

MASSACHUSETTS  
LEGISLATIVE  
COMMISSIONERS

STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS  
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON

REPORT

1911

MASSACHUSETTS  
LEGISLATIVE  
COMMISSIONERS

**DEBATES OF THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE  
ASSEMBLY, 1969**

Budget Session,

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**CONTENTS :**

	Pages
1. Starred Questions and Answers ...	1—53
2. Statement by Minister, Finance, refuting certain allegations made against him ...	53—63
3. Statement by Minister, Forests—Poaching of Rhinos in Dhing Area ...	63—65
4. Statement by Minister of Transport—Bus Accident near Jorhat. ...	65—66
5. Statement by Minister, Health—Cholera Epidemic in the State ...	66—68
6. Statement by Minister of State Education—Payscale of the Selection Grade Post in Class II of Assam School Service. ...	69
7. Re : Second Oil Refinery for Assam ...	70—74
8. No-Confidence Motion against the Minister, Khadi & Village Industries. ...	74—75
9. Re-Kidnapping of a man on hunger-strike. ...	76—79
10. Re : Calling Attention Notice ...	79—80
11. The Assam Shops and Establishment ( Amendment ) Bill, 1969. ...	80—84

12. Re : Time for discussion on the No-Confidence Motion against the Minister, Khadi & Village Industries. ....	85
13. Motion— Discussion on the Annual Financial Statement of the Assam State Electricity Board for 1969-70. ....	85—127
14. Adjournment ....	127

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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at  
 10 A.M. on Wednesday, the 19th March 1969.

PRESENT:

Shri Mohi Kanta Das M.A., B.L., Speaker, in the Chair,  
 Seven Ministers, Six Minister of State, Three Deputy  
 Ministers and Sixty nine Members.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**Starred Questions**

(To which oral answers were given)

**Re: Withdrawn of Rice Selling Licences for Karimganj**

Shri Rothindra Nath Sen asked:

\* 398. Will the Minister, Supply be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that in view of the opposition of  
 the F. C. I. all Rice selling Licences for Karimganj Muni-  
 cipal Market have been withdrawn?

(b) Whether it is a fact that the total population of Karimganj Municipality comes to about 55,000 and this large bulk of population is non-agriculturist dependent on daily purchase of rice from the open Municipal market?

(c) If so, how the Supply Department expect to make rice available to this population even during this new crop season?

(d) Whether the Government is aware of the fact that even in this month of Magh the price of rice per Kg. has shot up to 1.50 paise in Karimganj town market while the open market price of rice per Kg. is only Re. 1 to Rs. 1.15 in rice centres 20 miles from Karimganj Town?

(e) How the Government proposed to bring rice in abundant quantity in Karimganj town market for consumption by the town population?

(f) Who were the Food Corporation of India Procuring Agents in Karimganj Sub-division during 1967-68 procuring season?

(g) Who were the Food Corporation of India Procuring Agents in Karimganj Sub-division now?

(h) What quantity of paddy had been procured during the months of Poush and Magh during 1967-68 season?

(i) What quantity of paddy has been procured this year in the months of Poush and Magh?

(j) Whether the Food Corporation of India has opposed withdrawal of checkpost in different parts of Karimganj Subdivision and if so, why?

(k) Whether it is a fact that because of the imposition on free movement of rice from one part of the Subdivision to the other part even in these rich months the price of rice has shot up?

(l) If so, whether the Government propose to review their decision and discontinue this present system?

Shri Ramesh Chandra Barooah (Minister, Supply) replied :

398. (a)—In the interest of better procurement of paddy all rice selling licences had not been renewed.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Open market in Karimganj town is being fed by retail traders and growers of the neighbouring areas directly. In addition, if market arrivals be small at any time Fair Price Shops will be fed by rice supplied by Apex/F.C.I.

(d)—In the month of Magh i.e., January—February, the market price of rice varied from Rs. 1.20p. to Rs. 1.40p. per K.G. and in rural areas from Rs. 1.10p. to Rs. 1.25p. per K.G.

(e)—There is no scarcity of rice now in open market in the town.

- (f)—1. Shri Chitta Ranjan Paul, Karimganj.  
 2. Shri Chitta Ranjan Roy, Karimganj.  
 3. Shri Ranjit Kumar Paul, Badarpur.  
 4. Shri Nihar Ranjan Deb, Karimganj.  
 5. Shri Abdul Gani, Patharkandi.  
 6. Shri Ranjit Kumar Roy, Karimganj.  
 7. Shri Nibaran Chandra Paul, Khagra.

- (g)—1. The Karimganj Market, Co-operative Societies Ltd., Karimganj.  
 2. Shri Naresh Chandra Deb, Karimganj.  
 3. Shri R. K. Deb and Co., Karimganj.  
 4. Shri Abdul Gani, Patharkandi.  
 5. Shri Tabarak Ali, Badarpur.  
 6. Shri Nibaran Chandra Paul, Khagra.  
 7. Shri Sanjoy Paul, Bazaricharra.  
 8. Shri Nirendra Kumar Das, Kanakpur.  
 9. Shri Muhilall Bhattacharjee, Dullavcherra.  
 10. Shri Dharendra Dey, Dullavcherra.  
 11. Shri Barindra Lal Roy, Baraigram.

(h)—7,436.60 quintals were procured during Poush and Magh (i.e., 15th December 1967 to 15th February 1968).

(i)—2,169.70 quintals had been procured during Poush and Magh (i.e., 15th December, 1968 to 15th February, 1969).

(j)—No.

(k)—N

(l)—Does not arise.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua—Sir, may I know from the Hon' Minister what is the present price of rice in the Karimganj market?

Shri Ramesh Chandra Barooah, Rice is available in Karimganj at a price between Rs. 1.20 and Rs. 1.40 per K.G.

Re. : Tractors for Dhemaji Development Block and Anchalik Panchayat

Shri Romesh Mohan Kouli asked :

\*399. Will the Minister-in-charge Panchayat and Community Development be pleased to state—

(i) The number of tractors with date of purchase for the Dhemaji Development Block and Anchalik Panchayat?

(ii) The amount incurred in repairing the tractor since the purchase?

(iii) The income from the said tractor?

(b) Whether it is a fact that the said tractor is now lying unused due to broken condition of its accessories and has not been able to give service to the cultivators?

(c) If so, what steps have been taken by the Government in this regard?

Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika (Minister of State, Panchayat and Community Development) replied

399. (a) (i) One tractor was purchased on 12th January, 1963 for the Dhemaji Development Block/Anchalik Panchayat.

(ii) Rupees 6,797.12 P. only.

(iii) Rupees 3,162.52 P. only.

(b) The tractor was in service upto 18th October, 1968. Since then the Tube and Tyre of front wheels of the tractor were damaged due to long use.

(c) Block Development Officer, Dhemaji Development Block failed to purchase the said Tube and Tyre from Dibrugarh as the same were not available there. Orders have been placed with Agro-Industries Development Corporation, Assam for supply of the Tyres and Tubes of the front wheel of the Tractor on 27th December 1968 and reminded on 14th February, 1969. But the same are not supplied as yet.



**Shri Ramesh Mohan Kouli**—Sir, the Minister has replied that the tractor has been lying in disorder condition since October, 1968. But my information is that the tractor has been lying disorder since long before that and had the necessary parts have been sold away to some individuals. Is it a fact and whether the Minister will kindly enquire into the matter?

**Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika**—Sir, we do not have any information that the parts have been sold away. If the Hon'ble Member has got that information we shall enquire into the matter.

**Re: The Instrument of Grant for Special Cultivation of Tea**

**Shri Biswanath Upadhyaya** asked—

417. Will the Minister, Revenue, be pleased to state—

a) Whether it is a fact that as per terms and condition contained in 3 (c) of the Instrument of Grant for special cultivation of tea, lease holder cannot without the permission of the Deputy Commissioner in writing acquire the right of using the land for any purpose other than the special cultivation of tea?

(b) Whether Government is aware of the fact that M/S. Goombhira Tea Co. (Private) Ltd., Singlacherra Tea Co., (Private) Ltd. and Chorgolla Tea Co. (Private) Ltd., have violated the said provision of the Instrument of Grant for special cultivation of tea by settling lands to outsiders by taking huge amount of money without any permission from Deputy Commissioner, Cachar?

(c) Whether it is a fact that the district authorities have informed the Government from time to time about the said violation by these companies?

(d) Whether Government have received any representation to the effect that if no steps is taken immediately to restrain these companies from settling lands there, might be breach of peace in that area?

(e) If so, what steps have been taken by Government to restrain these companies from settling lands to outsiders?

(f) Whether Government be pleased to furnish a copy of the Instrument of Grants relating to M/S. Goombhira Tea Co. (Private) Ltd., Singlacherra Tea Co. and Chargolla Tea Co.?

**Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury (Minister Revenue)**

replied :

417. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The S.D.O., Karimganj has received reports from some persons alleging that the local Representatives or Agents of M/S. Goombhira Tea Co., Singlacherra Tea Co. and Chargolla Tea Co. are realising 'Salami' from some people on promise of allowing lands to them as 'Tenants'.

(c) & (d)—The action of these Tea Companies have been brought to the notice of Government. The Deputy Commissioner, Cachar has been asked to make enquiries and to submit a report to Government early.

(e)—Necessary steps will be taken against the companies on receipt of enquiry report from the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar.

(f)—Karimganj Subdivision was in Sylhet District now under Pakistan. The original copies of leases could not be obtained from the Sylhet District Record Room. All the Tea Com-

panies including M/s. Gombhira Tea Co., Singlacherra Tea Co. and Chargolla Tea Co. have been granted renewed leases in the prescribed form vide Assam Schedule XXVI (Part I), Form No. 22.

Shri Biswanath Upadhyaya - Sir, in reply to (e) the Minister has stated necessary steps will be taken against the companies on receipt of enquiry report from the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar. My supplementary is that in view of the fact that the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar has already submitted a report about 2 years back what action has been taken by the Government on this report?

Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury - No report has yet been received from the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar. Necessary action will be taken in the matter on receipt of the report.

Shri Biswanath Upadhyaya - Sir, it is within my knowledge that a report has already been submitted to the Government by the S.D.O. Karimganj two years back and I want to know what action the Government has taken on that report?

Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury - Sir, I do not know whether any report was submitted by the S.D.O., Karimganj as alleged by the Hon'ble Member. If there is a report from the S.D.O., Karimganj on this matter that will be looked into.

Shri Biswanath Upadhyaya - Sir, in reply to (f) the Minister said that original copies of the leases could not be obtained from Sylhet Record Room because it falls now in Pakistan. But my information is that the original copies of the leases are there with the companies in Calcutta. Why the Government do not make arrangement with the companies to obtain them from Calcutta?

Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury, - That may be, Sir, with the companies themselves. They may not be in a position to part with the leases. As I have already said, all the Tea companies including Goombhira, Singlacherra and Chārgolla have been granted renewed leases in the prescribed form vide Assam Schedule XXVI (Part I) Form No.22.

Shri Dula] Chandra Bora - Sir, as the Minister has stated that they have not received any report from the S.D.O. Karimganj Karimganj. May I request the Government to ask the S.D.O., Karimganj to enquire into the matter. In the meantime he said that if there is such a report Government will look into it. May I draw the attention of the Hon'ble Chief Minister that on a representation by Mr. Rathindra Nath Sen, an hon. member of this House as well as an ex-member, Mr. Tarapada Bhattacharyya, an enquiry was instituted by the S.D.O., Karimganj, and his report had been submitted to Government two years ago? If so, why Government has not taken any action on that report of the S.D.O., Karimganj?

Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury :- My reply is based on the report I received from the office. Most probably, that report submitted two years ago could not be traced and, therefore, information has been called for.

Shri Jagannath Sinha :- About 2 years ago, the then Deputy Commissioner of Cachar, Mr. Khosla, made enquiries and issued instructions to all the tea gardens of Cachar that they could not sell or lease out tea garden lands to outsiders. I want to know whether this is a fact and, if so, what action has been taken about it?

Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury :- I have already replied to this question. These matters may be searched out and if they are found action will be taken accordingly.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua :- On the basis of the report of the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, Government issued a circular to all the Deputy Commissioners as to how they should act in these matters. If so, how can the Hon'ble Minister say that the Government have not received any such report?

Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury :- When I did not get it I cannot say I have got the report. I have said that if a report had been submitted by the Deputy Commissioner two and half years ago on the motion of some hon. members, that report will be searched out and if any action is called for it will be taken.

Re: Given Settlement to Outsiders by the  
M/s. Goombhira Tea Co (Pvt.) Ltd.

Shri Biswanath Upadhyaya asked :

\*418. Will the Minister, Revenue (Settlement) be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that M/S. Goombhira Tea Company (Private) Ltd., have given settlement of lands to a large number of outsiders depriving the landless people of the area with the result that a village, namely Sonapur, has sprung up in the plantation area of Oliviacharra tea estate?

(b) If so, the number of those people and the condition under which they have been given settlement?

(c) Whether it is a fact that a huge amount of money as Salami has been collected by the management from the people?

(d) If so, whether formal receipts have been issued by the management to these people against the amount paid by them ?

(e) If not, what type of receipts have been issued to them ?

Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury (Minister, Revenue) replied :

418. (a) —M/S. Goombhira Tea Company have allowed some outsiders to cultivate a portion of the garden land. In Grant No.58278/21, Mouza Bhutucherra locally known as Sonapur falling in Goombhira Tea Company about one hundred outsiders appear to have been allowed to cultivate approximately 2,000 bighas of land.

(b) —The number of outsiders who have been allowed to cultivate the garden land will be approximately one hundred. No written document seems to have been issued to them by the Goombhira Tea Company. It is reported that the garden authorities have allowed some outsiders against realisation of 'Nazarana' money for cultivation of the garden land.

(c) —Yes. It is reported to be so.

(d) No.

(e) Some kutchra receipts were granted to them.

Shri Biswanath Upadhyya : —From the reply I find that about 100 persons have been allowed to occupy the land. In this Session I have produced a list of 388 persons who have been given land there. I find that the reply of the Hon'ble Minister is not dependable. Therefore, may I demand that a Committee be set up to report on the affairs of this Company ?

Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury :—There is no question of a Committee being set up. The point is that the S.D.O., Karmganj, has been asked to report in detail what is going on in these gardens. After that report is received we shall be able to know what is going on there.

Shri Gauri Sankar Bhattacharyya :—Government had asked the S.D.O to submit a report. The S.D.O. said that there are only about 100 outsiders tenants. Now, the local M.L.A. made an on the spot investigations himself and he found that there are no less than 388 such persons. So, it is quite clear that either purposely & willingly or due to ignorance or callousness, the S.D.O. had not submitted a full report. In view of that, whether Government will remain satisfied with such a report from such an S. D. O. or will it take further action in the matter ?

Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury :—The report is not complete. As I have replied already about one hundred outsiders appear to have been allowed to cultivate approximately 2,000 bighas of land. This is only a guess. Therefore, we have asked him to give a detailed report so that we may know what amount of land is actually under occupation and how many people are occupying it. If the S.D.O.'s report is found to be inaccurate or it does not tally with what the hon members had said in the Assembly, the matter may be enquired into by the D.C. also.

Shri Biswanath Upadhyaya :—I want to know what is the difficulty in appointing a Committee to probe into the affairs of this Company.

Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury :—I think an enquiry or that kind can be done under the Companies Act and that can be done only by the Government of India.

**Shri Jagannath Sinha:**—May I enquire whether Government knows that three years ago, in this particular concern one Shri Hanuman Rai was killed in connection with land affairs? Whether Government also knows that in the year 1968, on the 1st of January, while Jagannath Sinha, M.L.A., was going to that particular garden, viz., Goombhira T.E., to make an enquiry into these matters, he was attacked by goondas engaged by the management and he submitted a report to the Deputy Commissioner stating all these facts? Whether it is also a fact that there have been so many marpits in that area about land affairs and whether it is a fact that land is still being sold in that particular garden? Further, whether it is a fact that this process of selling land to outsiders is spreading from this garden to other parts of the District of Cachar and if this is not stopped the situation will take a very serious turn in the entire district with very grave consequences? Whether Government knows all these things?

**Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury :**—When the hon. member asserts all these points I can have no alternative than to accept his statement

**Shri Jagannath Sinha:**—Therefore, I want to know whether Government thinks that an impartial and high-powered enquiry is essential in this matter?

**Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury :**—I can only say that the enquiry may be conducted by the Deputy commissioner instead of by the S.D.O.

**Shri Gauri Sankar Bhattacharyya :**—The Minister referred to the Companies Act. The question was with regard to land and the terms of the lease or the agreement with regard to the settlement of land of this Company. I find in the Cons-



stitution of India that 'Land' is a State subject. Therefore, so far as land is concerned, how is it that Government wants to evade its responsibility? Government wants to mislead this House by referring to the Companies Act. What has the Companies Act to do with settlement of land?

**Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury:-**No, Sir, as far as I could understand the hon. member, he wanted the entire affairs of the Company to be enquired into by a High-power Committee.

