

**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 9 A.M. on Friday the 22nd August, 1958.

PRESENT

Shri Dev Kanta Borooah, B.A., LL.B., Speaker in the Chair,
the nine Ministers, the four Deputy Ministers and seventy-seven
Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

**Fishery Co-operative Societies formed by the Scheduled
Caste people**

**Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS [North Salmara (Reserved
for Scheduled Castes)] asked :**

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

- (a) Whether it is a fact that a large number of Fishery Co-operative Societies formed by the Scheduled Castes people have lately been deprived from getting any Fishery Mahals though their bids were not very low ?
- (b) Whether it is not the duty of the Government to safeguard the economic interest of the Scheduled Castes people ?

- (c) If so, how Government propose to help the *bona fide* fishermen of the State in improving their economic condition ?
- (d) Whether Government propose to reserve some Fishery Mahals exclusively for the Co-operative Fishery Societies formed by the Scheduled Castes people so that they are not dragged to make unhealthy competition with the wreckless bidders ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) replied :

5. (a)—It is not a fact.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Government have already made provisions for actual fishermen by allowing preference in bidding over others, along with a concession of 10 per cent rebate under Rule 13 of the Fishery Rules.

(d)—There is no such proposal at present, but to prevent wreckless bidding Government intend to introduce settlement by tender system in suitable cases.

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS [North Salmara (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]: Will the Minister-in-charge consider the application of the fishermen when they want to take up business in pisciculture also ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): Pisciculture is not under the Revenue Department.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): If the Fishery Society consists of 90 per cent of the non-fishermen and 10 per cent of Scheduled Castes actual fishermen, the benefit does go to the actual fishermen. Will that society be not considered as a Fishery Society composed of actual fishermen ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: In this particular instance, there is a High Court decision and the High Court refused to give concession to such a society where all the members of the society are not actual fishermen.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur): Will Government consider the advisability of amending the rules because in the formation of such societies some members who are not actual fishermen all are required to maintain account, do Secretar at work, etc. ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): Those who are required to do clerical works and look after the accounts, etc., may not be actual fishermen.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa): Whether the fishermen themselves cannot do the necessary clerical works and look after the accounts ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: Some persons may be appointed to do it.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): Is it not a fact that it is the policy of the Government to prefer Co-operative Societies over individuals in the matter of settlement of fisheries, other things being equal ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: That is the policy of the Government and that is laid down under Rule 13 of the Fishery Rules.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS: Is it not a fact that the Brahmaputra Charduar Fishery was settled with one individual named Shri Gangaram Das of Tezpur ignoring the claim of the Tezpur Kaibarta Co-operative Fishery Society consisting of genuine fishermen ? If so, what are the reasons ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: In this particular case, I want notice, Sir.

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS [North Salmara Reserved for Scheduled Castes]: Whether the same concession is given to the fishermen in the Forest Fisheries also ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: No, Sir, the same concession is not applicable under the rules to forest fisheries.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: Is it not a fact that the Fishery Co-operative Society of Dibrugarh has been ousted by the contractors and Mahaldars who do not belong to the fisher community by offering higher bids ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : Sir, I know this case and as a matter of fact, in this particular instance, the High Court held that some of the members of the society though they belong to the Scheduled Caste community, they are not actual fishermen. Therefore, the High Court directed the Commissioner to re-sell the fishery and the Commissioner has now directed to re-sell the fishery in question?

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East) : Whether Government know that the Fishery Co-operative Societies although they try their best to carry on their business from day to day, yet they cannot compete with the big capitalists ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : That is the reason why the Tender System is intended to be introduced.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Co-operative) : Sir, regarding registration of Societies, I want to clarify the point. The position is this: when some persons come to the Co-operative Department with a petition for registration, Department will have to examine and consider the petition as it is and if it fulfils all the terms and conditions, that society has got to be registered. The Co-operative Department does not make any discrimination as to whether the said society consists of fishermen or non-fishermen. In fact, we cannot.

Mr. SPEAKER : The Leader of the Opposition suggests change of rules is necessary.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : My point is whether the Fishery Society consists of actual fishermen or not. If this particular point is first enquired and made clear at the time of registration, then at the time of settlement, the question whether the society consists of actual fishermen or not will not come up, therefore, lot of time may be saved.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : My point is this; the Co-operative Department is concerned with the procedural side of the matter, *i. e.*, registration and it cannot make any discrimination whether the society consists of actual fishermen or not. If some people desire to form a Co-operative and if the application is in order, we have got to register the same.

Shri PRABHAT NARAYAN CHOUDHURY (Nalbari-East) : A few minutes before the Minister-in-charge said in reply to a question by Dr. Das that the same concession is not applicable to fishermen in the forest fisheries. Whether in forming such societies, Government take into account the case of the members whether they are landless or not. In the Fishery Society fishermen having forest business are taken in the society. In that case, will Government examine the possibility of giving the same concession to such societies formed by the genuine fishermen and landless people ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue) : Sir, Forest Rules do not provide this. As a matter of fact, the Forest Department is following this practice as far as possible. The Forest Department does not induct persons into the forest reserve, who are not forest minded as that may lead to pilferage of valuable trees. As a matter of fact such pilferage is taking place.

Mr. SPEAKER : Is it the interpretation of the Minister that an individual thief is more honest than collective thieves ?
(*Laughter*).

Shri HARESWAR DAS : We are guided in this generally by the rules adopted by the Revenue Department but we give preference to Co-operative Societies.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) : What is the machinery for ex-raying whether a certain person is forest-minded or not ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : We have got a list from which we find out.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) : From which year Government propose to introduce the tender system ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS : From the next year. We are issuing instructions in this behalf.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North) : In view of the fact that fishermen in our State, both Hindus and Muslims, are poor and it is difficult for them to form Co-operative Societies by themselves, will they be exempted from submitting tenders and will the Revenue Department and Co-operative Department change the rules of settlement so that these genuine fishermen can be saved and they can be given settlement by the Government ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS (Minister, Revenue): As far as the Revenue Department is concerned amendment of the rules will not be necessary.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS (Karimganj-North): Will the lowest tenders also will be accepted ?

Shri HARESWAR DAS: That is so. That is meant by tender system.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the Table)

Waiting room and a house for booking office at Saikhowa

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa) asked:

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

(a) Whether Government are aware that the passengers and the staff of Assam Transport have been experiencing great difficulties for want of a waiting room and a house for booking office and booking is being made in a temporary tin shed of small height at Saikhowa, the last destination of Tinsukia-Dholla Bus line ?

(b) Whether Government have taken up a proposal to construct these departmental buildings ?

(c) If so, whether plan and estimates for the same have been prepared and technical and administrative approval accorded for the purpose ?

(d) When can we expect commencement and completion of the work ?

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

8. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Public Works Department has been asked to take up and complete the construction during the current financial year.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Saikhowa):
What were the difficulties in taking up the construction during the last few years?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: In reply to a similar question of the same hon. Member it has been already replied that unfortunately the construction of the buildings could not be taken up by the Government for breaches in the Bund of the Brahmaputra near this station.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: Whether the Minister is aware of the fact that there is no breach there since 1956?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: That is why the Government have already directed the Public Works Department to take up and complete the construction during the current financial year.

Shri BHUBAN CHANDRA PRADHANI (Golakganj):
Whether it is a fact that there are many other State Bus stations which are running in temporary sheds without any proper accommodation?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA: Yes, it is a fact. We have not been able to provide with permanent sheds in many other stations.

Erosion of Amguri, Saponapather and Garomallapathers of Barpeta Subdivision by the Beki river

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog) asked :

9. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department (Embankment and Drainage) be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether there has been erosions of Amguri, Saponapather and Garomallapathers of Barpeta Subdivision ?
- (b) If so, how many bighas of lands have been eroded ?
- (c) Why Government have not taken any measure to stop erosions of the Beki river ?
- (d) Whether the high officials of Embankment and Drainage Department ever visited the area ?
- (e) If so, when ?
- (f) When these erosions will be stopped by the Government ?
- (g) Whether it is a fact that the Beki river is taking its course westwards down the railway bridge ?
- (h) Whether the Government propose to take anti-erosion measures ?
- (i) If so, when ?
- (j) Whether Government will take immediate measures to give spurs on the right bank from the Beki bridge to the Beki aerodrome ?
- (k) If so, when ?

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

9. (a)—Yes.

(b)—About 1,500 bighas of land have been eroded since 1942 ; but the eroded portions of Amguri and Saponapather have since been silted up and become fit for cultivation.

(c)—This is not considered necessary at this stage.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—By Addl. Chief Engineer (Embankment and Drainage), Assam in 1954.

(f)—Does not arise in view of reply to (c).

(g)—Yes.

(h)—Does not arise in view of reply to (c).

(i)—Does not arise.

(j)—Does not arise in view of reply to (c).

(k)—Does not arise.

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR (Sorbhog): In reply to (c) it is stated, "This is not considered necessary at this stage". May I know why it is not considered necessary to take up measures to stop erosions of Beki river?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Embankment and Drainage): The answer is there in (b), 'bu the eroded portions of Amguri and Sapona have since been silted up and become fit for cultivation.'

Shri GHANASHYAM TALUKDAR: Wherefrom it has been ascertained that it is fit for cultivation?

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: From the district authorities.

**Condolence on the death of Shri Nihar Rangpher,
Shri Bimala Kanta Bora and Sat Sunga Angami**

***Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I want to make a reference in this House about the sad demise of three of the hon. Members of this august House.

Shri Nihar Rongpher, who was a Member of this House in the last term was a reputed social worker. He did a lot of social service in the Mikir Hills District and also he took keen interest for the amelioration of the condition of the backward Mikir brothers and sisters and he made valuable contribution to bring about better understanding between all sections of the people. He held the Office of the Chief Executive Member of the Mikir Hills District Council and he discharged his duties as such to the satisfaction of the people and all the time he showed great eagerness and anxiety for speedy development of this district.

I would like to make a reference to Shri Bimala Kanta Bora, who was a Member of the previous term of this Assembly. As you know, Sir, he was an advocate and a social worker. He also took special interest in literatures. He devoted some of his time in journalism. He was the Sub-Editor of the *Assamia* and he was also associated with the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*. He also used to edit a quarterly journal by the name, *Samabay*. He was a reputed advocate of the State and his matured thinking helped this august House considerably in solving many complicated problems.

Sir, next I want to make a reference to Shri Sat Sunga Angami. He was a Member of this House for this term but after the separation of the Naga Hills and Tuensang areas from Assam he had to give up his Membership in this House. We all know how devotedly he worked to bring peace in the Naga Hills and how he faced bravely those people who did not believe in non-violence and peace. He had to make the extreme sacrifices for that and the hon. Members of this House know of the tragic circumstances under which his death took place.

Sir, I feel that it is in the fitness of things on the part of this august House to pay our respects to these deceased Members and also to convey our sincere condolence to the members of the bereaved families of those Members.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I fully associate with the feelings just now expressed by the Leader of the House on the sudden death of these three notable *ex*-Members of this House.

Sir, Shri Bimala Bora was an able parliamentarian. He took part and contributed his best in almost all the important matters that came up before the House. He was also very sociable. Although he belonged to a particular political party in this House he mixed with all of us and expressed his views on different matters and shared his views with us on various problems. He was also a brilliant lawyer. At his loss the State as a whole is poorer today.

