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11. Manager, Economic Book Depot,
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Assam Legislative Assembly Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIFTH SESSION OF THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY ASSEMBLED AFTER THE SECOND
GENERAL ELECTION UNDER THE SOVEREIGN
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLICAN CONSTITUTION
OF INDIA

BUDGET SESSION

VOLUME I

No.6

The 6th March, 1959



मत्स्यमेव जयते

1961

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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 6th March, 1959.

PRESENT

Shri Siddhinath Sarma, B. Sc., B. L., Chairman in the Chair, eight Ministers, four Deputy Ministers and sixty-seven Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Finalisation of the Site for proposed Oil Refinery in Assam

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

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

- (a) Whether Government of India has made any communication to the Government of Assam for finalisation of the site for proposed Oil Refinery ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the refinery experts coming from abroad have examined various places, such as Gauhati, Rangiya, Kokrajhar and Silghat for the site ?
- (c) Whether Government of Assam had any particular suggestion for examinations of those sites or the experts did it at their own initiative ?

- (d) Whether any expert State official accompanied the foreign experts ?
- (e) If the reply to (a) above is in the affirmative, whether the Minister-in-charge will be pleased to lay a copy of that communication on the table of the House ?

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

12. (a)—The Government of India have not intimated their final decision regarding the site for the proposed Oil Refinery in Assam. They have, however, informed the State Government that it should be in the Gauhati-Amingaon area.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The State Government were of the view that the final decision in the matter of the site for the Assam Oil Refinery should be based on the report of the expert Site Selection Committee set up by the Government of India. The Government placed before the Committee various suggestions regarding the suitability or otherwise of the various sites in the State, and collected and made available all necessary data in respect of such sites.

(d)—An officer of the State Government was a member of the Site Selection Committee set up by the Government of India. Besides, other State Government officers also assisted the Committee in respect of collection of data, etc., and accompanied the Committee during their tour of various sites in Assam.

(e)—Since no final decision has been taken regarding the specific site for the refinery in the Gauhati-Amingaon area, this does not arise.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) : May I know whether the Government suggested to the Site Selection Committee to examine sites for the refinery near the oil fields ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : We have kept everything open for the Site Selection Committee itself.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHAUDHURY (Nalbari-East) : Who was the officer of the Government of Assam who accompanied the Committee ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Major Industries) : Mr. Mallick last time, and this time Rana K. D. N. Singh.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery) : क्या मंत्री महोदय को यह मालूम है कि दरंग, उदालगुड़ि और शिंगिमारी इलाकेमें भी तेल शोधनागार के लिये उपयुक्त जमीन, क्या, सरकार ने इस बारेमें आवश्यकीय अनुसंधान किया है ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : जी "हाँ" ! लेकिन शोधनागार के लिये हम ऐसी जगह की आवश्यकता है जहाँ रैल, जहाज के यातायात की सुविधा हो। क्यों कि शोधनागार के लिये Heavy Machinery लाने की आवश्यकता होगी। इसी दृष्टिसे उदालगुड़ि या शिंगिमारी को उपयुक्त स्थान समझा नहीं गया है।

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : May I know whether the Committee examined any probable site nearabout the oil fields ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : The Committee at the beginning went to Naharkatiya also.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : But whether they examined probable sites nearabout the source ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : Naturally they examined it when they went there.

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West) : The reply to (b) is "Yes". May I know whether besides these four sites, viz., Gauhati, Rangiya, Kokrajhar and Silghat, other places also were examined ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : As I have already said, all these places were examined and on the balance of convenience their report was made out.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Is it a fact that in the long run the refinery is not going to be located in Assam on the plea that there is no suitable site ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : I don't think so, Sir. There are so many suitable sites in Assam and the refinery is bound to be located in Assam.

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Bilasipara): What is the proposed size of the refinery that will be set up in Assam?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Major Industries): It has already come out in the papers; 7,50,000 tons to start with.

Shri TARUN SEN DEKA (Nalbari-West): Sir, it is not clear from the reply whether other sites, besides these four places, were also examined. If they were, I want to know what are those places?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: These are the four places which were mainly examined and reports are available only for these four.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi): What are the main factors which were under consideration of the Expert Committee or the Central Government for final selection of the site for the refinery?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: As I have already said, one most important factor is the quick establishment of the refinery, for which purpose it is necessary to have convenience of transport by river and rail for bringing the machinery. The second factor is the nature of the sub-strata. It must have a rock-based foundation. Thirdly, it must be enough for the establishment of the refinery and its future expansion, housing and all that. Then there should be a big river for the discharge of the waste. If it is a small river the water will be poisoned. Therefore, a river big enough to carry the discharge is necessary. Then there should not be human habitation very near it, so that people may not suffer. Then the land should be high enough so that it is not flooded. All these are considerations which are taken into account in selecting the site for a refinery.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA: May I know whether the Site Selection Committee has finally submitted its report to the Government of India?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: The Site Selection Committee in their first report submitted to the Government of India indicated their first preference for Silghat and second for Kokrajhar. The Government of India have not accepted their recommendation and have directed that a site should be selected nearabout Gauhati, either in the North or South Bank, whichever is found convenient.

Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding): The Site Selection Committee considered Silghat to be the best site and Kokrajhar as the second best. What are the reasons for which the Government of India did not accept the recommendation of the Committee?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Major Industries): It is true, Sir, that although Silghat was accepted by the Committee as one of the best sites available the Government of India have not found it acceptable. Therefore, they have turned it down and have now directed the Committee to come again and select a site nearabout Gauhati.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): The point is not clear. The point is that the Central Government has finally rejected Silghat and Kokrajhar, which the experts thought to be most suitable, and has directed that a site nearabout Gauhati should be examined. But the experts had already rejected Gauhati as a suitable site for the refinery. Now, if a situation arises that there is no suitable site nearabout Gauhati, will the proposal for a refinery in Assam be dropped on that count?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: I do not think so. It will not be dropped. There are good sites near about Gauhati. The question involves three things, (1) Area, (2) how much earth-filling would be required and (3) how many families would be shifted. These are material considerations from the point of view of the State Government because if a large number people will have to be rehabilitated by the State Government then it is a matter of concern for the State Government and if the area is to be levelled it has to be done at our cost. So these are problems which involve the State Government and therefore the State Government will have a say in the matter. Therefore although there are so many sites good enough yet they involve both the State Government as well as the Government of India.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Why special love for Gauhati?

Shri RAMNATH SARMA: Is it a fact that the High Power Committee in which Mr. Firoz Khan Gandhi was the Chairman recommended the case of Silghat, but for what reason it has been turned down by the Government?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Major Industries) : He is not Firoz Khan (*Laughter*). The reason why Silghat has been rejected has not been conveyed to us.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery) : अगर गुवाहाटी को शोधनागार के लिये select नहीं किया जायेगा तो उदालगुड़ि मे यह शोधनागार करने के बारेमें हमारी सरकार विवेचना करेगी क्या ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : अबतक उदालगुड़ि का नाम इस संबन्ध में नहीं आया है।

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY : मैंने इस बारे में श्रीकमला प्रसाद अगरवालाजी के भी लिखा था। किंतु यह अफसोस की बात है कि उदालगुरि का नाम भी निकला है। यहाँ बहुत अच्छी जमीन है, करीब ३६०० बिघा जमीन हम शोधनागार के लिये व्यवहार कर सकते हैं। यह जमीन काफी ऊंची है। पास ही नदी है जिससे जहाज की सुविधा हमें मिल सकती है।

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY : My question is that Udalguri is a probable site for the oil refinery. Whether Government will enquire about it ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : उदालगुड़ि जैसा स्थान आसाम में बहुत है। लेकिन शोधनागार के लिये जो जो सुविधायें होनी चाहिये वे वहाँ नहीं है। रेल और जहाज के यातायात की सुविधा के अभाव के कारण उदालगुड़ि के बारेमें विवेचना नहीं की गयी है।

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY : यह जमीन कभी वादमें डूबी नहीं है। क्या सरकार इस जगह की परीक्षा करेगी कि यह शोधनागार के लिये उपयुक्त है या नहीं ?

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Laharighat) : Does the hon'ble Minister mean to say that Gauhati has been selected without completing the final examination of all these points.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : Gauhati has been selected as the over all site, the actual location has not yet been indicated Rumanian team is now at Gauhati. They saw North Gauhati yesterday and they will see the South Bank today.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : Is it a fact that the decision regarding Gauhati is final?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : It is final from the Government of Ind.as's point of view, subject to suitability (*Laughter*).

Shri MOTIRAM BORA : Do I understand that Government has come to this decision regarding Gauhati without completing the examination of all the points?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Major Industries) : They have the points in mind. They have already come to the conclusion for Gauhati.

Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding) : If the report again goes against Gauhati what will be the position? If the experts do not give an opinion in favour of Gauhati, what will be the position?

(A voice : That is hypothetical).

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : Assam will have a refinery and a good site would be found nearabout Gauhati.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : Will Rangiya be selected?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : Rangiya was examined but not found suitable. The Government of Assam has insisted on the Government of India that wherever it is located there should be sufficient margin for expansion.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) : How long we are to wait for actual installation of the refinery?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : In reply to a question in Parliament it was said that it would be on somewhere in 1961, but in view of the delay which has already occurred, I think it may be delayed also, I am not competent to say.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA : Has not our Government got any say in the matter?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : If we are asked to fill up too much of land which will be too costly for us or if we are to shift too many people and rehabilitate them naturally, the Assam Government will take a strong view of that.

Maulavi NURUL ISLAM (Dhing) : Is it a fact that the Rumanian experts considered Silghat as the best site?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : Yes.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Laharighat) : Whether Oil India Limited was consulted in the matter?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Major Industries) : Yes, because they have to build the pipe line.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA : Was it the opinion of the Oil India Limited to locate the refinery at Gauhati?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : Two-third of the shares is held by the Oil India Limited and one-third by the Government of India. The decisions are subject to veto by the Government of India. Therefore when the Government of India decide that it would be at Gauhati naturally the decision of the Government of India is binding, whatever might have been the decision of the Oil India Limited.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA : It is not clear. What is the opinion of the Oil India Limited?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : They have not given any definite opinion where the refinery should be located. They gave a sum of 10 million sterling in order that the pipe line can go up to Gauhati and no further.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH : Is it a fact that our Government has exercised some amount of pressure on the experts so that the oil refinery may be located at Gauhati? Secondly whether the pipe line would be from Narkatia or from Baruni?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : Government has exercised no pressure on selection of site at Gauhati. On the contrary the Assam Government's opinion was that the expert opinion should be accepted.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA : Is it a fact that some important persons put unofficially, some undue pressure regarding the location at Gauhati?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : We have no information.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA : Will Government enquire about this unofficial pressure?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : If any indication is given we will surely enquire.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Laharighat): Will Government make an enquiry to the effect that unofficial persons put some pressure in the matter of selecting the site for the Oil Refinery ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Major Industries): If an indication is given, that will be done.