**Shri Gauri Sankar Bhattacharyya :-**Affairs of this Company with regard to the settlement of land. The landholder may be an individual or the landholder may be a corporate body. In this case the landholder is a corporate body. Whether it is an individual or a corporate body, the question is entirely with regard to land, which is a State subject. Therefore, as this question is about land settlement, which is exclusively a State subject, there cannot arise any question of approaching the Government of India.

**Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury:** Sir, I have already replied that regarding the land an enquiry is already going on. If the Hon'ble Members are not satisfied with the enquiry by the S.D.O., then an enquiry could be made by the Deputy Commissioner.

**Shri Biswanath Upadhyaya :-**Sir, I am not at all satisfied. I, therefore, demand that a high powered Committee should be set up to probe into the affairs of the Company.

**Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury:-** Sir, in this matter there is no question of appointing a high-power Committee to probe into the affairs of transfer and sale of land. The Deputy Commissioner is the highest revenue administration

authority of the district, and, he is competent to hold an enquiry.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua:- Sir, the Hon'ble Members have stated that they are not satisfied with the enquiry made to either by the S.D.O. or the Deputy Commissioner. In view of that will the Government be pleased to constitute a Committee to enquire into the affairs of the Company?

Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury :- Sir, if we find that the report of the Deputy Commissioner is not satisfactory then we can have it enquired by the Commissioner also.

**Re : Payment of compensation for acquisition of land for  
Dhudhnai Agricultural Farm**

শ্রীশৰৎ বাভাই সুধিছে :

\* ৪১৯। মাননীয় বাজহ বিভাগৰ মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে অনুগ্রহ কৰি জনাবনে—

(ক) দুখনে চৰকাৰী কৃষি ফাৰ্মত ইন্দ্রমোহন বাভা আদি যি সকল কৃষকৰ জমিন অন্তৰ্ভুক্ত কৰি লৈছে, তেওঁলোকৰ জমিনবোৰৰ ক্ষতি পূৰণ দিয়া হ'লনে?

(খ) যদি দিয়া নাই, তেন্তে কিয় দিয়া হোৱা নাই?

(গ) এই মাটিবোৰৰ ক্ষতি পূৰণ কেতিয়া দিব?

বাকহ মন্ত্রী শ্রীমহেন্দ্ৰ মোহন চৌধুৰীয়ে উত্তৰ দিছে :

৪১৯। (ক)—দুখনে চৰকাৰী কৃষি ফাৰ্মৰ কাৰণে কোনো মাটি অধিগ্ৰহণ কৰা নাই।

(খ) আৰু (গ)—প্ৰশ্ন হুঠে।

Shri Sarat Chandra Rava :—মন্ত্রীমহোদয়ে প্ৰশ্নৰ উত্তৰত কৈছে যে, দুখনেৰ কৃষি ফাৰ্মৰ কাৰণে কোনো মাটি অধিগ্ৰহণ কৰা হোৱা নাই। কিন্তু আমি জনাত এপ্ৰিকালচাৰ ডিপাৰ্টমেন্টে কিছুমানলোকৰ মাটি দখল কৰি আছে। অৰ্থচ সেই লোকসকলেই খাজানাও দি আছে। তদন্ত কৰিবনে নকৰে।

**Shri Mahandra Mohan Choudhury** :—Agriculture Department এ যদি কাৰোবাৰ বন্দবস্ত কৰি দখল কৰি থাকে আমি কব নোৱাৰো। কিন্তু ফাৰ্মৰ কাৰণে কোনো মাটি অধিগ্ৰহণ কৰা হোৱা নাই।

**Shri Kamini Mohan Sarma** :—মাটি অধিগ্ৰহণ কৰি যদি লোৱা নাই তেনেহলে জোৰ কৰি মাটি দখললোৱা হৈছে নেকি ?

**Shri Mahandra Mohan Choudhury** : নহয় ছাৰ, দুধনৈ চৰকাৰী কৃষিফাৰ্মৰ কাৰণে মাটি অধিগ্ৰহণ কৰা হোৱা নাই। কিন্তু অলপতে শ্ৰীকালিকান্ত বাভা নামৰ এজন মানুহে আপত্তি কৰিছে যে কৃষিফাৰ্মৰ তেখেতৰ ২ বিঘা মাটি বেদখল কৰিছে।

**Shri Atul Chandra Goswami** :—প্ৰশ্নোত্তৰত কোৱা হৈছে যে চৰকাৰী কৃষিফাৰ্মৰ কাৰণে মাটি অধিগ্ৰহণ কৰা নাই কিন্তু প্ৰশ্নত অন্তৰ্ভুক্ত বুলি কোৱা হৈছে যদি অধিগ্ৰহণ কৰা নাই তেন্তে অন্তৰ্ভুক্ত কৰা হৈছে নাই ?

**Shri Mahandra Mohan Choudhury** :—শ্ৰীইন্দ্ৰ মোহন বাভাৰ কোনো মাটি ফাৰ্মৰ কাৰণে অন্তৰ্ভুক্ত কৰি লোৱা হোৱা নাই।

**Re : Mankachar Development Block without Overseer**

**Shri Zahirul Islam asked :**

\* 421. Will the Minister-in-charge of Panchayat be pleased to state—

(a) Since when Mankachar Development Block is running without overseer ?

(b) Whether Government is aware that no scheme can be prepared and work done without this technical hand ?

(c) If so, inspite of repeated representation from the Anchalik Panchayat concerned and Development Block, why

Government is not posting overseer to this Block ?

Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika ( Minister of State, Panchayat and Community Development ) replied :

421. (a)—Since 30th August, 1967.

(b) —Yes.

(c) —For shortage of Overseers it was not possible to post any subordinate Engineer or Grade II Overseer to this Block. Recently some Overseers have been recruited. One Overseer has since been posted to Mankachar Development Block on transfer from Kokrajhar Division.

Shri Bhadreswar Gogoi :—অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, অসমৰ কিমানটা ব্লকত Overseer নোহোৱাকৈ আছে সেইটো কথা মন্ত্ৰীমহোদয়ে জনাবনে কি ?

Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika :—যোৱা বছৰ কিছুমান ব্লকত Overseer নোহোৱাকৈ আছিল। কিন্তু এই বছৰ নতুন Recruitment হোৱাৰ কাৰণে আটাই কেইটা ব্লকতেই overseer আছে।

**Re : Grant by Dalgaoñ Sialmari Anchalik Panchayat to Lower Primary School**

Md. Matlebuddin asked :

\* 422. Will the Minister, Panchayat and Community Development be pleased to state —

(a) Whether it is a fact that a sum of Rs. 1,500-00 sanctioned as grant by the Dalgaoñ Sialmari Anchalik Panchayat during recent years to one L. P. School under the Beltail Gaon Panchayat has not been utilised at all and has been totally misappropriated by the person receiving the said grant ?

- (b) The person who received the said grant and when ?
- (c) . Whether it is a fact that the said matter has recently been locally enquired into for taking appropriate action against the person or persons responsible by a Magistrate, Mangaldai on the direction from the Government ?
- (d) If so, result thereof ?

Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika ( Minister of State, Panchayat and Community Development ) replied :

422. (a) & (b)—No ; a sum of Rs. 500 in 1964-65 and Rs.500 in 1965-66 was granted by Dalgaon-Sialmari Anchalik Panchayat for No.8 Kharupatia L. P. School. Shri Jabbaruddin, President of the L.P. School received the grants on 16th April, 1963 and 11th December, 1965.

(c) — Yes.

(d)—The matter is under consideration.

Md. Matlebuddin : Whether the amount sanctioned had been properly utilised ?

Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika : There are two conflicting reports. According to the report of the Social Education organiser of the block the amount had been utilised, but according to the report of the E.A.C. who also enquired into the matter, the President of the School Committee could not give satisfactory proof that the amount has been properly utilised. Action on the report of the E.A.C. is under consideration.

Shri Gourisankar Bhattacharyya : How is it that the magisterial report is weighed against the report of the Social

Education Organiser? The charge was that the President of the particular school in collaboration with the Social Education Organiser had mis-appropriated public money and there was a magisterial enquiry. Now the magisterial enquiry is sought to be set aside or sought to be placed at naught on the basis of the report of the guilty person.

Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika : Sir, that is not the fact. The report of the Social Education Organiser was in 1966, and the magisterial enquiry was made in 1968. We are considering action on the basis of the report of the E.A.C.

Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya : Because the report of 1966 was a false and concocted one, a magisterial enquiry was ordered. The Magistrate has submitted a report, now that report should be acted upon.

Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika : The Hon'ble Member is putting the matter in a different way. We were not happy with the report of the Social Education Organiser, and, therefore, we asked the S. D. O. to hold a fresh enquiry. The S. D. O. deputed one E. A. C. who held an enquiry and submitted his report. We are taking action on the basis of the report of the E.A.C.

Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya : A little while ago the Minister stated that there are two conflicting reports, and, therefore, the Government is sitting in judgement over these two reports— one the unsatisfactory report of the Social Education Organiser and the other the report of the E.A.C. who went in his judicial capacity and submitted his report which went against the report of the Social Education Organiser. The Government should not at all take into consideration the report of the Social Education Organiser who was an accomplice.

Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika : We will take action on the report of the E. A. C. who was ordered to enquire when we were not satisfied with the report of the Social Education Organiser.

**Re : Secretaries of the Gaon Panchayats are Employees of the Gaon Panchayats**

Shri Prabhat Narayan Choudhury asked :

\*423. Will the Minister, Panchayat, be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Secretaries of the Gaon Panchayats are employees of the Gaon Panchayats and are subject to their administrative control ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that the salaries of the Secretaries are paid from the fund of the Gaon Panchayats ?

(c) Whether Government is aware that some of the Gaon Panchayats are incapable of entertaining a post of Secretary at Rs. 100 P. M. ?

(d) Whether Government is aware that many Gaon Panchayats do not require Secretaries at all ?

(e) Whether Government propose to leave the matter of entertaining a post of scale of Secretary to the Gaon Panchayats so that the Gaon Panchayats may decide themselves ?

Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika (Minister of State, Panchayat and Community Development) replied :

423. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Government have no information.

(e)—There is no such proposal under consideration of Government.

Shri Prabhat Narayan Choudhury—When the Government has said that the Secretaries are the employees of the Gaon Panchayats, whether it is a fact that the Government appointed these Secretaries now-a-days?

Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika—Government has not appointed them now-a-days although there is a provision in the Assam Panchayat Act, amended in 1964. There was a contemplation that the Gaon Panchayat Secretaries will be appointed. So, Government at that time was considering that the Gram Sevaks would be made the Secretaries of the Gaon Panchayats and later on there were instructions as a result of policy decision that the Gram Sevaks will have to devote their activities cent percent in agriculture. Therefore, that former system of appointing the Gaon Panchayat Secretaries continues.

Shri Prabhat Narayan Choudhury—Sir, when there is a provision in the Act that the Secretaries of Gaon Panchayats shall be appointed by the Gaon Panchayats themselves, how the Government can disregard that provision of the Act and issue a circular to the Gaon Panchayats to appoint their Secretaries?

Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika—The provision is that the State Government may appoint—but we have not implemented that provision of the Act.



Shri Prabhat Narayan Choudhury—Whether the pay scale has been fixed by the Government—the pay scale was originally Rs. 50, now it has been increased by the Government themselves disregarding the financial condition of the Panchayats who cannot pay the money. When in reply to question (c), the Government has stated 'Yes', how the Government can raise the pay scale at a time when the Gaon Panchayats are incapable or bearing the responsibility ?

Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika—Sir, due to the demand from the Gaon Panchayat Secretaries' Association, Government decided that their pay should be Rs. 100 instead of Rs. 50/- to Rs. 75 per month. If any Gaon Panchayats are unable to pay that amount, Government decided to pay the difference as grants-in-aid.

Shri Hiralal Patwary—In respect of that particular provision of the Act, the Minister has stated that 'Government may'. My question is that : taking advantage of the technical word "may" whether the Government has got any right to appoint the Secretaries against the provision of the Act and whether Government has got any authority to issue any instruction to the Gaon Panchayat against the provision of the law. Therefore, I like to know from the Minister who is the appointing authority of the Gaon Panchayat Secretaries ?

Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika :—The appointing authority of the Gaon Panchayat Secretaries is the Gaon Panchayat. The Act was amended in 1964 with a view to bring Gram Sevaks as Secretaries. But after amendment of the Act, there was a policy decision arrived at the national level. We accepted that policy that the Gram Sevaks will devote themselves cent percent of their time in agriculture. Therefore, we are still continuing the former procedure of

appointing the Gram Sevaks in accordance with the former Service Rules for the Panchayats.

Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyy :—The answer is not clear and I want a clarification of that answer. By a legislation Government took into itself the position of the employer. The Government 'may appoint or may not appoint'-and sometimes the Government may shirk the responsibility. At any rate, whatever that might be, there is nothing in that amending clause that the Government 'may appoint or may not appoint' the Gaon Panchayat Secretaries. That is to say, the Panchayats, according to the amended Act, is not the appointing authority. Is that so? Govt. may appoint or Govt. may not appoint. But is there anything to say that either the Government may appoint or the Panchayat may appoint?

Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika:—We will have to examine the whole question.

Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya :—Not the question of examination. The point is: I may appoint my servant-I may not appoint my servant. But the Minister cannot appoint my servant, So, if the Gaon Panchayat has got no authority to appoint whether the Government appoints or not, and if it does not appoint, why it does not appoint? That is why I want to get a clarification because the Act is not before me at the moment, But there must be a specific provision that the appointing authority is either the Government or the Gaon panchayat. What is written in the Act that will be the appointing authority. No extraneous body can be the appointing authority. Therefore whatever decision is taken in the national level or State level, that executive decision cannot override the specific provision of the Act. Unless and until the law is amended in the light

of the decision of the national or State level, that cannot be implemented in view of the fact that law already exists.

Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika :—We have not given effect to this provision.

Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya : That is way I say, the amendment Act of 1964—the whole Act shall come into force at once or on any particular date. So, the Government has not issued any notification or the Act has nowhere given any power to the Government that the Government may give effect to some provisions or that the Government may not give effect to certain provisions of the Act. When a law is passed by the legislature and when that law is given effect to, all the provisions of the law should be given effect to. If anything is to be deferred that has to be specified in the law itself—that the Govt. may give effect to some provisions or may not give effect to certain provisions. But when there is no such thing in the law itself, how can the Minister in his sweet will give effect to some provisions and may not give effect to some other provisions. So, either the law is to be amended or the whole Act is to be given effect to, when it has been said in the very Act itself that the whole Act shall come into force at once.

Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika : I have already replied that we have not given effect to the provision of the Act.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua : I want to have a clarification. From this side of the House, we have pointed out that a law has been passed in this House. Under what circumstances or under whose authority the Government or the Department concerned can give effect to a part of the provisions of the law? By misusing the spirit of the law, how can this Government issue the instructions, I want to know?

Shri Lakshmi Prasad Goswami : The hon-Member has gone a bit far. (Voices from Opposition) Let me explain the actual position. Before 1964, all the Gaon Panchayat Secretaries were appointed by the Gaon Sabhas according to the provision of the Act then in force. When in 1964 the old Act was amended then a provision was made that the Government may appoint Gaon Panchayat Secretaries. Since then there was no occasion for the Government to go for fresh appointments of Gaon Panchayat Secretaries, and the Secretaries who were appointed by the Gaon Panchayats according to the provision of the old Act continued in service.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua : Then why the circular has been issued ?

Shri Lakshmi Prasad Goswami : No Circular has been issued.

Re : Ambulance Van to the Civil Hospital, Golaghat

Shri Narendra Nath Sarma asked :

\*425. Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that Health Department allotted an Ambulance Van to the Civil Hospital, Golaghat and if so, when and where that Van is lying at present ?

(b) Whether the Government propose to take steps for keeping the van in good running condition and putting the same at the disposal of the Civil Hospital at Golaghat ?

Shri Chitrasing Teron (Minister-in-charge, Health) replied :  
425. a) Yes, on 3rd July, 1968 So long it was lying in the garage of the Civil Hospital, Jorhat. But Messrs Walford

Etd., the supplier, has since collected the vehicle on 27.3.69 for necessary repair.

(b)—Yes.

**Shri Narendra Nath Sarma :** ছাৰ, এই ভানখন গোলাঘাট Hospital ৰ কাৰণে দিয়া হৈছিল। কিন্তু যোৰহাটত থাকিলে কিয়? এতিয়া ভানখন নতুন কৰাৰ খৰচ কোনে বহন কৰিব ?

