

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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 10 A.M. on Thursday, the 21st August, 1958.

P R E S E N T

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)

Building Grants to all Cyclone-damaged Schools

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

*4. Will the Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that in the year 1957-58 almost all the cyclone-damaged schools were given building grants in two instalments ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that the cyclone-damaged Lower Primary Schools in Dibrugarh and Nowgong Subdivisions have been granted only one instalment of grants and the 2nd instalment of grants is awaiting sanction ?

- (c) When the 2nd instalment of grants to the Schools of these two Subdivisions will be given ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Education) replied :

4. (a)—Yes, excepting the Lower Primary Schools of Nowgong and Dibrugarh Subdivisions.

(b)—Yes, the whole grant was given in one instalment and so the question of the 2nd instalment does not arise.

(c)—Does not arise.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) : Whether the Deputy Minister-in-charge knows that the amount recommended from Dibrugarh Subdivision was about Rs.1½ lakhs whereas a sum of only Rs.75,000 was granted by Government ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : The recommended amount for Dibrugarh was Rs.75,000.

Shri RAM NATH SARMA (Lumding) : Sir, may I know from the Deputy Minister-in-charge what was the amount sanctioned for Nowgong Subdivision ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : The amount sanctioned for Nowgong Subdivision was Rs.75,000.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : Whether the list submitted by the local inspecting staff recommended for Rs.1½ lakhs to the Government and the Government sanctioned only Rs.75,000. ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : The previous list submitted from Dibrugarh Subdivision was missing and a fresh list had been prepared and according to that list a sum of Rs.75,000 was sanctioned.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj) : Sir, may I know what was the sanctioned amount for Dhubri Subdivision ?

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) : Whether Government is aware that in Sibsagar Subdivision the sanctioned amount was distributed in two instalments ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Deputy Minister, Education) : Yes.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) : Sir, may I know why this discrimination has been made by Government in the case of Dibrugarh Subdivision and Nowgong Subdivision and why Dibrugarh Subdivision could not get equal treatment at the hands of Government along with other Subdivisions ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : Sir, I have already given the reply that fresh lists had been prepared and according to the new lists the amounts were sanctioned for Dibrugarh and Nowgong Subdivisions.

Mr. SPEAKER : I hope the cyclone did not make any discrimination.

Maulavi NURUL ISLAM (Dhing) : Sir, may I know what was the amount sanctioned formally ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : Sir, the formally sanctioned amount was Rs. 75,000 for Nowgong Subdivision.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery) : Is it a fact that for some storm damaged Middle Vernacular Schools some grants were sanctioned by Government and whether it is a fact that the Basic Education Department has given an order not to spend those sanctioned grants for storm damaged Middle Vernacular Schools ?

Shri DEBESWAR SARMAH (Minister, Education) : Sir, this question relates to the Lower Primary Schools only and not with regard to Middle Vernacular Schools.

Mr. SPEAKER : But the general proposition was in respect of Schools.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : Sir, the Deputy Minister has replied that in the case of Dibrugarh Subdivision a second list has been prepared. May I know from him whether in the case of South Kamurp a second list was prepared ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM BAS (Deputy Minister, Education): Sir, only in the case of Dibrugarh and Nowgong Subdivisions the second list was prepared and not in the case of any other place.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Sir, may I know from the Deputy Minister what was the reason for not making a second list in the case of South Kamrup?

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): At whose fault the list was missing in the case of Dibrugarh Subdivision?

Shri RAM NATH SARMA (Lumding): Sir, the Deputy Minister for Education stated that the recommendation for Nowgong Subdivision was for Rs.75,000. May I know whether is it part of the first recommendation or the second recommendation was for Rs.75,000?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: In the second list the recommendation was for Rs.75,000.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): Whether in the second recommendation the full list of schools was received.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: At the time of giving grants the second list was obtained.

Shri LILA KANTA BORAH (Kaliabar): Whether the second list was prepared by the same authority as in the case of the first list?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: The second list was prepared by the same authority. There were two lists—one was sent to the Basic Education Department and the other to the Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order, what the Deputy Minister for Education was saying is this that the second list was prepared from the original list. The original list was sent from another office.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: The original list was sent from Basic Education Department office and it was also procured.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Sir, whether the list submitted by the inspecting staff was the list received by the Government at Shillong and when it was taken as missing, the second list could not be speeded up because it was sent to Shillong ?

Mr. SPEAKER: The Deputy Minister, Education stated that the second recommendation was given from a new list.

Shri RAM NATH SARMA: How can the second list be prepared ? It is copied only.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): Whether the Deputy Minister for Education knows that by giving Rs.75,000 only 50 per cent of the recommended amount was given to Dibrugarh Subdivision whereas the other Subdivisions were given 75 per cent of the recommended amount ?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Sir, is it a fact that the list was prepared for Pub-Chamaria and Dakshin-Chamaria mouzas where there are many schools ? The schools were not given any grant. Will the Deputy Minister be pleased to enquire into the matter ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : Sir, I will enquire about it.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Representation from All Assam Mauzadars' Association for removal of some grievances of the Mauzadars

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari -East) asked :

4. Will the Minister of Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government have lately received representation from All Assam Mauzadars' Association for removal of some grievances of the Mauzadars ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that the Minister-in-charge gave sympathetic hearing and assured consideration of the just claims of the Mauzadars ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister has asked the Department to examine the just claims of the Mauzadars ?

(d) Whether Government propose to introduce some better system for collection of land revenue and save the Mauzadars from further ruin in future ?

(e) If so, whether under the new system Government propose to employ all the existing Mauzadars for life ?

(f) Whether Government propose to raise the rate of commission of the Mauzadars to a reasonable limit forthwith for interim relief to the Mauzadars ?

(g) If so, what is the rate of commission proposed ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied:

4. (a), (b) & (c)—Yes.

(d) & (e)—Government have no such proposal.

(f) & (g)—Government are considering the matter for an early decision.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHAUDHURY (Nalbari-East): Sir, may I know from the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge what is the remuneration proposed to be given to the Mauzadars ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): Sir, it is a confidential matter until Cabinet takes a decision on it.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): When the representation was received ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: Sir, the exact date I cannot give

Mr. SPEAKER : But approximately.

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : It will be about 2½ months.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) : Sir, how long Government will take to come to a decision ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : That also I cannot say how long Government will take.

Taking over of Barpeta Town Veterinary Dispensary by the State Government

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta) asked :

5. Will the Minister-in-charge of Veterinary be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Barpeta Town Veterinary Dispensary is going to be taken up by the State Government ?

(b) If so, since when ?

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

5. (a) & (b)—The Barpeta Town Veterinary Dispensary is a Local Board Dispensary and it is under consideration of Government to take over all the Local Board Veterinary Dispensaries including the Barpeta Veterinary Dispensary. The date on which the Barpeta Dispensary will be taken over has not yet been fixed.

Dr. SRIHARI DAS : How long it will take for the Government to give the approximate date on which the Dispensary will be taken over ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : No approximate date can be fixed. There are 37 Local Board Dispensaries in the State and the Government is taking over one or two every year because a sum of 8 lakhs of rupees is required to take over all the dispensaries. The fund at the disposal of the Veterinary Department is not such that we can all at once take all of them. Apart from this we have not got sufficient officers. This year we are taking over Behali and Nazira Dispensaries. Next year similarly we will take over some more. Priorities will have to be fixed according to the needs and circumstances.

Shri RAMNATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]: May I know if the Government cannot give the approximate date, whether they can give the approximate time ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Veterinary): Within a year or two we will be able to take up most of the dispensaries. Now which dispensaries will have priority, that is very difficult to commit.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North): Now there are 37 dispensaries and if only two or three are taken up every year then it will take 18 to 19 years to take them up all.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: This year we are proposing to take two, next year we will be able to take more. That again depends on the fund position. The budget is voted upon by the hon. Members of this House. Therefore, the question of taking up more dispensaries would depend on what amount the hon. Members would vote.

Dr. SRIHARI DAS (Barpeta): Do the Government think that this Dispensary should be given priority being situated in a headquarters town ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : This is a matter of opinion, but a dispensary located in the headquarters may have certain preferences over others.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi): Is it a fact that in the Second Five Year Plan Government have envisaged to convert one veterinary dispensary in each Sub-division into a State Hospital ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I do not think the plan is like that. A list was drawn up. In those places either new hospitals will be set up or existing dispensaries would be converted into hospitals. All of them are not necessarily located in the headquarters. There are exceptions also. For example, Hajo Hospital is not in the headquarters but a hospital was set up there.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Why ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY: I cannot say.

Quantity of C. I. sheets and cement in different Centres of Assam

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East) asked :

6. Will the Minister of Supply be pleased to state—

- (a) The quantity of C. I. Sheets and cement that arrived in different centres of Assam period by period showing total quota centre by centre for each period during last one year ending on 31st March 1958 ?
- (b) The quantity of C. I. Sheets and cement the quota of which lapsed for the articles not arriving destination during the last year ?
- (c) Whether Government are aware of the scarcity of C. I. Sheets required for domestic use in Assam ?
- (d) Whether Government propose to arrange to secure more quantity of C.I. Sheets required by people of Assam for residential construction ?

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

6. (a)—Two separate statements for cement and C. I. Sheets are placed on the library table. (Please see Library Register No. S. 60).

(b)—No quota of C. I. Sheets and cement lapsed due to non-arrival of the materials.

(c)—Yes, scarcity of C. I. Sheets is not only prevalent in Assam but throughout India.

(d)—The State Government is constantly endeavouring to obtain increased allocation for C. I. Sheets from the Government of India.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY : May I know whether the policy in regard to the movement and control of C. I. Sheets and cement is the same all over India or special to Assam ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply): More or less same ; under the same pattern of instructions of the Government of India which have got to be followed except certain variations which are made under local circumstances. At present the policy followed with regard to cement is not the same in Assam as in many other States of India. Some other States have decontrolled cement but we have not. Considering the geographical circumstances and our special problems we have not been able to de-control cement. So the policy is not apparently the same in this matter.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): Is it a fact that Government has allotted 320 tons of C. I. sheets for Mangaldai Subdivision in last two years, and is it a fact that only 180 tons have been supplied and the rest of the quota has lapsed ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: No quota has lapsed.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Has our quota of C. I. sheets has been lifted this year ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Yes, it is being lifted.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj): Whether Government have received any allegation that a particular family of Gouripur in the District of Goalpara has been issued 184 bundles of C. I. sheets during one year from the Government stock at Dhubri ?

Mr. SPEAKER: I think, it would not be appropriate to put this in this question because this is an unstarred question, and also I do not know whether it is quite relevant.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: If details are given I will enquire.

Shri RADHAKISHAN KHEMKA (Tinsukia): अध्यक्ष महोदय, दूसरे राज्यों में अलग अलग उद्योगों के लिये केन्द्रिय सरकार की ओर से C. I. Sheet का खास quota मिलता है। जैसे कि आसाम में चाय उद्योगों को मिलता है। इस तरह दूसरे उद्योगों का खास quota के लिये आसाम सरकार की ओरसे कोई चेष्टा की गयी है या नहीं ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister: Already we have industrial quota also and actually we have been trying to increase it and in some cases we have succeeded also.

Shri GOPESH NAMASUDRA [Patharkandi (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]: Whether Government know that cement is no longer a controlled commodity in Calcutta ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Supply): Yes, but we have not been able to decontrol for the reasons stated already.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East): How the Minister said that scarcity of C. I. Sheets in Assam is the same as in other States ?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I have not said in that manner.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY: Yes, the Hon'ble has said like this.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: That is the case throughout whole of India. The total requirement is much more than the total availability of C. I. sheets.

Procurement of only half the quota of cement by the Trade Adviser in Calcutta

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East) asked :

7. Will the Minister of Supply be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Supply Secretary has asked the Trade Adviser in Calcutta to avail only half the quota of cement and to surrender the other half ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that it has been done on the advice of some wily merchants with a view to make excessive profit of the present stock held by them ?

- (c) Whether Government propose to make an estimate of Government requirement of cement for the projects under the Plan and otherwise for the Plan period and lift the same on Government account allowing the remaining quantity to be lifted for private consumption ?

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

7. (a)—No.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—This procedure is already in practice.

Panel of Chairmen

Mr. SPEAKER: Under Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House, I nominate the following Members to form a Panel of Chairmen for this Session.—

- (1) Shri Siddhinath Sarma.
- (2) Maulavi Abdul Matlib Mazumder.
- (3) Shri Nilmoney Borthakur.
- (4) Shri Kamala Prasad Agarwala.

Motions to consider the food situation of the State and to increase food production

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati): May I make a suggestion, Sir? Here we have two Motions standing in the names of two hon. Members. Instead of taking them separately, I think, it would be better if both the Motions are moved one after another and the discussion is taken together.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think it is quite a reasonable suggestion. Mr. Hazarika's Motion confined itself only to production but, I think, Mr. Goswami's Motion is more comprehensive. It includes not only production, also

procurement and distribution. Both the Motions may be moved and the hon. Members may discuss on them both together.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morengi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move: "This Assembly do now take into consideration the various ways and means by which food production can be increased in the State".

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move: "This Assembly do now take into consideration the food situation in the State".

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motions moved are: "that this Assembly do now take into consideration the various ways and means by which food production can be increased in the State" and "this Assembly do now take into consideration the food situation in the State".

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA: Sir, it is needless to dilate upon the necessity of increasing food production not only in our State but throughout whole of India. I will now confine only to our State regarding the various ways and means by which we can increase our production year after year. The main problems are that there is not sufficient land for cultivation in our State. There are about 20 lakhs landless people who are either cultivating land on Adhi basis or some of whom are earning their livelihood by working as day labourers.

It is not possible on the part of Government, Sir, to provide land for every family in the State as the number of people I mean, the population, has increased and is daily increasing. It is not possible to increase land according to the demand of the population.

Secondly, Sir, there are natural calamities like floods and drought due to which the food production of our State has decreased to a considerable extent. Thirdly, Sir, there are ravages caused by insects, rats and wild animals like wild elephants, wild boar, etc. During our recent tour as Members of the Estimates Committee we had the privilege at Jorhat to discuss with the officer in charge of Plant Protection who expressed the opinion that about 20 to 25 per cent of the crop produced in the State is damaged annually by insect and other diseases. Regarding depredation by wild animals I think our friends are aware

that in many parts of the State destruction to crops is caused by these wild animals. Particularly from one area I received information about 2 days back where about three thousand acres of land had been reclaimed and people are cultivating Aus crop were unfortunately destroyed by wild elephants. The people are moving the authorities either to kill these wild elephants or to drive them away, but till now nothing is being done. I visited that place on the 15th of August last and I was told that no steps have been taken by the authorities concerned either to kill the wild elephants nor to drive them away as a result the people were very much annoyed. Some of them were practically weeping and asked me, "what shall we do? All the food we cultivated this year has been destroyed, we don't know what to do and how to maintain our families?". Sir, this is one of the reasons for decreased food production in our State.

Now, regarding destruction to crops caused by rats, etc., we all know that both in the Mikir Hills as well as in the Mizo Hills this year there was heavy damage to crops caused by rats. Fourthly, Sir, production of food this year has been hampered to a considerable extent by death of cattle due to epidemics. In our State there are many cultivators who have not the capacity to purchase plough cattle. For this purpose some loan has been sanctioned by the Government but the loan was sanctioned very late. I don't know how far the cultivators will be benefited by this loan since the season for Sali crop is almost over. Sir, these are the main difficulties for which our State is handicapped in the matter of food production. I would like to request all hon. Members of this House as well as the Government and the public to give dispassionate thinking over this matter and come forward with valuable suggestions so that we can devise ways and means for increased production of food in our State in future.

Sir, now, I would suggest a few remedies by which we can hope to increase our food production to a considerable extent. My suggestions are that we must first see that the officers of the Agriculture Department work very earnestly and sincerely. The difficulties as we have seen in the Report of the Nalagarh Committee which was published yesterday is that in almost all the

States in India about 80 per cent of the officers and other employees of the Agriculture Department are temporary and the scale of pay that is given at present to these officers and employees of the Department is not very satisfactory ; so the Government of India is thinking that the whole pay scale of this Department in various States should be revised and better scales of pay should be introduced as early as possible. Now, Sir, in order to give some initiative to the officers and employees of the Agriculture Department I would like to suggest that Government should take this subject into consideration for making the various posts permanent and give better scale of pay to the officers and other employees as has been suggested by the Nalagarh Committee.