Shri RADHAKISHAN KKEMKA (Tinsukia): ভেল গৌৰনাগাঁৱ প্ৰতিষ্ঠা কৰিবলৈ যিবিলাক সূবিধা লাগে, যেনে—বেল, জাহাজ আদি সেই বিলাক সূবিধা মৰাণ, নাহবকটীয়াৰ আশে-পাশে পৰি থকা ঠাইবোৰত নাইনেকি ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : Site selection কৰিবলৈ বহুত কাৰণ লোৱা হয় আৰু সেই আটাইবোৰ কাৰণ পৰীক্ষা কৰি চাই বিশেষজ্ঞ কমিটি শিলঘাট আটাইতকৈ ভাল ঠাই বুলি সিদ্ধান্ত কৰিছিল; কিন্তু ভাৰত চৰকাৰে কিয় মনোনীত কৰা নাই কব নোৱাৰে।

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): Is it a fact that due to the absence of a Cabinet Member from the District of Lakhimpur no consideration was made regarding locating the refinery in that district although oil fields are located there ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: This matter has nothing to do with a Cabinet Member.

The CHAIRMAN : No reply is necessary to that question.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi): Are Government of Assam aware of the fact that there are representations from various parts of Assam regarding location of the refinery in the State ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : There were some telegrams from some quarters but it is difficult to say how many.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA : Is it not a fact that the Government of India is of the opinion that the people of Assam are not unanimous regarding selection of the refinery site ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : I do not think the Government of India made the decision on our opinion but on their own.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the Table)

Allotment of C. I. Sheets to Kokrajhar Subdivision

Shri MATHIAS TUDU (Gossaigaon) asked:

11. Will the Minister-in-charge of Supply be pleased to state how many bundles of C. I. Sheets were allotted to Kokrajhar Subdivision in the course of the last six months?

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

11. Five hundred and twenty bundles (July to December 1958).

Conversion of the Subsidised Dispensaries into State Dispensaries

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

12. Will the Minister-in-charge of Medical Department be pleased to state whether Government propose to abolish or convert the Subsidised Dispensaries into State Dispensaries?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Medical) replied :

12. There is at present no proposal either to abolish the Government Subsidised Dispensaries or to convert them into State Dispensaries.

Construction of a bund through the land of Dibru-Sadiya Tea Company, Ltd.

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahowal) asked:

13. Will the Minister, Public Works Department (Flood Control) be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Embankment and Drainage Department of Sibsagar Division constructed a bund through the land of Dibru-Sadiya Tea Company Ltd ?

- (b) If so, whether the Embankment and Drainage Department took permission from the garden authority or consulted with them ?
- (c) Whether Government are aware that the said garden sustained heavy loss due to construction of this bund through the present site by the Embankment and Drainage Department without consent ?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that the garden authority lodged objections to the Embankment and Drainage Department ?
- (e) If so, what action has been taken in the matter ?
- (f) If not, whether Government will enquire into the matter immediately ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY [Minister,
P. W. D. (Flood Control)] replied:

13. (a)—Yes. The bund runs partly through the land of Dibru-Sadiya Tea Company Ltd.

(b)—The bund was constructed as an emergent measure to protect life and property of the people residing in an extensive area of Saikhowa mauza. The alignment through the Garden was finalised with the knowledge and general consent of the Garden Authorities and the land has been acquired under provision of Section 3 of the Assam Acquisition of land for Flood Control and Prevention of Erosion Act, 1955.

(c)—It is a matter of opinion. The Garden has been rather saved from the ravage of the floods and consequent erosion. Had there been no construction of the bund the entire tea garden would have been damaged and as such question of loss to the garden does not arise at all. The experts fixed the alignment as found most suitable for the purpose of saving the properties of the mass.

(d)—Yes, a representation was received from Garden Authority in August 1955 after construction of the bund, claiming payment of compensation for the loss and damage alleged to have been suffered for the construction of the bund.

(e)—As stated in reply to question (b) the land has been acquired under the Assam Acquisition of land for Flood Control and Prevention of Erosion Act, 1955. The Collector has already asked the party to receive the amount considered as admissible under the Act. The party however instead of receiving the amount have filed an appeal under Section 9 of the the said Act and the collector is taking necessary action for referring the matter to the appellate authority as required under rules.

(f)—Does not arise.

Expenditure spent in connection with Bye-Election to the State Legislative Assembly from Tarabari Constituency

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta) asked :

14. Will the Minister, Legislative be pleased to state the amount spent in connection with the last Bye-election to the Assembly from the Tarabari Constituency ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Legislative) replied :

14. The actual expenditure spent so far in connection with the last Bye-election to the State Legislative Assembly from the Tarabari Constituency is Rs. 13,934.64 nP. only.

Panel of Chairmen

The CHAIRMAN : Under Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly I announce that the Speaker has nominated the following hon'ble Members to constitute the Panel of Chairmen

for this Session.

1. Shri Siddhinath Sarma, M. L. A.
2. Shri Ram Nath Das, M. L. A.
3. Mrs. Jyotsna Chanda, M. L. A.
4. Shri Nilmoney Borthakur, M. L. A.

Motion not to transact any business on Saturday, the 7th March, 1959 on account of Siva Ratri.

Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding) : Sir, tomorrow is a Siva Ratri and we will be engaging ourselves in puja and remain fasting. Therefore, I move Sir, that tomorrow which is a half holiday should be converted to a full holiday to enable us to perform the puja.

The CHAIRMAN : The other day, the Business Advisory Committee has already decided that one day may be curtailed out of days allotted for debate on Governor's Address. As Siva Ratri falls on Saturday, the 7th March, 1959 which was a day fixed for Debate on Governor's Address it is proposed that the Assembly might sit only for the first half from 10 A. M., to 12-30 P. M., on that day to transact Private Members' Business. This decision was announced on the 28th February, 1959. But the House may take any decision now.

Shri RAMNATH SARMA : But it will be a great hardship on our part if it is a half holiday only. Therefore, I request the Chairman and the House to consider this and make 7th March, a full holiday.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : We have no objection to that.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Finance Minister) : We have no objection.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi) : Sir, on that day when it was announced by the Speaker that the Business Advisory Committee has fixed Saturday, the 7th March for transacting Private Members' Business and sought the

opinion of the House, the House agreed to it and no one raised any objection to that and no one suggested that the Assembly will not sit on Saturday. When that was already agreed upon why should we reconsider it now ?

The CHAIRMAN: The House may revise its own opinion. So tomorrow will be a full holiday. The business fixed for tomorrow will be considered and decided by the Business Advisory Committee.

Debate on the Governor's Address

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are thankful to the Governor for his address to this House and particularly for touching upon certain points and certain problems which affect us vitally. Thereby he has given us more latitude to discuss certain matters which we could not have discussed otherwise and we are grateful to him for these matters on which we have a definite say. We are vitally concerned with these matters and we must have our say. I have heard also the speeches made by the different Ministers and the defence they put up for their own Departments. But when everything is said and done, even then certain things remain glaring at our face and we can ignore them only at our own peril. Sir, the serious firings by Pakistan continued unabated. It started a month before. Apart from the firings that took place last year and to-day we have not been able to bring to an end this aggression by Pakistan. We cannot also ignore the fact of the smouldering raids of the Naga raiders on our border and the situation they have created in that area. We are hearing it that the Nagas have surrendered. It reminds us of the surrenders that were alleged to have been made by the Allied Forces during the last War and even then the War did not come to an end. If we count the number of surrenders, Sir, cautiously, it will show that it is more than some thousands but even then the Naga situation remains as before. We are glad that the Governor mentioned in his address about N. E. F. A., a subject which we are not allowed to discuss in this House and N. E. F. A., remains a sealed book for us, a sealed area for us to be visited by some people only at the Governor's pleasure. Over and above that we have found that redtapism, nepotism and corruption are rampant in our State—I make this statement with full responsibility. The administration is top-heavy. There is no end to wasteful expenditures. Over and above that we have found that

the economic situation is as acute, even acuter, than what it was before. No wonder, as the President of the Congress, a Member of this House said, there is frustration. I only differ from him when he said that the people voted for the P. S. P., or for the Communist or for the R. C. P. I., they did not vote because of their ideology but because of frustration. I would reiterate here that the people voted for the Congress also it was not so much for their ideology but because of the strong machinery which the Congress had at their command, because of the finance at their command and not for their love of the Congress. However, I do not want to be controversial on this point. What really pains me is the fact that we have here a situation which is comparable to the situation that relates to the development of some ominous signs in the countries surrounding us. The collapse of democracy in many parts of Asia and some parts of Africa has created a situation which requires hours of consideration by all those who believe in the possibility of rapid progress through the democratic methods and procedure. We have also to consider what are the reasons for this collapse of democracy in these neighbouring and adjacent countries to us. There are many factors, there are innumerable factors but one factor is common in every country, that is, the failure of the party in power to fulfill the aspirations and the desires of the people. Not only the hopes of the people were belied, but the people felt that there was a widespread belief that the achievement of Independence and the continuance of the old form of Government was putting the clock back. Corruption and nepotism were also rampant there. Nepotism was openly practised and the political life became not only an avenue for political power but also for economic and social status and power. The leaders failed to deliver the goods and only succeed there in achieving their own aggrandisement. Rightly or wrongly people felt that these politicians were the people who could deliver the goods to them and when they found that some one came with determination to put these politicians in their proper place irrespective of what that new power will do to them, they immediately accept it, but immediately these politicians will get mixed with a stronger machinery and through it take power into their own hands and rule arbitrarily. That is what happens in these countries and the mood of frustration was there among the people. If this mood of frustration is also here, we have to be cautious. I repeat as rightly said by my Friend Shri Mohendra Mohan Choudhury, that there is a mood of frustration among the people, there is lack of co-operation—not because the political parties are asking the

people not to co-operate with the Government, but because the people do not feel enthused to work with the Government because they do not get what they want.

