



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

That Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 10 A. M. on Tuesday, the 19th August, 1958.

PRESENT

Shri Dev Kanta Borooah, B. A., LL. B., Speaker in the Chair, the Nine Ministers, the Four Deputy Ministers and Eighty Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Pay-scale of the Under-Graduate Assistant Co-operative Officers

Maulavi JAHANUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari) asked :

*3. Will the Minister-in-charge of Co-operative be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that in the Schedule of the Assam Services (Revision of Pay) Rule, 1956, nothing is mentioned about the pay-scale of the Under-Graduate Assistant Co-operative Officers serving in the Co-operative Department ?
- (b) If so, what are the reasons for not considering the case of these Under-Graduate Assistant Co-operative Officers ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that to regularise the service of the Under-Graduate Assistant Co-operative Officers' post they are to appear before the Assam Public Service Commission as in the case of direct recruitment of Graduates in the said posts ?

- (d) Whether it is a fact that after passing all the test both the Graduate and Under-Graduate candidates are recommended by the Assam Public Service Commission for the posts of Assistant Co-operative Officers after due and careful consideration ?
- (e) Whether there is any difference in the duties entrusted to the Graduate and Under-Graduate Assistant Co-operative Officers ?
- (f) Whether Government propose to consider the case of these Under-Graduate Assistant Co-operative Officers who are still serving in the Department in the same footing with the Graduate Assistant Co-operative Officers ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Co-operative) replied:

3. (a)—Yes.

(b)—It was under consideration at the time of publication of the Rules. Revised rules have now been published.

(c)—Ordinarily, Assistant Co-operative Officers whether Graduate or Under-Graduate are appointed on the recommendation of the Assam Public Service Commission. Assam Public Service Commission regularises the appointment of only those Assistant Co-operative Officers who are appointed under regulation 3(e).

(d)—Yes. But this post is reserved for Graduates only. Under-Graduates are also appointed only when Graduates are not available.

(e)—No.

(f)—As stated against (b) above, the pay-scale of the Under-Graduate Assistant Co-operative Officers has since been revised to Rs. 100—6—160 (E.B.)—8—200 and it has already been notified in the *Assam Gazette*. It is under consideration of the Government to grant the pay-scale of Rs. 125 to 275 prescribed for the Graduate Assistant Co-operative Officers to those Under-Graduate Assistant Co-operative Officers who entered service prior to 1st October 1956 and have completed necessary training and are confirmed after condoning their educational under-qualification.

†**Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa):** Are the Government aware that the Under-Graduate Assistant Co-operative Officers are better field workers than the Graduate officers?

†**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Co-operative):** That is a matter of opinion, Sir.

†**Shri MOHIKANTA DAS (Barchalla):** What is the present pay scale of Under-Graduate Assistant Co-operative Officers?

†**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** Sir, the original pay was from Rs. 75 to 150. Now at the moment Government is giving them Rs. 100—200 and as I have already stated, the question of bringing them at par with the Graduate Assistant Co-operative Officers, *i.e.*, giving them a scale of Rs. 125 to 275 is under consideration of the Government.

†**Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY (Hajo):** Is there any other Government department which prescribes a different pay scales to different officers doing the same nature of works?

†**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** There are, Sir.

†**Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY:** Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to give the name of any such department?

†**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** In none of the departments under me that is so, but my impression is that there are departments under the Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is whether different pay scales are given to the same kind of officers.

†**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY:** I myself agree to the principle that the same kind of pay scale should be given for the same kind of work, and that is why I have myself taken up the matter for consideration.

†**Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY (Hajo)** : If the Hon. Minister agrees to this on principle then what stands on his way?

†**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Co-operative)** : No body stands on the way, but it takes time.

†**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister)** : As regards the scales of pay of different classes of officers, the Pay Committee made certain recommendations, and the scales of pay of most of the Government Officers are based on those recommendations.

Mr. SPEAKER : The question is what stands on the way of giving the same scales of pay to officers doing the same kind of work if the Hon. Minister agrees to this on principle.

†**Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA** : If you want to change the recommendations of the Pay Committee, you can hardly do it in respect of only one department ; the question of other Government servants working in different departments will also have to be taken into consideration. Therefore, there are sufficient difficulties on the way.

†**Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY** : My question is, Sir, whether there is any other Government department to-day where different pay scales are prescribed to the same class of officers within the same cadre.

†**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur)** : Is it a fact that the Agricultural Inspectors and Agricultural Demonstrators are getting different scales of pay for doing the same nature of work as the I. Sc. Agricultural Inspectors and Demonstrators are getting a different scales of pay from that of the Matriculate Agricultural Demonstrators and Inspectors?

†**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY** : Yes, Sir, there is some anomaly.

†**Mrs. JYOTSNA CHANDA (Silchar West)** : There is also a difference in the Education Department in respect of pay scales. In Middle Vernacular Schools, Normal Matriculates get a lower scale of pay than the Normal Matriculates in Middle English School.

†**Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar)**: May I know, Sir, when the House can expect a decision on the point the Hon. Co-operative Minister had stated to be under consideration?

†**M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Co-operative)**: As early as possible, Sir.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Construction of Bridges over the Hakua and Naljara rivers at Unneguri and Chukrungbari on the Sorbhog-Kahitoma Road

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog) asked:

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

(a) Whether Government consider the necessity of constructing bridges over the Hakua and Naljara rivers at Unneguri and Chukrungbari on the Sorbhog-Kahitoma Road?

(b) If so, when they will be constructed?

(c) Whether Government will construct cold weather bridges at Unneguri and Chukrungbari on the Hakua and Naljara rivers until permanent bridges are constructed?

(d) If so, whether they will be constructed during the next winter season?

Shri GIRINDRANATH GOGOI (Deputy Minister, Public Works Department) replied:

3. (a)—Yes.

(b)—As these bridges are not included in any scheme, the proposal has been included in the list of new projects to be placed before the next Assam Roads Communication Board meeting for their consideration and works will be taken up if and when this is recommended by them and funds are made available for the purpose.

(c) & (d)—This is not a completed road. The question of construction of cold weather bridges will be taken up on completion of all other works if volume of traffic will justify the same.

***Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog) :** When the construction of the road will be completed ?

***Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI (Deputy Minister, P. W. D.) :** The question of construction of the road will be placed before the Roads Communication Board, and the matter will be decided there.

Mr. SPEAKER : That means no decision has been taken about the construction of the road.

***Shri RAM NATH SARMAH (Lumding) :** May I know when the next meeting of the Assam Roads Communication Board is expected to be held ?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P. W. D.) :** Sir, at the present moment we have not contemplated to call this Roads Communication Board in the near future. The reason is this: That in order to complete all the works that are pending at present will take another span of 5 to 7 years and if we call for a meeting of the Assam Roads Communication Board at this stage, naturally hopes will be raised which it will be difficult to fulfil. So, if the hon. Members want that a meeting of the Assam Roads Communication Board should be convened under these circumstances, I will only gladly do it, but the progress of work is as I have stated.

Mr. SPEAKER : The meaning of what the Hon. Minister has stated is: he who does not hope, does not despair (*laughter*).

***Shri RAM NATH SARMAH :** Sir, how many sittings of the Assam Roads Communication Board have been held till now ?

Mr. SPEAKER : What the Hon. Minister has stated about the future, might also apply to the past.

***Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI :** For the information of the hon. Member, Sir, only four sittings were held in the past.

**Speech not corrected*

***Dr. SRI HARI DAS (Barpeta):** It has been stated that the question of construction of the road be taken up on completion of all other works. May I know, Sir, what does the Hon. Deputy Minister mean by "all other works"?

Mr. SPEAKER: The reply is : this is not a completed road. The question of construction of cold weather bridges will be taken up on completion of all other works necessary to complete the road.

***Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri):** It has been replied Sir, that the road will be completed if the volume of traffic justify the same. But Sir, volume of traffic may be expected when the road is completed.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think Mr. Barbaruah is not correct in his interpretation. The reply is: construction of cold weather bridges will be taken up if volume of traffic will justify the same.

***Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North):** What will be the specification of the road, whether it will be macadamised, gravelled or simple earth-work?

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, P. W. D.):** First of all earth-work will be done and then it will be gravelled.

Chief Minister's desire to make a Statement about the border situation

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): May I submit, Sir. Yesterday it was suggested by hon. Members of this August House that there should be a discussion about the border situation. With your permission, I propose to move a motion and make a statement in that respect on a date to be fixed by you.

I further submit that information has been received about the newspaper report regarding the prevention of flag hoisting on the 15th August at Bhagabazar in the district of Cachar. We have enquired into the matter and it has been found that the report is baseless.

Calling attention to Matter of Urgent Public Importance

Mr. SPEAKER: There is a calling to attention by Shri Mathias Tudu and Shri Prokritish Chandra Barua, under Rule 54.

***Shri MATHIAS TUDU (Gossaigaon):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the past years, though the number of Matric plucked students was very great, no murmur, no grumble among the students were heard because they got admitted into the schools again. But this year it has been found that the number of such Matric plucked students is more than fifty per cent. Among those unfortunate students some got re-admission in the same schools, but majority of them are still awaiting admission in the schools. The pity is that no school is giving them admission because they are plucked students. As a result these students are facing a great problem. What will be their fate? It is very natural that if nothing is done for them for their study, they will take recourse to some other means which may not be deserving at all. As a matter of fact, information has come to us from Gauhati and Karimganj that the whole student body is in great agitation because of this situation created by refusing them admission in most schools of the State. Sir, I consider it a serious matter, and hence the authority should be prompt in saving the situation by helping these unfortunate students. I therefore call the attention of the Education Minister for necessary action.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no scope for a debate according to the rules, but I can give certain information for the benefit of this House.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member can give any information provided he conforms to the rules. He can always help the House with any information under Rule 50, but this being a matter brought under Rule 54, I am afraid, the hon. Member cannot help the House with any information as desired by him.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North):
Everything depends upon the Hon'ble Speaker.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the hon. Member had asked for a debate under Rule 50 I could have permitted any other Member of the House to participate in that debate and help the House with any information. But in the present case I cannot give the hon. Members more than they asked.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Education Minister):**
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the hon. Member for raising this intricate matter. It is of interest to a large section of our people in the State and Government is also concerned with it. This year we got the information from the Registrar of the Gauhati University on the phone that 19,666 students sat for the Matriculation Examination and out of these 19,666 only 9,097 passed which is less than 50 per cent.

As regards Karimganj and Gauhati, it may be true that these particular schools are facing a difficult problem during this year ; but I take it that conditions are almost similar elsewhere also. Government is concerned that such a big number of boys who failed in the last Matriculation Examination should be mostly roaming about and that there is also the fact that certain boys who have failed in the Examination merely wasted these months intervening between the sitting of the Examination and the publication of the result and this has not contributed towards advancement of their studies and thus qualifying themselves towards passing their Matriculation Examination next year. Boys already weak in various subjects are getting weaker by the lapse of three months in their study. Now what is the position of the Education Department or for the matter of that the High Schools in regard to these plucked students ? Sir, it would be appreciated that no Headmasters would willingly refuse admission of their students who failed to pass the Matriculation Examination from their own schools. There may however some exceptions in case of one or two undesirable students but by and large the Headmasters are quite sympathetic to their students and they would like to admit all of them in their respective High Schools. But Sir, the position of our High Schools may be classified into three categories. The Schools in the first Category have no accommodation to offer to boys who have failed in the Matriculation Examina-

tion in addition to the boys who have been promoted from the next class below. The second category though they have some accommodation to open another section have not got the teachers and incidentally, Sir, it may be mentioned that the School Department gets only those persons as teachers who have no other chance in the other departments, because other departments other than school department pay higher salaries than what the school department could give. For instance, if 250 or 300 persons can be given appointments by the Co-operative Department, there is a disaster on part of the Aided High Schools. The Aided High Schools have to run with a deficit staff always. In a school where previously there were 6 or 7 graduates at present there are only 2 or 1½ graduates, I mean to say the half graduate is only doing part time duty in the school and the other half part of his time he is doing his work in some other department and therefore, the school department is suffering heavily for want of teaching staff. The third category is that the school department has neither sufficient rooms to spare for admission nor the teaching staff to teach the students and that is the most difficult position. Now what is to be done, we propose to advise that schools will try to open coaching classes for the plucked students to appear in the University Examination as private students. This is a most unhappy state of affairs but at the same time I may say that the resources of the State are not sufficient enough to make provision to accommodate all the students in the school who are clamouring for admission in High Schools or Engineering College at the present moment. The condition of the University is also not very satisfactory. The Gauhati University was contemplated to be a residential University but I have just now received a letter from the Secretary of the University Classes that it is not possible to find accommodation for more than 300 students. Students living at a distance of seven miles or more are actually required to get accommodation but I am sorry that even for such students accommodation cannot be given and in the town where the population is about a lakh there is actually great scarcity of accommodation for the students in the high schools. Sir, that is the position in Gauhati itself and with all humility I may submit that I belong to that category of people. I hope we shall all try to put our heads together and try to find out ways and means to solve these difficulties in spite of the present slender resources of our State and the present financial position of the Government of India. Therefore, I shall request the leaders of the various parties to put our heads together and to see what can be done to solve the present difficulties,

Supplementary Demands for Grants for the financial year 1958-59.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the List of Supplementary Demands for Grants and Supplementary Appropriation for 1958-59.

Mr SPEAKER : Motion is moved.

The Assam Panchayat Bill, 1958

Mr SPEAKER : There is a message from the Governor.

Raj Bhavan
Shillong
The 18th August, 1958.

I recommend under Article 207(1) of the Constitution of India that the Assam Panchayat Bill, 1958 be introduced and moved in the Assam Legislative Assembly.

S. FAZL ALI,
Governor of Assam.

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Minister, Rural Development) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg leave of the House to introduce the Assam Panchayat Bill, 1958.

Mr. SPEAKER : Motion moved is that the leave be granted to introduce the Assam Panchayat Bill, 1958.

(The question was put and adopted)

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Assam Panchayat Bill, 1958.

Mr. SPEAKER : Motion moved is that the Assam Panchayat Bill, 1958 be introduced.

(The question was put adopted.)

Now we have got the Resolutions.

Private Members' Resolutions

Further discussion on the Resolution to move the Government to launch a Pilot Scheme for the organisation of Labour Contract Co-operative Societies

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) :

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was speaking about the salutary effects that would come from the experience of this Resolution, namely the Organisation of Labour Contract Co-operative Societies. (At this stage the Speaker vacated the Chair and the Deputy Speaker occupied it).

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I feel that at the start the Government should launch only a Pilot Scheme instead of taking the matter on a large scale. It is better that the labour people should gain experience from the working of a Pilot Scheme first then gradually they shall be able to expand the sphere of activities of the Societies and when the time will come that the labour people will be able to organise themselves they can subsequently take the responsibility of the management also.

Now, therefore, the first salutary effect would be to give the recognition and the dignity of labour and no doubt this will ensure a useful place for the labour for national construction. So long as the workers who are actually in the field and doing the job, are not fully infused with the spirit of national construction it will not really help towards the development of national character. Sir, I have already said at the beginning about the labour participation and management of the Society and this will be a step forward from the want of exploitation of contractors and this will surely bring a sense of security and self-respect to the working class and this will be an encouragement towards solving the problem of unemployment for the manual labour and the organisation of this sort of society will also go a long way towards the solution of unemployment problem in our State. Every year a large number of young men are coming up from the villages. Their fathers and guardians used to depend for their livings on their lands, but as land is becoming scarce and the population is increasing, their sons can no longer depend on land alone for their maintenance. Therefore, these young men should be provided with alternative jobs and those jobs can be in the shape of industry or commercial business. These young

men will get their jobs and they will surely do their part and if they get a chance to organise themselves free from exploitation and free from indignity, the manual labourer will get a fillip for cultural development.

They will, because of their organised mode of life and organised mode of work, be able to develop clubs and schools, to have mutual discussions and debates and in various other ways also they will be able to get themselves educated on modern lines and will be able to raise their standard of cultural level. They will also get a fillip for organising themselves on their own initiative and under their own collective leadership. So, if we look from the point of view of labour alone we find that if such a scheme be really successful that will be helpful to the working class and the labour population.