The other two friends have left us at a time when we want their help to suppress the tense feeling between the people of the hills and the plains.

Shri Rangpher was a very good, social and amiable worker. He tried to bridge the difference between the hills and the plains people. Sat Sunga Angami came to this House when we were feeling the absence of Naga friends in this House and within a very short time he tried his best to remove the grievances of the Naga people by bringing them back to us and making them feel that they are equal citizens of this country. Sir, today at his loss we really are very sorry and poorer and we hope that the departed soul will rest in peace. We today take solace in the feelings that men do not live on bread alone but on deeds and let such deeds guide us in future.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is with great sorrow that I associate myself with what the hon. Leader of the House and the hon. Leader of the Opposition have just said.

Shri Bimala Kanta Bora was a man of high abilities and earned distinction in many walks of life whether as a parliamentarian or a civic leader of Nowgong and as fighter for freedom he never spared himself. As I said that he was a man of high degree of ability, but above all he was a man who had a great fund of humanity. Towards the end of his life he devoted himself to several social activities including the resuscitation of Batadrava the birth place of Sreemanta Sankar.

Shri Nihar Rongpher was a Member of this House and a great social worker in the District of the Mikir Hills and he did much for the amelioration of the down trodden and backward people.

Shri Satsu Angami was here for a short time as a Member from the Naga Hills. He belonged to the armed forces. Although he possessed a very amiable exterior, he was a man of iron will and determination. As the Leader of the House has just said he died for a noble cause, namely, for the integration of the people of the Naga Hills with the people of this great country.

I request the hon. Members to rise on their seats in honour of those illustrious sons of the State.

(All the Members rose in their seats for a while)

Discussion on Demands for Excess Grants for the year 1953-54

Mr. SPEAKER Next item of the agenda. Demands for Excess Grants for 1953-54.

***Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh)** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the passing of the Excess Grant is merely a formality because the expenditure has already been incurred and the Demand has now been placed in the House for its approval. In this respect certain aspects of the excess grant should be borne in mind. Firstly, this expenditure relates to the financial year 1953-54. After taking three years as the usual time for auditing and consolidation of the accounts this Demand for Excess Grant should have come before this House in the year 1957-58. Three years time is quite enough for auditing and consolidating the accounts.

Again, with regard to Grant No. 36 we find in the Explanation given that the excess amount required is Rs.13. It has been explained that the actual provision was reduced to Rs.13 due to rounding of the total provision.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance):** Sir, the reference made by the hon. Member is to come afterwards. The present item relates to only Demand for Excess Grants charged upon the Consolidated Fund of the State for 1953-54. He is making the observations relating to this item under the general budget.

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is within his right in making any observation he would like to make. But in view of the fact that we are particularly discussing the item for expenditure charged upon the Consolidated Fund, it is desirable if the hon. Member confines himself to this subject only.

***Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI (Rampur):** He will have to speak twice. If he is allowed to make general observation on the whole list of demands he can include all of them and in that way the Minister in-charge will also be able to reply only once.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us see how he fares.

***Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugrah)** : In certain cases excess demands have become necessary due to bad budgeting. For example, Grant No 36: here Rs. 13 is required simply because the total provision was rounded off. It is the usual procedure in budgeting that the next higher unit is taken in rounding off. Now, in Assam 100 is taken as an unit, so next 100 should have been taken. Again, we find in the explanation given regarding "Superannuation Allowances and Pensions" is: "excess expenditure under the head could not be anticipated for lack of adequate information in due time. Now by giving this explanatory note, the Government are criticising themselves. Government should have known the actual requirements for superannuation allowance and pensions because Government should have worked out the average numbers of people who retire in a year and the average number of people who are expected to go to retirement prematurely or are forced to retire. As Government have not been able to collect the necessary information under this head, it shows that there is something wrong with the administration itself. This defect should be discovered and rectified.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance) : Mr. Speaker Sir, my hon. Friend has made two criticisms, one of which is of a general nature. It relates to the fact that these amount are now placed for regularisation before the Assembly though the expenditure related to the period 1953-54. His contention is that for this regularisation we ought to have approached the Assembly since the excess expenditure related to the year 1953-54. What my Friend says has some force, but in these particular cases which are now being placed before the Assembly, I would like to bring certain facts to the knowledge of the hon. Members and I am sure after these facts have been placed, the objection raised on this account will be waived. As the hon. Member is aware, whenever any excess expenditure with regard to any item is anticipated or is brought to the notice of the Finance Department, the usual procedure is that permission for such excess expenditure is obtained from the House through a supplementary demand. This procedure of placing supplementary demand before the legislature for excess expenditure can only be resorted to if the Department concerned or the Finance Department is aware of such excess expenditure before the close of financial year. If it is not possible for the Department or the Finance Department to know of the excess expenditure before close of financial year, they cannot come forward for the excess before the legislature by way of Supplementary Demand. The only alternative is to show such excess expenditure in the Appropriation Accounts, which are placed before the Public Accounts Committee. After these expenditure have been considered by

the Public Accounts Committee and the Committee is satisfied with regard to such excess expenditure, these are placed before the Assembly for the purpose of regularisation. It is this procedure which has now been followed. If the hon. Member will please refer to the items in the statement of excess expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of the State during 1953-54, he will find that one relates to "superannuation allowances and pension" and the other relates to "State prisoners and Detenues. Now, so far as the first item is concerned.

Mr. SPEAKER : I thought the Hon'ble Minister was speaking about the expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of the State.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance) : Yes, Sir, one is "Superannuation Allowances and Pensions" and the other is "State Prisoners and Detenues, etc."

Mr. SPEAKER : I see.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED : So far as the first item is concerned, these additional funds are provided under "Charges in England" at the instance of the High Commissioner for India in London. As proposals are sometimes received by Government from the High Commissioner at the fag end of the year when there is no scope whatsoever for coming forward before the Legislature with Supplementary demand, we have no other alternative but to bring these facts to the notice of the Public Accounts Committee and, after they are approved by the Committee, to come forward before the House for the purpose of regularisation. Accordingly after his excess expenditure has been considered by the Public Accounts Committee this is the earliest opportunity we have of placing the matter before the House for the purpose of regularisation. If the hon. Member will be pleased to look into the Report of the Public Accounts Committee for the year 1953-54, he will find under paragraph 4 at page 23 that "the Committee recommends that the total excess of Rupees 43,816 and Rupees 23,350, shown in paragraphs 2 and 3 above, be regularised by the Legislature in the manner prescribed in Article 205 of the Constitution". Accordingly, we have now come forward before the House for the purpose of regularisation.

Similarly, so far as the item regarding State prisoners and detenues is concerned, this is also an expenditure about which we could not get information in time to come forward with a supplementary demand. Therefore, this matter was also placed before the Public Accounts Committee and the Public Accounts Committee have recommended it and so it has been included in the total amount mentioned in the report which I have placed before the House. I hope in view of this information given by me the hon Member will waive his objection.

Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati) : Will the Minister be pleased to let us know what is the date of the report of the Public Accounts Committee, referred to?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance) : Some time in 1958.

Mr. SPEAKER : That is so. The Constitution authorises by Article 205 to bring Demands for Excess Grants before the House. The usual practice in Lok Sabha as well as in the House of Commons has been that those excess grants have to be scrutinised by the Public Accounts Committee and on the recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee those excess grants are brought before the House. It has only one snag. In the House of Commons and, if I remember a right, in Lok Sabha, these excess grants are brought at the earliest opportunity before the House.

Now in the present case, the amount was spent in the year 1953-54 and the Demand for Excess Grant has been brought before the House in 1958. I find that the Public Accounts Committee also for reasons of its own did not submit the report till 7th March, 1958. Therefore, the responsibility for the delay has to be shared both by the Government as well as by the hon. Members of this House. Perhaps in future in this matter we should be more prompt.

Another thing I would like to suggest is that the lists of Demands for Excess Grants should be separately prepared. Therefore for the convenience of the hon. Members of this House two separate lists should be prepared one for Demands for Excess Grants and, the other for Appropriation and printed separately so that there may be no confusion in the minds of the hon. Members.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA (Gauhati):—
Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I be permitted to speak a few words on this matter ?

The position is this that till recently the accounts both Appropriation Accounts and Finance Accounts of the Government used to be sent to the Accountant General very late. In some cases accounts used to be sent to the Accountant General even after some years. Then in the Accountant General's Office accounts have had to pass through the usual process of scrutiny and so on and then they were sent to the Public Accounts Committee for examination. The Public Accounts Committee has no direct access to the Government records and papers unless and until they are forwarded to the Public Accounts Committee by the Accountant General. Now from our experience for the last few years, we find that by now the position has improved. But at the beginning when any audit objection was made, it used to remain in the Government Departments not only for months but sometimes for years. Therefore hands of the Accountant General used to remain tight and he could not submit any report to the Public Accounts Committee or to the Government in time. Now, Sir, I must say that things have improved, and I hope in future the accounts will not be delayed and this sort of thing would be regularised within a shorter time.

Mr. SPEAKER I am grateful to the hon. Member from Gauhati for bringing this matter to the notice of the House. I find now that Finance Accounts for 1957 have already been passed and that is a definite improvement.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance)
Sir, may I make one or two observations with regard to the suggestions which have been given by you? One is statements of excess expenditures in excess of grants and charged on Consolidated Fund should be given separately. I shall see that it is done, because giving these together really bring about confusion in the House. In future I shall see that the demands for excess grants and the statement of excess expenditures charged on Consolidated Fund are printed in separate lists.

Now, so far as delay is concerned, as has already been explained by my hon. Friend from Gauhati, I have no control over those things. I shall see that the accounts are compiled early and sent to the Accountant General for his scrutiny in time. This will help the Public Accounts Committee to have the earliest opportunity to go through the accounts.

Voting on Demands for Excess Grants for 1953-54

GRANT No.4

“9.—Stamp”

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Printing and Stationery) On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional amount of Rs.6,445, be granted to the Minister-in-charge for meeting certain excess expenditure during the year ending on the 31st March, 1954, for the administration of the head “9—Stamps”.

Sir, the reasons for this grant has been given in the explanatory notes. My esteemed colleague the Finance Minister has explained generally the reasons and circumstances for which we have to come before the House with the demands for excess grants. So far as this particular grant is concerned, it was placed before the Public Accounts Committee for their examination and on their recommendation we have come to the House for its regularisation.

Mr. SPEAKER The motion moved is that an additional amount of Rs. 6,445 be granted to the Minister-in-charge for meeting certain excess expenditure during the year ending 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head “9—Stamps.”

(The motion was put and adopted)

GRANT No.11

“27.—Administration of Justice”

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Judicial) On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional amount of Rs. 37,358 be granted to the Minister-in-charge for meeting certain excess expenditure during the year ending on the 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head “27—Administration of Justice.”

Sir, I have already stated as to why this is necessary and the explanation also gives indication with regard to the item for which this excess expenditure has been incurred.

Mr. Speaker : The motion moved is that an additional amount of Rs. 37,358 be granted to the Minister-in-charge for meeting certain excess expenditure during the year ending 31st March 1954 for the administration of the head “27—Administration of Justice.”