Another suggestion of mine is that, the people should be encouraged to take to rotation of crop. In the major part of our State, specially I would like to mention here the districts in Upper Assam where only one kind of crop, that is Sali crop, is cultivated. About six to seven months in the year the fields remain fallow. It is our duty as also the duty of the Government to see that the people take to rotation of crops which is very easy to do if properly tackled. Now, our people who are accustomed to only one kind of crop say that it is not possible for them to cultivate Ahu or Boro or some other crops are encouraged by Government on the ground that there are various difficulties on the way, for example, scarcity of water, hardness of the soil, etc. Still then I feel that we should encourage the people to take to rotation of crops and it is the duty of the Government to see how sufficient water can be supplied to them in those areas where there is scarcity of water and to see that manure is supplied to these people, if necessary, free manure should be supplied to improve the condition of the soil and to that effect, Sir, I should like to point out to the hon. Members of the House that sufficient propoganda is required in rural areas. It is a surprise that there is a section of the Publicity Department and there is also a separate branch of the agriculture department for publicity tagged to the Publicity Department, but they have not issued any pamphlets or brochures by which the cultivators may be encouraged to take to rotation of crops. In our Subdivision, Sir, there is no publicity from the Department concerned. We are issuing pamphlets at our cost by local arrangement so that we may encourage the people to take to rotation of crops like Boro, Ahu, etc. I have discussed with the Publicity Officer the other day and he was pleased to send one of the

Officers of the Agriculture Department attached to him. He gave me some brochures and told me that those were the brochures published by them for distribution to the people. He told me also that these brochures had been sent to the Deputy Commissioners, Subdivisional Officers, Panchayats, etc., but unfortunately my enquiry from the Deputy Commissioners and others revealed that no such brochure had been sent to them in connection with propaganda. In any way, I would like to draw the attention of the Government so that they would give a careful consideration about the important aspect of propaganda for the purpose of increased food production, which in my humble opinion will at least go a long way towards the object of increased food production.

Then with regard to the methods of cultivation, Sir, we know our people are adopted to the old method of cultivation with a pair of old bullocks and a "Buti Nangal". With this they cannot improve the production of food. Then there is the question of intensive cultivation which should be taken up to increase food production. By this method, it is meant that the field should be ploughed very carefully as required according to scientific method and the cultivators should be induced to take to manuring their fields so that one bigha of land which is now yielding six or seven maunds of paddy may yield 10 to 12 maunds.

Regarding Japanese method of cultivation, Sir, although it has been introduced in Assam, I do not know whether due to the slackness of the Government or the cultivators, it has not been taken up seriously throughout the State. Only I saw in certain places of Cachar that this method of cultivation has been taken up by some cultivators and the result has been also very good. But in other parts of the State, in Upper Assam or in the Hills very few people—I do not think even 1 per cent of the cultivators—have taken it up. So my suggestion to the Government is that the Department should take all possible steps, all possible pains to introduce this method of cultivation among the cultivators.

Then another factor of food production is water supply. It is known to the hon. Members that at present although there are some small irrigation projects, they are not being maintained properly, as a result of which, the channels which were dug by the local people with 50 per cent monetary help from the Government, have either become extinct or they have become completely useless. In some places there are

no trace of these small irrigation projects. Now my suggestion is that Government should take up these projects for repairs and should issue instructions also to the District and Subdivisional Officers so that they might take necessary steps to revive these projects and the cultivators should also be encouraged to take to these small irrigation projects for their benefit. Now, in certain places Government is giving deep tube wells. I do not know how far they are working. In my district, two tube wells were sanctioned. One was sunk in Sarupathar Community Development project area in January, 1957 and due to some mechanical troubles this is lying idle and the work has not been completed as yet. Another was to be sunk at Barpathar, but up till now it has not been able to supply water, because it was reported that some parts are not available to put the tube well in full commission. I do not know when these parts will be available and water will be supplied to the cultivators. I would like to draw the attention of the Government about these deep tube wells and request them to see that the tube wells are put to action as early as possible for the benefit of the cultivator.

Now there is another aspect which I would like to suggest. This is with regard to power pumps. There is an Engineering section maintained for this scheme. During my tour in connection with the Estimates Committee I found that about 60 per cent of the power pumps were at that time out of order. I do not know whether Government have repaired them so that they may work properly, but what I wish to suggest is that Government should encourage our people to take to power pumps method for increasing food production.

In some places that I visited, specially in some Community Project areas also I found that the power pumps were not utilised by the cultivators. When I questioned the reason for not utilising the power pumps by them, they told me that the charges for hiring these power pumps were very high and that is why they could not afford to use these power pumps. The charge is, Sir, Rs.27 per day for use of one power pump over and above transport and carriage charges. It is to my mind rather a very high charge which is not quite possible for the poor cultivators to pay. So, in order to make the use of power pumps popular amongst our cultivators the rate of hiring charge of these power pumps should be revised by Government. In order to derive the maximum benefit from these power pumps, the rate should be reduced to the minimum as far as practicable.

Mr. SPEAKER : I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Member to rule 125 of the Assembly Rules where it has been stated, "No speech on a resolution shall, except with the permission of the Speaker, exceed fifteen minutes in duration :

Provided that the move of a resolution, when moving the same and the Minister concerned when speaking for the first time, may speak for thirty minutes or for such longer time as the Speaker may permit."

The Hon. Member has spoken for 22 minutes.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA (Morongi) : I will require only another five minutes.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY (Minister, Food and Agriculture) : In that case, Sir, I will possibly require 30 plus 30 minutes.

Shri DANDESWAR HAZARIKA : I was speaking about the high rate of hire charge for the power pumps. Now, I want to speak a few words about distribution of agricultural seeds. Sir, the general complaint is that the seeds which are supplied by the Agricultural Department are useless. I had the occasion to visit certain Community Project areas only a few days back where some sugar-cane was grown. I was told there that the sugarcane setts supplied by the Agricultural Department to the cultivators were all rotten and as a result not a single sugarcane sett supplied by the Government could be grown. Then again, as regards the seeds of Aus and Boro paddy, the cultivators are not willing to take them from Government because they say that almost half of the seeds purchased from Government go to waste as they become useless because of the damage done to these seeds by insects or for certain other reasons. So, I would request Government to see that good seeds are only supplied to the cultivators.

As far as I could remember, previously there was a Food Advisory Committee in each subdivision, but now there is no such committee and even if there be any, it only exists in name and they do not actually function. I therefore request Government to set up such committees not only in each of the subdivisions, but in every Panchayat area with a view to encouraging the people to grow more food.

Regarding winter crops, I think our Government should take interest in the cultivation of Rabi crops. Now the period for cultivation of this variety of crop has come, and it can be also very easily grown in the plains areas of the State. I hope Government will take up the question of cultivation of Rabi crops very seriously and take measures to encourage our villagers to take to the cultivation of this variety of crops. Apart from this, Government should encourage our people to grow other varieties of winter crops such as mustards, cabbages and other winter vegetables.

Regarding cultivation in the Hill areas, I myself have not much experience regarding cultivation in the Hill areas, but I would request Government to see how far they can enthuse the people there to take to cultivation of food crops which may go to augment the total food production in the country and how to improve the method of cultivation of food crops in the Hills.

With these few words, Sir, I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I need not say in the House that the food situation in the State is becoming most alarming to-day. Sir, a few days ago we heard the shocking report from Nowgong, the granary of Assam that there were deaths because of food scarcity. Of course, this report had been contradicated by the Government. But I can tell the Government that whether there were deaths or no deaths, the State to-day is facing a very critical food situation. The food situation in the South Goalpara is very very acute and alarming; in the South Kamrup, in North Kamrup and in Nowgong the same appalling food situation is now prevailing. So, Sir, to-day when we discuss the food situation in the State, as we must do, we are not so much concerned with the production of food as vitally as we are concerned with distribution, with the immediate problem of giving food to our people so that we may keep upto the assurance given by the Chief Minister that no one would die of starvation in the State. I spoke only a few months ago about the cultivation of Aus crop in our State. Although the ratio of Aus crop to our total production is not very significant, yet the production of Aus crop is increasing and our people are taking to the cultivation of this variety of crop. We thought that this year if the cultivation of Aus crop becomes successful, then perhaps, we shall be able to cross

over the lean period of the year with the help of the Aus production. Unfortunately our hope has been belied and belied most miserably. We find the bug menace came and almost in the whole State, in Goalpara, North Kamrup, South Kamrup and in certain other places the beautiful crops were damaged within two or three days. As has been stated by my Friend, Shri Hazarika, the rates have also played their parts in bringing about destruction of crops. When we discuss the food problem we very often confine ourselves to production and distribution and we speak very little about the conservation of crops. Of course in our Agricultural Department we have people to eradicate this evil, but what is most surprising is the fact that our departmental officers wake up rather too late to enable them to rise equal to the occasion. Insecticides and germicides come, but these things come when the crisis is over. Sir, I know for myself in the South Bank of Kamrup there was a rice bug menace which was doing damage to the crops, the attention of the Agricultural department was drawn to this fact, but I am sorry that nothing was done. In this connection, I can tell the Agriculture Minister with all humility that agriculture is a subject which is also dependent on nature and prompt action. It has many enemies also; therefore, more attention should be paid to preservation of crop and, we must also have all the necessary things so that when an emergency occurs we may not be found wanting so that we can successfully cope with the emergency, but unfortunately, for us we find instead the department pursues a policy of being unconcerned with all these things. Sir, regarding the rice-bug menace, no less a person than one of the Joint Directors of the Agricultural Department said, "Don't bother Mr. Goswami, the department will do its best and with the spray of Gammaxine by aeroplane the rice-bug menace will be finished and Aus crops will be saved." Sir, even I passed this news over to the people, but I am sorry that nothing was done to destroy the rice-bug menace and ultimately the entire Aus crop was damaged. Sir, to-day if we are faced with a similar situation, the same thing will happen because due to the lack of promptness on the part of the Agricultural department ultimately the situation cannot be dealt with and again the crops will be destroyed in the fields. Sir, Hajo was the most favourite place for getting Gammaxine spray, I do not grudge, but let it be sprayed some where else also. But what we found, one aeroplane was used in one day for the purpose of spraying Gammaxine in Hajo as if that area was the rice bowl of Assam.

Mr. SPEAKER: We have to start somewhere.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Yes, Sir, we have to start somewhere but why start and end in the same place. Now, Sir, about the food production in our State, no doubt we have a deficit of about one lakh ton, if I am correct about the figure, but with the failure of the Aus crops, if we say that our deficit is one lakh ton that will be completely wrong. The deficit is now bound to go up. Sir, at one time there were areas in our State which could be considered as surplus areas. Nowgong was considered once to be the rice bowl. Similarly, there may be some surplus areas in North Lakhimpur. But what is the position to-day? I may say that due to lack of co-ordination food had to be procured from the surplus areas and supplied to the deficit areas, nevertheless, Assam has now become entirely a deficit State. Therefore, Sir, it is necessary to revise our food policy so that we may give food to the people, so that no body dies, so that there is no semi starvation and that there may not be lack of purchasing capacity of our people. Now, Sir, coming to the food problem, we can divide it into three parts, firstly the production part, secondly the conservation part and thirdly the distribution part. I do not want to take much time of the House in dealing with the production part. My Friend, Mr. Hazarika, has already said enough about the production part. I would like only to say that it is useless always to hide things from the public eye that we are actually deficits, but, Sir, to say that there is gap between production and demand and to say that the population has gone up and therefore, the demand has increased and that we cannot increase our food production and therefore, we are bound to starve is not correct. We must find out ways and means to increase our food production. Sir, I am afraid, the people are hopelessly disappointed regarding the Five Year Plan of our State because they wanted to judge the Five Year Plan not by how many bridges we construct, how many high schools we construct but the people are eagerly waiting to see to what extent we can also increase food production and give food to the people. Sir, if we judge the Five Year Plan from this point of view, then I must say that in spite of high promises, big promises given in this House by the successive Agriculture Ministers, the people find themselves where they were. They are highly disappointed with the question of food problem. Sir, only during the years 1955-56 and 1956-57, we can say there was no food

problem but I must say that was not due to any considered planned efforts of the Minister and the Agricultural Department but that was due mainly to the blessings of nature itself. But the position to-day is that we are hopeless victims in the hands of nature. The Five Year Plan has not been able to devise the ways and means to fight nature. There are embankments to save the people from flood but because of these embankments to-day there is scarcity of water in certain areas and there is drought in others and the people therefore, cannot cultivate. Sir, we have yet to depend 99 per cent on nature. If the Five Year Plan has to capture the imagination of the people, the Plan will be able to capture their imagination when we shall be able to free the people from nature. Sir, no doubt there is drought in certain places but it is not possible to have cultivation there by means of water supply, by irrigation and also by supplying the necessary pumps to the people. I am sorry to say that even to-day adequate number of pumps at reasonable rates have not been supplied to the people. After all it is not only the Government but the people also know that by raising crops they will get their food, therefore, the people are ready to do work but the Government is not helping them. Sir, in the Agricultural Department there is a Mechanical Department. This is a very high sounding name, but after all we don't see any progress being made by this department in the field of agriculture. People don't want these machines for show. They want to know the use of machines, use of pumps and thereby improve the agriculture.

Regarding irrigation, my Friend, Mr. Hazarika, has said something and the Estimates Committee also went into the matter and gave some suggestions. If our problem of food has to be solved we have to give more emphasis on small scale irrigation projects. It is not for one particular time that we dig a canal to allow some water to pass, what is more important is constant vigilance to see that the irrigation channels do not dry up, to see that they supply sufficient water to the people at all times when necessary. This has got to be done. I must say that the Agriculture Department in the matter of preserving or maintaining these irrigation channels or small scale irrigation projects has not done enough. Very often many of the channels have become useless and the money spent on them has been a wastage. This is also another side.

Now, thirdly I come to land. We know that it is not possible for us to give land to everybody. At the same time

we know that there are certain vacant land which can be easily used for cultivation. I will go a step further and say that when we want to solve the food problem then we should do things on a war footing. As during the war, we should cultivate everywhere, that is to say, we should allow the people to cultivate in any place found vacant, for a temporary period, say for two or three years. If that is done also we can solve our problem to some extent.

Then comes the problem of implement, cattle and other necessities. So far as cattle is concerned, we are becoming poorer and poorer day by day when the cattle population is gradually decreasing. Cattle are dying in hundreds. Recently I had been to Sibsagar where I was told that in Janjimukh and some other places cattle were dying like flies. When I had been to Goalpara and certain places of the north bank and south bank of Kamrup District the people clamoured that they had no cattle because all their cattle died when the epidemic disease came. We are told that we have a very good Veterinary Department and the Veterinary Director is a man with experience. But we judge the result not by in what degree a particular man has been adorned with but what he contributes to the State. When we find that the cattle were dying before our nose and nothing practically was done, can we remain complacent of this state of affairs? In certain areas gammaxine was sprayed but the people were not warned that it was a poisonous drug and the cattle would die if they eat the grass where it was sprayed. But as it was not done it took the lives of many cattle. If you use gammaxine, which is a drug not known to the common people, then it is the duty of the Department to warn the people beforehand about its consequence. After all it is a poisonous drug. So when it was sprayed the Department should have warned the people about it. I am told that at no place such a warning was given and as a result we have lost so many cattle. This is a very sad state of affairs. The Minister will do well to enquire into the matter whether at the time of spraying gammaxine such a warning was given to people. If not, then the Department is solely responsible for the loss of so many cattle. Some people have land, but as they have no cattle during this Sali season they could not plough their land. Today if the Minister says that the yield per acreage of land has gone down during this season I will not be surprised because it is all due to want of cattle, due to want of implement to cultivate. Who is to come to the help of the people at this time? It is the Department. But what do we find?. Hundreds of applications have been

received everywhere by the Deputy Commissioners and the Minister, but they had not the time even to give a reply that their applications would not be considered or they could not be given any help for this year. It is known to everybody that in some places for a pair of bullocks at least Rs. 300 or so is necessary, but in its place a loan of Rs. 100 is given by the Government. I know of cases where a loan of Rs. 50 is given. In no place today a man can purchase a pair of bullocks at Rs. 50. when a man get such a loan of Rs. 50 and cannot purchase the cattle then he, as a needy man, cannot keep the money with him and he spends it otherwise. When a well paid officer can misappropriate a loan, how can a needy man be expected not to do so when the needy man is not given adequate loan for a certain purpose. If such a man misappropriates a loan then it is due to the failure of the Government to meet his requirement fully. So, this is the position of the cattle.

During this season of Sali cultivation no serious effort has been made to help the people with seeds and seedlings. In some big areas where Sali crop is raised I know that as no help from the Government side was forthcoming, the people have not been able to do anything. Therefore, my submission is that, as I said in the beginning, in these matters promptness is very necessary. The Agriculture Department is expected to be very very prompt in its activities and must come to the help of the people very promptly.

Regarding conservation of crop very little attention is given. When the Agriculture Inspectors and Demonstrators go to the field and see the green grass over there they give the report that this time the crop will be very good. There is a saying that until the crop is put in the granary one cannot be sure what kind of crop it will be. Therefore until the crop is stored in the granary there should not be any high hope about it and in the meantime it is to be seen that it is not wasted. It is not only a question of using germicide, it is also a question of conserving the crop and how to do it should be shown to the cultivator. We see pamphlets distributed by the Agriculture Department, but up till now very little has been done in the matter of conservation of the crop. Even to-day, I am not sure whether our Sali crop would be saved. To-day I have read in the papers about floods in Dibrugarh and I have seen also that rivers are rising. There may be flood and if that happens the lean season will last from to-day not upto December only but till July next. Therefore, we have to be cautious from now on and have to guard ourselves. If the floods come and the crop is destroyed, I will not blame the Minister for lack of production, but since he is also the Minister for Food I

would blame him if he fails to supply foodgrains to the people. And, therefore he should try to obtain foodgrains from whatever source it is available, from the Government of India or from other States. If there is a deficit, we must fill up that deficit by import and that has to be done.