Now, there may be raised certain questions, there may arise certain problems. It may be said at the very outset that these labourers even if they can organise themselves into their own co-operative societies where will they have the money, the capital which is necessary for taking up any big constructional work? As I have stated yesterday, if the Government really backs up such a scheme and if the Government becomes their friend to help them to form their organisation then the problem of finance may be solved. They may themselves give some amount of money from their humble contribution as members of this labour co-operative and as they will organise themselves into co-operatives and as it is the declared policy of the State Government as well as the Central Government to encourage co-operative societies they may also get help from the Government, from the Apex Bank, from the Reserve Bank, and so on. So, the problem of finance may be solved. I am of opinion that this problem will not be unsurmountable.

Then there may be raised another question or another problem as to how they will be able to quote comparatively low rates. We have seen even in our own State that there is a rule that no tender should be accepted which puts a rate without a reasonable margin of profit and yet the general practice in our State up till now has been that tender is given preference which quotes the lowest rate. The hon. Members of this House are aware of the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee in the past several years where the Committee has been

stating that this sort of procedure is wrong ; because for the sake of getting a contract a particular contractor may quote a rate where not only there is no margin of profit but apparently there is a loss and yet when the contractor takes up that work and when it is finished and when he gets the final bill paid it appears that he gets a handsome profit out of that. How is it possible ? It is possible firstly, because the materials that the contractor himself has to supply are generally those of inferior quality. If in the tender they say that they will be supplying wooden fittings of Teak they would place at best Gomary or Khakan. If it is stated in certain places that the ratio of sand and cement would be 4 to 1, in actual practice it is found that it becomes 8 to 1 or even 10 to 1. If there is a provision that there will be 3 weeks for curing a floor, they will surely not take three weeks and in about 3 days they will finish it. In this way and there are so many other ways and means whereby the contractors who quote lowest rate actually do the lower type of work and therefore though at the time of offering the tender they say that they would not make profit, in the long run they make huge profit primarily by cheating the Government and also by cheating the labourers. I know instances not in scores but in hundreds where the contractors engage labour promising very handsome wages and at the beginning they give some advances also ; but as work progresses arrears accumulate and after some weeks or months the labourers are kicked out and new men are brought in and the labourers being too poor to go to the labour court to get redress and many of them being also quite ignorant, quite illiterate, simply weep and curse their own fate and go away. It is how we see that in most cases quite a large number of those people who with the sweat of their brow, who with all the energy that they possess, build structures, make roads, construct bridges, themselves starve and die of various diseases owing to malnutrition. In this way those people on the labour of whom the State is having so many constructions and so much constructional activity really suffer and die. If there be a check to this and at least if there be an alternative to the present state of things then there will be some amount of benefit to the working class. If the class of contractors know that they do not behave well towards the Government under whom they take the contract and also towards the labourers with whose sweat of their brow they make profit then Government may give more and more encouragement to this kind of labour cooperative, and then perhaps the

contractors themselves also may be forced to behave better than they are behaving now. While I am saying this I am not saying that all the contractors are bad people. What I am saying is that this is the general state of affairs. There are exceptions no doubt.

Then there may also be raised another question. Supposing a few such co-operatives are formed and the Government backs them up, how those poor co-operatives be able to engage engineers without whom the work will suffer? I should like to say that to make a pre-condition for engagement of engineers in these things will be asking for too much. We know what a great dearth of engineers and technicians there is in our State. Not only engineers and technicians, just a few days ago we heard from the Education Minister who is also the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department about the great dearth of qualified teachers.

Well, it will be too much to say, when the schools are not getting sufficient number of graduates, there will be graduates in abundance for coaching classes. Similarly, it will be ridiculous to say, when Government itself is not getting qualified engineers and technicians, the private contractors and co-operative societies would be getting qualified and experienced engineers for their work. That will be asking for too much. So, I am not saying that simply because there will be some labour co-operative societies they will be able to bring in engineers of their own immediately. If I say so, that will be saying just like "if you have no bread why do you not take cakes?" But should this difficulty be a stumbling block in the way of popularising and initiating this sort of things? I beg to submit, Sir, no, it should not be. If they actually get organised, Government should help them with Government's own overseers and engineers to see that the works progress according to the plan, specification and design. As a matter of fact, the number of overseers, engineers, superintending engineers, additional chief engineers and other supervisory staff of the Government is increasing. I think they are meant for supervision and guidance of the these works; it is for them to see that the work is done properly. In the case of the co-operatives, they can play a double role; they can be a helping hand to these co-operative societies and at the same time they can stand as a watch-dog on behalf of the Government. So, when a particular work is assigned to such a labour contracte co-operative and when there are Government's own engineer and

overseers to look after it, they will play a double role, the role of helping the co-operative and the role of watching on behalf of the Government. That will in fact improve the work; that will also gradually help the labourers to gather experience. We have seen that there are so many successful contractors even in this State, who have not got any so-called qualified engineers and yet they do their work at least not worse than many foreign big concerns who have got very big and qualified engineers. We have, of course, some kind of weakness for anybody who comes from outside; if they show a little more smartness, can speak better English and can give a few jargons and speak a few good words, we think they are of a superior type than we are. I think, Sir that comes from a sense of inferiority complex. But as a matter of fact, even in the different constructional works in the State we have seen that outsiders, if we take the quality, are not necessarily better people and so far as our own contractors and our own technicians are concerned, they depend entirely on these works and they gradually develop the knack and learn the art. Those who now work as masons or *Rajmistris*, they do their job out of experience, these are matters more of practice than of theory and so we find that many labourers who have got the knack to learn with experience gradually develop as successful masons in spite of the fact that theoretically they may not be very much developed. The Taj Mahal was built centuries ago, but can even the Victoria Memorial, which was built with the resources of the British Empire at its back and with so much wealth at its hand, can even dream of comparing itself with the Taj Mahal? But the architects of Taj Mahal were not B. Sc. Engineers of the Glasgow University (*A Voice*:—One was French). There came French technicians, Persian technicians, Arabic technicians and others, but what I beg to say is that they had no specific degrees. Now a days we have got some kind of weakness for the “land of Saraswati” where anybody goes, remains there for a few months and have a dip in the “Saraswati Kunda” and come back as experts! We think that as soon as a man gets a sojourn of three months in England, America or some other foreign country he returns as an expert! A dip in the Thames is sufficient for becoming experts! Sir, I humbly differ from that point of view. I do not think that this sort of short sojourn makes a man perfect or qualified or an expert. I am not thereby saying that by going outside they do not learn anything. that there is no utility of a wide range of study and travel, I do not mean that. What I am stressing is that the most important

thing is the practical experience involved and this practical experience we find among the labourers themselves. So, I beg to submit that these labourers should be helped in getting more and more experience and should be helped also in knowing a little theory along with the abundant practice that they have. Government can do that if they mean to help any of these co-operative societies.

Now, this will mean not only helping the labourers, this will also have some salutary effect for Government itself. Firstly, this will guarantee a continuous flow of indigenous labour for our different constructional activities. We often hear complaint that there is always a dearth of indigenous labour in our State. On the floor of this House itself, we have oftentimes heard that our youngmen are loathe to manual labour, they want only white-collared jobs and so on and so forth. But I have come in contact with so many youngmen of our State; I have also seen them organising themselves into unemployed men's association and so on. They are offering themselves for any sort of work. The other day some such youngmen came to me and asked me to preside over a conference of theirs. I said "you better organise it among yourselves; what is the good of taking any politician in your organisation, be hered, pink or white? One thing may I ask you? Our Government spokesmen say you people want only white-collared jobs, you are not agreeable to do earthwork or to do the work of a carpenter or blacksmith and so on and so forth?" One of those youngmen replied "Sir, we want job, we are prepared even to cleanse the lavatories of those gentlemen who say so. All that we want is work. Let us be engaged in whatever job we are fit for." As a matter of fact, they have printed a leaflet. I have seen such a leaflet at Gauhati and also at Shillong. If we have now such a challenge from the indigenous Assamese youths we are here to prepare them for any sort of job and, I think the Government should take up that challenge. The other day the Honourable Minister in charge of Public Works Department was also pleased to take a spade in his hand and grace the occasion where some young men of our State did some road building work. So, Sir, a change has come to our youths. As a matter of fact, the Minister has expressed his admiration for our youths. A change in the mentality of our youths has come. We should look forward for such a change which is growing now. Might be there were many defects among ourselves,

but that is not the important thing. The important thing is not what is big today. The important thing is what is growing and the growing urge in the State is for work. The youths in the British administration who were disdained and who became 'Babus' thought to be an ideal profession instead of doing honest labour as they were used to be respected. We should now help the trend of dignity of labour to grow fast. If we can do that then there will be youngmen of better quality in our country and in our State. Yesterday I cited an example of such an instance. In the district of Sibsagar one gentleman has organised some youngmen to do earth work and so on. The gentleman is now a Member of the Parliament. I was told of another such instance. Perhaps he is Shri Baikuntha Singh. Under his leadership some indigenous youngmen as labours were organised in North Lakhimpur Subdivision. Perhaps there will be more such instances in our State itself. Now we should have sufficient wisdom and initiative to learn from these instances. There were mistakes committed in the past and those mistakes should be rectified now. We should try to encourage them and try to expand and intensify the urge. This will as I said, help the Government with the guarantee of continuous flow of indigenous labour and they will also guarantee against inferior materials and sub-standard work in terms of specifications and designs, because these associations will have a direct link not only to help but also to supervise and to check the work done. They will serve as concrete instances towards building a welfare State and a Socialist Pattern of Society. If the toiling people who are the real producers of the country and who do the labour either in the field or in the factories etc. do not get the initiative and respect, all the big schemes of a Socialist Pattern of Society will become drawing-room gossips and drawing-room parades. Unless and until the Government go to uplift the down-trodden working people there cannot be a welfare society or a welfare State. Therefore, I would like to recommend that Government should take up the matter. I have been very humble in my suggestion. I have not said that this should be the pattern cent per cent for the State immediately. I have not said that Government should immediately abandon the contractors. Let there be a pilot scheme and let there be just a humble beginning through the pilot scheme and through this humble scheme let experience be gathered and also lessons be learnt and through the lesson let us expand our activities further in future. Therefore, Sir, I hope and believe that this Resolution will get support from all quarters and from both sides of this House and I recommend it for acceptance by the House.

***Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Education)** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my Friend the Labour Minister will reply to this and I thought at least I should not take the valuable time of the House. Since the learned mover of the Resolution has mentioned my name, I think I should avail of the opportunity of my expressing appreciation of the boys and girls who did the splendid job on the 9th August last. Sir, I have no hesitation in saying that I have profound and abiding faith in our youngmen and women and my experience in this sphere is not quite negligible. Sir, you will be pleased to recall that in the Congress Session held in 1926 at Pandu our youngmen made roads, constructed houses and carried water and even washed clothes of our guests and members who came here. Since then I have been in close touch with our students and our rural youngmen and women. If properly handled they can render good service and I can also say that having a little knowledge and experience I have of volunteers in other States in India, I submit, our boys and girls are second to none in their eagerness and in their efficiency to render service. Last two years during Bijaya Dasami Day a small band of volunteers used to control traffic and I am pleased to say that they rendered as good service as trained Police men and in certain occasions much better. So, Sir, we hope that our people will take up the spirit of the Resolution which has been moved by our learned Friend and hon. Member of this House. In fact, I hope I am not speaking as for myself when I say that soon after taking over of the Public Work Department I have already issued instructions to our Public Work Department officers as well as I have spoken to the people in the villages which I have visited during the short period that roads and tanks cannot be made by other people from other parts of the country. I have in a way indicated to our officers that those who are unable to get things done by the local people should not be considered in a way to be very successful. Sir, I welcome to the very spirit of the Resolution. I hope that in the fullness of time our State will rise to the height which it deserves.

Thank you, Sir.

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I support the idea that lies behind this Resolution moved by my Friend. But the Resolution as it stands is something like being behind time because, for organisation of labour contract co-operative societies there is no need for

piloting a new scheme. The scheme is already there. Even my Friend the mover of this Resolution has said towards the end of his speech that such "Somabai" organisations are working in Sibsagar District. We have also such "Samabai" in North Lakhimpur subdivision. Sir, I also know that there was a big organisation in Goalpara and also in Dhubri subdivision. So from this I can say that the organisation is already there and the initiative of the people is already there. As I said, there is no need for the Government to pilot a new scheme the scheme is already there. But the Government should encourage this scheme. I can speak from my own experience regarding the formation of "Samabais" or labour contract co-operative societies as I had the privilege to organise some such in my own Subdivision. During the year 1954 when I was the Chairman of the Local Board of North Lakhimpur I took the initiative myself and organised such organisation—though not co-operative society in its correct meaning, but something of that sort where the people organised themselves to work on co-operative basis. In that year there was a heavy flood and in all flood affected areas people willingly came to work. At that time the then Finance Minister and also the then Local-Self-Government Minister went to see the work of these people and highly praised the people in public meetings. Sir, many used to say that our people are not willing to work or that they do not want work, but if a proper organisation is made and if the people are properly led, our people always come out to work and they are even doing earthwork gladly to a great extent. Many people say that our youngmen are not willing to do earth work and that is why this work is done by Biharis, people who came from a distant. But I can say from my personal experience that if our people are properly organised they will come forward to do this work also. In the year 1956 a big organisation was sponsored in my Subdivision under the leadership of our then A. P. C. C. organiser, Shri B. Singh. In that organisation about six thousand people came out for work and out of this six thousand people about four or five hundred people were organised in a camp at one place and took up Embankment and Drainage and Public Works Department earth works. In that organisation I myself participated and had the privilege of working along with those people. I found those people working very well and the Engineers of Government also praised their work very highly. In that year alone people did earth work to the tune of six or seven lakhs of rupees. So Sir, I think that if the people are properly organised and if the Government come forward and encourage them then these organisations will raise the standard of our unemployed people and can give them some work.

Sir, I was speaking only about earth work; but there are also some other works under the Embankment and Drainage and Public Work Departments which can be done by our people, by our unemployed youths who are now roaming without work and whom we say are worthless people. But there is one thing here which I want to draw the pointed attention of the House. In order to mobilise the people, if the initiative comes from the Government or from the Departments then the initiative of the people cannot be mobilised because we have seen in many cases that when the initiative comes from the Government officers or from some Government departments, the people generally do not come forward and sometimes in many cases they disbelieve the scheme also. So Sir, I think that if the Government encourages this scheme and if the scheme is sponsored by some non-official or semi-official organisations and Government also support it, as our Public Works Department Minister has just said as also our previous Public Work Department Minister said like that in public meetings that circulars were issued to all officers, to organise the people, but what do we find in practical implementation of these circulars? The circulars and the instructions are there, but practically speaking these circulars and instructions are not strictly adhered to by the various departmental heads. One of the main defects we have seen in this direction is that after hard and difficult pieces of work the department used to give to these societies or organisations but simple and easy works are given to contractors. Sir, if Government does not come forward and take strong steps to remove this defect, then only speeches here or lectures outside will not improve the situation. So, I urge upon Government to come forward to encourage this scheme; not only by speeches or lectures or circulars and instructions to their officers but to directly interfere in this matter so that we can properly organise our people for all kinds of work in our State. Now, what we have seen? I am sorry to inform you Sir, that in each subdivision and in each district several lakhs of rupees are spent each year in earth-work alone and in other small work which can easily be done by our people. What happens? As I have already said these easy and small works are always given to contractors but not to the Samabais, why? Circulars are already there. Instructions are already there in the Government offices but these are not strictly followed. So I think Government should come forward not with lectures or speeches only but by personal interference in this matter. Otherwise these co-operative societies, these working squads cannot get work. So, Sir, I think this is the only way by which we can mobilise our people, our huge manpower lying unused

and I think the Government will take up the matter in the right earnest. Of course it has been taken up in the upper level but in the lower level it has not yet been taken up in the right earnest as yet. I hope Government will take up this in right earnest and mobilise our people who are unemployed, to employ them in these works. With these words, I support the idea of this Resolution but the Resolution as it is moved cannot be accepted, because it will not be a pilot scheme. The scheme is already there. The Resolution should have been to encourage this scheme which is already there. Some non-official or semi-official organisations should be there to put through the scheme and mobilise our people. With these few words, Sir, I conclude my speech.