(The motion was put and adopted)

GRANT No. 36.

“57.—Miscellaneous—III—Contributions.”

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance) On the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that an additional amount of Rs.13 be granted to the Minister-in-charge for meeting certain excess expenditure during the year ending on the 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head “57.—Miscellaneous—III.—Contributions.”

The reasons for the grant are given in the explanatory notes.

Mr. SPEAKER: The motion moved is that an additional amount of Rs.13 be granted to the Minister-in-charge for meeting certain excess expenditure during the year ending 31st March, 1954 for the administration of the head “57.—Miscellaneous—III.—Contributions.”

(The motion was put and adopted.)

Finance Accounts, 1956-57 and Audit Report, 1957

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY (Minister, Parliamentary Affairs): I beg to lay out, Sir, copies of the Finance Accounts, 1956-57 and Audit Report, 1957.

Report of the Public Accounts Committee

Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA (Chairman): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, having been authorised by the Committee to submit this report on their behalf, present the same on the Appropriation Accounts, 1954-55 and the Audit Report, 1956—Part II, Appropriation Accounts, 1955-56 and the Audit Report, 1957—Part II, Finance Accounts, 1954-55 and the Audit Report, 1955 and and Finance Accounts 1955-56 and the Audit Report, 1956.

Further discussion on the Motion on Food situations of the State

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to suggest that in the afternoon we should continue food debate till 28th, because a large number of hon. Members of the House would like to take part in the discussion. Therefore, I would like to suggest this matter for the consideration of the Business Advisory Committee and they should sit after the House is adjourned and decide it.

***Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh) :**

Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the hon. Members of this House who have participated in the discussion on the food situation of the State have underlined the gravity of the situation. Even though it appears that the food situation is not only a big problem to our State but to the whole world, Professor Bradley Stamp of the International Commission of the U. N. O. who conducted a survey of food production of the world has come to a conclusion along with other experts that food production in the world has not been able to keep pace with the growth of population in spite of the advance of science. Human society is expanding at an alarming rate, the rate is about 20 millions per year. So, Sir, with the dawn of every day we have to feed 65 thousand more mouths. This is certainly formidable position if we cannot make nature to give her all to us. If the entire arable land in the world is utilised for growing foodgrains and distributed to the people living on the surface of the globe it will be four acres per head and it has been estimated by eminent experts that about 9 acres of land under scientific farming is necessary to supply food to one person alone. In tropical countries of course this figure will be a little altered because the heat and moisture in tropical countries encourage growth of vegetation. But in our country where we have to depend mostly on rain the position is different.

We shall be able to understand the enormity of this problem if we take into consideration certain basic facts. The population in India in 1957 was 357 millions and the total cultivable land in that year was 244 million acres. If we take the rate of increase of population at 5 millions per year, according to the recent calculation of various scientific bodies, we find that in 1971 the population of India will rise to 476 millions. Now, Sir, according to Prof. Stamp's calculation if 9 acres of land can supply food only to one person, then if the entire cultivable land is brought under cultivation to grow foodgrains, that food can feed only about 271 millions people and the remaining population shall have to depend on imported food or face starvation. Can't we do away with cultivation of tea, jute, cotton, tobacco, rubber, coffee and such other cash crops which used up about 19 million acres of our arable land? On the other hand, the demand for production of these crops is also very great and various schemes for extending cultivation of jute have been taken up every year. Therefore, about two hundred million people shall have to face starvation or to depend on import food from outside. From these figures

*Speech not corrected.

we can have an idea of the enormity of this problem. How can we, therefore, be self-sufficient in food? Sir, I have a belief that this food problem will remain a perpetual problem of our country for sometime to come. The other day the Union Minister for Food and Agriculture has stated in the Lok Sabha that he is not very hopeful about the fulfilment of the target of food production and that the required fertilisers also are not available in our country. The Congress President also mentioned in the last Gauhati Congress session that food production would be the real front of our Plan, meaning the Second Five Year Plan. Therefore Sir, in this situation one may naturally ask, what is the solution of this problem, how are you going to do it? Solution of this problem to my mind lies in two directions. If we take the land figures of India we will find that the total cultivable land is about 4 million acres, out of this 61 per cent is crop growing, 16 per cent is always remaining fallow and the rest is now waste land, only a small portion of it is utilised under primitive method of farming. Now, that shows that in a country which is facing acute food problem, it has been able to utilise only 61 per cent of its available land for food production. In Assam the figures will be higher because here the majority of the cultivators are not owners of land. Therefore, as I have already said, solution of this problem lies in two directions. Firstly, our ability to improve our cultivable land and to bring under cultivation all reclaimable land that is lying waste now. Secondly, we must take to intensive cultivation. For intensive cultivation it is necessary that there should be perpetual improvement of all cultivable land. Now, that improvement is not possible unless the first and foremost requisite is fulfilled. That first and foremost requisite is that the peasant, the tiller of the soil must have an interest in his land. But that interest cannot be infused in him unless his ownership over the land is established, that is, unless the tiller of the soil maintains actual ownership of the land. Now, Sir, history proves it not only in our country but also in the world, that, where there is sharing in the produce of the land, there cannot be improvement because in most cases it leads only to single profit. In America also we find just after the civil war—I am quoting from the American Economic History, Sixth Edition, where it is said:

“Before the Civil War the South was almost entirely agricultural, engaged in raising some foodstuffs but dependent chiefly upon the great staple, cotton, which was produced on large plantations by the labour of Negro slaves. The war and the freeing of the slaves changed the system. The products

remained the same, but the manner of production was altered. Ruined by the war, the great planter had neither resources nor equipment to continue the old plantation under a wage system. Some manner of livelihood, however, had to be found for him and for the new freeman. The result was the gradual breaking up of the large holdings into small farms ranging from 20 to 50 acres, which are operated by Negroes, usually as sharecroppers or tenant farmers. * * * The effect of this system has been almost as destructive to the soil as that of the old plantation system”.

Then again, we find in Sir John Russel's World Population and World Food Supplies—I am referring to that portion of the report relating to India and Pakistan—here it says—“A contributory cause of the low level of productiveness in some districts has been the system of land tenure based on sharecropping, which often acts as a deterrent. This is to be abolished and replaced by peasant proprietorship and some form of co-operative farming. Consolidated cultivation of sugarcane, which is a kind of co-operation, has been accomplished in the tube-well areas as already mentioned and may yet be achieved elsewhere for purposes of tractor cultivation. Extension of the idea to the entire group of holdings is proposed and methods for carrying out have been devised ; they involve rearranging the boundaries. Colonies of this kind have already been established in Bombay, and receive loans or grants from the Government enabling them to acquire the large implements needed or to reclaim additional land”.

Now, not only in India, Japan or China but also in the continental countries we find sharing of crop generally leads to degeneration of land because the cultivator cannot be induced to improve the land. So, the primary necessity, if we want to tackle the food problem, is to tackle first the land problem. We must make the peasant, the tiller, proprietor of the land. Unless this is done, there cannot be improvement of the land. How can we expect a tenant-cultivator who stands the risk of eviction at any time to improve that land ?

Secondly, the most important thing is that we must take to intensive and scientific method of cultivation. Now, in this direction, a lead from the Government is expected. Apart from the intensive and scientific method of cultivation, we must control the destruction wrought by pests. It has been calculated by experts that pests devour 1/3rd of the production of India. This figure has been given by an eminent Entomolo-

gist Mr. K. B. Lal ; it is not my figure. Also it was estimated that an adult rat consume two ounces of grain and a baby rat consumes one ounce of grain. The rats have an access to the stock of food grains. In the Budget Session of 1957. Mr. Lalmawia referred to the rat menance in the Mizo Hills district. Government promised to look into it. Government is still looking into the matter. Regarding this we have not been able to cope with the rat menace. We have found that very good Ahu cultivation in the North Bank has been destroyed by bugs and we have not been able to cope with it and a good amount of crop has been lost.

With regard to the use of fertiliser it is very difficult for our peasants to take to it unless our youngmen take up this scheme. An extensive scheme should be worked out by the Government. Now the scheme should start from introducing certain lessions of it in the taxt books. From L. P. Schools to Colleges, the students should have some knowledge of the pests. They must have some knowledge of the usual pests and other fungus and their attacks, so that when they go out of the schools or colleges, they may advise our peasants as to how to fight these pests. Secondly, in every school there should be a pasture say 1/10th of an acre for the purpose of demonstrating cultivation in a scientific manner. Students from these schools may disseminate the knowledge to the peasants in the villages. The subject should find a place in the school text books also.

Now again if we take to the question of cropping, the principal crop in Assam is Sali. Government have not supplied any statistics, but on a rough estimate it can be safely estimated without any fear of contradiction that the overwhelming majority is the Sali, which is cultivated on share cropping basis mostly. So there is no improvement of the land—improvement in the yield. There is no attempt to irrigate the land. There is no attempt to make the field yield two or three crops. There has been a fall in the production figure. From the Government figures I can show that the yield is gradually decreasing. For example, here from the statistics supplied by the Government it is found that the yield per acre in pound is in 1936—1939—663.6.

1948—49	it come to 529
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1950—51	479.7.
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So the yield per acre is gradually decreasing. Now this is the situation. At this stage our salvation lies in putting a land reform measure with all the seriousness. It is not enough to enact certain measures, enact some laws unless they are implemented. We have certain legislative measures at our credit, but they have not been implemented. The peasants here are also not organised to the extent that they may themselves enforce them. On the top of that we find that eviction is the order of the day, the Government everywhere, whether in the grazing reserves or in the forest reserves or in some other waste lands where the peasants have settled, are evicting them in every day—in every month. We have seen in the districts of Kamrup and Lakhimpur the peasants have been evicted with their standing crops in the fields. This must be stopped and settlement should be made on scientific basis after a proper survey of the land. In Zamindari areas, it is ten years, but no records of rights have yet been prepared. It may take another ten years:

Now if we come to the question of intensive cultivation, the most important thing is the facility for irrigation. We cannot wait for the big projects like Kopili and others. Attempts should be made to have the projects, but in the meantime Government should have big dams to store rain water to be utilised for irrigation purposes. Then deep tube wells may play a great part, particularly in the drought affected areas. It is estimated that an 1" diameter pipe can irrigate 3,300 acres of land. Provided other facilities are there, few such tube wells can be of great help in the drought affected areas.

Then I would like to refer to the question of plough cattle. We have seen that our cattle population is being gradually dissipated by rinderpest and other diseases. The breed of our cattle are also gradually getting poorer. No attempts are being made to sterilise the inferior varieties of cattle and also to introduce better varieties of cattle. That must be done at once. No research work for cattle has been taken up. The whole Veterinary Department is not able to give any fruit of the research to the peasant in this direction. Of course it may take some time to introduce better breeding. But smaller tractors to be run by diesel or kerosene like the Japanese type of tractors may be used by some sections of our farmers.

