



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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 9 A. M. on Friday, the 13th March, 1959.

**PRESENT**

Shri Dev Kanta Borooah, B. A., L. L. B., Speaker in the Chair, eight Ministers, four Deputy Ministers and sixty-seven Members.

**QUESTION AND ANSWERS**

**STARRED QUESTIONS**

(To which oral answers were given)

**Quantity of iron rods received in Shillong**

**U JOR MANIK SIEM [Nongpoh (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]** asked:

\*16. Will the Minister-in-charge of Supply be pleased to state—

- (a) What was the quantity of iron rods received in Shillong during the last 6 months?
- (b) Who were the persons given permit for purchasing the rods and for what quantities?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that only 2 tons out of 10 tons was last given for the re-construction of Barabazar?
- (d) Whether Government are aware that the fire victims of Barabazar are being exposed to great hardship for want of iron materials?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that some iron rods went back down to G. S. Road sometime in January 1959?
- (f) If so, where did they go to and under what authority?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply)** replied :

16. (a)—Two thousands two hundred and two maunds of different sizes of iron rods were received in Shillong during the last six months.

(b)—A list of persons who received permits of iron rods together with the quantity allotted to each is placed on the Library Table.

**[Statement laid on the Library Table in reply to Starred Question No.16(b)]**

**LIST OF PERMIT HOLDERS FROM SEPTEMBER 1958 to 27th February, 1959.**

Serial No.	Name and address of permit holders	Quantity allotted (in maunds)
1	Manager, Don Bosco Technical School	7 mds.
2	Superintendent, B. A. T. School, Upper Shillong	2 mds.
3	Rameswar Goenka, Shillong	10 mds. 28½ srs.
4	Sri A. M. Dam, Rtd. Commr. of Division, Shillong.	15 mds.
5	Mother Superior, St. Mary's Convent, Shillong	20 mds.
6	Sri A. M. Dam, I. A. s., Shillong	40 mds.
7	Syiem of Mylliem, Shillong	54 mds. (2 tons).
8	S. Kar, Jt. Director, Supply, Shillong	8 mds.
9	I. C. Biswas, Shillong	10 mds.
10	D. Kakati, S. P., Shillong	3 mds.
11	Sister Superior, Secred Heart	30 mds.
12	Sri Amulya Choudhury, Shillong	20 mds.
13	I. N. Hazarika, Shillong	3 mds.
14	U Dlansingh, Mawlai, Shillong	5 mds.
15	A. Ahmed, Employment Exchange Officer, Shillong.	3 mds.

Serial No.	Name and address of permit holders	Quantity allotted (in maunds)
16	M/S. E. U. Roy and Sons, Cherrapunjee ...	4 mds.
17	Shri H. R. Nongrum, Asstt. of Assam Sectt. P.W.D. Shillong.	6 mds.
18	Mr. Mourice G. Roy Lyngdoh, Shillong ...	2 mds.
19	Principal, Lady Keane Girls' College, Shillong	40 mds.
20	Sri B. B. Dam, Commandant, 2nd Bri. B. S. T.,	3 mds.
21	Director, Don Bosco Technical School, Shillong	20 mds.
22	S. K. Biswas, Shillong ... ..	15 mds.
23	Secretary Honumanji Dharamsala, Paltan Bazar Shillong.	40 mds.
24	P.L. Shome, Deputy Finance Secretary, Shillong	6 mds.
25	Sri Amiya Sen, Civil Sectt. Shillong ...	4 mds.
26	Sri Surekha Bros. and Co., Shillong ...	20 mds.
27	St. Joseph Convent, Jaiaw, Shillong ...	40 mds.
28	Sri J. B. Roy, Shillong .. ...	20 mds.
29	Mrs. Mrinalini Paul, Shillong, Anand Bhawan, Laban.	20 mds.

(c)—Yes. An application for 10 tons of iron rods of different sizes from Shri Jor Manik Siem of Myllem was received through his representative on 30th October 1958 who was informed of the availability of 5/8" iron rods only. Out of his requirements of 5/8", 4/8" and 3/8" rods, the demand for 5/8" iron rods was only 4 tons and he was given 2 tons by the Director of Consumer Goods. The other sizes of iron rods required by him could not be issued for non-availability of the stocks at that time. Besides, he was given 40 maunds of rods previously by the Deputy Commissioner, United Khasi and Jaintia Hills, and 70 maunds of imported iron rods were also arranged for him by the Deputy Commissioner.

(d)—Yes. But owing to the scarcity of iron rods the full demand for reconstruction of Barabazar could not be met at a time.

(e) & (f)—Some iron rods were moved on permits from Shillong to other places in Assam such as Kahikuchi, Gauhati, Nowgong and Hojai for meeting certain urgent demands. Iron rods received in Shillong related to T. C. M. (Technical Co-operation Mission) quota and not to general quota.

**U JOR MANIK SIEM [Nongpoh (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]**: It is not a fact that all iron quotas meant for Assam were not lifted from Calcutta ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply)**: I have no information, Sir.

**U JOR MANIK SIEM**: Will the Minister be pleased to enquire into this ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY**: Certainly, Sir, I will.

**Shri RAMNATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]**: What is T. C. M. ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY**: Technical Co-operation Mission.

**U JOR MANIK SIEM**: Are Government aware that the Bara Bazar is the nerve centre of the trading community in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills ?

**Mr. SPEAKER** : That is an obvious fact.

**U JOR MANIK SIEM**: Then, Sir, why top priority was not given to this place in regard to essential materials for its reconstruction ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY**: I am afraid, there is some misunderstanding. Normally, when a petition is made for a permit for such materials and if a permit is issued for some quantity of the things prayed for, unless another petition comes for the balance or further quantity the Supply Office takes it for granted that no more permit is required. As in this case of Bara Bazar after issue of a permit for 2 tons of iron rods, out of 10 tons prayed for, as there was no further petition there was no more issue of permit by the Supply Department thinking obviously that the rest of the requirement might have been arranged from elsewhere.

**U JOR MANIK SIEM**: If we make further petition can we expect that top priority will be given in this case ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply):** If a petition is made certainly top priority will be given to it within our limited resources.

**Shri RAMNATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]:** Who disposes the T. C. M. quota ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** The Director of Consumer Goods.

**Shri RAMNATH DAS:** Whether this Technical Co-operation Mission quota is meant for only Shillong or for all the Sub-divisions of Assam ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** This quota is entirely meant for the Agriculture Department only and nobody else is entitled to it normally, but if the Agriculture Department do not want then it is generally given to public institutions. The quantity referred to in the question as 'sent out from Shillong' was from this Technical Co-operation Mission quota. These were sent from Shillong to the Coconut Research Station, Kahikuchi, State Home for rescued Women at Gauhati, District Agricultural Officer, Nowgong and President of Deshabandhu Bidyapith, Hojai and some individuals.

#### **Abolition of the Control over C. I. Sheets**

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

\*17. Will the Minister-in-charge of Supply be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether the control over C. I. Sheets will be abolished ?
- (b) If not, why not ?
- (c) Whether Government are aware that C. I. Sheets are available in black-market ?
- (d) How many cases of black-marketing in C. I. Sheets were detected during the course of last one year ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply) replied :**

17. (a)—No.

(b)—Control over C. I. Sheets was imposed by the Government of India and it is not within the competence of the State Government to remove control. The indigenous production of C. I. Sheets is far below the country's requirements. Hence, removal of control over C. I. Sheets is not possible at the present stage.

(c)—Government have no information about general availability of indigenous C. I. Sheets in the black-market. But there may be stray cases for violation of the Control Order.

(d)—Eight cases in the Dhubri Subdivision only.

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog):** How many bundles of C. I. Sheets were allotted to Assam since 195g till now ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply):** I cannot give the figure now. Yesterday in reply to a similar question, I gave some information to the House on a similar question.

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR:** What is the control price of C. I. sheets per bundle ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** It varies from consignment to consignment.

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa):** Is it a fact that different industries are allowed to lift their own quotas ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** There are separate quotas for some industries which are brought by the Supply Department. The Department of Supply then distribute them with the help of the Industries Department.

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA:** Are the tea estates allowed quotas of C. I. sheets to be lifted direct from Calcutta by them.

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** I understand, the Tea Board has got a separate quota.

**Shri DWIJESH CHANDRA DEB SARMA (Digboi):** Australian C. I. sheet ব ওপৰত 'কন্ট্ৰ'ল' নাইনেকি ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply):** Foreign C. I. sheetৰ ওপৰত Control নাই, অৱশ্যে আমি ইয়াৰ দাম বান্ধি দিওঁ।

**Shri DWIJESH CHANDRA DEB SARMA (Digboi):** কিছুমান C. I. sheetৰ ওপৰত কন্ট্ৰল নাই আৰু অন্য কিছুমানত কন্ট্ৰল থকাৰ কাৰণে ব্যৱসায়ী সকলে চোৰাংবাজাৰ কৰিবলৈ সুবিধা পোৱা নাইনে?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** Foreign C. I. sheet কন্ট্ৰলৰ বাহিৰ আৰু ইয়াৰ দামো বেচি। কোনোবাই এইবিলাক আনিব খুজিলে আমি আপত্তি নকৰো।

**Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj):** How it can be detected whether C. I. sheets are from official quota or not ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** By trade marks.

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog):** What is the price of Australian C. I. sheets ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** It depends on each shipment.

**Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla):** Is it not a fact that C. I. sheets are available in open market without permit in Calcutta ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** I made a positive reply to this yesterday in the House.

**Shri MAHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur):** Is it not a fact that the Finance Minister gave assurance in the last Budget Session that in future no quota would be allowed to be lapsed and the position of iron materials will improve in our State as the office of the Trade Adviser in Calcutta is strengthened ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** That is not correct to say that the position has not improved. In fact after the re-organisation of the Trade Advisor's office and introduction of the new system, there have been very few cases of lapses of quota. Formerly our quota used to be lapsed because we entrusted the job in the hands of the traders. Now Government has taken up the job in their own hands ; so there are few cases of lapses of quota.



**Shri MAHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur):** Are Government aware that on account of the very small quantity of C. I. sheets supplied to North Lakhimpur, *i. e.*, about 64 bundles, distribution had to be made by the Supply Advisory Board by means of a lottery ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply):** The hon. Member being a member of the Supply Advisory Board, North Lakhimpur does know better than myself.

**Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar):** Why two markets are allowed to exist ? Why Government cannot take step either to decontrol or control ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** That lies in the hand of the Government of India.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** This is a matter which can be discussed during the general discussion of the budget.

**Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahowal):** C. I. sheets last quota অসমত কেতিয়া পাইছিল ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** সেইটো মই গঠিক কব নোৱাৰো ।

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa):** Whether Government know that supply of C. I. sheets can hardly meet 10 per cent of the requirements of the people ?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** That is obvious.

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA:** What step Government is taking for increasing the quota ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** We have been repeatedly sending our demads to the Government of India to increase the quota but Government of India is also in difficulty. Even then they accommodated many of our urgent needs by special quotas in the past. In fact the production of C. I. sheets and steel is much below the requirement of the country.

**Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi):** May I know on what basis C. I. sheets are allotted to different States ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** I believe, requirement plus population.

### Chairman, Karimganj Municipality

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur)** asked:

\*18. Will the Minister, Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether he has lately received representation and complaints against the Chairman, Karimganj Municipality ?
- (b) If so, what steps have been taken to investigate into these cases of illegalities and irregularities ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that a representation has been submitted by the public for superseding the Municipal Board and if so, what action has been taken on this representation ?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Local Self-Government)** replied :

18. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The matter has already been investigated by the Subdivisional Officer, Karimganj, the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar and the Examiner of Local Accounts.

(c)—Yes. The matter is under consideration of Government.