***Dr. RAM PRASAD CHAUBEY (Lakhipur):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very much pleased to support with heart and soul the principle of the Resolution moved by my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya. In this connection, Sir, I beg to add that we have been facing endless trouble from the closure of tea gardens in the district of Cachar which is known to most of us, and we have been also approaching the Government to find ways and means and we have also seen that our Government is moving the Government of India in this respect. But I am sorry to say that up till now nothing has been done in this connection. At last we have taken a move in forming a Sramik Kalyan Samiti, to run those closed tea gardens and we have started tentatively to work in two tea gardens and negotiations are going on about other two gardens. But there are various legal complexities, arising one after another. We are not being encouraged to do the work and there is doubt also whether we shall be able to fulfil the desire. In this connection, we request our Government to take some concrete steps so that we can serve these people otherwise it will not be limited to these four or five tea gardens, but it is quite clear about 25 per cent of gardens in the district of Cachar are going to be faced the same fate in the near future and at that time if our Government is not alert from now on it will be difficult for them to face and solve the problem and revolution is also apprehended. Now I hope it is quite clear that there may be co-operative; we may form them, we may register them, but unless and until Government is sincerely helping them, nobody will be able to run any such scheme. Sir, I am not going to say anything more, but I request the Government very earnestly that they should take the matter in serious consideration and to do something materially so that in the near future we may avoid the apprehended trouble. With these words, Sir, I support the principles of the Resolution moved by my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya.

Shrimati Lily Sengupta (Lohowal) :

মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মাননীয় সদস্য শ্রীযুক্ত ডাঙৰীয়া ডাঙৰীয়াই যিটো প্ৰস্তাব আজিৰ সদনত উপস্থাপিত কৰিছে—সি অতি প্ৰয়োজনীয় আৰু সময়োপযোগী হৈছে। অসমৰ যথেষ্ট সংখ্যক মজদুৰ প্ৰতিনিধিসকলে আজি মন্ত্ৰে মন্ত্ৰে উপলব্ধি কৰিছে—যে একোটা একোটা মজদুৰ পৰিয়ালৰ দুজন কাম কৰে আৰু বাকী ৪ জনে তেওঁলোকৰ উপাৰ্জনৰ ওপৰত নিৰ্ভৰ কৰিব লগা হোৱাত—তেওঁলোকৰ আধিক অৱস্থা দিনক দিনে বেয়াৰ ফাললৈ নাগৰি গৈছে। এই মজদুৰ সকলৰ সামাজিক, আৰ্থিক আদি সৰ্ব প্ৰকাৰৰ উন্নতি কৰি তেওঁবিলাকক আগবঢ়াই আনিবলৈ আমাৰ তৰফৰ পৰা যথেষ্ট সংগঠন মূলক কাম হাতত লোৱা হৈছে যদিও অন্য পিনে উদ্ভবহোৱা কিছুমান অসুবিধাৰ কাৰণে এই কাম্য সম্ভৱপৰ্য্যটক উঠা নাই। উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে মই কব বিজিছো যে চৈখোৱা অঞ্চলৰ বানপানী পীড়িত ex-Tea-garden মজদুৰ বিলাকৰ অৱস্থা যিসময়ত অতি শোচনীয় হৈছিল তেতিয়া আগৰ তৰফৰ পৰা তেওঁবিলাকক E/D বিভাগৰ মঠাউৰি বন্ধা কামত নিয়োজিত কৰিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰা হৈছিল। এই সম্পৰ্কে E/D বিভাগলৈ লিখা লিখি কৰি তেওঁবিলাকক কাম কৰিবলৈ দিবলৈ অনুমতি পোৱা গল। জেওৰাভেটা কাম, গানীবেগত মাটি ভৰোৱা কাম মানুহে কৰিবলৈ পালে; কিন্তু ডাঙৰ ডাঙৰ ঠিকাদাৰৰ হস্তক্ষেপৰ ফলত এই মানুহবিলাকে কাম কৰিব নোৱাৰা হল। তাৰ কাৰণ, ডাঙৰ ডাঙৰ ঠিকাদাৰ বিলাকে ঠিকা কৰাৰ তাল-বাৰি বিলাক ভালকৈ জানে আৰু বাকী বিলাক এইবিষয়ত একেবাৰেই অনভিজ্ঞ হোৱাত—লাভকৰিব নোৱাৰি এফালে কাম এৰিদিবলৈ বাধ্য হয় আৰু আন ফালে তেওঁলোকৰ জীৱন নিৰ্ব্বাহৰ কাৰণে কামৰো প্ৰয়োজন হয় আৰু অন্য কামো নেপায়। ইয়াৰ উপৰিও ঠিকা কামৰ কাৰণে যি বিলাক টেণ্ডাৰ মাটিচ দিয়া হয় সেই বিলাক এই মানুহ বিলাকে নেপায়। এইবিলাক কাৰণৰ কাৰণে, সেই সময়ৰ বিভাগীয় মন্ত্ৰী শ্ৰীযুক্ত সিদ্ধিনাথ শৰ্ম্মা ডাঙৰীয়াৰ ওচৰত অভিযোগ তোলাত তেখেতে সংগঠিত প্ৰতীড়িত মজদুৰ সকলক সৰু সৰু কাম নিদি ডাঙৰ ঠিকাদাৰক কামদিয়াটো বন্ধ কৰিবলৈ চাৰ্কুলাৰ দিয়ে। ইয়াৰ পিচত ডিব্ৰুগড়ত মজদুৰ কল্যাণ সমাজ সমিতি গঠন কৰি কাম কৰিবলৈ হাতত লোৱা হয়। আপুনি জানে যে যেতিয়া ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰ বিবাঠ গৰাখহনীয়াই প্ৰলয়ঙ্কৰী ৰূপ লয় আৰু তাৰ বন্ধাৰ কাৰণে ভেটা বান্ধিবলৈ যি শ্ৰমৰ নেতৃত্বত শ্ৰীযুক্ত আনন্দ কুমাৰ হাজৰিকা, শ্ৰীধৰেশ্বৰ ডাঙৰীয়া ভূমিজ সকলে এই শ্ৰমিক সকলক সংগঠন কৰি প্ৰশংসনীয়ভাৱে কাম কৰে।

ইয়াৰ বাহিৰেও আমি মজদুৰ সমবায়ৰ জৰিয়তে চাহ-বাগিচাৰ কাম বিলাকো কৰিবলৈ মত লৈছো আৰু এই সম্পৰ্কে বিভাগীয় মন্ত্ৰী শ্ৰীযুক্ত ত্ৰিপাঠী ডাঙৰীয়া ডিব্ৰুগড়লৈ যাওতে তেখেতৰ দৃষ্টি গোচৰলৈ আনোতে তেখেতে চাহ বাগিচাৰ কামৰ সম্পৰ্কত আৰু E/D বিভাগৰ কামৰ প্ৰসঙ্গত শ্ৰমিক সমবায়ৰ জৰিয়তে কাম কৰাটোকে উৎসাহ দিছিল। সমবায় গঠন কৰা হল; কিন্তু তাৰ বেজিষ্ট্ৰেচনৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰৰ তৰফৰ পৰা বিশেষ পলম হোৱাত অৰ্থাৎ বেজিষ্ট্ৰেচন নোহোৱাত এই সমিতিৰ মানুহে কাম পোৱাত ব্যাঘাত ঘটিল। ইতিমধ্যে শ্ৰীযুক্ত বিশ্বদেৱ শৰ্ম্মা ডিব্ৰুগড়লৈ যাওতে তেখেতকো এই কথা জনোৱা হয়। তেখেতে এই সমিতিবিলাক সোনকালে বেজিষ্ট্ৰেচন কৰিবলৈ টানি ধৰে আৰু তাৰ পিচত এই সমিতি বিলাক 'বেজিষ্ট্ৰেচন' হয়। ইয়াৰ পিচতো নানা বৰুৱাৰ অসুবিধা আহি পৰে। সমিতিৰ তৰফৰ পৰা প্ৰস্তাব বিলাক পঠোৱা হয়; কিন্তু কাৰ্য্যকৰী নহয়। সমিতিভুক্ত শ্ৰমিকে কাম নাপায়, বাহিৰা মানুহে কাম পায়। চৰকাৰে সহায় কৰিলে বা কাম হাতত ললেইহে এই ক্ষিণ খন কাৰ্য্যকৰী হ'ব তাত যোৰ যথেষ্ট সন্দেহ আছে। আজি যি বিলাক মজদুৰৰ লৰাছোৱালী কামৰ অভাবত দুখ পাইছে সেই বৰ্গিছাৰে কৰ্তৃপক্ষক অনুৰোধ কৰি কোনো ফল হোৱা নাই। এওঁলোকৰ প্ৰতি বাগিচা কৰ্তৃপক্ষৰ আন্তৰিকতা অলপো নাই। ফলত মজদুৰে ঠিকা কাম সদায় পাই আছে কিন্তু স্থায়ী মজদুৰক দিবই নোখোজে। তাৰোপৰি ডাঙৰ ডাঙৰ ঠিকাদাৰৰ আজি

वि प्रतियोगिता हैछे तत ऐइ मञ्जद वर ठिकार आचनि उठि ताडि गर, गरि तत
सुद्धे तार नाथाके आरु जिना अकिठार वा कोम्पानीर आधुनिक सहायग नेपार।
गतिके ऐइविनाकर उपशम इवले चक्कार त्रकर पर। निद्रि उपदेश आरु
'टार्क'नार दिरा प्ररौजन, नहने ऐइ सगवारविनाकर कान कर कठिन है परिछे। ऐइ
प्रसङ्गत आञ्जिन ऐइ सदनत आनोचनार आनोडप त्रुनि एकाते चक्कार आरु
आनकाने बाइइजर दृष्टि आकर्षण कनिले। चक्कार त्रकर पर। निगण निरुपे-
सुछे टार्क'नार बाहिन नहने कान समाधान होरार कोनो आशाई नाई। सेइ कारणे
मई चक्कारक टाणि अनुरोध जनाओ येन अति सोनकारे ऐइ मरुष टार्क'नार आवि
करे।

मञ्जदर बाहिनीर कथा बादेइ दिओ। देनिने पाओ वे E. and D. विडगर
किछुमान निद्रि प्रति समरमते गारव मानुछे नेपार। मई तेओरात देनिछे वे सेइ
विद्रि नोपोरार कारणे मधुविद्रु ठिकानासकने समरमते टेओर दिन नोरावे।
डिवरुगडर पर। तेओराते गानीवेगर योगान दिरा काम, आनकि देओर दिरा
आदि कानो ऐइ श्रेणीर ठिकानावे पोरात माछे माछे बहते नाथा पाय। तेओनोके
किर ऐइबोर कान पाव नोरावे? इगार कारणे छेछे वे डाडर डाडर ठिकाना-
सकने कोनो कोनो जिना अकिठर सहाय ले इशुकरुप करे। ऐइ बहवेइ
गानीवेगर कानत दह हेजार टकार एतो ठिकार वि वेमेञ्जनि हैछिन, सेइ मधुके
मई (E. & D.) Superintending Engineer क अनुरोध करे। येन आरु होबेवे
केकिरु तनप करे, तनपक नय। मई चक्कारक अनुरोध करे। येन आरु होबेवे
विद्रि दिन, बाते स्थानीय अनुष्ठानबोरे ठिका पाव पाव। चक्कारे सेइबोबे
सकनो बकरम सहाय-अनिवाओ येन करि दिन। इगारके के नोब बरुवत गानवनि
माबिछे।

Shri BISWANATH UPADHAYAYA (Patharkandi):

माननीय उपाध्यक्ष महोदय,

हमारे मित्र माननीय श्रीगौरीशंकर भट्टाचार्य महोदय ने सदन में जो प्रस्ताव रखा है
उसका मैं हार्दिक समर्थन करता हूँ और साथ ही इस अत्यन्त आवश्यक तथा महत्वपूर्ण
प्रस्तावपर दो-चार बातें बोलना चाहता हूँ। समवाय समिति (Co-operative)
सहाय्य कैसा और कितना मिलता है, इसका प्रत्यक्ष उदाहरण मैं आपके सामने रखना
समिति (Co-operative Society) की स्थापना की चेष्टा की थी। चाय बगान के
इस समिति का नाम था Cachar Tea-Labour Multipurpose Co-opera-
gई थी। इस संस्था का उद्देश्य यह था कि छोटे हुए गरीब श्रमिकों को कोई कामस
संस्था की registration करने के लिए हमने बड़ी कोशिश की। किन्तु मुझे बण
इस संस्था की registration नहीं हो सका। क्या यही है सरकारी प्रोत्साहन

सरकारी अधिकारियों ने इस संस्था के नियम (Bye-laws) के बारे में पूछ-ताछ
की। किन्तु ये Bye-laws उन्हें अच्छे नहीं लगे। इसका परिणाम यह हुआ
कि इस संस्था को स्वीकृति नहीं मिली अर्थात् registration नहीं हो सकी। हमने
देखा कि Bombay तथा अन्यो अन्य राज्यों की सहकारी समितियों की नियमावली ऐसी

ही है। अगर भारतीय यूनियन के किसी और राज्य की समवाय समिति ये नियम (Bye-laws) हो सकते हैं तो आसाम में उन्हें रखने में क्या आपत्ति हो सकती है? सरकारी अधिकारियों ने समिति के नियमों का (Bye-laws) का मतलब नहीं समझा और हमसे पूछा कि इसका क्या अर्थ है। हमने मतलब को समझा दिया। फिर भी उनके दिमाग में वह नहीं बैठता। हमने देखा कि झगड़ा करना बेकार है। झगड़ा करने से हमारा समय ही नष्ट होगा। और मजबूर होकर हमें अपनी स्कीम छोड़ देनी पड़ी।

सन १९५३ में इस संबन्ध में हमारे सदन में एक माननीय सदस्य ने सवाल भी पूछा था। उस वक्त मंत्री महोदय ने जवाब दिया था कि इस समवाय समिति के registration के बारे में विचार किया जा रहा है। क्या आज तक विचार ही हो रहा है? क्या सरकारी प्रोत्साहन का नमूना यह है? एक संस्था की registration करने के बारे में विचार करने में ही १५ साल लग जाय तो वास्तविक प्रोत्साहन कैसे हो सकता है?

सरकार का कहना है कि ऐसे कामों के लिए श्रमिकों का अभाव है। किन्तु दर-असल यह बात नहीं है। आज हजारों आदमी बेकार बैठे हैं। कोई काम-धंधा न होने से ये बेकार लोग दर-दर की ठीकरें खा रहे हैं, और भूखों मर रहे हैं। ऐसी अवस्था में यह कहना कि काम करने के लिए आदमियों का अभाव है, ठीक नहीं है। मैं कहता हूँ कि आज हमें यह काम सौंपें। आदमी मैं दूंगा। दर-असल काम करनेवाले लोगों का अभाव नहीं है।

हमने देखा है कि हमारे यहाँ जो काम होते हैं, वे बिलकुल खराब हैं। हमारे यहाँ जो कूएँ और पुल बने हैं तथा बन रहे हैं उनका काम बिलकुल ही बेकार और निम्न-कोटी का है। अपनी Constituency में ही मैंने यह देखा है कि कूएँ और पुल के कामों में १० प्रतिशत काम खराब हैं। वहाँ सिमेन्ट के बदले नदी की मिट्टि का उपयोग किया जाता है। पुलों में अच्छी तथा टिकाऊ लकड़ी नहीं दी जाती है, मामूली लकड़ी से ही काम चलाकर सरकार को धोखा दिया जा रहा है। हम कहते हैं कि किसी श्रमिक समवाय समिति (Labour Co-operative Society) को ये काम दिये जायें तो इस तरह की बेईमानी और धोखेबाजी नहीं होगी। ऐसी संस्था को काम दिया जाय तो वह मजबूत तथा टिकाऊ होगा। ठेकेदार लोग कम rate या कम पैसे लेकर काम लेते हैं। किन्तु अधिक लाभ के लिए बेईमानी से काम लेते हैं। इसलिए सरकार को चाहिए कि श्रमिक समवाय समिति (Labour Co-operative Society) जल्द-से-जल्द गठित करें, और ऐसी संस्थाओं को ही काम दें। वैसा हो, तो हमारा काम अच्छा होगा।

हमने यह भी देखा है कि आसाम में सभी कामों के लिए बाहर से श्रमिक लाए जाते हैं। अपने यहाँ के Brick fields को श्रमिक काम करते हैं वे सब बाहर के हैं। गोरखपुर तथा दूसरी जगहों से श्रमिक लाकर ये काम कराए जाते हैं। मेरा सुझाव है कि इस तरह बाहर से श्रमिक लाना बन्द करना चाहिये। आसाम में बहुत से श्रमिक बेकार बैठे हैं। उन्हें ही काम देना चाहिये।