Then again I come to the question of flood control. There are some areas which have been shut out for the flood water to come in, as a result of which the fertility of the soil cannot come to those areas. There is also no provision to allow some quantities of the flood water to come and deposit

some silt, so that the fertility of those areas could be maintained. In other areas embankments have been constructed in such a way as to render the peasant's land useless. That is one aspect of the thing. The other aspect is with regard to the Government's arguments with regard to the weather condition. If we go to study the weather condition of the last ten years—the rain fall and other weather conditions in Assam, we find it is very freakish. There have been recurrence of drought and floods. It will be difficult for some time to come to obviate and take scientific methods to tackle this problem. In the meantime, we should undertake research for evolving cultivation of varieties of cereals that may be drought resistant and flood resistant. Here research is being carried out by a Laboratory Assistant, who has no idea of the research.

No research has been carried on to use the fallow land in the Hills. In the Hills, of course, we find the Forest Department has taken some Pilot Projects but barring that no work, no experiment has been undertaken in the Hills for the purpose of soil conservation and soil erosion there. An attempt could have been made by taking a few Hills in a few districts to launch a scheme by means of which the hill tops could have been forested, in the second layer some food crops could have been grown, in the 3rd layer selected varieties of trees could have been planted and in the fourth layer some cash crops could have been grown. But none of these measures have been taken by the Agricultural Department, neither have this department taken any measure to initiate our peasantry to try to tackle the problem in that direction.

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Food and Agriculture): Forest Department is doing some things in that direction in the Hill areas.

Shri NILMONEY BORTHAKUR (Dibrugarh): This problem should have been tackled from several directions. The most important direction is that we must do away with share-cropping totally. I know it is a very difficult problem not only because it is difficult to disturb the *status quo* but also for another reason. Most of our political leaders are vitally interested in this share-cropping business. Therefore, if such a thing is undertaken. It is likely it will change the balance of the State. But if we do this, and organise the peasantry to take the initiative to implement the schemes by starting some Land Development Boards and helping these Boards with men, money and other scientific advice, I am sure, we would have been successful to a great extent in solving this problem. I, therefore request hon. Minister to bear this in mind.

Swami KRISHNANANDA BRAHMACHARI (Kokrajhar)

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, যোৱা কালিৰ পৰা খাদ্য সমস্যা লৈ মাননীয় সদস্য সকলে চৰকাৰক বহুতো অনুকূল প্ৰতিকূল আলোচনা সমালোচনা কৰি গৈছে আৰু নানা উক্তিৰেই প্ৰকাশ কৰিছে।

স্বাধীনতা পোৱাৰ পৰা আজি ১১ বছৰত প্ৰবেশ কৰিলে আৰু চৰকাৰৰ দেশক সমৃদ্ধিশালী কৰা সঙ্কল্পৰো এয়াৰ বছৰ হল। কিন্তু আজিও দেশৰ সমৃদ্ধিতো দূৰৰ কথা জনসাধাৰণৰ অনু মূঠিৰে সংস্থান নহল। সেই বাবে চৰকাৰৰ সকলো ব্যৱস্থা আৰু চেষ্টা ব্যৰ্থ হৈছে বুলি মই ভাবো। মানুহৰ কৰ্মশক্তি আৰু সকলো পুৰুষাৰ্থৰ মূলত হল খাদ্য। স্বাধীনতাৰ পিচত দেশৰ জনসাধাৰণৰ উন্নতি, দেশৰ মঙ্গল সাধন আৰু শান্তিপূৰ্ণ জীবনযাপন কৰাৰ আশাত হাজাৰ হাজাৰ মানুহে স্বাধীনতা যুদ্ধত জীৱন বলিদান দিছিল। স্বাধীনতা লাভ কৰাৰ পিচত যদি কল্প প্ৰণালী আৰু আদৰ্শ এনেকুৱাই হয় যে হাজাৰ হাজাৰ মৰনাৰী খাদ্যাভাৱত হাহাকাৰত কৰি জীবনযাপন কৰিব লাগে তেন্তে দেশবাসী স্বাধীনতাৰ বাবে গৌৰৱ কৰিবৰ কাৰণে তেওঁলোকৰ মনত কোনো চেতনা আহিব পাৰেনে? যোৱাবছৰ আমি ভাবিছিলো যে অহাৰ খাদ্য সমস্যা নিশ্চয় সমাধান হব কিন্তু দেখা গল প্ৰতীক্ষিত লাহে লাহে দেশৰ অৱস্থা শোচনীয় হৈ আহিছে আৰু খাদ্যাভাৱত দেশবাসী হৈছে।

চৰকাৰে সৰহ শস্য উৎপাদনত খেতিয়কক কোনো সাহায্য কৰিছে বুলি দেশবাসীয়ে বিশ্বাস নকৰে আৰু তেওঁলোকে প্ৰকাশ্য ভাবে চৰকাৰক দোষাৰোপ কৰি আহিছে। শস্য উৎপাদনৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে যিখিনি সাহায্য দিয়াৰ প্ৰতিশ্ৰুতি দিয়ে সময় হলে সাহায্য দিয়ক চাবি কোনো খবৰকে নকৰে। বিভাগীয় কৰ্মচাৰী সকল নিৰ্বিকৰ হৈ বহি থাকে (হাৰ্ছি)। এই হল কৃষি বিভাগৰ নমুনা।

মহোদয় যি দেশত লক্ষ লক্ষ গৰু মহ বিনা চিকিৎসাই মৰে সেইদেশত ভেটেৰিনেৰি বিভাগ এটা ৰাখি লক্ষ লক্ষ টকা অকাৰণত খৰচ কৰা কি দৰ্কাৰ? ইয়াৰ পিচতো এই বিভাগ আছে বুলি কোনোবাই কল্পনা কৰিব পাৰে নে?

স্বাধীনতাৰ পিচত লক্ষ লক্ষ টকা খৰচ কৰি পশুচিকিৎসাৰ কৰ্মচাৰী পুহিছে। পশুবিলাকৰ কোনো সভা বা আইন কাঁনুন থাকিলে সিহঁতে এই বিভাগীয় কৰ্মচাৰী সকলক নিশ্চয় জেলত দিলে হেতেন। হাজাৰ হাজাৰ গৰু মৰিছে কিন্তু পশু চিকিৎসাৰ কৰ্মচাৰী এজনো মহানাবীৰ ঠাইলৈ সময়মতে গৈ তাৰ যথাবিহিত ব্যৱস্থা হাতত লোৱা নাই আৰু সেইবাবে তেওঁলোকৰ যত্ন চেষ্টা সকলো ব্যৰ্থ হৈছে।

এইবিলাক হল চৰকাৰৰ Grow-More Food ৰ নমুনা। কৃষিবিভাগ দিনে দিনে বৰ্দ্ধিত হৈছে—লাখ লাখ টকা দৰমহাও লৈছে—আৰু বিনিময়ত জনসাধাৰণে পাইছে—দুভিক্ষ।

চৰকাৰে লক্ষ লক্ষ টকা খৰচ কৰিছে দেশ গঠন কৰিবলৈ—কিন্তু সমগ্ৰ ৰাইজে ভাবে যে এই টকা অৱাৰত নষ্ট হৈছে সেইবাবে যিহেতু এই টকাৰ দ্বাৰা জনগণৰ খাদ্য সমস্যাৰ সমাধান কৰিব পৰা নাই।

অসংখ্য টকা খৰচ কৰি প্ৰজেক্ট কৰিছে দেশত কেইটাগান ৰাস্তাঘাট, অনুষ্ঠান আদি কৰি দেশক সমৃদ্ধিশালী কৰিব নোৱাৰি। অনু সমস্যা প্ৰধান সমস্যা আৰু তাৰ যদি কোনো সমাধান নহয় তেন্তে জনগণৰ শান্তি একো পক্ষে আহিব নোৱাৰে।

এইবাৰ অসমত মানুহে ভাবিছিল যে আহাৰানৰ খেতি যিদৰে হৈছে এইবাৰ খাদ্যা-
 ভাব দূৰ হ'ব—কিন্তু সেই ধান গান্ধীপোকৰ উপদ্রবত সমূলি নষ্ট হ'ল। ইয়াৰ মূলত
 চৰকাৰৰ সিংহলতাৰ কাৰণ সময়মতে তাৰ যত্নৰ ব্যৱস্থা লোৱা নহয়। শালী ধান কৰাৰ
 চেষ্টা কৰিছে কিন্তু বৰষুণ নাই। চাৰকাৰৰ জলসিঞ্চন বিভাগে কিবা ব্যৱস্থা হাতত
 লৈছেনে বাক ? ধুবুৰীৰ (গোৱালপাৰাত) পৰা পুচুৰ পৰিমাণে ধান চাউল black
 marketing হৈ পাকিস্থান পাইছে গৈ। চৰকাৰে সস্তীয়া দোকানত বহুত চাউল।
 দিছে কিন্তু সেই চাউল অন্যতলৈ চালান হৈছে অথচ ধুবুৰীৰ জনসাধাৰণে খাবলৈ নাপায়
 এইবিলাক চৰকাৰৰ দৃষ্টিগোচৰ কৰিলেও চৰকাৰে তাৰ কোনো সুব্যৱস্থাৰ বন্দোবস্ত কৰা
 দেখা নাপায় আৰু সেইবাৰ খাদ্য সমস্যা আৰু জটিল হৈ পৰিছে। কেইটামান ডাঙৰ
 ৰাস্তা আৰু ঘৰ কৰিলেই দেশৰ সকলো সমস্যা সমাধান নহয়।

আমাৰ যদি চৰকাৰৰ বিভাগীয় কৰ্মচাৰীসকলৰ দেশ গঠনৰ কালে আন্তৰিকতা
 নাথাকে তেন্তে এই সদনত আমি যিমানই বক্তৃতা দি দৰদপাই নাথাকে। কিয় যি মুঠেই
 কাৰ্য্যকৰী নহয় আৰু দেশ গঠনত একো সহায়তা নকৰে। (হাৰি)

আমাৰ নিচিনা দুখীয়া দেশ এখনত যত গৰু নহেই খেতিৰ সৰ্ব্ব সম্বল তাত যদি
 লাখ লাখ গৰু নৰে আৰু যদি injection দিলেও গৰু নাৰাচে তেন্তে এই বিভাগৰে
 বা দৰ্কাৰ কি ? কৰ্মচাৰী সকলক যেতিয়া প্ৰয়োজন যেতিয়া যদি ৰাইজে তেওঁলোকৰ
 সেৱা নাপায় তেন্তে সেই কৰ্মচাৰী ৰই বা কি দৰ্কাৰ তেন্তে এই বিভাগ জনকল্যাণ বিভাগ
 বুলি কেনেকৈ বুজিব পাৰি।

এইবিষয়ে আমাৰ সদস্য বন্ধু সকলে বহুত কথাই কৈছে—নই কওঁ যে “অন্যাত্ন
 ভৱন্তি ভূতানি” আন আন বিভাগত—লাখ লাখ টকা খৰচ কৰিও যদি অনুৰ
 সমাধান নহয় তেন্তে চৰকাৰে কেতিয়াও জনপ্ৰিয় হ'ব নোৱাৰে।

