and other defects of the Bill may be rectified by amendments when it comes for discussion clause by clause.

(The Bill was introduced)

Mr. SPEAKER : Now we can pass on to item No.4.

(Further discussion on the Motion—"This Assembly do now take into consideration about the size estimate, etc., of the 4th Plan.")

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Minister-in-charge of Planning for placing before us the Preliminary Memorandum on the Fourth Five Year Plan of Assam. Sir, we have already finished two Five Year plans. Now, we are going to finish the Third Five Year Plan also. But we would like to hear the achievements so far made by these Plans. Sir, the Planning Commission have stressed on the following :—

- (i) to ensure a minimum level of living to every family,
- (ii) to provide employment to all those who seek it, and
- (iii) to remove social and economic disparities.

But, Sir, it is my keen duty to mention here that though we are marching forward, a considerable section of the people are still lagging behind in their economic advancement. This section of the people is not getting the minimum requirements of life. Therefore, Sir, I think the objectives of the Fourth Five Year Plan ought to be the covering of the minimum level of living to every family with necessary quantum of food and to create conditions and opportunities as required, thereby enabling them to secure the means of minimum level of living. Sir, it is a fact that the main objectives of the economic planning are to remove poverty of the people of our country. I admit that these three plans, that is the First Plan, Second Plan and the Third Plan which is almost going to be completed, have raised the national products very significantly. But it is a fact that the condition of life of less fortunate section of our population still continues to be far below the minimum essential for health and efficiency which appear to us as a challenge and we must be able to meet this challenge. Sir, after completion of all these Plans, we find that we have not been able to have self-sufficiency in our food, not to speak of anything else. So, food is the first item and if it is the first item then I think agriculture must get priority in our Plan. I, therefore, request the framers of our Plans to see that agriculture gets first priority in our Fourth Five Year Plan. Of course, I do not mean, thereby, that we should minimise the importance of other essential services also, like health, education and transport, therefore, I think that in order to achieve the objectives of our Plans, effort should be directed to increase the agricultural production so that the supply of food will increase. First priority should be given to agriculture and secondly, for the development of Heavy and Major Industries in order to strengthen the industrial base and thirdly for the establishment of adequate transport facilities and fourthly navigation and other essential services. Sir, in the Fourth Plan a total outlay has been suggested as Rs.29,765 crores. Of these, Rs.18,520 crores will be investment and Rs.2,245 crores current outlay in the public sector. Of course this is of the price level of 1960-61 and coming to our State we find that the total outlay suggested for Fourth Plan is Rs.375 crores and the estimated State National Income is Rs.505.3 crores and *per capita* income in our State has been indicated to be Rs.376.7 at the end of the Third Plan.

We have increased our State National Income by Rs.111.3 crores from 1960-61 to 1965-66, that is, during a period of five years. If this figure is correct then I think the total outlay of our State Fourth Plan amounting to Rs.375 crores is not sufficient in comparison with our State National Income. I think it ought to have been much more, and I appeal to the Government and more particularly to the Planning Minister to look into it and see whether at least the total outlay could be increased. Sir, I have

High Madrassa—

Islamic Subjects:—By the State Madrassa Education Board.

General Subjects:—Assam Education Department upto Class VIII.

General Subjects for High Ma- drassa Examina- tion (IX and X).	}	The courses and syllabus of the Secondary Education Board are followed.
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(c)—State Madrassa Education Board is the controlling authority in respect of Title, Senior and High Madrassas and those Institutions are inspected by the Assistant Inspector of Schools for Muslim Education and Secretary, State Madrassa Education Board. The grants-in-aid bills of the High Senior and Title Madrassa are countersigned by the Inspector of Schools concerned. The Deputy Inspector of Schools is the authority to countersign the grant-in-aid bills in respect of M. E. Madrassas.

(d)—Instruction, *viz.*, both general and special education are imparted in High and M. E. Madrassas in the State.

(e)—The Secretary, State Madrassa Board, controls, supervises and approves the appointments of the High and Senior Madrassas. The Director of Public Instruction who is the Chairman of the State Madrassa Board, controls the Title Madrassas and approves the appointments of Title Madrassas.

(f)—All the Madrassa Examinations, *viz.*, High Madrassa, Senior Madrassa and Title Madrassa examinations are conducted by the State Madrassa Education Board.

(Starred Question No.64 was not put as the hon. questioner was absent).