श्रीभट्टाचार्य महोदय का यह प्रस्ताव बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण है। मैं इसे हार्दिक समर्थन करता हूँ और सरकार से निवेदन करता हूँ कि सरकार इस बारे में उचित कारवाई करें जिससे हमारी श्रमिक समवाय समिति को प्रोत्साहन मिले और वे अपना काम कर सकें।

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra): মাননীয় উপাধায়ক মহোদয়, শ্রীযুত গোবীন্দৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াই শ্ৰমিক শমসান পতিস্থান কৰাৰ কাৰণে যিটো প্ৰস্তাৱ দাঙি ধৰিছে সেই প্ৰস্তাৱটো মই সমৰ্থন কৰিছোঁ। শ্ৰমিক শমসান গঠিতৰ দুটা ফাল আছে—প্ৰথমতে আমাৰ দেশৰ মানুহক মাটি কম আৰু চৰকাৰেও মাটি দিব নোৱাৰে; দ্বিতীয়তে যিমান মানুহক চাকৰি দিব লাগে কাৰখানা বা আন অনুষ্ঠানত যিমানকৈ চাকৰি দিব পৰা নাই। ফলত খেতিয়ক সকলৰো বহু উপাৰ্জন কমি গৈছে।

আমাৰ যিবিলাক কলকাৰখানাৰ বনুৱা আছে সেই সকলক দুটা শ্ৰেণীত ভাগ কৰিব পাৰি; এটা শ্ৰেণী হল চৰকাৰী বনুৱা আৰু আনটো হল উদ্যোগৰ বনুৱা। এই বিলাকৰ কিছুমানে চৰকাৰৰ কালৰ পৰাই হওক বা উদ্যোগৰ কালৰ পৰাই হওক কিছুমান সুবিধা পাইছে। কিন্তু আন এক শ্ৰেণীৰ বনুৱা আছে সেই সকলে কোনো কালৰ পৰাই সুবিধা পোৱা নাই।

উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে মই কও যে Department বিলাকত যিবিলাক অকাৰিকবি বনুৱা আছে, তাৰ এক শ্ৰেণীয়ে কাৰখানাৰ কালৰ পৰা সুবিধা পাইছে; কিন্তু যিবিলাক contract labour আছে, সেই সকলে চৰকাৰৰ আইনৰ সুবিধাৰ পৰাও বঞ্চিত হৈছে আৰু কণ্ট্ৰাক্টৰ তৰফৰ পৰাও বঞ্চিত হৈছে।

আমাৰ ডিগবইতে যিবিলাক বনুৱা আছে সেই বিলাকৰো ঠিক সেয়ে অৱস্থা। মই জনাত তাত প্ৰায় ১০ হাজাৰ contract labour এ কাম কৰে। তেওলোকক কোম্পানীৰ পৰাও একো সুবিধা নাপায়; চৰকাৰৰ তৰফৰ পৰাও একো সুবিধা নাপায়। এই বনুৱা সকল যেতিয়া স্থায়ী হোৱাৰ সময় হয় আৰু স্থায়ী কাম পোৱাৰ সুবিধাৰ কাৰণে

Registration ৰ সময় পৰে তেতিয়া হঠাতে কাম বন্ধ কৰে। অৰ্থাৎ হয়তো ১৮ পৰা ৫০লৈ বনুৱা সকলক Register কৰিব লাগিছিল, কিন্তু শুচাই দিয়াৰ ফলত ১ গৈ ৫১ হয় গৈ। গতিকে সেই সকলো সুবিধাৰ পৰা বঞ্চিত হয়। এনেকৈ যিবিলাকে ফাল্টু বনুৱা হিচাবে কাম কৰে সেই সকলৰ কোনো সুবিধা নাইকিয়া কৰি পেলাইছে।

সেই কাৰণে মই কও যে যোৱা পঞ্চ-বাৰ্ষিক পৰিকল্পনাত নাগৰিকৰ গড়ে উপাৰ্জনৰ কাৰণে ২৫৩ টকা ধাৰ্য কৰিছিল আৰু দ্বিতীয় পঞ্চ-বাৰ্ষিক পৰিকল্পনাটো ৩৮৩ বাৰ্ষিক কৰিছে। গতিকে যদি এনেদৰে এক শ্ৰেণীৰ বনুৱাক শোষণ কৰি থাকে তেন্তে দেশৰ সৰ্বসাধাৰণৰ অৱস্থাৰ উন্নতি কেনেকৈ হব পাৰে?

মহোদয়, অসমৰ জনসাধাৰণ পিচ পৰা; তেওলোকৰ আৰ্থিক উপাৰ্জন বৰ কম। অবশ্যে উদ্যোগৰ পৰিসৰ যদি বৃদ্ধি কৰিব পৰা হয়, তেন্তে হ'তো আমাৰ বৰ্তমান নিবনুৱা সমস্যা কিছু পৰিমাণে সমাধান হব পাৰে; কিয়নো আমাৰ মাটিহীন খেতিয়কক মাটি যে দিব পৰা হ'ব তাৰ কোনো আশা নাই। গতিকে Land Reforms Commission ৰ জৰিয়তে যেনেকৈ মাটিৰ Intermediary বিলাক নোহোৱা কৰিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিছে তেনেকৈ মই ভাবো, আমাৰ মাটিহীন নিবনুৱা আৰু শিক্ষিত নিবনুৱা সকলৰ আৰ্থিক উপাৰ্জন বঢ়াবলৈ হলেও চৰকাৰে তেনে ধৰণৰ এটা ব্যৱস্থা গ্ৰহণ কৰি সহায় কৰিব লাগিব।

অসমত যিবিলাক শ্ৰমিকবাহিনী তৈয়াৰ হৈছিল তাৰে মই নিজেও এজন কৰ্মী আছিলো আৰু আমাৰ শ্ৰীগিৰিজ গগৈও এজন মুখ্য কৰ্মী আছিল। বৰ্তমান আমাৰ মুখ্য মন্ত্ৰী শ্ৰীবিমলা প্ৰসাদ চলিহা আৰু শ্ৰীপ্ৰফুল্ল বৰুৱা যথাক্ৰমে বৰ সেনাপতিহে যথেষ্ট কাম কৰা হৈছিল। এনে ধৰণৰ শ্ৰমিক-বাহিনী গোৱালপাৰা, গৌহাটী, তেজপুৰ, গোলাঘাট,

শিৱসাগৰ, আদি সকলো গাইতেই সংগঠিত হৈছিল। তাত সকলো ধৰণৰ বনুৱাই কাম কৰে। শিৱসাগৰ মহকুমাৰ কুলপানীছিমা অঞ্চললৈ যদি যায় দেখিব যে প্ৰায় সকলো বনুৱাই এই অনুষ্ঠানৰ জৰিয়তে সকলো কাম কৰে। আৰু শাৰীৰিক শ্ৰমৰ মৰ্যাদা বাঢ়িছে। আজিও তেনেকৈয়ে কাম কৰি আছে। আৰু তেওঁলোকৰ যত্নত ভালেখিনি বাজহুৱা অনুষ্ঠানো গঢ়ি উঠিছে।

মই আশা কৰো, চৰকাৰে যেতিয়া সমাজবাদী ৰাষ্ট্ৰগঠনৰ কথা ভাবিছে তেতিয়া দেশৰ নিবনুৱা সমস্যাৰ সমাধানৰ কথা ভবা অপৰিহাৰ্য্য। চৰকাৰ আৰু এই অনুষ্ঠান বিলাকৰ তৰফৰ পৰা আনৰ সমগ্ৰ শ্ৰমিক শক্তি সংগঠন কৰি এই Contract Labour সকলে যিবিলাক সুবিধা পাব লাগে, সেই বিলাক দিয়াৰ চেষ্টা কৰিব লাগে।

আমাৰ যি Co-operative Department আছে তাত দৰ্কাৰ হলে আৰু এটা Wing কৰি হলেও নিবনুৱা সমস্যা সমাধান কৰাত সহায় কৰিব লাগিব। দেখিছো, চৰকাৰে Co-operative পাতিছে কিন্তু তাৰ Registration Bylaw বিলাক এতিয়াও হৈ নুঠিল। যোৱাৰ বাজেট অধিবেশনতো এই কথা আলোচনা কৰা হৈছিল। এই Bylaw বিলাক নোহোৱাৰ ফলত বহুতে বেজিষ্টাৰ কৰিব নোৱাৰি হতাশ হৈছে। কোনখিনিত কেৰোণ লাগিছে কৰ নোৱাৰে। তাৰ ফলত Co-operative যিভাবে আগ বাঢ়িব লাগিছিল সেইভাবে আগবঢ়া নাই। সেই কাৰণে দৰ্কাৰ হলে ইয়াৰ কাৰণে বেলেগে এটা wing কৰিও এই শ্ৰমৰ মৰ্যাদা বন্ধা কৰি সুবিধা বিলাক দি আমাৰ ৰাজ্যৰ সৰ্ব্বজনীন কৰ্মাণসাধন কৰিব লাগে আৰু দেশবো উন্নতিসাধন কৰিব লাগে।

মই বোদ্ধাইত দেখি আহিছো যে তাত বনুৱা সকলক সংগঠন কৰি কামত লগাইছে। কোঅপাৰেটিভ সংগঠনৰ যোগেদি কেনেকৈ city ত ঘৰসজাৰ নিচিনা কামো কৰিছে।

মৰানত Multipurpose Co-operative Schemes ৰ জৰিয়তে তেল কোম্পানীত কিছু বনুৱা নিয়োগ কৰাৰ বাবে সক্ষম হৈছে। কাৰণ বনুৱাৰ দৰ্কাৰ হোৱাত কৰ্মী সকলে আলোচনা কৰি তেনে ধৰণৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰাত বহুত দুখীয়া মানুহক সহায় কৰাত সুবিধা হৈছে। ঠিক তেনেকৈ কিছুমান নিবনুৱা বাগিছাৰ বনুৱাকো কামত লগাই উপাৰ্জনত সহায় কৰিছে। নিবনুৱা ৰাঃ দুখীয়া মানুহ সকলক সহায় কৰাত সুবিধা হৈছে। গতিকে মই প্ৰস্তাবটো সমৰ্থন কৰিছো আৰু আশা কৰো চৰকাৰেও যাতে প্ৰস্তাবটো বিবেচনা কৰি অতি সোনকালে কাৰ্য্যত পৰিণত কৰিবলৈ ব্যৱস্থা কৰে এয়ে মোৰ অনুৰোধ।

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I support the Resolution moved by my Friend Shri Bhattacharyya and I consider his Resolution to be a very appropriate one at the present stage of development of our State. Sir, I am also glad to find the general support from all sides of the House extended to this Resolution. But I am at a loss to understand why there is a qualified support as some of the Members while supporting the underlying principle of the Resolution did not want to support the idea of having a pilot scheme on the line suggested. The Resolution has a broad significance because in our State we have seen that in most of the public works activities as well as development

activities we have to depend upon labour from outside. Under the Embankment and Drainage Department whenever any embankment has to be constructed we have to entirely depend on the labour from Bihar for earth cutting. If it is a work of constructing a road or repairing a road our people do not come forward and we have to rely on other people. It is also known that every year we spend to the tune of about 5 crores of rupees on these activities and the maximum gain out of them is derived by people from outside, whether they are contractors or labourers. What is the reason for this? The main reason, we must admit, is that our people are not accustomed to the type of work that is necessary for such constructional work. Even for the very elementary work of cutting the earth and carrying it over the head to construct an embankment our people feel shy. This psychological barrier or inhibition has to be got over. It is possible to do so if we also make them feel that they are not labourers or servants under somebody but they are masters of themselves. The psychological barrier of the people of our State may be called a vanity which means that "we do not want to work under somebody"—is still lingering. I do not say that this is the only reason; but that is one of the main reasons. Therefore, as soon as we are able to bring those people into an organisation or co-operative and make them feel that they are not workers under some contractors but they are masters on their own activities and they will get benefit of their work and nobody can deprive them of their due dividend. Then perhaps a new psychology, a new desire to work in such ventures will be generated. Therefore, Sir, when the State is facing a food crisis and when the purchasing power of the people is going down every day and to give encouragement to our people to go for public works activities in order to augment their purchasing power it is all the more essential to inculcate this habit of working in a co-operative manner. I do not think that it is possible to have co-operatives all over the State at the instance of the Government. I think co-operatives should grow voluntarily and spontaneously and then only the co-operative will have a real meaning. But at the same time Government have certain responsibilities to discharge. Government have to see their way to make a pilot scheme successful. If I have understood my Friend Mr. Bhattacharyya correctly, it is not his intention that after this pilot scheme proves successful then Government should introduce it all over the State. The idea perhaps is that there should be such a scheme immediately in all the districts which will attract the attention of the people who will see their way to make it

possible to work in a new manner and thereby we can increase our own welfare and wealth. That is what he means. Therefore there should be no objection to this idea of having a pilot scheme. I know and have seen at Sibsagar the organisation of Shram Bahinis which deserve all encouragement and help. But it will not be incorrect to say that they also require some amount of guidance which is still lacking. To see them how they work I got down once from my car and found that they needed some guidance so that their work may be compared with that of other labourers. In most of the places between Jorhat and Sibsagar where they were working their work was not found to be up to the mark for lack of proper guidance. So, here I think the State Government has a responsibility to discharge to encourage such kind of organisation and to make them successful. If that is done then I think this type of organisation is bound to increase in number and ultimately the welfare of our State. Sir, the idea of the Resolution is to eliminate the contractors. I do not say that it will not be possible to eliminate some type of contractors. In some cases it is possible to entrust the work to labourers themselves and then there will be a new chapter in management of work by labourers themselves. We are going forward in the direction of making our State a socialistic pattern of society and so there will be no meaning if labour is not given its due place in management of things. When this type of co-operatives are formed and when they take up such type of work then they will get the idea and opportunity to manage things by getting trained and by and by it will be possible for them to take up work in major ventures.

When I speak about labour management one matter comes to my mind regarding the problem in many tea gardens. It has been brought to my notice that the Bidyanagar Tea Estate is facing a problem as it is not running profitably and I am told that for that reason there is an apprehension that there may be retrenchment of labour. If that happens then that will be a very sad day for Assam, as once that process is started it will and we do not know where it will end. When labour is forthcoming we should encourage them to form co-operatives. I do not know whether labour in Bidyanagar is forthcoming; if they are not forthcoming we may inculcate in them the idea of forming a co-operative to run the garden under their management. I know in Bombay a big cinema house was closed down, but the workers there told the management "No, you cannot do that; we shall run the cinema house ourselves" and they ran it and ran it very well. Similarly, it may be

possible for the workers of the derelict tea gardens in Assam to take up the management of the gardens. After all, Bidyanagar is not a very big garden and with Government help it might be possible for the workers to run it. In this way, we can extend this practice to other enterprises also and thereby it may be possible for us to have participation of the people not as mere labourers but also as manager-labourers. Thus they will get a new fillip and a new stimulus to do the work.