Now, Sir, after this it is necessary to discuss the food situation as it affects the consumers. I have discussed the food situation as it affects the producer, now I shall discuss it as it affects the consumer. I have already stated that the whole State to-day is more or less a scarcity area. Fair price shops have been opened but very often they do not have rice and the price that is charged is beyond the capacity of the poor people. Sometimes in a village a fair price shop is given to, say, A. He is to take 50 or 100 maunds of rice and the price per maund is Rs. 19. So, a poor village shopkeeper has to pay Rs. 900 or Rs. 1,800 to get the stock. It is very difficult for a village shop-keeper to pay Rs. 1,800 and take the rice. So what is to be done? I do not like that fair price should be an individual responsibility. I want Government to make the fair price shop-keepers their agents. What they should do is this: as soon as there is a demand for rice say, 50 maunds in a locality, after assessment of the actual need rice should be given to the agent. Before the agent gets another consignment, money should be realised from him. But if the Government insist that money should be paid here and now, I can tell the Government that it will be difficult for them to get shop-keepers in many village who can pay here and now. They may be able to pay two or three hundred rupees but to expect them to pay Rs. 1,800 is to ask the impossible. I do not say that there are not one or two shopkeepers who can pay, but most of them cannot. So, my suggestion is let them be made agents of Government and given rice. They will sell the rice and will pay the money when they come for the next consignment. For that personal or landed security may also be taken.

Then, Sir, I will say that the price charged, *viz.*, Rs. 18 is too much. I know the condition of the people. Whatever ornaments they had they have sold during these years and have also mortgaged their landed property. It is not possible for them to pay Rs. 18 and we should remember it is only the poorest people in the village who want rice from the fair price shops. Day before yesterday when I was at Gauhati some widows trekked their way from the villages and came to me and said that they had nothing to eat and asked for something to be given to them. I had to send them to the Deputy Com.

missioner. Even if you give rice at Rs. 18 they are not in a position to buy it. So, I would request the Minister-in-charge to reconsider the question of price and I would suggest that the price should in no circumstances exceed Rs. 15. I am sure Government will suffer some loss thereby ; but it is better to suffer a loss than to witness starvation and death of the people.

Then, Sir, so far as fair price shops in the villages are concerned, I would suggest that instead of rice, paddy should be given as far as practicable because our people do not like machine-husked milled rice. They want to husk the paddy themselves. This will also save deterioration as rice gets deteriorated very soon whereas paddy can be preserved for some time. Then, Sir, the fair price shops should be developed into semi-ration shops. I know that some people have a bad habit of taking rice from the fair price shops and sell it in the market. Therefore only those who are really needy should be given rice. In that matter the co-operation of the Panchayats and other people may be taken and, I venture to say that so far as food is concerned, let not party politics creep in. We on this side of the House can declare that we will not make food a matter of party politics. We want people to live first and then do politics.

Lastly, I will say that procurement may be possible in certain areas even now, but I do not expect too much from procurement. So, if the Government have given any figure to India regarding procurement, let that figure be revised and let it be insisted on the Government of India that we want more rice as our position is very difficult.

Then, Sir, besides rice there are other items of food like vegetables, fish, milk, etc. The prices of these items of food have also gone up very much and I would request the Minister of Agriculture, who is also the Food Minister, to see that there is a conscious endeavour to encourage production of vegetables, fish and produce more milk in our State, so that we can give something to the people. If we cannot give adequate quantity of fish, let them have sufficient amount of vegetables so that they may live. I have raised this debate not with a view to accuse anybody but with a view to come to certain decisions. I hope the Minister concerned will see that these decisions are taken and not a single man is allowed to die nor a single man is allowed to remain half-starved.

Shri MOHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Hajo) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I am very grateful to you that you have given me an opportunity to associate myself in the discussion on a matter which is so vital today in our State. Sir, many things have been said on the food situation on many an occasion and from many

platforms for the last few years. But in spite of all these, we have seen that the situation has not improved to the extent it is desired.

Before I begin my speech on the food situation, I would like to sympathise with the lot of the Agriculture Minister and also with the Agriculture Department. Sir, when there is plenty, the credit goes to the Nature and to the people, as the Leader of the Opposition has rightly observed. But when there is scarcity, all the blames are put upon the Agriculture Minister and the Agriculture Department. Sir, I am not going to defend the Agriculture Minister or the Department nor do I hold any brief for them. The Agriculture, Department, I must say, has done its part. But I feel in the present conditions of Assam if the Agriculture Department would have been still more vigilant I believe much of the hardships caused to the people would have been mitigated. The Department at certain points fail to rise up to the occasion. The food deficit in Assam has become a chronic one. In 1950-51 the food situation in Assam was different from today. In those years rice was too scarce and, at places rice could not be had even at price of Rs.100 per maund. But this year the situation is not so acute as that. The maximum price of rice has gone only up to Rs.28 per maund. I think I shall be borne out in my observations by the Leader of the Opposition also. But even then people are not able to purchase their requisite quota of rice. The Leader of the Opposition has rightly pointed out that people are unable to purchase rice at Rs. 18 per maund. They have lost absolutely their purchasing power. Therefore, unless this purchasing power in the people can be restored, no amount of talk can solve the problem we are facing today. Last year we did not get a good paddy harvest in the district of Nowgong which has always been the granary of the State owing to drought. As the Sali crop which is the principal crop in Assam failed the procurement position of the Government did suffer a lot. Similar was the case in certain parts of Kamrup and Goalpara districts and also in certain parts of Darrang district. In those districts last year the Sali crop almost failed. People thought that this year the position would improve and they tried their utmost to compensate their loss they sustained in last year. They had a very luxurious Ahu crop. But as ill luck would have it people had been disappointed. Their expectations were belied. The Ahu crop was damaged by rice bugs to the tune of 60 per cent of the total. The blame for failure to fight this pest menace I do not put entirely on the Government, as they Leader of the Opposition has done. The attack of rice bug was very sudden and unprecedented. As the

Leader of the Opposition has rightly stated that it took only three days to destroy the entire field of Ahu crop by rice-bugs in the district or Kamrup. Therefore, even assuming that the Department had the necessary equipments and pesticides, etc. at their disposal they could not deal with the situation because of its virulence. We must look to the difficulties of the Department also. We know how very difficult it is to transport the equipments and pesticides etc. to combat an unprecedented situation like this. Our Government had to bring the equipments and other things from outside Assam which they could not do in time. In this connection however, I would like to submit, Sir, that whatever resources the Department had at their disposal, they did not fully utilise them and, that may be due to lack of proper appreciation of the situation or due to callousness on the part of certain officers at certain quarters. Just now the Leader of the Opposition has stated that Government spread Gammaxine powder from aeroplane in certain parts of Hajo. I see no reason why emphasis was laid on Hojo. But whatever might be the case that operation was being done with a view to kill the rice bugs; but the people could not appreciate it and they did not feel somehow happy with the undertaking. Sir, one thing is very evident in our people. Psychologically our people are generally very conservative. They are very reluctant to take to any new method when it is introduced. It is customary with our people that whatever happens to them they take it to be their lot. I am speaking this from my own experience. During those days when the rice bug menace was at the peak I used to visit villages in the affected areas, I requested the people there to take to the use of pesticides in thier fields invaded by rice bugs and to the use of spraying Gammaxin. But the people were reluctant to do so. They thought it is ordained by God and no amount of human effort can save it. Sir, people also cannot be blamed for this entirely. Because from the side of the leaders also, they are responsible for this in-difference on the part of the people. Whenever we go to a village we simply find fault with the Government and are reluctant to speak a single word to the people on self-help. We do not tell them also that Gammaxine and pesticides, etc. cure their field from rice can bugs. People are reluctant to take to the use of these scientific remedies on heir own accord and when we go on speaking dissuading them not to take to the use of Gammaxine and pesticides, etc. They simply sit idle putting all blame on their fate and Government. Though some action was taken from the side of the Government with a view to help the people, this was the reason why

people would not appreciate them and this was the reason why there had been a colossal devastation of Ahu crop by rice bugs in an unprecedented manner. The operation undertaken by Government also did not bear fruit.

Then again Sir, about cattle mortality. It was so widespread this year that it was almost unprecedented in the history of Assam. I do not know what is the figure at the hands of the Government, but a friend of mine who is a Member of this House from Sibsagar has put the figure for Sibsagar alone at one lakh and fifty thousand deaths. I think it is not exaggerated. I have gone to Majuli in Jorhat Subdivision. We were a big party moving together and we went to one interior-most village which was part of our State. Many of our friends could not take their food because of the obnoxious smell that came from the decomposed carcasses of the dead cattle. The position was really horrible and it is difficult to describe. When I talked to the people and asked them why did they not dispose of these carcasses in proper manner as many of them died of very contagious disease and the contamination might spread to other healthy cattle also. They replied, "What can we do Sir? The rate of daily death was from 10 to 12 cattle per family, how could we bury them all or where was the time and opportunity for us to take some other steps to segregate the healthy cattle from the infected ones". That, Sir, was the position. It clearly proves the acute virulence of the epidemic. I met the Project Executive Officer of Majuli—he is a very able officer, everybody knows it—he also gave me the similar story. I also met the Deputy Commissioner at Kamalabari Inspection Bungalow. He also repeated to me the same story that it was beyond the capacity of the people to dispose of the dead cattle in the manner suggested. One of the main reasons for this high rate of deaths is due to the fact that most of our cattle have lost all their vitality due to chronic under-nourishment or starvation. They have lost all their resistivity to diseases. That was one of the first and foremost causes. The vaccine also which was necessary to fight these diseases was not up to the mark. I think it was also under-dosed at certain time: later on of course the dose was increased and the result was very good. Also, Sir, we know that the potency of this goat tissue vaccine last mostly for six or seven days. As you know, Sir, this vaccine was brought from Patna or Izatnagar or Calcutta or from some other places outside Assam. This is brought to Assam by plane there is no doubt about it. But to carry it from Gauhati to the interior most parts of the State it takes weeks and in the meanwhile the potency of the drug is lost. Our Minister-in-charge spoke of his inability to

carry this vaccine to the interior parts of the State under proper condition because there is no proper arrangement for doing so. Besides that, import of refrigerators was also now banned. For all these reasons, as I have stated, the Minister-in-charge is pleading his inability to carry the vaccine to the affected areas under proper condition. At the same time the people themselves also were not very anxious nor willing nor have so much enthusiasm to inoculate their cattle. That also stood in the way for arresting the spread of the disease resulting in the deaths of so many cattle. We are facing a very great crisis now in the State unprecedented in the history of Assam due to all these.

Now, my Friend had suggested saying, let us give each family cattle and agricultural loan adequate enough to purchase a pair of plough cattle. That suggestion sounds very well. But to put it in actual practice, many difficulties will come up in the way. I had already stated that the cattle mortality in the State this year was widespread, the mortality was immense and it was unprecedented. Therefore even if we are to give money to the people to purchase a pair of bullocks from the side of Government, I think it will be an impossibility to cope with the situation. We cannot at the same time solve the problem merely by saying that it is an impossibility. We must solve it. But how to solve it effectively is the question. The only solution that I can see is formation of co-operative societies. Plough bullocks may be supplied to a batch of people forming into a co-operative. Our people and cattle have sufficient leisure and therefore a pair of plough cattle can serve the purpose of more than one family. We have a lip sympathy for co-operatives. But if we really feel to ameliorate the condition of the agriculturists we must take seriously to it as this is the only weapon with which we can fight against the poverty of the people. My Friend, the Leader of the Opposition, had mentioned about mechanised cultivation. That can be done provided we have co-operatives. If we want to introduce mechanised cultivation by tractors and our people also are willing to take to mechanised cultivation, we would certainly require big plots of land and at the same time a big capital which our cultivators cannot afford. But if they form themselves into co-operative societies, combine together and put their out and out efforts to work for the success of these co-operatives, then this problem can be solved to a great extent.

Now, Sir, whenever we discuss these things on the floor of the House we always try to put the entire blame on the Government without trying to explore the difficulties of the

Government. I say, Sir, the problem that we are facing now is a social problem. It is not a party problem or a political problem, it is a social problem in which the whole members of the society should put their shoulders together to solve it. We should not feel for a moment that the problem is not ours or that it is only of the Government or of the Party that is running the Government. If we really want to save our people from starvation, we must know that it is our bounden duty as responsible representatives of the people to see that food production is increased and that the purchasing capacity of the people is raised instead of merely talking and making speeches here or outside. I appeal to the hon. Members in the Opposition—let us set aside all our political differences and let us fight this problem as a social problem and let us come forward with whatever offer we get from the Government to solve this problem. Then and then only, this problem can be properly solved. But all along we have heard our friends saying, “We want more land”, “We want more rice from the Government of India or from whatever source” “we want more gratuitous relief” and so on. I agree these things are necessary but what I feel these can only solve the problem temporarily.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BORBARUAH (Amguri):

Then what is the necessity of having a Government? What is the use

Shri MOHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Hajo) :

I am not giving in Sir. My Friend must have the patience of hearing me, I am giving suggestions as to how this problem can be solved. As I said, Sir, we must solve this problem. We must look at it as a social problem and.....

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BORBARUAH: But I have the right to interfere..... (laughter)

Shri MOHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY: No Sir, my Friend has no right to interfere when I am not giving in. If I give in then of course he has the right to interfere. Therefore, Sir, what I was going to suggest is this. We must always see how to improve food production in our State. My Friend, Shri Hazarika, the mover of this motion as well as the Leader of the Opposition have rightly observed that we must put stress on irrigation, land reclamation and flood control. Our State is ravaged by frequent floods. To fight that flood we have put big embankments alongside our rivers. Sir we used to have floods in the past but those floods have

some utility for the agriculturists because that flood used to carry a lot of wealth to the people from the Himalayan ranges. Those accumulated wealth were carried by the rivers and distributed in our paddy fields, and thus people did not feel any necessity whatsoever to manure their fields after the floods. But now there is drought condition and there is no doubt the recurrence of floods has been minimised to some extent, but at the same time whatever little the agriculturists should get from the flood water as manure, that is also stopped to a great extent. That is the thing I believe which we should consider very much. If we want to raise the production power of the land, we must look to four things: First of all good seeds are a prerequisite for better production. Then comes irrigation. After that manure and then comes the question of elementary technical knowledge. These are the four prerequisites for having better production and for having greater production. Unless we can fulfil these four important conditions, there is no use talking about grow-more-food campaign. First of all let us come to manure. Of course, now-a-days Government is distributing some chemical fertiliser but chemical fertiliser cannot solve the problem of manure. Moreover some well known scientists are very sceptic about the efficacy of the chemical fertiliser. Therefore we must not depend on chemical fertiliser alone. Green manure is a thing which our cultivators should be taught to use. Then again compost manure—organic manure. Now in the recent past when the country suffered scarcity—I think in 1950, from the side of the Government a campaign was started to take to producing compost manure in the villages. For whatever reasons that scheme has been abandoned I do not know. Now it is time we must take resort again to this campaign. We should teach our people how to make manure and use this compost manure with advantages. Even now if we go to the villages, we see that their national wealth—I mean cow dung—is being wasted like anything. Even to-day our people do not make use of this important manure. That must not be done. Now in an agricultural country, cow dung is more valuable than currency notes. This wealth is being wasted in our villages like anything. Therefore as we have so many Agricultural Demonstrators, why can they not collect them and try to distribute them to the villagers? We have so many N. E. S. and C. D. Projects. Those organisations also can take up this work. If we visit any Community Project or N. E. S. area, we find there also cow dung is being wasted. I am not going to say anything about human excreta now, but even this cow dung is being wasted. The Department should, with the help of Pancha-

yats, N. E. S. or C. P. Project organisations, also political parties and students, try to utilise and preserve and utilise this most valuable wealth of the country. Then, Sir, again I come to the question of green manure. I think our people know very little about it. They got an intuitive knowledge about it. But they do not know the scientific value of this scheme. This should be brought home to them. It is the bounden duty of the Government to make them green manure minded. Then about good seeds, the result of the scientific research is that if one uses good seeds, then one can increase the food production at least by 25 per cent. Assam is not deficit to the extent of 25 per cent. That also is not being done. Mr. Hazarika has found fault with the Department. He said that the seeds supplied by the Department did not germinate in many cases. Now, how can the Department supply good seeds? They are not growing seeds. They are procuring them from others and distributing them to the cultivators. Now I have seen a healthy feature in our Government deciding to start one such seed farm in each National Extension Service or in the Shadow Block areas. It will take some time for the Government to cover the whole country with N.E.S. Blocks so till then we should take steps to make other arrangements so that the whole country may be uniformly served by such seed farms. Now whenever we speak about such a farm some nightmare haunts us because in the past things were not upto the mark, these farms did not work properly. This is a complaint here in this House and outside also. The most unfortunate thing is that production in these farms were found to be far below than what was found to be in the neighbouring field of the cultivators. These matters must be looked into very carefully. Sometimes it was explained that as the sites selected by the Government for the purpose of seed farms were not favourable and therefore these farms could not show good results. But that must not be the rule always. Now it is the duty of the Government to see that these seed farms have greater yield.

Then it has been spoken about small irrigation schemes. Mr. Goswami said that these small irrigation projects were not being properly maintained. Sir, till now we had little necessity for these irrigation projects in our State. Our fields were irrigated by rain water. The nature is bountiful and God was kind to us in this respect. Whenever we needed water in our fields, we depended on nature. But now we cannot attribute everything to nature. We live today in a planned economy and so we must plan our schemes independent of nature. Sir,

I have seen the enthusiasm of our people for cutting a channel for taking water for their fields, at the beginning, but soon that enthusiasm dies out and they even do not carry out the repairs to keep the perennial supply of water. From the side of the Government also there is no provision to keep them in proper running condition.