তাৰ পিচত আজি গোৱালপাৰা জিলাৰ সমস্যা আৰু জটিল। আই নদীৰ মথাউৰি
 বন্ধাৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰক বহুতো অনুৰোধ কৰা হ'ল আৰু চৰকাৰে শেষত বন্ধাৰ প্ৰতিশ্ৰুতিও
 দিলে—কিন্তু আজি পৰ্য্যন্ত সেই প্ৰতিশ্ৰুতি ৰক্ষা নহ'ল। ৰেলৱে বিভাগে মথাউৰি
 বন্ধাৰ কাৰণেহে বিজনী এলেকা বিছুমাত্ৰ ৰক্ষা পৰিছে। লগতে ধুবুৰী আৰু গোৱালপাৰা
 মহকুমাৰ জাৰণ্ডৰি, সমন গ্ৰাম আই নদীৰ কবলত পৰি ধ্বংস হ'ব। মোৰ সমষ্টিৰ
 চৌলমাৰা নামৰ এখন ঠাই যিখন ঘন বসতি পূৰ্ণ জনপদ যদি ডাঙৰ মথাউৰি দিয়া
 নহয় তেন্তে সেইঠাইখন একেবাৰে ধ্বংস হ'ব। এই লোকসকলক ৰক্ষা কৰা ব'ৰ টান
 হ'ব।

আজি দিল্লী নগৰী, পাঞ্জাৰ ৰাজ্যত বানপানীৰ প্ৰকোপ হৈছে, প্ৰকৃতিৰ বিকৃতি ঘটিছে
 সেইদৰে সম্ভৱ হয় আমাৰ জনগণৰো প্ৰকৃতি বিকৃতি ঘটিছে ইও এটা প্ৰকৃতিৰ নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ।

সকলো সদস্যই কৃষি সমস্যা সম্পৰ্কে আলোচনা কৰিছে, কিন্তু দুঃখ লাগে Middle
 English Middle Vernacular পাচ কৰি আমাৰ ল'ৰা সকল M. L. A. ৰ
 ওচৰলৈ আহে চাকৰিৰ দাবি জনাবলৈ। আনকি যি বুনিয়াদি শিক্ষাৰ উদ্দেশ্য দেশৰ
 তথা সমাজ কল্যাণৰ কাম কৰা, সেই শিক্ষা লাভ কৰি আমাৰ ডেকা সকলে চাকৰিহে
 বিচাৰে। প্ৰত্যেকৰে মনত এটা চাকৰি মনোবৃত্তিৰ সৃষ্টি হৈছে। কেইজন আমাৰ শিক্ষিত
 ডেকাই মাইকী সকলৰ লগত সহযোগ কৰি দেশৰ কাম কৰিছে? তেনেধৰণৰ কোনো

চেপ্তাই হোৱা নাই আৰু সেইকাৰণেই আজি আমাৰ দেশৰ এই অবস্থা। আমাৰ সমগ্ৰ ৰাজ্যৰ উন্নতি নিৰ্ভৰ কৰিছে কৃষিৰ ওপৰত। কৃষকৰ সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিব পাৰিলে আমাৰ অন্যান্য সমস্যাবোৰ এনেয়ে সমাধান হৈ যাব। গতিকে মই এই বিষয়টোৰ প্ৰতি চৰকাৰৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰো যে আমাৰ একমাত্ৰ কৃষিৰ আহিলা গৰু; কৃষকৰ সেই গৰু মৰিলে চৰকাৰে দিয়ে মাত্ৰ ৫০ ব টকা, তাকো দৰকাৰৰ সময় পাৰ হৈ যোৱাৰ পিচত। ৫০ টকাৰ কেনেকৈ এহাল গৰু পায়? গতিকে কৃষকৰ গৰু মৰিলে হয় এহাল গৰু কিনিবৰ উচিত মূল্য দিব লগে নহয় সেই ৫০ টকাও দিব নালাগে। যিহেতু সেই টকাৰে কোনো কাম নহয়। এইবিলাক নীতিৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰ জনসাধাৰণৰ ক্ৰমে অপ্ৰিয় হৈ পৰিছে। গতিকে চৰকাৰে বাধ্যকৰী পন্থা লৈ সেইমতে কাম কৰিব লাগে এয়ে মোৰ নিবেদন।

U JOR MANIK SIEM OF MYLLIEM [Nongpoh (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Sir, I represent a constituency known as the rice producing area of this district, but unfortunately it is not so now. At present there is acute scarcity of rice in that rice producing area as well as in other areas also. To solve the food position some fair price shops have been opened even in that rice producing area of my constituency, but due to shortage of supply, the fair price shops cannot cope with requirement of the people; hence the people are suffering and are facing starvation. Another point I would like to inform the House is that in the area where I represent there has been epidemic among the cattle population and a large number of cattle died during the last six months and the disease has not subsided even by now. The Veterinary Department has been trying their best to control the disease but all the attempts have not been successful due to the fact that the stock of medicine is not sufficient to deal with the disease. Unless Government take urgent measures to stop the spread of the disease among the cattle population, I am afraid, it will not be possible on the part of the department concerned to control the disease in future if it spreads to other areas also. Steps should be taken immediately to prevent against the spread of the animal disease to other areas. Sir, so far as the question of rice situation is concerned, I may say that we are always in deficit. Even in my constituency cultivators had a poor harvest last year, but I am sorry to say that this year it is going to be worse. Unless Government take proper measures in this respect the people will have to face starvation next year. Sir, regarding the Veterinary Department I may say that with the skeleton staff that the department has at present, it will not be possible to cope with the cattle disease. Government, therefore, should try to get some experts who will be able to control the disease and also to check it from spreading from one village to another. With the bad communication as it is at present and with the existing staff, I am afraid, the Veterinary Department will not be able to cope with the disease.

Now regarding the Agricultural staff also I may point out that although they have been trying their best to help the people but as they are badly understaffed, they have not been able to render as much help to the people as they should. In this connection, I would like to refer to one instance. Last year only one Agricultural Inspector had to supervise the areas from Umsning, Bhoi to Pynursla in the border area. Sir, I can't understand how one Agricultural Inspector can be expected to cover such a wide area and perhaps with the strenuous work that this officer had to perform his duty, that made his life very miserable and ultimately the disease over-powered him. I don't like to say that Government officers are to be blamed for everything. We also have to examine ourselves and we have to see what are the defects in running the administration. In this connection I may cite an instance, when the cattle died on account of some of some disease, the people are partly responsible for this, because they did not care to inform the Veterinary Assistants in time if the information was given few days earlier the Veterinary Department perhaps could have done better work and. If they had sufficient medicine to deal with the disease than what they have done so far. In the case of agriculture also if they are not understaffed they could have done much better work than they have done so far.

Soon top of this, I am afraid, we are living on the days of too many committees and conferences and these to certain extent hamper the work of the officers, especially in the district level. I know of some officers who says they could not attend to their normal duties for constantly attending to conferences and committees. It is to be seen whether we should decide everything in committees and conferences. I do not know how far we can improve matters by these committees and conferences. These committees and conferences seem to have relieved the officers of a great measure of responsibility apart from the time they have to spend in them. We cannot appreciate the works of our officers if we decide every little thing through committees. I do not know what good we can derive from these committees. There are ordinary matters which an officer could have used his own discretion more expeditiously, but since he is aware that there would be committees he would not like to apply his discretion but he has to depend on the decision of the committees and thus he has no free hand even in small matters. Thus we have not been able to appreciate his abilities either. Because of all these committees and conferences, I think, we have taken too much time of

the officers also. Some of these officers are disappointed because they have found that work is too much for them. I do not know if Government will still continue to work through these committees and conferences for everything like distribution of C. I. Sheets and to appointing fair price shop dealers, the works which district officers could have done more efficiently.

Now, we are to examine how we are to improve the present food situation in the country. Here in Assam in the plains and in the hills, some Members have suggested that we should have small industries and small scale irrigation projects. I know, the Agriculture Department has started some irrigation projects but they do not seem to be very satisfactory so far and therefore we should select proper places to render real benefit to a greater section of people instead of to some individuals only. The cultivators also need improved seeds. If they can get good seeds the outturn will be better. They also require sufficient and good land for cultivation. They require plough cattle, especially in those areas where cattle have died in numbers due to epidemic diseases and where cultivators have not been able to plough their land for want of plough cattle. Many applications have been filed to the authorities for cattle loans through us. I hope, the Government will see that these people are granted cattle loan so that they can take up cultivation at least next year. Unless that is done, I am afraid, the food situation will be further worsened in the next year and in the years to come.

I would appeal to the Government to devise means to procure and stock sufficient quantities of rice to be ready in hand to meet the exigencies in time for the months to come and for next year also. The Government should also try to recruit extra Veterinary staff to be able to tackle epidemic diseases of cattle. The Veterinary staff should be increased temporarily at the moment even when epidemic diseases are spreading from village to village. They should also try to introduce irrigation schemes wherever possible and profitable to the people. They should grant sufficient seed loans or supply improved seeds to the people so that they can resume their cultivation next year. I further appeal that the fair price shops should be increased in view of the acute food situation consequent on failure of crops. The quota of food-grain also should be increased to each person. Now only half a seer of rice is given to each man per week. The people are very poor at the moment and for the extra quantity of rice required for a week he cannot be expected to purchase rice at

the exorbitant rate now prevailing in the market. At present the price of rice per maund in the market is Rs.30 to Rs.40. I hope, the Government will examine this position and will increase the quota of rice to people from fair price shops. Wherever necessary and where the people are suffering from distress more fair price shops should be opened so that these people can get rice at a reasonable price in these hard days.

***Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur):**
Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have two Motions before the House and of these two motions, one refers to long term process by which to improve the food production and the other refers how best we can tide over the immediate difficulties caused by the acute food position in the State.

As regards food production on a long term basis, we have heard a lot of suggestions very illuminating and very instructive, but to my mind, the need of the hour is how we can tide over the food situation the country is facing at the present moment. Even at this time even if the lean months have not yet been coming, people are really facing starvation or at least half starvation because their granaries are empty, the entire Ahu cultivation has been destroyed owing to drought, insects and so on. Then we are faced with another calamity. The prospect of Sali crop is very bad owing to recent floods, which have destroyed the seedlings and washed them away. Cultivators who have already lost the Aus could look forward for Sali crop but as the floods have washed away the seedlings their future has become dark and gloomy. So, to my mind the need of the hour is that we should devise some means and Government should take certain measures so that the people may be given some help and Government should see that the needy people do not die of starvation. The problem is not only of production but of distribution also. Along with this the necessity for procurement is also of great importance. At present there is no scope for local procurement. But what has already been procured should be fairly and equitably distributed. As regards certain dealers were stopped the supply due to certain irregularities made by them. It was done well. But in their place though new dealers were appointed in the locality the supply of rice was stopped for no fault of them. It was done probably due to some wrong propaganda made against them. Though there was rice in the subdivisional godowns it took a long time to supply it to the fair price shops. Another point

is that the process of distribution is so cumbrous and lengthy that no dealer easily like to come forward to take the trouble of supplying rice. So, I request the Government to see that the process of distribution is simplified so that the dealers can get the supply easily.

Then I come to supply of seeds to the cultivators at the time of any natural calamity like floods, etc. and when there is prayer for such supply. In this respect the authorities concerned should purchase such seeds in the local market. Otherwise a large quantity of the seeds do not germinate and ultimately the blame comes to the Government and the Department becomes unpopular. So, my request to the Government is that though there will be need or not Government should purchase such seeds soon after the harvest and make available to the people at the time of need. Of course it may so happen that the demand may not arise and as a result there might be certain amount of loss of money. But that loss should not be minded at all. Because it is seen that at the time of need if the seeds are supplied after procuring from certain farms then 50 or 60 per cent of them do not germinate and thereby the cultivators are deceived and the money become wasted, and the crop fails.