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa)** : Is it not a fact that these representations to supersede the Karimganj Municipal Board is the outcome of political rivalries ?

(Laughter)

(No reply).

**Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]**: May I know from whom these representations came ?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED** : I want notice of this question. But I can tell the hon. Member that I received representations from several persons. As the matter is already under the consideration of the Government, I trust the hon. Member will not further press this matter.

**Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog):** What is the name of the Chairman of the Karimganj Municipal Board? (laughter)

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, L.S.G.):** The hon. Member knows his name, as he is also a Member of this House.

**Loan for reconstruction of Barabazar at Shillong**

**U JOR MANIK SIEM [Nongpoh (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]** asked :

\*19. Will the Minister-in-charge of Tribal Areas Department be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether a loan has been promised recently for the reconstruction of the burnt portion of the Barabazar at Shillong?
- (b) If so, what is the reason for the delay in advancing the loan?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that some relief was also promised both by the Chief Minister and the Minister of Tribal Areas Department to the fire victims of Barabazar in January 1958?
- (d) If so, what relief has since been given to them?
- (e) Whether the loan so promised will be given at all?
- (f) If not, why not?

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Tribal Areas)** replied :

19. (a)—Yes; Government have decided to give a loan of Rs.2,50,000 to the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills District Council for the reconstruction of stalls in the burnt portion of Barabazar, Shillong on certain terms and conditions.

(b)—Non-receipt of a resolution from the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills District Council accepting the terms and conditions offered by Government.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—A gratuitous relief of Rs.10,000 in connection with the fire of 7th January 1958 and Rs.1,500 in connection with the fire of 5th April 1958 and a rehabilitation loan of Rs.49,400 were sanctioned by Government. In addition a sum of Rs.5,000 was also sanctioned from Chief Minister's Relief Fund for rendering immediate relief to the people affected by the fire of 5th April 1958.

(e)—Yes, provided the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills District Council pass a resolution accepting the terms and conditions on which it has been decided to sanction the loan

(f)—Does not arise.

**U JORMANIK SIEM [Nongpoh (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]:** To whom the loan was to be given ?

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Tribal Areas) :** The loan is to be given to the District Council.

**U JORMANIK SIEM :** Is the District Council to reconstruct the bazar ?

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA :** The District Council, the Syiem of Myllem and other representatives met together in a conference and decided to constitute a Re-construction Committee. Accordingly a Re-construction Committee was constituted. Re-construction of the Barabazar is therefore being taken up by this Committee.

**U JOR MANIK SIEM:** Is not the delay due to the fact that Government refused to sanction the loan free of interest ?

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA :** It is not a fact. The delay is due to the non-receipt of a resolution of the District Council accepting the terms and conditions.

**Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi):** Whether this Barabazar is under the District Council or the Municipality ?

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA :** It is under the control of the District Council.

**Shri CHATRASING TERON [Mikir Hills-West (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]:** Has Government assessed the amount of loss that has been caused by the fire in Barabazar ?

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA :** So far as reconstruction is concerned a master plan was drawn up and estimate was prepared but.....

**Mr. SPEAKER :** The question is whether any assessment of the loss sustained due to the fire havoc in Barabazar was made by Government or by any agency ?

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA** (Minister, Tribal Areas) : No, Sir.

**Shri CHATRASING TERON** [Mikir Hills-West (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : Do Government pay any compensation to those fire victims in view of the fact that in spite of repeated representation of the people to improve the condition of the Barabazar the Government did not do anything ?

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA**: How Government can be responsible and liable to pay compensation ? It is a private property.

#### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

#### Amount obtained from the Central Government for Flood Control Schemes of the State

**Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI** (Kamalpur) asked :

42. Will the Minister, Public Works Department (Embankment and Drainage) be pleased to state—

- (a) What is the total amount obtained from the Central Government for Flood Control Schemes of the State for the year 1958-59 ?
- (b) What are the projects to which this amount has been allocated and what amount has been sanctioned against each ?
- (c) How many of these schemes are outside the planned projects for which previous sanction of the Central Water and Power Commission are not necessary ?
- (d) Whether these schemes are financed from the State Budget ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY** [Minister, Public Works Department (Flood Control and Irrigation Wing)] replied :

42. (a)—No amount of financial assistance has so far been received from the Central Government for Flood Control Schemes for 1958-59. An intimation has however been received that a sum of Rs.98 lakhs may be available for Flood Control Works during the current financial year.

(b)—A statement showing the names of projects and the amount sanctioned against each and also fund allocated during the current year is laid on the Library Table for information of members. (Please see Library Register No. S. 68).

(c)—None.

(d)—Schemes under Flood Control Programme are included in the State Budget, but these are centrally sponsored schemes which are financed by Government of India.

**Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur):** Whether the State Government has paid any amount of these schemes ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY [Minister, P. W. D. (Flood Control etc.)]:** The question refers to the amount obtained from Central Government for flood control schemes of the State. Schemes under flood control programme are included in the State budget but these are Centrally sponsored schemes which are financed by Government of India.

**Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI:** Will Government consider to keep some amount apart for execution of such schemes from the State budget ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** At present there is no proposal but this may be considered to create a separate head in our budget to pay for some schemes out of our provincial revenue.

**Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla):** The hon'ble Minister said that Rs.98 lakhs may be available for flood control works during the current financial year. My question is whether this sum will have to be spent before the close of the financial year or it will lapse ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** If you may give me time, Sir, I can clarify the procedure.

In the beginning of each year, the Government of India, Ministry of Irrigation and Power allocate fund for Flood Control Works during the year. And accordingly the Government of India, Ministry of Irrigation and Power allocated a sum of Rs.98 lakhs for execution of the Flood Control works in the State of Assam during 1958-59. On

the basis of the indication of availability of fund given by the Government of India, the State Government made necessary allotment of fund in respect of the individual approved Flood Control Schemes during the year. The Government of India, Ministry of Irrigation and Power after getting the list of these proposed Flood Control Schemes would get them scrutinised by the Central Water and Power Commission, New Delhi, and then approve only those Schemes which would be recommended by the Central Water and Power Commission as technically and other wise sound for Central Loan Assistance under Flood Control programme.

Thus while an indication is given in the beginning of the year the actual sanction of loan and grant in respect of each of the Flood Control Schemes is received at the close of the year i. e. in the later part of the month of March each year. Thus there is no question of surrender.

Therefore what is referred to in the reply Sir, is the broad indication made in the beginning of the year but the actual sanction, as I have explained just now, will come, as usual by the end of the Session. It has come or will be coming now or nearabout. Therefore, there is no question of surrender.

**Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur):**

এই প্রশ্নৰ উত্তৰত কোৱা হৈছে যে ঊঁচনিৰ ভিতৰত থকা কাম চৰকাৰে কৰিব। যদি কোনো emergency ওলায় সৰ্বনাশ হবলৈ ধৰে তেতিয়া চৰকাৰে নিসহায় শিশুৰ দৰে চাই থাকিবনে কিবা কৰিব ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** তেতিয়া নিসহায় শিশুৰ দৰে চাই থাকিলে ঠিক নহব।

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

Sir, is it a fact that due to late submission of the schemes to the Centre, we received the financial sanction at the close of the year from the Government of India ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** No such instance has come to my notice.

**Shri MOHANANDA BORA:** এইটো চৰকাৰে জানেনে যে উত্তৰ

লক্ষীমপুৰৰ কেইখনমান নৈয়ে যোৱা দুবছৰ ভিতৰত ৰাইজৰ বহুত অনিষ্ট কৰিছে ?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** This is an Unstarred Question which does not call for detailed cross-examination,

**Scheme of Constructing the Embankment of Puthimari River from Puthimari Railway Bridge to Baruabari Ghat**

**Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur)** asked :

43. Will the Minister, Public Works Department (Embankment and Drainage) be pleased to state—

- (a) When the scheme of constructing the Embankment of the down part of Puthimari River from Puthimari Railway Bridge to Baruabari Ghat was submitted for approval to the Government of India ?
- (b) When the Government of Assam pressed the Government of India for approval of this scheme at the latest ?
- (c) What are the considerations on which the Government of India refused to accord approval to this scheme ?
- (d) Whether Government of Assam realise that this schemes should have been one of the projects getting priority under Flood Control Scheme ?
- (e) How many times tenders were invited for the execution of this Embankment from contractors ?
- (f) How many contractors submitted tenders in response to the advertisements in different years ?
- (g) What amount was realised by Government as Stamp duties from the contractors in submitting their tenders ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY [Minister, Public Works Department (Embankment and Drainage)]** replied :

43. (a)—The Scheme was submitted to Government of India on 3rd March, 1958.

(b)—It was last pressed in the 8th Meeting of the Central Flood Control Board held on the 22nd December 1958, in Delhi. The Central Water and Power Commission of the Government of India is still making queries regarding some technical aspects of the problems to get themselves satisfied with the technical details of the Scheme.



(c)—The Government of India has not intimated their decision regarding the approval of the scheme ; but in view of the successive reduction of the Plan ceiling under Flood Control Programme in the Second Plan, it has been rendered not possible to take up any new schemes during the remaining period of the Plan unless the Assam's share is substantially increased from what has now been fixed. Government of India will not approve any scheme for execution from funds that may be made available as loan assistance for Flood Control Works if the cost of the Scheme exceed the balance that may be available after meeting the total cost of all Schemes already committed for loan assistance.

(d)—Yes. Due consideration was given in fixing relative priority of this scheme along with other schemes.

(e)—Twice.

(f)—406 numbers on the first occasion and 422 numbers on the second occasion.

(g)—Rs.4,140 was realised from the contractors as court stamp fees.

**Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur):**

It is said that the scheme of constructing the Embankment of the down part of Puthimari River from Puthimari Railway Bridge to Baruabari Ghat was submitted to the Central Government in the year 1958. May I know why the scheme for constructing the incomplete portion was submitted after 4 years ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY [Minister, P. W. D. (Embankment and Drainage)] :** It is obvious that the Department cannot complete all schemes at a time all over the State. Therefore, we have to phase our programme and most likely, as far as I remember, this scheme was scheduled to be done in 1958. Further, in that year, the hon. Member was also very vigilant.

**Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS [Rangiya (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] :** May I know why this work was not executed and tenders called for twice ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY :** In my reply, I have already specified the procedure. After submitting our scheme to the Government of India we called for tenders with the anticipation that the Government of India would give

us the technical sanction and that we would be able to take up the work. This procedure was followed, in view of our anxiety about the situation. Why we had to follow the procedure, I hope, the hon. Members will appreciate.

**Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur):** As regards Question No.43(c) it is said that it has been rendered not possible to take up any new schemes during the remaining period of the Plan unless the Assam's share is substantially increased from what has now been fixed. In view of the fact that the Assam's share has been increased from 3·2 crores to 4·2 crores now, *i. e.*, Rs.1·5 crores, will Government be pleased to take up this work now ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY [Minister, P. W. D. (Embankment and Drainage)]:** I am sorry, Sir, the position is not clear to the hon. Member. The position is this: in the Second Five Year Plan there was a provision for Rs.8 crores. This was reduced to 7 crores, then to 5·9 crores and then it was proposed to be reduced to 3 something. But we fought against this and they agreed that they would not do so. They agreed to raise the amount to Rs.4·42 crores. As such the plan as a whole stands reduced to 4·42 crores from 8 crores.