Sir, there is a tendency in our country to say that things are different here. In India it is not possible to replace democracy by a military power because, (1), the leaders have got wide popularity, (2), that they have done something in the meantime and (3,) that the military has shown their love and allegiance to them and therefore, these things are not possible here. It may be so, yet it is necessary for us to remain vigilant and I will have occasion to say as my Friend Shri Bhattacharyya refers to certain behaviour of certain officers high ranking officers who by their actions it shows that there is a possibility that they are making their best attempts to do something to root out the root of democracy. Sir, we have to be very vigilant. We have also to see that we have to exert all our power and energy to fulfil the desire of the people and to reach the objective of a socialist society as soon as possible. What is needed here is speed. If we cannot do things speedily and soon to meet the people's need, the mood of the people is such that if any one with reactionary ideas comes along, it is not impossible that they will accept him as their leader. Therefore, those of us who have this faith in democracy, who want democracy to prosper, we must see that things are done through democratic methods and procedure and as speedily as in any other matter. If we can do that, if we can fulfil the aspirations of the people then only we shall be able to maintain our position.

Sir, before I proceed in this matter I would like to say that when this Government—Mr. Chaliha's Government came to power high hopes were roused in the minds of the people that this Government will be different from the one that has left and that there will be no corruption, that corrupt people, corrupt officers will be suitably tackled, that the administration will not indulge in redtapism, nepotism and so on, that they will do things with speed on that there will be a significant change after a year. Last year we did not criticise the Government because it has just come in. But to-day after gauging the reaction of the people, knowing their minds we can say all these hopes are belied. Even there is apathy in the minds of the people. After all there is nothing to choose between Mr. Medhi and Mr. Chaliha. They do not see any change for the better in the matter of administration—in solving the problem

which face us today. Now, I shall come to the first thing *viz.*, the firing by Pakistanis. Mr. Chaliha in this House said—"We will not give an inch of Hindusthan, or for that matter of Assam to Pakistan". But what happened? Even to-day Takergram is in the occupation of Pakistani forces. Nothing has been done to get back Takergram. Not only that we have all the time have meetings and parleys and yet we find the firing goes on as savagely as before. During these days, I find during this period from 6th of February to date, 2 persons have been killed and about 8 persons have been injured, according to my information. Not only that I have received a telegram yesterday, wherein it is stated "Karimganj border" worst affected. Lives and properties most insecure. Properties looted. Woman outraged by Pakistani soldiers. Incessant firing continues in border areas. Move Centre for proper protection". This is from the Bar Association, Karimganj. Also in the newspaper Nabajug one of the respectable newspaper of that area it has been stated how in Ratanpur, Pakistani soldiers severely assaulted Bharat Namasudra and Prahllad Namasudra and how a woman was outraged in her advanced stage, and yet we go on saying—"We believe in Panch Sheel" We have nothing to do except having negotiations with them!" Now, let us decide if this is aggression. If this is not aggression then what it is? If people from other country start firing at our people killing them, injuring them and damaging the properties and create condition of lawlessness then what is this? And yet we say—"We are freindly people." While we have tea parties and dinners, the forces in the border go on firing. I do not understand, I I do not think Pancha Sheel means that we are to acquiesce aggression. It means before aggression starts we should try to settle our dispute by negotiation in a peaceful way. We respect this, but when other people start shooting, start violating our territorial integrity, when such conditions are created are we to rely on Panch Sheel alone, or are we to resist it. As I said on another occasion, if they fire once we should fire twice. If they use machine gone, we should use long range guns. We do not want to make a fun of it. If they kill one, we should kill two. I do not understand why from our side we cannot create such a condition so that Pakistan Government is compelled to come to their senses. Then only those things can be solved. I do not believe in such 'friendly relationship'. Sir, it is not only in Karimganj border, but also in Garo Hills border they have fired in a savage manner. Is this gentlemanly behaviour? Let us also adopt such measures so that they may be compelled to behave properly. Therefore, Sir,

after mature thinking, I feel that time has come when we should sever our diplomatic relation. It may not be a subject for us to decide, but the people of Assam should convey this feeling to the Government of India, Let us seal the border so that none can come to this side. Also I want that proper arrangements should be made for those people who are in the border areas and are subjected to such savage firing. These people are living in a terrible condition which I have seen for myself. Let them be shifted in some other places so that they may lead a normal life and not disturbed by such continuous firing. We do not want war, but if Pakistan want it let them have it. We cannot live under the shadow of war, shadow of fear for all the time. This matter should be settled once for all. Sir, Pakistan has also stopped our steamers at Sylhet. These steamers were bringing goods to those people. Is it not an economic blockade? What is this? Our articles, commodities, etc., were coming for our people, but they stopped these steamers near Sylhet. Not one or two but 34 steamers have been stopped. In the face of all these if we say. 'We believe in Panch Sheel', I do not understand this. Sir, therefore, I want that the Chaliha Government should bring an end to this situation. If they cannot, let Assam be ruled by Centre as the Government of Assam allowed Naga Hills to be ruled by the Centre to enable them to quell the disturbances there. If they cannot do anything, if this Government cannot render any help, let it be ruled by Centre. We cannot allow our people to suffer in this way.

Sir, in this connection, I will also refer to a matter. Last time when Mr. Chaliha spoke, he invited the Members of the House to go and see the border to tone up the morale of the people and see things for themselves. Sir, on the 9th of September I went there and wrote to the D. C., Cachar that I will be obliged if he would place a vehicle at my disposal to go to Bhangra and other areas to see the border. I came back to Silchar from Manipur on the 12th and the D. C. reported to me that he could not give me a vehicle as he has no orders in this connection. Of course I took up the matter with Mr. Chaliha who apologised for the behaviour of the D. C. I do not want to say anything against Mr. Chaliha in this connection but this is the type of man who are at the helm of affairs in our State. As a recognised Leader of the Opposition I wanted to see certain affected areas and often it said that Government seek our co-operation—when we are vitally intested, even a small vehicle could not be placed at our disposal. Let me transgress a little. This is because a feeling has been

created in the minds of the officers that after all that the opposition members of the House need not be counted much; they are not in a position to deliver any good and may be ignored. It is not the feeling of any particular Deputy Commissioner but it is the feeling of the officers in general. They are having a feeling that only the members of the Congress Party have access to these Circuit Houses and Dak Bungalows and therefore we are treated most shabbily by these officers. It is most regrettable. At the same time I am bound to say that not only officers, even the Ministers also do not give proper attention to matters represented to them by opposition members. But when a Congress member goes with the same grievances, it is immediately attended to promptly redressed. Is such mental make-up conducive to the creation of conditions of co-operation? The condition of co-operation as laid down by our Congress Government seems to be. "Well, you are to co-operate, but you won't get anything, do not ask for anything"; this is the attitude. But this is only a transgression.

I said about the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar. I went to Darrang on certain public work and there I wanted to stay in the Circuit House at Tezpur. A room was kept locked by one of the officers; he went out on tour and he kept the room locked for two days, and I was told that there was no room for me although I wanted to stay only for the night. I have seen officers have converted these circuit houses and dak-bungalows to dwelling houses but yet it is not possible for other people, even for one of the status of the Leader of Opposition in this House, to go and stay there even on urgent public duty.

Then Sir, coming to the Naga Hill situation, I stated on the floor of this House on many previous occasions. What I want to say now, and yet I would like to reiterate the same things to-day also and that is this: There was absolutely no reason whatsoever for transferring the Naga Hill administration to the Centre. The Centre has sadly failed to tackle the situation there. Rather the people there have now begun to feel that they have been deprived of their legitimate democratic rights by this transfer of the administration. Formerly they could come to the Assembly, to the Parliament but now under the system of administration that is obtaining there, they have been completely deprived of their elementary democratic rights. And what is this administration? Administration of Military and ex-Military personnel and their relations mostly. And the people feel that all their democratic rights are being taken away. I have stated this on the floor of this House not as my

personal opinion. I went there personally, I held discussions with many Naga brethren there and I could gather their feelings. I have also received innumerable reports emanating from that side. Sir, the Naga problem has all along been a political problem. It was never a problem of law and order and yet, the most regrettable aspect of the matter is that we have never taken it as a political problem. The Central Government to-day have not been able to solve this problem. The raids are going on creating havoc in certain places. But what have we done? We are talking about the efficiency of the Police Force, but even in spite of these efficient Police personnel being there, these things are going on. This is a very serious situation which we cannot afford to lose sight of. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia came here and he wanted to go to North-East Frontier Agency. Dr. Lohia is a well known personality with a well known political philosophy. But when he wanted to go there, he was not allowed to go and the Governor said, "Well, I took Mr. Chaliha to North-East Frontier Agency area." After all, what is position of North-East Frontier Agency to-day to us? North-East Frontier Agency is a sealed book to us and even known political personality of the eminence of Dr. Lohia was not allowed to go there. I am sure, I will also be not allowed to go there. One can go there only at the pleasure of the Governor. We are one and the same geographical entity. We have been demanding North-East Frontier Agency, Manipur, Assam all these places to constitute one composite political unit so that in the event of any aggression we can fight it out unitedly. But this is what is being done. Therefore Sir, I feel that the Government of Assam has miserably failed in making the people feel that their hearth and homes are saved by the Government. The Government may shift the burden to the Centre or even to Pakistan but the people do not understand so much of the international laws, so much of the intricacies of our relationship with the Centre. They will only feel that although we are under a Government, that Government have failed to save our hearth and homes and our lives and properties. In this vital matter of creating a feeling of security in the minds of the people there, our Government have failed completely.