**Calling Attention to the observance of Protest Day by the
All-Assam Aided College Teachers' Association on
1st March, 1965**

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Sir, may I draw the attention of the hon. Education Minister to a matter of urgent public importance? Sir, the All-Assam Aided College Teachers' Association observed 'Protest Day' on the 1st March, 1965. Sir, in this connection, I want to draw the attention of the Government to the recommendations of the last Pay Committee which have been placed before this House. Sir, we do not find any measures and any such actions taken by the Government for the improvement of the lot of the Aided College Teachers. Sir, they observed this 'Protest Day' for non-fulfilment of their grievances by the Government. Sir, so far as their grievances are concerned, they said that various recommendations in respect of Aided College Teachers, particularly regarding their pay scales have been made by the University Grants Commission very recently and these Aided College Teachers have approached the Government to implement these recommendations. Now, Sir, we have observed in the Pay Committee Recommendations that Government dealt

only with the pay scales of the Government College Teachers and you are fully aware of the fact, Sir, that there is one Government College and 99 per cent colleges are Aided Colleges and almost 95 per cent students are to study in these Aided Colleges. So, Sir, if the Government do not take any effective measure to improve the lot of these low-paid Aided College Teachers, it will hamper and it will obstruct the smooth functioning of the educational institutions and at the same time it will affect the interest of the State in respect of education. Sir, this Association met our hon. Education Minister and it has been understood from the statement in the Paper that our hon. Education Minister assured them for looking into this matter. Till to-day, Sir, nothing effective has been done to improve the lot of these people.

Sir, the major portion, the major group of teachers have been left out intentionally by the last Pay Committee. I also wanted to have a clarification from the hon. Finance Minister the other day about this injustice. And I have also written a personal letter to our hon. Finance Minister few months back. But no reply has been received by me so far. Sir, what would be the fate of these low-paid College Teachers? So, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Education Minister through you what effective steps have been taken by the Government to improve the lot of these Aided College Teachers so that the present discontentment among these teachers does not prevail. With these words, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Education Minister to this important matter.

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH (Minister, Education): Sir, I quite appreciate the anxiety of the hon. Member to improve the standard of emolument of all those who are serving in the educational institutions in our State. Sir, our Government has taken effective steps in the matter of increasing the pay scale of teachers which I can claim is the highest in India. So far as the Aided College Teachers are concerned, their scale of pay is fixed by the University Grants Commission which pays a share of their pay and we also pay a share. And I think, it will be more or less 50:50. On this basis, the University Grants Commission has fixed the scales which range from Rs. 200-600 for Lecturers.

This could not come under the purview of the Pay Committee because so far the pay of the Aided College Teachers is concerned, it is fixed by the University Grants Commission and a part of it is also borne by the University Grants Commission; it is a joint responsibility of the University Grants Commission and the Government. This was agreed to by the members who represent more or less the Aided College Teachers; Shri Bipin Pal Das was at that time the President of the All-Assam Aided College Teachers' Association and Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami here who is also a teacher in an Aided College. After that some teachers met me in August and I readily agreed that the new scale fixed by the University Grants Commission may be fixed for them subject to the condition that these Colleges should be well established and should be eligible for full assistance under the rules. The University Grants Commission also recommended that their case may be sympathetically considered. I also suggested that so far as the Government is concerned we will help them. Another deputation met the University Grants Commission; I have got a copy of the proceedings

of that meeting which has been forwarded to me by the University on 31st August 1964. Dr. Kothari, Principal Pranjit Kumar Talukdar, Principal Bipin Pal Das, Principal Bhagwan Chandra Lahkar, Shri K. L. Joshi, Secretary, University Grants Commission, Dr. P. J. Philip, Joint Secretary, University Grants Commission and Dr. R. D. Deshpande, Education Officer, University Grants Commission were present. Sir, they have written that the Chairman mentioned that the Commission had decided to give the highest priority to the question of salary revision of college teachers during the Fourth Five Year Plan. He mentioned that a Committee appointed by the Commission to examine this question had recommended the following set of scales: Principal: Rs. 700—1100; Professor: Rs. 500—800 and Lecturer: Rs. 300—600. The Chairman further mentioned that even implementation of these scales would mean considerable expenditure, as many colleges had failed to implement comparatively modest scales of pay prescribed by the Commission during the Second Plan period. It would, therefore, be extremely difficult for the Commission to agree the higher scales of pay for college teachers in one State while denying the benefit of the same to teachers in other States. Keeping in view the peculiar circumstances in Assam, the Commission would be willing to make adjustments within the prescribed minima and maxima of the scales in order to suit local conditions. The Chairman, however, emphasised that the decision in this matter could only be taken by the Commission in consultation with the Gauhati University and the State Government. The University Grants Commission would arrange a meeting with the State Government at a suitable date either in September or in October 1964. The Chairman also stated that the Commission would view with sympathy the request of the Assam College Teachers to introduce the revised scales. Soon after that the Aided College teachers met me again and I told them that I am in entire sympathy with them and I am agreeable to give them the scale as recommended by the University Grants Commission but I have to consult the Finance Department in the matter. I have no doubt in my mind that when the University Grants Commission has fixed the scale, they would implement the same. So, that is the position, Sir, but the University Grants Commission or the Gauhati University have not met us to discuss this matter. As soon as this is done, I hope, we will be able to implement the scale.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora) : May we know from the Education Minister when this communication from University Grants Commission was received by the Department ?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH : This came in last September, I suppose.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Just now the Education Minister said that he would discuss this matter with the Finance Department, I want to know from the Minister whether this has been done, and if so, what is the result ?