**Shri Chatrasing Teron :** এইখন গোলাঘাট মহকুমাৰ কাৰণেই কিনা হৈছিল আৰু তালৈ পঠোৱাও হৈছিল। কিন্তু বাটতে Driver জনে কিছুমান Defect দেখা পালে আৰু গাড়ীখন Repair নকৰিলে নচলে। গতিকে গাড়ীখন নি যোৰহাটৰ মটৰ কোম্পানীত ভাল কৰিবলৈ দিয়া হল। কিন্তু গাড়ীখন সেই কোম্পানীয়ে ভাল কৰিব নোৱাৰিলে। তেতিয়া Messrs. walford Gauhati য়ে কৰি দিম বুলি কলে আৰু ইয়াৰ বাবে যোৰহাটৰ পৰা গুৱাহাটী আৰু গুৱাহাটীৰ পৰা গোলাঘাটলৈ নিয়া খৰচটো তেওঁলাকেই বহন কৰিব।

**Shri Narendra Nath Sarma :** এই ভানখন কাৰ জৰিয়তে কিনা হৈছিল ?

**Shri Chatrasing Teron (M) :** যিবিলাক গাড়ী আমাৰ Heath Deptt. ৰ কাৰণে লাগে সাধাৰণতে সেইবিলাক Transport ৰ জৰিয়তে Order দিয়া হয়।

**Shri Narendra Nath Sarma :** এইখন গাড়ী বেয়া হ'ল। এতিয়া অইন এখন গাড়ী গোলাঘাটৰ কাৰণে দিব নেকি ?

**Shri Chatrasing Teron (M) :** বৰ্তমান আমাৰ অতিৰিক্ত "ভান" নাই। সেই কাৰণে যিমান সোনকালে পাৰি সিমান সোনকালে Repair কৰি দিয়া হব।

**Shri Pitsing Konwar :** এই গাড়ীখন Repair কৰোঁতে কিমান দিন লাগিব ?

**Shri Chatrasing Teron** গাড়ীখন যোৱা ২৭/৩/৬৯ তাৰিখে গুৱাহাটীলৈ আনিছে আৰু কিমান দিনৰ ভিতৰত ভাল কৰিব পাৰে কব নোৱাৰোঁ।

**Shri Debeswar Sarmah :** এই 'ভানখন গোলমালটো পঠাইছিল। তেনে স্মৃত এই 'ভানখন কেনেকৈ Civil Surgeon ৰ ঘৰত ওলালগৈ ? আৰু দ্বিতীয় প্ৰশ্নটো হৈছে এই গাড়ীখন Civil Surgeon ৰ ঘৰত বৰষুণত তিতি বাহিৰত পৰি আছিল আৰু Walford এ কোৱা স্বৰ্বেও গাড়ীখন Dos Company ক নিদিলে 'Out of his Obstinacy'.

**Shri Chatrasing Teron :** সেইটো কথা মই নাজানো।

**Shri Atul Chandra Goswami :** হেৰিয়াৰ হেৰিখন হেৰিয়ালৈ পঠোৱাৰ কিমান দিনৰ পাচত ভাল হ'ব ? ( হাঁহি )

( No reply )

**Shri Dulal Chandra Barua :** আগতে বুঢ়ামন্ত্ৰী খকাৰ কাৰণে শ্ৰীয়া বিলাক বিভাগৰ গাড়ীয়েই বেয়া হৈছিল আৰু বুঢ়াৰ দৰে চলিছিল। কিন্তু এতিয়া ডেকাই মন্ত্ৰী হোৱাৰ পিচতো গাড়ী বিলাক কিয় বেয়া হৈ আছে আৰু কিয় এতিয়ালৈকে ভাল কৰিব পৰা নাই ?

( No Reply )

**Shri Jagannath Singh :** Sir, whenever any telephone call is made to any Civil Hospital the instant reply is that the ambulance is out of order. Ambulance is kept for emergency and if the ambulance remains out of order then the patients suffer. In view of this whether Government is thinking to give at least two ambulance vans in each of the Hospitals so that in case one remains out of order the other may be used ?

**Shri Chatrasing Teron :** At present there is dearth of vehicles. Even in all the Civil Hospitals and Sub-divisional Hospitals we have not been able to provide with vehicles. Therefore, it is very difficult to provide two vehicles in each hospital.

## Re : Defective Procedure in Maintaining Accounts

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua asked :

\*426. Will the Minister, Finance be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that due to the defective procedure in maintaining accounts the Government had to incur heavy losses in implementing the various schemes by different departments ?

(b) Whether it is also a fact that Public Accounts Committee had made various observations in this regard and also suggested various means times without number for reorientation of the method of maintaining accounts by the various Departments of the Government ?

(c) If so, whether these recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee have so far been implemented ?

(d) If not, why not ?

Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tripathi (Minister, Finance) replied :

426. (a) & (b)—No.

There has been no loss due to any defective procedure in maintaining accounts of the Government. Loss and avoidable expenditure almost in all cases had been due to non-observance of the procedure of maintaining accounts and other provisions laid down in the different Rules and Manuals. The Public Accounts Committee had not found any defect as regards the procedure of maintaining accounts but have suggested that Controlling, Drawing and Disbursing Officers should follow proper financial procedure and rules laid down in the Manuals.

(c) & (d)—Do not arise.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua : The Minister has stated that no loss has occurred due to any defective procedure in maintaining accounts. If so, may I know under what circumstances heavy losses have occurred in different Departments ?

Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tripathi : Sir, it is a question of rules. The rules have been found to be quite adequate. When the rules are transgressed then only defect arises and loss occurs. The problem is not so much of rules but observance of rules. We are now trying to tighten the observance of rules.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua : May I know whether the recommendations that have been given by the Public Accounts Committee from time to time are being implemented or not ?

Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tripathi : Recommendations are being implemented.

**Re : Amalgamation of offices and Factories by many Tea Garden Authorities**

Shri Narendra Nath Sarma asked :

\*427. Will the Minister, Labour be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the authorities of many tea gardens have amalgamated the establishments of their offices and the factories ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that such amalgamation has caused serious retrenchment of labour and the staff ?

(c) If so, what steps the Government proposed to take to safeguard the interest of these effected persons ?

Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tripathi (Minister, Labour) replied :

427, (a)—Yes, The amalgamation of offices and factories have taken place as shown below—



1. The tea factory of Longsoal the garden has been amalgamated with the factory of Hokonguri tea garden.
2. The factory of Daimukhia tea garden with the factory of Beesakopie tea garden.
3. The factory of Barpukhuri with that of Pabhoi factory.
4. The factory of Balijan South Tea Estate has been amalgamated with the factory of that of the Balijan North tea estate.
5. The factory of Dibru-Darrang tea garden with that of Finkharia.
6. The factory of Joybing tea garden has been amalgamated with that of Koilamari tea estate.

The offices of Dekhari and Pabhojan group of gardens have been amalgamated with the Central Offices of Deohal tea estate.

(b)—There was no retrenchment following those amalgamations.

(c)—Government have taken steps to see that such amalgamation or re-organisation does not lead to retrenchment.

The matter was also discussed at the Tripartite Standing Labour Committee.

Shri Jagannath Singh : Sir, the hon. Minister has given a list of gardens whose offices and factories have been amalgamated. May I know whether the list also covers Cachar gardens? If so, whether it is a fact that Dalugram Tea garden

factory has been amalgamated with Pallorbund garden and Singlacherra Garden factory has been amalgamated with Goombhira tea garden factory ?

Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tripathi : I take the information from the hon. Member. The list of gardens I have given relates to the gardens in Assam Valley.

Shri Narendra Nath Sarma : এইটো কথা সঁচানে যে তাত কিছুমান মানুহ retrenched হৈছিল আৰু বেঙলোকক কামত লোৱা নাই ?

Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tripathi : There was a big agitation following which amalgamation of offices and factories have taken place. This was settled on the basis of recommendations made by the Tripatrie Standning Labour Committee.

Shri Jagannath Singh : Sir, the hon. Minister has said that the information was sought only for the Assam Valley tea gardens. May I know from the hon. Minister, when in future if any such kind of question is put for only Assam Valley, whether Cachar will also be included in his reply ?

Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tripathi : I agree to that.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua : Sir, the honourable Minister has just said that Government have taken steps to settle the retrenched persons. May I know from the Minister in charge of Labour whether the Jorhat Tea Company..... and Chinamara are amalgamated ? If so, do the Government take steps to safeguard the interest of the effected persons ?

Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tripathi : It has not come to our notice.

Shri Jagannath Singh : Sir, may I know from the Minister whether factory of tea garden is amalgamated with that of another ?

Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tripathi : The information of amalgamation of offices and factories by many tea garden authorities, come very recently to us. Apart from this there is no means of knowing that factories are being amalgamated.

Shri Hiralal Patwari : Sir, may I know from the honourable Minister whether hundred percent labour has been reappointed or certain labourers are still not employed yet ?

Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tripathi : The question was regarding establishment of offices and factories. It is not regarding labour. There is a great difficulty in amalgamating staff of ex tea garden with the other. Second difficulty is that some people work in some capacity and it is very difficult to him in the same capacity in another garden. Moreover a man living at a distance of five mile cannot go to a garden which is far away from his place. These are some of the difficulties we have to face. But ultimately, it was settled somehow.

Shri Jagannath Singh : Sir, may I know from the honourable Minister whether in the course of two or three years there will be permanent retrenchment ?

Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tripathi : Retrenchment was there but over a number of years the number of years is declined. When a man retires, the post is abolished. This has been being practised in all factories all over India. On this question Government of India is trying to solve the problem on the basis of land and labour ratio. But unfortunately there is no agreement for the time being.

**Re : Extention of Supply of electricity upto North Lakhimpur  
from Naharkatiya Power Plant**

শ্রীমহিষৰ পেশ্বৰে সুধিছে :

\*৪২৮। মাননীয় বৈদ্যুতিক পৰিক্ৰমা বিভাগৰ মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে অনুগ্রহ কৰি জনাবনে—

(ক) এই কথা সঁচানে যে, গ্রামাঞ্চল বিদ্যুতকৰণ আঁচনি জৰীয়েতে নাহৰকটিয়া তাপবিদ্যুত কেন্দ্ৰৰ পৰা যোৰহাটৰ মৰিয়নি হৈ ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ পাৰ কৰি মাজুলীৰ মাহেদে উত্তৰলক্ষীমপুৰলৈকে তৰিত সম্প্ৰসাৰণৰ উদ্দেশ্যে যোৱা বছৰত এটা চৰজমিনৰ কাম আৰম্ভ কৰা হৈছিল ?

(খ) প্ৰস্তাবিত প্ৰকল্পটোৰ বাবে যোৱা বছৰত স্থলভিত এগৰাকী গ্ৰাম্য বৈদ্যুতকৰণ বিভাগৰ কাৰ্যবাহী অভিযন্তাই যোৰহাটৰ জাজীমুখ অঞ্চলেদি বিদ্যুত গুৰাহ মাজুলীলৈ পাব কৰাই তাৰ পৰা উত্তৰ লক্ষীমপুৰলৈ নিয়াৰ অভিপ্ৰায়ে গ্ৰামকৰ্ত্তাৰ সহযোগত সেই অঞ্চললৈ প্ৰাথমিক ভাৱে পৰ্য্যবেক্ষণ কৰা কথাটো সুবকাৰে জানেনে ?

(গ) যোৱা বছৰে কোনো এটা মাহত প্ৰশ্নকৰ্ত্তাই চৰকাৰৰ প্ৰস্তাৱতে সংশ্লিষ্ট ভৱদি মন্ত্রী ডাঙৰীয়াক উপৰোক্ত মুখে মৌখিক ভাৱে জনোৱাত তেখেতেও উৎসাহেৰে আশ্বাসবাণী দিয়া কথাও সঁচানে ?

(ঘ) যদি ওপৰৰ (৪), (খ) আৰু (গ) প্ৰশ্নৰ উত্তৰ ইতিবাচক হয়, তেন্তে এতিয়ালৈকে সেই কাৰ্য্যত বিভাগীয় কৰ্ত্তৃপক্ষ কিমান দূৰ আগবাঢ়িব পাৰিছে আৰু যদিহে নাই পৰা, কিয় নাই পৰা ?

বৈদ্যুতিক পৰিক্ৰমা বিভাগৰ মন্ত্রী শ্ৰীকিশ্বদেৱ শৰ্মাই উত্তৰ দিছে :

\*৪২৮। (ক) হয়। প্ৰাৰম্ভিক চৰজমিন কৰা হৈছিল।

(খ) হয়। সদৰৰ এগৰাকী কাৰ্যবাহী অভিযন্তাই এই প্ৰাৰম্ভিক চৰজমিন কৰিছিল।

(গ) মনত নাই।

(ঘ) ব্রহ্মপুত্র পাৰ কৰি দিব খোজা প্রকল্পিত প্রেৰণ আঁচনিটোৰ বাবে বিশদ চৰ্জমিন আৰু পুথানুপুথ্যভাবে অনুসন্ধান কৰাৰ আৱশ্যক। এইটো এটা ব্যয়বহুল আঁচনি। যথোচিত পুজিৰ নাটনিৰ কাৰণে বৰ্তমান এই আঁচনি স্থগিত ৰখা হৈছে।

**Shri Mahidhar Pegue :** মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয় যদিও মন্ত্রী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ (গ) প্রশ্নৰ উত্তৰত তেখেতৰ মনত নাই বুলি কৈছে, মই পোৱাই দিব খোজো যে তেখেতৰ ঘৰতে বাহি এই কথাটো উত্থাপন কৰিছিল। সি যি কি নহওক তেখেতে এতিয়া কৈছে যে এই প্রকল্পটো ব্যয়বহুল আৰু আৰ্থিক আঁচনিৰ বাবে বৰ্তমানে কামটো হাতত লব পৰা নাই। মই মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ৰ পৰা আঁচনিৰ পাৰো নে যে এনেদৰে, উত্তৰ লক্ষ্মীপুৰ আৰু মাজুলীক সামৰিলে বিছাং সম্প্ৰসাৰণৰ বাবে কিবা বিকল্প ব্যৱস্থাৰ কথা চৰকাৰে ভাবিছেনে নাই?

**Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tripathi :** এই আঁচনিৰ আৰ্থিক চৰ্জমিন কৰিবলৈ ৭৫ লাখ টকা খৰচ হব আৰু ২ বছৰ লাগিব।

ইতিমধ্যে কামে Hydro Project ৰ এখন আঁচনিৰ ভাৱত চৰকাৰে চৰ্জমিন চলাই আছে। সেই কাৰণে এইটো স্থগিত ৰখা হৈছে।

**Shri Jagannath Singh :** Let us know from the hon. Minister, in future, if we went to represent a particular point, whether we will have to give it in writing?

**Shri Biswadey Sarmah :** মাননীয় সদস্যই বোধকৰা প্রশ্নটো ভালকৈ বুজা নাহি। প্রশ্নটো হৈছে (গ) যোৱা বছৰে কোনো এটা মাহত প্রশ্ন কৰ্তাই চৰকাৰৰ প্ৰস্তাবে ভৰ দি সংশ্লিষ্ট মন্ত্রী ডাঙৰীয়াক উপকল্প মৰ্মে মৌখিক ভাবে জনোৱাত লেখতেও উৎসাহেৰে আশ্বাস বাণী দিয়া কথাটো সঁচামে? মই উত্তৰ দিছিলো মাজুলীলৈ বিজুলী সৰববাহ দক্ষিণ ফালৰ পৰা কৰাটো ব্যয়বহুল কথা আৰু ইতিমধ্যে কামে নদীৰ চৰ্জমিন কৰাৰ কাৰণে এই আঁচনি স্থগিত ৰখা হৈছে।

**Shri Jugen Saikia :** মাজুলী কেন্দ্র স্থল আৰু ইয়াত ইতিমধ্যে তেলকুল, ধানকুল আদি স্থাপিত হৈছে। গতিকে দক্ষিণ পাৰ্ব পৰা নোৱাৰিলেও উত্তৰ পাৰ্ব পৰাই বিজুলী সানববাহ কৰাৰ দিহা কৰিব লাগে। ইয়াৰ বহুল হলেও কৰিব লাগে।

**Shri Biswadev Sarma :** বিজুলী শক্তিৰ অনুচনি কম খৰচত কৰিব নোৱাৰি কাৰণ খুটা তাৰ আদি লাগে।

**Shri Jugen Saikia :** দক্ষিণ পাৰ্ব পৰা আনিলে ব্ৰহ্মপুত্ৰ পূৰ্ব কৰি আনোত খৰচ বেছি হয় কিন্তু উত্তৰ পাৰ্ব পৰা আহিলে কম হ'ব পাৰে।

**Shri Biswadev Sarma :** উত্তৰ লক্ষ্মীমপুৰত ডিজেল চেট আছে, কিন্তু তাৰ পৰা বিজুলী শক্তি আনিব নোৱাৰি কিয়নো তাৰ শক্তি শেষ হৈ গৈছে। ইয়াৰ একমাত্ৰ উপায় হৈ নাহবকটীয়াৰ পৰা আনিব লাগিব নহলে কামেৰ পৰা আনিব লাগিব। কিন্তু কামেৰ পৰা আনিলে পলম হ'ব।

**Shri Debeswar Sarma :** উত্তৰ লক্ষ্মীমপুৰত যিটো ডিজেল চেট আছে বুলি কৈছে তাৰ cost of production meet কৰেনে। দ্বিতীয় কথা হৈছে নাহবকটীয়াৰ পৰা সম্প্ৰসাৰণ কৰিলে ব্যয় বহুল হয়। যোৱা বাজেট বৰঙণত কৈছিল যে Electricity Board ৰ ৬৪ কোটি ৬০ লাখ ৯০ হাজাৰ টকা ধাৰ আছে। আৰু তাৰ শতকৰা ৬ ভাগ সুদ দিব লাগে। অৰ্থাৎ অসম চৰকাৰক দৈনিক ১,০৬,২০৬.৫৮ টকা সুত দিব লাগে। যদি সম্প্ৰসাৰণ কৰিবই নোৱাৰে আৰু তাকে নকৰিলে Revenue আছে তেনেহলে চৰকাৰে এইটো কি কৰিব খুজিছ। মোৰ প্ৰশ্নটো হৈছে যদি ধনৰ অভাৱত বিজুলী সম্প্ৰসাৰণ কৰিব নোৱাৰে তেনেহলে Electricity Board এ কেনেকৈ মূল পৰিশোধ কৰিব আৰু সুদ দিব।

Starred Questions Nos. 384, 416, 420 and 424 lapsed as the hon. members were absent.