### Sukla Irrigation Project

**Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked :**

44. Will the Minister, P. W. D. (Embankment and Drainage) be pleased to state—

- (a) What progress has been made by the Embankment and Drainage Department in the matter of investigation of Sukla Irrigation Project ?
- (b) In which year the investigation work was started ?
- (c) What amount has already been spent in this investigation ?
- (d) When the investigation is expected to be completed ?
- (e) Whether Government is aware that the main current of Sukla river has flown into the river Puthimari which has made the river Puthimari all the more turbulent ?
- (f) Will Government be pleased to expedite the execution of the Sukla Irrigation Scheme ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY** [Minister, P.W.D. (Embankment and Drainage)] replied :

44. (a)—Collection of hydrological data, Agricultural statistics and preparation of general contour map of the commandable area have nearly been completed.

(b)—Collection of some hydrological data started in January, 1957, but the main investigation work started in November, 1957.

(c)—Rs.15,114 upto January, 1959.

(d)—Investigation including detailed surveys for canals is likely to be completed by May, 1959.

(e)—Yes, the Sukla river whose discharge has been gradually increasing got diverted into the Puthimari several years back.

(f)—Surveys and collection of data for drawing up the schemes are being carried out as expeditiously as possible and actual execution will commence as soon as the details of the Scheme can be finalised, and funds became available.

**Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur):**  
In view of the fact that the discharge from the Sukla river has fallen into the Pathimari river with the result that Puthimari river has become more turbulent, and also in view of the fact that a volume of water from Baralia river has now been carried by Puthimari, river, will Government consider to construct an embankment on the unprotected portion of the Puthimari river ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** Sir, it is difficult for me to promise off hand but I will consider this matter and discuss with my colleagues.

**Shri BAIKANTHA NATH DAS** [**Rangiya (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)**]: May I know when the hydrological data will be completed and when the work will be started ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY** [**Minister, P.W.D. (Embankment and Drainage)**]: The investigation including detailed survey is likely to be completed in May, 1959.

### **Irrigation of Marnai *alias* Punai Nadi to Madankuri**

**Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur)** asked :

45. Will the Minister, P. W. D. (Embankment and Drainage) be pleased to state—

(a) Whether he received several representations from the people of Karara, Patidarang, Barbansar Mouzas praying for irrigating the Marnai *alias* Punai Nadi to Madankuri ?

(b) Whether any enquiry has been made in this respect ?

(c) Whether the Minister is aware that irrigation of Marnai does not come under Sukla Irrigation Scheme which is far away from this area ?

**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY** [**Minister, P. W. D. (Embankment and Drainage)**] replied :

45. (a)—Some petitions were received in 1954-55.

(b)—The proposals are under investigation.

(c)—For assured irrigation probably reliance will have to be placed on Sukla water which may be brought to this area. As stated in reply to Question (b) the matter is under investigation when possibility of irrigation from the Marnai (Punai) will also be examined.

**The Assam Co-operative Printers' and Publishers'  
Limited**

**Shri TAJAMMUL ALI BARLASKAR (Udarband)** asked :

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that Shri S. B. Choudhury, Editor, 'Shillong Times' has formed a Co-operative and taken a loan from the Department of Co-operative, Assam, to run a Press ?
- (b) If so, what is the name of that Co-operative ?
- (c) Who are the members of that Co-operative ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that almost all the shares of the said Co-operative are in the names of said Shri S. B. Choudhury, his brothers, sisters, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law and such other relations ?
- (e) Whether it is a fact that no valid document of mortgage covering this loan was executed by said Shri S. B. Choudhury or the Co-operative for taking the aforesaid loan ?
- (f) If so, who are the officers responsible for this illegality ?
- (g) What is the amount of the loan ?
- (h) What action has been taken against the officers responsible for this ?
- (i) Whether this Co-operative has paid its due instalment regularly ?
- (j) If not, what action has been taken ?
- (k) Whether it is a fact that this Co-operative is not using any signboard or name of the Co-operative under the name of which it was registered but giving out its name as 'Print House' against the direction of the Co-operative Department ?

(l) Whether it is a fact that various audit objections and large number of irregularities were found in this Co-operative ?

(m) If so, what are these audit objections ?

(n) If the answer to question (k) or (l) is in the affirmative, what action Government has taken against this Co-operative ?

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

46. (a)—Shri S. B. Choudhury is the Secretary of an Industrial Co-operative Society engaged in Printing and Publishing. The Society has taken a loan of Rs.20,000 from the Government.

(b)—The name of the Co-operative Society is "Assam Co-operative Printers' and Publishers' Ltd."

(c)—The following are the members of the Society :—

1. Shri B. B. Syam—Chairman.
2. Shri S. B. Choudhury—Secretary.
3. Shri J. Channelson.
4. Shri S. C. Sen.
5. Shri P. C. De.
6. Dr. Apurba Choudhury.
7. Shri K. R. Dev.
8. Shri P. Das Gupta.
9. Shri B. K. Syam.
10. Shri B. B. Das.
11. Shri P. Choudhury.
12. Shri S. C. Dhar.

13. Smti. Chinmoyee Devi.
14. Shri H. C. Choudhury.
15. Shri Satyabrata Choudhury.
16. Shri R. Kar.

(d)—The majority of the shares are in the name of Shri S. B. Choudhury, other major share-holders are his brother-in-law, Shri B. B. Syam, Chairman, Dr. A. B. Choudhury, his brother, Shri B. K. Syam, nephew and Shri Satyabrata Choudhury cousin. No sister or sister-in law of Shri S. B. Choudhury is a member of the Society.

(e)—The Society executed a document hypothecating the machineries purchased with the loan. The document, however was not registered and certain other formalities were not observed.

(f)—The matter is under investigation.

(g)—Rupees twenty thousand (Rs.20,000).

(h)—Appropriate action will be taken in due course if any officer is found responsible.

(i)—No. It had defaulted two kists and also owes part of the interest accrued.

(j)—For default of the kists the society is liable to pay back the entire balance of the loan under the agreement made by it at the time of taking the loan. A notice demanding the entire balance and arrear instalments was issued and it has since paid the entire loan money with interest on 3rd March, 1959.

(k)—The society is using its own signboard at the premises where the Press and the office of the society are located. There is no signboard of the name "Print House" affixed to any part of the premises but the Shillong Times, Ltd. which publishes the *Shillong Times* gets the paper printed at the Press of this society and the paper is published as having been printed at the "Print House".

The society resolved to use the name "Print House" for its Press but it has not been approved by the Department.

(l)—There are some audit objections regarding irregularities in allotment of shares, borrowing money beyond the prescribed limit and in maintenance of accounts, etc.

(m)—The audit objections referred mainly to the heavy losses the society was incurring since the beginning and the heavy establishment charges.

(n)—Notices have been issued by Registrar for cancellation of registration. But the society has appealed against this order to the Government and further action has been stayed.

**Office of District Transport Officer and Secretary,  
Regional Transport Authority at Gauhati**

**Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur)** asked:

47. Will the Minister, Transport be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Office of District Transport Officer and Secretary, Regional Transport Authority at Gauhati are situated in a very small rented house without necessary amenities like water supply, urinal, etc. ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the house has become too small to accommodate the offices and thus misplacement of files and records has become usual feature in this office causing great inconvenience and annoyance to the public ?
- (c) Whether there is any proposal to shift this public utility office and Revenue earning Department to a better and bigger building for administrative efficiency and public convenience ?

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Transport)** replied:

47. (a) -- Yes, the office of the District Transport Officer and Secretary, Regional Transport Authority at Gauhati has been accommodated in a rented building.

No complaint about water supply, urinal is received.

(b)—With the increase of staff the office building has become rather small, but this cannot be the ground for misplacement of files and records.

(c)—Steps are being taken to have a better and commodious rented building.



**Total strength of Assistants for the Office of the District Transport Officer, Gauhati**

**Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur)**

asked :

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

- (a) What is the total strength of Assistants authorised by the Department for the Office of the District Transport Officer, Gauhati and what is the total number of Assistants now working in that Office ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that there has been continued shortage of working hands in the Office of the District Transport Officer, Gauhati and that for the last several months the office has been functioning only with 50 per cent of the authorised strength resulting in heavy accumulation of arrear works causing serious public inconvenience and loss ?
- (c) If so, how long Government will take to fill up the existing vacancies for better administration and efficiency of the office ?

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Transport)** replied:

48. (a)—The sanctioned strength and existing strength of the staff of District Transport Officer's Office and Secretary, Regional Transport Authority office are as under:—

	Sanctioned strength	Existing strength	
Head Assistant	... 1	1	} District Transport Officer's Office.
Cashier	... 1	1	
Lower Division Assistant.	5	5	
Total	... 7	7	
Upper Division Assistant	1	1	} Regional Transport Authority's Office.
Lower Division Assistant	3	3	
Total	... 4	4	

(b)—Does not arise, in view of the reply to question No. (a) above.

(c)—Does not arise.

## Number of Weaving Co-operative Societies in the State

**Shri SURENDRA NATH DAS (Patacharkuchi)** asked :

49. Will the Minister of Cottage Industries be pleased to state—

- (a) How many Weaving Co-operative Societies have been formed uptill now in the State ?
- (b) What facilities have been given to the Societies ?
- (c) Whether the Societies are given grants or loans ?
- (d) How many Societies are properly running ?
- (e) How many yards of cotton cloth and Silk have been produced in the State during each of the last three years ?
- (f) Whether there are fixed rates of giving wages to the weavers ?
- (g) If so, what is the maximum rate ?

**Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Co-operative)** replied :

49. (a)—1,105.

(b)—Facilities given are—

- (i) Interest free share capital loan.
- (ii) Interest free working capital loan. The issue of the same has since been discontinued as Reserve Bank of India is giving finance to the weaver's Co-operative Societies through Central Banks.

(iii) Rebate at the rate of 6 n. P. per rupee on the sale of handloom cloth of value at Rs.2 or more.

(iv) Looms and weaving accessories are given as grants. Jacquard machines are given on the basis of 50 per cent grant and 50 per cent interest free loan. Warping drums are supplied at one-fourth cost.

(v) Subsidy on the cost of transport of yarn at the rate of Rs.20 per bale is given to the members of weaving co-operative societies.

(c)—Both grants and loans are given as shown at (b) above .

(d)—Approximately 50 per cent of the societies are working properly.

(e)—Cotton in Yards.  
 1956—438·5 (in Lakh)  
 1957—527·5 (in Lakh)  
 1958—600 (in Lakh)

Silk in Yards.  
 21·5 (in Lakh;  
 22·5 (in Lakh)  
 23 (in Lakh)

(f)—There is no fixed rate. Weaving charges are paid according to design and labour.

(g)—One can earn maximum Rs.5 a day.

**Shri SURENDRA NATH DAS (Patacharkuchi):** প্রশ্নোত্তরত কোৱা ১১০৫ খন কোঅপারেটিভ চোচাইটিৰ প্ৰায় ৫০০ খন চোচাইটি বে ভালকৈ চলিব পৰা নাই ইয়াৰ কাৰণ কি? এই বিষয়ে চৰকাৰে কি ব্যৱস্থা লৈছে?

**Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Co-operatives):** Sir, the reasons are manifold. It may be due to the bungling or mismanagement or lack of interest on the part of the members of the society also.

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa):** Is there any agency to supervise the effective function of the societies?

**Shri BISWADEV SARMA:** Yes Sir.

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA:** Is it a fact that there are Co-operative Societies where the Co-operative Officers never pay visit during the last 5 years?

**Shri BISWADEV SARMA:** I would like to know the area, Sir.

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA:** I like to mention the Dibrugarh area, Sir.

**Shri BISWADEV SARMA:** I will take up the matter.

**Shri KARKA CHANDRA DOLEY [North Lakhimpur (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]:** আমি দেখিছো এই ১১০৫ খন কোঅপারেটিভ চোচাইটিৰ শতকৰা ৫০ ভাগ চোচাইটি ভালকৈ চলা নাই। এই বিলাকৰ কিবা ভুল আছেনে নাই সেই বিষয়ে চৰকাৰে কিবা তদন্ত কৰিছেনে? যদি কৰিছে সেই ভুলবিলাক সংশোধন কৰাৰ কি ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছে?

**Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Co-operatives):** Our officers have repeatedly been asked to go. সেই বিষয়ে চৰকাৰে নানা ধৰণৰ চেষ্টা কৰিছে। মাননীয় ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ৰ ভাষণটো Corporation এটা কৰি হাতেবোৱা কাপোৰৰ বজাৰৰ সুবিধাৰ বাবে দিহা কৰা আপোনালোকে দেখিছে। তাতে এই বিষয়ৰ উন্নতি সাধনৰ চেষ্টা আৰু ব্যৱস্থাৰ এটা চমু আভাস দিছে। তাৰ উপৰিও সংশ্লিষ্ট বিভাগ সমূহে সুকীয়াকৈ তাৰ উপযুক্ত ব্যৱস্থা লৈছে।

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The question is whether Government has started or held any investigation into the causes of ineffective function of the societies.

**Shri BISWADEV SARMA:** Government is now going to set up a corporation in order to look into this Sir.

**Shri RADHA KISHAN KHEMKA (Tinsukia):** কিছুমান কোঅপারেটিভ চোচাইটিয়ে চৰকাৰৰ পৰা যি ঋণ বা অন্যান্য সাহায্য পাব লাগে সেই হিচাবে পোৱা নাই বুলি চৰকাৰে জানেনে ?

**Shri BISWADEV SARMA :** Yes Sir, there was some difficulties because the Reserve Bank of India stopped the finance and we had to move the Reserve Bank of India for more finance.

**Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar):** এহাজাৰ এশ পাচ খন চোচাইটিৰ ভিতৰত কিমানখন বেঞ্জিষ্টাৰ্ড হৈছে আৰু কিমানখন ডি বেঞ্জিষ্টাৰ্ড হৈছে ?

**Shri BISWADEV SARMA:** These are all registered Societies.

### **Tihu Local Board Inspection Bungalow**

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

50. Will the Minister, Public Works Department (Roads and Buildings) be pleased to state—

(a) Whether any representation has lately been received by Government to convert the Tihu Local Board Inspection Bungalow ?

(b) If the answer is in affirmative, then when this will be taken over by the Public Works Department ?

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

50. (a)—No representation to convert the Tihu Local Board Inspection Bungalow has been received so far by the Public Works Department.

(b)—Does not arise.

**Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS [Patacharkuchi (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] :** May I know Sir, whether the Deputy Minister, Public Works Department, received a letter from me and a note from the Deputy Minister of Education to convert the Tihu Local Board Inspection Bungalow into a Public Works Department Inspection Bungalow ?

**Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Deputy Minister, P. W. D. (Road and Building)] :** No such letter was received by me, Sir.

**Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS :** মিনিষ্টাৰে মোৰ পৰা আৰু Deputy Minister Shri Radhika Das ৰ পৰা কোনো দৰখাস্ত বা টোকা পাইছেনে নাই ?

**Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI :** কোনো দৰখাস্ত কোনো মোৰাৰ বা কোনো ফালৰ পৰা পোৱা নাই।

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Order order. The question was, whether the Minister or the Deputy Minister, whoever may be, received a letter from the hon. Member, meaning himself, and also a note from the Deputy Minister, Education. This is the question, so if the Minister is in a position to give a reply he may give it.

**Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI :** No, Sir. I have not received any such letter or note.

**Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS :** যদি সেয়ে হয় তেনেহলে মাননীয় মন্ত্ৰীমহোদয়ে কেনেকৈ নোক চিঠি দিলে সেইটো চৰকাৰে জনাব নে ? (*laughter.*)

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Order, order. He said that if he did not receive the letter, how is it that he (Shri Das) got a reply to it ? (*laughter.*)

**Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI :** পোৱা নাই।

**Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS :** পোৱা নাই যদি মই উত্তৰ কেনেকৈ পালো ?

**Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH [Minister, P. W. D. (Road and Building)] :** মানুহ মাত্ৰেই ভুল হব পাৰে। কিন্তু আমি তেখেতে পোৱা replyটো চাব খোজোঁ। সিদিনা এনেকুৱা ঘটনা এটা ঘটি গৈছে, তেতিয়া অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় উপস্থিত নাছিল। এই সদনৰে এজন সদস্যই কৈছিল যে চৰকাৰে বোলে ৬০ হাজাৰ টকা বানপাণী প্ৰপীড়িত অঞ্চলবোৰ পৰিদৰ্শন কৰা কামতেই মাত্ৰ খৰচ কৰিছে। আমি যেতিয়া জোৰদি কলো যে আপনি এই সংখ্যাটো কৰ পৰা পাইছে আমাক নিদৰ্শন হিচাবে দেখুৱাব লাগিব। সেইদিনাৰ পৰাই সেই সদস্যজন সদনলৈ নহাই হল। সেই কাৰণে শ্ৰীদাসে পোৱা তেখেতৰ চিঠিৰ উত্তৰটো আমি চাব খোজোঁ।

**Shri BIRENDRA KUMAR DAS [Patacharkuchi (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]** : সেই উত্তর মোর হাততে আছে, যই এতিয়াও দিব পাৰো।

**Mr. SPEAKER**: The hon. Member will please give that letter to the Minister, as he said, there may be *bonafide* mistake here.

**Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS [Rangiya (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]** : Who will take charge of this Dak Bungalow after abolition of the Local Boards ?

**Mr. SPEAKER**: We shall cross that bridge when we come to it.

### Agricultural Credit System

**Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur)** asked:

51. Will the Minister-in-charge, Co-operative Department be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government is aware of the public feeling that the present Agricultural Credit System cannot fulfil the needs of small cultivators who are really in need of loan ?

(b) Whether Government is making any arrangement to meet the needs of small cultivators who have no credit ?

(c) What is the number of credit co-operative societies in the State which give short term loan, medium term loan and long term loan and to how many families these Co-operatives are offering loans during the last year or year before last ?

(d) Whether Government propose to stop all other systems of agricultural credit and make Co-operative Department only responsible for agricultural credit ?

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

51. (a)—Yes.

(b)—To meet the needs of the poor cultivators Government is trying to open more co-operatives.

(c)—There are 2,979 credit societies and 1,21,707 members were given loan during 1957-58.

(d)—There is a proposal to channelise all Agricultural Credit through Co-operative but this will only be possible when the entire State is covered by Co-operative Societies. As far as practicable the Agricultural loans are now issued through Co-operative Societies.

**Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur):** প্রশ্নটোৰ উদ্দেশ্য আছিল যে কেইবাটাও ব্যৱস্থা থকাৰ কাৰণে complication দেখা গৈছে, তাৰ বাবে গৱৰ্ণমেন্ট কিবা ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছেনে জানিব খুজিছোঁ।

**Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Deputy Minister, Co-operation):** The reply is already there Sir, "There is a proposal to channelise all Agricultural Credit through Co-operative but this will only be possible when the entire State is covered by Co-operative Societies, etc."

**Shri MOHANANDA BORA:** গোটেই State খন কেতিয়ামানে co-operative এৰে ভৰি পৰিব বুলি চৰকাৰে ভাবে ?

**Shri BISWABEV SARMA:** This will depend more on the public, Sir, than on the Government.

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa):** Whether it is fact that a large number of these Societies are not functioning properly ?

**Shri BISWADEV SARMA:** I have no information, Sir.

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA:** Whether the Minister-in-charge will enquire about the working of these Co-operative Credit Societies which have been in existence in Dibrugarh but which have no transaction for the last 5 to 15 years ?

**Shri BISWADEV SARMA:** Yes, Sir, I shall look into the matter.

**Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj):** Regarding the question of these short term, medium term and long term loans whether Government considers that these short term loans are not at all helpful to the poor cultivators ?

**Shri BISWADEV SARMA:** No Sir, it is not so.

**Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar):** Is it a fact, Sir, that these large sized Credit Co-operative societies are not allowed to organise now ?

**Shri BISWADEV SARMA:** Yes, Sir.

## New Major Industries started last year

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur)** asked :

Will the Minister of Major Industries be pleased to state—

52. (a) How many new major industries were started during the last year and what are their names ?

(b) Whether any final arrangement has been made for starting the following industries and if so, with whom ? (1) Jute, (2) Cement, (3) Paper, (4) Rayon, (5) Cotton textile (spun), (6) Iron Rolling, (7) Second Sargar Mill.

(c) Whether any concrete advancement in the matter of industrialisation has been made since the last Industrial Conference and if so, what is that ?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Major Industries)** replied :

52. (a)—The Co-operative Sugar Mill has gone into production during the last year. Action for the implementation of the schemes for a Cement Factory at Cherrapunji and for a Spun Silk Mill at Jagi Road is being taken so that these units can go into production within their respective scheduled dates. The implementation of a project for Fruit Preservation Plan and a Cold Storage unit at Gauhati is also proceeding apace. Negotiations have almost been completed for a Pulp Mill of considerable size at Lamsakhang in Mikir Hills district. Licences have also been issued for the establishment of a Re-rolling Mill and the Bicycle Factory in Gauhati. It will however be sometime before these units are in a position to go into production.

(b) The position in respect of each of the industries referred to in the question is indicated below—

(1) *Jute*.—The party which was given the licence for this project some years ago has not been able to take adequate and effective steps for the establishment of the Jute Mill for which they were given the licence. The question of the action to be taken by Government in this case is at present under consideration.



(2) *Cement*.—Government have decided to participate in the project for the establishment of a Cement Factory at Cherrapunji by Assam Cements, Ltd., by way of purchase of shares to the extent of Rs.15 lakhs and a guarantee on the last instalment of the machinery for this project. Construction work has already begun on the project at Cherrapunji. Necessary action is being taken to expedite delivery of machinery, etc.

(3) *Paper*.—Permission has been given for the starting of two small paper making units. The location for these have not yet been finalised. Negotiations are in a stage of finalisation in respect of the proposed Pulp Mill which is proposed to be set up in Lamsakhang in Mikir Hills District.

(4) *Rayon*.—This matter is still under examination. A team of Japanese experts are expected to visit the State during the next month in this connection.

(5) *Cotton Textile*.—The party which was given a licence for the establishment of a Spinning Mill has not been able to take any effective steps hitherto. The question of action to be taken by the Government in this connection is under examination.

(6) *Iron Re-rolling*.—Licence has been issued for the establishment of a Re-rolling Mill at Gauhati by M/S. Kumar Iron and Steel Company, Ltd. The party is expected to commence work shortly on this project.

(7) *Second Sugar Mill*.—The matter is still under consideration of Government.

(c) The Industrial Development Conference called in July 1958 recommended that an Industrial Development Council should be set up with Government representatives and prominent industrialists and non-officials from the private sector who could advise Government on all matters relating to industrial development. This Council has since been constituted and had its first meeting on 25th February, 1959 wherein the scope for an potentiality of development of industries in various spheres and the necessary action in the matter of power development and transport facilities was discussed in detail. It is expected that through the Industrial Development Council, the Government will be able to prepare a comprehensive blue-print for the industrial development of the State in the next few years. As far as progress made in

respect of specific industries is concerned this is partly covered by reply to (b) above. In addition to these items, permissions have been given to private parties for the establishment of a number of small industries in various sectors, the total number of such units being over 50. A number of small industries units are also likely to go up in the Industrial estate at Gauhati which is now almost completed. Licence for a bicycle Factory has also recently been given and preliminary works taken up on the project.

**Shri RAM NATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]**: In reply to Question 52(a) it has been stated—"Action for the implementation of the schemes for a Cement Factory at Cherrapunji and for a Spun Silk Mill at Jagi Road is being taken so that these units can go into production within their respective scheduled dates". May I know what are the respective scheduled dates?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Major Industries)**: The respective scheduled date are 1960.