Mr. SPEAKER : The Minister said that the proposed discussion had not yet taken place. Unless the discussion between the University Grants Commission, the Gauhati University and the State Government is held and decision arrived at, the question of approaching Finance Department cannot arise.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : When can we expect that discussion to take place ?

Mr. SPEAKER : That depends on the University Grants Commission.

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH : In this matter the sponsoring authority is the University Grants Commission and the grant also comes from the University Grants Commission. As I have stated earlier the scales were recommended by the University Grants Commission for other colleges also in India under the Fourth Plan because in the Third Plan period many States have not been able to implement the scales of pay recommended for the Second Plan, *i. e.*, Rs. 200—600. I can quote some instances. Take Kerela for example. In Kerela the Lecturers are in the scale of Rs. 200—400. I have also the figure for Uttar Pradesh. But the fact of the matter is that many States have not given the same scale of pay which was recommended for the Second Plan period and which we have implemented in the Third Plan. That is why the University Grants Commission recommended the present scale under the Fourth Plan and we have agreed to that.

Fixation of time for Discussion of a matter of urgent Public Importance, *Viz.*, Observance of Continuous No Work Day by the Assam Secretariat Service Association.

Mr. SPEAKER : Before I come to the next item I want to take the approval of the House on one matter. I received yesterday a note from Shri Dulal Chandra Barua Secretary, United Opposition Front in this House wherein he says: "Sir, we beg to state that some of our Members have got some important public engagement at 4.30 P. M. tomorrow and as such they will not be able to take part in the discussion on Observance of Continuous No Work Day by the Assam Secretariat Service Association.

So it will be highly appreciated if you kindly fix the time for discussion of this matter (under Rule 50, included in tomorrow's agenda) at 2 P.M. instead of 4.30 P.M. tomorrow.

We are prepared to forego the Private Members' Business in the afternoon Session."

After receiving this note from the Secretary of the United Opposition Front, I contacted the Leader of the House who has kindly consented to take up discussion of this matter at 2 P.M. to-day. I think we can take up this discussion under rule 50 at 2 P.M., and for this I want the approval of the House.

(Voices : Yes, Yes).

Then we come to item No.3, Shri Dulal Chandra Barua.

compare with the pay scale of a Sub-Registrar, which is Rs.225 to 600. I ask the Government, is there any rational basis for this clear disparity? What is the nature of work of a Sub-Registrar that he should merit such a high scale of pay? What is the nature of his duty and what are his educational qualifications that he should get so much higher pay? Sir, according to the information I have received, the work of a Sub-Registrar is very simple and he does not require additional educational qualification over any Upper Division Assistant to be a Sub-Registrar, but here we see that there is a clear disparity between an Upper Division Assistant of the Secretariat and a Sub-Registrar in the same Government. I would draw attention of the hon. Members to the remarks made by the Pay Committee at page 28 of their report thus, "Apart from the method of recruitment it is felt that a pay differential is justified by the nature of work at the two levels. The job responsibility at the Secretariat level involving as it does policy matters and consideration must be viewed as being of a somewhat higher level though it is felt that there could be greater approximation at the entry and early stages of services."

Sir, in the very word of the Pay Committee itself, the type and responsibility of work that every Secretariat employee has to shoulder is of higher nature and higher qualities than required for other departments and yet in respect of this administration, what do we find? They have been given money at one hand and on the other hand the money is taken away from their pockets. So, in other words, in terms of the Pay Committee, they have been given very very unfair treatment. Now, Sir, in the case of a Sub-Inspector of Police—a very very piquant explanation is given by the Pay Committee for increasing their pay scale. In 1956 their scale of pay was Rs. 175 to 275 and according to the revised scale of pay as suggested by the Pay Committee, it will be Rs. 200 to Rs. 500. Sir, the Pay Committee gives rather a very very piquant explanation, viz., that in order to arrest corruption the Police Sub-Inspector should be given higher pay. I do not know whether rich men will be contended if they get more amount. But from our experience as guide in the past, we find that the more a man gets, the more he wants. It is not in arithmetic progression but in geometric progression and if I use the word "atom", then it will be atomic progression. So, Sir, it is not a rational basis. When the pay scale of Sub-Inspector of Police rises from Rs. 175—275 to Rs. 200—500, the pay scale of the Upper Division Assistant in the Secretariat rises only to Rs. 300—425. Sir, time will not permit to draw the attention of the Government to compare certain other cases. But, I think, Sir, this will be sufficient to say that there is ample justification for reconsidering or reviewing the pay scales of Secretariat people.