Coming to the internal problems, we find Mr. Chaliba, our Chief Minister, believes in adjustment. I also believe in adjustment. Because human relationship cannot be regulated in any other way except through adjustment. But adjustment must not be falsely construed as appeasement. But unfortunately, Sir, to-day we find that the policy pursued by our

Government is more of appeasement than adjustment, and what has it led us to? It has led us to casteism, districtism and communalism. I want to live in amity with the Tribal brethren; I want to understand their problems and what they want but that should not mean that I should paper to the growing feeling amongst a section of our Tribal brethren that they are a community separate from the rest. A feeling has grown in my mind as whether it is not the time for us to move a resolution saying that these ten years' protection under the 6th Schedule should now no longer be in existence. Because we have felt that for these ten years' protection provision our Tribal brethren have advanced quite a lot but at the same time a mentality has developed amongst them that we are something separate, and difference and distrust towards the others have grown both in degree and intensity and that therefore we should review our measures in this respect. Things have now gone to such a pass that whenever some important measures affecting the interest of the entire people are considered, things are considered not on the basis of intrinsic merit, but on the basis of district, community and so on. Now, to-day there is the question of establishment of the second Medical College for which necessary money is available. But every time the reply given by the Government has not led us anywhere. When a small State like Andhra has established as many as five Medical Colleges during this period, we have not yet been able to take any decision as to where the second Medical College is to be located, in Cachar, Gauhati, Jorhat or anywhere else. Why can't this small thing be decided by an expert when a big thing like the location of the Refinery is going to be decided by experts? Why these petty considerations be allowed to blur the vision of our people? Even in smaller matters like settlement of toll ferries, forest coupes, etc., these petty considerations are allowed to play their ruinous effects. This is now the ruling tendency. Any body belonging to the Backward Class, irrespective of the bid, should get settlement of a ferry or a bill immediately. The baneful effect of such a tendency is spreading even to people belonging to communities other than even Backward. I know of a person belonging to high caste Hindu society. He came to me and asked for a certificate as Scheduled Caste. This is a feeling dangerous to country. This will wound the very purpose for which we are fighting. After the external situation and the situation connected with the Naga Hills problem, Pakistan border problem, N. E. F. A. problem and other internal situation, this is the feeling in the mind of the people. I am not considering the question as to how many Ministers and Deputy Ministers we

have During the last Budget Session I said that I was thankful to the Chief Minister Shri Chaliha for not increasing the number of Ministers and Deputy Ministers. But next day he increased the number of Ministers and Deputy Ministers. I am not concerned with the number of Ministers that we have. During this one year in one department, *viz.*, the Cottage Industries Department, how many Directors have been appointed. Almost for every subject there is a Director. If you, Sir, look at the Supplementary Budget you will find what maximum amount is asked for travelling of the officers, establishment of the officers, for trucks, jeeps and other vehicles of the officers. To-day, therefore, we find the administration top heavy—too top heavy. We provide a very large sum for the Cottage Industries Department and a very large slice out of it is spent only on establishment and pay of the officers. Similar is the case with other Departments also. Whether the work has increased or not the money is being spent in that manner. Now let us take the instance of tours of the Ministers. I do not know whether any Minister stays more than 10 days in the headquarters. Some Ministers have made their cars their headquarters. Long ago I put a question regarding this and I expected the reply from the Government with figures. When Mr. Medhi was the Chief Minister we complained about it and said that there should be co-ordination among the Ministers. Why all the Ministers should go to one place at the same time? In this connection I may cite an instance. Recently three Ministers went to Jamuguri on a particular day at three different times. They were the Forest Minister, Medical Minister and some other Minister. I do not know why three Ministers had to go to a particular place on one particular day at different times where there is collective responsibility. Yet, Sir, tours are undertaken separately by many Ministers even though they go to a particular place on a particular day. For the tours of the officers I think there should be a subtle service between Gauhati and Delhi. Almost every day somebody must go to Delhi. Almost every week somebody from some Department must go to Delhi with any kind of work. One certain Department goes there every month. I have seen that some officers take tour in South India and other places to see things. We feel and our people also feel that those who are not enlightened let them be enlightened in the south or west. But after they are getting the light we do not get light here. I am not going to speak any more about these things while discussing the Governor's Address here though we have got to say many things. We have seen so many committees being formed. Whenever there is any problem there is set up a committee. Whenever there is

something there is a committee, and thus some amount of expenditure is made. Let the members draw T. A. thereby. I have nothing to say. But in the adjacent States there is a feeling about it. The former leaders and rulers had a definite policy which they followed. Now-a-days the new rulers speak of big ideologies but forget the realities. So, people consider them to be hypocrites. Recently a new philosophy has cropped and that is 'non-interference'. We do not want that the Minister should frame the policies alone. They should see that in the execution of the policies there is no interference. But non-interference at present has gone to such an extent that some officers fail to discharge their duties as they like. After all the officers must also feel that there is a Government. Whether he be the I. G. P. or anybody he should not think that he is the end of everything. Things must be done in a democratic way in the democratic countries. In the democratic countries complaints do come and if the complaints are genuine than interference is called for and so we should not stick to the policy of non-interference. I know and some people also know it that there are some officers who prepare the notes for the Ministers and when they come with files the Ministers order for tea and other things. After that the Ministers put their signatures only in the files. Of course it is not so in the case of Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed. He is an exception. If we want to preserve democracy we must do and must not do certain things. Whether M. L. As., or whether Congress President, or Congress Secretaries, we have to see that if democracy is to be preserved then good behaviour is very essential. Let us have that good behaviour. Let us take certain principle or policy and let us respect it and let not other people commit violation of this principle or policy. Then only a healthy and democratic society will be able to go forward. What is found in the administration? This is a gap between our profession and practice. Things take a long time for execution. We decide to do certain things but things are not done and what is more there is lack of planning in certain cases. I give certain instances. Take for instance, Ayurvedic College. There are only 17 students in this college. We have built a big house, perhaps, a big building in Jalukbari for it but there are only 17 students and there is no arrangement made how these students will be engaged when they pass out. There is no scope for their employment. Therefore, we should either do away with this college or if you think Ayurvedic College or Ayurvedic medicine is necessary, do something so that our

people are enthused and can derive benefits from this college. Take another instance, the Veterinary College was started once it was at Nowgong, now it is at Gauhati and again it is going to be shifted to another place at Gauhati. We are doing things without plan. Let us first decide what are we going to do with certain thing. Let us plan it properly. At the beginning we should plan properly so that such shiftings from place to place do not take place.

Then again it is found that officers are appointed before the scheme begins operation. In creating such posts we do not take into consideration the utility and ultimate result. In that money is wasted and time is wasted. There is wasteful expenditure of our Government in many spheres. I am told only in giving tea parties to V. I. Ps. in Morrello's, Government is giving a bill for Rs.80,000. I have put a question about it.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance, etc.):** That is not a correct fact.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** I understand, there is a bill for such an amount. However, I am not concerned now with that particular aspect. But I must say that there is wasteful expenditures very often. To-day we have many schemes involving very big sums of money. It is our duty to be cautious that no money is wasted.

Sir, the other day when somebody from this side was speaking about co-opetatives, some of our Friends from the other side did not like that and they thought that the Opposition is not co-operating with the Cooperatives. But, Sir, what do we find from a report in the Statesman of 4th March 1959, from Nowgong Correspondent regarding state trading muddle in the Nowgong district. The heading is, "New, Longer Chain of Middlemen". It contains a column and a half. I am reading some extracts from it:—

"But each had the same story to tell. They were unanimous in their charge of harassment and corruption against the purchasing agents of primary co-operatives, directly involved in the purchasing operation. The popular feeling is that State Trading has introduced a new and longer chain of middlemen, replacing the traditional one.

“The allegations are specifically against the Hojai Marketing Society, which has now some 60 purchasing agents spread over a wide area of Hojai, Nomati, Kapasbari and Jogijan maujas. At the initial stage, with too few agents, some areas were left uncovered, and cultivators had nobody to sell to. Even now cultivators coming with their paddy were either turned away or kept waiting on one plea or the other.”

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“What is most lacking is popular enthusiasm and co-operation, and essential pre-requisite of the scheme. On the contrary, an impression has got currency that primary co-operatives are not real producers co-operatives, and that these have been hastily drawn up more or less on the basis of existing Mandal Congress Committees with Mandal Congress presidents and secretaries as chairmen of the co-operatives, thus indirectly lending a political colour to the whole scheme.”

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Sir, I had occasion to inform M. Moinul Haque Choudhury, the Minister, about Hojai that there are other co-operatives, may not be formed by Congressmen, which have also to be taken into consideration. If co-operative movement should be made successful and is to be worked according to its motto, it must be on a non-political basis and as I have come to know from Nowgong and other places overnight co-operatives have been formed by people giving them a party colour, a political colour. I would like to say that when State Trading Co-operatives were there during the War period they were formed in the same manner and what was the result? After the essential commodities became available in plenty these co-operatives evaporated. Many went into liquidation and many were found involved in misappropriation. I have my doubts whether we are running our co-operative, which is a new thing, properly and methodically to make it a success. Here, we have to see that a co-operative is really a co-operative and not co-operative of a particular batch or colour of people only. Such a co-operative is formed with illiterate people and they have become members by paying their due share so, it is our duty to see that they are run on the true spirit of its principle.

I also was to inform the Minister that out of 15 lakhs of maunds or something like that in Nowgong district uptill now the co-operatives have procured only 5 lakhs maunds. This

is my information. Of course it may not be correct. But the apprehension is there that 15 lakhs of maunds will not be procured.

The next matter that I will come to is that these co-operatives are very important in the present context in our society ; these are going to be our agency in trade and we have to build them up in a proper scientific basis. In this matter we should see that these co-operatives are organised to cover the real people to serve the real purpose and not to be monopolised by big business people or exploiters

So far as Police is concerned, my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya has said many things. What I would say is that today we are faced with certain important problems. What are these problems. First of all, we are to see whether we are moving in a planned manner and in a planned scheme. We have completed our First Five Year Plan. We are going to complete the Second Five Year Plan. Then we are to begin the Third Five Year Plan. During this period certain things have cropped in and we should focus our attention to those things. The defects should be rectified. In this we are also to see firstly how we are to control and regulate the private sector. This is of course an all-India question but this is also a question for the State Government. Secondly, how we are going to give full benefit to our society. Thirdly, the essential trade in essential commodities should be managed by co-operatives and how best we can run them. Fourthly, we are to see that our Community Projects and National Extension Service blocks work to the real interest of our people. Our attention should be focussed in these and other such things of vital interest to the State and Society.