Re : Number of persons deported to Pakistan

M. SHAMSUL HUDA asked :

313. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) The total number of persons deported to Pakistan so far since the 1st January, 1961?

(b) Whether each and everyone of them was Pak infiltrant?

(c) What are the criteria of determining Pak infiltrant?

Shri Bimala Prasad Chaliha (Chief Minister) replied:

313. (a)—One lakh, eighty-six thousand, six hundred and sixty three Pakistani infiltrators were deported from Assam during the period from 1st January, 1961 to February, 1969.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Any person hailing from the territories comprising Pakistan, who is not a citizen of India at the commencement of the Constitution of India or has not acquired Indian citizenship under the Indian Citizenship Act, 1955 and who enters or stays in India without legal authority is regarded as a Pakistani Infiltrant?

Re: Liabilities of the Acquired Estates of the District of Goalpara

Shri Kandarpa Narayan Banikya asked:

314. Will the Minister, Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that all the liabilities of the acquired Estates of Goalpara District rest on Government as per G T. Act?

(b) If so, whether it is a fact that the students of Abhayeswari H.S. and M.P. Schcol have been deprived of half freeships which all eligible students used to get under the estate management?

(c) If so, whether Government propose to service to old system and when?

Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury (Minister, Revenue) replied :

314. (a)—Under provisions of the Goalpara Tenancy Act, 1929 no liability of the Acquired Estate rests on Government.

(b)—The tuition fee of Abhayeswari High School was low by 50 percent in comparison with the tuition fees charged in the Government Schools of Assam, while the School was maintained by the ex-proprietors. This was only raised at par with the tuition fees of other similar Schools after acquisition of the Zamindary Estate with effect from 1st April, 1957.

(c) —No.

Re: Airmara Beel fish farm under Golakganj Anchalik Panchayat

Shri Kabir Chandra Roy Pradhani asked :

315. Will the Minister, Panchayat be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Airmara Beel of Golakganj Anchalik Panchayat Block is a fish farm?

(b) If so, what amount has been spent to clear jungle (Kacharipara) upto this date and how was it spent?

(c) Whether Government is aware that the buildings constructed in the Golakganj Anchalik Panchayat Block for residential purposes of the Officers are not fit for residence and no Officer is residing there?

(d) If so, why?



Shri Devendra Nath Hazarika (Minister of State, Panchayat and Community Development) replied

315. (a)—Airmara Beel is a natural Fish Farm of Golakganj Anchalik Panchayat under construction.

(b)—Total amount spent so far is Rs.6,234.50 paise. In 1967-68, Rs.4,996.25 was spent for removing water hyacinth and Rs.965.25 for drain connecting of Kakdonga Beel. In 1968-69 Rs.273.00 was spent for purchasing one boat.

(c)—The buildings constructed in the Golakganj Anchalik Panchayat Block are quite fit for residential purpose and are occupied by Officers.

(d)—Does not arise.

Re. : Palanghat Sub-Registrar Office is a Kachha House

Shri Jatindra Mohan Barbhuiya asked :

316. Will the Minister, Registration be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Government is aware of the fact that "Palanghat" Sub-Registrar office of Cachar district is running in a kachha and rented house surrounded by many thatched huts ?

(b) If so, whether Government is aware that it is not unsafe to keep this office in this house where many valuable documents and money are kept ?

(c) Whether this office has got its own land ?

(d) If so, why the Government is not constructing a building of its own ?

(e) Whether it is fact that the Government sanctioned money for construction of a building for this office and the money was diverted for construction of other office building ?

(f) If so, the reason thereof ?

(g) Whether the Government has any intention to construct a house for this office at present ?

(h) If so, when the construction will be started ?

Shri Satindri Mohan Dev (Minister, Registration) replied :

316. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Due to financial stringency.

(e)—No.

(f)—Does not arise.

(g)—Construction will be started when the financial position improves.

(h)—Does not arise.

### Re : Implementatoin of the Tea Plantation Labour Act

শ্রীউপেন্দ্র নাথ সনাতনে সুধিছে :

৩১৭ মাননীয় শ্রম বিভাগের মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে অজ্ঞেয় কবি জনাবনে ?

(ক) চাহ বাগিছা শ্রমিক আইন (Tea Plantation Labour Act) নিয়মিত ভাবে বলবৎ করার পাচত এই রাজ্যে কিমান বাগিছাত এই আইন উল্ল কবার গোচর পোরা গৈছে তাক জনাবনে ?

(খ) অসমৰ চাহ বাগিছা সমূহত যি চিকিৎসালয় সমূহ আছে তাৰ পৰিদৰ্শনৰ বাবে পৰ্যবেক্ষণ পত্ৰৰ পৰা কেৱল এজনহে মেডিকেল ইন্সপেক্টৰ আছে এই কথা

(গ) স্বাস্থ্য সম্পৰ্কীয় বা হৃৎপিণ্ডত সম্পৰ্কীয় তদন্তৰ তাৰ প্লেণটেচন ইন্সপেক্টৰ সকলৰ ওপৰত ন্যস্ত কৰাৰ কথা সঁচাকৈয়ে কিয় নহয়? (১)

(ঘ) চৰকাৰে মেডিকেল ইন্সপেক্টৰ আৰু প্লেণটেচনৰ সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি কৰাৰ কিবা ব্যৱস্থা কৰিবনে?

(ঙ) প্লেণটেচন লেবাৰী একত্ৰ বজৰং হোৱাৰ পৰা আইন অনুসৰি বাগিছাৰ হাস্পাতাল সমূহত চিকিৎসাৰ সুবিধা নিদিয়াৰ বা ভুলজনক চিকিৎসা দিয়াৰ কাৰণে সন্দেহীমূৰ্ত্তী জিলাৰ কোন কোন বাগিছাৰ পৰিচালকৰ ওপৰত আদালতত গোচৰ দিয়া হৈছিল আৰু তাৰ ফলাফল কি হ'ল?

শ্ৰীকামাখ্যা প্ৰসাদ ত্ৰিপাঠী (শ্ৰম বিভাগৰ মন্ত্ৰীয়ে) উত্তৰ দিছে :

৩১৭। (ক)—অসমৰ চাহ বাগিছাসমূহৰ কোনো খণ্ডই চাহ বাগিছাৰ অধিক আইনৰ সকলো ব্যৱস্থা সম্পূৰ্ণৰূপে মানি চলিছে বুলি ক'ব নোৱাৰি। সকলোবোৰ বাগিছাত এটি বিচ্যুতি দেখা গৈছে আৰু সেইবোৰ এতিয়ালৈকে সম্পূৰ্ণৰূপে আঁতৰ কৰিব পৰা নাই। কামৰ সময়, বাৰ্ষিক ছুটি, কৰ্ম বান্ধি আৰু প্ৰযুক্তি কালৰ সা-সুবিধা সম্পৰ্কীয় ব্যৱস্থাসমূহ সম্পূৰ্ণৰূপে কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰা হৈছে আৰু যেতিয়াই কোনো নিয়ম ভঙ্গৰ কথা দৃষ্টি গোচৰ হৈছে সেইবোৰ আঁতৰ কৰা হৈছে। আইনৰ কঠোৰ ব্যৱস্থাৰ ব্যতিক্ৰম সত্ত্বেও কল্যাণমূলক সা-সুবিধা সম্পৰ্কীয় ব্যৱস্থাসমূহৰ প্ৰগতি বেচিভাগেই সন্তোষজনক হলেও অন্যান্য ক্ষেত্ৰত অসন্তোষজনক। এই অৱস্থা তলত দেখুৱা হ'ল—

প্ৰায় ৪০খন বাগিছাত ডাক্তৰখানা নাই, ৪৫খনত ডাক্তৰ নাই প্ৰায় ১৩০ খনত শিশু ভৱনৰ কোনো সুবিধা দিয়া হোৱা নাই, ১০০খনত অৱসৰ বিনোদন কেন্দ্ৰ নাই, ৫০ খন বাগিছাত বতৰৰ বিৰুদ্ধে লবলগীয়া কোনো সা-সুবিধা দিয়া হোৱা নাই। গৃহ নিৰ্মাণৰ সংশোধিত আইন অনুসৰে ১৯৬৪-৬৫ চনৰ ভিতৰত

কোনো বাগিছাই বহুৱাৰ ঘৰ সজা নাই বেচি ভাগ বাগিছাৰ চিকিৎসাজনক  
(ক) প্ৰশিক্ষণ প্ৰাপ্ত নাই, ধৰ্মই আৰু স্বাস্থ্য সহকাৰীৰ অভাৱ দেখা গৈছিল।  
বেচি ভাগে শিশু ভাৱে প্ৰয়োজনীয় সা-সুবিধা নাছিল। বেচি ভাগ বহুৱাৰ  
ঘৰৰ বসবাস চাইত স্বাস্থ্য বিধানৰ সা-সুবিধা আৰু বিদ্যুতি চাকিৰ ব্যৱস্থা নাই  
সকলতাৰ আন এটি দিশ তন্ত্ৰ দেখুৱা হ'ল

বাগিছা সমূহে যোগাৰা ঘৰৰ সংখ্যা—প্ৰায় ১,০০০০০  
হাস্পাতাল আৰু ডাক্তাৰখানাৰ সংখ্যা—যথাক্ৰমে ৫০০ আৰু ২০০।  
হাস্পাতালত থকা বেমাৰীৰ বিচনাৰ সংখ্যা যথাক্ৰমে ৭৩০, ৬৮৫, ৫২৫ আৰু ৬২০  
স্কুল (প্ৰাথমিক) আৰু শিক্ষকৰ সংখ্যা—যথাক্ৰমে ৭৮৩ আৰু ৯২১।  
শিশু ভৱনৰ সংখ্যা (আশ্ৰয় গৃহকে ধৰি)—১০৭৫। অৱসৰ বিনোদন কেন্দ্ৰ ক্লাব  
সংখ্যা—২৪৫।

বাগিছা সমূহত যোগান ধৰা বেডিঅ'ৰ সংখ্যা ৭৯০।

(খ)—তুজন মেডিকেল ইন্সপেক্টৰৰ ব্যৱস্থা আছে যদিও কেৱল এজনকহে নিয়োগ  
কৰা হৈছে তেওঁৰ প্ৰাথমিক কৰ্তব্য হৈছে চিকিৎসাৰ সা-সুবিধা সম্পৰ্কীয়  
বিশেষ ধৰণৰ অভিযোগ অনুসন্ধান কৰা আৰু চাই শ্ৰমিক আইন অনুসৰি নিৰ্বৃত্ত  
কৰা মুখ্য ইন্সপেক্টৰ, উপ মুখ্য ইন্সপেক্টৰ সকল আৰু অন্যান্য ইন্সপেক্টৰ সকলক  
পৰামৰ্শ আগবঢ়োৱা পিছৰ এই আটাইবোৰকে বাগিছাৰ হাস্পাতাল আৰু ডাক্তাৰ  
খানা সমূহ চোৱা মেলা কৰিবলৈ ক্ষমতা দিয়া হৈছে।

(গ)—হয়। তেওঁলোক চাহ বাগিছাবোৰৰ চিকিৎসা সংক্রান্ত প্ৰশাসনীয় বিষয়ৰ  
বেচি ভাগ কথাই চাব পাৰে।

(ঘ)—মেডিকেল ইন্সপেক্টৰ সকলৰ সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি কৰাৰ বৰ্তমান কোনো প্ৰস্তাৱ  
লোৱা হোৱা নাই। (যথেষ্ট পৰিমাণৰ প্ৰশাসনীয় অভিজ্ঞতা থকা অহ'তাযুক্ত  
ডাক্তাৰ হঠাৎ পোৱাটো কঠিন। বৰ্তমানে প্ৰশাসনীয় কামতকৈ চিকিৎসা, ব্যৱসায়ত  
উন্নতিৰ পথ বেছি প্ৰশস্ত)

(ঙ)—সত্য নাৰায়ণ, চেণ্ডনবাৰী, হাভেদা, নিলমণি, জলপুৰীয়া, বাংলিটিং পিথুংগা,

নথায়, পানীতোলা আৰু বালিমাৰা চাহ বাগিছা সমূহৰ পৰিচালকৰ বিৰুদ্ধে আদালতত গোচৰ দাখিল কৰা হৈছে।

**Re : Electrifying of Patharkandi via Brajendranagar**

Shri Prafulla Choudhury asked :

318. Will the Minister in-charge, Power (Electricity) be pleased to state—

(a) Whether there is any proposal to electrify Patharkandi via Brajendranagar Nilambazar and Baraigram from Karimganj ?

(b) If so, when ?

Shri Biswadev Sarma (Minister, Power (Electricity) replied:

318. (a) & (b)—The Assam State Electricity Board has taken up programme for electrification of Nilambazar and Patharkandi during 1969-70 from Karimganj. Electrification of Baraigram and Brajendranagar has not been taken up as yet. Taking up of electrification of Baraigram and Brajendranagar will depend on availability of funds as well as load.

**Re : Accommodation in the J. N. Memorial Girls' H. E. School and Abhayeswari H. S. & M. P. Schools**

Shri Kandarpa Narayan Banikya asked :

319. Will the Minister, Education be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that J. N. Memorial Girls' High E. School and Abhayeswari H.S. & M. P. Schools under Goalpara. Subdivision cannot provide accommodation to all students in the Class room due to dearth of space ?

(b) What action has been taken so far by the Government for extension of the School building?

(c) Whether it is a fact that the Abhayeswari H. S. & M. P. School hall is also too small for the accommodation of the students?

(d) If so, what action Government propose to take and when?

Shri Syed Ahmed Ali (Minister of State, Education) replied :  
319. (a)—Yes.

(b)—A loan of Rs. 7,000 has been sanctioned for J. N. Memoria Girls' High School for construction of the building. Due to tight financial position no loan could be sanctioned to Abhayeswari M. P. School.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—The matter will be considered whenever fund will be available.

**Re : Fund Position of the Srijangram Government  
Aided High School**

Shri Kandarpa Narayan Banikya asked :

319. (a) Will the Minister, Education be pleased to state—

(a) What is the fund position of the Srijangram Government Aided High School under Goalpara Subdivision?

Shri Syed Ahmed Ali (Minister of State, Education) replied :

319. (a)—The fund Position of the School as on 31st January, 1969 was Rs. 3,175.48 P. with Rs. 1,200 as fixed deposit.

### Rs : Registration by the Money lending Kabulis

শ্রী টি. পদ্ম নথ সনাতনে সুধিচ্ছ: ৩২০। মাননীয় মুখ্যমন্ত্রী মহোদয় অনুগ্রহ কৰি জনাবেনে—

(ক) হোৱা ১৯৬৮ চনৰ চেপ্তেম্বৰ মাহত অসম চৰকাৰে অসমত বান্ধকা আৰু চাহ বাগিচা আৰু অন্যান্য অঞ্চলত লোণত ধন ধাৰ দি ব্যৱসায় চলোৱা কাবুলী-সকলক যি ৰেজিষ্ট্ৰেচন কৰাবৰ বাবে আদেশ জাৰি কৰিছিল সেই অ দেশতে সৰ্বমুঠ কিমান কাবুলীয়ে ৰেজিষ্ট্ৰেচন কৰালে আৰু বাকীখটা দেখিবলৈ তাৰ বিভিন্ন অঞ্চলৰ বিস্তাৰিত হিচাব জনাবনে ?

(খ) অসমত থকা এই ধন-ধাৰে কাবুলীলোকৰ বাদেও আমাৰ দেশীয় কিছুলোকে চাহবাগিছাৰ মজুত সকলৰ মাজত অতিৰিক্ত সুদত ধন-ধাৰে দিয়া ব্যৱসায় চলাইছে। এই কথা চৰকাৰে জানেনে আৰু যদি জানে এই কাৰ্য্য আইন সঙ্গত হৈছেনে ?

(গ) যদি হোৱা নাই, তেন্তে চৰকাৰে এনে বে-আইনী ভাৱে ধন-ধাৰে দিয়া আৰু ধন ধাৰে-লোৱা কাৰ্য্য বন্ধ কৰিবৰ বাবে সক্ৰিয় ব্যৱস্থা গ্ৰহণ কৰা বিশেষকৈ চাহ-বাগিছাৰ মজুতৰ মাজত এই শ্ৰেণী ব্যৱসায়ীয়ে যি অত্যাচাৰ কৰিছে তাক বন্ধ কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিবনে ?