**Shri RAM NATH DAS**: For both?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI**: Yes Sir, for both.

**Shri DWIJESH CHANDRA DEB SARMA (Digboi)**: Spun Silk Mill প্রতিষ্ঠা কৰাত কি অসুবিধা আছে?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI**: অসুবিধা হৈছে এইটোৱেই যে Textile Commissioner, Bombay এ পাচ কৰি দিয়া নাই। বিমান টকা foreign exchange খুজিছে। সিমান টকাৰ foreign exchange নিদিয়। বৰ্তমানে কিছুমান যন্ত্ৰ-পাতি ভাৰতবৰ্ষতে হৈছে গতিকে সেই ভাৰতীয় যন্ত্ৰ-পাতি কিনা উচিত হব। আমাৰ চেক্ৰেটৰী বোম্বেলৈ গৈছে তাত তেখেতে আলোচনা কৰি অহাৰ পিচত আচল অৱস্থাটো জনা যাব।

**Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar-West)**: Do Government propose to expand the Fruit Preservation Factory at Silchar?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI**: That will be considered, Sir.

**Shri CHATRA SINGH TERON [Mikir Hills-West (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]**: In reply to Question No.52(b), (5) the Minister Said—"The party which was given a license for the establishment of Spinning Mill has not been able to take any effective steps hitherto. The question of action to be taken by the Government in this connection is under examination"—now, what are the steps Government has taken to make the licensee in this connection to take effective steps for establishment of this Mill?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Major Industries):** We have served notices on the party asking them to show cause why their license should not be cancelled.

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa):** Whether Government proposes to cancel the license and entrust this work to a Co-operative Society ?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** The Minister has already replied that notices have been served on the party.

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA:** Whether the Minister has received any intimation that there is willingness on the part of the people to form co-operative society to start Jute Mill in the district of Nowgong ?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI :** There has been verbal talk only but no formal offer to the effect.

**Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes):** Whether it is a fact that one Expert from Japan visited Assam in 1957 for the purpose of advising the State to establish a Rayon Factory ?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI :** Yes, Sir, the Japanese team of experts came and took some muli bamboos to Japan, examined them there and declared that they will be extremely suitable for rayon.

**Shri CHATRA SINGH TERON [Mikir Hills-West (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes):** Sir, it is stated in reply to question 52(7) that the matter with regard to the second Sugar Mill is still under consideration of Government. May I know what is under consideration—is it about the size of the Mill or about the location of the Mill ?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI:** It is a very clever question. I thank the hon. Member for this. The answer should be the matter is pending with the Government of India with regard to the sanction of foreign exchange.

**Shri DWIJESH CHANDRA DEB SARMA (Digboi):** বিহাৰ আৰু পশ্চিমবঙ্গ চৰকাৰে spun silk mill এটা তেওঁলোকৰ নিজ নিজ প্ৰদেশত কৰিবলৈ Central Board ৰ খাটনি ধৰি থকা বুলি জানেনে ? আৰু অসমত দেবি হলে বিহাৰ বা বঙ্গৰ চৰকাৰে মিলটো লৈ ফোৰাৰ আশংকা আছে বুলি চৰকাৰে ভাবেনে ?

**Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI:** এনে আশংকা কৰাৰ কাৰণ নাই।

## Loss of revenue due to export of loose Jute from Dhubri Subdivision

**Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj)**

asked :

53. Will the Minister, Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Jute-merchants in the western border of the State are drawing pointed attention of the Government that more than 80 per cent of jute are carried away outside the State in loose form depriving the State the Jute-tax which is levied on baled jute only ?
- (b) Whether Government are aware that many big jute industrialists of Dhubri Subdivision, have almost left the Subdivision giving up their trade in the area ?
- (c) Whether Government are aware that it has affected that local economy as innumerable labourers working in different mills have been thrown out of employment ?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance)**

replied :

53. (a)—Only one dealer of Golakganj submitted petitions to Government to this effect. It is not a fact that there is huge loss of revenue due to export of loose jute from Dhubri Subdivision.

(b) & (c)—Government have no such information but have now asked the Deputy Commissioner to enquire and submit a report.

**Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI:** What is the actual quantities of jute exported from Dhubri to Coochbehar ?

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED:** That information is not available now Sir. This reply has been given on the basis of collection figures during the current year and also during the past year. We realised upto the end of December 1957 Rs. 7 lakhs and upto December last year Rs. 8 lakhs as revenue. So instead of loss, there has been increase in the revenue from the collection of road tax on jute in the Dhubri Subdivision.

**Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj) :** My question is what is the actual quantity exported to Coochbehar ?

**Mr. SPEAKER :** That is a different question.

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance) :** We realised annas eight per md. of jute as tax and so the quantity of jute assessed to road tax can be calculated.

**Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI :** Sir, my information is that the D. C. has submitted the report about six months back, but here it is stated in the reply that the D.C. has been asked to enquire and submit a report.

**Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED :** No, Sir, otherwise the report would not have been called for.

#### **Installation of Telephone at Jakhlabandha and Silghat Transport offices**

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

54. Will the Minister, Transport be pleased to state whether for co-ordination of work Government propose to link the Jakhlabandha and Silghat Transport Offices by phone connections ?

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Transport)** replied :

54.—Not at present.

The proposal for installation of telephone at Jakhlabandha and Silghat Transport Offices cannot be taken up now as there are no exchange connections yet. It will entail a huge expenditure if exchange connections are to be provided for from the nearest Exchange (NOWGONG).

It is understood that the Post and Telegraphs Department has a proposal of establishing Public Call Offices at the above two places next year when it will be possible to get the telephone connections installed for co-ordination of work.

## SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS

(To which Oral answers were given)

**Rope-way line between Cherrapunji and Bholaganj****Shri TARUNSEN DEKA (Nalbari-West)** asked :

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Rope-way line between Cherrapunji and Bholaganj has ceased its operation since 1st January 1959 ?
- (b) If so, whether Government permitted the Cherra-Chattak Rope-way Company to close it down ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that the Company has started dismantling of the Rope-way line ?
- (d) Whether it is also a fact that the leading people of Bholaganj and Cherrapunji have given representations to the Government to keep the Rope-way line open, and stop dismantling ?
- (e) Whether Government has any contemplation to nationalise the Rope-way line ?
- (f) If not, why not ?

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Transport)** replied :

(a)—Yes.

(b)—The Rope-way line belongs to the Cherra-Chattak Rope-way Co. Ltd. As such the question of the Government permitting to close down its own line does not come in.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—One representation was received from Deputy Siem of Cherra, one from Shri A. Choudhury, a businessman of Bholaganj and one from the Headmaster of the Ramkrishna Mission High School, Cherrapunji, requesting Government to take up with the Company not to close or dismantle the line.

(e)—No.

(f)—The machinery has become too old and worn out to last longer than a year at the most ; hence it will not be economical, profitable or even a reasonable business proposition to do so.

**Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West)**: Is it a fact that there is no motorable road to Bholaganj ?

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Transport)**: Yes, Sir.

**Shri TARUN SEN DEKA**: Is it a fact that Bholaganj is an important Bazar near the Pakistan border with a Police Out Post ?

**Mr. SPEAKER**: It is a question of geography.

**Shri TARUN SEN DEKA**: Do Government know that as a result of the closure of this rope line, business is suffering and consequently some people are also suffering ?

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA**: Sir, a conference was held between the Government representatives and the representatives of the Company where this question was discussed in detail. In the conference it was pointed out that the tribal people will not be so much affected by the closure of this particular rope-way, but some tea garden owners in Pakistan would be affected to some extent, as previously this rope-way was meant for carrying coal to those tea gardens. But with the virtual closure of business with Pakistan after partition there is not much commercial grants for carriage through this rope-way to Cherra and other neighbouring places carried there. So the tribal people will not be so much affected by this.

**Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar)**: How many worker have been thrown out of employment ?

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA**: I have no information, Sir.

**Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla)**: How is the trade between Cherrapunji and Bholaganj being carried on ? Is there any alternative arrangements made by the Government ?

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA**: At present there is no alternative arrangement, Sir.

**Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI**: What is the capital of that Company ?

**Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA**: I am sorry, I have no information. It is a private Company. I cannot say the exact amount.

## General discussion of the Budget

**Mr. SPEAKER :** Now the Question hour is over.

As usual I shall allot 15 minutes to each hon. Members and 30 minutes to each Leader of the Political Parties. Mr. Bhattacharyya.

**Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) :**

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad to have this opportunity and privilege of initiating the discussions on the Budget which has been presented by the Finance Minister, Shri Ahmed. I have very carefully gone through the speech he delivered introducing the Budget and I am constrained to say that the two things, *i.e.*, the Budget and his speech materially differ. In my opinion, so far as the speech is concerned, I must say very frankly that I have liked it. It is a frank speech prepared in polished language and full of patriotic fervour. But so far as the figures of the Budget are concerned they do not convey the spirit of the speech, and, therefore, I think I shall be excused if I say that the speech of the Finance Minister is rather a criticism of the Budget which he has presented to the House. He has stated that he has gone for opening a new chapter of orderly development. But in the Budget we do not find any promise for that. This Budget does not undertake the task of raising the low standard of living of the people which he values so much in his speech. It does not endeavour to "bring out the best in our people and to create a process of progress based on the economic and social order", to use his own words. Though we are for the present assured of toil and tears, suffering and sacrifice, it does not lead us anywhere near the goal of socialism and fulfilment of the task lying ahead of this State though unlike the Central Finance Minister our Finance Minister was good enough to say that socialism is our goal, an unalterable goal. It is, therefore, the same old stereotype way, the same old hollow promises expressed in the interest of the vast majority of the people. But the apologists and the flatterers will, perhaps, spring up and say, "Don't you see this year the Budget is a surplus Budget, and, therefore, it is a grand departure from the past"? But Sir, may I not say again that in the past few years also our Budget ultimately turned out to be surplus though at the beginning they were shown as deficit Budgets, and, if I may say so, these Budgets were made purposefully deficit, either due to ignorance or due to supposed cunningness whereby to persuade the Central Government to give more grants, aids and



assistance. Perhaps the framers of these Budgets thought that they were more cunning than those who are sitting at Delhi. But in the long run we found that these Budgets turned out to be surplus and the trick did not turn out to be successful. So, for these reasons I think the Finance Minister has this time been good enough to place the Budget as it is. But my point is that this Budget is in no way different from the past ones.

Now, I may be permitted to say that Shri Ahmed has been very frank in stating that "it will be, therefore, necessary to raise in future additional resources by fresh taxation and also to go to into the market for public loans". This is stated at page 39 of his speech. Now, therefore, what this Budget promises for the future should be clear from this very line. I want to approach the Budget from another point of view, from the point of view of an Accountant. Generally speaking, the financial position of a Government is adjudged by its capacity to meet from the revenue all demands for running the administration and for providing the necessary funds for amortization of debts. It is also necessary that all loans are covered by assets. Now let us remember that our cash balance which was Rs.5.35 crores on the first of April, 1956 will dwindle to Rs.57.53 lakhs at the end of the current year, and in spite of the revenue surplus, the cash balance is not expected to improve beyond Rs.1.32 crores at the end of the next year. This cash balance is also not free as provident fund and other funds are merged in it. Financial condition of the Government for 1956-1957 shows that while on the 31st March, 1956 liabilities of the Government stood at Rs.12 crores 44 lakhs 32 thousands, by 31st March, 1957 it rose to Rs.20 crores 11 lakhs 41 thousands. This was in addition to the commitments of the Government to the extent of Rs.13 crores, 32 lakhs, 76 thousands in respect of expenditure on works causing Rs. one crore or more in each occasion debitable out-side the Revenue Account and on Five-Year Plan projects and plans. Now the hon. Members of this House will, therefore, have to give more attention in future to the receipts side of the Budget than heretofore. Because without a sounder economy at the present our goal of socialism will remain a distant goal for a long time to come.