What are these ? Have we got any defect in our administrative set-up ? Is it necessary to reorganise the administrative set-up ? The Government would have done very good if they had given their attention to this problem. This is the most important problem with the co-operatives as how to reconcile the individual freedom of our sturdy peasants with the need for building up co-operatives. This is a very essential matter. To-day I know when people are going for new settlement they say that they wanted settlement in their individual names. Why is it that they do not want co-operatives ? They fear that the individual freedom of the sturdy peasants may be undermined. And, therefore, Sir, we have to find out, according to our tradition, a solution and to see whether

we can have a compromise between the individual freedom of our peasantry and the necessity for building up co-operatives so as to rationalise the use of land, implements and resources of which we are short. Co-operatives are very necessary because they will rationalise the use of land, the use of implements and the use of resources and also to have a scientifically organised marketing system which will give the peasantry their due. Then we have also to see what powers we can give to the village panchayats, which will come into being soon. We have to see how by giving those powers to the village panchayats and by building up co-operatives we can at the shortest possible time achieve our socialist objective. Thirdly, we have to see what are the industries that should be immediately brought under the public sector and what amount of protection should be given to the private sector and in doing so we have also to find out what will be the relation between this Government and the corporations of the public sector. To-day we have the State Transport, there is no corporation as yet. We have also an Electricity Board. All these bodies are coming up. We have to decide about the relation that will exist between them and the Government. These are vital problems. It is no use giving a chronicle of our achievements. That is not our primary concern. We have to build up a socialist society and in a socialist society certain things will remain; co-operation will remain, the public sector will remain; the peasantry's problem will remain. We must see how we can bring about adjustments and thereby solve this problem. We cannot be unmindful of that. Therefore, in the Governor's Address we wanted an indication of these problems and not merely how many roads we have built and what are needs of particular localities, but the major problems of the State which are cropping up. Take for instance, the tea gardens. There is a developing crisis. The position is so acute that in the Cachar district some of the gardens have been closed down. The Minister said that they were having negotiations. Yet without the permission of Government there was lay-out for 45 days and the workers have not been given their wages. How we can re-open the gardens and manage them is a big problem. These and other problems will occur more and more with the advent of the Third Five Year Plan and, therefore, it is our duty to focus our attention to these problems. And in these matters whereas the Party in power has a great responsibility we have also a responsibility. When the Governor gives a call for austerity, when the Governor calls for hard work and co-operation, we are ready to play our part. But let hard

work be not one-sided ; let austerity be not one-sided ; let the people feel that if they are made to suffer the people at the helm of affairs are also suffering. When the people see that those at the helm of affairs are also doing hard work, the spirit of co-operation will come and the spirit of frustration will go. Then and then only we will be able to forge ahead and build up a socialist society. For that purpose it is necessary that we put our heads together. I am not concerned with a National Government. I do not want to have a share in Government. All we want is if our co-operation is required, we must be able to give it effectively and not like one who only dittoes. For that purpose we have to review our stand, we have to forget our party labels for some time and build up this society. For this task we are ready and for this I am supporting the amendments moved by this side because these amendments really pose these questions. These questions have not been solved.

With these few words, I thank you for giving me this time to express my views on the Governor's address.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance etc.): Sir, at the outset I wish to convey the regret of the Leader of the House for his inability, owing to illness, to be present here to-day and reply to the debate on the Governor's address. I am sure I am voicing the sentiments of all the Members present here that we are very much concerned about his health and we hope he will recover speedily and soon come back to the House to attend to his work.

Sir, before I go to the various criticisms and suggestions, which have been made in course of the last few days, I should like to make a correction of certain figures given in the Governor's address. The hon. Members may please correct at page 4 of the address, in the last line, the figure "20,00,000 maunds" It should be changed to "22,00,000 maunds" This was a printing mistake.

Now, Sir, coming to the various criticisms and suggestions, which have been made by the hon. Members during the last few days' discussion on the Governor's address, I have no hesitation in saying that we welcome all criticisms and suggestions. After all, it is our task and duty to see that democracy should thrive and that through these democratic methods we should correct ourselves if we are pursuing a wrong path. Through these democratic methods we are prepared to accept

what good suggestion will other people have to offer. It is in this spirit that we have listened to the very valuable suggestions which have been made by the hon. Members and I have no hesitation to say that my colleagues and have profited by these suggestions.

After all, Sir, criticisms and even agitations, if I may say so, are the virtues of democracy. To that extent we are prepared to accept. But if these criticisms and agitations degenerate to the level of baseless allegations, insinuation and attempts to create suspicion against Members of the House, I feel, Sir, that they become a matter of concern not only for the Members of the Treasury Bench but also of the entire House. I am sorry Sir, that I have to say these things because in the course of the discussions, while very valuable and good suggestions have been given we have found that sometimes some of the hon. Members indulged in baseless allegations which were more or less done with the purpose of an agitation and for the purpose of serving the end of a party. Sir, I shall refer to them specifically but in the beginning I would like to deal with a few observations which have been made by the Leader of the Opposition. Sir, I was interested to hear from him what he had to say towards the closing stage of his speech. These are matters which require serious considerations before steps are taken. I was a bit amazed when experienced as he is, sometimes he was swayed by sentiments and offered suggestions which are impracticable. These criticisms gave me an impression that he was sure concerned with the propaganda that with the purpose of offering suggestion to help us to solve difficulties with which we are confronted to-day. Sir, we listened with great attention to the discussion on the firings of our borders by Pakistan. I have no hesitation in saying that Pakistan's uncalled for and savage firing deserve our fullest condemnation. It is not for me to say, as it is known to all the Members that Pakistan's indulgence in their activities does not speak of their good motive. Whether the Pakistan Government have been compelled to resort to these activities in order to keep their hold on their own people and for some other reasons it is not for us to say. What we are concerned is that their barbarous and frequent firings have brought such conditions as have become a matter of concern and anxiety to all of us and particularly to those people who are living on our border areas. Apart from the fact that they have to pass their days in the midst of fear and anxiety, their entire trade and economy have been shattered. Constant firings have subjected them to innumerable hardships and sufferings and I offer my deep sympathy for

those sufferings. All that was possible for us to persuade Pakistan to stop this incanningsless firing has been done and we shall continue to do so. Cease fire agreements if properly enforced by Pakistan ; can ease the situation and remove the hardship to which our people have been subjected. But as our hon. Members are aware, inspite of our several attempts our desire and our efforts to live a peaceful life, Pakistan has not responed with the border area all that we have to witness the suffering of our people on the border areas. If such is the attitude of Pakistan what are we to do ? I have gone through the speeches made by the hon. Members and found that some Members have not expressed displeasure and condemnation at Government not doing anything more than protesting and persuading Pakistan to follow a peaceful path ; but we could not hear of any valuable suggestions which might guide us in solving the dead lock and our difficulties. Some hon. Members said that, when Pakistan is behaving in this manner, we should also become more aggressive taking necessary action against firing. Some hon. Members even went to the extent of saying that we should declare a war against Pakistan. Sir, it may be easy for some of my Friends to speak in such a light-hearted manner ; but it should be considered by the hon'ble Leader of the Opposition what this war will mean and what will be the consequences of the war. It will not be an isolated war confined to the boundaries or territories between Assam and Pakistan, God forbid, if such a War starts it will spread and affect the whole world. I do not know how serious are the hon. Members when they advise us to take a step which may lead to a World War. When there is only firings, we know what untold miseries our people are subjected to, but if there is a war on our frontiers what I do not know what hardships and suffering of great magnitude it will bring not only to the people living in those areas but also those living in the part of the State and the country. We can not think of our actions in an isolated manner and I would request to this aspect the hon. Member to give his serious consideration. Secondly, Sir, I feel that it will not be proper for me in the interest of security to say what has been done by us and what steps will be taken by us in order to meet these activities of Pakistan. I hope the hon. Members will be satisfied if I say that both the Central Government and the State Government are alive to the situation and such steps as are necessary have been and will be taken. I hope the hon. Members also will not insist, in the interest of security, upon further information in this respect. The only thing I should like to add here is that hon. Members need have no anxiety on this account as we

have capacity and are fully prepared to tackle the situation if Pakistan does not behave properly. So far as the suggestion of doing something like war is concerned, apart from the fact that this is the responsibility of the Central Government and apart from the fact that declaration of war or resorting to such activities is likely to involve us in a World War, I should also like hon. Members to bear in mind the stand that India has taken before the world. Today when we have created a prestige, and have made our voice felt in all international matters it is because of the enunciation and advocacy of Panch Shilla, hon. Members will admit that on many occasions we have, through armed force, averted the danger of war in other part of the world. So, if to-day, after inviting other countries to follow these fine principles, for a small matter we wage war on our frontiers and on our territory what more force can we exert in future? What will the people of the world say with regard to our faith and belief in Panch Shilla? These are matters which need serious consideration. Therefore, Sir, I only wish to say that I understand and fully appreciate the anxiety, which has been expressed by all the Members of the House, on behalf of those people who have been subjected to sufferings and I wish I could provide relief to their sufferings and miseries at the earliest moment possible. But as I have said, provision of such relief does not rest only with us or with the Central Government, but also with the people over whom we have no control. I hope, Sir, hon. Members will be satisfied if I say that the whole situation is known to us and we have pursued and shall continue to pursue course as will help our people to live a secured life. We have taken hon. Members into our confidence and we have not kept away any information from them. I only want to reiterate that whatever steps are necessary have been taken and will be taken by us to see that our people may not be put to sufferings and miseries.

Now Sir, coming to the matters referred to by my Friend, the hon. Member from Gauhati. He said that certain facts in respect of Harijan procession stated before this House by the Chief Minister were not correct. If I remember aright he took exception to the statement made by the Chief Minister that the procession was led by a member who was drunk. When this statement was made by no less a person than the Chief Minister, I think it must be realised that he would not have made such a statement if he had not had in his possession the correct information. A letter purported to have been written by the person concerned was read by the hon. Member to show that the Chief Minister had not stated the position correctly.