Sir, Mr. Bhattacharyya speaks about a pilot scheme. Up till now, this idea has remained a floating idea. We might have tried, as Mr. Sarma said, with some students at Orhat and with some people at Sibsagar. But this idea has to be given a serious trial and in that matter the State has to take the initiative. If we can show to the people that this scheme is worth trying, that it is beneficial to the people, then similar things may be taken up elsewhere and thereby we will write a new chapter in the developmental activities of our State. We will write a new chapter in the matter of responsibility of the labourers in the development of the State. With these few words, I support the Resolution and I hope the Minister concerned will accept it as it is.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabar):

উপাধায়ক মহোদয়, মাননীয় সদস্য শ্ৰীযুত গৌৰীশঙ্কৰ ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য ডাঙৰীয়াই আজিৰ এই সদনত যিটো প্ৰস্তাব দাঙি বৰিছে বাস্তবিকতে তাৰ মূল ভাৱটো সমসোপযোগী আৰু আকৰ্ষণীয় হৈছে। বিশেষকৈ আজি আৰু স্বাধীনতা পোৱাৰ পিচত শ্ৰমৰ মৰ্যাদা, আমাৰ মানুহৰ অস্তবত, উদ্ৰেক কৰা আৰু অক্ষুণ্ণ ৰখাৰ প্ৰয়োজনীয়তা আহি পৰিছে। এই নগ্নে, যদি অসমত অনুষ্ঠিত শ্ৰমিক সমবায় সমিতি বিলাকক চৰকাৰৰ কাৰৰ পৰা অধিক মূল্য দিয়া যায় তেনেহলে ব্যক্তিবিশেষ বা ব্যক্তিগত ঠিকাদাৰসকলৰ তলত কাম কৰাতকৈ শ্ৰমিকসকলৰ শ্ৰমৰ মৰ্যাদা বাঢ়িব আৰু আমাৰ কাম বুলি গন্য কৰা মনোভাৱটো আতৰিব আৰু সমাজতাত্ত্বিক সমাজ ব্যৱস্থাপন লগত খাপখোৱাকৈ আমাৰ পৰিণ সমাজখনৰ পৰিবৰ্ত্তন ব্যৱস্থাত সহায় হব। সেই কাৰণে মই ভাবো যে প্ৰবল বেগে বাঢ়ি অহা সমাজৰ নিবনুৱা সমস্যা সমূহ কেৱল এটা 'পাইলট প্ৰজেক্ট'ৰ দ্বাৰা সমাধান হব নোৱাৰে। এই ক্ষেত্ৰত, চৰকাৰে আমাৰ বিয়াট জাতিগঠন কাৰ্য্যত—বহু সময়মান সমাধান হব আৰু শ্ৰমিক সকলৰ আৰ্থিক উপাৰ্জন বাঢ়িব। এই কথা মই নিজে ভুক্তভোগী হিচাবে উপলব্ধি কৰি আপোনাৰ সকলৰ আগত নিবেদন কৰিছো আৰু প্ৰকৃত পক্ষে ই শ্ৰমিক সকলক ব্যক্তিগত ঠিকাদাৰ সকলৰ শোষণৰ পৰা মুক্ত কৰিব পাৰিব যদিহে চৰকাৰে এই সম্পৰ্কত আন্তৰিকতা দেখুৱায়। এই ক্ষেত্ৰত শ্ৰমিক সকলক সহায় দিব পৰা কোনো আইনেই এতিয়ালৈকে হোৱা নাই। শ্ৰমিক আইন লোৱা প্ৰয়োগ নহয় বুলি কলেও অত্যাধিক বাহিৰৰ মানুহক কামত লগাইছে আৰু আন হাতে থলুৱা শ্ৰমিক সকলৰ পাতৰ ভাত অানে কাটি নিছে। ই বৰ পৰিতাপৰ কথা। বহু ক্ষেত্ৰত স্থানীয় ঠিকাদাৰ সকলৰ

পৰিবৰ্ত্তে বাহিৰৰ ঠিকাদাৰ সকলেহে সুবিধা পায়। এই ক্ষেত্ৰত এতিয়ালৈকে বাহিৰৰ ঠিকাদাৰ সকলেই আগভাগ লৈ নিজকে প্ৰতিপত্তিসালী কৰি আমাৰ দেশৰ শ্ৰমিক শ্ৰেণীক নিষ্ঠকৰ কৰিছে। এই অৱস্থাৰ পৰিবৰ্ত্তন আনিবই লাগিব অৰু চৰকাৰে ইয়াৰ বিহিত ব্যৱস্থা হাতত লব লাগিব।

আৰু এটা কথা। শ্ৰমিক সমবায় সমিতিবিলাকৰ গঠনৰ দ্বাৰা অকল আলিবন্ধা বা ঘৰ নিৰ্মাণ কৰা কাৰ্য্যই নহয় শ্ৰমিক সকলে অনেক নিজৰ কাম সুখ্যাতিৰে কৰিব পাৰে আৰু ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰাই কোনো কোনো মালিকতকৈও অধিক পটুতাৰে চাহ-বাগিচা পৰ্য্যাপ্ত পৰিচালনা কৰা যায়। উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে মই মাননীয় সদস্য-সকলৰ ওচৰত জনাওঁ যে যোৰহাট অঞ্চলৰ পানবাৰী আৰু বৰটেকটা চাহ-বাগিচাৰ পৰিচালনাৰ কাম এসময়ত শ্ৰমিক সকলৰ দ্বাৰাই সম্পাদিত হৈছিল। তেতিয়া কোনো বিষয়ত কোনো গুণে চাহ-বাগানৰ মালিকতকৈ বাগিচা পৰিচালনাৰ কাম নিকুন্ন নাছিল আৰু সকলো বকমৰ—কলম দিয়া, কোৰ মৰা, পাততোলা-আদি কাম সুচাৰুৰূপে চলিছিল; কতো কোনো বকমৰ অনিষ্ট নোহোৱাকৈ বাগান চলিছিল। আকৌ ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰ বিহিয়াটিং বাগিচাও চাৰিয়েলিষ্ট পাৰ্টিৰ কৰ্মীয়ে এক অংশক ধৰ্ম্মঘট কৰাওতে ধৰ্ম্মঘটৰ সময়ত মজদুৰ সকলৰ দ্বাৰাই সুন্দৰকৈ পৰিচালিত হৈছিল। ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰাই প্ৰমাণ হয় যে আমাৰ শ্ৰমিক সকলৰ শ্ৰমৰ দায়ীত্বজ্ঞান নিশ্চয় আছে আৰু ই স্বেযোগ-সুবিধাত সক্ৰিয় ভাবে পৰিষ্ফুট হব পৰা নাই। চৰকাৰৰ বিহিত ব্যৱস্থা হলে আমাৰ শ্ৰমিক সকলে শ্ৰমৰ লগতে তেওঁবিলাকৰ কাৰ্য্যদক্ষতাও দেখুৱাব পাৰিব। দ্বিতীয় পৰিকল্পনাৰ অন্তৰ্গত ভাৱত চৰকাৰে Labour Participation in management আঁচনিৰ অন্তৰ্ভুক্ত কৰিছে। এইমতে আমাৰ উত্তৰ পাৰে এখন আৰু দক্ষিণ পাৰে এখন দুখন বাগিচাত যুটীয়া পৰিচালনা চলিছে। অসম চৰকাৰৰ দ্বাৰা পৰিচালনা কৰা অনুষ্ঠানতো এই যুটীয়া পৰিচালনা পুৰৰ্ত্তন কৰিব লাগে। চৰকাৰৰ আঁচনি চৰকাৰে নিজেও কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰি দেখুৱা উচিত। সেই ফালৰ পৰাও কোনো ব্যক্তি বিশেষ ঠিকাদাৰক প্ৰাধান্য নিদি যদি শ্ৰমিক সমবায় সমিতিৰ মৰ্য্যাদা অক্ষুণ্ণ ৰখাৰ ব্যৱস্থা চৰকাৰে কৰে তেনেহলে এই শ্ৰমিকবিলাকক কামত নিয়োগ কৰোতে তেওঁ-বিলাকৰ কাৰ্য্যদক্ষতাও তাৰ পৰা পাব আৰু যদি এই মৰ্ণে গুৰুত্ব আৰোপ কৰা হয় তেনেহলে—এটা পাইলট প্ৰজেক্টৰ দ্বাৰা দেশৰ বিশেষ কাম নহব বুলি নিশ্চিত কৰ পাৰি আৰু দেশৰ বৃহৎ স্বার্থৰ হকেহে বৃহৎ ব্যৱস্থাৰ দিহা কৰাৰ প্ৰয়োজন আৰু অকল পাইলট প্ৰজেক্টৰ কামেই আমাৰ আদৰ্শ হব নোৱাৰে।

কিন্তু তাতোকৈ এটা ডাঙৰ কথা হৈছে যিটোৰ কাৰণে মই চৰকাৰক বিশেষ ভাবে অনুৰোধ কৰো। সেইটো হৈছে চৰকাৰী বিভাগীয় মুৰব্বী সকলে সমবায় সমিতিবিলাকক সুবিধা দিব নোখোজে। অৱশ্যে তেনে প্ৰতিষ্ঠানক দিলে প্ৰথমতে ব্যক্তিগত ঠিকাদাৰৰ লগত ফেৰ মানিব নোৱাৰিব পাৰে। কিন্তু পিচত তেনে প্ৰতিষ্ঠানেও অভিজ্ঞতা অৰ্জন কৰি উপযুক্ত হবগৈ।

আজি চৰকাৰে নিবনুৱা সমস্যা সমাধানৰ বাবে প্ৰচেষ্টা চলাই আছে। অকল খেতি আৰু চাকৰিৰ দ্বাৰা এই সমস্যা সমাধান কৰা টান হব। সেই কাৰণে চৰকাৰী মুৰব্বী সকলে এনে শ্ৰমিক সমবায়ক প্ৰথম সুবিধা দিব লাগে। এইবোৰৰ জৰিয়তেও নিবনুৱা সমস্যা সমাধান হব। মই নিজে এখন তেনেকুৱা সমবায়ৰ পৰিচালক। মই দৰখাস্ত কৰিও ঠিকা নোপোৱাত মই নিজে এটা উদাহৰণ। ব্যক্তিগত ঠিকাদাৰে কিন্তু অতি সহজে ঠিকা পায়। সে কাৰণে মই কওঁ যে দেশত এনে শ্ৰমিক সমবায় গঠন হব লাগে আৰু সেইবোৰে দেশপ্ৰেমেৰে অনুপ্ৰানিত হৈ কাম কৰিব লাগে। সেই আশা কৰো এই প্ৰস্তাৱটোৰ সাৰমৰ্ম গ্ৰহণ কৰি আমি দেশত বাইজৰ মাজত এনে অনুষ্ঠান গঠন কৰা দৰকাৰ। এইটো চৰকাৰে নিজে কৰা গতেৰে হাতত ললে সফল নফলিব পাৰে কাৰণ চৰকাৰে বাধ্যতামূলক ভাবে মানুহক কামত লগাইছে বুলি কবলৈ প্ৰতিবাদ হব পাৰে। সেই কাৰণে ইয়াক সামাজিক অনুষ্ঠান হিচাপে হাতত লব লাগে আৰু চৰকাৰৰ সকলো বিভাগে সহযোগ কৰিব লাগে।

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) :

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak a few words on the basis of my experience on this Resolution. I have heard from the hon. Members who took part in the discussion. It appears that there is no difference at all between the Members about the labour force which needs urgently to be organised to use for the improvement of the country. Sir, the most part of the speech made by the hon. Member from Gauhati inspired me and I am one with him. But a point was raised by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition that when the spirit of the Resolution was accepted or supported, why the Resolution as it is cannot be adopted in this House. The hon. Member from Gauhati himself confessed that he suggested a pilot scheme on experimental basis to gain experience to organise labourers elsewhere. My opinion is that one scheme in a particular place will not be sufficient. If the Government contemplates to launch a pilot scheme then such schemes should be launched in different district headquarters so that the people of different districts could have an idea and could participate in such schemes. Sir, the remarks very often passed by persons having responsibility about the people of Assam that our people are averse to labour, then I disagree with them. The only difference is that that people of Assam do not like the mentality which is generally offered by the contractors who come from outside the State or local contractors. The treatment which is extended to the labourers by the contractors is some what different and do not benefit with socialist pattern of society. Shri Sarbeswar Bordoloi from Titabar said that if there is any dispute on payment with the contractors only by use of force the labourers can have the real payment and naturally such contractors will not prefer labourers who are vigorous and healthy and who have got strength in them. Those who have got the mentality of subordination will only be preferred by the contractors as labourers and so naturally they want the labours from outside the State to utilise them for certain months and then to send them back after completion of the work. Sir, my personal experience indicates that the people of the villages usually come forward for manual labour if we can make them realise that it is their own work. In the last winter I myself associated in such works and I find that within two or three months in a year in a particular Rural Panchayat areas the village youths contributed labour worth about Rs.40,000 although the Rural Panchayat could offer them only Rs.1,500. or so. If the people come forward to work voluntarily, I see no reason why they would not work on real remuneration. Sir, we find that local labourers are not wel-

comed and I see no reason why they are not welcomed in different enterprises. In the tea garden works during scarcity season I myself approached some of the Managers of tea gardens to give manual labours to the villagers so that at least they can have their daily food, because those people could not have their food as their granaries were also empty. But, Sir, those Managers did not welcome the idea. On the other hand they entrusted the works to some contractors who engaged labourers which were probably not Indian nationals. Sir, in our every private enterprise, I find in my own district that the local workers are not welcomed and the proprietors generally recruit labourers from outside the State. I am speaking of manual labourers and unskilled labourers.

Sir, it appears that the industrialists who have started industries in our State during the last few years and advocate improvement of the State with the intention of increasing their wealth and not with the intention to improve the local people. The door for employment of local worker in such industries in my district becoming narrower.

Therefore Sir, it is of urgent necessity that Government should come forward to organise our labour force and utilise them for national reconstruction. By our utilising them for our national reconstruction they will have their livelihood. Sir, the experience gathered by our leaders and our workers in Shrambahini and the experience gathered by other members I think will be helpful in finding out a good scheme and in bringing out an organisation of our labour force so that they can be utilised for our national reconstruction. Sir, if we do not pay proper attention to these people I fear that there will be chaos in the society because, you will agree with me Sir, poverty is at the root of almost all kinds of crimes, because people if they cannot earn their bread they may take recourse to anti-social activities. So, Sir, I agree with the speeches made by hon. Members in this House to organise our labour force. The only difference between us and the mover of this Resolution is that he wants that a Pilot Scheme be initiated for experimental purpose. A Pilot Scheme will be insufficient. If a scheme is to be adopted, at least one scheme for each district headquarters can be taken up by Government.

With these words Sir, I conclude my speech.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I welcome most heartily the purpose with which Mr. Bhattacharyya has moved this Resolution and tried his best to bring home to this august House the urgency of this Resolution. Now Sir, this House know that there were many voluntary organisations under the name Shramikbahini and similar other appellations. One such was founded by our present Chief Minister in Sibsagar district. He was the first member of this organisation, and he worked for it for sometime. There were also other organisations in different parts of the State. But these organisations have not been able to work continuously because of certain difficulties. As for instance, some youngmen formed themselves into an association and tried to get contracts under the Public Works Department. Some of their contracts were accepted but for various reasons tenders of many could not be accepted ; this is not only in the sphere of the Public Works Department but in the sphere of Local Boards also, under instructions from Government. The tempo is rather going down. Now, the intention of Mr. Bhattacharyya is that a Pilot Scheme should be initiated by Government. The intention of Mr. Bhattacharyya is that the initiative of rousing our young generation whether literate or illiterate to take to labour, should come from the Government. Therefore, he has mentioned here only a pilot scheme. Other hon. Members have said that a pilot scheme somewhere in Shillong or Gauhati or somewhere in Assam would not be sufficient. Therefore such pilot scheme should be initiated—some say in every district, I say in every subdivision—we can at least reduce the sphere to a subdivision. The principle of this Resolution is sound. But the difficulty is that there is no time for amendment to this Resolution. So Sir, I hold the view that there should not only be one pilot scheme, but there should be more pilot schemes at least one in every subdivision. Therefore, I would request Government to accept the principles of this Resolution and formulate schemes which would conform to the wishes of the hon. Members as expressed in this House. This Resolution has got various merits. First of all, we are faced with unemployment problem. As you have heard earlier in this House what the Education Minister said this morning that there are thousands of plucked matric students and there are also thousands of undermatric students. The number is growing every year. Every District Congress President knows how they have to face this problem. This is a matter which we can ignore only at our own peril. We as responsible member of the society, having moral obligations to our constituents should devise ways and means how to tackle this very serious problem.

I say it is a very serious problem, because unless we can give these unemployed youngmen food, unless we can give them employment, these our sons and daughters might be led astray and do many undesirable things. We know that for want of employment the people can do anything which we would not like. As a matter of fact we find there are instances how these young people were doing things which are certainly not welcome or pleasant. Besides these—there are also many young boys and girls who had left schools reading only up to class VI or VII or VIII who are unemployed. This has added to the problem.