Then I come to construction of embankment, etc. We have been hearing always that embankments stop supply of silt which is a great fertilizer in the ploughing fields but at the same time in certain areas they cause certain damage which is more serious. Therefore, provision of embankment is more necessary than the supply of silt. So, I request the Government to provide some money in the provincial budget so that at the time of need we may get it before waiting for the Central Government's grant.

About long term measures, etc. already much has been said and I do not like to repeat the same thing. But the fact remains that we should rise to the occasion when the situation so demands. Unless we go to the village we cannot realise in what difficulties the villagers are passing their days.

With these observations, Sir, I resume my seat.

Shri DANDIRAM DUTTA (Mangaldai)

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমাৰ এই সদনত খাদ্য সমস্যা সম্পৰ্কে দুদিন ধৰি আলোচনা হৈছে। কিন্তু মই দুখেৰে সৈতে জনাও যে এই আলোচনাৰ জৰিয়তে যিবোৰ পৰামৰ্শ আগবঢ়োৱা হয় সেই বোৰ চৰকাৰে কাৰ্য্যত পৰিণত কৰা দেখা নোযায়। মোৰ বোধেৰে এই সদনত যিবোৰ আলোচনা হয় আৰু পৰামৰ্শ আগবঢ়োৱা হয় সেইবোৰ যাতে বিভাগীয় মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে কাৰ্য্যত পৰিণত কৰে তাৰ বাবে অনুৰোধ কৰিলো।

আমি খাদ্য সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিবলৈ হলে প্ৰথমতে চাব লাগিব যে খেতিয়কৰ কাৰণে যিবোৰ সুবিধা আৱশ্যক সেইবোৰ দিব পাৰিছোনে নাই। অৱশ্যে খেতিয়কক সুবিধা দিবলৈ হলে কেইবাটাও বিভাগ জড়িত হৈ যায়, যেনে—কৃষি বিভাগ, পশু চিকিৎসা বিভাগ আৰু ই এণ্ড ডি বিভাগ। এই আটাই কেইটা বিভাগৰ খেতিয়কৰ লগত যথেষ্ট সঙ্গ আছে আৰু এই সম্পৰ্ক যদি নিয়ম মতে ৰক্ষা নকৰে তেনেহলে খাদ্য সমস্যা সমাধান কেতিয়াও সম্ভৱপৰ নহয়। যোৱা বছৰ অসমত লাখ লাখ গৰু মৰিল। পশু চিকিৎসা বিভাগে যদি যথোচিত ব্যৱস্থা কৰিলেহেতেন তেনেহলে সেই সমস্যাৰ কেতিয়াও সৃষ্টি নহলহেতেন। চৰকাৰে যথেষ্ট ক্ষুদ্ৰ জলসিঞ্চন আঁচনি সম্পাদন কৰিছে; কিন্তু সেইবোৰ মেৰামতি কৰাৰ কোনো ব্যৱস্থা আজিলৈকে দেখা নাই। ফলত চৰকাৰৰো অনৰ্থক টকা খৰছ হৈছে আৰু লগতে খেতিয়ক সকলৰো শস্য উৎপাদন কৰাত ব্যাঘাট জন্মিছে। সেই কাৰণে মই মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ক অনুৰোধ কৰো যাতে এই ক্ষুদ্ৰ জলসিঞ্চন ব্যৱস্থাবোৰৰ মেৰামতিৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে ও ক্ষুদ্ৰ জলসিঞ্চনৰ বাবে বেচি টকা বাজেটত ধৰিব লাগে নহলে অধিক শস্য উৎপাদন অভিযান সফল হোৱা টান। ই এণ্ড ডি বিভাগৰ মঠাউৰিৰ পৰা বহুত ঠাইত উপকাৰতকৈ অপকাৰহে বেচি হৈছে; উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে কঙুয়ে মঙ্গলদৈ মহকুমাৰ নতুন মঠাউৰি আৰু কুলচিক বান্ধে সেই অঞ্চলত বহুত অনিষ্ট কৰিছে। সেই অঞ্চলৰ ৫-৬ খন মৌজাত খেতি নষ্ট কৰাৰ কথা নিশ্চয় বাতৰি কাগজত পঢ়িবলৈ পাইছে। সেই অঞ্চলত আছ ধানটো নেপালেই শালী খেতিও নষ্ট কৰিছে। মঙ্গলদৈ মহকুমাৰ সাক তোলা নদীৰ মঠাউৰি নোহোৱাৰ বাবে বঙ্গামনী মৌজা, দাহি মৌজা আৰু হিন্দুঘোপা মৌজাৰ অংশ আজি পানীৰ তলত। এই মৌজা কেই খণ্ডত ভবিষ্যতে যে দুভিঞ্চ নহব তাৰ কোনো মানে নাই। আমাৰ দেশত অধিক শস্য উৎপাদন কৰিবলৈ হলে দেশত যিবোৰ জলাতক চৰণীয়া পথাৰ আছে সেইবোৰতো বনো ধানৰ খেতি কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে আৰু তাৰ পৰাও যথেষ্ট খাদ্য শস্য আহৰণ কৰিব পৰা হব।

আকৌ দেশত এনেকুৱা কিছুমান ঠাই আছে যত পানীৰ অভাৱত খেতিয়কে খেতি কৰিব নোৱাৰে। সেই অঞ্চলবিলাকত ক্ষুদ্ৰ জলসিঞ্চনৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰি নাইবা Deep tube well কৰি আবাদ কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিবলৈ মই চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ জনালো।

অকল ধান খেতি কৰিলেই খাদ্য সমস্যা সমাধান নহয়—লগে লগে যাতে আন খেতিত খেতিয়কে মনোনিবেশ কৰিব পাৰে তাৰ চেপ্টাও চৰকাৰে চলাব লাগে। আমাৰ আলু খেতিও কিছু পৰিমাণে খাদ্য সমস্যা সমাধান কৰে। কিয়নো বহুত ঠাইত ধানৰ অভাৱত মানুহে আলুসিদ্ধ খাইয়ো বাচি আছে। কিন্তু প্ৰত্যেক বছৰে এই খেতি নষ্ট হৈছে, তাক ৰক্ষা কৰিবলৈ কোনো ব্যৱস্থা লোৱা দেখা নগল। মই আশা কৰোচৰকাৰে এই কথাটোলৈ মন দিব। সৰ্বসাধাৰণে আলু খেতি কেনেকৈ কৰিব লাগে সেইটো জানে কিন্তু তাক ৰক্ষা কৰাৰ উপায় কৃষিবিভাগে দিব বুলি মই আশা কৰো।

আমাৰ সদনত কেইজনমান সদস্যই আমাৰ বাইজক চাউলৰ পৰিবৰ্ত্তে আতা খাবলৈ পৰামৰ্শ অগাৰুটাইছে—অৱশ্যে মোৰো একমত—কিন্তু উপদেশতটৈ উদাহৰণ বেচি ভাল—সদস্য সকলে অকল বক্তৃতাহে দিছে কিন্তু কেইজন সদস্যই নিজে খাই দেখুৱাইছে। প্ৰথম উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে আমাৰ Members' Hostel Catering চোঁতেই দেখোন তেনে ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব পাৰে, (হাঁহি) খাদ্য মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে এটা তেনে নীতি কৰি চাউলৰ পৰিবৰ্ত্তে আটা খাই বাইজক উদাহৰণ দেখুৱাব বুলি আশা কৰিলো।

মহোদয়, যোগান বিভাগে বৰ্ত্তমান যিবিলাক আটা মানুহৰ মাজত বিতৰণ কৰিছে সি খোৱাৰ অযোগ্য আৰু অখাদ্য।

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Food and Agriculture): খোৱাৰ আগতেই আপুনি কলে অখাদ্য।

Mr. SPEAKER: The hon'ble Minister will reply when his time comes.

Shri DANDIRAM DUTTA Mangaldai মই খাইছো; এসেৰ আটা চালিলে এপোৱা ভুচি ওলায়। মই খাইয়েই কৈছো।

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY May I explain the position, Sir? The Atta which we are getting to-day is imported from America. No body can bring into Assam any other variety of Atta from outside, Whatever Atta is coming to Assam is red wheat and its source of supply is only one, viz., America. When red wheat is crushed the colour of the Atta is red and because of this some people think it is bad stuff. Some unscrupulous merchants put some flour in this Atta and make it a bit whitish and say that this is better Atta in order to sell it at a high price. So, the impression in the minds of some people that this is good Atta and that is bad Atta is not correct.....

Shri DANDIRAM DUTTA যদি চৰকাৰে এই আটাৰেই আমাৰ খাদ্য সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিব খোজে তেন্তে অকল আটা বিতৰণ নকৰি তাৰ লগে লগে একোখন গুৰা চলা চালনি বিতৰণ কৰাবো ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে। (হাহিঁ) এই ভুচি বিলাক যিবিলাক মিলে মিহলাই সেই মিল মালিক সকলৰ ওপৰত যাতে চৰকাৰে কঠোৰ ব্যৱস্থা গ্ৰহণ কৰে তাৰ বাবে মই চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰিলো।

মহোদয়, বোধকৰো কৃষি বিভাগৰ জনা আছে যে আমাৰ কোন কোন ঠাইত বান-পানীয়ে কঠিয়া নষ্ট কৰে: সবহ শস্য উৎপাদনৰ কাৰণে সেই অঞ্চল বিলাকত যেতিয়া বানপানীয়ে কঠিয়া নষ্ট কৰে, তেতিয়া কৃষি বিভাগে যাতে কঠিয়া দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা ৰাখে মই তাৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰিলো।

মই আগতেও কৈছো যে কিছুমান ঠাইত Embankment ৰ দ্বাৰা অনিষ্ট হৈছে। সেইটো কেনেকৈ হৈছে? শ শ মাইল Embankment দিছে কিন্তু তাত এটাও Sluice Gate নাই। ফলত বৰষুণৰ পানী ওলাই যাব নোৱাৰে আৰু নদীৰ পানী পথাৰত সোমাব নোৱাৰে, তাৰ কাৰণে মাটি সাৰুৱা পলশৰ পৰা বঞ্চিত হয় আৰু মাটিও খেতি নহয়। গতিকে চৰকাৰে যাতে যথেষ্ট সংখ্যক sluice gate ৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰে তাৰ কাৰণে মই অনুৰোধ কৰিলো।

কিছুমান ঠাইত এপাৰে বান্ধ দিছে আৰু আন পাৰে নাই—ফলত গোটেই নদীৰ পানী বান্ধ নথকা পিনে সোমাই খেতি নষ্ট কৰে। মই মঙ্গলদৈৰ বৰনদীৰ পূব পাৰত থকা লকৰাই মৌজা, চিপাৰাৰ মৌজা আদি ঠাইৰ অৱস্থাকে কও তাৰ অৱস্থা তদুপ। আজি ১০ দিন আগতে সেই অঞ্চলৰ আলুধান প্ৰায়খিনি বিধ্বস্ত হল—মই এতিয়াই খাদ্য মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ক অনুৰোধ কৰি থলো যাতে সময়ত এই লোকসকলৰ খাদ্যৰ যোগান চৰকাৰে দিয়ে।