শ্ৰীবিমলা প্ৰসাদ চলিহাই (মুখ্যমন্ত্রী) উত্তৰ দিছে—

৩২০ (ক)—ধন ধানেদিয়া কাবুলী বুলিলে সাধাৰণতে এই ব্যৱসায়ত ক্ষিপ্ত থকা আফগান আৰু পাখটন এই দুয়োবিধ মানুহকে বুজায় Foreigner's Act ৰ বিধান অনুসৰি আফগান সকলৰ ৰেজিষ্ট্ৰেচন বাধ্যতামূলক। অবিভক্ত ভাৰতৰ বাসিন্দা হিচাবে তাক পাচত স্বাধীন পাখটনিস্থানৰ সমৰ্থক বুলি পাকিস্থানৰ হাতত প্ৰকৃততে নিৰ্বাচিত হোৱা পাখটন সকলক বিদেশী বুলি গণ্য কৰা নহৈছিল। কিন্তু পৰিচয়-পত্ৰ থকা আফগান সকলৰ বাহিৰে আন সকলো কাবুলীয়ে এই সুবিধাৰ অন্তৰ্গত বিনা অনুমতিত থাকি যাব ধৰাত ১৯৬৬ চনৰ ফেব্ৰুৱাৰী মাহৰ পৰা তেওঁলোকক ব্যক্তিগত পৰিচয় পত্ৰ দিয়াৰ সিদ্ধান্ত লোৱা হয়। বাকী খটা পৰীক্ষা কৰাৰ

সেই বছৰৰ জানুৱাৰী মাহত লোৱা হয়—১৯৬৮ চনৰ চেপ্তেম্বৰত নহয়। এই বিষয়ে সিদ্ধান্তত হিচাব উল্লেখ দিয়া হ'ল—

জিলা	বেজিষ্টেচন কৰা ধাৰে দিয়া কাবুলীৰ সংখ্যা	বাকী খাটা দেখুৱা ধাৰে দিয়া কাবুলীৰ সংখ্যা
লক্ষীম বি...	৪৬	১০
শিৱসাগৰ	৮	২
নগাঁও	৬৫	৭৪
কামৰূপ	৭৩	১২
কাছাৰ	১২	...
দৰং	৯৭	৮
গোৱালপাৰা	১১	৭
মিৰ্জাপাহাৰ	...	...
মিকিৰ আৰু উত্তৰ কাছাৰ পাহাৰ	১১	...
খাচী-জয়ন্তীয়া পাহাৰ	৯	১২
গাৰোপাহাৰ	৪	৪
	৩৩৬	১৩৯

(খ)—হয়। চাহবাগিছাৰ মজদুৰ সকলকেই হয়, অন্যান্য লোককো অতিৰিক্ত মূল্যত ধন-ধাৰে দিয়া কিছুমান দেশীয় ব্যৱসায়ী ও আছে।

The Assam Money Lender's Act 1934 এ ধাৰ্য্য কৰা নিৰিখতকৈ বেছি মূল্য লোৱাটো আইন সঙ্গত নহয় আৰু ধন ধাৰে লোৱা সকলে ধাৰে দিয়া সকলৰ বিৰুদ্ধে ইচ্ছা কৰিলে এই আইনৰ সহায়ত প্ৰতিকাৰ বিচাৰিব পাৰে।

(গ)—The Assam Money Lenders' Act 1934 এই আইনখন সংশোধিত কৰি সকলো ধন-ধাৰে দিয়া ব্যৱসায়ীকে সংযত কৰিবৰ উদ্দেশ্যে এখন বিল যোৱা বছৰতে সংসদত উত্থাপন কৰা হৈছিল। এতিয়াও বিলখন আইনত পৰিণত হৈ উঠা নাই।



**Re : Functional Committee of the Family and  
Child Welfare Project.**

Shri Kabir Chandra Roy Pradhani asked :

321. Will the Minister of Social Welfare be pleased to state—

(a) What is the basis for forming the Functional Committee of the Family and Child Welfare Project ?

(b) Whether any School Mistress is allowed to be a member of that Committee ?

(c) Whether the Local M.L.A. is a member of that Committee ?

(d) Whether the centre of old P.I.C. Committee will be converted to the centre of this new arrangement ?

(e) Whether it is a fact that the Golakganj Family and Child Welfare Committee is functioning in the Raipur Centre violating the Rules of Central Social Welfare Board and against the will of people and Panchayat ?

Shri Abdul Matlib Mazumdar (Minister, Social Welfare) replied :

321. (a)—The Functional Committee is constituted with equal number of nominees from the Anchalik Panchayat and the State Social Welfare Advisory Board,

(b)—There is no part to a School Mistress being included as a member of the Committee.

(c)—No.

(d)—Not necessarily.

(e) — No. The Raipur Centre has been closed.

**Re : Lands eroded by Channel at right bank  
of the Beki river**

Mrs Pranita Talukdar asked :

322. Will the Minister, P.W.D. (F. C. & I.) be pleased to state—

(a) How many bighas of lands have been eroded by channel at the right bank of the Beki river downstream of the National Highway at Amguri and other village ?

(b) Whether this channel will be closed ?

(c) If so, when ?

Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury [ Minister, P. W. D. (F. C. & I. ) ] replied :

322. (a)—About 450 bighas of land have been eroded.

(b)—At present there is no such proposal.

(c)—Does not arise,

**Re : Library-Cum-Cultural Centres in different district**

Shri Sailen Medhi asked :

323. Will the Minister, Education be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Library-cum-Cultural Centres were established in different district towns a few years ago ?

(b) If so, what is the purpose of building up such institutions ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that one such institution at Silchar known as Sanskrit Bhaban is being used by the Armed Police and Army personnel for the last eight years ?

(d) What was the financial involvement in building and maintaining these cultural institutions ?

(e) Whether it is a fact that the cultural activities by the inhabitants of Silchar could be held in that institution ?

Shri Syed A. H. Ali (Minister of State, Education, replied :

323. (a) — Yes. The Library buildings with attached auditorium at Jorhat, Nowgong, Silchar, Tezpur, Gauhati and Shillong were constructed during the year 1957-58.

(b) — The District Library caters to the needs of the reading public and the Auditorium is meant for Library Seminars, conferences meeting, examinations and for holding cultural functions.

(c) — The District Library building at Silchar and not Sanskrit Bhaban as mentioned was used by the Army personnel during emergency but now there is no Armed Police or Army personnel.

(d) — There is no separate staff for the Auditorium. However, the Library staff is looking after the Auditorium in addition to their own duties and without any remuneration for such works. The monthly maintenance cost of the Library staff at Silchar is Rs. 1,315. The Library building at Silchar was constructed at a cost of about Rs. 6.00 lakhs.

(e) — There is no difficulty in having bonafide cultural activities in the Auditorium now.

**Re : Number of Colleges, H.S., M.E., M.V. and L.P. Schools in the State**

Shri Jatindra Mohan Barbhuiya asked :

324. Will the Minister, Education be pleased to state—

(a) What were the number of Colleges, High Schools, M.E. Schools, M.V. Schools, L.P. Schools, and other Medical and Technical institutions in the State of Assam on 15th August 1947 ?

(b) What are the number of the above mentioned institutions at present in the State of Assam.

Shri Syed Ahmed Ali (Minister of State for Education) replied :

324. (a)—The number of Colleges, High Schools, M. E. Schools, M. V. Schools, L. P. Schools and other Medical and Technical institutions in the State of Assam on 15th August, 1947 was as follows :—

Primary Schools	...	7,574
Middle Schools	...	742
High School	...	191
Colleges	...	16
Technical institutions	...	7
Medical institution	...	1

(b)—The number of the above institutions at present is as follows :—

Primary Schools	...	19,632
Middle Schools	...	2,943

High Schools	...	1,188
Colleges	...	94
Technical institutions	...	10
Medical institutions	...	3

**Re. Buildings of Srijangram H. E. School and Chakla H. E. School**

Shri Kandarpa Narayan Banikya asked :

325. Will the Minister Education be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the buildings of Srijangram H. E. School and Chakla H. E. School are in a dilapidated condition ?

(b) If so, whether Government propose to give non-recurring grant for their construction and if so, when ?

Shri Syed Ahmed Ali (Minister of State, Education) replied :

325. (a) Some of the buildings of the Srijangram High School were damaged by the flood and storm. While Chakla High School buildings are old.

(b) The Government has decided to give a loan of Rs. 10,000 to Srijangram High School in addition to the grant of Rs. 1,000 to be sanctioned to the School this year.

**Re. Numbers of recruits to the post of Sub-Inspectors, Assistant Sub-Inspectors of Police and Constables**

Shri M. A. Musawwir Choudhury asked :

326. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(a) What is the total number of recruits to the post of

Sub-Inspectors, Assistant Sub-Inspector of Police and Constables made in the State? (To be shown District-wise)

(b) The names and address of the recruits?

Shri Bimala Prasad Chaliha (Chief Minister) replied :

326. (a) —The period for which the information is required is not clear. However, in 1967-68, 101 Sub-Inspectors, 67 Assistant Sub-Inspectors and 1,756 Constables were recruited, and in 1968-69, 136 Sub-Inspectors, 150 Assistant Sub-Inspectors and 1,489 Constables were recruited in the State. The Districtwise recruitment are as follows :—

During 1967-68

Name of District/Unit/Orgn.	S.I.	A.S.I.	Constable
1. Kamrup	30	17	132
2. U. K. & J. Hills	12	3	271
3. Cachar	16	9	113
4. Sibsagar	16	9	64
5. Darrang	3	3	50
6. Nowgong	16	20	72
7. Garo Hills	2	...	45
8. Goalpara	3	4	102
9. Lakhimpur	3	2	44
10. Mikir Hills	...	...	61
11. Mizo District	...	...	126
12. 1st A. P. Bn.	...	...	43
13. 2nd A. P. Bn.	...	...	60
14. 3rd A. P. Bn.	...	...	79
15. 4th A. P. Bn.	...	...	105
16. 5th A. P. Bn.	...	...	44
17. 6th A. P. Bn.	...	...	54
18. 7th A. P. Bn.	...	...	98
19. 8th A. P. Bn.	...	...	92

20.	S. S. P. (C)	17
21.	A. C. B.	6
22.	D. I. G., S. B.	28
23.	D. I. G., C. I. D.	27
24.	P. T. C.	3
25.	Fire Adviser	20
Grand Total		101
		67
		1,756

## During 1968-69

Name of District/ Unit/Orgn.	S.I.	A.S.I.	Constable
1. Sibsagar...	28	54	126
2. Lakhimpur	14	6	103
3. Cachar ...	9	16	72
4. Nowgong...	19	15	81
5. U.K. & J Hill	8	3	240
6. Darrang...	9	7	53
7. Mizø District	1	0	11
8. Kamrup...	44	42	238
9. Garo Hills	1	1	26
10. Goalpara...	3	6	63
11. Mikir Hills	...	...	52
12. Ist A.P. Bn. (Drg.)	...	...	28
13. 2nd A.P. Bn.	...	...	31
14. 3rd A.P. Bn.	...	...	47
15. 4th A.P. Bn.	...	...	19
16. 5th A.P. Bn.	...	...	44
17. 6th A.P. Bn.	...	...	50
18. 7th A.P. Bn.	...	...	90
19. 8th A.P. Bn.	...	...	46
20. S.S.P. (C)	...	...	17
21. A.C.B....	...	...	3
22. D.I.G.,S.B.	...	...	10

23.	D.I.G., C.I.D.	...	...	...	12
24.	P.T.C.	...	...	...	8
25.	Fire Adviser	...	...	...	19
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>					<b>136 150 1,489</b>

(b)—The names and addresses of the Sub-Inspectors and Assistant Sub-Inspectors recruited during 1968-69 are furnished in the list placed on the table of the House.

**Statement by Minister Finance, refuting certain allegations made against him.**

Shri Kamakhya prasad Tripathi (Minister, Finance) :-

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the 3rd April Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharjee levelled certain charges against me in my absence in the House. Uptil the 2nd evening I was with him and he gave no inkling. He chose to hurl the charges when he knew I would be away in Gauhati University. I regret very much that he was permitted to make these charges in my absence without prior intimation to me, particularly when next 3 days were going to be holidays, when the allegations would remain unchallenged, and specially when he took no personal responsibility for the knowledge or enquiring of the same. Our rules of the House prescribe the procedure to be adopted when such charges are levelled. I regret very much that same was not followed. I only hope that in these matters the salutary principles of the rules will be adhered to in future.

My replies against the charges are as follows:

(1) Whether I have acquired a tea garden, a biscuit factory and a rolling mill either in my name or for any of my family members : Neither myself nor any of my family mem-



bers own or have any interest or shares whatsoever in any tea garden, biscuit factory and rolling mill anywhere.

(2) Whether I have built a palace in my wife's name or in the name of my daughter in U. P. worth 67 lakhs. Neither myself nor my daughter, nor my sons have any house in U. P. when my wife had, under emergent conditions to be removed on doctor's advice from Shillong to a dry climate, her mother who is from U. P. removed her to Lucknow. She purchased an ordinary house for Rs.33,000 and not a palace worth 67 lakhs. My wife is the only child of her parents. Her father was Jaminder of U. P. and she is the only heiress. The transfer was by registered deed. I would request the Chief Minister to enquire into both these charges and inform the House, for a minister should be above suspicion. The assets of ministers and their dependents are annually being informed to the Chief Minister and I hope the matter will be enquired into with all speed so that this might be proved or cleared.

Unfortunately these charges are quoted from a Newspaper in Agartala as having been made by one Shri S. P. Shastri who is said to have already lodged the same with Prime Minister, Home Minister and Congress President. He comes from Nowgong and moves about the whole of India threatening political action. Apart from Shri Bhattachrjee I have not found any politician of repute giving credence to his statements. Somebody has been using this man against me because last year he sent a wire to me from Nowgong saying, and then later on came and charged me at my residence, that I had ordered D. C., Nowgong to arrest him so that he could not enter Nowgong. I had the greatest difficulty to explain him that I was not a Home Minister, and I did not order his arrest, that I did not know his political activities, and therefore, I had no personal interest

against him, wherefor I should try to get him arrested. Now he has come forward with this charge. It is good that he has lodged it at the highest forum so that necessary enquires will be made. Without motivation it is inconceivable that he would like to select me of all the ministers in India and propose to stake his life for bringing me to book. But as this enquiry will take time I would suggest that a pointed and immediate enquiry should be made by the Chief Minister to divulge the truth of it.

Shri Bhattacharjee has further levelled charge that I have granted exemption of entertainment tax for the film 'Ankhen' and a sum of Rs. 25,000 is said to have passed. It is not mentioned to whom. I deny any knowledge of this money passing. This film has the theme of international espionage against India and setting communities against each other, and what is most pertinent, shows private citizens out of nationalism, trying to track foreign spies. It has been specially shown in Rashtrapati Bhawan and praised by the President of India. It is a film fit to be seen as widely as possible by Assam public who are surrounded by Sino-Pak conspiracy. So exemption was given for this.

House will remember that in the last Budget Session there was some criticism by Dr. Hazarika, MLA of having granted exemption to a certain film. In pursuance to the criticism I decided not to grant any exemption. A couple of days later Dr. Hazarika appeared at my residence and pleaded for exemption of the film 'Bhagya'. I told him of my rigid attitude. He said that in the matter of films and arts it is not wise to take a rigid attitude, film is a great medium for moulding public mind to good or evil, and that without Government support local and social purpose films would have no chance. Dr. Hazarika is an artist and producer of All India repute and a specialist in the line. I had

to grant exemption to the film. No money to my knowledge passed.

As regards the two other films 'Hamsaya' and 'Sadhu Aur Saitan' no exemption has been given.

The story of 5th, 10th and 11th are embellishments to create illusion of credibility, but verge on the absurd. I am not aware of any fund having thus been collected for any political party or to be collected.

I saw the film 'Hamsaya' and the 'Sadhu Aur Saitan'. A large number of members of the House also were present in the latter occasion. Shri Bhattacharjee has represented in a way as if seeing a large number of members of the House also were present in the latter occasion. Shri Bhattacharjee has represented in a way as if seeing the film was itself wrong. Even Dr. Hazarika has pleaded for a film and said that Govt. should have open mind. Then how without seeing the film a decision could be arrived at?

It is unfortunate that Shri Bhattacharjee divulged these informations on the 3rd. If he had credence on his informant he could easily have trapped the donor and the receipt, or at least the receipt, by taking into confidence a magistrate and the story of such bribes passing might have been established or laid to rest. What we have now got is a cloud created and missed a capital chance of trapping the receipt.

Shri Bhattacharjee is one of the shrewd political observers of the State. He might have noticed that in the last 3 years I have been singled out among the ministers for attack from all sides. In the last Budget Session I took the House into confidence how I was getting letters threatening me that if I do not resign I would be murdered,

and my family and children would be poisoned. I am not aware of any other minister in India receiving such letters.

There have been attempts to fasten on me the story of bribes, and one such was enquired into by the Chief Minister himself and found untrue. During the last elections many leaflets were circulated by some agency in my constituency against my character. My phones are tapped and counted, spy-rings have been operating against me for last 3 years. If I had any of the weaknesses I have no doubt that by now I would have been trapped. Yet before 3 years I was supposed to be very good man, no allegations were brought against me. I have no personal enemy. For having adopted certain pronounced political line for what I consider the good of the State I have suddenly become a very bad man, and I am tracked continuously, and continuous effort is made to besmear my name from here to Delhi. Knowing all these who could have thought that a shrewd political observer like Shri Bhattacharjee would jump to relay allegations against me without first himself being satisfied on enquiries ?