Sir, may inform him that, before the Chief Minister made that statement, he had a report from the Superintendent of Police and a medical certificate from no less a person than Dr. Lyngdoh of the Civil Hospital. The certificate and the report revealed that, after that gentleman was arrested, he was sent by the Police to the doctor and on examination the doctor found and gave a certificate to the effect that gentleman was drunk. After this categorical report from the Police officer supported by a doctor, I fail to understand how a mere letter by the person concerned to one of the hon. Members of this House can be regarded as sacrosanct, as more convincing and more reliable than the statement of the Chief Minister on the basis of documentary evidence and report. I should like to reiterate here that we stand fully by that statement and it was made with full responsibility and after verifying the facts stated. There is no basis for the discussions now made by my hon. Friend that the gentleman in question was not drunk.

Sir, my hon. Friend also referred to another matter. He said; "I have got with me certain documents to show that there are some people who have been actually transmitting news beyond the border and one or two such letters were intercepted"— this is what my hon. Friend stated before the House and he was pleased to give further information in this connection to the Chief Minister. I do not know if he has placed on the table of the House any letter mentioned by him. The Hon'ble Speaker rightly asked him not to refer to photostate copy which cannot be regarded as genuine proof in support of the allegations. After such information as was given by him to the Chief Minister enquiries were made and I will just place before the House the result of this enquiry. The result of this enquiry is that two letters, which perhaps the hon. Member had in mind, were produced by one Rabindra Kumar Dey, the complainant, before the Police, alleging that these have been picked up from a boatman when one Moinuddin was sending the same along with some other goods to Pakistan. The specimen handwriting of the complainant Shri Rabindra Kumar Dey, of Moinuddin and the boatman who were arrested, were sent to the Examiner of Questioned Documents for comparison, through the Subdivisional Officer, Karimganj. The result of the examination revealed that both the letters alleged to have been picked up by the complainant are the writing of the same hand and as such the Handwriting Expert's opinion was that these two letters which were alleged to have been picked up and produced before the Police were written by the complainant himself. From the opinion of the Handwriting Expert the

complaint lodged was found to be false and fabricated and there was also no further evidence to support the complaint. Now, I do not wish to say anything more except that the persons who were arrested and detained, were released for lack of evidence and after the opinion of the Handwriting Expert, and now a case has been started against Shri Rabindra Kumar Dey under Section 211 for lodging a false complaint and also for fabrication of this false letter. Now, Sir, I should also like to add that so far as our information goes, some very important persons are involved in this conspiracy to fabricate the letters about which my hon. Friend from Gauhati waxed so eloquently and on the basis of who he made baseless and wild allegations. He said that some person—described as ‘high-ups’—were found to be giving information to Pakistan.

Then Sir, he also referred to certain passport given at the intervention of certain Congress Ministers to a person who was a Pakistani. Of course he did not mention the name of the person concerned but he was good enough to pass over the name to the hon. Chief Minister. On receipt of this information we made an enquiry. I am really amazed to find that a passport, which was issued as long ago as 1953, has now been mentioned, after the lapse of 6 years. The particular person, said to have been given the passport, actually has applied for a passport in Karimganj and, when he was refused by the Deputy Commissioner, he filed an appeal before the Chief Secretary of our Government in 1953. The Chief Secretary, on receipt of the appeal petition, asked for further report from the local officers concerned and from the report of the Sub-Divisional Officer, Karimganj when the Chief Secretary was satisfied from the report that the person concerned was an Indian national, he issued instructions to the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar to issue the passport. That happened in 1953. I do not understand why this issue of passport, which occurred in 1953 was not agitated earlier and why the hon. Member who was a Member of this House at that time, he waited for long 6 years to bring this fact to the notice of the House just unless it was intended for creating suspicion in the minds of the people.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):

I raised the question whether his wife and children are Pakistani Nationals or not. Whether his wife, before her marriage was an Indian National. How a gentleman was a Pakistani National became an Indian National? His wife, an Indian National has been made a Pakistani National. His children are now Pakistani Nationals. He has an Indian Passport, but

an Pakistani Visa. His wife an erstwhile Indian citizen, whether she possesses a Pakistani passport and an Indian Visa and also his children, whether they are Pakistani Nationals and possess Pakistani passports. The bamboo Mahal which was given to him, whether the bamboos were sent to Pakistan in collaboration with one of his partners in business who is a Pakistani National. All these things came in a link, and this is why I had to wait for 6 years to unravel the mystery which has a long chain.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance, etc.): The insinuation of the hon. Member is there. He said it categorically that some 'high-ups' 'some Ministers were involved in giving the passport'.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): Yes, yes, I made a categorical statement that it was at the intervention of the Congress Minister that the Chief Secretary overruled the decision of the Deputy Commissioner and that the Passport was granted from Shillong. That was my allegation and that is also my allegation now.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : The hon. Friend may now try to wriggle out of the awkward situation which he had created for himself. If you, Sir, look at the list of his speech you will find that he had referred to this point in order to create suspicion against some Members of present Cabinet.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : No, no. I said the Congress Minister not of the present Ministry.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : I am glad to hear this. What I wish to point out is that this passport was given not by any Minister but by the Chief Secretary, after an appeal was filed before him in the year 1953, on the distinct report of the Subdivisional Officer, Karimganj, that the gentleman concerned was an Indian National. There is also evidence to show that at the time he applied for the passport he had a bus permit in India. It is also incorrect to say, as was said, that after the passport was given the bus permit was also given. He had the bus permit since before 1953.

I am glad that my Friend now says that at least so far as the Members of the present Government are concerned, they have not manouvred to give a Pakistani passport to this person. I repeat that there is nothing on record to show that any Minister either of the present Government or of the previous Government had interfered or to do anything with the issue of this passport.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) :

Yes, Sir, I concede that there is nothing to that effect in the passport.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance, etc.) : Now, Sir, in this connection I should like to refer to another matter because it appears to me that indulgence in such baseless charges have now become a matter of habit for the Members of the Opposition. Last year, when we were discussing the situation of Assam—Pakistan border, certain observations were made by the Leader of the Opposition. You may remember, Sir, that on that date the hon. Leader of the Opposition referred to the Muslim near Numaligarh. In that connection he stated that from the papers seized from that man, the name of a Member of the Cabinet said to have helped him was found. In this statement the Leader of the Opposition brought serious allegations and insinuations against a member of the Cabinet. When the Chief Minister commented upon his statement, the Leader of the Opposstion further said that the news item referred to by him appeared in the 'Janambhumi'. The Chief Minister made an enquiry into the matter and placed his findings before the House. It was clear from the enquiry that there was nothing to substantiate the statement of the Leader of the Opposition. This was brought to the notice of the House by the Chief Minister. Then the hon. Leader of the Opposition said that the information was not published in the newspapers but that it was received by him in a letter addressed to him. Sir, that letter was not placed on the table of the House. As the matter was a very serious one, the hon. Speaker on the request of the Chief Minister directed that this letter be placed on the table of the House. Sir, in this connection the hon. Chief Minister wrote a letter to the hon. Speaker and the hon. Speaker replied thus:

"I spoke to Shri Hareswar Goswami, the Leader of the Opposition about the letter on the basis of which he made certain observations during the debate on the border incident. I told him that in view of the fact that he utilised that letter to make certain observations..... that it should be placed on

the table of the House. He was in agreement and has agreed to place it on the table of the House as soon as he gets the letter. He is looking for it and if it is available at Shillong, he will do so tomorrow". This reply was given by the hon. Speaker on the 29th of August, 1958 to the hon. Chief Minister, and I find from the letter addressed by the Chief Minister on the 2nd of March, 1959 to the hon. Speaker that although the Leader of the Opposition had promised to place the letter on the table of the House, this has not till now been done. This letter was neither given nor shown. What I want to say is this: we do not mind criticisms when it is based on facts. We are not afraid of such criticisms, but when such criticism is based on imaginary grievances and when statements are made on the floor of the House only with a view to create suspicion in the minds of our colleagues, Members of this House and the public outside, I feel, Sir, that they become a matter of grave concern to the Members of this House. I would like to submit before the hon. Members that very purpose for which criticism is levelled will be defeated if we continue to indulge in such kinds of baseless allegations. Now, what is the purpose? My hon. Friend from Gauhati started his speech by stating that he was unhappy because some poor Muslims were being victimised, and harassed by the Police, without any justifiable reasons. But soon after that he stated that although the Police pursued poor Muslims, some high-ups involved in subversive activities were allowed to go unpunished. Does the hon. Member realise what will be the effect of his speech out-side? The very purpose of his speech which was alleged to provide protection to these unfortunate Muslims will be defeated, because by such speeches will create such a psychology, and atmosphere as will tend people to believe that in our State there are Muslims who are disloyal—a situation which will create a problem of law and order.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : I did not say Muslims high-ups, but what I say was that some high-ups.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance, etc.) : I am glad that the hon. Member is now resiling from the position previously taken as it will help the creation of peaceful atmosphere outside.

I should like to make one appeal to the hon. Members of this House and through them to the people outside that in the interest of the security of the State it is desirable for us all to behave in such a manner and to create such an atmosphere, as will not give rise to any suspicion in the mind of

one section of citizen against the other. If we continue to create and live in the midst of suspicion and fear we do not know where we are going to land. If we try to spread hatred among our people through propagation of baseless allegation and insinuations and then try to create a sense of insecurity in the minds of a section of our people, I am sure, it will not be in the interest of the people and of the State as a whole. Sir, I can say this much that the Police have been doing their best and the Government have taken suitable steps to provide necessary checks against infiltration of such Pakistanis who come here and try to conceal the Pakistani passpost and obtain Indian passport. It is unfortunate that as a result of vigilance of some poor Muslims have been subjected to inconvenience and hardships. When we have to provide for the security of our State it some times so happens that a few innocent persons are put to difficulty. But whenever it is brought to the notice of the police or the authority concerned that any person has unnecessarily been harrassed or arrested without any proof against him, he is no longer harrassed by the police or other authorities concerned. At the same time I would like to inform the House that, from the figures available for the year, I am satisfied that the action taken by the police against suspected persons was in 85 per cent cases correct. That indicates that the police, before making any arrest, makes the due enquiry and proceeds against such persons against whom there is strong suspicion or evidence. It is therefore unfair on the part of some of the hon. Members to say that police are unnecessarily harrassing the people and that they are leaving the high-up without taking any action against them. It is no use indulging in such generalisation. If the hon. Member has any concrete evidence or proof of any subversive activity against the so called high ups, let him give the particulars and I can assure him and other hon. Members that if there is any basis for proceeding against such a persons we shall take necessary action.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): I gave at least one instance.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance, etc.): But he should be sure that it is a genuine information.