Therefore, Sir, I suggest that this matter should be looked into by the Minister and effect remedy in whatever way possible.

Then again about big embankments, these big embankments have failed to control the situation in the country as a whole. By controlling flood in one part of the country we are making certain other fertile fields dry and unsuitable for cultivation. That should not be so. By doing one thing, by going to help certain fields we must not injure the productive capacity of certain other fields. Therefore I suggest that sufficient number of sluice gates should be constructed in the embankments. We have miles and miles of embankments but without any outlet whatsoever to let in water to the fields. Therefore I suggest that Government should see that sufficient number of sluice gates are opened in the embankments for letting in water to irrigate the fields.

Then about technical know-how. Our Government have started too many research institutions. Our State Government have also one such institution in Titabar. But unless the benefits of these research institutions can be brought to the reach of the people, they will not serve any useful purpose. Our Government has no agency to bring to the reach of the village people the results of the researches done in these institutions, there is no agency to demonstrate them before the people.

Then again about our implement also. Whatever implements we are using to-day they fall far short of our present day requirements. The present day research has made available to us many improved varieties of agricultural implements but our people have not yet become used to these improved implements. Of course there are certain difficulties to make our people understand that these are better implements to improve production. But that ignorance of our people should not stand on our way. We must devise methods to make them understand the advantage of the use of these implements; we must have legislation, if necessary, to make people use these better kinds of agricultural implements. These things must be done, and then only I think we can have more production in our country.

Another thing that is very important for augmenting the production is the land reforms. Land tenure as it exists in our country to-day is not quite satisfactory. It is admitted by every-body. We put up with this unsatisfactory state of affairs over all these years. Therefore our Government should be up and doing in bringing about an improvement in our existing land tenure system. It is not that we are not doing anything to introduce land reforms in our country; we have passed so many Acts, but unfortunately these have not been properly implemented. It is the duty of the Government and of the different parties to see that the land reform measures enacted by Government are fully implemented.

I was referring at the beginning of my speech to the food situation that now obtains in our country. Whatever it may be to-day, it is not my intention to lay the blame on any body in this connection. It is a fact that the food situation has now assumed an alarming proportion, and we must try our level best to fight it out squarely, evenly and unitedly. Unless we put our heads together, unless we take each other into confidence and proceed to tackle the problem unitedly, we cannot expect to solve this problem. Therefore I call upon all the parties whatever their political affiliations may be, that they should work together in this situation. If any body believes that only Governmental measures will solve the present difficult food situation, then I should say that he is living in a world of imagination of his own. It is beyond the power of Government to solve this problem in its entirety. Government can of course help, and provide certain means, but Government cannot by its single handed efforts solve the whole problem. If we really want to solve this problem then we should extend our helping hand to Government and co-operate with Government in its efforts to solve the problem. Therefore I request Government to constitute certain agencies, field management committees, or whatever name they may like to give it, and that committee should be made responsible to see how the people can be educated about the uses of the scientific researches, to educate the people about proper irrigation of lands, proper use of seeds and manure, etc., and also how to rotate cultivation with a view to yield more crops. Shri Hazarika has rightly observed that our people are used to the cultivation of only two varieties of crops, paddy and mustard. But that would not do under the prevailing conditions. Our cost of living is daily increasing but our income is coming down every day and as a result our people are becoming poorer year after year. Therefore we must educate

our people to have intensive cultivation in their fields. They must also be taught the method of rotation of crop cultivation. Besides there are certain lands lying fallow. These lands must be utilised for some types of cultivation suitable for such lands. Then my Friend, Shri Goswami had referred to about the supply of more rice. Yes, more rice is necessary for our people, and I also appeal to the Government to try to augment the supply of rice as much as possible. But in case the supply of rice is not adequate to meet the entire requirements of the people, then what should we do? We must advise our people to change their food habits. The other day when the Union Food Minister had come to Assam he said to us at Gauhati, and the Leader of the Opposition was perhaps present at that time, that he would be prepared to supply as much quantity of wheat as might be necessary for Assam. Wheat is a good food, a very substantial food, much more substantial than rice. Therefore, we must try to effect a change in the food habit of our people. That can be done by propaganda, by demonstrative kitchens and such other methods. I therefore suggest to the Hon. Minister to open a number of free kitchens at which people can be educated as to the method of preparation of wheat and how to eat them. They must have some expert cooks for this purpose and start some such kitchens in the villages. We should also try to educate our people as to what are the better qualities of wheat as against rice. It is an admitted fact that too much of rice eating makes one feel very heavy and unfit for work; we feel sleepy after taking our meals. Every Assamese has the knack of having a nap or going to sleep after his meal. Why is it so? You go to the Punjab, the Punjabees do not sleep after having their meals; people in the land of my Friend Shri Patwari do not sleep after their meals. But in our place our people invariably enjoy a nap after meals. It is because our meal is very heavy.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):
You are a sample of wheat meal!

Shri MOHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDUHRY (Hajo):
Not of wheat but of rice (*laughter*).

Therefore I request the Hon. Minister in-charge to start some such kitchens and also request Government to sanction some money, if necessary, for the purpose so that these things may be tried.

Then, Sir, my Friend, Mr. Goswami, has rightly observed when he says that rice and wheat alone is not required to build the body and soul, but fish, vegetables, fruits, etc., are also more essential than rice and wheat. I hope Government will give

serious consideration to these things and I believe if the Government will go all out for producing vegetables, fish, etc., in large quantities this will also go a long way towards the solution of our food problem. Secondly, Sir, we find that now a days the question of unemployment is looming very large in our country ; if the Government try to enlarge the activities of the Agricultural Department, the Pisciculture Department, etc., our youngmen who are running after jobs and are disappointed can be usefully engaged in these activities and this will also go to help solving the question of unemployment. I hope Government will come forward with liberal help and take up this question in right earnest. The Government also in this direction can encourage the people to form co-operative societies in order that the people may find work for themselves. Then again Sir,

Shri PRABHATNARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member is going beyond his limit. According to the rules I think the hon. Member has exceeded his time also.

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Hajo): Sir, I thought Mr. Choudhury was realising my speech but now I find that it is not so. Therefore, I conclude my speech here.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): মাননীয় চেয়াৰমেন মহোদয়, আজি এই সদনত খাদ্য বিষয়ে বিৰোধী দলৰ নেতা গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াই যিটো প্ৰস্তাব দাঙি ধৰিছে আৰু খাদ্য উৎপাদনৰ বিষয়ে হাজৰীকা ডাঙৰীয়াই যি খিনি কৈছে, সেই বিষয়ে দুঘাৰ কবলৈ ময়ো আগবাঢ়িছো।

এই বিষয়ে মোৰ বন্ধু গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়া আৰু শ্ৰীচৌধুৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই এই প্ৰস্তাবৰ কিছমান কথা পৰিকারকৈ কৈ গৈছে ; বিশেষকৈ গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াই কৈছে যে আজিৰ খাদ্য সমস্যাৰ অনুপাতে চৰকাৰৰ যি তৎপৰতাৰ আৱশ্যক আছিল, চৰকাৰে দিব পৰা নাই। শ্ৰীগোস্বামীৰ উক্ত কথাৰ লগত মোৰ একমত। আমাৰ খেতিয়ক সকলে উৎপাদনৰ যাবতীয় সঁজুলি বা সামগ্ৰী সময়মতে নাপায় তাৰ ফলত খাদ্যৰ উৎকট অনাটন। আজি আমাৰ মানুহৰ বিশেষকৈ খেতিয়ক সকলৰ মুখে মুখে শুনা যায় যে আমাৰ আহু ধানৰ খেতি পোকে খাই ধবংশ কৰিলে—কিন্তু চৰকাৰে নিৰলস হৈ থাকিল। মই দাঙি কব পাবো যে মোৰ সমষ্টিত কোনো চৰকাৰী সাহায্য আজিও কোনেও পোৱা নাই, তাৰ ফলত তাত তিনি লাখ মৌন ধান অৰ্থাৎ শতকৰা ৫০ ভাগ শস্য লোকচান হৈছে। এই বিলাক জানো ৰাজ্যিক ক্ষতি নহয় ? তাৰ পিচত গৰু মৰা কথা যোৱাৰ সদনত বিশেষকৰূপে আলোচনা হৈছিল। মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়েও নিজে স্বীকাৰ কৰিছিল যে অকল মঙ্গলদৈতে ২৩,৫০০ গৰু মৰিছে। প্ৰকৃততে সংখ্যাটো তাতকৈ বহুত বেচি আছিল। কিন্তু চৰকাৰে স্বীকাৰহে কৰিলে, তাৰ হলে একো ব্যৱস্থা নকৰিলে। ই নিশ্চয় বিভাগৰ ত্ৰুটিৰ কাৰণেই ঘটিছে।

আনকালে খাদ্য সমস্যা সমাধানৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে কিবা পৰিসংখ্যা সংগ্ৰহ কৰিছেনে নাই কব নোৱাৰো। যোৱাৰ এজন্য মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে বাজেট বক্তৃতাত কোৱা মনত আছে যে বহুতো undesirable persons আহি অসম সোমাইছে। কিছুমান শস্য বাহিৰলৈ ওলাই গৈছে। গতিকে আমাৰ কিমান মানুহ আছে আৰু কিমান খাদ্য লাগিব, কিমান উৎপাদন ইয়াত হ'ব বাহিৰৰ পৰা কিমান আনিব লাগিব, যি খাদ্য ইয়াত উৎপন্ন হ'ব তাৰ কাৰণে যথোপযুক্ত সাহায্য খেতিয়কে পাবনে নোপায়। আৰা আদি সাহায্যৰ দ্বাৰা একো কাম নহয়।

তাৰ পিচত শস্যৰ ঠিক দাম খেতিয়কে পাবনে নোপায় তাৰ এটা Security জনসাধাৰণৰ মনত জন্মাব লাগিব—নহলে খাদ্য উৎপাদনৰ কাম নহয়। তেওলোকে উচিত মূল্য পাব লাগে।

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Food and Agriculture): তেখেতৰ মতে কিমান টকা হ'ব লাগে? তেখেতৰ নেতাৰ মতে ১৮ টকা বেচি। গতিকে তেখেতে উচিত মূল্যৰ কি মানে কৰে?

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): এতিয়াই কলে মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে বুজিবলৈ টান পাব। (হাহাঁ) সেই শস্য উচিত মূল্য দি চৰকাৰে সংগ্ৰহ কৰি খেতিয়কক উৎসাহিত কৰা উচিত।

যোৱা নৱেম্বৰত ধানৰ মোনে ১৩।১৪ টকা আছিল; তাৰ পিচত মাজতে ১০ টকা হ'ল আৰু চৰকাৰে কিছুমান stock কৰিলে ইয়াৰ পিচত আকৌ ১৩।১৪ টকা হ'ল। চৰকাৰে এটা নীতি লৈ ধান সংগ্ৰহ কৰিব লাগে—খেতিয়কৰ মনত ভাব হৈছে চৰকাৰী নীতি জনসাধাৰণৰ মঙ্গলৰ কাৰণে কিন্তু যদি ই অমঙ্গলৰ কাৰণ হয় তেন্তে শোচনীয় কথা।

The millers may sell Atta in retail upto a quantity of 20 seers per consumer at the whole sale price or slightly higher rate fixed by the local officers concerned.

এই slightly higher কথাটো ব'ব ভয় লগা কথা। গতিকে এনে ধৰণৰ কিছুমান কথা আছে য'ত চৰকাৰী নীতি ব'ব flexible হৈ যায়। ফলত খেতিয়কৰ মনত সন্দেহ জন্মে।

তাৰ পিচত আমাৰ চৌধুৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই আমাৰ জনসাধাৰণৰ খাদ্যৰ সংস্কাৰ কৰাৰ কথা কৈছে। ভাতৰ সলনি আটা। কিন্তু যি চৰকাৰে চাউল ঠিক কৰিব নোৱাৰে সেই চৰকাৰে জানো আটাৰ মূল্য ঠিক কৰিব পাৰিব? এই সকলো বিলাক নডককৈ দুই এটা ডাঙৰ 'বুলি' গুনোৱাৰ পৰা কাম নহয়।

Stock কৰা হয় কিন্তু বৰ্তমান কোনো এটা বস্তৰ লগত আনটো বস্তৰ একো সামঞ্জস্য নাই বুলি মই ক'ব পাৰো।

খাদ্য শস্যৰ দাম নিদিয়াৰ কাৰণে খেতিয়কে ধান খেতি নকৰি অন্য খেতি যেনে, তামোলৰ খেতিকে কৰিছে, কাৰণ তামোলত বেচি দাম পায়। গতিকে এনে ধৰণে কিছুমান বেমেজালি সোমাই আছে, যি কাৰণে খেতিয়ক সকলে খাদ্য উৎপাদনত কম মনোযোগ দিছে।

তাৰ পিচত গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ সমষ্টি হ'ল গুৱাহাটী আৰু মই হলো আন সমষ্টিৰ । গতিকে উচিত মূল্যৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত মোৰ আৰু গোস্বামীৰ মিল নথকা স্বাভাৱিক কথা । তাকে কথাৰ সম্বল কৰি ল'বলৈ মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই আগতে জানিব খুজিছিল । (হাঁহি)

এতিয়া মোৰ কথাটো হৈছে যে Ashok Mehta Committee, Estimate Committee, ইত্যাদিৰ report পঢ়ি তাৰ লগত সামঞ্জস্য ৰাখি আমাৰ চৰকাৰে নীতি গ্ৰহণ কৰা উচিত ।

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY (Minister, Food and Agriculture): Report বিলাক ইংৰাজীতহে লিখা, মিনিষ্টাৰে সেই report বিলাক পঢ়িব পাৰিলেও আপুনি পঢ়িব পাৰিছেনে নাই ক'ব নোৱাৰো ।

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery): মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে পঢ়ি যদি আমাক আৰু আমাৰ খেতিয়ক সকলে যি ভাষাত কথা কয় সেই ভাষাত বুজাই দিয়ে তেতিয়া হলে আমি বুজিম তেখেত পঢ়িছে । আমি যি পঢ়িছো সেই পঢ়া মন্ত্ৰীমহোদয়ৰ দৰে Theoretically পঢ়া নহলেও আমাৰ পঢ়া Practically পঢ়া, আমি পঢ়িছো Practical field ত, আজি জনসাধাৰণৰ যি কষ্ট হৈছে সেইটো আমি Practically অনুভৱ কৰিছো ।

Shri KARKA CHANDRA DOLEY [North-Lakhimpur (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : আপুনি গাঁৱে গাঁৱে ফুৰি গাঁৱৰ জনসাধাৰণৰ লগত মিলি যোৱাৰ কাৰণে হয়তো আপুনি ৰাইজৰ দুঃখ কষ্ট অনুভৱ কৰিব পাৰিছে ; কিন্তু মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়া গাড়ীৰে ফুৰাৰ কাৰণে হয়তো সেই কথা বুজিব বা অনুভৱ কৰিব পৰাৰ সুবিধা হোৱা নাই ।

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY : মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়েও ইচ্ছা কৰিলে খোজ কাঢ়ি খবৰ ললে সকলো বুজি পাব । অস্তবত যদি কথাবোৰ নবহে তেনেহলে কেৱল বক্তৃতাহে হ'ব, কাম একো নহয় । আমাৰ খাদ্য উৎপাদন ক্ষেত্ৰত Practically যিটো কৰিলে কাম হয় তেনেকুৱা ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে । খেতিয়কে নিজ হাতে নাঙল ধৰি খেতি কৰে, তেওঁলোকে জানে কেনেকৈ খেতি কৰিব লাগে । গতিকে এইবোৰ বিষয়ে Practical suggestion বোৰ সদায় বিবেচনা কৰিব লাগিব । এজন দুৰ্বল মানুহৰ তুলনাত আমাৰ মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ৰ যিটো শৰীৰ সেই শৰীৰৰ বাবে 10 এপোৱা খাদ্য দিলে কি হ'ব ? তেওঁ শুকাই ফীনাই যাব, ঠিক তেনেকৈয়ে খাদ্য উৎপাদনৰ কথা ভাবিবলৈ হলে Practical ফালটো চাব লাগিব । আমি সকলোৱে দেখি আছো যে যিবিলাক প্ৰদেশত বৰষুণ নাই সেই বিলাক প্ৰদেশেই চেনি, দাইল, বুট, ইত্যাদি আমাৰ ইয়াতলৈ পঠিয়াব লাগিছে, অথচ আমাৰ সাক্ষৰা মাটিৰ এখন প্ৰদেশত খাদ্যৰ অভাৱ ই কিমান পৰিমাণৰ কথা ? আমি কেৱল খাদ্য বঢ়োৱাই নহয় লগতে চাব লাগে আমিও কেনেকৈ নিজে খাই আন আন ঠাইতলৈ খাদ্য বস্ত পঠাব পাৰো । আমি এতিয়া গভীৰ চিন্তা কৰি চাব লাগিব খেতিৰ Protection ৰ বাবে কি কৰা দৰকাৰ, আৰু তাৰ বাবে যি কৰা উচিত সেই Protective measure ঠিক সময়তে ল'ব লাগে । তাৰ পাছত ২য় কথা হ'ল, যি এলেকাত গৰু মহ বেচিকৈ মৰে বা আন প্ৰকাৰৰ দুৰ্যোগ হয় তাত মানুহক বেহাই দিবৰ বাবে যি যি বস্তুৰ প্ৰয়োজন সেই বিলাক দি মানুহক বিপদৰ পৰা উদ্ধাৰ কৰি খেতি উৎপাদনত আগ বাঢ়ি যোৱাত সুবিধা কৰি দিব লাগে ।

এই কথা হল, বস্ত সংগ্রহ কৰিবলৈ হলে এটা definite policy গ্ৰহণ কৰিব লাগে। কিন্তু যি নীতি বা policy ৰ দ্বাৰা খেতিয়কে তেওঁলোকৰ উৎপাদনৰ উপযুক্ত মূল্য নাপায় সেই নীতি উপযুক্ত নীতি নহব।

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Food and Agriculture) : আপুনি মূল্যটো কি হোৱা উচিত কৈ দিয়ক আপোনাৰ পৰাই suggestion বিচাৰিছো, আপুনিয়েই কওকছোন কোনটো দাম আপুনি উপযুক্ত বুলি ভাবে ?