Once the good name of a politician is pricked it is shattered. Later attempts to restore it never completely succeed. We have suddenly emerged into an era of character assassination. In the Centre allegations of character assassination have been made in Parliament against the Finance Minister, the Minister for External Trade, The Industries Minister and even Ex- Minister of Assam Shri M.H. Choudhury, and in our Assembly against present Agriculture Minister Shri L.P. Goswami. Those who make the allegations in the public may have their motivations, but those who take up those allegations without personally being convinced as Shri Bhattacharyya admits in this case, really give respectability to character assassination. When posters came out in Gauhati calling Shri Bhattacharyya being CIA agent, or for the rumour that he has obtained

valuable Government land in the name of his wife, we had no difficulty in dismissing the same as character assassination. One should be personally satisfied at least before anybody's character assassination is undertaken or encouraged.

In the matter of films there are so many trade rivalries and inter-mediaries that it is necessary to make enquiries and trap a few cases so that the real truth of allegations might be pinned down.

However, in this matter also I would request the Chief Minister to look into every single order in which I have given exemption to test whether my claim that each one of those orders conforms to highest traditions of administrative propriety as compared to other and earlier such orders. If he finds that in any single of them there is doubt I would be prepared to resign immediately.

Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya : Sir, while it is the etiquette of this House to accept the statement of a Minister when he makes it. But as the Minister has also drawn certain inferences, I should probably make it clear. It is a fact that I met the Minister on the day previous to one that I drew the attention of the House to the matter. At that time neither the newspaper was in my hand nor the person approached me with allegations. I was not told by the Minister that he would be away. Nor did anybody else say that he would be away on some private or other visit to Gauhati or to Jhalukbari. I had given you the notice. I forwarded the notice to the Minister in the morning. Now when the notice has already reached and when the House sat here I was informed that the Minister was away. I said, "All right. Let it be deferred till he comes back." I said so. When the Chief Minister said that he would like to have it on Monday, I said

that let us have it on Tuesday. It was not that I wanted to take advantage of (Shri Tripathi's absence. If he chose to remain absent from the Legislature for some private business, it was his affair, not mine. But the point is that in a daily newspaper of 10 years' standing and which is not just a scrap of paper, a newspaper which claims to be running for 10 years, that newspaper in the first page has flashed the news of certain allegations. That news is dt. 22nd March and it has remained uncontradicted up till now. I said this is the context. I did not say that I took all this as true. I said, that it was the context. That is to say the news have been published in a daily newspaper in the neighbouring State and that newspaper is a registered newspaper. I said that in the context of this, in the context of this publication, I have now certain informations in my possession. One information is that there is a Hindi Eilm name "Ankhe" It has been shown throughout the whole of India; but in no other State in India except Assam this "Ankhe" has been exempted amusement tax. Here there is only one solitary exception and that exception is the State of Assam.

It is the Finance Minister himself on his own who has granted this exemption. One Harisankar on behalf of "Ankhe," met the Finance Minister for this exemption. Let him deny. After the exemption was granted, Mr. Jhaluka, proprietor of the distributors' firm "Prabha Pictures" met the Minister in Calcutta in the Assam House. Let him deny.

Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tripathi : I do not know Jhaluka but Harisankar met me. This film was given the exemption. There is no such in a person meeting me.

Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya : It was Harisankar who is reported to be moving about saying give me Rs. 25000/- I will get any film in Assam exempted. Rs. 10,000/- before

the exemption is granted, and 15,000/- after the exemption is granted! I said money passed. I did not say that the Finance Minister himself took the money. It might be Harisankar who took the money. He might grab it himself. I do not know that. But the point is that for this exemption, some money passed. The State of Assam with 50 crores of Rupees deficit has become the solitary example to give exemption at the intervention of Mr. Harisankar, who said that our Ministers are corrupt and that the Minister himself gave Mr. Harisankar quarter in his residence. Mr. Jhaluka, proprietor who was the distributor of this film Anke met the Minister in the Assam House in Calcutta. So I say with full responsibility and with cent percent responsibility (aplause from the Opposition.) I said that the Minister enjoyed quietly a private show of "Humssaya" at "Dreamland" which is up till now an unlicensed Cinema House. Whatever that might be, that film Humsaya in that place that is called 'dream land' which has not yet been given the cinema licence.

Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tripathi: I have already in my speech indicated that I have seen those two one in the Anjuli which is a running cinema house. More so this show was attended by a large number of Hon. Members. This dreamland has not yet been opened. Therefore, there was no opening show. How can a Minister exempt a film without seeing that film? So I had to see it a assess.

Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya: What I said was that my allegations were with regard to the 3 films in the context of the uncontradicted newspaper report. What I said in 3rd of April was that a newspaper had published on 22nd of March in the context of this uncontradicted newspaper report of these 3 allegations appeared to be either unfortunate or character assassination.

I did not say that these are in true.

Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tripathi : When he gave the copy I was not present on that day.

Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya : I am not getting angry. What I said is that I gave a copy to the Speaker and the other copy to the Chief Minister. I did not say that what appeared in the newspaper are true. What I said was that in the context of the uncontradicted newspaper report of 22nd March the tax-exemption cases needed clarification.

Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tripathi : Newspaper of Calcutta we read. But the newspaper published from Agartala we have not read. I regret I did not get angry, Character assassination has become a vogue.

Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya : I care a fig for such character assassination.

Any man coming out of his mother's womb cannot say that Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya is a C. I. Agent. So far as I am concerned, I am an open book to the people of Assam. Whatever any scoundrel may say I care little for him. In my conscience I am clear. I have got cent percent confidence in the people of Assam. I wish that our Minister should have that type of courage.

That is why I took the earliest opportunity of bringing the matter to the House. I know that is a Politician's life while on the one hand there is a lot of halo, there is a lot of danger also. All allegations against the Politicians are not always true. Sometimes even small thing is magnified and sometimes even a big thing is overlooked and sometimes there are imaginary things which a politician has to face.



I brought these things in the context of the uncontradicted report in the context of what the daily newspaper "Ganaraj" has been circulating. To my own information, I know that 'Ankhen'—it may be a valuable film to some but not a valuable film to me—has got exemption in this State only; in no other State it has got exemption. As regards 'Humsaya', it was enjoyed by the Minister not in a regular Show House but in a newly built House which as yet has not got permission for exhibition of films, i.e., in Dreamland in Police Bazar. So far as 'Sadhu Aur Saitan' is concerned, I said that it was enjoyed not only by the Finance Minister but also by some Hon'ble Members of the House. They not only enjoyed the film but also were entertained with tea and snacks. I said so. I did not say a single word..... (interruption).

Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tripathi : The Hon' Member will remember that when he and I both went in 'Apsara' at Gauhati, we jointly shared snacks !

Shri Debeswar Sarma : On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. We have an agenda paper before us and by all Parliamentary convention, the agenda paper has a sanctity about it. Even the Speaker who has got very wide discretion has no right to waste time of the House by listening to such extraneous matter. I, therefore, beg of you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, to stop this. We are not here... (interruption).

Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya : A point of order can only be in interpretation of rule and Constitutional matter concerning the House. So, it is not a point of order.

Shri Debeswar Sarma : Sir, when submit with due reason, when the Speaker is addressed on a point of order it is on the height of impudence to say, it is no point of order.

Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya : When a Member speaks on a subject another Member addresses the Hon'ble Speaker on a point of order and has the impudence to say that this is an extraneous matter, I say, this is no point of order. An agenda paper cannot be a point of order.

Mr. Speaker : The rule is that there shall not be a debate...  
(interruption).

Shri Debeswar Sarmah : How can you charge and counter-charge..... (interruption).

Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya : What I said, Sir, that with regard ... .. (interruption).

Shri Debeswar Sarmah : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you also act under rules!

Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya : What I said, Sir, is that with regard to the question of exemption of certain licence fees it was discussed in the Apsara Cinema in my presence between the owner and the Minister and that I brought to the notice of the House because I for one do not want to conceal anything from the House and I wish that the Members either from this side of the House or that side of the House should also not conceal it. Somebody may think it is wastage of valuable time of the House because there are many people who do not want to clarify things in the open House but they move about whispering outside and creating cliques. I am not a man to create clique.

#### Statement by Minister, Forest Poaching of Rhinos in Dhing area

Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury (Minister, Forests)—Mr. Speaker, Sir, a few days back Shri Shamsul Huda wanted some information regarding killing of Rhinos in Dhing

area. I wanted notice because I could not give that information on that day.

On 27.2.69 an information was received that there was a wounded female rhino calf. The calf was collected, brought to the Zoo and had survived. This is now being sold as per order of the Government.

On 18.6.68 we got an information that there was a carcass of a rhino stranded on the bank after floating in the river Brahmaputra at Sealhari ghat. The horn was collected. On 11.3.69 we got report that one rhinoceros died as a result of fighting with another rhino and the horn was collected. This happened in the Laokhowa Reserve Forests. The above cases were not included to the answers against the Assembly questions vide the Conservator of Forests Development's letter No. U/O. FGD. 13/WL/AQ, dated 31st March, 1969 as these were not the poaching cases.

Besides the above cases, it has been gathered from the D.F.O. that on 28.3.69 one Shri Roy rang up the Divisional Forest Officer, Nowgong and informed him that there has been killing of rhinoceros around Dhing. The Assistant Conservator of Forests was sent immediately on 29.3.69 to Dhing area with Shri Roy. They went to a Chapari in Brahmaputra. This Chapari is outside the Laokhowa Reserve Forest and falls within the jurisdiction of Dhekiajuli police station. The Chapari is old and has been inhabited by some people. The A.C.F. has so far detected three carcasses. Two of the carcasses have been dug out from the earth and is about two months old. Another carcass was found on the ground which has been completely burnt and looked like about 2/3 months old. No horn has been detected so far. Therefore, It is also suspected that these cases were organised poachings. We

have also got a list of suspected persons and the whole matter has already been reported to the police. On 1.4.69 the C.I.D. and the police staff and the Forest staff had visited the area. The investigation is pending.

**Statement by Minister of State Transport  
Bus accident near Jorhat.**

Shri Prabin Kumar Choudhury, (Minister of State, Transport)—Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mr. Dulal Chandra Barua wanted to know about the accident that took place near Jorhat. I am giving the information.

On the night of the 3rd April, 1969 when an Excise raid party consisting of 6 Excise and 12 police personnel was proceeding in a hired Bus No. ASJ 9651 from Jorhat Police Reserve on the Assam Trunk Road. It had a head-on-collision with another bus No. ASJ 9311 which was coming from the opposite direction at about 2-30 a.m. near Bahatia, Panichkhousa, about eight miles West of Jorhat town. Bus No. ASJ 9311 was carrying 40 to 45 labourers of R.T.A. Company and was coming from Deopani.

The bus No. ASJ 9651 is owned by one Shri Manik Dutta of Titabar and bus No. ASJ 9311 belongs to one Shri Muktinath Kalwar of Bokakhat.

As a result of this unfortunate accident seven persons including the driver, handyman and one helper travelling in bus No. ASJ 9311 and one student named Penudhar Gogoi of Borhola High School travelling in bus No. ASJ 9651 died instantaneously and 63 persons received injuries. All the other inmates of bus No. ASJ 9651 received injuries. The names of the persons killed are:

- ( 1 ) Kora Kaira —labourer
- ( 2 ) Tali Nahak -do-
- ( 3 ) Bholaram Das -do-
- ( 4 ) Aik Pal -do-
- ( 5 ) Bhim Teli Driver
- ( 6 ) Bholan Bora Handyman
- ( 7 ) Kesak Doswali Conductor
- ( 8 ) Penudhar Gogoi—Student of class V  
of Borhola High School

On receipt of the information, D.I.G. of Police ( ER ) and the Deputy Commissioner of Jorhat rushed to the spot and arranged to remove all the injured persons to the Jorhat Civil Hospital for medical treatment. 4 persons including 3 policemen and 1 Excise staff were subsequently transferred to the Dibrugarh Medical College. The condition of one Police S.I. is reported to be serious. The Jorhat Police Station has taken up the investigation which is still in progress.

#### Statement by Minister, Health Cholera Epidemic in the State

Shri Chatra Sing Teron, ( Minister, Health )—Mr. Speaker, Sir, on last Thursday a question was raised regarding the Cholera epidemic situation in the State. I would like to apprise the hon. Members of the present situation. I have already made a statement regarding the cholera epidemic in the Sub—Divisions of Gauhati and Mangaldai on 25th March last.

In Gauhati Subdivision, the epidemic first started in Goreswar on 1st March, 1969. The infection spread along the river Boranadi in the areas of Ramsagar and Romari with five attacks and three deaths. Gradually it spread further to Bogulguri, Silkijan, Hajalpara and Goupsar villages in

Karara Block as well as to North Gauhati. Total casualties as reported up to 4th April, 1969 were 112 attacks and 40 deaths. Gauhati Medical College had deputed a team of doctors to cover Goreswar area and this team, in addition to our staff, had been working on giving cholera inoculations have been given in this area.

At Gauhati on 4th April, 1969, I discussed about preventive measures with the Principal, Gauhati Medical College, the Professor of Social and Preventive Medicines Department, Civil Surgeon, Kamrup, the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup and the Executive Officer, Gauhati Municipality. There is no case in Gauhati at present. But there were stray cases in the neighbouring rural areas. The Railway authorities are also looking after the immunization of Maligaon area. All precautionary steps have been taken and the required quantity of anti-cholera vaccines have been moved already. In addition, we have asked for five lakh doses of cholera vaccines from the Central Research Institute at Kasauli. The vaccines are likely to arrive Gauhati by air within this week.

So far as Mangaldai is concerned, it appears that infection spread along the river Boranadi and Nanoi. The affected villages are within these two rivers. The Anchalik Panchayats affected are (1) Khoirabari, (2) Kalaigaon and (3) Sipajhar and in these three Anchalik Panchayats 26 villages were affected. Apart from these areas, two wards of Tangla town-Ward No. 1 & 3-were affected. The total attacks in the whole of the Sub-Division as reported were 108 mortality being 54 up to 4.4.69 and I understand that up to that date and subsequently there has been no further attack. The total number of inoculations performed is 1,71,353 in these three Anchalik Panchayats area containing a population of about 3 lakhs. Here also the Gauhati Medical College sent a team of doctors and they gave ino-

culations along with other doctors of the Health Department. I have visited this area and so had the Additional Director of Health Services. Apart from obtaining vaccines from the Pasteur Institute, Shillong, the S.D.M & H.O., Mangaldai also has got sufficient stock from the Haffkins Institute, Bombay.

Regular exhortations are being relayed through the All India Radio indicating the 'Dos' and 'donts' Regarding prevention of cholera we have also asked the language papers to advertise these 'dos' and 'donts' in their papers. I would like to mention that we have done whatever is possible and the disease is very much under check. This is what I have to say:

Shri Hiralal Patwary—Sir, on a point of clarification. I express my thanks to the Minister, the S.D.M & H.O., Mangaldai who is very keen and sincere.....

Mr. Speaker—How this can be point of clarification?

Shri Hiralal Patwary—Yes Sir, I am coming to that. Sir, yesterday one lady has been attacked just in front of my house and it is spreading. I would request the Minister to keep this in his mind.

Mr. Speaker—This is not clarification. He has heard it and he will take note of it.

Shri Hiralal Patwary—Sir, I want to bring it to the notice of the Minister that cholera has spread due to supply of rotten attā and bad drinking. May I know from the Minister what action has been taken by the Government in this direction?

Mr. Speaker—This is not a point of clarification. I disallow it.

**Statement by Minister of State Education Payscale of the Selection Grade Post in Class II of Assam School Service.**

Mr. Speaker : Shri Syed Ahmed Ali will make a statement in connection with some question of yesterday.

Shri Syed Ahmed Ali : (Minister of State Education).

Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday I promised to give the House the reasons for revising the pay scales of Selection Grade Post in Class II of the Assam School Service.

The Pay Committee (1964) recommended revision of the scale of pay of the Graduate Teachers of the High School (Class II of the Assam School Service) from Rs.125 to Rs.500/-. The pay scale of the next promotion post i.e. Asstt. Headmaster was recommended at Rs.250 to Rs.700/-. There was a recommendation for "Selection Grade for teachers only" at Rs.500 to Rs.600/-.

The Govt. accepted the recommendation of the Pay Committee with modification. It is open to Government to make further modification as may be deemed necessary in course of implementation of the recommendation for which the approval of Legislature is not required. The reasons for revision of the scales were : As the minimum of the Selection Grade scale was fixed at Rs.500/- as against Rs.250/- of the promotion scale, prima facie it appears that if a senior teacher from the cadre of Assam School Service (Junior) Class II is promoted as Asstt. Headmaster he may get less than that of a junior in cadre, who, is taken to Selection Grade post from Rs.500-600/-. If that happens the position will be anomalous as teachers may be more willing to go to Selection Grade rather than promoted to the next higher cadre of Asstt. Headmasters Headmistress. In view of these facts, Govt. revised the scale of the Selection Grade from Rs.500-600 to Rs.400-600 on 23. 2.68. Accordingly, the D.P.I. issued the order.