Shri CAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I gave a genuine information.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: But that information has not been found correct. Similarly another Member of his party, I mean Mr. Barthakur, was pleased to make a very wild

allegation against the Government and the President of the Congress. He said that a plot of land which was first allotted to a Pakistani was ultimately settled by the Government, with the collaboration of the Congress President, with a Marwari who has constructed a house in the interest of that Pakistani. Sir, we have made enquiries in the matter and I can assure the hon. Member that so far as the question of settlement of that land is concerned no order was passed by my colleague the Minister in-charge of Revenue, who is the final authority to pass orders in such a case.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):

May I point out that the Minister also could not quote his speech correctly and made a wrong representation of his speech? I have heard Mr. Barthakur repeat his speech the other day. He said "the Government has allowed the use of that plot of land". He did not say "the Government has allotted the land".

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance, etc.): There is very little difference between allowing and allotting. But I want to say that neither has the Minister here nor the Deputy Commissioner of this district settled the land or allowed the use of that land. The Deputy Commissioner has informed us through a telegram that the land is still lying vacant. So, Sir, I am sorry to say that hon. Member made the wild allegations without ascertaining the fact. From what I have placed before the House it is evident that there was no justification for these allegations. I maintain and I hope the hon. Members will bear with me, that the purpose of some members in making this wild allegations is nothing more than to create a bias against the Government and against the Congress organisation, and to advance the interest of their party by false propaganda. It is for the House to consider whether it is desirable for us to allow indulgence in such kind of propaganda. I submit, Sir, our time can be better devoted if we can give time and more attention to constructive criticism of the various work and problem before this House. (At this stage the Secretary of the Assembly Department handed over a typed copy of the extract of Shri Nilmoney Barthakur's speech made on the floor of the House". He said "It was allotted to be used by a Pakistani". Whatever that may be, neither has my Friend the Revenue Minister nor the Deputy Commissioner has allowed the use of this land and let us accept this.....

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): I want to know from the Chair whether the word used by Mr. Barthakur was "allotted" or "allowed". From another copy that I have I will read out ".....Government, aided by the Congress President, allowed the land to be used by a Marwari Mill owner who is trying to build a permanent structure on that plot of land for the interest of the said Pakistani".

The CHAIRMAN: I will read out from the copy which I have :

"We also find that a plot of land near Barboroah Hat within Dibrugarh P. S. was allotted to a Pakistani national. This was brought to the notice of the Government and was also placed in the Land Settlement Advisory Board, where a decision was taken to evict the Pakistani national and thereafter to resettle the plot of land with somebody-else. But instead of that, Government, aided by the Congress President allowed the land to be used by a Marwari Mill owner who is trying to build a permanent structure on that plot of land for the interest of the said Pakistani".

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance, etc.): I have got a copy with me in which the word, 'allotted' is used first but subsequently the word, 'allowed' is used.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: We are concerned with the word 'allotted' to a Pakistani national.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: This is a matter which is now before the Privilege Committee of this House.

My Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, depicted the present Inspector General of Police as 'Ayub Khan' of Assam.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: On the strength of some newspaper reports.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: He also mentioned in the course of his speech about the refusal of a gun licence to a certain gentleman of Gauhati by the police at Gauhati; our information is that the licence asked for by this gentleman was for a revolver and not a gun. The Government policy is to restrict issue of licence for revolver as

such a weapon may be misused by some other persons. I think, my Friend has been wrongly informed that licence was refused for a gun.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): What I said is that Government is quite free to give or not to give a licence but it appears that the licence was refused by saying that this gentleman has got leanings towards the Communist Party of India. I objected to that only.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance, etc.): This licence was refused because application of licence was for a revolver.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: That is more than what the Minister said. I have seen the report myself on the basis of which I made the allegation.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I do not know how my Friend could have access to such a report.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: How I got access is a different thing, but I have seen the report myself. If you believe us, believe us and if you do not believe us, do not believe us.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): What I say is this that when an hon. Member of this House says that he saw the report, he should be believed.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: I do not know why my two Friends are trying to snatch away the time that has been given to me for reply. If they go on interrupting like this how can I reply to other points raised in the course of discussion.

Here, I say again that the licence was asked for a revolver and not a gun.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I accept that.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: If a licence is refused the aggrieved person has the right of appeal to the Government. It is not proper to say that because a licence was refused it was done in pursuance of certain orders from the Government. I should like to make it quite clear that so far as we are concerned we look upon all our citizens with the same eye and we do not discriminate in any way.

So far as the reference to the Inspector General of Police was concerned, I was amazed when my Friend made his remarks. Today, it was pleasing to hear from the Leader of the Opposition that he was anxious to root out corruption and bribery from the State. All of us know that corruption and bribery exist both in the administration and society. There can be no two opinions about this and about the desire that the bribery and corruption should be rooted out from administration and society. The real difficulty arises when we set about to root out this corruption. I am really surprised that, when an honest attempt is made by an officer to root out this corruption, there should be such criticism and condemnation of that particular officer.

Sir, after this officer became the Inspector General of Police in Assam he convened a conference of all district police officers and some other officers of the Police Department at Shillong. This Conference at the invitation of the Inspector General, was attended by the Chief Minister and myself. At the time of addressing these officers we emphasized on two aspects of police administration. One of the aspects referred to was the corruption in our society and administration, we said it was essentially the duty of the police to root out these malpractices and we said that until and unless these corruption and bribery were removed from the Police Department itself, it will be difficult and not possible for the police to remove the same from other spheres and departments.

Secondly, with the change of time we said it was necessary for the police to change their old outlook. They should approach people in friendly and co-operative spirit and they should not treat them as their subordinates but they should approach them as their servants.

When we gave such advice, I do not think, there was anything about which exception could be taken or that advice given could be considered as against the interest of public. After this Circulars were issued to all the officers concerned clarifying the policy of Government and directing them to implement the policy. Now, very likely the same policy was enunciated in the statement made by the I. G. P. when we went out on tour. I am informed that he placed the policy of Government and gave his idea how corruption was to be removed. If this is what he said either at public meetings or

when he met important citizens in all the districts throughout the State, I personally feel there was nothing wrong in it. He was simply conveying the Government's policy and, in doing so, telling the people that Government was determined to root out corruption.

It is wrong to say that the I. G. P. was making any policy statement on his own. He was merely explaining to the people what directions he had received from the Government and how he was going to implement the directions. I personally do not see any objectionable thing if he tells the people "this is the Government policy, I am here to help you and I want your co-operation. I am for eradication of corruption".

Now, Sir, some objection has been taken to observation about the Judiciary. I have ascertained from the record. Soon after his speech was reported in the newspapers, some members of the Judiciary took a resolution and asked him to explain what he meant. He made it clear to the members of the Judiciary that he never made any reference to a certain section of the Judiciary. He only referred to some people in the lower Judiciary. Now I wish to tell the hon. Members that so far as the Judiciary, Upper and Lower, in Assam is concerned, I have a tremendous respect for them and I say that we can be proud of our Judiciary for their high degree of integrity. But at the same time, as the hon. Members also know, cases and complaints have come to me against certain persons whose activities if not subdued will not be in the interest of the prestige and reputation of our Judiciary. Unfortunately for various reasons I cannot disclose the names. Informations that I had received were handed over personally by me to the I. G. P. for his investigation. It may be that from the impression which he got from these allegations against certain members of the Lower Judiciary, he loosely said that there were some persons in the lower Judiciary who were corrupt and against whom action has to be taken.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):
Those loose moments should be generally private instead of being public.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance, etc.): I would request the hon. Member not go in for further insinuation. What I ask the hon. Members is to realise our difficulties. I may take the Members into confidence and say that not a single day passes when I do not get letters, mostly anonymous, making all kinds of allegations against some responsible officers and some members of the lower Judiciary. Now our difficulty is that unless and until there is positive proof no action can be taken against the persons concerned. Notwithstanding this difficulties steps have been taken by the High Court and the Government against certain persons. My Friend, the Leader of the Opposition and the Member from Gauhati know about these corruptions. Knowing all these, they give us no help to remove of corruption.

Therefore, what the I. G. P. said was "Here is the Government policy ; I seek your co-operation, give us help and informations so that necessary action may be taken to root out corruption". For this purpose, Sir, the I. G. P. moves about, tries to take public into confidence and speaks to the important citizens. I do not see how we can find fault for all this. I submit, Sir, this may not be to the liking of some Members of this House ; but the manner in which the new I. G. P. has been moving about and trying to contact important citizens of the State and even the common people in the rural areas, augurs well in creating confidence and removing suspicion against the Police. I want every member of the police Department to copy his example of approaching the public and asking them to give up fear and suspicion against the Police. My Friend also accused this officer for causing trouble during the disturbances at the time of the S. R. C's visit to the Goalpara district. My Friend visited the disturbed area at that time and on the 10th of April 1955 he addressed a public meeting at Dhubri, where he graphically described what he had witnessed during the disturbances, in course of which he vehemently condemned the Government failure to maintain law and order. A printed leaflet on the same lines was also issued by the Assam Branch of the C. P. I. on 13th April 1955. While this officer did his duty by reporting correct facts to the Government for prompt and effective action to stop the disturbances, it is inexplicable how he could now be branded as a man who caused trouble. This accusation is wholly unwarranted, and this volte face on the part of the hon. Member in utter forgetfulness of what he himself found shows that it is only an effort to "give the dog a bad name to hang it".

Time and again the Opposition Members have castigated the Government for inefficiency, oppression and corruption in Government offices in general and the Police in particular. It is an irony of fate that when the Head of the Police Department started rectifying the defects, he should be so arraigned. Shri Bhattacharyya himself has mentioned that the Police Department must be clean first and stop harassing the members of the public and that is exactly what the new I. G. P. has undertaken to do. It, therefore, seems incongruous why such an attack should now be directed against this officer. Is it due to the fact that a strong, united, efficient and honest Police Organisation in Assam does not suit some people or is it by way of giving vent to pent up past prejudices against this officer who, in 1949, when he was made to work as D. I. G., C. I. D. also in addition to his duties under the Central Government., took effective measures to immobilise in Assam a particular party which had launched a country-wide subversive movement during 1948-49 to violently overthrow the Government ?