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery) : Procurement Advisory Board ত মোৰ মূল্যটো দিয়া আছে। গতিকে মোৰ এতিয়া সম্পূৰ্ণ বিশ্বাস হল যে মন্ত্ৰী মণ্ডলে Board ৰ report বোৰ একেবাৰে পঢ়া নাই। (Voice—আপোনাৰ মূল্যটো কতক আমি সদনে জানিবলৈ বিচাৰিছো)।

অশোক মেহটাই মূল্য মানে ১০ টকা হব লাগে বুলি কৈছে। অসম চৰকাৰেও সেই মূল্যকে নিৰ্দ্ধাৰণ কৰিছে। (Voice—পাটোৱাৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই চাহ বাগিছানোৰত ধানৰ কি মূল্য দিয়ে ?)

এইটো ঠিক যে চৰকাৰে স্থিৰ কৰা মূল্যতকৈ পাটোৱাৰীয়ে স্থিৰ কৰা মূল্য বেচি নাৰ্য। গতিকে চৰকাৰে যদি ১০ টকা হিচাবে ধানৰ মূল্য fixed কৰিছে তেনেহলে চৌধুৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই ২৮ টকা হোৱাৰ কথা কেনেকৈ হবলৈ পায় ? ইয়াৰ পৰা বুজা যায় যে মূল্যৰ কোনো নিৰ্দ্ধাৰণেই নাই। যদি চাউল ২৮ টকা হয় ধান ১৮ টকা হব লাগে।

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : মিনিষ্টাৰৰ হাতত চাউলৰ দাম ধাৰ্য কৰি দিয়াৰ কোনো ক্ষমতা নাই।

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY : There is no fixed price for selling.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : May I be permitted to make this point clear, Sir? There is no power in the hands of the State Governments to enforce any price in the retail market, but the Government of India, under the Essential Supplies Act, have given us the power to purchase at a certain wholesale price and that has been fixed at Rs.10, Rs.10-4-0 and Rs.10-8-0 for our State. We are purchasing at that rate, that is all. The rest depends on merchants like my Friend, Mr. Patwary and on their good will.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY : Sir, the thing is, if I am considered a merchant in the Assembly, I will consider the Minister as my lawyer because a merchant needs a lawyer of LL.B. fame. Leave it; that is not my point. My point is this

মই কৰ খুজিছো যে যেতিয়া চৰকাৰে ধানৰ মূল্য ১০ টকা ধাৰ্য্য কৰিছে— সেই অনুপাতে চাউলৰ মূল্যও ধাৰ্য্য কৰা উচিত আছিল। এই কাৰণে যে—যি সকলে চাউল কিনে তেওঁলোক যেন ক্ষতিগ্ৰস্ত নহয়। ধানৰ দাম যেতিয়া মোনে ১০ টকাত ধাৰ্য্য হৈছে— চাউলৰ দামো সেই অনুপাতে ধাৰ্য্য হ'ব লাগিছিল যাতে কিনোতা সকলে ১৮ টকা বা ১৭।১০ টকা মোনে পাব লাগিছিল। কিন্তু তাৰ ঠাইত চাউলৰ মোনে ৩০ টকা বা তাতকৈ বেচি হৈছে। ইয়েই প্ৰমাণ নকৰেণে—যে চৰকাৰ এই ক্ষেত্ৰত সম্পূৰ্ণ পৰাজিত হৈছে আৰু চাউলৰ দাম Control কৰিব পৰা নাই। এই ক্ষেত্ৰত মোৰ পূৰ্বা বিশ্বাস যে মাননীয় সদনৰ সদস্য সকলেও এই কথা ভালকৈ জানে। মোৰ কথা হৈছে— চৰকাৰে যেতিয়া ধান ১০ মোনত কিনে সেই দৰে চাউলৰ মূল্যও বান্ধি দিব লাগিছিল যাতে Consumer সকলৰ সুবিধা হয় আৰু, তেওঁলোক যাতে ক্ষতি গ্ৰস্ত নহয়।

Maulavi NURUL ISLAM (Dhing) : চাহ বাগিচাৰ মজদুৰ সকলক ধান চাউল যোগান দিওতে আপুনি কি দৰত যোগান দিয়ে ?

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY (Panery) : মই দুঃখ পাইছো যে মাননীয় সদস্য সকলে অনৰ্থক কি ধৰণৰ প্ৰশ্নবিলাক কৰে। I have come here as a representative of the people. I have not come here as a "Bepari" or contractor. I have not come here to give my personal explanation to the Members. তথাপিও যদি তেওঁলোকে জানিব খুজিছে মই তেখেত সকলক মোৰ টংলা অঞ্চললৈ নিমন্ত্ৰণ জনাওঁ যেন তেওঁলোকৰ অবসৰ সময়ত তালৈ এবাৰ যায়। তেতিয়া হলে মই তেওঁলোকক আচল দামদৰ সম্পৰ্কীয় কথাপিনি দেখুৱাই বুজাই দিব পাৰিম।

Shri BAIKUNTHA NATH DAS [Rangiya (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : আপুনি কমকৈ ১৫ খন চাহ বাগিচাত ধান যোগান দিওতে কেনেকৈ দিয়ে ?

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY : I want Notice for that, Sir. মোৰ হিচাপ মতে শতকৰা ৫০ জন মজদুৰ আৰু শতকৰা ৫০ জন খেতিয়ক আৰু তাৰ মাজত শতকৰা ১ জন বেপাৰী শ্ৰেণীৰ লোক আছে। আজিৰ সদনৰ আলোচনা প্ৰসঙ্গত সদস্য সকলৰ মাজত যি নীতি প্ৰতি ফলিত হৈছে—তাৰ পৰা সহজে অনুমান কৰিব পাৰিয়ে এই নীতি অনুসৰণ কৰিলে সৰ্বসাধাৰণ Consumer বাইজ উপকৃত নহ'ব।

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY : They are disturbed me so, this time should not be counted for, Sir. I should not be disturbed. Let me express my views freely and frankly.

Mr. CHAIRMAN : You will finish by 12-30 P.M.

Shri HIRALAL PATWARY : আশাকৰো মোক আৰু যেন সদস্য সকলে disturbance নিদিয়ে, মোৰ বহু কথা কবলগা আছিল আৰু সেই মতে ঠিক কৰি আনিছিলো। পিচে এই disturbance বিলাকে বাধা দিছে। চেয়াৰমেন ডাঙৰীয়া, আমাৰ ইয়াৰ খাদ্য সমস্যা এটা জটিল আৰু ডাঙৰ সমস্যা হৈ উঠিছে। মাননীয় সদনৰ সদস্য সকলৰ এইটো অবিদিত নহয় যে যোৱা ১৯৪২ চনত খাদ্য সংকটৰ কি বিকট ৰূপ আৰু আকাৰে হাজাৰ হাজাৰ নবনাৰীৰ প্ৰান হানি কৰিলে। এতিয়াও তাৰেই প্ৰতিচৰ্চাৰ স্পষ্ট জিলিঙনি অসম আকাশত আহিব লাগিছে। শ্ৰীযুত গোস্বামীদেৱে খাদ্যৰ অভাৱত মানুহ মৰিছে বুলি সদনত মোৰ আগতে ব্যক্ত কৰি গৈছে। কাজেই আজিৰ খাদ্যৰ এই পৰিস্থিতি সন্মুখত ৰাখি, ৰাজ্য চৰকাৰে, খেতিয়ক আৰু 'কনজিউমাৰ' সকলৰ দাবী, মানিলৰ লাগিব আৰু সেই মতে চৰকাৰে কাম হাতত ললেহে খাদ্য উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি হ'ব। দুখৰ বিয়ৰু খেতিয়ক সকলে

চৰকাৰৰ পৰা নিয়মিত ভাবে, সময় নতে কোনো উপাদানেই যোগান নাপায়। ইয়াৰ বাবে চৰকাৰী কৃষিবিভাগ নিশ্চয় দায়ী আৰু বিভাগীয় অকৰ্মন্যতাৰ হেতু—আমাৰ খেতিয়ক জনসাধাৰণৰ ভাগ্যৰ বিপৰ্য্যয় ঘটছে আৰু তেওঁবিলাকৰ আৰ্থিক অৱস্থা দিনক দিনে বেয়াৰ পৰা শোচনীয় অৱস্থালৈ বাগৰি গৈছে। ই বৰ পৰিতাপৰ কথা আৰু চৰকাৰৰ পক্ষে ই বৰ দোষনীয় হোৱা উচিত আছিল।

(A Voice :—সময় শেষহৈ গৈছে, চাব)

আশাকৰো, কৃষি বিভাগৰ মন্ত্রী ডাঙৰীয়াই এই মৰ্গে চিন্তা কৰি—কৃষি কাৰ্য্যত যাতে কৃষক সকলে আগবাঢ়িব পাৰে তালৈ তীব্ৰ দৃষ্টি দিয়ে। মোৰ কব বহু আছিল কিন্তু সময়ৰ অভাৱত কব নোৱাৰিলো।

Adjournment

The Assembly then adjourned for lunch till 2 P. M.

After lunch

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate Shri Hazarika and also Shri Goswami for bringing before the House two very important motions. The problem of the day is two-fold. One is to increase more food. The other is to meet the present scarcity of food. Hon. Members participating in the debate have offered very valuable suggestions and evinced thereby keen interest in the discussion. The crux of the whole problem is that how we can increase more food. Now all this depend on the only question *i. e.*, how we can improve and protect our cattle wealth? In an agricultural country like ours where almost 90 per cent of the population depend on agriculture our cattle wealth plays a very important role. Utmost importance has to be given to the prosperity of the cattle wealth. This problem was neglected during British regime. But after independence, Government have taken steps to improve the cattle population and, in the Second Five Year Plan, Veterinary and Animal Husbandry have been given utmost importance. We cannot conceive the idea of a welfare State without considering the welfare of the agriculturists which depends on the welfare of the cattle population. Now the cattle population here in our State is very big. Without the cattle population being in prosperity our agriculturists cannot be expected to be prosperous. Therefore, if we want to have more food and more agricultural produce, the first important thing which we should do is to, pay utmost attention towards our cattle. As is known to the House, we are unfortunate that last year a heavy toll of cattle was taken by rinderpest and other diseases, as was stated by Shri Mohendra Mohan Choudhury. In one subdivision about 1½ lakhs of cattle died. In our Darrang district also about a lakhs of cattle died from rinderpest. It is unprecedented

in the history of Assam that such a heavy toll of cattle was taken by this fell disease and we could not prevent this catastrophe. Though we tried our best with the limited resources at our disposal, still we could not save the annihilation of such a huge number of cattle in our State. This should make us ponder how in such future catastrophes how we can save our cattle. One of the difficulties, as was stated by Shri Choudhury is non-availability of Serum in the State. Serum is not produced by the Pathological Laboratories in our State and it has to be indented from outside and reach by the time it is destinations in our State the efficiency of the serum vanishes. Now the question is whether we should always rely on the serum to be indented from outside the State or we should do something for its production here. I believe we can produce serum here in our State, as we have produced goat vaccines. I understand that goat vaccines are doing immense service. I am told by doctors that with periodical inoculation with goat vaccines we can prevent rinderpest which is a fell disease. Therefore, my suggestion to the Government is that we must device ways and means by which we can produce serum in our own laboratories. If we want more food and more crop, we must be able to save our cattle population from annihilation and deaths. This cannot be done unless and until we equip ourselves with all the modern methods of treatment to save our cattle population from the attack of such fell diseases. It is also said that our Veterinary personnel are very few and they are not available in the State, The Government should think whether they will wait till our Veterinary College produces the required number of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons and Field Assistants or will do something. We must increase the number of seats in the Veterinary College for Veterinary Assistant Surgeons and also for Veterinary Field Assistants. It is one of my suggestions to the Government and if we are short of the required number of veterinary personnel we must think of bringing Veterinary Assistant Surgeons from outside preferably on contract service if necessary with higher initial pay. If the desired number is not available on contract services, then some way be brought on permanent cadre of service. But at the same time we should see that our boys who will come out successful from our college in future may be provided.

The next thing is that with a view to improve the local breed we must increase the number of artificial insemination centres. That will create a better cattle and help in the production of milk which is one of the items of our food. The present milk yield is very poor. Therefore we should try to improve the

local breed either by natural services or by artificial insemination so that within a short space of time we may have a better breed of cattle.

Our Publicity Department should be organized with a view to propagate in the villages by lantern lectures or by cinema shows and by distribution of pamphlets how we can prevent and treat simple diseases like foot and mouth, etc. propaganda of this nature will be very helpful to the people. This education can be effectively done by lantern lectures, pamphlets or cinema shows. Sir, in the matter of propaganda we are very backward. Such propaganda or education will greatly help in reducing the cattle mortality. We should also take the trouble of propagating all this to our people. Congress Committees and other social welfare organisations can also educate our people how to grow fodder and what are the benefits of stall feeding. This education is really very essential for the purpose of improving our cattle population. This is all about the Veterinary and Animal Husbandry side.

Now I would speak something about the agriculture.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid, for lack of time all the good things that are being said by the hon. Member will have to be cut short. He has already spoken for 14 minutes.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) : I will finish the Veterinary side by simply saying that we must enquire into the causes of the death of so many cattle which comes to several lakhs in our State, and there should be a Committee for that. I have given notice of a short notice Resolution which will come up for discussion during this Session. I have suggested that resolution the appointment of a high power committee to devise ways and means how to prevent such cattle catastrophes.

As regards agriculture, hon. Friends have already offered very valuable suggestions not only with regard to double cropping but also with regard to various other things, such as pisciculture, poultry farming, etc. My Friends have spoken enough about these things. Government have definite schemes for all these but the question is whether we have been able to work out these schemes. Now it is for the Minister-in-charge to say whether he has been able to harness the man-power at his disposal in the execution of these schemes. We have to see whether every officer ranging from agriculture demonstrator up to the Director has applied all his energy power and ability in the execution of his duties

in order that these schemes may be successful. In this respect many Members have expressed great doubt whether we have been able to harness all the man-power at our disposal properly. The Hon'ble Minister-in-charge will kindly see whether we have been able to put into action our district officers. People say that their services are not adequate or their services are not available. Whether in the matter of distribution of seeds, or in the the matter of distribution of manure, our people are very much dissatisfied. In our last District Congress Committee Meeting in persuance of a letter from an Agriculture Minister, I asked the members what was the condition of the Ahu seeds, did they germinate? They said that most of the seeds did not germinate. So this is a very serious thing. Before distribution we should properly examine whether the seeds are fertile, whether they are potent or whether they will germinate or not. Then again they said that these seeds were not given in time. In some places they were given on the eve of or during rainy season when the time for broadcasting was practically over, and when there was knee-deep water in the fields. Sir, 39 lakhs of rupees were granted by this House in the last session of the Assembly for the purpose of augmenting Ahu crop by utilising better seed and manure. But, Sir, in spite of all these there has been a failure of Ahu crop this year. What are the reasons? We must face the hard facts and ponder how we can remove the defects. We must admit our defects as well as try to remove them so that we may have an efficient machinery to serve the people. We had a bumper Ahu crop last year in our district. Previously cultivation of this crop was not so popular. Last year the Ahu crop was very good and for that purpose the people very much welcomed the scheme of Government for distribution of Ahu seeds and manure. Sir, in our parts Ahu crop was a total failure because there were pests—there was a kind of rice bug or something like that, so about 80 per cent of Ahu crop was completely damaged. Now, so far as Sali crop is concerned, we could not get rain water at the proper time, the seedlings could not grow properly and therefore, we cannot expect good sali crop this year. Therefore, in our last District Congress Committee Meetings we have passed a resolution that we fore see famine in future, and scarcity condition is ahead of us so Government should take steps to evade famine. And again, in Kalabari the last hailstorm devastated the entire crop. The people tried to grow Ahu crop but Sali seedlings also grew at the same time, that is why the people of the locality are now in a desparate mood. Government has supplied about 800 maunds

of paddy but that was consumed within a week. Sir seeing that of starvation is facing the people we have suggested opening of cheap grain shops and fair price shops and encouraging winter crop. We are very anxious Sir, that something must be done to save there people from famine and starvation.