I welcome the reference of the Finance Minister to the Nagpur decision of the Indian National Congress. We have our criticism about the decisions. We hold that there is scope for their improvement and enrichment. But so far as the basic

question of agrarian reforms and planned industrialisation of the country are concerned, we have already offered our hands of co-operation to all the democratic forces inside the country including the Congress Government. May I suggest to the Finance Minister that so far as the striving for a socialist goal is concerned there are really many alignments and re-alignments of things for which we should be prepared to face the situation and come to a decision without very much perturbing our present affiliation. We have still to traverse two years of the Second Five Year Plan. We shall than embark upon the Third Five Year Plan. If by socialism we really mean business than by the end of the Third Five Year Plan we shall have to achieve at least the following objectives according to the estimates made by the Statistical Institute, namely, we shall have first of all to make Assam self-sufficient in food, secondly there must be elimination of any sort of intermediaries between the State and the actual tiller of land, thirdly there must be elevation to a predominantly industrial State from the present position of a predominantly agrarian economy, fourthly there must be a raising by 100 per cent. the real wage of the workers and the earnings of the peasants, fifthly there must be completion of the river valley projects Manas, Kopili, Bharali and Barak. The difficulties that are here in this respect must be over come. Sixthly doubling the track and all-weather stablisation of the Link Line with extension up to North Lakhimpur and Garo Hills, seventhly exploitation of iron are and other mineral resources of the Garo Hills in particular and other hills districts of Assam in general, eighthly refining the entire crude oil that is found in Assam with full utilisation of the by-products thereof, ninthly completion of a chemical fertilisation plant in Assam, 10th generating of the electric capacity upto 1 lakh KW., 11th installation of a gas plant, 12th increase of milk and dairy products at least by three times than at present, 13th at least 50 per cent of the State budget shall have to be made from the income of the industrial and commercial undertakings of the State, 14th social security including unemployment benefit shall have to be assured to all citizens, 15th education shall have to be made free and 16th medical facilities to be made available to everybody who needs it. I have mentioned only a few of the items which shall have to be completed by the end of the Third Five Year Plan if we want to go anywhere near socialism. Does our present budget indicates that ? If it would then it would be a progressive budget. I hope, I shall be excused if I say that the budget is not a progressive one. Now, first of all does the budget mean to satisfy the very primary need of the society, that is, the need of food ? As Brahmachari Swamiji had said some time ago on

he floor of this House “অনাং ভাবতি ভূতানি” that is, food is the life of the man and as a matter of fact, of all creatures. So long as there will be difficulties with regard to food, any other project or any other inspiration becomes secondary and does not really serve the purpose. At page 15 of his speech the Finance Minister was pleased to say that the food problem of the State would be solved merely by going for intensive cultivation or reclamation, by means of irrigation, etc. It is also necessary to undertake agrarian reorganisation and improvement of land management practices. I should like to underline the last sentence of the Finance Minister's speech because in this regard the efforts for improved method of cultivation go to the root of the problem. So long as the producer of food, the peasant, does not feel confident and will give his best for the production, production cannot be achieved to the extent we desire. The main question about it is the land. Unless and until he knows that he is the master of his own field that effort is not forthcoming so much from him. Therefore, land to the tiller must be not only our goal but that must be our immediate goal. At page 14 of his speech the Finance Minister has said: “We have taken an additional food target production of 3·82 lakh tons during the Second Five Year Plan period. Out of the 0·9 lakh tons has been achieved during the years 1956-58 against the target of 1,04,820 tons.” If that is so then we have fallen far short of our target. “The Third year's target was 1,61,560 tons, including cumulative programme from the first year, for the attainment of which there is a plan provision of Rs.108·22 lakhs in 1958-59 Budget.” I beg to submit that so far as our targets are concerned we should give more emphasis on the physical rather than financial target. Up till now the emphasis has been more on the financial target than on the physical target. May I hope that there will be coming a change in the attitude from this time onward? The Minister was also pleased to refer to certain other problems, for example, the question of control of flood, that is natural calamities, and so on. Now, we know that so far as Assam is concerned, we have not found a very helpful attitude from the Centre with regard to control of floods, etc., in our State. Only this morning when a question was put on this, the Minister in charge of Agriculture had stated how from a promise of Rs. 8 crores Assam was pushed to the position of receiving an allotment of only Rs.3.27 crores. This also finds place at page 23 of the speech of the Finance Minister. In my opinion the original allocation itself was inadequate. When the First Plan Frame was prepared, they had over estimated the position and possibilities with regard to the food situation and so there were certain

promises of coming out of the woods by 1952-53. But all these hopes were belied and all our fears were justified when we found that even now the food situation in the whole of India is extremely acute. So far as Assam is concerned, almost every year we are faced with calamities of flood ; though last year its velocity was a little less. Even then in certain areas there were floods. Now, Sir, for Assam to improve her agrarian economy, apart from agrarian reforms the second most important thing is control of floods. Rs.8 crores also could not have been sufficient for this purpose. Then, how is it that the Government of India, which as it says so very keen about making India self-sufficient in food and which also gets the major portion of its foreign exchange from tea, jute and other things produced by Assam, should be so very unsympathetic as to cut down the amount to only Rs.3.27 crores ? We are glad that the Chief Minister and the Finance Minister were successful in persuading the Government of India to raise it a little higher to Rs.4.42 crores. But I should like to submit that our efforts should not stop there and we should represent to the Government of India very strongly that not a rupee less than 8 crores as originally promised will serve our purpose. I also do stand for certain improved methods in cultivation and we should gradually introduce them. For example, efforts should be made for double or treble cropping and for interspersing of crops. Say, for example, maize may be grown side by side with soyabean. What nitrogen is consumed by one crop can be replaced by the other, and at the same time there may be green manuring. By this sort of interspersed cultivation we can achieve good results. There should also be some methods of raising crops in winter. Manuring, soil preservation, improved methods of cultivation like the Japanese or Chinese method, intergrated scheme of flood control, irrigation, embankment and drainage, all these things should be done.

As I have already stated, Sir, we must remember that revolution produces counter-revolution. While there will be attempt on the part of those who stand for progress, to rouse the mass of people to stand on their own legs, there will be elements which will in various ways try to stand in the way. We have already seen some such attempt when the Government wanted to do something through the Adhiars Protection Act. We have seen how land-holders' associations were formed in which many important members of the ruling party became office-bearers, to put hindrance in the way of implementation of that legislative. Similarly, the co-operative movement, on which so much importance has been given is a very good

movement. My Friend, Mr. Rahimuddin said very clearly that taking advantage of the patronage of the Government to the co-operative movement, many not very desirable people have posed themselves as co-operators and have been forming co-operative societies, not for the sake of the movement, but for their own aggrandisement. Therefore in this respect while there shall have to be an attempt to carry forward all progressive legislation there must always be vigilance over the forces of reaction. Now, it is good that the Finance Minister has been pleased to say that he advocates industrial development of the State. We also do, but if wishes were horses every beggar would have been riding one on the streets of Shillong. There must be means for that. There must be also the necessary climate, to use the words of the Finance Minister, and favourable conditions for industrial development. The Minister said at page 25 of his speech "for utilising the raw materials of the State, medium and large industries can be set up. We can and should undertake production of almost all the articles we are to-day importing to the State." Then he says "industrial development on all these sectors, if it is to be organised rapidly and in concrete manner should be taken up both in the private and public sectors". The Minister-in-charge of Industries, while answering a question this morning said, how an industrialists' conference was held in order to advise Government about industrial development. While these conferences are helpful to a certain extent they will not necessarily bring in industrialists from outside unless and until we can give them certain favourable conditions. Why should an industrialist come to Assam to instal his industry if he does not get some benefit for it? Now, labour necessarily is costly in Assam and though some raw materials are here in abundance, there are other things which we have to import from outside the State. Transport is costly and difficult. Assam is not the nerve-centre of a wide market. All these factors are against drawing in industrialist from outside Assam. But Assam has one thing. We could have given them cheap power because Assam is rich in rivers, streams and rivulets and hydro-electric generation of power in Assam ought to be very cheap and very easy. But I am sorry to correct the Industries Minister, who was pleased to reply to me last year that the rate of Umtru hydro-electric supply was not high.

He said that it was of Mayurrakhi level but I am sorry, I have to contradict him. I have enquired and found that the charge for electric energy is the highest at Gauhati in the world. Not only it is highest in India but it is highest in the world. If it is so, how can you expect industrialists from outside to come to

Assam ? If they do not get electric power at a cheap rate how can they run their industries in Assam ? So, I submit that for industrial purpose the charge of electricity from Umtru should be made cheaper so that there is an attraction for industrialists from outside the State.

Another thing, we must note. It is a very alarming thing. When the first Plan is over and the Second Plan is going on and there is talk for the Third Plan and when the Minister has invited us to take part in the discussion for the preparation of this Plan, it is stated in the budget speech thus. 'The rising trend in industrial production seems to have been arrested in 1957. According to available figures production in 1958 was lower than in 1957.....The year also marked acute shortage of internal resources for carrying out the various development programmes under the Plan'. If that be the position then we cannot be optimistic, we cannot stand on our own footing by seeing a surplus budget. It appears clear that on the way of industrial development in this State there are many hindrances of which I want to point out a few. I am very sorry to say so, yet, I must say that we have found that the Central Government's attitude towards our aspirations is not very helpful. Even on the question of the Refinery for Assam, there is a feeling of frustration and fear in the mind of the people about its ultimate location in Assam and so far as our aspirations for a few multi-purpose river valley projects are concerned, the Government of India's attitude is not very helpful. I am extremely sorry to contradict the Minister of Major Industries on two points he said the other day on the floor of this House that the Government of Bhutan stood on the way of further progress on the river valley project for Manos. In this respect, either the Minister has not followed it up or he has been misinformed by some body. The point is that the Government of Bhutan has given permission for survey and collection of data of the river coming from their territory to Assam subject of course to certain minor conditions which can be met by the Government of India. If the Government is willing to go on with project, there will be no difficulty. Now, if that multi-purpose river valley project comes into being not only the districts of Goalpara and Kamrup will be benefited but Mangaldoi also will derive benefit from it.

The Minister also said that so far as Kopili Valley is concerned, not only that project is being completed but in addition, in Nowgong district something has been done for Jamuna river also. But, Sir, my information is that the Government of India

has practically abandoned the Kopili Valley Project and instead they want to undertake a miniature project at Jamuna which will be much smaller than the original Kopili Valley Project.

So far as Barak project is concerned, my information is that the expert opinion is that the difficulties on its way are not insurmountable. So is the case of Bharali. If we want tremendous progress in Assam in agricultural and industrial spheres we can do so only through multi-purpose river valley projects by supplying cheap electricity to our people.

I quite appreciate the sentiment of the Finance Minister which he has expressed in paragraph 13 of pages 10 and 11 of his speech. I appreciate that in cultured and polished manner he has expressed the sentiment of the people of Assam and I also reciprocate the same. I am reading the same:—

“The failure to provide for a multi-purpose River Valley Project in the State Plan has not only led to a great lack of power but has also resulted in the complete absence of any large or medium size Irrigation Project in the State during the Plan period. The formation of Oil India Private Ltd., for extraction of crude oil from the Assam Oilfield with the collaboration of the Government of India and Burmah Oil Company and Assam Oil Company and the decision of the Government of India to locate an Indian Oil Refinery Private Ltd., in Assam for processing the crude Oil can be described as the beginning of an attempt at the industrial development of Assam. It is, however, unfortunate and regrettable that, notwithstanding the visits of experts to survey various areas in the State for the purpose of selecting a site, little has been done till now to implement the decision and to avail of the huge quantity of crude oil awaiting to be processed.”