This is a tremendous problem and we should all devise ways and means to solve it otherwise these unemployed young-people will create an embarrassing situation. So we have to solve this problem anyhow. Therefore, Sir, this is a very good proposal atleast towards the partial solution of this big problem. The task is an uphill one no doubt, but we will have to solve it. Some hon. Members said in course of their speeches that our boys are educated in such away that they may not like to do the job of a labourer. But we must always be able to analyse the causes why they should feel shy to do manual works. We the Congress men, Congress workers and others should set example by initiating such works—doing these works ourselves and thus instil in them a sense of dignity of labour, and in this way we can remove this feeling from their mind, so that they would not also hesitate to take to manual work. We the Members of Legislative Assembly and others who cherish the good of the country at heart must initiate such manual work, so that our younger generation may be inspired to take to manual labour. Sir, it is a great pity that crores of rupees are being taken away from this State by people from outside. Our leaders like Shri Medhi and Shri Chaliha in their various speeches have been exhorting the youngmen even to take to manual labour, for the purpose of capital formation. There were some such organisations composed of youngmen but these organisations it seems, vanished in thin air and little or no progress was made. Therefore, Sir, this Resolution is an important one. The spirit is already there and so we should accept the principles of this Resolution and the Government would be pleased to take the initiative, so that in every Subdivision at least one such co-operative societies may be formed and our youngmen may be induced to join it and do the work themselves. Similarly, instructions should be issued to the Departments concerned to give special facilities to such co-operatives. We should do our best to encourage our co-operative movements. We must forget the past history of this movement ; the past may not be

encouraging. But now we should put great stress on the co-operative movement, Government is pledged to give special facilities to such co-operative societies. Therefore, Sir, with all the emphasis at my command I request the Government to accept the principles of this Resolution and take steps for the purpose of starting such pilot schemes at least one in each Subdivision. Sir, our country was built up by our forefathers by their manual labour. We cannot forget that, we cannot despise manual labour; if we do so our future is doomed. We should work out this scheme and I am sure this will to a great extent minimise the acuteness of the unemployment problem, and if we do not take steps to solve this big problem a situation beyond our control may arise.

I, therefore, congratulate my Friend Shri Bhattacharyya for placing before this House a very valuable resolution. I am also glad that many hon. Members of the House have taken keen interest in it. I hope Government will take all steps so that the scheme may succeed.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the first thing that astonishes me is that all the Members have spoken that the spirit of the Resolution is very good—very sound, so I cannot understand why they cannot accept the Resolution (*laughter*). If the spirit is good, if the essence is very good, then why can it not be accepted? If the wordings needs some modification then some amendments may be put forward and that can be easily done, but for that reason the Resolution should not be thrown over. I cannot understand what is the reason behind it. Perhaps, there is no sincerity in their own words or they are not speaking as dictated by the silent monitor.

Adjournment

(The House then adjourned for lunch till 2 P. M.)

After lunch

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH: Sir, I thank some of the Members including Members of the ruling party that they have given their verdict in favour of the Resolution. Although some of the Members are not in favour of this Resolution, I say that their grounds that have been put forward here are not sound. For instance some of the Members hold the view that the underlying principle of the Resolution is very sound but there are some defects. One defect according to some is that the Co-operative Societies as if according to this Resolution are not suppos-

ed to be established in every district. I fail to understand whether those Members who hold this view have really gone through the Resolution in toto. There is no provision like that in the Resolution. Co-operative Societies may be formed in every district, every village, in every mile and furlong. But there should be one comprehensive scheme for the whole of the State of Assam. Under the scheme as envisaged under this Resolution, there may be many co-operative societies; there may be co-operative societies in every district, every village, every mile and every furlong. To these Members who opposed this Resolution on this ground, I would request them to go through the Resolution once again. Some other Members again hold the view that if co-operatives are formed by Government, initiative of the labourers will go. Well, Sir, it is most astonishing to hear that the contractors can requisition the services of the labourers in such huge numbers but our Government cannot do so. How is this? If the contractors can collect labourers and our benign Government fail to do so, then I would call upon the Government to resign, to vacate their seats making room for the contractors from Government benches (Voices—Why, why?) Because you fail to arouse the enthusiasm of the labour force; because of the mentality that you cannot do anything but only the contractors can. Therefore you are quite inefficient. Sir, during the different phases of the national movement, in 1931, in 1942 thousands and thousands of people of India courted imprisonment; faced lathi charges of the Police, hundreds and thousands of people sacrificed their lives at the bidding of the Party now ruling the country many went to gallows with smiling face and now after independence if they cannot even arouse the labourers to a sense of co-operative value, they cannot enthuse the people to form co-operatives amongst themselves, well, Sir, then I would call upon them to vacate their seats. Certainly there must be grave reasons behind this apparent inability. It is the inherent weakness that is now prevailing in the heart of every person now at the helm of affairs. What is that inherent weakness. They have become gradually very much self-centred and highly selfish. That is why the people are gradually declining to follow their lead. But in the years 1921, 1931 and 1942 they could command the whole of India. It is most astonishing Sir, this ruling party which once could successfully command the whole of India, now fail to command even the labourers. There must be some inherent defects and the members of the ruling party will do well to make a self introspection. But I for one cannot agree that the labour force will not come out in huge

numbers if the co-operative societies are formed by the Government. Everthing should be organized by the Government, the initiative should be of Government's. Why should we look to the face of Mr. Barbaruah, Saikia or Gupta or Guptas? I do not say that the people should look to the Government; there is the Government and the Government should take the initiative. But unfortunately some holds the view that this Resolution has come behind the time. It has been stated that somewhere some co-operatives were being formed here and there and works were being done, contract were being taken from Government and in this way things are being done without being organized by Government. Sir, we cannot pull on in this way indefinitely. The whole labour force should be organized under the leadership of the Government and in that case we can expect security, and justice. Now the labourers are left in the hands of the contractors who take away the major share of the money earned by the labourers in the form of profit. Why should we allow our labourers to be exploited by the contractors, why should our Government remain as casual observer to this sorrowful spectacle? I think Government should come forward to save the poor souls from the clutches of the greedy contractors. If, however, we want to make this country a paradise for the contractor, well, Sir, then I do not like to say anything. But if you want to proceed in this matter indefinitely, then make it clear to the people; tell them that here in this state everything will be done by the contractors, our State will be a contractor's paradise and Government will do nothing but sit tight. If that is made clear, then I am satisfied.

Another thing, Sir, we here see that the co-operatives that have been already formed are also not working in the truest sense. So Sir, the co-operative societies that we now want to form, let us form them in such a manner so that the spirit of co-operative may be observed in toto. Co-operatives are formed now in the line of limited companies. That is one defect. Another defect is when these co-operatives are formed Government is not giving them any help or Government is not helping them when such help is necessary. There are many instances of such indifference on the part of the Government. For example, in Mathurapur one co-operative was started for the benefit of the landless people there but as it was started by the peasant and not by Congressmen it received no help whatsoever from the Government. And what more? This being a concern of the non-Congress peasants the Police pursued it at every step and tried to make

it unworkable. Sir, when our ruling party is pledged to a socialist pattern of society the need of co-operatives should be emphasised. Everything should be brought within the fold of co-operative society and everything should be organised and conducted at the initiative of co-operative society. I do hope that Government will not hesitate to accept this innocent Resolution as it indicates that large number of labours that are unemployed now are easily available in the countryside and all these labours should be organised and made to work in a co-operative way. That will go a step forward in the solution of our unemployment problem. This will create enthusiasm among our young folk and help towards the establishment of a socialist pattern of society, towards the establishment of a Panchayat Raj in our country. All the nation-building activities of the Government will remain inactive if the people cannot be roused from their slumber. If the labour can be organised, I can say to-day or tomorrow our country will march forward and our State will not lag behind as at present. With these few words, Sir, I conclude my speech.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to drop only a few thoughts in regard to this Resolution. I support the Resolution because it is a simple one and it can be put into practice by the Government in various ways. The object of the Resolution is to help workmen in playing an effective and important role in the economic development of the community. We have two classes of workmen in our State as everywhere, the employed workmen and unemployed workmen. The employed workmen may be organised in such a way that they will not come to a stage where they will declare strike and cause stumbling block to the various industries and other works in the country. The other class of workmen, namely the unemployed workmen are a great waste to the country and therefore they should be given work and be made to work for economic development of the country. It is very important to make the people work. One who does not work is a burden to the society. So it should be the duty of the Government to make everybody work. They should be gathered and organised in such a way as to make it possible to put all of them under employers and train them some time so that they may be enthused to work together for the sake of sharing the profit of the work between themselves. There are possibilities of forming co-operative societies in that way. The Resolution says that there should be labour contract co-operative societies. There may be many kinds of societies, there may be, a co-operative

society for the sake of digging earth and carrying earth, as my hon. Friend, Shri Mohi Kanta Das has said that this kind of co-operative society would attract those young men in Assam who are not willing to take to earth cutting and earth carrying. Then there may again be co-operative societies for the sake of taking sub-contracts from the contractors and thereby make some profits for the workmen themselves and gradually they will become contractors themselves.

Secondly, the Resolution recommends the Government to launch a pilot scheme for the organisation of such co-operative societies. It is a kind of scheme which will serve as an example and give encouragement to our workmen and make them work together so that every one of them would get the profit derived from such work. That is possible to be done. Such kind of a scheme should be taken up by Government. They can start a big farm on co-operative basis in Shillong or in Gauhati or in any other place in the State as a beginning and teach the workmen to form into co-operative societies and all of them work under the guidance of the Government, under the teachings of co-operative societies leaders. Sir, there are different ways of doing things. But let a pilot scheme be launched by Government in some place and make workmen combine together and work for the common benefit of them all. That will be a step forward towards the economic development of the whole community, and will serve as an example to our vast manpower to combine together and work together. In this way workmen in different parts of the State may be encouraged to combine together and do any kind of work which will bring profit to them all. From my experience of the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills district I may say that many workmen have no work, most of them are remaining unemployed because they do not get work to do. There are many people in the Bhoi area and the border areas of this district who are suffering untold miseries for want of work and who are practically starving. So if Government can start some work as envisaged in the Resolution that will benefit the whole area. Let this work be taken up and organised by the workmen themselves and let Government teach them in such a way that the working class may know that the profit so realised by them will be shared amongst themselves. No doubt Government have started various schemes in different places to ameliorate the condition of the people. But I may say that the pilot scheme suggested by my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya may not be of one nature or shape, therefore, let such a scheme also be given a trial and started in different places for

the benefit of the working class community. Sir, I consider this Resolution to be very important, therefore, I hope Government should start this scheme in order to save the people from becoming poorer and poorer. If such a work is not done, I am afraid, it will be very difficult for the country to progress. Sir, another thing I can see that if the workmen are not employed, they will give trouble to the country and not only that even a revolution may come from the workmen. Therefore, the only way to join together the workmen and to make them happy is only by giving them employment and this can be done by teaching and helping them how to be able to organise themselves and to stand on their own feet. If the working class can organise amongst themselves some sort of co-operative society, surely there will be found employment for those unemployed workmen. Unless the poor and unemployed are employed, they will starve. This Government, the Congress Government should not fail to try to start some kind of a pilot scheme for the benefit of the workmen themselves. I may say that this sort of work may be started at Nongpoh or in the border area where workmen in large number are unemployed. So also this kind of work may be started at Dibrugarh or Sibsagar or in some other places where there are large number of workmen who are unemployed and this will no doubt give great impetus and encouragement to the working class community. In that way everybody will be employed and the country may also progress. Even the workmen in the big companies, for example, the tea garden companies, also be encouraged to organise themselves into some sort of co-operative societies and this will no doubt bring happiness to the working class. In that way the question of giving trouble to the companies will not arise, and this will prevent strike. This will, to a great extent, save the Government from trouble and unnecessary expenditure. Sir, I consider the Resolution of my Friend to be very important therefore, I hope the Government will try to start a scheme for the benefit of the working class and subsequently, this will go a long way towards the solution of the unemployment problem in the State. With these few words, Sir, I support the Resolution and hope Government will accept it.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) :

Sir, may I not know what will be the view of the Government ?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That will be the last reply.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : Sir, according to the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House, the Mover of the Resolution gets the right of reply and not the Minister. The position is that with your permission, the Minister may give his statement and after that the Mover may get a chance to reply. In this connection I would like to draw the attention of the House to Rule 284 of the Assembly Rules which says—“Mover's reply concludes debate : subject to the provisions of sub-rule (3) of Rule 283,” which says “A member who has moved a motion may speak again by way of reply, and if the motion is moved by a private member, the Minister concerned may, with the permission of the Speaker, speak (whether he has previously spoken in the debate or not) after the mover has replied”. Here therefore, before the Mover's reply, the Minister with your permission may speak something. I would, therefore very much like to hear the Minister if of course, it is your pleasure to permit the Minister to speak on the Resolution because on that will very much depend my reply to the various points raised by the hon. Members of the House.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Will the Minister-in-charge speak ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour) : Sir, I would like to speak a few words; to record my opinion on the Resolution. The Government very much appreciate the constructive idea put before the House by the Mover of the Resolution. Other Members also who took part in the debate have given very constructive suggestions which are worthwhile considering. As a matter of fact, it is very clear now from the debate that there is not much difference so far as the principles involved in the Resolution are concerned. There have been different opinions expressed as to whether at this stage a Pilot Project by Government is necessary or not. So far the Resolution itself is concerned, there has been general appreciation in the House of the contents of the Resolution. Rev. Roy has however slightly expanded the scope of the Resolution. He says that work should be promoted by the Government and he gives the illustration in Bhoi or other areas, that it is for Government to promote work so that the unemployed persons may be given employment. I may point out that so far as Bhoi area is concerned I am

told that work to the extent of rupees two lakhs has been promoted for creating employment. As a matter of fact the Public Works Department work in this respect has now come up to rupees 14 crores, so promotion of work, from the point of view of unemployment has been done already. Therefore, so far as work promotion is concerned for the purpose of creation of employment, that has been going on all the time. What this Resolution seeks to do is that the workers co-operative be promoted so that they may take advantage of the same. Works may not be left entirely to them in practice. This is a new idea put by the Resolution. Therefore, if we limit ourselves to the idea which is in this Resolution then we would suggest that in the body of the Resolution itself it is not necessary to expand the idea further so that work promotion itself might be undertaken although the work promotion is very necessary. In coming to the Resolution there is another idea besides that the co-operative work should be promoted. This idea is that the workers might play effective and important role in the economic development of the community. This purpose is also laudable. As a matter of fact the Parliament of India adopted some such policy for the country when it adopted the idea of a socialistic pattern of society. Therefore in the purpose itself the Resolution says exactly what has been decided by the Parliament and the Governments of different States are expected to promote the same. Therefore, in many ways both the purposes of the Resolution, that is, the directive policy and the operational purpose for the promotion of co-operative societies, are acceptable to the Government.

Now, as I was saying, there is some difference of opinion whether a pilot scheme is essential at this time. The House has fully discussed this point and a large majority of the Members submitted that a pilot scheme at this time is not necessary. Some people say that there is already one pilot project in every District or Subdivision. I think that criticism is out of place because if really pilot project is necessary then one more pilot project shall have to be under taken before other projects are undertaken. But if the House comes to the conclusion that at this stage a pilot project is necessary then the idea of promoting a large number of pilot projects in different Subdivisions at the same time may not be quite justified. Therefore I am unable to support that argument. It seems to us that our State has passed the stage of pilot project in the matter of promo-

tion of co-operative workers. On this Resolution I had a discussion with a large number of Members of this House and nearly every one of them told me that in their Subdivisions or areas they had promoted workers co-operatives and they are running very successfully. The example of the one in which our Chief Minister himself was concerned has been cited. I had a discussion with the Chief Minister and he said that as a result of this co-operative it was possible to save about Rs. 8,000 as capital. Therefore we have not merely promoted co-operatives but also gone forward to accumulate capital through the procedure of co-operatives. That is a great advance. In the North Lakhimpur subdivision a co-operative has done work to the extent of 7 lakhs of rupees. There is another which has been promoted in Goalpara and functioning very successfully and it created work to the extent of several lakhs of rupees.