Re : Second Oil Refinery for Assam.

Regarding revision of pay scales of Hindi Parangad teachers as asked by Shri Dulal Chandra Barua as to when the sanctions had been issued, it was sent to all the different Inspectors, on different dates. To the Inspector of Schools, G.D.C., Dhubri on 24.2.69; Inspector of Schools, K.D.C., Gauhati on 24.2.69 and 18.3.69; Inspector of Schools, N.D.C., Nowgong, on 20.2.69; Inspector of Schools D.D.C., Tezpur, on 19.3.69; Inspector of Schools, C.D.C. Silchar, on 25.3.69. Information has not been received as yet from Inspector of Schools, L.D.C., Dibrugarh, and Inspector of Schools, S.D.C., Jorhat. They are being reminded.

Shri Pramode Chandra Gogoi — মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, যোৰা  
২৪ মাৰ্চত এই বিধান সভাত দ্বিতীয় তেল শোধনাগাৰ সম্পৰ্কে এটা সৰ্বসন্মত  
প্ৰস্তাৱ গ্ৰহণ কৰাৰ পিচত যোৱা ২ এপ্ৰিলৰ বাতৰি কাগজত Expert কমিটিৰ  
Terms of reference ঘোষণা কৰিছে। ইয়াত লিখিছে

“A Committee of experts has been constituted to examine the feasibility of setting up another Oil Refinery in Assam. It is expected to report within three months. The Committee will investigate the economic feasibility of setting up a new refinery or expand the existing plant. This will be based on the quantity of crude oil available in Assam at present and in future meeting the requirements of the existing refineries and the demand for petroleum products available within the State of Assam”.

গতিকে কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰে Expert কমিটিত যি বিষয় অন্তৰ্ভুক্ত কৰিছে তাৰ  
পৰা এটা কথা পৰিষ্কাৰ হয় যে আমাৰ সদনত যিটো প্ৰস্তাৱ গ্ৰহণ কৰা হল  
সেইটো কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰে সম্পূৰ্ণৰূপে গ্ৰহণ কৰা নাই। সেই Expert কমিটিয়ে  
Economic feasibility পৰীক্ষা কৰি চাব যে অসমত দ্বিতীয় এটা শোধনাগাৰ  
দৰকাৰ নে বৰ্তমান থকাটোক সম্প্ৰসাৰণ কৰিলেই হব। ইতিমধ্যে কেন্দ্ৰীয়

চৰকাৰে এটা বিপৰ্ট তৈয়াৰ কৰিছে আৰু তাত আমি দেখিছো যে যি দুটা বিষয়ৰ ওপৰত নিৰ্ভৰ কৰি দ্বিতীয় তেল শোধনাগাৰ দাবী নাকচ কৰিছে তাৰ ওপৰতে বেচি গুৰুত্ব দিয়া হৈছে। সেই বিপৰ্ট ২০ চেপ্টেম্বৰত কেন্দ্ৰীয় মন্ত্ৰী শ্ৰীৰঘু বামায়াই আমাৰ উদ্যোগ মন্ত্ৰী শ্ৰীশৰ্মালৈ পঠায় লিখিছিল যে We had requested the India Institute of Petroleum to undertake a study on the economics of establishing an additional oil refining capacity in Assam. A summary of the report based on the above study is being forwarded to you. As you will see, this study also completely rules out the case for the second refinery in Assam.”

সেই বিপৰ্টত availability of crude oil সম্পৰ্কে কৈছে যে—Even to-day the production of refined product in Assam is Surplus to the requirement of the market area.

Demand সম্পৰ্কে ইয়াত কৈছে যে Production তকৈ demand কম। গতিকে যি terms of reference দি এই কমিটি কৰা হ'ল তাৰ লগত আমি এই সদনত সৰ্বসন্মতি ক্ৰমে গ্ৰহণ কৰা প্ৰস্তাৱৰ লগত সামঞ্জস্য নাই।

Mr. Speaker—Mr. Gogoi, you are expressing opinion. Your point was economic feasibility of a second refinery, more particularly about the Terms of reference of the Committee.

Shri Promode Gogoi—দ্বিতীয়তে Expert কমিটিৰ যিসকল সদস্যৰ নাম ঘোষণা কৰিছে তাত অসমৰ কোনো প্ৰতিনিধি নাই। ইতিমধ্যে কমিটিৰ ভালেকেইজন সদস্যই অসমৰ Case টো নাকচ কৰিছে। এই বিষয়ে চৰকাৰ পক্ষৰ কি দৃষ্টিভঙ্গি সেইটো সদনক জনোৱা উচিত। যিটো প্ৰতিনিধি দল কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰৰ ওচৰলৈ যাব তেওঁলোকে কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰক স্পষ্টকৈ জনায় দিয়া উচিত যে অসমৰ জনসাধাৰণৰ আৰু এই বিধান সভাই দ্বিতীয় তেল শোধনাগাৰহে বিছাৰে।

Shri Bishwadev Sarma—অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, ত্ৰীগগৈ ডাঙৰীয়াই যিটো প্ৰশ্ন উত্থাপন কৰিছে Expert কমিটি সম্পৰ্কে সেই বিষয়ে কও য়ে ভাৰত চৰকাৰে সেই বিষয়ে আমাক কোনো কথা জনোৱা নাই। কোনো কথা শোধাও নাই। আমাৰ চৰকাৰৰ মতামত সম্পৰ্কে যি গিটি লিখিছিলো তাত সকলো কথা পৰিষ্কাৰকৈ লিখা আছে।

Sir, this is the letter dated 4th April, 1969, to the Minister for Petroleum.

From Newspaper report on your statement in Parliament it appears that it has been decided to set up an Expert Committee to examine the question of a Second Public Sector Refinery in Assam. We are not aware as to what are the terms of reference of the Committee. The composition of the Committee has been announced in the Radio and we have seen Newspaper reports about the same, this morning. I would like to point out certain important considerations in that connection which need to be taken into account by the Government of India.

The feasibility and justification for increasing refining capacity in Assam based on crude indigenously produced has been the subject of discussion and negotiation between the State Government and the Ministry of Petroleum & Chemicals for a long time. The issue was examined in the Ministry at the highest level and certain views and conclusions thereon had been communicated to the State Government. The Ministry also obtained advice from technical organisation like the Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun whose detailed study on the subject has been furnished to the State Government. In consultation with the Ministry, the State Government also had the matter examined in detailed and a comprehensive study thereon was furnished to the Government of India. The Ministry had that study duly examined

and furnished certain comments thereon on which further clarifications were given from the side of the State Government.

It also appears that the Ministry in giving their opinions and conclusions in this matter had occasion to take into account some views from the ONGC and the Indian Oil Corporation.

The entire question in that background was considered by the State Assembly and an unanimous resolution adopted with a demand on the Government of India for an early decision on the issue. It may accordingly be appreciated that the State Govt. in the circumstances have to reiterate their request to the Govt. of India for an early decision on the subject. If the Govt. of India, even after such high level examination of the subject over a long period of time, still want to consult any Expert committee to be able to take a decision, we have hardly anything to say. But the State Govt. will expect the Government of India to take a decision as quickly as possible and communicate the same in view of the latest resolution taken in the State Assembly.

I am also to bring to your notice that the study furnished by the State Government raises certain important questions of policy like Crude Oil Pricing Formula, Royalty, Sales-tax on Crude etc. arising out of provisions in the Second Supplemental Agreement with Oil India Limited. These questions have an important bearing on the merit of the case for establishment of a Second Public Sector Refinery in Assam and unless decisions are taken on these questions of policy at the Government of India level, it would be difficult for any committee of Experts or otherwise to take any rational view or make any worthwhile recommendation on the subject and the very purpose of setting up any such Committee may, in fact, be defeated.

From the composition of the Expert Committee as reported in the Press it would also appear that it has representative from some organisations like the Indian Institute of Petroleum which had earlier examined this question and taken certain stand in the matter. To what extent a Committee with representatives of organisations already involved in the matter would be in a position to take a dispassionate or independent view at this stage might cause some misgivings.

I would, in the above circumstances, reiterate the urgency of a very early decision on the subject by the Government of India.

This is what we have written to the Government of India on this issue.

### No Confidence Motion

#### No - Confidence Motion against the Minister, Khadi & Village Industries

Mr. Speaker There are other matters which were allowed to be raised. But in to-day's Zero Hour, we have already spent a long time. So they will be taken up tomorrow.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua—Sir, there is a no-confidence motion. I am moving it. Under Rule 133 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Assam Legislative Assembly, we beg to move the following No-confidence motion against Shri Mahendra Nath Hazarika, Minister-in-charge of Khadi and Village Industries, for his activities in the capacity as a member of the Cabinet, which are detrimental to the interest of the State and the public in general, this Assembly expresses want of confidence in Shri Mahendra Nath Hazarika, Minister-in-charge

of Khadi and Village Industries, for his activities in the capacity as a member of the Cabinet. So, Sir, I request you to allow this motion to be taken up.

Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury—Sir, whether the requisite number of members support discussion of the motion?

Mr. Speaker—The provision of Rule 133 (2) says "If the Speaker is of opinion that the motion is in order he shall read the motion to the Assembly and shall request those members who are in favour of leave being granted to rise in their places and, if not less than one-tenth of the total number of members of the House rise accordingly, the Speaker shall intimate that leave is granted."

It is now moved that this Assembly expresses its want of confidence in Shri Mahendra Nath Hazarika, Minister-in-charge of Khadi and village Industries, for his activities in the capacity as a member of the Cabinet which is detrimental to the interest of the public in general and the scheduled castes in particular. Those who are in favour of admitting the motion, will please rise in their seats.

Leave is granted as more than one-tenth of the total members of the House support the motion. The motion is admitted. Now what will be the convenient date?

Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury—The convention is that the Speaker shall in consultation with the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition fix the date for discussion of the motion. In that case, the announcement of the date for discussion of the motion may be made after consulting the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Speaker—'I shall announce the date in the afternoon.'

Re, Kidnapping of a man on hunger-strike.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua—Sir, with your permission, I want to have the information from you. That is with regard to that man who resorted to hunger-strike who has been kidnapped. We want to know the details of his whereabouts. Sir, it is up to you to take action against the person concerned. But this Government has no right to kidnap a man like a thief. I want to know in what way, this Government can do such a thing—this Government is acting like dacoits and thieves. We want to know definitely under what circumstances, without your knowledge, that this Government is using police force and kidnapping this man from this House.

Shri Promode Chandra Gogoi—অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, কালি বিধান সভাৰ সদস্যৰ সন্মুখত এজন মানুহে ধৰ্মঘট কৰিছিল। এই বিষয়টো সদনত উত্থাপন কৰা হৈছিল। জাজি শুনিবলৈ পাইছো যে, যোৱা বাতি সেই মানুহজনে অনশন কৰি ধৰ্মঘট কৰি থকা অৱস্থাতে এই বিধান সভাৰ কম্পাউণ্ডৰ ভিতৰত থকা অৱস্থাতে তেওঁক পুলিচে গ্ৰেপ্তাৰ কৰিলে। নীতিৰ ফালৰ পৰা চালে দেখা যায় যে, এই বিধানসভাৰ কম্পাউণ্ডৰ ভিতৰত যি কোনো মানুহক পুলিচে গ্ৰেপ্তাৰ কৰিব লগা হয় সেই ক্ষেত্ৰত পুলিচে অধ্যক্ষ ডাঙৰীয়াৰ অনুমতি লব লাগিব। অধ্যক্ষ ডাঙৰীয়াৰ বিনা অনুমতিত পুলিচে কোনো ক্ষেত্ৰত হস্তক্ষেপ কৰাৰ অধিকাৰ নাই। এতিয়া কথা হ'ল এই মানুহজনক বাতি পুলিচে গ্ৰেপ্তাৰ কৰিবলৈ অধ্যক্ষ ডাঙৰীয়াৰ অনুমতি লৈছেনে নাই। যদি তেনে অনুমতি নোলোৱাকৈ পুলিচে মানুহ জনক গ্ৰেপ্তাৰ কৰিছে তেতিয়াহলে পুলিচ সকলৰ ওপৰত Breach of privilege Motion আনিব লাগিব। আৰু এই সকলোবিলাক কথা সদনত আলোচনা কৰিব লাগিব। গতিকে আমি জানিবলৈ বিচাৰো যে সেইক্ষেত্ৰত পুলিচে অধ্যক্ষ ডাঙৰীয়াৰ পূৰ্ব অনুমতি লৈছেনে নাই?

Shri Kamini Mohan Sarma :—মহোদয়, যোৱা কালি এজন মানুহে আমাৰ সভাকক্ষৰ সন্মুখতে বহি অনশন ধৰ্মঘট কৰিছিল। আৰু তেওঁ ধৰ্মঘট

কৰাৰ আগতে অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়ৰ পৰা যথাৰীতি অনুমতিও লৈছিল। এতিয়া শুনিছোঁ যোৱা বাতি সেই ধৰ্মঘট কৰাশোক জনৰ ওপৰত পুলিচে অত্যাচাৰ কৰি গ্ৰেপ্তাৰ কৰিছে। আমি এতিয়া কব নোৱাৰোঁ যে পুলিচে সেই মানুহ জনৰ ওপৰত অত্যাচাৰ জ্বলুৱ কৰিলে আৰু এই মানুহ জনক কলৈ নিলে।

আমি জানিব খুজিছোঁ যে সেই মানুহজন এতিয়া জীৱিত আছে নে নাই? যদি সেই মানুহ জনক পুলিচে অত্যাচাৰ কৰি মাৰি পেলায়, তেন্তে ইয়াৰ বাবে কোন দায়ী হ'ব। গতিকে মানুহজন জীৱিত অৱস্থাত আছে নে নাই আমাক জনাব লাগে।

Mr. Speaker :—যি জন মানুহ ইয়াত অনশন কৰি আছিল, সেইজন মানুহ ঠাণ্ডাত শুই আছিল আৰু তেওঁ সেই জেগাত মৰিব পাৰে বুলি মোক যেতিয়া খবৰ দিয়া হল, তেতিয়া সেই মানুহ জনক Proper custody ৰ কাৰণে মই চেক্ৰেটৰীক Allow কৰিছিলো।

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua :—আপুনি কি বুলি Allow কৰিছিল? এই বাতি মানুহজনক গ্ৰেপ্তাৰ কৰিবলৈ অনুমতি দিছিল নেকি? আৰু মানুহ জনক বাতি আপুনি নিয়াইছে নে চৰকাৰে নিয়াইছে? আৰু ইয়াৰ পৰা তেওঁক বাতি কিয় নিবলগীয়া হল? ঠাণ্ডাৰ প্ৰশ্ন মুঠে। কথা হৈছে মানুহ জনক কি কাৰণত ইয়াৰ পৰা নিব লগীয়া হল?

Shri Giasuddin Ahmed : Sir, our information is that this gentleman has been arrested by the police. Sir, Rules 180 and 181 are very clear on this point. Rule 180 says "No arrest shall he made within the precincts of the House without obtaining the permission of the speaker. Therefore we want to know whether you have given permission for arresting this gentleman?"

Mr. Speaker :—তেওঁৰ Safety আৰু নিৰাপত্তাৰ নিমিত্তে মোক চেক্ৰেটৰীয়ে যেতিয়া জনালে তেতিয়া মই Proper custody ৰ কাৰণে পুলিচক নিবলৈ Allow কৰিছোঁ।



Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury (Minister Parliamentary Affairs) — কোনোবা এজন মানুহ Assembly শেষ হোৱাৰ পিচত তেখেত যদি সদস্য নহয় আৰু কৰ্মচাৰীও নহয় সদনৰ কম্পাউণ্ডত থাকিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰে তেনেহলে সেইটো তেখেতৰ অনধিকাৰ প্ৰবেশ হ'ব আৰু এই অনধিকাৰ প্ৰবেশৰ কাৰণে অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়ে যি কোনো ব্যৱস্থা লোৱাৰ অধিকাৰ আছে।

Shri Gauri Sankar Bhattacharyya:—অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়ৰ অধিকাৰ সম্বন্ধে একো প্ৰশ্ন নহয়। কথাটো হৈছে ১৮০ নং নিয়ম সম্পৰ্কে। ইয়াত আছে—  
No arrest shall be made within the precincts of the House without obtaining the permission of the Speaker.

Shri Mahendra Mohan Choudhury:—The Speaker moved the authority to take him away.