This anxiety of the whole people is leading to a tense atmosphere and suspicion in the State that we are going to be deprived of the promised Refinery. It is apprehended that in the long run Assam will get a toy refinery. They have not yet been able to come to the decision with regard to selection of the site for the refinery whether it will be at Silghat or near about the Oil fields or on the north bank of the Brahmaputra at Amingaon or ultimately it should be nearer Baruni because they want to have two pipe lines to Baruni from Assam one with crude oil and one with refined oil, if a refinery is established in Assam, so that there may be bye-products by which more avenues for other industries will appear in Baruni for the benefit

of the people of Bihar. The bye-products should not be utilised for the people of Assam but for the people of Bihar. When the people of Assam agitated and this House demanded unanimously for a refinery in Assam, it was not a toy refinery or for simply giving employment to a few hundred of people but it was expected that it would be the beginning of processing and there would not only be petroleum or kerosene but many industries would naturally take place, that transport would be developed and along with it many other industries would have chance to develop.

Now, if that purpose be defeated then there is a great deal of difficulty for us ahead. I should like to request Government to convey this to the Centre. The drawing-room democrats of distant Delhi must be made to listen to the voice of the people of Assam. Otherwise Assam, if discontented and restless, will be not an asset for India but a liability. If Assam Government can firmly place this before the Government of India, I think there will be an end to the present hide and seek game and I may also say that so far as the people of Assam are concerned, they will not allow a drop of crude oil found in Assam to be carried away unless and until the refinery is installed in Assam and it will be a difficult task for the Government of India to keep soldiers at every five yards space. This should be made very clear to the Government of India.

Now, at page 27 of his speech the Finance Minister was quite clear about his opinion with regard to the question of power and I think I have nothing much to improve on it. But one thing I can say is that lack of cheap power is a stumbling block and this block must be removed. Then there is also another difficulty. That difficulty is the lack of indigenous capital. If there be not a certain amount of capital formation in our country, then we shall be driven out of the way. The other day the Industries Minister was pleased to say that the Assamese people do not come forward to be labourers and workers and so they cannot be engaged and he referred to a remark given by Mr. Harlalka at the time of the inauguration ceremony of the "cycle factory" and said "we want to engage the local people but the difficulty with us is that there is no local people". Nobody comes as an expert mechanic or even as a skilled or semi-skilled labourer from the womb of his mother. He must get the training. Side by side with the development of industries, if there be also scope for training, I do not understand why the raw



elements from our society also may not be developed into technicians and artisans. I understand, some effort is made at Dergaon in connection with the Co-operative Sugar Mill and the result has been good. At the initial stage the price of Assam's sugar may be a little higher. Even then, I for one do not mind it if after a year or two we can stand on our own legs. When crores are spent, even if a few lakhs thereof be not very economically spent but if ultimately it helps our people, I do not mind the investment and I shall not accuse Government of wastage if it goes in that way. In other States we find that there is always a unanimity among all the political parties with regard to the employment of local labourers. We may raise a question that they are very provincial and parochial. I for one shall like to be called a provincialist rather than a cosmopolitan. I stand for internationalism but not cosmopolitanism. My internationalism pre-supposes the existence and development of my Nation. Minus my Nation there cannot be any internationalism. Therefore, I am not one who will invite industrialists simply for the pleasure of seeing certain industries in our State. I want the industries in my State so that the people may be benefited, so that the younger generation may be employed therein and for that purpose there must be more emphasis on the State sector than on the private sector because so far as the private sector is concerned, Government cannot control it. Just now my Friend, Shri Sangma said that. But it really pains me to hear that the people of the Bholaganj area will suffer and the border people will suffer when the ropeway is removed. Yet he said Government cannot do anything because it is a private concern. The border people are suffering and yet Government cannot do anything. Even without being a socialist, like my revered Friend one would like some amount of State interference when it is necessary for the interest of the suffering humanity. Therefore, we shall have to look to that, and there must be some avenues for training of the workers.

Mr. Ahmed was very frank when he said that quite a large amount of money had to be advanced for the defence purpose which is a top priority matter but the money has not been received back. Defence is a top priority matter no doubt, but all the money spent for the defence purpose must be realised from the Centre to last pie. Defence is really necessary but is that the concern only of the tax-payers of Assam? Is it not the concern of the tax-payers of Bombay as well? If crores of rupees can be spent for the defence of Kashmir, why attention must not be given for the defence

of the borders of Assam ? So, I should like the Government to make a strong representation to the Centre that so far as guarding our frontiers is concerned, it is a charge of the Centre. That is according to the Constitution also. The Government of India must on its own foot their bill on that count. Already there has been a good deal of expenditure for defence purposes from our poor budget. Then we also find that there has been an injustice done to Assam under the Second Five Year Plan and this finds place at page 8 of the speech of the Finance Minister. Here the interesting thing is, though painful, that while the State's share is increasing and the State has always been fulfilling its share, so far as the Central share is concerned, it is decreasing. In 1956-57, the Central share ought to be 8.2 crores but they failed to provide 2.5 crores. They had taken the share of 8.2 crores but paid only 5.7 crores. In 1957-58 the Centre had to pay 8 crores but they paid only 6.1 crores, so at that time also they defaulted by about 2 crores. In 1958-59 also they did not pay their full share. This time of course we are expecting that they would pay; let us see, what happens ? But there must be stronger representation to the Centre that so far Assam is concerned, it deserves sympathy. If after that is done, the Central Government does not fulfil its own obligation then it will be sheer injustice to Assam. We have heard from the Finance Minister that he along with the Chief Minister made representation before the Planning Commission and the Government of India and therefore, there has been some raising of our allocation from 11 to 12.25 crores. But if we compare our position with some other States then we will see that our position is not satisfactory. For example, Hyderabad. The original allocation of Hyderabad was only 51.10 crores but they could raise that to 68.50 crores by arguing with the Centre. This we have seen in the latest Hyderabad budget. If Hyderabad can raise from 51 and odd crores to 68, why we cannot also raise it particularly when Assam is a frontier State and also a problem State at that ? Sir, there is a feeling that our Government has not made any strong representation to the Centre. Therefore, there should be stronger representation in this connection. Unless and until there is stronger representation to use a mild word, and agitation to use our word—we shall not, generally speaking, get things that we expect from the Centre.

Now Sir, with regard to tea, I am really very glad that the Finance Minister has very frankly and with an open mind

posed this question and he has kept the matter open. I personally also feel that so far as the tea industry is concerned, we shall have to take a more realistic approach to this question. There are certain uneconomic gardens which cannot survive in spite of much spoon feeding. We all know that so far as this industry is concerned, the bulk of the profit is enjoyed not by this State but by the Central Government. We do not grudge that, we want that India as a whole should grow and prosper. But so far this industry is concerned, we are not getting the share that we ought to get and if, in addition to that, the burden of the uneconomic gardens fall on us, it would be too much for us to bear. I am very much concerned with the labourers involved and I do not want that a single labourer should be unemployed. There must be some provision for their employment. Now, having regard to that fact we shall have to see whether it will be advisable to close down some of these uneconomic gardens. I for one think that the time has come when we shall have to agree to closure of some of these gardens in order to be able to utilise the land and the labour for some other purposes. We shall have to see whether we cannot utilise the land and the labour involved for some other agricultural or horticultural purposes. It will be wrong to keep and feed the uneconomic gardens all the time. I think our Trade Unions also shall have to play a more positive role in this matter. They shall have to shoulder the responsibility rather than simply agitate and make cheap propaganda. So far as our organisation is concerned, I can assure that we shall try our best to persuade the working class to take a national outlook. Class outlook we are not going to give up. But as a class also we are part of the Nation and our class also cannot grow, develop and rise to the stature, if the Nation as a whole remain stunted. I hope that the Government will also take a more realistic approach and there would be some more thought and discussion on the matter. I am very grateful to the Finance Minister for posing this question as it is but it may also be necessary to impress upon the Government of India that since tea is one of the principal earners of foreign exchange in India—as we have heard about this during the Question Hour this morning also that the Government of India could not always do certain things for lack of foreign exchange—so we should get priority in the matter of allocation of foreign exchange.

Now Sir, without going to the expenditure side, because I think we shall have opportunity to discuss that aspect during demands for grants, I will only summarise in the words of

the Finance Minister himself what the Budget has promised for us. Now, at page 5 he said "A correct appraisal of the current economic trend and situation is difficult". I agree that the Budget does not give any correct appraisal of the current economic trend. Secondly, he said—"It is not possible to embark upon big development projects". The Budget does not give us really any promise that we can embark upon any big development project. Then at page 39 he said "We are not likely to be left with sufficient resources for any sizeable Third Plan.....". Then, "It will be necessary to raise in future additional resources by fresh taxation and by public loans, etc.". Then again, "We shall have to tap to the full the small savings of the people" and "We shall have to tighten our belt". Sir, those who have got big bellies will be able to tighten their belt, but I am afraid, so far as the emaciated people of Assam are concerned, their bellies are already too small to further tighten up (*laughter*). Therefore, with all respect to the Finance Minister I can say that in spite of all roches, lip-sticks, powder and cosmetics, with all pads and other paraphernalia, he cannot give the lady who is at the respectable side of forty, the glamour of twenties (*laughter*). So, in spite of our Finance Minister placing before us an apparently surplus Budget without any taxation, we anticipate a very difficult future.

**Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are really very grateful to the Finance Minister for his bold Budget after long 20 years. He has given a very vivid picture of the economic condition of our State and also the development activities of the Government during the Second Five-Year Plan including the various steps that have been taken by the Government to ameliorate the condition of the people of our State. We are glad to see that there is no fresh taxation for the people of our State, who are really overburdened with taxes and as a matter of fact our State is a very poor State and that is why at present the Finance Minister did not find any scope for further taxation of the people. The economic condition of our people is not very satisfactory as has been clearly mentioned by the Finance Minister. There are various reasons and circumstances for which the Government is not in a position to make their economic condition better. Sir, due to the shortage of food during the last year, the people, specially our agriculturists were very hard hit and due to high prices of food stuff the common people are not in a position to have their two meals. This year, however, the food problem will be solved to a great

extent because of the good harvest of the last year and as a result of this the price of rice and paddy is not going up. We hope, Sir, in this year and also during the years to come our Government will take special care to see that the agricultural production of our State can be improved. Now, Sir, I would like to point a few suggestions to the Government regarding more food production of our State. The Department should be very cautious to see that agricultural production of our State can be increased to a great extent. In order to increase the food production, I beg to suggest the following important factors that are to be taken into consideration. Supply of adequate water. It is due to drought that our agriculturists could not produce sufficient food last year, and this year if the Government do not take sufficient steps for supply of adequate water food production will decrease. I would like to point to the Agriculture Minister that Government have undertaken 4 reclamation projects in our State and among them Subankhata and Kaki Projects are practically failure due to the fact that there is no regular supply of water. They have taken another project at Folongoni where about 500 bighas of land have already been reclaimed. But the project has not been able to attract the cultivators. A scheme for water supply was taken up by the E. & D. Department; probably they sent a scheme to the Government for approval. I do know what is in the mind of the Government. If that project is not taken up immediately, I am afraid the whole project might be a failure. We welcome the decision of the Central Government regarding State Trading in food grain. In order to give effect to that scheme the State Government have organised purchase of food grains through the Co-operative Societies and through some other agencies like dealers and millers who have been given licences to purchase paddy. The target for procurement as stated in the Budget speech of the Finance Minister is about 20 lakhs maunds of paddy, but I am afraid whether the Government will be in a position to fulfil that target as we have seen Sir, due to the fixation of the price of rice and paddy, cultivators are not very willing to part with their paddy. So it is doubtful if the dealers and millers will be in a position to fulfil their contracts. I am afraid in certain districts even half the quota has not yet been purchased. So I hope that Government will take special care to see that the target as fixed by our Government for procurement is fulfilled. Then, Sir, regarding improvement of agriculture I would like to suggest that organic manure is very essential and the Department of Agriculture and Agricultural Officers should make propoganda and induce our cultivators to use organic manure as far as

possible. Regarding other manures, I mean chemical manures, such as sulphate of amonia, etc., our cultivators are not accustomed to these. In some places they used sulphate of amonia, but the result is not very encouraging. In certain places, we have seen the yield of crops is not very good as it ought to have been.