Sir, I am coming to the question of increment. Here also there has been unfair treatment. Sir, the Upper Division Assistant will be getting an increment of Rs. 12·50 paise from the beginning of his service till he reaches his maximum pay and his increment will be Rs. 12·50 paise all along. But in the case of a Sub-Inspector of Police it is not the same.

Sir, a Sub-Registrar is a very fortunate fellow. In his case, he will get an increment of Rs. 15 and then he will cross the efficiency bar at Rs. 285 and another efficiency bar at Rs. 360 and after that his increment will be Rs. 20. But in the case of a poor Secretariat Assistant, he will be getting Rs. 12·50 paise from the start till end, yet our Government say that there is no justification for his demand. Sir, I believe that Government

should have gone into this anomaly and into the case of differential treatment before jumping into conclusions. Sir, in the case of a Sub-Inspector of Police, another fortunate person, his increment is at Rs. 12·50 paise. If he crosses the efficiency bar at Rs. 250, then his increment will be at Rs. 15. Sir, I will come to another question.

Mr. SPEAKER : Mr. Hynniewta, your time is up.

Shri HOOVER HYNNIEWTA : Sir, there are so many points, I do not know whether I can do justice. Any way, I am trying to do justice.

Mr. SPEAKER : You can have a share with your other friends who sit behind you. Only three minutes more I am giving you.

Shri HOOVER HYNNIEWTA : I would come to another point. This is also in regard to fixation of pay. The Pay Committee has merged the Dearness Allowance and Cash Allowance in the fixation of increment. The Pay Committee has totally ignored the Cash Allowance and Dearness Allowance. So, Sir, at present, the Upper Division Assistant in the Secretariat is getting an increment of Rs. 15 plus Cash Allowance and Dearness Allowance. Now, according to the report of the Pay Committee there will be a reduction of Rs. 2·50 paise in his case. Sir, can we call it justification? When you have increased his pay, how can you decrease his increment? If you cannot increase, it should be at the same stage.

Sir, I come to another important point, that is "reversion". Sir, it will take time to read all these.

Mr. SPEAKER : Please give the summary.

Shri HOOVER HYNNIEWTA : Yes, I will give the summary. Sir, from the Pay Committee's Report, it is found that the Senior Superintendent will be in charge of more than 21 Assistants. But the present practice is that he may be in charge of 7 to 10 Assistants. But according to the Pay Committee's recommendation, he will be in charge of 21 Assistants. There are 950 Assistants and if we take this yardstick, there will be room for 45 Senior Superintendents only. But at present there are 60 Superintendents. So, Sir, 15 Superintendents will have to be reverted. Sir, in the process of reversion, it will flow from Senior Superintendents to Junior Superintendents and Junior Superintendents to Upper Division Assistants and so on and so forth. So, Sir, instead of handling the question of stagnation, you will instead bring about reversion. At present there are some 307 Upper Division Assistants so far my information goes, who have already reached the maximum in their scale of pay. So, I feel that there is a legitimate demand from the Government employees.

Shri DHANIRAM TALUKDAR (Barpeta) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fail to understand what is the motive behind this motion.....

(A voice : Not motion — discussion)

About this discussion, Sir, probably on the evening of the 2nd March, some of the gentlemen—some representatives of the Secretariat Association approached me. At their appeal, I was at the point of breaking. Somehow I managed that. Afterwards I learnt what they wanted.

They claim that they want better salaries, promotions, etc., but they never think that some people of their calibre are getting nothing. People of their calibre are earning less than one third of the salaries that they get now. If we are to think of these one thousand people of this Association then what shall we do in the case of others of their calibre? These people, as I am told, number one thousand. But in Assam there are 1 crore and 20 lakhs of people and their number is one in twelve thousand. If we are to give special treatment to these people, that will mean we ignore other 9,999 people. Sir, we are to consider the case of other people. So, by giving special consideration to these few people we are ignoring other people of our country. We do not realise how thousands and lakhs of people of our villages are starving. So, when we are to support these people and when we are to raise the pay scales of these employees, we must consider the fact of the other people. They are also our people; they are getting nothing from us; nothing from the Government. If a particular section gets special consideration from the Government, other people are also bound to come up with their grievances. As representatives of the people, my hon. friends have espoused their cause and appeal for them to the Government and to the Chief Minister and also appeal to his good heart. But my appeal is in the reverse way. I appeal him to take sterner, and sterner measures and never to be subdued. Therefore, these reasons are quite meaningless to me. The Shillong employees are practically in much better condition than other people. Why they forget that? Some of them are earning Rs. 300, Rs. 400, Rs. 800 and so on and they are getting good houses. So, Sir, we must not give special consideration to these gentlemen when other people who are competent enough are suffering. In villages there are Graduates and M. A., but they are not getting a single penny. So, I advise Government to give them some pension, say 30 per cent of their pay. A man who gets Rs. 600 a month, give him Rs. 200 and with the remaining money—, Rs. 400 we shall get other better qualified people. We are not afraid of this. There are thousands of people who are not getting any employment under Government though they have been trying for jobs for years together. So when these gentlemen are unwilling to work and unable to work, let them go home with that pension and enjoy and earn their livelihood in other business in their own villages.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is over.....