Now Sir, during the devastation of crops by hailstorm, the people are very much dissatisfied with the officers of the Agriculture Department because these people did not turn up to help the people. During last attach of Ahu crop by pest they gave some powder but they did not care to come and show the people how to use it. These people of the Agriculture Department have no contact with people nor with the M. L.As nor with the Congress Organisation nor with any other organisations and do not come for helping the people at time when their help is needed most. So I say Sir, that the Agriculture Department is suffering from lack of public co-operation. Therefore, I would like to impress upon the Hon'ble Minister and the officers of the Agriculture Department to issue directions to their officers is the district to keep always contract with the people because a friend in need is a friend indeed.

Mr. SPEAKER : I would like to draw the attention of the House that to-day there was a Notice calling attention of the House to discuss a matter of urgent public importance set for 2 P.M. standing in the name of Shri Mohi Kanta Das. I would like to know from the House whether it could not be postponed till another time.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (L.S.G. Minister) : May I explain the position Sir? This notice was given by hon. Friend at the time when I was not posted with facts ; but after I got this information I tried to bring the two parties together. I am glad to inform the House that the strike has been discontinued and in view of that, I think there is no need for the House to discuss this motion.

Mr. SPEAKER : What is the opinion of the hon. Member?

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) : I do not like to pursue the matter Sir, if the strike has discontinued.

Mr. SPEAKER : There is another point on which I would like to have the guidance of the House. This debate is of paramount importance for our State and I find a large number of hon. Members are anxious to take part, so I would like to know the desire of the House whether we should like to continue this debate till tomorrow.

(Voices from all sides of the House—Yes, Yes. That is most welcome).

Shri RAMNATH SARMA (Lumding): অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, খাদ্য সমস্যা সম্পর্কে যি আলোচনা সদনত চলিছে আৰু যি সকল সদস্যই অনুগ্রহ কৰি ভাগ লৈছে তেখেত সকলৰ প্ৰত্যেকটো কথা মোৰ মনত এনে যেন লাগিছে যে মোৰ জিলাৰ অন্ধাৰে, অনাৰে খকা মানুহ কেজনৰ যেন মনৰ কথা ইয়াত প্ৰকাশ কৰিছে। মই যিখন জিলাৰ পৰা আহিছো সেই খন জিলাত অসমৰ ভিতৰত দুৰ্ভিক্ষ হোৱা জিলা বুলি বাতৰি কাকতত প্ৰকাশ পাইছে।

Mr. SPEAKER : May I invite the attention of hon. Members about their interrupting each others' speeches? I cannot do better than quote what the Hon'ble Speaker of the House of Commons said in this connection, "I would urge hon. Members to refrain as much as possible from interrupting each others' speeches, because I have frequently seen the smouldering fires in an hon. Member's oratory as it were revived and stoked up again by an interruption. Certainly, interruptions do sometime make a speech more discursive than the hon. Member who has the Floor intended it to be. A part from that, there is nothing within my power that I can do to help the hon. Member". In addition to that also it takes up the time of the House as well as deprives many hon. Members from participating in the discussions of the House.

Shri RAMNATH SARMA : আমি যোৱাৰ বাজেট অধিবেশনতো খাদ্য সমস্যা সম্পর্কে আলোচনা কৰিছিলো। বহুতো পৰামৰ্শ সদনৰ সদস্য সকলে আগ বাঢ়াইছিল আৰু চৰকাৰেও সেই সদনকে দুটি দিছিল। কিন্তু তাৰ পৰা আজি তিনি মাহৰ পিছত কি দেখিছো? আগবাঢ়ি যোৱা দুবৰ কথা বৰং পিছুৱাইহে গৈছে। আপোনালোকে জানে নগাঁৱত খাবলৈ নাপাই মানুহ মৰিছে বুলি বাতৰি প্ৰকাশ পাইছে। যদিও চৰকাৰে প্ৰকাশ কৰিছে যে সেই মানুহ Heart fail কৰিহে মৰিছে। খাবলৈ নাপাই মৰা নহয়। অবশ্যে মানুহ মৰোতে Heart fail হৈয়েই মৰে। সেই মানুহ খাবলৈ নাপাই মৰা বুলি নকলেও অখাদ্য খাই মৃত্যুৰ মুখত পৰিব লগা হৈছে বুলি নুই ক'ব সহজ নহয়। নগাঁৱৰ মিল মালিকৰ হাতত, ধনী সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ হাতত ধান চাউল থাকিব পাৰে, কিন্তু খেতিয়ক সম্প্ৰদায়ৰ এনেকুৱা অৱস্থা যে তেওঁলোকৰ ক্ৰয় শক্তি নাই। এইটো এটা ভয়ঙ্কৰ পৰিস্থিতি হৈ পৰিছে। আজি স্বাধীনতা পোৱা ১১ বছৰ পাৰ হৈ গ'ল ২য় পাঁচ বছৰীয়া পৰিকল্পনাৰ ৩য় বছৰ পালেহি কিন্তু খাদ্য পৰিস্থিতিয়ে দিনক দিনে জটিল আকাৰহে ধাৰণ কৰিছে। স্বাধীন দেশৰ মানুহ খাবলৈ নাপায় নবাটো অতি পৰিতাপৰ কথা। আজি যদি **Central Minister** আহে তেওঁ ক'ব আমি অসম খাদ্য পৰিস্থিতিলৈ চাই ৪ কোটি টকা দিছো। আমি যেহু দিব পাৰো, ধান বা চাউল আদি দিব নোৱাৰো। এতিয়া আমাৰ এনেকুৱা অৱস্থা হৈছে যে আমি পৰমুখ্যপেক্ষি হৈ থাকিব লগা অৱস্থাত পৰিছো।

এইটো এটা জাতিৰ কাৰণে অভিশাপ আৰু ই অতি লাজৰ কথা। এইটো যদি নিৰাৱৰণ কৰিব পৰা নাযায় তেনেহলে জাতিটোৰ মুক্তি নাই আৰু ই সদায়ে

জাতিটোৰ ওপৰত অভিযানৰ কলঙ্ক পৰি থাকিব। সেই কাৰণে মই এইটোকেই জোৰ দিব খুজিছো যে আজিৰ সদনত যি বিলাক পৰামৰ্শ আগবঢ়োৱা হৈছে আৰু আগতে যি বিলাক এই সম্পৰ্কত পৰামৰ্শ আগবঢ়োৱা হৈছিল সেই বিলাক লৈ চৰকাৰ কাৰ্য্য ক্ষেত্ৰত আগবাঢ়িব লাগিব। অলপ আগতে এই সম্পৰ্কীয় আলোচনা প্ৰসঙ্গত মাননীয় শ্ৰীযুত চৌধুৰী দেৱে কৈ গৈছে যে অধিক শস্য উৎপাদন ক্ষেত্ৰত—প্ৰথমতে খেতিয়ক ৰাইজক 'মেনিয়ৰ নাইণ্ডেদ' কৰিব পাৰিব লাগিব। একে ডোখৰ নাটিতে খেতিৰ পাচত খেতি কৰোঁতে কৰোঁতে সাৰ নাইবিনা হৈ গৈছে আৰু তাত সাৰ প্ৰয়োগ কৰি নাটিৰ উন্নতি কৰা দৰ্কাৰ। এই নৰ্মে তেখেতে, এতিয়ালৈকে আমি আমাৰ যত পোৱা কেচাগোবৰৰ অপব্যৱহাৰ কৰি আহিছো—আৰু সেই গোবৰ পথাৰত দিলে নাটিত সাৰ হ'ব আৰু শস্য অধিক উৎপন্ন হ'ব। এই নৰ্মে গঠন কৰা চৰকাৰৰ বিভাগীয় কেন্দ্ৰ বিলাকে ৰাইজৰ মাজত কাম কৰিবলৈ সক্ষম হ'ব পৰা নাই আৰু ৰাইজৰ মঙ্গল সাধনো কৰিব পৰা নাই। অধিক শস্য যাতে উৎপাদন কৰিব পাৰে খেতিয়ক ৰাইজক তাৰে বৰঙনি যোগোৱাই এই কেন্দ্ৰ বিলাকৰ আচল উদ্দেশ্য হোৱা উচিত। মই ভাবো যে বিভাগীয় কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ সবহ ভাগবেই এই ক্ষেত্ৰত অভিজ্ঞতা নাই আৰু সেই কাৰণেই যোৱা পাচ বছৰ ইমান টকা খৰচ কৰি অধিক শস্য উৎপাদন নো আশানুৰূপ বিশেষ একো আগ বাঢ়িব পৰা নাই। ইয়াৰ কাৰণ, মই আগতে উল্লেখ কৰিয়েই আহিছো যে বিভাগীয় কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ অকৰ্মণ্যতা আৰু কৰ্তব্যৰ প্ৰতি শিথিলতা। সেই কাৰণে মই পৰামৰ্শ দিও যে, যি বিলাক চৰকাৰী কেন্দ্ৰত পৰীক্ষা মূলক ভাবে কথা চৰকাৰী কৰ্মচাৰী কৰ্ম শিথিলতা বা অনভিজ্ঞতাৰ হেতু অকৃতকাৰ্য্যতা বৰণ কৰিব লগা হৈছে সেই বিলাকক অতি সোনকালে আতৰাই দি তেওঁবিলাকৰ ঠাইত কৰ্মপটু অভিজ্ঞতা থকা মানুহ দিব লাগে। এই তাৰ পিচত আন এটা ডাঙল কথা হৈছে এই N. E. S. অথবা C. D. Block বিলাকত ঘৰ সজা, দলং সজা, বাস্তা তৈয়াৰ কৰা আদি বাজহুৱা কাম বিলাকত আজি এনে কপ লৈছে যে, তাত কিছুমান পাইজানা পিন্ধা ডেকা আৰু পাউদাৰ সনা ছোৱালীৰ সংশ্ৰবত কাম কৰাটো দূৰৰে কথা সমাজ কলুষিত হৈ উঠিছে। গতিকে মই পৰামৰ্শ দিও যে আমাৰ সমস্যাটলী লৈ চকুৰাখি C. D. Block বা N. E. S. Block বিলাকত চৰকাৰে দায়িত্বপূৰ্ণ মানুহক নিয়োগ কৰিব লাগে আৰু এই ক্ষেত্ৰত চৰকাৰে তীব্ৰ দৃষ্টি বখা প্ৰয়োজন হৈ পৰিছে। অকল Test Relief ৰ কিছুমান দলং সজা, ঘৰ সজা আদি কামেই যথেষ্ট নহয় আৰু তাৰ ওপৰত নিৰ্ভৰ কৰিলে ৰাইজৰ বৃহৎ মঙ্গল পথত অন্তৰায় আহি পৰিব। ইয়াৰ লগতে মই এই কথাও ইয়াৰ পিচত স্মৰণ কৰাই দিব খুজিছো যে ভূমি সংস্কাৰ কামৰ নামত চৰকাৰে 'চিলিং এক্ট' পৰ্য্যন্ত প্ৰনয়ণ কৰিছে—To strengthen the rural economy and to improve the method of agriculture.

সেই নিয়ম প্ৰণালী বিলাক কাৰ্য্যত প্ৰয়োগ কৰিব নোৱাৰাৰ ফলত ৰাইজৰ অধিক শস্য উৎপাদন কাৰ্য্য সূচাৰূপে হৈ উঠিব পৰা নাই। ইয়াৰ ফলত নাটিৰ প্ৰতি নাটিহীন কৃষক ৰাইজৰ মোহ জন্মা নাই আৰু তাৰ ফলত তেওঁলোকৰ নাটিৰ যে উন্নতি কৰি খেতি কৰিব লাগে সেই স্পৃহা নাই। গতিকে এই বিময়ত চৰকাৰে উচিত ব্যৱস্থা ল'ব লাগিব। এই অধিক শস্য উৎপাদন প্ৰসঙ্গত—বিবোধী দলৰ নেতা শ্ৰীযুত গোস্বামী ডাঙৰীয়াই এই অভিযান **War forting** ৰ কৰিব লাগে বুলি কোৱা কথাটোত মই মূল্য আৰোপ কৰো আৰু এই দৰেই আমাৰ খেতিয়ক সকলক সংগঠিত কৰিব পাৰিব লাগিব। তাৰোপৰি এই প্ৰসঙ্গত যেতিয়া চৰকাৰে 'প্লেন' আদি কৰে তেতিয়া খুতি-নাতি বিষয় বিলাকো বিবেচনা কৰা দৰ্কাৰ। কাৰণ অতীজত অৰ্থি বছৰে দুই তিনটা 'মানচণ' পোৱাৰ কথা জানো কিন্তু আমি, প্ৰাকৃতিক পৰিবৰ্তনৰ হেতু—এনে পৰিস্থিতিৰ উদ্ভব হৈছে যে, আমাৰ দুই তিনটা নিয়মিত 'মনচণ'ৰ ঠাইত অনিয়মিত 'মনচণ' অথবা খৰাং বতৰ পাইছো আৰু প্ৰকৃতিৰ এই অৱস্থাটো খেতিবাত্তিৰ প্ৰতিকূল হৈ উঠে; মানুহৰ আৰ্কাৰ আহি

পৰে। এই বিলাক কথাটো আগৰ দিনত সিমান চিন্তা নকৰিলেও চলিছিল কিন্তু আজি, চৰকাৰক অভিযানৰ আচনি—ই অসম্ভৱ নহলে আচনি সম্পূৰ্ণ নহয় বুলি জানিব লাগিব। আৰু এনে হলে আচনি কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰাত কৃতকাৰ্য্য হোৱা টান। এই প্ৰসঙ্গত Eastern U. K. ৰ ৫০ হাজাৰ কিলৱাটৰ বিজুলী উদ্ভৱ কৰাৰ যোজনাৰ ইণ্ডাষ্ট্ৰীৰ বিকলতাৰ কথা উল্লেখ কৰিব পাৰি। সৌভাগ্যৰ কথা যে, এতিয়াও আমাৰ ইয়াত যেনে ইণ্ডাষ্ট্ৰীৰ নামত কোনো কাম হোৱা নাই আৰু মাইনৰ পৰ্য্যকৰণৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত যি বিলাক খাল-দোণ্ডৰ কাম হৈছে সেই বিলাকৰ পৰাও খেতিয়ক সকলৰ বিশেষ উপকাৰ হোৱা নাই বৰং এই বিলাক কৰি আমাৰ খেতিয়ক সকলক অধুৱা ভৰা হৈছে যেন অনুমান হৈছে। এই প্ৰসঙ্গত যোৱা অধিবেশনত শ্ৰীযুত গৌৰীশঙ্কৰ ভট্টাৰ্চাৰ্য্যই পৰামৰ্শ আগবঢ়াইছিল আৰু এই বিষয়ত আজি পৰ্য্যন্ত চৰকাৰৰ পক্ষৰ পৰা জোৰ দিয়া দিখা নগল। খেতিবাতি সম্পৰ্কত Power Pump ৰে কাম নহোৱা নহয়। কিন্তু চৰকাৰে যি ১৫০ টা পাৱাৰ পাৰ্শ্ব বহুৱালে তাৰেও ভাল কাৰীকৰণৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত কাম চলাব নোৱাৰাকৈ অচল হল।

এইদৰে খেতিৰ আহিলা-পাতিৰ অভাৱত কৃষক বাইজে খেতি কৰা টান হৈ পৰে। মই জনাত, যোৱা বছৰত নগাঁৱত খেতি হোৱা নাই আৰু তাৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰৰ পক্ষৰ পৰা কঠিয়া-সঁচ যোগান ধৰিব পৰা নাই, সেই দৰে বাজাৰ অন্যান্য অঞ্চলত যত খেতি হোৱা নাছিল—তাতে কৃষি বিভাগে কঠিয়া যোগান ধৰিব পৰা নাছিল। এই সম্বন্ধে আগতে মাননীয় সদস্য সকলে কৃষি বিভাগৰ অকৰ্ম্মন্যতা আৰু কৰ্ম্ম শিথিলতাৰ কথা কৈ গৈছে—আৰু এই অভিযত মোৰো। কাৰণ সচাকৈ এই কৃষি বিভাগটোত মাৰমে ধৰিছে আৰু বিভাগটোত কৰ্ম্ম শিথিলতাই ভালকৈ দেখা দিছে। কাৰণ যেতিয়া যি প্ৰয়োজন—খেতিয়ক সকলে বিভাগৰ পৰা নাপায় আৰু বিভাগেও তাৰ যোগান নধৰে অথচ—শস্য নোহোৱাৰ কিছমান ভুল, অব্যৱস্থাৰ কাৰণ দৰ্শাই চৰকাৰক আভুৱা ভাবে। ইয়াৰ উপৰিও চৰকাৰী কৰ্ম্মচাৰী বিলাকৰ বহু ক্ষেত্ৰত এঠাইৰ পৰা আন ঠাইলৈ অহা যোৱা কৰি থাকোতেই ফাল কাটোতে বতৰ যোৱাৰ নিচিনা হয়। এজন ভেটবনেৰী বিভাগৰ কৰ্ম্মচাৰীৰ ভ্ৰমণৰ কথা কওঁ—তেখেত প্ৰথমে গল চিলচৰলৈ, তাৰ পাচত কাশ্মীৰ তাৰ পিচতে শিবসাগৰলৈ গমন কৰিলে বাইজৰ উপকাৰৰ হকে কি কাম কৰিব? যি কামেই নহওক এটা Planned way ত কাম হোৱা দৰ্কাৰ। বৰ্তমান এনে অৱস্থা হৈছে যে—খেতিয়া প্ৰয়োজন হয়—তেতিয়া প্ৰয়োজন একো আহিলাই কৃষক সকলে চৰকাৰী বিভাগৰ পৰা নাপায়—বিভাগীয় কৰ্ম্মচাৰী সকলে কাপোৰ লৈ গুৱে। এনে হলে দেশৰ কাম কেনেকৈ হব? সেই কাৰণে একালে আমাৰ খেতিয়ক সকলক অধিক শস্য উৎপাদন কৰিবলৈ উপযুক্ত আহিলা পাতি দি মানসিক একাগ্ৰতা আৰু ঐকান্তিকতাৰ প্ৰতি খাউতি মেলাব পাৰিব লাগিব আৰু আন ফালে এই দায়িত্বপূৰ্ণ প্ৰচেষ্টাৰ হেতু চৰকাৰে তীব্ৰ দৃষ্টি দিব লাগিব।

(সময়ৰ সংকেট বাজে)

ইয়াকে কৈ মই চৰকাৰৰ তীব্ৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিলো।

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (North Lakhimpur):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak a few words on the food situation of our State.