I am sorry that I have to correct my statement given a few minutes back. The work done in the Bhoi area in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills is to the extent of more than 2,29,000 rupees. This shows that there is promotion of work for the purpose of giving employment to the people.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: The present idea is to organise the labourers.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour): So far as work promotion of the State is concerned that is one thing and so far as promotion of co-operative workers societies is concerned that is another thing.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Tribal Areas): Just to give the information to the House I am to say that in the Bhoi area we had to arrange work for the people worth of about Rs.2,29,000.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: When the work of this worth was constructed by the people themselves?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: We have sanctioned the work of that value and now it is for the villagers themselves to work. Now the villagers are busy with their jhum cultivation and as soon as this is over they shall be able

to take up this work given to them by the Government. For the information of the House I should like to say that some of the villagers of this area refused to accept that work saying that they wanted money only and not the work.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: That statement is not correct.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour): What I was saying was that we have gone ahead and reached a stage in our State which is in many ways more advanced than many of the States of India. We have not merely gone forward to promote co-operatives for undertaking earth work about which examples have been cited from nearly every subdivision. This is the only State in whole of India which has gone forward to promote workers' co-operatives for undertaking management of industrial concerns. I understand that one industrial concern in Cachar district is already under the management of the workers. There are two other concerns about which the matter is under negotiation for their management by the workers on co-operative basis. There is another garden belonging to one Mr. Jalan which is being handed over voluntarily by the employer to the workers for management on co-operative basis the like of which we have not found in whole of India today. These are unique examples of workers undertaking to manage tea gardens containing about 8,000 acres after voluntary relinquishment by the employers of their management.

Therefore, I was saying, Sir, that our State has gone forward to a stage where co-operative promotion and co-operative management by workers of industries also have come into the field. So far as the ordinary contract work is concerned, that also to a large extent has been described by different leaders. Those also who have not spoken in this House described it to me outside the House and from time to time they have appeared in the papers. One of the biggest examples of such co-operative effort had been when we were racing against time to save Dibrugarh. The workers came forward and saved the town by providing 15,000 workers at one time. Now, when in a State co-operative labour organisation and management have come to such a stage, to describe the necessity of a pilot scheme seems to be rather an inaccurate description of the stage to which the State has come. Therefore, Sir, from our point of view, i.e., the Government point of view, we have felt a little difficulty in accepting the Resolution as it is worded. But as I was saying, the two ideas incorporated in this Resolution are very germane to the whole policy of the Government to-day and we have no difficulty in declaring that we stand by them.

Now, it has been said, Sir, that the State policy may be so, but how far has it been implemented. Examples were cited to show that although Government wanted this, in actual practice the officers would not permit it to be done. I had a discussion with the ex-P. W. D. Minister, Mr. Siddhinath Sarma, and he told me that three years back he issued instruction to the Department that works involving Rs.10,000 should be given at the estimated cost to workers' co-operatives if they came forward. So, it is not merely a question of barren policy of promotion of co-operatives; it is also a decision by the Government three years ago that co-operatives of workers, if promoted and came forward, should be given preference and at the estimated cost to undertake the work. That was a very big step forward. Therefore, Sir, Government also has gone forward in its own way and the reason why so many co-operatives were floated at that time and succeeded to a large extent was because of such direction. Now, it was stated in the House that one of the obvious reasons why the co-operatives do not succeed much was the disinclination of the officers to give contracts to co-operatives, for reasons which are best known to them. Now, Sir, in this connection I want to discuss about the economics involved, which I think may go a little further to elucidate what is involved in this. You should see, Sir, what are the elements involved in a contract. In a contract workers' wages are involved, which is item No.1; then workers' efficiency costs are involved, which is item No.2; then the contractor's profits are involved, which is item No.3. These are the three items involved in the contract. Now when the Government says it will give the contract at the estimated cost, the co-operative of workers gets the contract involving all these three items, the workers' wages, workers' efficiency costs and the profit of the employer. Now, what happens is this: the workers who are not accustomed to a particular type of work when they come to do that work their efficiency is less than the workers working with contractors for a long time. So, there is loss on account of lack of efficiency. It is for this reason Government decided that work should be given at the estimated cost so that what is lost in terms of efficiency might be made up out of profit margin. When workers took up contracts in the beginning although their efficiency might be less they may still execute the work and within a margin of time obtain efficiency when profits begin to occur. Sir, I will give an example. I think it was just after 1952 when the gardens closed in Cachar. I moved and Government sanctioned some test relief. The test relief work was given to tea garden workers. Now, though they were professional labourers, when

they went for test relief work their efficiency was so low that the man who had taken the contract refused to employ them, on the plea that the efficiency of the workers who was working in the other section was so high that these people could not cope with them. It is for this reason, Sir, that our ex-P.W.D. Minister gave direction that work should be given to the co-operatives at estimated costs so that the loss for want of efficiency might be made up by the profit margin. You will admit, Sir, that in every type of work in human society, after some time efficiency develops, that efficiency which was lacking in the beginning. Sometimes our workers become exhausted when they find that the work brings them merely wages and no profits. This is the time when our leaders should be there to sustain them, to encourage them so that they may continue and ultimately come to do better and better work and earn more profit out of the contract taken.

Now, in a society there cannot be two types of working efficiency working simultaneously. The working efficiency has also got a tendency to standardise. Wherever working efficiency does not standardise special efforts have to be made to see that the workers get a chance. For this reason our Government gave the direction three years ago and from the declaration of the present P. W. D. Minister the House will note that he wants to pursue that policy, to go ahead and to give a direction to the executive officers, that their efficiency will be proved in so far as they are able, to promote the success of co-operatives. I think that is a very important statement made by him to-day. In view of this, Sir, you will see that Government does not merely want to paddle in the matter, as was suggested by Mr. Barbaruah. He seems to have doubt about the sincerity of the Government. I think, Sir, from what I have said about what Government have done and what they propose to do, he will realise that Government are completely serious and earnest in the matter and they will do everything possible for the promotion of such co-operatives. I am going to request the Minister of Co-operatives also, because instances were cited from Dibrugarh and other places about the delay in the registration of Co-operatives, which the people promoted. Now obviously either there is a defect in those who are promoting the co-operatives or in the registering system of the co-operatives. If there is a defect in the registering system of the co-operatives, naturally I will request my colleague the Minister-in-charge of Co-operatives to see that the workers co-operatives may be registered better. There are other defects also. There are some co-operatives which are actually

functioning in name only and those co-operatives include some contractors who reap the actual benefit of the co-operatives because they may not get work as an individual contractor unless and until they can manage to get into any co-operative through which it may be possible to get the work and thus they deprive the actual workers from their benefit. If co-operatives of that type are promoted, it would be merely the promotion of contractors for their benefit and not the promotion of actual co-operatives which will give them self-reliance and a dignity which the workers want. I have no doubt when the co-operatives are formed our leaders in society should see that real co-operatives are promoted. I have no doubt that what Shri Bordoloi was saying is correct and he has given an example of a tea garden cultivation managed by workers when the employers failed to manage the garden. I know personally also of a garden where the management failed to run it, but the factory was kept running by no less a person than an ordinary Choukidar of the tea estate. So, if the workers are completely taken into confidence by the management of the gardens in certain areas, I have no doubt a great possibility lies ahead of such managements—particularly in a type of workers which is agricultural in character. Therefore, I have a request to make to the hon. Members of this House—both of this side and the other side—that since we have taken up co-operatives, it is our bounden duty to see that the real co-operatives are promoted. The difficulties which stand in the way of either workers, or Government if in conjunction with the workers and Government those difficulties are removed then gradually the real co-operatives will attain an efficient status. I have no doubt that we have all this in mind. Of course this will harshly affect the contractors; that is true. But looking to the number of contractors who are actually involved by the promotion of co-operatives the well being of the workers will be far better than the difficulties faced by our contractors for the time being. Co-operatives management is also a system of life so it involves a question of tradition of the society also. In America I was told that in North America and in the southern part of the U. S. A. there are very few co-operatives. Because the people in North America mostly came from Scandinavian countries where the system of co-operatives is prevalent, whereas in South U.S.A. the people mostly from other parts of the Europe where co-operatives are less popular. I have no doubt that we will succeed in our endeavour to have co-operatives of the type earlier indicated by me. In this connection I beg to point out that it is not a question of one pilot scheme which should be

launched immediately in one particular area. We may succeed in this one particular pilot scheme. But in any other scheme of the type we may fail. In Gauhati, for example, there was a workers' co-operative which was promoted and it was given handling contracts. But it was not a real co-operative although it was assisted by the Trade Union leaders. After about five years the workers got no payment and there was no account of money which was earned by the workers and actually the amount was spent by the Trade Union leaders who were the custodian of the money. Naturally even the Trade Union leaders who were the custodian of the money earned by the workers' co-operative could not keep themselves above board and misspent the money. In Jamshedpur Session of the Trade Union leaders who had gone into the matter of co-operative, unfortunately, looking to the experience of the type which I have mentioned above, the Conference of the Trade Union Leaders came to the conclusion that co-operatives contracts shall not be taken by the Trade Unions. So, Sir, you will see how serious a thing it is that for the failure of one or two co-operatives, the conference came to the conclusion that the contracts should not be taken by the Trade Union. Therefore, the promotion of co-operatives is not an easy matter. It is a new system of society and in this new order of society expectation of profit will have to diminish gradually. Therefore, I have no doubt that the whole House will be one with me in agreeing to the idea of co-operative which has to be taken up in right earnest and every one has to work for it so that the sense of co-operative of the workers may be promoted among the workers whether they are in Cachar district or elsewhere and irrespective of the fact whether they belong to Congress, Socialist Party and Communist Party. Sir, what I want to emphasise on this point is that at this time of our society the difficulties with which we have been confronted are not easy to remove, because our people when they are to handle a big sum of money do not know how to handle it. So this is also a problem before us. I have no doubt that this aspect of the matter will be taken into consideration by the House while they are trying to have co-operatives of the workers all over the country. In this connection questionnaires were issued and the matter was taken up with different categories of leaders who discussed lucidly that the psychology obtaining in our society should be taken into consideration. One hon. Member of this House gave a fine example where a gentleman refused to carry an attache case of half a seer in weight. In Europe, where I had a chance to go, I may tell you, I saw not a single man asking for assistance when he has to carry suit

case weighing heavy. Therefore, it is true, so far as our society is concerned, there is a psychology to prevent our people to do manual labour. Shri Bhattacharyya, towards the end of his speech, cited a concrete example of good work done by the youngmen of National Cadet Corps and Bharat Sevak Samaj. It is quite true. But the problem involved in the second stage is slightly different. When one works for service, I think the psychology is quite different than one when works for remuneration. The same man may not be willing to work for remuneration and for livelihood although he is willing to work for service. Our middle class society has come to a stage where it is very willing to work for service. To work for service the psychology is there. In all these directions we have found by experience that there are many Bharat Sevak Samaj or National Cadet Corps volunteers who come forward and work creditably for service. But up till now we have yet to promote that psychology to work for a livelihood through manual labour. A few months back as Education Minister I went to visit a school. I naturally asked the students as to what they wanted to do or to be. In Class VII I asked "What do you want to do? Do you want to be a doctor"? More than half the students in the class raised their hands. Then I asked again, "Do you want to be an engineer?" the other half raised their hands. Then I asked again "Do you want to be a veterinary doctor?" there was a great laughter, not a single hand was raised. Again I asked, "Do you want to be a business-man?", not a single hand was raised. "Do you want to be an industrialist", not a single hand was raised. "Do you want to be an agriculturist?", and mind you, that is an agricultural area, not a single hand was raised. "Do you want to be a labourer"—well, you can naturally expect what the answer was—not a single hand was raised. So, to say that our people want to work or are willing to work for a livelihood through manual labour, it would be incorrect. So something has to be done. Either our students, our boys must learn to work for a livelihood as manual workers or manual work should be lifted up from the quagmire in which it has fallen now so that the workers may not feel that their work is not worthy. Sir, this is not a political problem. This is a social and psychological problem and the entire society must work for it. Right now in the whole of India and more particularly in Assam economic pressure is not there to make our educated youngmen to take to manual labour. I may tell you Sir, that in other parts of the world most of the manual labourers are educated people. In the I. L. O. conferences the workers who come to represent Labour are not middle class workers, but they are the real manual labourers

who are educated. So there is a great leeway in this direction. I have no doubt that the whole society is now conscious of the dignity of labour and we are making in our small way to raise the status of manual work in the society so that it may not be looked down upon and we also try to raise the remuneration of these workers so that the stigma of manual labour might not be there. I have no doubt that if economic pressure later on develops things might change. But right now we shall have to work through the social and psychological pressure so that the standard of manual work might be promoted.

Now, when I say from the Government point of view that I have no difficulty at all to accept the ideas behind this Resolution, the hon. Mover of this Resolution will accept it in all sincerity and try to realise the difficulty which has been realised by other hon. Members and also by the Government in accepting the idea of a pilot scheme at this stage and he will please appreciate the sense in which I make this offer and not press his Resolution to a division.

***Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) :**
Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I feel very much encouraged when I see a large number of hon. Members taking special interest in this Resolution moved by the hon. Member Shri Bhattacharyya and I would like to submit only a few things which have occurred in my mind. In our State when we are faced with the problem of development we find it into two things particularly. One is in the matter of labour and the other is in the matter of capital formation. We are still very much behind in these two respects. At the same time we must realise that without labour and without capital formation it is almost impossible to develop the State. Now, it is true that we have sufficient idle labour. The question is how to mobilise them and how to organise them to work for the development of the country and for the betterment of society as well as of the individuals. It is true that even up till now there is some amount of dislike for manual labour and it is also true that we are poor in capital formation also. If we look from the technical side also, we are poor in technicians. So in order that our State and also the people of our State can understand the dignity of labour we must have cer-

tain quality without which it is impossible to understand it. We have no reputation as good labourers labouring either for ourselves or for the State or for the society and if we have no reputation that we are able to form capital to develop our State and also at the same time we have no reputation that we are good technicians, how can we develop our State and how we can raise the standard of our society.

Sir, the other day I had the pleasure of meeting some Russian friends and I had the honour of shaking hands with one of them, I was just surprised to feel how strong his hand and his palm was. Till that day I have never met with a hand and a palm so strong. It only shows how hard these people work. So, my submission Sir, is that if our State is to develop, if we have to attain the standard of dignity we must have some reputation—reputation that we are hard labourers, reputation that we are a people who are in a position to form capital for the development of our State, reputation that we have good talents as technicians, then alone we can progress and we can earn that standard of dignity in independent India.

Now it is true that things are improving, but I am not sure whether we have been able to keep pace with the time in this respect. It is true that now more of our people are coming forward ; they are taking to manual work in the self-help enterprise and in some of their organisations, but yet the intensity with which it has to develop, it has not developed so far. Therefore, Sir, I fully agree with the hon. Members who have advocated that the State has today some responsibility in this regard, but when we consider about the vastness of the problem how big it is—how extensive it is, I also feel that it is beyond the power of the Government alone to tackle this problem. Everyone of us who has the welfare of the country at heart, belonging to whatever party it may be, we have to bring in that spirit into the mind of the people guide them and advise them, so that they can organise themselves and take to manual labour. But we must admit that there is the need for creating that psychology which is not there to the fullest extent. I had to face unpopularity in one of the election campaign—I need not mention the name of that particular place. I saw on my way there is so much earthwork going on ; a large number of people from Bihar was working there—there was light all round, as if there was some illumination. Later on I gathered that Government in that particular area was spending about twenty lakhs of rupees for earthwork in connection with the construction of an embankment. Then I went to the village

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where a meeting was held and in that meeting a resolution was sponsored, asking the Government to issue loan of about one lakh of rupees as agricultural loan. Naturally I felt a little annoyed. At that time I was not holding any office ; I was a Congress worker. I asked them as to why they were asking for the loan from the Government, which even if granted would take a long time to reach them and may not be of any use for their immediate need. Instead of that why could they not take charge of the small project, say of Rs 50,000 or something like that and earn that money and tide over the present difficulties. I asked them to take to this work. I am very sorry, Sir, that my advice was not at all relished and as a matter of fact in that election we had to pay very heavily for that advice (*laughter*). Then Sir, I also attended one student meeting in Chabua sometime back. There are tea gardens on all sides, and every fortnight I could imagine not less than twenty lakhs of rupees were spent as wages to the labourers of that area. I met the students in the village who complained to me that they were very poor and that they had nothing to do. I suggested that it appeared that in that particular locality about Rs. 20 lakhs was being paid to the labourers as wages and that naturally they could imagine that the money went either for purchase of vegetable, rice or poultry, etc., so why could they not try to earn that money. But there also I did not think that I received any good response over my proposal. As a matter of fact, Sir, I heard some people remarked that I had come to tell them to become labourers. Now, what I feel is that we must remove this psychology. Apart from the economic reason, even if we want to live as people for the sake of dignity also we must create the psychology in the minds of our people. If we have to live, if we are to remove our economic problem, if we want to lead a responsible life, we must have dignity of manual reputation as a good labourer, if there is a set of people who have no capacity to form capital, if there is a set of people who have no technical knowledge, then what for we are. Naturally if we reach that state, we cannot command the respect of anybody. The other day the Chief Minister of Orissa and other Chief Ministers came up here for the Zonal Council. The Chief Minister of Orissa, on his way back stopped almost at every place where he saw the labourers working and nowhere he found any man from Assam working. In the Circuit House he asked me—“How is that I could not find any people of Assam working ; how are they living, how are they existing” ? Naturally, I had to tell him about the psychology of our people and the resulting economic distress that is gradually coming to us,

Therefore, Sir, it has been very proper on the part of the hon. Member to raise discussion in this House, and I only wish that through collective efforts on the part of all of us, we shall be able to change that psychology of the people and thereby remove the many unwanted habits in us. The little experiment with which I had the honour to associate in this respect as a Congress man and otherwise, has led me to think that it has a promising future. Some sustained efforts are necessary for this purpose. If we can work in an organised way, we shall be able to achieve what we have in our mind, and I hope that the views expressed in course of the discussion on this very important subject will reach every corner of our State and it will wake up our people and bring a lot of good to us. So far as we are concerned, one of my colleagues has replied in detail. There is no conflict and as a matter of fact we are very eager to advance this cause, and we have been also considering what are the best ways by which Government could come to the picture and as a matter of fact, one of my colleagues is actually now working on the scheme. We hope, Sir, we shall be able to do something from our side.