Shri DHANIRAM TALUKDAR: So, Sir, more energetic people who are willing to work can be employed in their places.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had no intention to participate in the discussion this afternoon. But I shall be failing in my duty if I do not reply to some of the criticisms and points raised by hon. Members Shri Nichols-Roy and Mr. Hoover Hynniewta. They have alleged that one of the grievances of these employees on strike was that all the advantages hitherto desired by them have been taken away from them and they now suffer from great disadvantage. The Chief Minister will reply to several matters raised and I shall only deal with the question of pay scales. It is most

unfortunate that the hon. Members should have taken the brief of the employees and preached for them before the House without examining and ascertaining the actual position and the recommendations made by the Pay Committee. Sir, the hon. Members may be aware that for the pay-scales, the ministerial staff working in the various offices under the State Government are divided into three categories. At the bottom are those working in the District and subordinate offices and at the top are those working in the Secretariat. The ministerial staff attached to the various offices of the Heads of Departments occupy middle position.

Here-to-fore, the minimum qualification required for entry into the district and subordinate offices was Matriculation and for entry into the offices of the Heads of Departments and Secretariat, Intermediate. According to the revised pattern of examination, the entry qualification for all the offices of the above three categories has now been made Higher Secondary or Pre-University. On this ground and also on the ground that clerical work in all the offices is of the same nature, a very strong representation was made before the Pay Committee from the side of the ministerial staff of the district offices and offices of the Heads of Departments, that there should be only one set of pay-scales to cover all the ministerial staff working in the various offices and the promotion prospect of the ministerial staff of the district offices and offices of the Heads of Departments should also be enlarged and brought to the same level as open for the ministerial staff of the Secretariat.

It will be evident from para 10 of the Report, that the Pay Committee gave their most careful consideration to this matter, after taking into account the nature of work, duties and responsibilities to be discharged at various levels, and recommended that the *status quo* which gave the Secretariat Staff an advantageous position *vis-à-vis* other ministerial staff in the matter of pay-scales, should be maintained.

For the convenience of the hon. Members I should like to give a comparative statement showing the position as it obtained before the revision and now :—

In the District Offices Lower Division Assistants—his pre-revision scale was Rs.60—125, and, including all allowances, in Shillong he used to get minimum Rs.100 and Rs.98 in the Plains. Maximum in Shillong was Rs.164 and in the Plains was Rs.160. His revised scale is Rs.125—300. In the Heads of Department Offices, pre-revision scale was Rs.75—175. Including all allowances he gets minimum Rs.110 in Shillong and Rs.100 in the Plains and his maximum is Rs.224 in Shillong and Rs.219 in the Plains. It has now been revised to Rs.140—475. So far as Lower Division Assistant in the Secretariat is concerned, his pay was Rs.80—200 in the pre-revision scale. He used to get minimum Rs.110 and maximum Rs.254. Now the revised pay scale is Rs.150—300. Therefore, Sir, from this it will be apparent that the same proportion has been maintained and no one can complain of any disadvantages. Let us take the case of an Upper Division Assistant. His pre-revision scale in the District Office, was Rs.125—175, his minimum including all allowances was Rs.164 in Shillong and Rs.160 in the Plains and the maximum was Rs.224 in Shillong and Rs.219 in the Plains. Now he will get the scale of Rs.200—300. And in the Heads of Department Offices an Upper Division Assistant in the pre-revision scale used to get Rs.175—275 and

he used to get Rs. 224 in Shillong and Rs. 219 in the Plains including all allowances; the maximum was Rs. 339 but now it has been increased to Rs. 275—375. So far as the Upper Division Assistant in the Secretariat is concerned, his pre-revision scale was Rs. 200-325. He used to get Rs. 225 minimum including all allowances and Rs. 384 maximum; now the pay scale has been raised to Rs. 300—425. If hon. Members would be pleased to go through these pay scales, they will see that the previous advantages derived in the pay scales by employees in the Secretariat are maintained all along the line.....

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) : The point is about disparity.....