We have been facing this problem since the Second World War almost cronicallly not only in our State alone but throughout the whole of India. This question has been discussed on the floor of the House times without number, in various public meetings, we are forming various committees and we are submitting reports. By all these we

are simply producing reports and lectures, but not producing food. Regarding this food problem the main hurdle on the way is the present psychology of our people. What psychology are we creating in the minds of our people? We are not creating a psychology of food production but we are creating a psychology of producing more reports and holding more and more meetings to discuss the problem without actually taking any concrete measures to implement our decisions in those meetings. What we have seen in the actual field, we have left the whole problem of food and agriculture to our ignorant and illiterate brethren in the villages who have not got any education, not even seen a school. Everyone who has had little bit of learning, who has gone to school has turned his back to the field. How can we expect self sufficiency in a country where the entire educated community has left the plough and the field to the illiterate and ignorant people? We are criticising the Government, we are criticising this, we are criticising that and many other things. But will all these criticisms put together will produce a morsel of food? Will our Government be in a position to produce more food by launching a number of schemes and by appointing a number of officers? I think it is not at all possible unless we change the psychology of our society. So, Sir, I do not only criticise the Government but the whole of intelligent section of the people. In the villages you will see only old people are working in the field, you will not find a single educated man there. This is so, not only in our State, but almost identical condition prevails all over the country. We are making schemes, we are speaking much of the Community Projects, National Extension Service Blocks and such other things. But everywhere we find these things are there only to provide some employments to our young and educated people who have no practical experience of field work. These people have never gone to the field, then how can they be expected to give better advice to the people who are though illiterate have all along been working in the field? We are talking on the floor of the House about the modern method of cultivation, about the modern implements, but these things cannot be expected to reach the people in the field because of their ignorance. So, Sir, our whole psychology must be changed if we want to make our country self-sufficient; otherwise it will be simply crying in the wilderness, it will not be successful in giving the desired result.

Sir, several of my Friends have dwelt upon this point. I therefore do not propose to go into the details. But one

thing I must say that we the people of Assam should have been ashamed to go begging food from other states. Of all States I have seen in India, Assam is the most favoured State in respect of climatic condition for growing more food but in spite of this we are today facing a deficit in food production. I am not speaking of the Hills, because the conditions in the Hills are not so favourable for cultivation. But as regards the plains people I must say that we cannot expect self-sufficiency in the matter of food if we leave our people steeped in such ignorance. So, Sir, my point is to lay sufficient stress on the change of the psychology of the people. We are all speaking here about growing more food, but in fact, how many of us have really the experience of actual field work? Therefore, Sir, in my opinion if we are really earnest to bring about a state of self-sufficiency in respect of our food, we must create a psychology among our people, educate people mainly, to bring the educated section of our people to the field. They must stop neglecting agriculture any longer.

My next point is about the existing land tenure system. Of course we are passing some laws in this respect but are these laws able to help in solving the problem that we are facing to-day? We have here a Ceiling Act in force by virtue of which one cannot keep more than 150 bighas of land. I feel Sir, the ceiling should be fixed at a much lower level. I have seen in many places some non-agriculturists have sufficient lands but they do not cultivate, they are not producing any crops. Again among those also who cultivate, we see several bighas of land lying fallow because they do not bring all the lands under their possession under the plough, some lands are lying fallow. Therefore I say lands should be taken away by Government from the possession of such people; actual tillers should only have lands; those who do not cultivate should have no land. The existing system of Patta was introduced by the Britishers long-long ago and that system now does not fit in the altered condition of the society.

We are speaking of intensive cultivation; but these things find mention only in meetings, but when we go to the field, what do we see? Last year the Government allotted enough money for Aus cultivation, but now can we really say that the money spent actually is commensurate with the result achieved? Does the production compare favourably with the amount of money expended over it?

In Cachar District I have seen that the cultivators cultivate two crops, that is Aus and Sali crops in the same field. But in the Assam Valley mostly all the fields are not under Aus cultivation, practically all the fields are under Sali crops. I think the Government, the people and also the leaders of the people should try to exert their energy to see that all the lands in the Assam Valley are cultivated with both Aus and Sali crops; in that case, I think, we shall be able to solve to some extent our food problem. So, Sir, this matter should receive proper attention of Government and the people, specially the intelligent section of the people, should be properly taught to take up to cultivation of both Aus and Sali crops in their fields, otherwise we shall not be able to produce more food in our country. In this connection, Sir, I may say that I have seen in the newspapers that the Chinese Premier went to the villages and worked among the cultivators and thereby the people were greatly encouraged to do their work. If we also in our country go to the fields and stay in the villages and work amongst the villagers there is no denying the fact that the people will be greatly infused and there will be great impetus amongst our people to carry on their cultivation successfully and thereby we shall be able to increase our food production. It is no use giving long speeches and lectures, all these things will be of no use, the most important thing is action and co-operation and by our mixing and working among our people in the villages our people will also be greatly encouraged to do the work and produce the necessary food. Sir, there is no time more at my disposal although I have got many things more to say; hence I conclude my speech.

Maulavi ABUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR (Hailakandi) :
 Mr. Speaker, Sir I have very attentively listened to the speeches made by various hon. Members in the House. The food problem is very important and it was also discussed threadbare in the last Budget Session. Sir, since the food problem is very important, utmost efforts should be concerted to this subject and at the same time this subject involves many important factors. For instance, many hon. Members who have spoken on the subject have made mention about the question of land, the question of cattle population and so on. Sir, these things have impressed me very much and I feel that something should be done but at the sametime the Agriculture Department alone is not sufficient to do the job. For example, regarding seeds, there may be Government farms and it is expected that Government farms should supply all the necessary seeds to the cultivators but it is unthinkable that

every cultivator should be supplied seeds from the Government farms. The Government farms are few and far between, therefore, it is not possible on part of the Government farms to supply seeds to all the cultivators. In this connection, I may suggest that there should be a proper department to instruct and teach the cultivators to preserve their own seeds and if this is done, there is every hope that food production in our country will be increased. Therefore, I suggest that there should be a proper department which will on the one hand give all the necessary instructions and on the other hand to teach the cultivators to preserve the seeds by themselves so that there will be less pressure on the Agriculture Department. Sir, I can say that there is no Government which can supply seeds to all the cultivators, it is not possible to do so.

Next, Sir, I come to the question of land and so far land question is concerned, steps have already been taken to see that lands go to the tillers. Sir, from my personal experience I have to submit that our food position does not deteriorate due to want of land but it is due mainly to lack of proper utilisation of land. Our present cultivators have got sufficient lands but they have not yet made proper use of their lands for cultivation. If proper utilisation of all available land is made, then I think the food production can to some extent be increased.

Now, Sir, I am coming to the question of manure. The method of manuring have been tried by Government for a long time and I have marked that our people are not yet accustomed to manuring their fields. Of course there are here and there a few plots for Japanese method of cultivation and for demonstration centres where manure is being used abundantly so that the people can be taught and enthused with the use of manure in their fields, but in this connection, I may say that our people are not used to field scale manuring and therefore vast fields of paddy cannot be manured by the people. Therefore, the only way to solve this manure question is to teach the people the better and improved methods of cultivation and teach them about the utility of green manure in their cultivation and by this way I hope our food production will be increased. It is not possible to use manure in the vast fields.

Now, Sir, I come to the question of cattle population. The people to a great extent depend on their cattle for their cultivation. Unfortunately there has been heavy cattle mortality. It is not possible to say why this has been so. If the heavy mortality of the cattle is due to rinderpest, I think the department concerned may to a great extent be responsible because goat tissue vaccine is prepared locally and inoculation can be given to the

cattle. Sir, I have not got the statistics of the different diseases with me just now. But if the death of most of the cattle is due to other diseases like Anthrax, H. S., etc., then the Department cannot be made fully responsible as we have no vaccine or serum of ours for these diseases. But if the death is due to rinderpest then the Department is responsible to a great extent. The Department is improving as time goes on. So, if timely steps are taken then no epidemic can take such a heavy toll of cattle population. The Department should have been instructed to give more inoculation, as was done in the past, to give the cattle immunity for some time. I understand that the Central Government has taken up giving some sort of inoculation to give the cattle immunity for all time, at least for some years. But we can give immunity for at least two or three years if this is done efficiently and in that case so much cattle population cannot die in a year.

These are the factors on which our cultivation mainly depends. We have seen so long, as I have said, Sir, that long and impassioned speeches were delivered in the last Budget Session and also in the previous sessions. But I have seen that those speeches were only of some academic utility and have not affected the real cultivators. In our speeches we have not gone to find out what is the real defect. Our long speeches delivered in that manner very soon vanish into the air, into thin air without any real benefit to the cultivators. I should say our very approach to the problem is not correct. There is some defect in it. We put pressure on the Minister so that he can put pressure on his Department and then the personnel of this Department will go to the real cultivators to render them the real help. But the Minister cannot do very much alone. It is not an one man's job. If we think that the Minister is very much hampered, well, we are not less so. Sum of Rs. 250 the Minister is solely responsible for the problem is not quite correct. We all are responsible in a way. He is only to direct his machinery, but if the machinery is not good then the result cannot be good. If we are to maintain ourselves then we must think seriously as to how best we can entuse our cultivators to cultivate properly and grow more. Sir, I have noticed that our cultivators are so conservative that they do not easily change their old method. I think it can be done if only the Members of this House take the lead themselves and go to the villages and approach the cultivators, form committees and entuse them to change their mind and to take up the correct methods in the matter of cultivation and other things. We should first understand the defect in our approach

and in the *modus operandi* and we should change our methods of working also. It serves no purpose if the hon. Members simply come here to deliver speeches after some months and then go away. We should also do our work locally and practically if we want to enthuse our cultivators and to get more produce from them and also if we really want to help them. Sir, it is not possible for me to deal with this subject with a limited time at my disposal. So, I should only suggest that hon. Members would do well to think a bit more about the approach that we have adopted in improving our food production. It is admitted by everybody that it is the cultivators who are to improve the food production. So, we should divert our mind to the cultivators in order to enthuse them to work on proper lines and unless that is done this problem will never be solved. Along with this it is the responsibility of the Government to see that its machinery functions properly in the distribution of land, preservation of cattle population and so on if the problem is sought to be solved. I hope my Friends here would take keen interest in the matter and not only deliver speech here but jump to the villages where our real works lie and if we fail to do this we are really leading to a crisis.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri):
 Sir, I do not like to tax the patience of the Members of the House by speaking very long. The astonishing thing is that some responsible Members of the ruling party have attacked the Administration which is the most important matter that attracts my attention. Generally in a democratic country there is a ruling party behind it and that party is the dictator and that party appoints Ministers for running the administration and so those Ministers are responsible to the party as well as to the proper running of the administrative machinery. Any way, here we find some responsible Members of the ruling party attacking the Ministers. This shows that our democracy is not yet developing or blooming.

Another point is that some of the hon. Members pointed out that there is lack of co-operation from the other political parties. I want to know where that lack of co-operation from other political parties lies. Here the ruling party invites the co-operation from other parties, but outside they do not want it. Giving an instance I should like to mention that there was an Ambar Sarkha ceremony at a distance of one mile from my place, but our co-operation was not invited there. Even I was not invited to the meeting.

So, in this way I can give hundreds of examples to show that Government invites our co-operation here, but does not seek it outside. Someone was blaming that our peasant is conservatives and so on, but the speeches I have heard are contradictory. Some speakers said that the people were enthusiastic about inoculation of cattle; if that is so, how can they be called conservative? So, I was surprised how the Members of the ruling party were making observations.

Now, Sir, the most distressing fact before us is that there is food scarcity throughout the whole State. The ruling party pledged to bring about a socialistic pattern of society where there would be no difference between man and man, where all will be happy, prosperous and equal in all spheres social, political and economic. Well, Sir, one decade has passed by and I want to ask in which direction we are going. I want to know from the ruling party whether we are marching towards the land of plenty or the land of scarcity. I want to say that such words as "socialistic pattern of society", "new democracy" and so on should not be uttered by those who are in the helm of affairs. It is a stark-naked fact that the whole State is going through an acute scarcity of food due to failure of crop last year. I do not like to discuss what happened last year. This year there was drought at the beginning of cultivation, due to very strong sunshine people could not come to the field. The land which was tilled once became so hard due to strong sunshine that people could not proceed further with the cultivation. This is one of the reasons for failure of crop. Then, lakhs and millions of cattle died due to rinderpest and other diseases. I do not want to cite specific examples, but I know of a man named Long Mili, Banariachapari in Majuli who had 180 buffaloes and all of them died. But, Sir, our Government remain casual observers. There is no medicine, no doctor. There is a Veterinary College, but still we don't get doctors. One Member held the view that we should not blame the Government. Why? The Government are running the administration and they are taking money in the shape of grants and supplementary demands and it is they who have failed to remedy this state of affairs. Sir, the most immediate problem before us is to save lakhs of people who are roaming from place to place in search of food. I have seen people begging from door to door, whole families with children at their back. In the face of all this, I want to ask the ruling party what sort of administration it is, whether we are progressing towards a socialistic pattern of society or towards a State full of scarcity.

Then, Sir, ours is an agricultural country. After independence the most important task before us was to carry out land reforms. We could not do anything under a foreign regime and that is why we fought against it. But after independence, the most important thing for us to do was land reform. Ceiling Act has not yet been implemented, even in the Act itself there are loopholes by which a man can resume a big area of land. Then the *debuttar*, *dharmattar* and similar lands are not touched by the Ceiling Act. I would ask the Government to implement the Ceiling Act immediately and all cultivable land wherever found should be thrown open for cultivation. Vast stretches of land are lying under grants which is now cultivated by tea garden labourers. Cultivating land with tea garden labourers results in loss of production as the land which should produce 25 maunds per acre produces only 6 or 10 maunds when cultivated by tea garden labourers. Moreover, I want to know whether the Government gave licences to tea estates for cultivation of paddy or for plantation of tea. This should be clarified by Government.

Then, Sir, so far as I know many grants are lying full of jungles. These should be immediately requisitioned and distributed to the landless people. Similarly, the forest reserves, where there are no valuable trees but only creeper like jungles, should be thrown open for cultivation. For instance, in Diroi reserve, Satimari Pathar, Batua Pathar and similar Pathars of the reserves may be thrown open. Then, Sir, there are vast grazing reserves containing low-lying land. These low-lying lands should be thrown open for cultivation and distributed amongst landless people and small peasants.

Then, Sir, some help must be given to the peasants. For instance, where their cattle are dying by thousands, adequate amount of cattle loan should be granted. When our Chief Minister visited Sibsagar, the people demanded eight lakhs of rupees as cattle loan, but they were given only Rs.50,000. Now, the people are shedding tears for want of money. To whom will the people look for money except Government? Certainly, I do not desire that they should go to any money-lender or contractor. In China the procedure for granting loans is very simple and prompt. I have read in the Delegation's Report that it takes only two or three days for the peasants to get the loan, but here we see that if a petition is made for loan it will take years and years. Even petitions are sometimes lost!

Shri LILA KANTA BARAH (Kaliabar) : May we have an idea how this is distributed in China ?

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) : I advice the hon. Member to read the report of the Indian Delegation to China. Then, Sir, all the production is purchased by Government. There are three blood-suckers in this country, *viz.*, the money-lenders, the wholesale traders and the big landlords. The money lenders take money from big Banks and lend money to the villagers. So there are wholesale traders. When there is scarcity, at a very high price they sell things to the people who are needy. There are landlords also and they are reaping the lion's share of the harvest. So, Sir, those persons who are blood suckers should be eliminated and Government should come forward to take the marketable goods from the peasants so that our peasants may derive benefit from their produce.

In China even ploughs are supplied to the people by the Government. So Sir, in order to save the society and to save the country from utter ruin, I think Government should see that the food scarcity is removed in no time. Our people will not sit tight and our people will not wait for Government and when they will be hungry and panicky they will come forward to crush the ruling party and to crush the Government.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakgani) Mr. Speaker, Sir, the food problem has become a burning question of the day for the last few years. The most principal and chief object of an independent country is to provide and assure fooding and clothing to the people. If we have not been able to do it, our independence is nothing but a mockery and privileges to some sections only.