Thanking you, Sir.

Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I should like to express my sense of deep gratitude for the keen interest that the hon. Members have taken in this matter. As a matter of fact, when I moved this Resolution and placed my submissions before the House I did not expect so much of result. But it has ultimately turned out to be a case of গোল্পদে নভোমণ্ডল। So many things, and very important things, for the life of our nation have been raised and everything for the good. One thing that struck me most of all is the sense of unity, the oneness of approach that has been expressed in the discussions today. We stand on two sides of the House; we have our different ideologies, and political approaches also. But when the question of constructing the nation, when the question of solving the national problem comes, we find that the area of differences becomes narrower and we almost converge on a point of unity. Therefore I think that the purpose of my Resolution has been fulfilled. I should say, over-fulfilled. I wanted to lay stress on two things, on two aspects. One aspect was the fact of the labour from the exploitation of the intermediaries and their own well being through Co-operative efforts. And the other aspect, and the more important aspect from my point of view, was that their efforts and the Government guidance

in that respect should be for the economic development of the community and the role of labour therein. These are the two main aspects of my Resolution. I must admit that there was some weakness in my speech ; I could not properly explain one aspect of the question, the psychological aspect, and I am really grateful to the Honble Minister-in-charge of Labour as also to the Leader of the Opposition for bringing in this aspect in clearer terms. It is a fact, Sir, that in spite of all our wishes there is some amount of feeling of disdain for manual labour. This is not denied, perhaps by anybody. But the Hon. Labour Minister said one very striking thing that is one and the same man might be doing something as social service and yet he might not be feeling very much encouraged to do it as a means of livelihood. I think, that is perfectly correct in moments of romantic and philanthropic flashes. Because in the previous one there is a sense of chivalry, a sense of romanticism, while in the latter, there is the ordinary wordly need, and so when one is prompted by idealism, by romanticism or chivalry, one may go to do wonders but one may not be equally enthusiastic when he is called upon to do the same thing for the sake of sheer livelihood. The other aspect of the matter was stressed by the Leader of Opposition when he said that a man might not like to serve under another man, under a contractor, for example for a particular type of job, but if he knows that he is not serving under any individual but he is serving through a voluntary organisation that feeling of servility being absent therefrom, he may feel encouraged to work. We have seen in our ordinary life that when we go as a group we do many things which, perhaps, usually we might not. And so I am really grateful to those hon. Members for bringing so sharply this aspect of the question.

Another thing has been said by the Minister-in-charge of Labour and that is also very correct. He has said that at present there is some amount of difference, there is almost a gulf of difference, between the intelligentia and the workingmen. Now, he has suggested either of the two things, or I should say, both the things, if possible, that the intelligentia should identify with the working class and the working class should develop its own intelligentia. In this way when the mental and manual labour will both converge, when the difference between the two will disappear, then only we will be giving the real dignity to labour and when that dignity which has been so eloquently placed before the House by the Leader of the House will come, we shall be able to fulfil the target of national

reconstruction. So I thought, and I do hold even now, that my Resolution is a humble effort for making the basis for such an atmosphere. I must confess that my Resolution was not meant for an over-all solution of all our economic problems, was not meant to be a pointer for the development of the co-operative movement as such. I did not mean my Resolution to be *Biswa Rupam* where one might see in this Resolution as Arjuna saw

“পণ্যনিবেশস্তব দেব দেহে
সববীজস্থখা উত্তমিশেষসংস্থান” ।

I do not mean that. My effort was very humble ; I only wanted to stress one aspect of our social life, *i.e.*, here there is going on a great amount of constructional activity in our State and naturally a large number of labour has become indispensable for the purpose. There we find in our State that a large number of unemployed young men are groaning for bread and for jobs. This is an enigma. Why should that be so ? Is there no solution ? Can there be not an effort made just to solve this riddle ? So I suggest that if there be some initial steps in the matter of organizing these people, these labourers to make them stand on their own legs not only for their own bread but also for the purpose of the nation, for a national cause, then the two things will combine, the romanticism that was suggested by the Labour Minister would be there. Because he would be working for the nation ; he would be an equal partner in the national efforts for national reconstruction and at the same time he will be free from want and exploitation under which he is groaning, and that will itself help in solution of the problem. This is a pointer in a wider sense and that is the idea behind my Resolution. Therefore, I suggested that there should be a Pilot Scheme of Co-operative Societies. I am afraid, Sir, the hon. Members who took part in the debate have not carefully noted the content of the Resolution. As a matter of fact, I have on the one hand used the singular scheme, that is the Pilot Scheme and on the other hand I have used the plural number, that is the Societies. I am afraid the hon. Members have not underlined properly the specific purpose of this Resolution. I do not propose that here and now the Government should take up the scheme whereby the system of giving contract to individuals will be abolished. My main purpose is not to do away with the contractors here and now, but the real purpose behind my Resolution is to curb the exploitation by contractors wherever necessary. Sir, I am not actually in favour of eliminating the contractors as they are now. So I suggested that in view of the present pressing difficulties where the poor people have to cross so many hurdles, a pilot scheme

should be started to help organise the people together to be able to cross over the hurdles, so that the people may be able to stand on their own legs. The Labour Minister himself has enumerated many of the difficulties of the people in this respect. Sir, I do not propose an ambitious proposition before the Government. What I wanted is a move on the part of the Government to try to start such a pilot scheme for the benefit of the unemployed and poor people and to establish a few co-operative societies. The number of such societies may be two, or ten or 200 according to necessity. Some hon. Members suggested that there should be one such project in every district headquarters, another said that there should be one in every subdivision, still another said that there should be such a project every where. Hon. Members know very well that I wanted the pilot scheme with the ordinary men that the Sramik Bahini should be encouraged in such a project. I want that Government should take up the pilot scheme and set up new phases for the labour so that they will be able to form and organise themselves into some sort of co-operative so that they may be able to take up some contracts or some developmental work for the national reconstruction. Sir, it is well known that so long the working class has been handicapped in various ways. They want now to have a guide and philosopher and I want that the Government should be the guide and philosopher to the working class and not a dictator. I do not want that Government should give a marching order to the people so far their development is concerned. I want that Government should guide and help the working class so that they may organise themselves and stand on their own legs. Sir, I am not going into the details of the speeches of the hon. Members in this respect except the speech of Mr. Bordoloi where he has brought some confusion. Although the other speeches also have not carefully underlined the particular aspect of the meaning of the Resolution, yet I am grateful to them for enlarging the discussion on my Resolution. So far Governmental scheme is concerned there may be one scheme, there may be division or subdivision in different aspects of the work but so far as the pilot scheme proposed by me in the Resolution is concerned, the scheme is mainly concerned for encouraging the working class to organise some sort of co-operative, but suddenly it was said why should the working class organise such co-operatives when there are so many co-operatives already every where. Well that is true, but are the co-operatives now Governmental schemes? I am sorry to hear this, it is a news to me. My scheme is that Government as well as the department should be a guide and philosopher to the

working class, to help them in organising themselves and to make them stand on their own legs. In this connection I may say that it is a pleasure to hear the news that the Chief Minister as well as Shri Gogoi, the Deputy Minister had sponsored such a move, that is very encouraging, but in spite of their best efforts by the social workers and leaders to go ahead with the work for national reconstruction, unfortunately due to lack of guidance and help and owing to the presence of certain procedural and technical difficulties the work was not successful. There are technical difficulties in the matter of giving grants-in-aid to certain societies and Government stand is that such societies should get themselves registered under the Societies Act and if they are not properly registered, Government may find it difficult to come to the financial aid of such societies. Even in some cases when the Societies have got themselves registered properly under the Co-operative Act, yet due to some reason or other they are not able to get any financial help from the Government. So far as efforts for national reconstruction is concerned, it should not be prompted by narrow party feelings. Thereby I do not mean to say that the parties should not have social service, but what I want to say is that so far as efforts for national reconstruction are concerned, that will come in touch to work with the Government hand in hand, that should be above party level. So, Sir, my proposal for the organisation of co-operative societies for the working class is of national character, it should be above party level, it is not a Savadal or any other organisation.

Then another thing which I want to clear is this. I submitted that there are so many unemployed youth in our country and they must be utilised for the good of the nation. I do not thereby in any way mean that there should be any negative attitude on our part towards those labourers who come from outside Assam. It will be a bad day for Assam and for India if within India itself we begin to think that the Beharis or Bengalis are foreigners in Assam. What I want to say is that while our own people remain unemployed in this area then in their place if men from a distance of about 700 miles have to be brought for our work then that is a national wastage. While we should see that our unemployed people of this State should be properly employed, we should also see that there should not be a feeling that our money is being taken away by the outsiders.

Another point is that when we do not get labour within our own State those people from outside come to help us for

execution of our works. Even if there is a block on the Shillong-Gauhati Road then labour from outside the State have got to be engaged to clear it out and for that purpose if we grudge their earning two rupees a day and think them to be exploiters then that would be very uncharitable. The point is that those who remain unemployed here let them do their work and let them contribute their labour for the cause of the nation. Therefore, I think, in view of what the hon. Members have said and in view of their valuable suggestions, I do not think that I should come to discuss the different points that some of them have underlined. Though I have got the Resolution in my name I am not worrying whether it is accepted in toto. But I am concerned about the word of the Resolution. I am not at one with those who say that there is nothing so good in this world which cannot be made better. I must humbly say that my Resolution perhaps could be better drafted by some one else to make it appear much better. But the main points have been placed before the House and before the Government. I have placed both the aspects of the proposition and it does not matter if you accept all my arguments in *toto*.

The Labour Minister has said that Government have accepted both the aspects of the proposition. If that is the case, then why should I go to press for certain words? I am not concerned about that. So, my suggestion is that it is for the House to decide whether they will be requiring certain more points or they will be satisfied with what the Minister says. I have got full faith in the hon. Members including the Chief Minister and the Labour Minister and if they want me not to press for some of the words of the Resolution I shall not go to press them.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour): I quite appreciate the speech made by my Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya and I am thankful to him for not pressing for the Resolution for decision. I am appreciating one point which he noticed and I forgot to mention and this is with regard to our attitude towards the outsiders labours who come for earth work. It has been said in one speech that people from outside Assam take the money away. That is not the whole picture. If they take away money they also keep the work behind for which they deserve our appreciation. In fact, they take away less in comparison to the work to the extent they are exploited. The emphasis should not be on this taking away as this will lead envy and hatred which will promote

wrong psychological trends. Our attitude should be rather to emphasis the necessity of local work doing by the local workers as that is the normal economic role. Men should work not with a view to deprive others, but will assist to learn themselves. Mr. Bhattacharyya has said correctly that when the work is there for our unemployed people why should not they do it. This is a contradiction in the situation. This contradiction of the situation should be appreciated in this spirit and not by being jealous or envious to the people coming from outside for doing work here when we ourselves cannot do it.

One point raised by Mr. Bhattacharyya is that after promoting some co-operatives why they have been stopped. The reason is that those co-operatives were started for some specific purpose, namely, particular earth work. Now the earth work has been stopped and some people of the villages not being professional workers are not willing to work elsewhere, other than in their own place. Even if they want to go to work in other places they find that people of those places may not like it or are not organised. So, they are not willing to move from their own place for this sort of earth work. When a co-operative succeeds then it is expected that other types of work should be taken in hand. There are different types of labour for different types of work. I hope the leaders would do well to come forward to organise such co-operatives systematically for all types of labour. I am glad to mention here that in 1947, the number of co-operatives was 1955, in 1958, the number has gone upto 4,379. Then share capital; in 1947, was Rs.354,000, in 1958, it is Rs.73,00,000. Then working capital was Rs. 10,237,275, in 1947 the present figure is Rs.6 crores. So, that is the march of co-operative movement registered in terms of pound, shilling and pence. Thank you, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Does the hon. Mover want to withdraw his Resolution.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):
Yes, Sir.

(The Resolution was, with the leave of the House, withdrawn).

Resolution to Shift the Destitute Home at Rupshi to Balajan in the district of Goalpara.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj) :
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly is of opinion that as due to the improper location of the destitute home at Rupshi, many destitutes could not avail the benefit of the same, the destitute home should be shifted to Balajan in the district of Goalpara which may in future extend benefit to the local destitutes also.

Sir, in support of my Resolution I want to say a few words. The refugee problem took shape in our country from the partition of India in 1947 and the magnitude of this unfortunate problem is not unknown to anybody. Never in the history of the world such vast number of persons had to leave their hearth and home at a time. Innumerable victims of this unfortunate event could not get time to enquire about their near and dear ones or to enquire about the other family members whom they had left in Pakistan. Thus they had become destitutes and entered our State. In this way a huge number of wretched and shelterless women entered our State mainly through the districts of Goalpara and Cachar. Government have opened many destitute homes to give them shelter. One such destitute home was started at Rupshi in some abandoned and damaged military buildings in the midst of dense forest. I am sure, Sir, the people coming from East Bengal as destitute refugees had never seen such dense forest and wild animals in the midst of which they have been compelled to stay. There is no village near their camp ; there is no locality nearabout. We know, Sir, that men are social beings and they cannot live without society. So, many of them fled from their destitute homes and camps and preferred begging in the inhabited localities, 3, 4 or 5 miles away. Compelled by circumstances, many of them did not even hesitate to live a bad life, an unsocial life, for the defence of their stomach. Government have many contemplations for starting some sort of industries in this centre at Rupshi ; but all were frustrated and yet Government did not shift the centre from that jungle to a suitable place. I must say, Sir, that due to the unsuitable location of the destitute camp innumerable destitutes could not get the benefit and the advantage of a destitute home. Had it been located in some suitable place I can definitely say that this home would have been an ideal home in the State and it could impart some education

and training to the local destitutes also. As regards the local destitutes, Sir, I beg to say that the House is not unaware of the fact that there is a huge section of widows in the Goalpara district who are unemployed and a considerable section of these women are far worse than these refugee destitutes. They have got no shelter of their own ; they have got nobody to look after them. Of course, the Government have recently started a scheme of hand pounding paddy husking to give them some sort of employment. But the provision made for them is far below the most minimum requirement. We know, Sir, and we have been suspecting that these refugees are not loyal to our Assam Government, but, at the same time, I should say that we have not been able to extend the sympathy they deserve and we have not been able to keep them in a proper state. So, Sir, I move this Resolution for the kind consideration of the House if this destitute home at Rupshi should be shifted to Balajan, a centrally situated and well-communicated place in that locality. It will not only be advantageous to the refugee destitutes only, it will also impart some sort of training to the local widows and local destitutes also. In future this home can be converted into a production *cum* training centre and the whole society will be benefited. I trust, Sir, the whole House will feel for the destitutes and I hope will accept my Resolution for shifting the Rupshi destitute home to Balajan. With these few words, I commend my Resolution for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. DEPUPY SPEAKER: Resolution moved is that the destitute home at Rupshi be shifted to Balajan in the district of Goalpara.

Adjournment

The Assembly then adjourned till 10 A. M. on Thursday, the 21st August, 1958.

Shillong :

The 30th January, 1960.

R. N. BARUA,
Secretary, Assam Legislative
Assembly.