অসমৰ যি যিবিলাক পথাৰত এইবাৰ আছ বানত গান্ধী পোক পৰিছে তাত যে শালী বানতো গান্ধীপোক নপৰিব তাৰ কোনো অৰ্থ নাই। গতিকে চৰকাৰে তাৰ নিৰাৰণ যাতে আগতীয়াকৈ ব্যৱস্থা ৰাখে সেই কথা মই এতিয়াই সোৱবাই দিলো।

ইতিপূৰ্বেও মই কৈছিলো যে Pesticide spray কৰিবলৈ যোগাৰ সম্পূৰ্ণ ৰাখিব লাগে। যত যিবিলাক সজুলীৰ দ্বাৰা spray কৰিব পাৰি সেই বিলাক প্ৰত্যেক মহকুমাতে মজুত ৰাখিবলৈ মই কৃষি মন্ত্ৰীক অনুৰোধ জনালো।

ইয়াকে কৈ মই পুনৰ অনুৰোধ কৰো যাতে মই উল্লেখ কৰা কথা কেইটালৈ চৰকাৰে দৃষ্টি ৰাখে।

KUMAR PROKITISH CHANDRA BARUA (Gauripur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the deterioration of the food situation in Assam is not a sudden problem ; so it cannot be expected that it can be solved all on a sudden. We must think deeply to find out the root cause of this deterioration. First of all, immediate steps should be taken to stop the present situation and to put an end to the damage caused by the insects to the crops. In my opinion, it depends upon the good-will of the agriculturists. To my mind, it appears that we must see to the difficulties of the agriculturists so that they may come up for raising good crops. Lack of interest in agriculture is a very serious thing and on it to a great extent depends the food situation of the State. Sir, we have enacted several laws to protect our agriculturists from the depredations or from the clutches of the landlords, but still the situation has not improved and there is little chance of improvement. Then what to do now ? In my observation, Sir, I have noticed negligence for agriculture which no doubt is a very serious affair. The boys from the agriculturists class who joined schools, it may be, Middle English or High English Schools, practically go out of agriculture. If in this way an young and able-bodied section of the agriculturists goes out of the agriculture then the situation is bound to deteriorate. So, Sir, in my humble opinion the Education Department should take steps so that in the schools in the rural areas some training in agriculture should be given to our boys. Those boys in the rural areas must be free from the idea that to till the land is a less honourable job than a clerical job. But, Sir, it is unfortunate that it has become customary now-a-days that our boys in the rural areas when they get a little education would like to serve in jobs and they consider that agriculture is a degrading profession for them. With this idea a great number of our boys have abstained themselves from joining agriculture. Secondly, the intelligent class of the agriculturists have debarred them selves from joining the agriculture. Thus the intelligent class of the agriculturists

have joined politics because they have no other works to do. Different ideas of different political parties bewilder them. Thus our boys with a little education have been spoiled because they spoil their valuable time. Then, Sir, our agriculturists always depend upon the Government help. But Government help will not serve their purpose. Our agriculturists must know how to stand on their own legs and they should look agriculture more vehemently as our fore-fathers used to do.

Then, as for seeds, Sir, I would like to say a few words. The seeds which we secure from Government godowns or from the bazars are not kept in proper manner. We have seen in our own district the people in the rural areas use to keep the seeds in a "Dole" *i. e.*, a new bamboo basket. If the seeds are kept in godowns then they come into contact with the tin walls of the godown then the seeds lose their potency. If it is not done, every agriculturist must have to preserve seeds of his own which are much better than the bazar seeds or the seeds that are sold from the Government godowns by the Department concerned.

Then, Sir, the pressure on land is very much now. We must improve methods to grow more food. If the agriculturists do not co-operate in the grow more food campaign then the Department will not be able to achieve any success in their endeavour for increasing food in the State. When the lectures are given by the Government demonstrators they must bear in mind that our people in the rural areas are uneducated and as such they cannot follow the idea given with regard to the grow more food campaign unless and until our people are given the ideas about the improved method of agriculture in a system in which they can understand the lectures given about agriculture, our people will not be able to step up increased production of food.

Then, Sir, there is a demonstrator in every area and not a single plot of land has been cultivated by the demonstrators themselves. There is no publication with regard to improved method of agriculture from the Department concerned. In the hats and bazars we can see only advertisements for Biri and other things. There is no advertisements from the Agriculture Department.

Next I come to Veterinary. With regard to Veterinary, the Government as far as I know have not been taking adequate steps to cope with the epidemics among the cattle population of our State. Diseases like anthrax and rinderpest are most dangerous diseases for the cattle. In the month of November cattle from other States use to be brought to our

State and those cattle generally bring diseases like anthrax etc. There should be a quarantine where those animals should be innoculated with vaccines etc. Otherwise, Sir, if those defective animals are brought to our State they spread diseases among our cattle population. So, Sir, I would like to suggest that in places like Buxirhat, Sankosh, Golakganj, Patamari and Mankachar where animals are brought from outside the State they should be immediately innoculated, otherwise the situation with regard to the cattle mortality will not improve in our State.

Then the main thing that there should be a propaganda among the agriculturists for improved method of cultivation. All sorts of ideas should be given to the agriculturists not only of the diseases by the Veterinary Department but by all Departments of the Government. We should take immediate steps to improve the situation. I pray to the Government to take immediate steps to improve the food situation in the State otherwise there would be disorder and chaos for all of us.

With these few words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Shri MOHIDHAR PEGOO [Jorhat (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, খাদ্য সমস্যা সম্পর্কে যোরা কালিৰ পৰা যিবিলাক আলোচনা, সমালোচনা এই সদনত হৈ আছে— তাৰ লগত যোগ দিবলৈ মোৰ বেচি কথা নাই যদিও— মই যিহেতু নিজে এজন খেতিয়ক, সেই হিচাবে দুই এফাৰ কথা কম। আজিৰ অধিক শস্য উৎপাদনৰ যুগত প্ৰকৃত খেতিয়ক সকলৰ কৰিব লগা বহুতো কাম আছে আৰু তেওঁলোকৰ দায়িত্ব অতি গধুৰ অথচ তেনে অৱস্থাৰ মাজত খেতিয়ক সকলে আজি বহুতো সমস্যাৰ সম্মুখীন হব লগা হোৱাত—উৎপাদন কাৰ্য্যত বাধা পৰিছে। এই সমস্যা সমূহৰ সমাধানৰ হকে চৰকাৰৰ পৰা কাৰ্য্যকৰী ব্যৱস্থা হাতত লব লাগিব। এই ক্ষেত্ৰত দেখা যায়— আজি চৰকাৰৰ কৃষি বিভাগ আৰু ‘ভেটৰনাৰী’ বিভাগে “বহবাবস্ত্ৰে লঘু ক্ৰিয়া” কৰিছে আৰু এই সদনত বহুতে বহু অভিমত এই সম্বন্ধে প্ৰকাশ কৰিছে। মই এই বিষয়ে পুনৰুক্তি নকৰি মাত্ৰ যিবিলাক অঞ্চলত মহামাৰী এতিয়াও চলি আছে—সেই বিলাক ঠাইৰ গৰু মহামাৰীক বন্ধ কৰিবৰ কাৰণে কিবা উপায় উদ্ভাৱন কৰিব বনে কি সেই সম্পৰ্কেহে—সেই বিষয়ে দুই আফাৰ মান কম।

আমি জনাত, যোৱা বছৰ যোৰহাটৰ মালৌ পথাৰত এই মহামাৰীৰ আৰম্ভ হৈছিল আৰু সেই সময়ৰ ভিতৰত বিভাগীয় কৰ্মচাৰী সকলে যথা সময়ত উপযুক্ত প্ৰতিবিধানৰ চেষ্টা কৰিছিল নে নাই কব নোৱাৰো। এই প্ৰসঙ্গত যোৱা বছৰ মই কেইটামান প্ৰশ্ন এই সদনত উত্থাপন কৰিছিলো। কিন্তু আজিকোপতি তাৰ উত্তৰ নাপালো। সি যিকি নহওক—এই মহামাৰীৰ পৰা গৰুমহ বিলাক বন্ধাকৰি, দৰিদ্ৰ খেতিয়ক সকলৰ জীৱন নিৰ্বাহৰ কাৰণে খেতিবাতি কৰিব পৰাকৈ কোনো বকমৰ ব্যৱস্থা নোহোৱাৰ হেতু খেতিয়ক সকলৰ অৱস্থা শোচনীয় হৈ পৰিছে আৰু দেখা গৈছে অদূৰ ভবিষ্যতে এক ভীষণ খাদ্য-সঙ্কটৰ সম্ভাৱনা। ইয়াৰ পিচত—যি অল্প ব্যৱস্থা লৈছে সিও কোনো বকম ফলদায়ক হোৱা নাই তাৰ কাৰণ—(১) এতিয়াও ৰোগ নিৰ্দ্ধাৰণ যথাযথ ভাৱে হোৱা নাই। (২) ৰোগবিলাক এক বকমৰ নহয় (৩) গ্ৰাম্য অঞ্চল বিলাকত G. T. V. সংৰক্ষণৰ উপযুক্ত ব্যৱস্থা নাই।

মই কেইবা জনো 'ভেটবনাবী' ফিল্ড এচিষ্টেন্টৰ লগত আলোচনা কৰি জানিব পাৰিছো যে, গৰু-মহক দিবলৈ G. T. vaccine সংৰক্ষণ কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা নাই আৰু এই উদ্দেশ্যৰে 'বিক্ৰিজিটৰ' চৰকাৰে যোগান ধৰিব পৰা নাই। ই বৰ পৰিতাপৰ বিষয়। অৱশ্যে জনসাধাৰণে এইটো বুজি পায় যে চৰকাৰৰ টকাৰ অভাৱ আৰু এইটোও নতুন নহয় যে বিশেষকৈ পশু চিকিৎসা বিভাগত যথেষ্ট উপযুক্ত লোক নাই। কিন্তু জন সাধাৰণে এইটো বুজি নাপাই যে কিয় অজসুটকা অনেক ঠাইত অপব্যয় হয় অথচ লাগতিয়াল এটা 'বিক্ৰিজিটৰ' চৰকাৰে ৰাখিব নোৱাৰে বা কিছুপৰিমাণৰ বৰফৰ যোগাৰ কৰিবলৈ অক্ষম হয়।

M. MOINUL HAQUE CHAUDHURY (Minister, Food and Agriculture) বৰফ তৈয়াৰ কৰাৰ কাৰখানাৰ অভাৱ। Except in Gauhati there is no other place where ice is available. That is the simple reason.