Sir, if the production of cereals cannot be increased, we shall have to face a situation beyond our imagination. The success of agriculture is the main thing to solve the problem of our country. We all know that Republic of India is the largest, the richest and the most prosperous nation in the world. She is one of the leading agricultural countires in the world and one of the biggest sources of her wealth is its produce from land. Agriculture plays the most vital role in our country. It is the basic industry of our country. Cereals are the most important items of agricultural produce being grown on 60 per cent of the cropped area. All these being the facts, Sir, the people of India are to face food problem. The defects of Indian agriculture become evident when the yield of most crops in India is

compared to that of foreign countries. The average yield of agricultural produce in our country is comparatively poor in the world. Sir, one of the major objects of the Five Year Plan is to make India self-sufficient in food-stuff. But, Sir, long 11 years passed after independence, we have not been able to tone up our agriculture in our country though the people have become more diligent and labourious. No doubt, Sir, the climatic condition of our country has become fickle and gone beyond control and this agriculture has become a gambling as we Indian agriculturists solely depend on climatic conditions. Besides this, I must say that the Agriculture Department do not come to the help in proper time to the people. That chapter has been discussed and criticised on many occasions.

In this connection I would like to say something about irrigation. Many of my hon. Friends have spoken very high of irrigation. But, Sir, I would like to cite an instance from my own place. Since 1952 our people of the locality moved Government for an irrigation project (Doong) namely Otar Tenganmari under P. S. Golakganj in the district of Goalpara and that place had been visited by our Congress President, Shri Mohendra Mohan Choudhury when he was Agriculture Minister. He highly appreciated that project and many officers and also high officials of the Government have visited the place. But alas ! that project has not yet been taken up by the Government. There was another project of Embankment at Purni and Patamari village. Shri Siddhinath Sarma when he was Public Works Department and Embankment and Drainage Minister visited that area in November, 1957 and assured the public on the spot that the portion of the Embankment from Golakganj to Patamari of 5 miles length only would be constructed in the same year 1957. Alas ! that project has also not been taken up by Government as yet. I do not see any reason why that project has not been taken up by Government and if that project is taken up it may give food to the people of the said locality without any difficulty. Some of our officers say, "No, No, that project cannot be taken up because it may affect Pakistan as it is just on the other bank of the river Gangodhor." I do not know if our officers should think for Pakistan at the cost of us.

Sir, crossing so much hurdle, whatever quantity of cereals is produced and received by the poor agriculturist it falls into grip of the Mahajans (capitalists) and is controlled by the Mahajans. This year, we all know that paddy has been very badly and greatly affected by rice bugs and the paddy has turned to 'Patan'.

The Mahajans did not hesitate to purchase even this 'patan' at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ annas per maund in our district of Goalpara, and the motive for purchasing this 'patan' can well be imagined. I referred the matter to the Deputy Commissioner and I also personally talked to the Deputy Commissioner about this, I requested him to put a stop to it; but our Deputy Commissioner replied that he cannot do it because free trade is the fundamental right of every citizen in our country allowed by the Constitution. Thus, Sir, the miscreants escape committing crimes in our society. In my opinion, Sir, we should be up and doing. We all educated persons should take to agriculture personally. Many of my Friends have spoken that the educated persons do not like to take to agriculture. We all know, Sir, what is the status of our people—the agriculturists. Most of them who are uneducated and have got no status in society are the agriculturists. We do not like to regard the agriculturists as our equals. In my opinion, Sir, even among the different Government Departments I think, the status of the Agriculture Department is the lowest. How can we expect good results from it? So, I request the hon. Members of this House, who are themselves landlords or who have their own lands, to go personally to the field and do agricultural work, and, I can definitely say that if they personally go to the field it will revive the spirit of the agriculturists and it will bring good results.

Another point, Sir, is that we should nationalise all sources of fooding and clothing. If the rice mills are not nationalised, then more production of food will not solve the problem. We have nationalised the bus routes and many other such things which are not primarily essential things for our daily life to our society, but we have not nationalised the rice mills and the cloth mills, etc., besides all endeavours for production. If we can nationalise rice mills, I believe it will help to solve this problem. With these few words, I conclude my speech.

Rev J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Mr. Speaker Sir, we are discussing the food situation in this State. Many hon. Members have spoken their own ideas about the reasons why there has been scarcity and even have expressed their own views as to how the scarcity can be solved. I need only to speak a few words, Sir, concerning the conditions of my district. Here in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills also there is scarcity especially in the border areas, specially on account of the conditions that exist now between India and Pakistan. Had it not been for the fact that the border markets

have been closed, our people would not have suffered so much. But now the sufferings of the people on account of scarcity of food is growing from bad to worse. I find the people in the border areas feel very very dissatisfied. They do not know what to do. Sometimes they say that Government did not care for them. Sometime some one says, "What is the use to be here, we better join Pakistan". But I said, you cannot join Pakistan. There you would be worse, but we will try to make the Government act". If the Government acts properly, the people would not suffer. Sir, some report came to me about deaths from starvation. I spoke to some officers about this and one responsible officer said, "I made an investigation that the person did not die of starvation". I told him, "But I was told at least one person died of starvation as she did not get food, she ate jungles leaves". He said then that she died because she ate some poisonous leaves. That was the reason why she died. The question arose, "Why did she have to eat those poisonous leaves"? She ate poisonous leaves because she could not get food and she was forced to eat some jungle leaves which produced dysentery and diarrhoea which ultimately killed her. We say, that is death from starvation, when the people did not get the food they want. Now, people come to me almost everyday from the border areas and said "What shall we do, we have no food, we have petitioned Government, we have sent letters to the Deputy Commissioner and those letters are remaining there in the Deputy Commissioner's office and no action is being taken." That, Sir, is the trouble. I do not blame the Heads of Departments but I say, Sir, that there is a possibility of eliminating this delay. There must be first of all, Sir, a feeling just as the father would feel for his children when they are in distress. That feeling is wanting. Where it is wanting this may be examined by everyone in his heart from the Ministers down to the officers. When a petition comes, that can be finished in a few minutes only, it is left till tomorrow or the day after and thus it goes on being delayed, and delayed and sometimes this delay goes on to weeks and months and nothing is done and sometime the petition itself get lost. Many of the people who come from the border areas say, "We are in great difficulty, our children will die because we have nothing to give them to eat, what shall we do next? During the months of June and July last we are eating only jack fruits, but now jack fruits also are finished". The people go on to say, "We asked Government to give us grants so that we can plant something which can bring food in a short time, but Government is silent, what shall we do?". These, Sir, are the troubles of the people. Just yesterday I telephoned to the Deputy Commissioner about certain

matters, he told me that though he had worked the whole day and at the end of the day, he felt himself worn out yet he felt as if he had not done anything. I replied to him and said, "I pity you, I realise your trouble and your difficulties, you are full of work, you have so many duties to do the duties which ought to be done by three officers are being done by one officer. Therefore the works are not properly done. So much work the Deputy Commissioner has to do now-a-days that it is impossible for one man to cope with the work. The other day I telephoned to the Deputy Commissioner to remind him about one case. He told me he remembered the case and that he had passed the orders. I told him that he might have passed the orders, but the difficulty is that it might get stuck somewhere at the lower level, and so the work is delayed and is not done. There lies the danger. Sir, everywhere there is delay. This delay is ruining the people and some day this delay will ruin the whole country. The people do not get the seeds at the time of sowing—there is delay on the part of the Government to make available the seeds to the growers in time. I had a talk with the District Agricultural Officer the other day. He told me, "What can I do? I have not got the money to purchase the seed. Though I have written again and again the money is not coming. I cannot buy the seed potato to be distributed to the agriculturists?" That is the position, Sir! Once I went to Pynursla. There I met three men who were employed by the Agriculture Department to distribute seeds to the growers. On my query, they told me—"What can we do? For the last three months we have not got our pay. We are poor Demonstrators; how can we live without pay for the last three months?" Here again you see the delay. It is not because of the lack of good motive on the part of the Demonstrators. I think they have good motive to do good to the people. There is a great lack of the feeling of responsibility. So there is delay and delay. That is the trouble. This is the sin of administration in the Tribal Areas Department. I was told that some people get the seed from the Government, the seeds supplied did not germinate. The seeds are purchased from the market and so none can be sure whether it will grow. The result is that some poor cultivators are often made to suffer more severely. They lose their crop and they have to pass their lives in a starving condition. This is the present condition, Sir. These things can be eliminated if there is a drive and push from the top. The Head of the Department has to see that the orders passed are actually implemented in time, and I hope the Agriculture Department will look in the matter very quickly. The delay in giving money to the District officers

in this district is one of the causes of the troubles brought upon border people. I understand that it is the Tribal Areas Department which causes delay.

Sir, in last March a committee, named the Border Areas Committee was formed. That Committee went to take evidence from the people living in different parts of the Border area of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills. I was a member of that Committee. We visited Balat area. There people told us that they had land for cultivation, and if they got irrigation facilities they could produce crops. Further they told that they had not got plough-cattle, since these have been stolen by the Pakistanis, and as they had no money they could not purchase the cattle. Moreover they could not sell the oranges they produced, because it was too costly to take to the markets in Shillong or Gauhati. Millions of oranges were left to rot and the people lost tremendously. Government gave some subsidy in the matter of transport, but that did not cover the transport cost upto Shillong, and they had to lose. On hearing all those things, we decided in the Committee that the Deputy Commissioner should see that the people were helped. That was the only cash crop—I mean the orange they grew, and if they lost it, they suffered for the whole year. The Deputy Commissioner was asked to investigate as to who are the people who had suffered and to give them necessary help. But, Sir, up till now nothing has been done and no money has been sanctioned! What can the poor Deputy Commissioner do? He has no time to attend to these things. He is too much busy with other works. We have seen sometimes the Deputy Commissioner cannot even concentrate on a discussion in a Committee, because hardly he had attended to it for a few minutes when a telephone call will come from somewhere and he sometimes had to go away from the Committee meeting. So there must be a distribution of the duties. There must be one Officer who should be specially appointed to look after these works connected especially with the suffering people of the Border area and he must be given powers to take necessary decision and implement it. The Committee recommended to the Government about the appointment of such an officer, but nothing has yet been done.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Tribal Areas): For the information of the hon. Member I may inform him that steps have already been taken to appoint a Special Officer to look after the care of distress of the Border areas.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Who is that Officer ? When has he been appointed ?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Tribal Areas): We have taken action to appoint an Officer of the rank of an E. A. C. for the purpose.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: After four months you have only taken a decision to appoint ? Who is that Officer ?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: As a matter of fact, Sir, even now we have one Sub-Deputy Collector exclusively for this work, and now we have taken a decision to appoint an E.A.C.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I shall be glad if that is done, but there has been a long delay, and it appears that even now no one has been appointed yet. Delay ! delay ! Even a Sub-Deputy Collector is now in exclusive charge of such work as far as I know. It is found things do not move. Orders are passed but they are not implemented, or even if they are implemented they are not done in time. The Minister passes orders, he does not take the trouble to see whether they are implemented. That is the position now-a-days. Unless that officer is appointed and he actually goes into the interior to look into the distressed condition of the people and unless he gives necessary relief, the condition will not be improved. We must see that work is actually done. If people are suffering and if they do not get the help in time then what is the use of such talks ?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: I want to know from the hon. Member, Sir, whether he actually visited the areas, or he got the reports from some people ?

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY: I am speaking of those people who are actually suffering whom I know. I am a person of the Border area. I know their condition, I visited them. The people of those areas also come to tell me of their distresses. The Minister seems to think of the whole country, he cannot consider about a particular area though the people of that area are suffering. Did he go to those areas himself ? Now the food situation is very bad, Sir. There are fair price shops, but these shops also should be supervised. There are officers who are above reproach, who can be depended upon but there are officers who are subject to corruption ;

specially some officers in the lower ranks in the Supply Department. Something should be done so that this sort of corruption among officers can be rooted out; otherwise you will see the face of the country at the surface very fine like the top of a beautiful tree the root of which is being eaten by insects gradually. Such a tree is likely to tumble down at any moment. So also unless the corruption is rooted out at the bottom, the country cannot be expected to thrive and prosper. Therefore the bottom should be based on a sound foundation. I, therefore, plead that help should be given to such people who really need it. Sir, our people are really industrious; they work hard. But when they are really in distress, necessary help should be given to them. The other day when some Khasi people approached my Friend, the Minister for Tribal Areas, he drove them out.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA (Minister, Tribal Areas Department): I would like to clarify the position, Sir. Those people referred to by the hon. Member came to my Bungalow asking for food. I wanted to give them ration for the day and asked them to go to Barabazaar to purchase the ration they need, and in the meantime, I told them that I would try to secure some jobs for them. But they said that they did not want work but rupees one thousand each in cash in hand.

Rev. J.J.M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribe)]: They might have said so, Sir, because temporary jobs, some test relief work, will not carry them throughout the whole year, they will not be able to tide over their difficulties by such temporary jobs for any length of time. They wanted money to enable them to do cultivation work to give them food for the whole year and to feed them while working for cultivation. The impression created by the Hon. Minister, Tribal Areas Department is that the people did not want to work. There is a great deal of lack of sympathy and understanding of the condition of the people.

(Disturbance)

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order, let the hon. Member finish his speech first.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY. Sir, I said all these things not with a view to blame the Government, but what I mean to say is that the people are really in distress, they are really suffering. These people come to the Minister in great difficulty, and I am only very sorry for the person

who failed to appreciate the feeling of distressed people. The Hon. Minister, if he is at all a man of the people, should be able to appreciate the miseries of the people. He should have been able to tell these people just like one of their own, "Well, what can I do for you". But, Sir, some people has the habit of feeling, as soon as they rise to a higher status, to the position of a Minister, like a great imperialist. (*Laughter*) These people do not like to go down to the poor men, they do not like to mix up with the ordinary men. That is the condition in our country to-day. But if a country is to grow on a socialistic pattern, all the people high and low, specially those holding higher positions, should feel like brothers. If we do not have that feeling, then this country is heading definitely not towards a socialistic pattern but somewhere else.

(*Voices—Where ? To Heaven ?*)

Heaven or Hell, somewhere (*laughter*).

Sir, there are a lot of petitions pending to-day in the office of the Deputy Commissioner about plough bullocks. I hope the Government will ask the Deputy Commissioner to look into these applications. These petitions have been pending in the office of the Deputy Commissioner from a very long time but they are still not attended to. Then again, Sir, there are certain places where there is real need of irrigation. Irrigation facilities should be made available to the people of those places. In some other places, again, there is need for drainage of some marshy lands, and these lands should be drained. These people in the border are really suffering very much for want of these facilities. The whole country knows that these border people have been subjected to untold sufferings. Some of them are living on jungle roots. Some of these people came here for help. But when they applied for help to the Minister, they were asked why did they come to me and not to the Deputy Commissioner. Sir, these poor people are absolutely innocent of any political motive. They do not know anybody here. They know me only because I happen to move about among them as one of their own kith and kin. It is only because of this familiarity, they came to me for help and advice. When they came to me I sent them to the Deputy Commissioner or to the Minister. But because they came to me, some political motive was attributed to them that they are moved by some one to cause trouble to Government. I assure you, Sir, nothing is far from truth than imputing such motives to these poor and ignorant suffering people. I was myself a Minister for four

terms. But at no time did I ask anybody whether he was associated with this political party or that political party, whether he voted in my favour during the election or in somebody else's favour. This kind of feeling never at any moment arose in me. Because I know fully well, Sir, nothing is more injurious to the cause of these suffering people than this type of partisan spirit. When people are suffering it should be our duty to help them, and no party feeling should be allowed to have its play in this noble task of helping the distressed people. Because he belongs to the party of my Friend, Shri Hareswar Goswami, therefore Government should not help him, but because this man belongs to the party of my Friend, Shri Mohendra Mohon Chaudhury, who is a Congressman, therefore he should be given all help. That kind of thinking is detrimental to the society. When our Friend, the Congress President of the A.I.C.C. came here last time, he gave us, I should say, a good sermon. He said, "Our policy is to reach or help the last man". That is a very good policy. That is the policy of the Congress. But such a policy goes counter to such expression, "Well, if you join the Congress, you will get all help, all things, otherwise not". Well, when one is elevated to a position of responsibility, to the position of Ministership, he is responsible to every one regardless of party association. That should be the policy which will build up the country we live in. If you go the other way round, well, then may God help you. Sir, I am prompted to utter these words only because of the fact that profession and practice these days do not go side by side. That is why I once again request the Government, specially the Agricultural Department and the Supply Department and the Loan Department of the Government to see that these really distressed people are helped. I was very much touched by the deplorable condition of these people (men, women and children) when they came to Shillong. They did not come all at once as soon as they found in difficult position. They waited for months and months together to receive help from Government, after that they had sent their petitions, but it was when their position became intolerable that they came all the way to Shillong.

Mr. SPEAKER : Time for the day is over now.

Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY [Cherrapunji (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes) : Sir, may I be allowed to resume my speech tomorrow? I shall be very brief and shall come in time.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry, I cannot commit myself, because the hon. Member has already exceeded his time limit, he has spoken for 24 minutes.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 9 A. M. on Friday, the 22nd August 1958.

Shillong:

The 13th February, 1960.

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