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : The hon. Member must be patient, I have not finished. Sir, as I have said, it is evident from what I have said that the previous advantage of the pay scales has been maintained all along the line and there is no lowering down of the pay scale in any grade.

Then, Sir, it has been argued that the pay scales of those in the Secretariat are to be compared with those of the Veterinary Assistant Surgeon, Sub-Inspector of Police, Sub-Registrar, Supply Inspector and so on. I think, I need not point out that a Secretariat employee cannot be compared with a Veterinary Assistant Surgeon who is a member of a technical service and has to possess a technical degree and therefore, the pay scales of such technical staff had to be fixed in relation to other comparable posts requiring technical qualifications. Similarly, the analogy of the Sub-Registrar for which the entry qualification is a degree, cannot be drawn in the case of a ministerial post, the pay scale of which can be determined only with reference to such post of other comparable posts. It is very unfortunate, Sir, that the hon. Members have not taken these facts into consideration and they want to compare these technical posts with the Secretariat, the minimum qualification for entering which service is Intermediate whereas for a person to enter as a Sub-Registrar, the minimum qualification is that of a graduate.

Shri STANLEY D. D. NICHOLS-ROY (Cherrapunji Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): But is it not a fact that for a direct recruit entering Secretariat Service, his qualification must be that of a graduate ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I am afraid the hon. Member has not understood the principle of fixation of minimum qualification. An Assam Civil Service Officer even holding a Doctorate degree cannot be entitled to the pay scale of an I. A. S. or I. C. S. Officer. A minimum qualification is fixed for entering each particular type of service. As I have said earlier, the minimum qualification for entering Secretariat Service is Intermediate with prospects of promotion.

Mr. SPEAKER : The question of the hon. Member is whether the minimum qualification of an Upper Division in the Secretariat directly recruited is that of a Graduate or not ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Yes, that is why he is given the

higher scale of pay and besides he will have the benefit of a Selection Grade and promotion. All these facts have to be taken into consideration. The hon. Members are only pleading the case of one particular service.

Sir, so far as the Sub-Inspector of Police is concerned, he has been given more pay than an Upper Division Assistant because the nature of duty of the Police Sub-Inspector is different from that of an Upper Division Assistant in the Secretariat or the Heads of the Department offices. He has to bear more responsibilities and he has to undertake more risks. All these facts must be taken into consideration which were done by the Pay Committee in fixing the different pay scales. It is no use considering these matters in an isolated manner. The Pay Committee after examining all the facts placed before them by the different Service Associations, came to certain decisions. But if hon. Members just pick up one post here and there and start comparing, I do not see how on that basis we can reach a better decision.

Then again, Sir, it has been argued that the revision has not given the employees any benefit. In this connection I would like to point out that in calculating the benefit, the interim relief which has been given is not taken into consideration by those who make such allegation. I do not know how this can be left out of consideration because this is one of the recommendations of the Pay Committee and therefore it also has to be taken into consideration in showing the difference between the present emoluments and proposed scale of pay of the employees. Then, Sir, I may add that, in accepting the recommendations of the Pay Committee, Government went even further and decided that in fixation of pay of the employees below the pay scale of Rs.750 per month, they should be assured of the minimum benefit, that is of 10 per cent over the present emolument in case of employees in the range of Rs.200 or less per month. In other words if the incumbent's emolument is less than Rs.200 he will get additional 10 per cent benefit. Similarly, benefit of 7½ per cent will be given if the emolument exceeds Rs. 200 but does not exceed Rs.500 and 5 per cent if the emolument exceeds Rs.500 but does not exceed Rs.750 per month. As this adhoc benefit has been provided in no case a Government servant drawing upto Rs.750 and opting for the new scale will loose. Further the revised scale will be fixed in such a way that it does not exceed the maximum of the revised scales. Then, Sir, I should like to refer to another important point. Sir, one of the demands of the employees is that the number of receipts to be dealt with by each assistant should be reduced to 3 from 5. Sir, after the hon. Members have on the one hand asked me to affect economy in the administration, how on the other hand the same hon. Members can support the demand of reducing the numbers of receipts to be dealt with by each assistant? If this is accepted, there will be similar demands from the offices of the Heads of the Departments and from the District Offices.

Shri HOOVER HYNNIEWTA (Shillong): Sir, on a point of personal clarification. Whether this demand has been implemented?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: The recommendations of the Pay Committee have not yet been implemented. It will have to be imposed.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Sir, on a point of information.

Mr. SPEAKER : The Finance Minister has not given way. Mr. Ahmed, you carry on. (Noise)

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Sir, I have worked out the amount required to meet the additional demand of the Secretariat Association. It will be about 15 lakhs rupees per year and when this demand is granted similar demands will be coming from others, such as Heads of the Departments and District Offices, for which we will require a further sum of Rs. 50 lakhs per year annually. Sir, the hon. Members from the Opposition have picked up one case from here and another from there in trying to justify.....