Thirdly, Sir, I would like to say a few words regarding the rotation of crops. I know that the department is taking all possible care to introduce the system of rotation of crops in the villages and trying to induce the villagers to take to rotation of crops. The process of rotation of crops is not very successful in our State. Therefore, in order to induce the people to this method of cultivation I would like to suggest to the Government that the small irrigation projects which are very useful should be excavated or established so that our cultivators can get regular water supply throughout the year.

Regarding Collective Farming, Sir, this subject was discussed on the floor of this House on several previous occasions. Co-operative collective farming is not very successful in our State. We welcome the decision of the Nagpur Congress Session where it has been decided that the land will go to the Panchayats and through the Panchayats our people should be induced to take to collective farming. We think, Sir, that our people, our Agricultural Department as well as other organisations will try their best to see that we can improve our production through co-operative collective farming.

Now, Sir, regarding improvement of our cattle population, our Finance Minister has dealt with this subject very ably in his Budget Speech. We regret very much that last year during the mid-season, our poor cultivators had to incur heavy loss due to large-scale cattle mortality in our State. We are now glad to learn that a Committee has been constituted to go into the question of this large-scale cattle mortality and we hope that our people will come forward to give necessary evidence before that Committee so that the Committee may be successful in evaluating the actual loss incurred by our cultivators and also in properly assessing the cause or causes that contributed to the mortality of such huge number of precious cattle in our State and suggest ways and means by which such a catastrophe to our cultivators may be averted and checked in future.

Now a few words about Community Projects. I am not in a position to say how far the Community Projects in our State has improved or have become successful. But we are all glad to learn that one of the Gram Sevak of this State has stood first and that he has been awarded a Motor cycle by the Community Project Department of the Government of India as he was considered to be the best Gram Sevak in India. I hope that other Gram Sevaks of our State will follow his foot-steps and try to improve the condition of people through these Community Projects.

Hon. the Finance Minister has dealt with the Community Project, the Panchayats and the Local Boards in his Budget Speech. So I do not like to dwell upon these matters any further. All that I want to say is that we appeal to our people to be responsible citizens of India. They should know that every man has a duty to the State. They are now given vast powers through these Panchayats as envisaged under the Assam Panchayat Bill now under the legislative anvil. We should realise that responsibility has corresponding obligation, and let us all try and hope to rise equal to the new and increasing responsibility and obligation sought to be imposed on us by these new powers as envisaged under the Panchayat Bill. As regards the Local Board I do not like to say much as they are going to be abolished soon. We are, however, glad to learn that the Local Board Dispensaries will be taken over by the State from the next financial year. I would like to point out regarding the mismanagement of the Municipal Boards. Due to increase in population, these Municipalities are finding it increasingly difficult to cope with the growing demand for water supply, sanitary arrangements and housing. So I would request Government to see that they give adequate help to the Municipalities to remove the difficulties of the people. We are also glad to learn that the Government is going to appoint Executive Officers in some Municipalities. We hope as a result of this Municipal administration will now improve.

Regarding Education, Sir, I have seen from the Budget for the year 1959-60 that many posts of new officers have been created, such as the Additional Director, some more Inspectors and some Assistant Directors. But I would like to impress upon the Government that they should see that some more posts of Sub-Inspectors and Assistant Sub-Inspectors are also created. Because we have seen that some schools remain uninspected all throughout the year. The other day

the Forest Minister was pleased to say on the floor of this House that there are many Lower Primary and Middle English Schools under the Forest Department. There is also one High English School under this Department. But I am afraid Sir, these schools, situated as they are in the interior most backward areas, are not visited regularly by any inspecting officer. We all know how difficult it is to get access to these areas due to lack of all sorts of communications. So I would request the Government to see that some more inspecting officers of the categories of Sub-Inspectors and Assistant Sub-Inspectors are appointed so that the schools may be properly and regularly inspected and appropriate guidance given to the teachers.

Regarding Basic Education, Sir, I would like to point out that the existing Basic Schools in the villages are only in name. Some instruments have been given to some of these schools, but due to the absence of proper advice and guidance, these instruments remain idle and unused. So I would request Government that they should take some more active interest in the Basic Schools and try to see that the schemes drawn up by the Government for these schools are properly implemented and the instruments given to them are regularly utilised so that our students can get the type of education which these schools are expected to give.

Regarding the teachers of Aided Schools and Aided Colleges, I am glad to learn that they are taking all possible steps to improve their lot and yet there are many demands from the teachers of the Aided Schools and Colleges. We hope, Sir, that their demand would be met as far as practicable so that there may not remain any distinction between the teachers of private schools and Government schools.

Now I should like to speak a few words regarding health in the State. Due to increased population not only in our State but throughout India we are really in a dilemma how to meet our food requirement. It is a vexed problem. I am glad to learn from the budget speech of the Finance Minister that regarding family planning Government is taking some measures. At present 34 family clinics have been started and 14 more are going to be opened soon. But I am afraid, Sir, that only by starting these clinics we will not be able to control the increase of population of our State. What I personally feel is that some propaganda officers specially from ladies should be appointed to give education on this line in



the villages. Therefore, I would request the Minister in-charge to see that more attention is given in this respect. In a conference in Delhi it was stated by a scientist that the population of India was increasing by about a crore every year and at the same time the death rate was small. So, if there was no plan for control of population then this problem would be more acute. In view of this, Sir, I hope that our Health Department will take up this matter more earnestly and sincerely and try to educate the people on the line.

Regarding leprosy I would like to say that such cases are daily increasing. Formerly this leprosy disease confined itself in the hills areas only, but now-a-days it has spread in the plains areas also. It has come to my knowledge that in the Chotiani village of Morongi mouza there are several families who are suffering from leprosy and they carry their babies with them and sleep in the same house and in the same bed, I hope that the Department concerned will be more alert in this regard.

As regards land reforms I would like to say that though the Government has gone much ahead in bringing some sort of legislations nothing as yet could be done in practice so far. So, Sir, I should like to point out to the Revenue Minister to see that steps should be taken without any more delay to implement the land reform measures that have already been taken up by the Government.

We are very glad that some of our friends from the hills have joined with us and also joined in the Cabinet. We hope that in order to make our State more prosperous and progressive our friends who are not with us will also come and join with us and they should also think that we all belong to the same family no matter whether we live in the plains or in the hills.

I would like to speak a few words regarding tea industry. I endorse the views expressed by Mr. Bhattacharyya in this respect and would like to point out that when our tea industry pays about 2 crores of rupees every year to West Bengal in shape of some cess I think we can bring this amount to our coffer if we can establish a tea market in Assam-either at Gauhati or some other important centre. I hope Assam Government will examine this matter and have a discussion with our planters who would I am sure come forward with all sorts of help.

As regards the Co-operative Sugar Mill that has been established at Dergaon I should like to say that the fund at the disposal of this concern is very poor and that is why they are not in a position to bring the raw materials from the interior of the villages and to meet the requirements of the staff. I hope our Government will try to give this mill as much help as practicable so that this mill can prosper within a short time.

Lastly, Sir, I would like to say a few words regarding the oil refinery. When I met Malavyaji at Nagpur during the last Congress Session he informed me that our people were not united in regard to the location of the refinery as very many telegrams were sent to him by different parties demanding the location of the refinery at their localities. He regretted for this mentality of our people. It is my idea that wherever it is located—either at Gauhati or Silghat or elsewhere—it must be in Assam. I therefore appeal to all the people of our State, to give up all differences and see that the refinery is located anywhere in Assam.

With these observations, Sir, I congratulate the Finance Minister for his balanced budget that has been placed before this House.

**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) :**  
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the hon'ble Finance Minister for the speech he has delivered in this House. The hon'ble Finance Minister, Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, was the Finance Minister of this State 20 years ago. At that time the country was not independent. The difficulties he had to face during that period were not the same as he has to face to-day. We are happy that we could have him as Finance Minister of this State after maturity of his ideas and after he has added 20 years of experience in him. Therefore, we have the firm believe that under his able guidance the State of Assam will prosper and will be an ideal State in the Indian Union.

Sir, the hon'ble Finance Minister has touched on almost all the burning problems of the State in his speech. He has referred to the economic difficulties of the State, the high cost of living and the communication and other difficulties. He has rightly pointed out the decrease in the export of tea. The decrease in the export of tea not only affects the State of Assam but the India as a whole, because the tea industry is our main foreign exchange earner. Therefore, Sir, I think it is high time to give importance to the matter and see that there is not

any more decrease in the export of tea. If I am correct the tax levied by the Bengal Government on Assam tea amounts to Rs.2 crores. The Bengal Government gets the opportunity to impose this tax because the head offices of many of the tea companies are located within that State. But as the plantations are mostly in Assam, my opinion is that the Bengal Government shou'd exempt Assam tea from taxation, so that there may not be any decrease in export. This decrease, as I have already said, will not only tell upon the economy of Assam but also of the whole of India.

Sir, the Finance Minister has rightly referred to the rural unemployment problem in the State. As you know, Sir, the people of this State finds difficulties in getting employment in different avenues, such as the Government of India offices as well as in different industries. We have always seen that a large number of casual workers are imported from outside the State. The speech of the hon'ble Finance Minister indicates that in the tea gardens of Assam alone there are more than 66,000 unemployed workers. If these workers are properly canalised to work here and there and other industries, I think import of casual workers can be reduced and we can solve the problem to a great extent. I am pointing this out not because I dislike workers who have come from outside, but because the import of these workers will also put a heavy burden on our food situation. Moreover, Sir, we cannot send our unemployed workers to other States to earn their livelihood. Therefore, Sir, it is my suggestion that our Government will give serious thought to this problem of rural unemployment and the unemployment of workers in the tea gardens of Assam. As some of the hon. Members of this House pointed out, the unemployment condition in some of the tea gardens, especially in the district of Cachar, is very acute. If proper schemes are made and these workers are properly utilised in different industries in Assam I think we can solve this problem to a great extent.

Sir, while referring to high prices of commodities that are imported to the State of Assam, the Finance Minister was pleased to refer to transport difficulties. It is a fact that the transport bottleneck is the greatest handicap to our progress. The Link Line is not reliable and our State has to suffer often due to its dislocation. Therefore, Sir, I would suggest that our Government should urge upon the Government of India to strengthen this Link Line, and, if possible, to construct an alternative line. About communications I would like to say that in many parts of the State of Assam, we need improved

communications. As we have discussed yesterday on a Private Member's resolution, there is urgent need to extend railway lines to different parts of Assam. For example, we want a railway line upto Murkongselek *via* North Lakhimpur. Another railway line is required to Garo Hills' coal-bearing areas. Then Sir, we need improvement of railway lines which are in existence. For example, the Branch lines are in a deplorable condition, as I have said yesterday the Hills section of the Railway need improvement.

**Mr. SPEAKER:** It is 11-30. The hon. Member will resume his speech to-morrow.

### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A. M. on Saturday, the 14th March, 1959.

R. N. BARUA,

Secretary,  
Legislative Assembly, Assam.

Shillong,

The 2nd September, 1960.