Shri MOHIDHAR PEGOO [Jorhat (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: সি যি কি নহওক, মই এইটোকে চৰকাৰৰ দৃষ্টি গোচৰ কৰিব খুজিছো যে—উপযুক্ত সংৰক্ষণৰ ব্যৱস্থা নোহোৱাৰ কাৰণে, মূল্যবান, 'ডেকচিন' বিলাক সাধাৰণ ফ্ৰীজত ভৰাই অনানিয়া কৰাৰ ফলত নষ্ট হৈ যায় আৰু ইয়াত বেমাৰ প্ৰতিৰোধ কৰিব পৰা ক্ষমতা নোহোৱা হৈ যায়। ইয়াৰ উপৰিও—যেতিয়া গৰুমহ বিলাক বোম্বত আক্ৰান্ত হয়—তাৰ চিকিৎসাৰ নিমিত্তে ব্যৱহাৰ হোৱা "চালফা মিঞ্জাথিন" টেবলেট বিলাকো যথেষ্ট পৰিমাণে পোৱা নাযায়। ইয়াৰ কাৰণ বোলে বোম্বাই অথবা কলিকতাৰ যিবিলাক ফাৰ্মে এই ঔষধ তৈয়াৰ কৰে তেওঁলোকে অসম চৰকাৰক যথাসময়ত যোগান নিদিয়ে যেহেতু অসম চৰকাৰে এই বিলাক সবহকৈ নিকিনে। এনেবিলাক বেমেজালিত আমাৰ গৰু মহ বিলাক বিনা চিকিৎসাই মহামাৰীত শেষ হব লাগিছে। এই সম্পৰ্কে মই আৰু বেচি আলোচনা নকৰি মাত্ৰ চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ জনাও যেন নীৰবিধ খেতিয়ক সকলৰ জীৱন নিৰবাহৰ হকে উপযুক্ত আহিলা পাতিব যোগান ধৰি কৃষিৰ উন্নতি কাৰ্যত সহায় কৰে আৰু যিবিলাক অক্ষয়ত গৰু মহ মৰি গৈছে—তাৰ খেতিয়কসকলক যেন চৰকাৰে সাহায্য দি উপকৃত কৰে।

ইয়াৰ পিচত মই এটা কথাৰ কাৰণে দুখ পাইছো যে—মাজুলী C. D. Block ৰ যোগে মাজুলীৰ খেতিয়কৰ বাবে যি ২৮ হাজাৰ টকা কৃষি ঋণ মঞ্জুৰ হৈছিল—তাকো কামত খটুৱাব নোৱাৰি ওভটাই দিয়া হয়। ইয়াৰ ফলত মাজুলীৰ খেতিয়ক সকলে চৰকাৰৰ সাহায্যৰ পৰা বঞ্চিত হ'ল। তাৰ কাৰণ গৱৰ্ণমেণ্টৰ আচনিমতে খেতিয়কে ঋণ গ্ৰহণ কৰা সম্ভৱপৰ নহয়। ইয়াৰ উপৰিও—কঠিয়া, সাৰ আদি যোগানৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত—আমাৰ খেতিয়ক সকলে ঠিক মতে কঠিয়া নাপায় আৰু সাৰৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত যি দিয়া হৈছে সি ৰাসায়নিক সাৰ। মাজুলীৰ নিচিনা সাৰুৱা ঠাইত ৰাসায়নিক সাৰে—মাটিৰ উন্নতি কৰাতকৈ অপকাৰহে কৰিছে বুলি জনসাধাৰণৰ বিশ্বাস আৰু জনসাধাৰনৰ এই ধাৰণা সম্পূৰ্ণ ভুল নহয়। কাজেই—চৰকাৰৰ পক্ষৰ পৰা তেওঁলোকৰ আচনি কিছু সাল-সলনি কৰি সাহায্যৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিলে আচনি কৃতকাৰ্য হ'ব বুলি আশা কৰা যায়।

ইয়াৰ পিচত মহামাৰী পীড়িত অঞ্চল সমূহৰ খেতিয়ক সকলক গৰুমহ কিনিবৰ কাৰণে অৰ্থ মঞ্জুৰ কৰাৰ কথা শুনা যায় কিন্তু আটাইবিলাক মানুহক টকা সাহায্য দিয়া সম্ভৱপৰ নহয় আৰু কম টকা দিলেও চৰামূল্যত গৰু মহ কিনিব পৰা নহয় এনে অৱস্থাত চৰকাৰে কি উপায় অবলম্বন কৰিলে সুবিধা হয় তাৰ দিহা কৰিব বুলি আশা কৰিলো। এই অৱস্থাত যোথ প্ৰচেষ্টাইহে একমাত্ৰ উপায়। আৰু মই এইসম্পৰ্কত চৰকাৰক, এই আশ্বাস দিব পাৰো যে ৰাইজে চৰকাৰৰ নিৰ্দেশ অনুযায়ী কাম কৰিব আৰু সাহায্য

গ্রহন কৰি কৃষি কৰ্মত আগ বাঢ়িব। এটো বোধকৰো সমিচীন হব যে যদি চৰকাৰে আৱশ্যক বুজি খবালি খেতি হোৱা অঞ্চল বোবত কৃষি কাৰ্য্যত সহায় আগবঢ়ায়। মই জানো মাজুলি অঞ্চলত শীত কালত মাহ সৰিয়হৰ খেতি প্ৰচুৰ পৰিমাণে হয় আৰু য়াত অধিক শস্য উৎপাদনৰ বাবে যদি আৱশ্যক বুজি একো একোটা গোট কৰি দুই তিনিটা ট্ৰেক্টাৰ দি যতদূৰ সম্ভৱ কম বানচত মাটি চাহকৰাই দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰে। তাকো কৰিবলৈ যদি সক্ষম নহয় তেতিয়া চৰকাৰে কিছুমান স্থানীয় সমৰ্থবান লোকে উচিত বানচত মাটি চহোৱাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰি দিব লাগে। এনে ব্যৱস্থা হাতত ললে মোৰ বিশ্বাস গৰু মহৰ অভাৱতো, খেতিয়ক সকলে খেতি কৰিবলৈ সক্ষম হব আৰু মহামাৰীয়ে গৰুমহ উচহুনা কৰা অঞ্চল সমূহত খেতি কাৰ্য্য চলিব। আশা কৰো চৰকাৰে এই ব্যৱস্থা অতি সোনকালে হাতত লব আৰু এই ব্যৱস্থা এই বছৰৰ অহা মাহৰ ভিতৰতে কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰিব পাৰিব লাগিব—নহলে প্ৰবল বেগে বাঢ়িঅহা খাদ্য সঙ্কটৰ অৱস্থাটো সন্মুখীন হোৱা কঠিন হৈ পৰিব।

আমাৰ দেশত গৰু মহৰ যি হানি হৈ গল সেই বিষয়ে কৰিবলৈ একো নাই কিন্তু ভৱিষ্যতে যাতে কিছু ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব পাৰে তাৰ বাবে এটা পৰামৰ্শ দিব পাৰি যে যিবোৰ ঠাইত গৰুমহ মৰি শেষ হৈ যোৱা নাই সেই বোবত যাতে আকৌ মহামাৰীয়ে দেখা দিব নোৱাৰে তাৰ বাবে আৱশ্যকীয় ব্যৱস্থা এতিয়া তৎপৰতাৰে গ্ৰহণ কৰক। দ্বিতীয় কথা, খেতিয়কৰ সুবিধাৰ বাবে যিবোৰ ঠাইত মঠাউৰি বন্ধা হৈছে সেইবোৰত অনেক খুট বৈ গৈছে। সেই খুট আঙু দূৰীকৰণৰ বাবে দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিলো। আৰু এটা কথা চৰকাৰক নিবেদন কৰিব খোজো যে যোৰহাটৰ মালৌ পঞ্চাৰৰ দৰে যিবিলাক দ ঠাই আছে, সেই বোৰ সংস্কাৰ কৰি খেতিৰ উপযুক্ত কৰিব লাগে। তাৰ পিচত, খেতিৰ কাৰণে পানী দুস্প্ৰাপ্য সেইবোৰত পানীযোগানৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে। কৃষি ঋণ সম্পৰ্কে কওঁ যে খেতিয়কক কঠিয়া, সাৰ আদি গ্ৰহণ কৰিবলৈ বাধ্য নকৰি খেতিয়কে নিজৰ সুবিধামতে, আৱশ্যক বুজি নগদ টকা হিচাবে লনলৈ দিব লাগে। ইয়াকে কৈ মোৰ বক্তব্য সামৰনি মাৰিলো।

Dr. GHANSHYAM DAS [North Salmara (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very much thankful to our hon. Lady Members, all of whom have been listening with rapt attention the debate on food ; whereas I find most of the male Members are not in the House (*laughter*)

Sir, many hon. Members have spoken on the subject and many suggestions have been advanced in this regard. I do not like to enter into an elaborate discussion here. Everybody knows that since some time back the food situation has become bad in our State. Last year also it was bad and this year it is worse. Now there is no use in criticising the Government alone. Sufficient criticism has been made. We should concentrate our energy and attention to the ways and means which may improve the situation. It seems many of our Friends here suggested about the production of rice alone, but we should also take steps to grow other kinds of supplementary food and fruits to increase our overall food production, not only for the human being but for our

cattle also. Therefore with this aspect in view we should suggest ways and means to produce other kinds of food besides rice. Here I may refer to the production of potatoes sweet potato, maize and other fruits also. In this matter the co-operation of the various departments are necessary. It may not be correct to say that the whole responsibility lies with the Food Ministry, but I think, the Food Ministry, the Publicity Department, Public Health Ministry Revenue Ministry—all are concerned in this matter. Even the Finance Ministry is also connected with it. Unless there is coordination of all these Departments, I think it will be very difficult to tackle this problem. This problem is chronic in nature and this deteriorating condition is manifested due to the drought condition, increase of population and flood condition also. Here publicity and propaganda will go a long way to solve our problem, particularly in the matter of changing the food habit of our people. The question of Atta has been raised. Atta is far better than rice, in respect of protein content, since we know in Atta we have more protein, whereas in rice we get little of protein. So it is very useful and it will take a good deal of propaganda to make the people Atta minded. Wheat is not only useful for human being but for the cattle also. But unfortunately good Atta is not available in Shillong. I am trying to get some, but I have not got it here. People have a wrong notion about Atta; so a good deal of propaganda is necessary to remove that wrong notion, Sir, Assam wheat is very good in quality. Moreover if we grow sufficient wheat here in our State there is less danger of having adulterated Atta, because most of the adulteration takes place when it is imported from outside. Besides, rice and Atta, our forest people may be encouraged to grow various kinds of fruits. The Revenue Department should encourage collective farming for better production of food. Moreover the Medical Department is also vitally connected with this problem and its solution. I think 50 per cent of the duty is that of the Health Minister, because 50 per cent of the food we take are now-a-days adulterated. There is already scarcity and over and above this if 50 per cent of what we have are adulterated then the situation can be better imagined. So the Medical Department should also tackle this problem. They should also see that pure food is available to the people. Now I come to the Finance Department.

One instance is that in the month of February last, I warned the Minister in charge and requested him to take some measures of protection against erosion of the river Aie

and to protect the Jaraguri area, but unfortunately the amount could not be sanctioned till May and work could not be started and as a result 32 villages of the area have been badly affected. This was due only to the fact that timely protection could not be taken.

Mr. **SPEAKER** : The time for the day is now over.

The progress of the debate on food situation will be decided by the Business Advisory Committee on the next day.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 a.m. on Saturday, the 23rd August, 1958.

R. N. BARUA,

Secretary,

Legislative Assembly,

Assam.

Shillong,

The 22 April, 1960.