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Sir, on a point of clarification, Sir,.....

Mr. SPEAKER : Mr. Baruah, please do not interrupt. Mr. Ahmed, continue.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : So Sir, the demand of the Secretariat Association to reduce the receipt from 5 to 3 cannot be accepted.

Secondly, Sir, the hon. Members should realise that so far as the pay scales of the Assistant Superintendents and Superintendents are concerned, they have been recommended a scale of Rs. 350—550 and Rs. 500 to 700 respectively. At present an Assistant Superintendent with a special pay of Rs. 50 over other increments of Upper Division gets a total emolument of Rs. 314 and a Superintendent gets a total pay of Rs. 411. Now as against that in the revised scale they will get 350—550 and Rs. 500—770. Sir, in recommending these pay scales for these two posts, it was pointed out that the number of supervisory posts, *i.e.*, such as Assistant Superintendents and Superintendents should be fixed on the basis of work-load. Similarly a yardstick has been fixed for the post of Superintendent. I do not remember the exact number; it may be 9 or 10 Assistants over whom there will be an Assistant or Junior Superintendent; about 20 Assistants or so over whom there will be a Superintendent. This may result in some junior and senior posts being surplus. Therefore, I find no justification on the part of hon. Members of the Opposition to object to resort to economy measures when they have themselves advocated and pressed us for affecting economy.

Shri HOOVER HYNNEWTA : Sir, on a point of personal explanation. Hon. Finance Minister is charging us for something which we have not said.

(Noise)

Mr. SPEAKER : Order, order. There is limit to everything. I cannot allow this thing to go on any more. Hon. Finance Minister should be allowed to complete his statement in a peaceful manner. Mr. Ahmed, please continue.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : Sir, I find that the hon. Members speak with two tongues in the mouth. On the one hand they urge the Government to affect economy and again on the other hand they want the Government to accept the demand not justified on work-load basis. No employer can do this. Therefore, I submit that there is no question of prestige and the hon. Members should realise, I am speaking on the basis of facts and figures; there is no justification for them to press the employees' demand, which have been thoroughly examined by the Pay Committee. As I have explained, which has also been repeated by the Chief Minister in his statement the other day in this House that if there is any anomaly that will be looked into. As a matter of fact the other day a very important matter was referred to me. This was about the ad-hoc allowance of Rs. 10 per month admissible to an employee whose pay does not exceed Rs. 250. The question referred to me was whether an employee drawing Rs. 249 will only be entitled to the allowance of those drawing Rs. 250. What I ordered was that not only this allowance should be extended upto Rs. 250 but it should be adjusted in such a manner even in the case of person drawing more than Rs. 250 that the total emolument may not exceed Rs. 260. I have done this without the recommendation from this House. So, Sir, whenever any such anomaly is brought to my notice I take all facts into consideration. It is not my intention to allow any employee to suffer. Sir, in spite of all these considerations, the action taken by the employees is really very regrettable. They are trying to paralyse the administration. Therefore, Sir, I submit that the employees with such kind of mind and attitude do not deserve any kindness and sympathy from this House.

Thank you, Sir.

***Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are glad that this opportunity has been provided by this discussion to express our views on this subject. I can also appreciate the anxiety of the hon. Members to end this strike in the interest of the country. Sir, I can assure the hon. Members that we are also equally anxious to see that the administration runs smoothly, so that this frontier State can really make progress in all respects and remains strong. Sir, the economic strain through which this country is passing since several years now, to be precise since 1962, is bringing a lot of hardship to the people as a whole, more particularly to people of the lower income group. This hardship is equally felt by the Government servants also. There is no dispute about the fact that every man today is finding great difficulty in balancing his budget. Many families with small income are perhaps going without even the minimum necessities of their life. Sir, this is a situation which is unfortunate through which this country is passing for various reasons about which the hon. Members are quite aware and I do not go into this matter. When this Government decided that a Pay Committee should be appointed, it was with the best of intention to see that whatever relief that can be given from the State exchequers resources will be given to the Government employees. It is with the best of intention that this Pay Committee was appointed. Sir, we are very grateful to the Members of the Pay Committee for the labour which they took in examining this very complicated matter of pay fixation. Sir, after the Pay Committee submitted its report, the Cabinet discussed days together on the report of the Pay Committee and came to a certain decision with a view to improve the recommendations of the Pay Committee or in other words to give better benefit to the Government servants. Sub-