My submission is that I find no other reason except the one I have given for wild allegations against the I. G. P. Now may I say, Sir, when I have noted with appreciation the concern of the hon. Leader of the Opposition to root out corruption, should not the hon. Members give suggestions as to how we should tackle this task ? I feel, in order to tackle this work we have to give certain authority, and initiative to our district officers and the Heads of Departments. It will not be possible for the officers to work with much success unless co-operation comes from the public and the officer, who is in charge of the department, takes effective steps in mobilising public support. My Friend the Leader of the Opposition referred to the fact that Government did not give him any co-operation. In this connection he particularly confined his remarks to the two matters (1) of not getting the car from the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar and (2) of not getting a room in the Circuit House at Tezpur. May I inform the hon'ble Leader of the Opposition that placing a car at the disposal of any person involves a certain expenditure and unless and until the officer concerned has the authority to incur the expenditure, he cannot of his free will go on incurring expenditure. If he does so he will be asked by Finance Department to pay from his own pocket. It was perhaps for this reason, when there was no order from the Government to make arrangement for the visit of the hon. Member, that the Deputy Commissioner must have found it difficult to place the car at the disposal of the hon. Member.

Had the hon. Member, before he undertook his visit had he brought this matter to the notice of the Chief Minister or myself, we would have issued instruction to place conveyance at the disposal of the hon. Member. If this had been done, I know, that no Deputy Commissioner would have refused to provide such amenities to hon. Member for which he had authority to incur expenditure. That must have been the difficulty of the Deputy Commissioner which, I hope, the hon. Members, and particularly the Leader of the Opposition would appreciate. It is difficult for our officers to place vehicles at the disposal of non-officials not entitled to draw T. A. without orders from the Government. So unless and until he has the order, the Deputy Commissioner cannot incur the expenditure. Since I have taken charge of the Finance Portfolio I have become very strict and completely stopped incurring of unauthorised expenditure which if incurred has to be reimbursed by the officers concerned. If the hon. Members want to have any facility during their visit to any area it is better that they should inform us so that necessary instruction may be issued to the district officers concerned. When I took out the hon. Members in connection with the community project programme and I know that all possible amenities were placed at their disposal.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): I really did not want to bring this personal matter but I wanted to show the attitude of the officers. I know of cases where without orders from Government cars have been provided to some other persons.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): If the hon. Member brings specific instances to my notice I shall take necessary action. I only want the hon. Member.....

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: This was not the tone of the letter which the Chief Minister wrote to me.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: There is no question of difference. I was saying today that I do not find any reason why such facilities should not be provided. I only request the hon. Members to proceed in a proper manner. If we are informed and necessary directions issued to the Deputy Commissioner there would not arise any cause for complaint.

Secondly, so far as complaint for not being provided with accommodation in the Circuit House is concerned, I shall certainly make an enquiry. No person is supposed to remain in the Circuit House beyond the time he is required to stay at the

place in connection with his official duty. If the hon. Member had informed the Deputy Commissioner before-hand about his arrival and if the Deputy Commissioner had failed to provide him with accommodation, perhaps we could have taken action against him. As I find from his speech no information was sent.

There are many other things to which I would have liked to refer but as there is hardly any time left I shall try to deal with those matters when I get an opportunity after the budget has been presented and discussed by the hon. Members.

Many of my colleagues have taken part in the debate and they have replied to various matters raised by the hon. Members with regard to their departments. Yet there are two or three matters particularly concerning the general administration and refugees in regard to which I would have liked to give clarification if I had time to do so.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) :
So far as the border firing is concerned, I have suggested that the border force should be raised. But to this point nothing has been said so far.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance) :
I have already said that there are many points which remain to be replied. I shall try to deal with them during the discussion on the Budget.

The CHAIRMAN: I will put the amendments one by one.

The question is that at the end of the motion relating to the Governor's Address moved by Shrimati Komol Kumari Barua, the following be added:—

But it is regretted that Governor's Address fails (i) to indicate any concrete effective steps his Government might propose to take to put a stop to the repeated Pakistan firings on Assam borders and to recover possession of Assam village—Tukergram now being held by Pakistani Forces illegally.

(ii) To hold out any hope that his Government would make an earnest endeavour to bring about the integration of North East Frontier Agency and Naga Hills Tuensang Area with Assam.

(iii) To appreciate the great hardship caused to the people by soaring cost of living and the growing disparity of prices between agricultural and industrial commodities, and as a consequence, did not mention any measures to arrest the upward trend of prices, particularly of manufactured goods.

(The question was negated).

The CHAIRMAN: The question is that at the end of the motion relating to the Governor's Address moved by Shrimati Komol Kumari Barua, the following he added: (1) "But this Assembly regrets that the Governor's Address does not suggest any effective measures for the Defence of Indian Territory and the security of our nationals.

(2) That there is no mention of the hardships and difficulties experienced by the Tea Garden labourers who have been thrown out of employment due to laying off some of the garden in the district of Cachar.

(3) That the Address fails to suggest any effective measures to root out corruption in the administration.

(4) That the Address fails to record the failure of the Government to rehabilitate the Displaced Persons in this State.

(The question was negated).

The CHAIRMAN: The question is that at the end of the motion of thanks relating to the Governor's Address, moved and seconded by Shrimati Komol Kumari Barua and Lily Sen Gupta the following be added:—

But regrets that the Governor's Address does not contain a correct appraisal of the burning problems affecting the life of the people of the State and does not indicate a clear and well defined policy for their speedy and concrete solution.

(The question was negated).

The CHAIRMAN: The question is that at the end of the motion relating to the Governor's Address moved by Shrimati Komol Kumari Barua, the following be added:—

But regrets that

(a) The Address shows a lack of appreciation of the gravity of the food situation now prevailing in the State.

- (b) The Address entirely fails to mention the grave problem of unemployment prevailing in the State nor there is anything in regard to the solution of this great problem.
- (c) The Address entirely fails to mention about the grave problem of the improvement of the cattle wealth of the State nor it has shown any clear cut policy in respect of its solution.
- (d) The Address entirely fails to mention about the grave question of adulteration of the essential food stuffs and other commodities which has been a cause of the ruin of our health.
- (e) The Address entirely fails to mention about the Education Policy of the Government in regard to the Tea Garden labourers who come to the State in three years' agreement. The Address did not also mention about the Education Policy of the vast labour population of the State.
- (f) The Address entirely fails to mention about the protection of the weaker section of the society which has been laid down in the Constitution of India.
- (g) The Address entirely fails to mention about the Liquor Prohibition Policy of the Government.

Further :

The Address does not indicate any policy in regard to :

- (1) Solution of the problem of the half educated and matric plucked boys of the State.
- (2) Solution of the problem of corruption, favouratism and red-tapism prevailing in the State.
- (3) Improvement of the lot of the ill paid and half starved Lower Primary, Middle English and Middle Vernacular School Teachers of the State.
- (4) Compulsory and free education for Boys and Girls from the age of 6 to 14 years, as laid down in Article 45 in the Constitution.

(5) Proper development of trade and commerce in the State, which is very important and urgent matter for the improvement of the standard of the mass people.

(6) Woman education.

(7) Major Irrigation.

(8) Cottage Industries.

(9) Drinking Water.

The House divided.

Ayes—12

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| 1. Shri Bishwanath Upadhyaya. | 7. Shri Khagendra Nath Barbaruah |
| 2. Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya | 8. Shri Mathias Tudu. |
| 3. Shri Ghanashyam Talukdar. | 9. Shri Nilmoney Barthakur. |
| 4. Shri Gopesh Namasudra. | 10. Kumar Prokritish Chandra Barua |
| 5. Shri Hareswar Goswami. | 11. Dr. Srihari Das |
| 6. Shri Hiralal Patwary. | 12. Shri Tarun Sen Deka. |

Noes 41

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| 1. Capt. Williamson A. Sangma. | 9. Shri Biswadev Sarma. |
| 2. Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed. | 10. Shri Radhika Ram Das. |
| 3. Shri Rup Nath Brahma. | 11. Shri Larsingh Khyriem. |
| 4. Shri Debeswar Sarmah. | 12. Shri Girindra Nath Gogoi. |
| 5. Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tripathi | 13. Pu Lalmawia. |
| 6. Shri Hareswar Das. | 14. Shri Lolit Kumar Doley |
| 7. M. Moinul Haque Choudhury. | 15. Shri Sai Sai Terang. |
| 8. Shri Mahendra Nath Hazarika. | 16. Shri Chatrasing Teron. |

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| 17. Maulavi Abdul Matlib Mazumdar. | 30. Prof. (Srimati) Komol Kumari Barua. |
| 18. Shri Bhuban Chandra Pradhani | 31. Swami Krishnananda Brahmachari. |
| 19. Shri Bishnu Lal Upadhyaya. | 22. Shri Manik Chandra Das. |
| 20. Shri C. Thuamluaia. | 33. Shri Mohananda Bara |
| 21. Shri Dandeswar Hazarika | 34. Shri Molia Tati. |
| 22. Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika. | 35. Shri Narendra Nath Sarma. |
| 23. Shri Durgeswar Saikia. | 36. Shri Omeo Kumar Das. |
| 24. Shri Harinarayan Baruah. | 37. Shrimati Padma Kumari Gohain. |
| 25. Shri Hem Chandra Chakravarty. | 38. Shri Radha Kishan Khemka. |
| 26. Shri Indreswar Khaund. | 39. Shri Tajammul Ali Barlaskar. |
| 27. Shri Joga Kanta Barua. | 40. Shri Tamijuddin Prodhani. |
| 28. Shri Kamala Prasad Agarwala. | 41. Tankeswar Chetia. |
| 29. Maulavi Kobad Hussain Ahmed. | |

(The question was negatived).

The CHAIRMAN: Now I put the original motion moved by Shrimati Komol Kumari Barua.

The question is that the Members of the Assam Legislative Assembly assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the Governor for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver on this House assembled on 24th February, 1959.

(The question was adopted).

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A. M. on Monday, the 9th March, 1959

Shillong :
The 30th July, 1960. } R. N. BARUA,
Secretary, Assam Legislative
Assembly.

A G. P. (L. A.) No.244/60 2 5 -16-8-60