sequently, Sir, you are aware that this august House also had the opportunity of debating on the recommendations of Pay Committee as well as on the Government decision. This Pay Committee's recommendations were discussed in other places also and after hearing the hon. Members of this House, the Government through the Finance Minister shouldered further responsibility with the object of giving further relief to the Government employees. Sir, it is known that when we have to fix the salary of, say, about 60,70 or 80 thousand people serving under the Government for a varying number of years in different places in different services, no single formula can solve the problem. Lots of anomalies remain. Our idea is to give benefit to the employees. In a particular case it may be that the particular formula, which has been enunciated, when it is applied to that particular person, he does not get the benefit. That becomes an anomaly because it goes against the object with which the decision was taken. Therefore, the Finance Minister and I while we met the representatives of the Association made it absolutely clear that the anomalies will be particularly looked into and justice will be done. Sir, I would like to mention a specific case; the problem of stagnation of the officers of the Secretariat. The Cabinet after deliberating the matter came to a decision that let us create some Selection Grade posts to avoid this stagnation and certain percentages were also fixed. Now, it is said and it may be true also, that that percentage which has been fixed for the number of Selection Grade posts would not solve the problem of stagnation. If that be the case, the percentage will have to be raised because Government's object is to avoid the stagnation. If 5 per cent or 10 per cent does not meet that requirement, its percentage is to be raised, but unless the whole thing is worked out, it is very difficult to say whether a particular formula solves the problem or not. Now, some of the Government employees have stated that these anomalies have not been removed. May I know what is the basis of their saying this because pay fixation on the basis of the recommendations of the Pay Committee is yet incomplete? They have been working on it. So, after they work out and come to some final solution, they can know in which case these anomalies remain. Therefore, Sir, what I want to say is this and nothing new. I have stated it before and I want to repeat it now.

These are the broad objectives with which the Pay Committee was formed—Government came to certain decisions. This august House had its deliberations and after hearing the hon. Members the Finance Minister made certain statements. There are certain broad objectives we have to achieve. For that the machinery is now going into operation and working on it. The anomalies would be removed. Yesterday also I said that for consideration of anomalies I will welcome the idea of the Assam Ministerial Officers' Association that some representatives of the Association should also be associated. I do not know what more I can do. I really do not understand what more I can say. I cannot say anything more. Now, Sir, the hon. Members have been very kind to me. They have mentioned in very kind words, about me, about my duties and responsibilities and what they expect me to do. I want to be respectful to the hon. Members and I am really anxious to get their support in all matters. I have no ill-will against anybody. As the Chief Minister of a State, the only pleasure which I can have is to see that the people of Assam whether they are Government employees or others, whether they are living in the Plains or in the Hills, live a happy and contented life. I can have no other ambition other than that as Chief Minister. I fully appreciate that the relief which we are going to give on the basis of the decision which we have taken will be very meagre for the

Government servants all over. No amount of increase of the type is going to solve the problem until the economy of the country is stabilised and production increased. These are the two things, ultimately which will give relief to the people including the Government servants. In the meantime we are passing through very hard days. You are aware of your own budget, I am aware of my own budget, and supposing the conditions are very adverse and difficult, we have to behave in a manner by which we can overcome this difficult period. If we behave in an indisciplined manner, if we proceed illegally, I am sure the whole country would be in a chaos. Sir, moreover who can tolerate any group of people attempting to paralyse the administration? Will it be in the interest of the country in the interest of the people to encourage or tolerate that sort of activity? Sir, my charge is that the Secretariat Association, the recognition of which we have since withdrawn, is proceeding in a manner so as to paralyse the administration. That is a grievance which I have against all of them. I am thankful for the advice given by the hon. Members of that side to me. I hope at the same time that they will also give proper advice to the Government employees who are attempting to paralyse the administration. Of course, I do not believe that the Government employees are capable of paralysing the administration or bring about a chaos in the country. I do not believe that. After all they are about a lakh of people. Assam has 1 crore 18 lakhs of people. Will these people permit one lakh of people to create, to bring chaos to the country? They might throw me out of the Government, they might throw out the administrative machinery—nevertheless they would not tolerate any section of the people trying to bring about chaos in the country. Sir, if they are successful in bringing about more chaos, the people will throw us out. I will also tell you that unless we discharge our duties and if we tolerate this illegal activity then also the people will throw us out. Sir, my colleague, the Finance Minister, has replied to some of the questions raised by the hon. Members on that side, and it has become a great help for me because he did it. Sir, I have nothing more to tell this House. I have attempted to explain the Government position fully, and, I hope that the Government employees would understand their responsibilities. I have all my good wishes for them, and I am keen to see that whatever is possible is done to them provided they do not proceed in a manner which is not conducive for the good of the administration as well as for the State.

ADJOURNMENT

The Assembly then adjourned till 9 A.M. on Friday, the 12th March, 1965.

Shillong

The 9th November 1965.

R. C. CHAUDHURI,

Secretary,

Assam Legislative Assembly.