Shri Gauri Sanker Bhattachayya:—এতিয়া অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়ে যদি তেওঁক দাঙি নি কববাত ৰাখে, তেন্তে কথাটো এক প্ৰকাৰৰ; কিন্তু অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়ৰ অনুমতি নোহোৱাকৈ Arrest কৰাটো অন্য কথা। মাননীয় সদস্যই কৈছে যে সেই মানুহ জনক নিৰাপত্তাৰ কাৰণে ৰখা নাই আটক কৰিহে ৰাখিছে। দ্বিতীয়তে তেওঁৰ ব্যক্তিগত স্বাধীনতা হৰণ কৰিছে। পুলিচে তেওঁক Arrest কৰিছে আপোনাৰ custody ৰ পৰা আৰু সেইমতে আপোনাৰ পৰা Arrest কৰিবলৈ Permission লৈছে নে নাই? যদি Permission লৈছে, তেতিয়াহলে কোনো কথা নাই।

Mr. Speaker:—তেওঁৰ যিটো অৱস্থা হৈছে When there was no person in this House and he was lying there, not in day time but at night, I was informed about this by the Secretary and there I asked to take him into custody. I have asked the police to remove him from Assembly precincts

Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya:—Arrest কৰিবলৈ Permission দিছিল নেকি? আপুনি Arrest কৰিবলৈ order দিয়া নাই। দাঙি লৈ যাবলৈছে order দিছিল।

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua :—Unless you give orders, no arrest can be made. Our information is that this man has been arrested by the police but you only asked the police to remove him.

Mr. Speaker :—The Police look necessary steps to remove him.

Shri, Shamsul Huda:—অধাক্ষ মহোদয় পুলিচে Necessary Step লবলৈ গৈ Arrest কৰিব লগা হলে প্ৰথমে Primafaci case কাগজে পত্ৰেই দাখিল কৰিব লাগে আৰু তেতিয়াহে Arrest কৰিব পাৰে।

Mr. Speaker :—I asked the Police to take necessary steps which may include arrest and other thing.

#### Re : Callings Attention Notice.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua : I have been authorised by the Member Concerned. As there is no specific rule on this, you may allow me to move it.

Mr. Speaker : In calling attention there is no provision for authorising another Member. Only in questions and resolutions a Member can authorise another to put.

#### The Assam Shops and Establishments (Amendment) Bill 1969

Shri Govinda Kalita : Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Assam Shops and Establishments (Amendment) Bill, 1969.

Mr. Speaker : The question is that leave be granted to introduce the Assam Shops and Establishments (Amendment) Bill, 1969.

(The leave was granted)

Shri Govinda Kalita : I introduce the Bill.

Mr. Speaker : The leave is granted to introduce the Bill and the Bill is introduced.

Secretary, A.L.A. read out the title of the Bill)

Motion - Discussion on the Annual financial Statement of the Assam State Electricity Board for 1969-70.

Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya : Sir, the Annual Financial Statement for the year 1969-70 of the Assam State Electricity Board has been presented to this House and has been circulated for consideration of this House. Sir, the other day, I drew the attention of the House to page 2, last but one paragraph, "The Revenue Receipt and Expenditure,"—"The estimated revenue receipts and expenditure during the year 1969-70 is..... such and such. Next paragraph — 'The revenue receipts for 1969-70 take into account an overall average increase in tariff of about 10 % effective from 1st May, 1969. The rates presently in force were brought into effect from 1st April, 1965. During these four years, there has been substantial increase in unit cost of operation. Due to devaluation and other reasons, the cost of stores and services, repair and renewals has gone up; the material change in the formula for depreciation effected in by amendment of the Act, has raised the average rate of depreciation by about 1 % on the capital base. The retrospective revision of pay scales, increase in dearness allowance' grant of bonus etc. have increased the cost of operational establishment. In view of this, this Board apprehended that the tariff would be increased by 10 %.

Now, even today, during the current year, as the honourable member Shri Sarma has brought to the notice of

the House, the State Electricity Board has already taken more than Sixty-four Crores of rupees from the Government and for that money taken by the Board from the Government, Government and some other people of Assam, are entitled to get more than one lakh six thousand and odd of rupees per day as interest of the loan. Now, the Government in its manifestation of benevolence granted of moratorium over the interest which is payable and is due by the Board. This the Government has done in view of the fact that the State Electricity Board would be serving as an incentive to industries. The first and foremost that was expected was that it would help the growth of development of industry, particularly, small scale industry and cottage industry run by on electricity. But, Sir, its entire performance cuts at the very root of this expectation. It is a common knowledge that the industrial development of Assam is very poor in comparison with the other States of India. We are lagging far behind. Except mineral and forest materials we have no raw materials available here. With regard to minerals, as has been discussed and is being discussed, the Government of India is not doing justice which is due to us. Government of India has not as yet decided in favour of the State for setting up of the Second Oil Refinery in the public sector. Government of India has not as yet given the green signal for starting the Cement Factory, at Bokajan. Government of India has not as yet given the requisite licence to the Government or Government agents for starting the Petro-Chemical Complex Industry in Assam. Government of India has not as yet taken necessary steps for installation of a large scale Paper Pulp Mills or other Forest-based industries in the State. In view of this, we have at our own initiative should give special emphasis on the development of small-scale industries, cottage industries, and agro-based industries. This we can do only if there is cheap power. Now, as you know, Sir, there are several kinds of power. Apart from the atomic energy which

is yet in yet in dreamland so far as Assam is concerned. There may be electric power by hydraulic method or by thermal project or by diesel sets. We were told on the floor of this House on behalf of the Government that Government took to the path of utilising all the hydraulic resources of this State, because though the initial cost would be rather a little high, the running expenses would be almost normal. Once capital investment is there, there will be very small number of staff and therefore, subsequently, the running expenses will be so small that it would be very profitable. Some 6 or 7 years back, we did discuss this aspect of the matter on the floor of this House and a team of this House also visited Barapani. At Barapani there was a conference. Legislators, Engineers and financial experts of the Government and also of the State Electricity Board were present. I remember it distinctly that in the meeting which was presided over by the Finance Minister Shri K.P. Tripathy and Shri Kapur, the then Chairman of the Board depicted a rosy picture before us. He promised that within three years, the State Electricity would be self-sufficient and within five years it would be given profit.

Far from giving profit it is not yet in a position even to pay the interest for that loans advanced by the Government from the money which is collected from the poor tax payers of the State. The result is that the over-head expenditure of this Board is ridiculously high. Now, Sir, for the reasons best known to the Government a highly paid civilian, a war recruit has been placed at the head of this Board. He has been all these years the Chairman of the Board. We had objected to his being so appointed. Because we felt that this gentleman inspite of his amiability is not a technical person had no experience in the commercial work and even as an administrator his experience was limited. At that time, however, the then Minister in-charge of Electricity repudiated our criticism and said that such a man has been

brought to head this organisation who is almost a God's been to the state of Assam, and whose name will be written in letters of gold. I do not know whether in the head office of the State Electricity Board, the name of that officer has already been written in gold, whether his name plate is one of gold. But I know atleast this much - that he rides a car, a foreign car whose original price would be more than a lakh of rupees, which was purchased even when secondhand between 60,000 to 70,000 rupees. Now it is a peculiarity in the Board that the employer is the employee, the employee is the supervisor. The Board so to say is the 'Trimurth'. It is said that God in the form of Brahma creates, in the form of Bishnu protects and in the form of Siva destroys. So this State Electricity Board has become a Trimurti. And, the people of the State are purchasing power at the highest rate in India. Those people who are sitting at the top they are having a lazy, slow going type of luxurious and luxuriant life. Where probably 25 lakhs of rupees ought to have been suffice they are spending 2½ crores. There was absolutely no necessity of so many highly paid officers at the top. Because after all so far as the Barapani project is concerned that is no longer a project - that has already become an accomplished fact. So, at the beginning when there was legitimate criticism against this extraordinarily top heavy administration of the ASEB we were told that we need not mind, keep such a top heavy administration for the time being. It was admitted that for the time being the administration is top heavy. But we should not mind it because after all there is going a brain drain in India. These big people, big engineers they will probably go to America where these people are much in demand and in America there is no valuable types of technicians, engineers, they are almost having a famine of technicians as we are having in the top level of Electricity Board. Even though they get no work let them be getting flat salaries because Kopili is coming up. We were promised and the then

Electricity Minister started a speech in rhetoric and prosody and hyperbole language and we saw Kopili dancing in front of our eyes. Now I find Kopili is not dancing girl it is only a skeleton of a deadbody. It is dead for our purpose. On this and that plea the Central Government is tuning up Kopili. So what was the good of keeping this admitted unnecessary top heavy highly paid salaried officers for at least half a decade if that Kopili was not to come up. Then we were told, not only Kopili, after all dancing girl requires some musician and that musician was presented in the name of Nangalbibra. Now Nangalbibra has become a 'Nangal Bibhrat' and colossal loss has been incurred there. Nothing has come up. This plea is offered, that reason is given, that explanation is submitted—all these may be given. But the fact remain that this Nangal-bibhra which was painted in gold which was painted in delicious colour that Nangalbibhra upto now has proved to be only a mirage for us. Some weeks back the then expert of their dreamland came, some of us we have occasion to have a discussion with him and he said it is astounding that hydro-electric concern like Barapani could have no many engineers. In our Canada, America and in the western European countries only a few individual technician would be sufficient. So many engineers are not necessary. After the project is completed the job of technician becomes also less. Here and there sometimes occasionally services of some engineers may be necessary when the engine shows some fault and the requires some repairs. But such a galaxy of engineers that is not in thought of any western country.

Mr. Speaker : Mr. Bhattachayya, how long will you take ?

Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya : Sir, I shall take some more time.

Mr. Speaker : Then you continue after lunch.

**Adjournment**

The House than adjourned for Lunch till 2 p.m.

(After lunch)

**Re: Time for discussion on the No-confidence Motion against the Minister, kheti & village Industries.**

Mr. Speaker: In consultation with the Leader of the House and the leader of the U.L.F., Shri G.S. Bhattacharyya, and the Mover of the No-confidence Motion, Shri D.C. Barua, I fix tomorrow, April 9, 1969, for the discussion of the No-confidence Motion after Question Hour. Three Hours' time is allotted for discussion of the Motion. Thereafter the Minister or Ministers will reply. I hope this has the approval of the House?

(The House agreed)

**Motion - Discussion on the Annual financial Statement of the Assam State Electricity Board for 1969-70.**

Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya: Sir, I was speaking of the Garo Hills Thermal Project which is more popularly known Nangalbibra Project. Sir, here it will be seen that the Company with which the State Electricity Board had entered into an agreement it let the Board down but instead of moving against the Company the Board decided to spend huge sums of money in sending its Chairman, Shri Kapur twice to Delhi to make consultation with the Hungarian experts. In this connection, the Estimates Committee of this House had examined the matter and had come to some findings and had given some recommendations. Unfortunately, however, the Board did not care even to go into the findings of the Estimates Committee of this House and its recommendations. Sir, among other



things, the Committee found that the "Deed of contract was executed between the Board and M/S. Roy and Sons, the agent of the Hungarian firm which was the supplier of major equipments". Now, by the way, this M/S. Roy & Sons is a very interesting firm. The go-sip is going round that our Chairman of the Board has very intimate connections with this Company. Be that as it may, with that peculiar type of Company the Board had entered into an argeement on the 1st of October, 1963. This contract was entered upon for the transportation, erection and commission of machinery and this was to be done within the stipulated time but it had failed to do it. "According to the Board, the heavy machinery could not be transported to the site owing to incompleion of the road which ultimately caused the Board to incur extra expenditure"; but the Estimates Committee of the House was not convinced with the explanation given by the Board. On the contrary, the Committee found that" the Contractor, M/S. Roy & Sons were aware of the then existing road condition while entering into the agreement and it was nowhere there in the agreement that the fulfilment of the Company's part of the contract was dependent on the improvement or strengthening of the road". So, knowing fully well what the road condition was, the Company which was a favourite of the Chairman of the Board had entered into this agreement. Therefore, in fairness it does not lie with the Company or its patron the Chairman of the Board thereafter to say that because of the road condition this transportation was not possible. If really there was such difficulty, there ought to have been a clause in the agreement itself. Now, the Committee found that the Contractor, M/S. Roy & Sons were aware of the then existing road condition while entering into the agreement and accordingly the contractor was required to perform the contract according to the terms and condition of the contract. Now,

what was there in the contract? For the benefit of the House this I shall read. It reads as follows: "Contractors hereby confirm that they are aware of the local site conditions, state of roads and other factors involved in the performance of the above services. The contractors will, therefore, claim no extra charge on account of these factors which may include temporary diversion for want of bridges as and where necessary and transport the equipments". This is within quotation. This is an extract from the deed of contract entered into by the Board and the Company. Even inspite of this the Chairman of the Board or under his influence the Board gives a good conduct certificate to this defaulting company and explains away the inability of transportation by pointing to the bad condition of the roads and the Chairman takes costly trips to Delhi. Now, the Estimates Committee found as follows: "The Committee does not see any reason as to why the Board could not enforce the terms of the agreement for making accelerated transportation, erection etc. of the major equipments. The Board was indulging upon long and endless correspondence with the P.W.D. instead of compelling the supplier to perform the contract according to its terms. On the other hand, the Board incurred avoidable expenditure to the tune of 2.1 lakhs for improvement and maintenance of the existing forest and P.W.D. roads for transportation of the major equipments". The Board was pleased to show this expenditure as intangible effects.

The Board says these are their intangible assets. "This avoidable expenditure increased the cost of the project, raising the cost of generation. Every farthing spent by the Board is borrowed amount bearing 5% interest and thereby increasing the total liability of the Board". This is the finding of the Estimates Committee of the House.

Now, with regard to the major equipments also this Company, i.e., Rai & Sons was also responsible, according to the agreement, to erect the machinery and to finally commission the project under the supervision of the Hungarian Experts. Messrs. Rai & Sons are the agents of the Hungarian firm, who supplied machinery to the Board. A dispute arose between the Hungarian firm and their Indian agents, Messrs. Rai & Sons. The dispute was due to devaluation of the rupee. The representative of the Board said "From our side we have paid the Indian agent the full amount but he has not paid to the manufacturer before devaluation of the Indian money. From our side we are pressing the Indian agent to put the machine into commission. The Indian agent is also willing to do it, but in that case Hungarian experts would not be available for supervision of the erection. As per terms of the agreement erection is to be done under the supervision of the Hungarian experts. Although there is no immediate chance of developing full load, we are anxious to see that erection is complete". So, Sir, the money was paid to the Company before devaluation, but the Company locked that money somewhere or invested it for other profitable purpose. Because that Company failed to settle accounts with their principle, the Hungarian firm, the Electricity Board now comes to say that because of the rising cost due to devaluation we have to tax the consumers by 10%. If anybody ought to have been penalised, it was the firm, Messrs. Rai & Sons. Instead of that the Board has come out with a proposal to tax the people of Assam and the small industrialists by 10% more by giving false excuses. Sir, whatever that may be, the international precedent is that in the matter of tariff, it is the legislature which fixes the tariff by legislation. Therefore, in this case, the Government under no circumstances should allow this Board to increase the tariff. Already the Government is

paying this white elephant, from the pockets of the poor tax-payers, every day Rs.1.60, 00/- in the shape of moratorium on interest alone. This Board does not deserve any more consideration of this type.

Sir, in regard to the major equipments, it may be seen that there was a penalty clause also and the Board is not taking resort to that. Of course, they are imposing penalty on somebody but that somebody is not Messrs. Rai & Sons, the minion company of Mr. Kapur. I am quoting again: "If for any reason the civil works is not completed on the scheduled date, the commissioning time will be extended by the same time as taken by the civil works beyond December, 1964. For delay in completion of work (this is underlined) within the stipulated date of erection, the contractor will have to pay Rs.1,000 per day for each day of default. The time for completion of erection is 28 months after receipt of all equipments at foreign port subject to forced majeure". Now, the Board has not used this penalty clause against the defaulting Company. The report goes on "the major equipment have not yet been formally handed over to the Board, which would be done at the final stage of erection and commission according to the contract and the actual damage, if there be any, is not known to the Board till that period. The equipments are now under the custody of the Agent" (i.e., Messrs Rai & Sons). Sir, furthermore the Committee finds and observes that "the whole matter of erection was unnecessarily delayed by the Board by not enforcing the contract according to its terms, Much of the extra expenditure and other complications and liabilities could have been safely avoided by the Board, had there been timely action to enforce the contract on the other party". In view of these findings, the Committee recommended "that the lapses on the part of the Board for not enforcing penal clauses of the contract entered into by

the Board with the contractor company, dated 1st October, 1963, should be enquired into by the Government and pinpoint the responsibility on the officer/officers concerned for such serious lapses". I do not know whether Government has made any enquiry and whether the defaulting officer/officers of the Board have been punished. The Committee continues "The Board should immediately proceed against the contractor company for taking legal steps as may be necessary to enforce the terms of the contract". As I have already said, this is a minion company and therefore, the Board did not naturally proceed in that line.

Shri Biswadev Sarng : May I know from which report the hon. member is reading ?

Shri Gauri Sanker Bhattacharyya : I am reading from the Estimates Committee's Report for 1967-68. This report was presented to the Assembly on 30th March 1968.

Sir, let me now point out a few instances of wastage by this extravagant Board of public money in Umiam Hydel Project also. You will see, Sir, that the original estimate of Umiam Hydel Project under Civil and Electrical Works was for a total amount of Rs. 705.98 lakhs. Now, the first revised estimate raised it to Rs. 916.84 lakhs.

Then by the second revised estimate it was raised to 1413.03 lakhs : from 7.50 lakhs to 1413.03 that is more than double and when the Estimate Committee asked whether that was the final word, on behalf of the Board they said "we cannot say". Let me read the relevant portion. It is "The Committee is also not aware of the ultimate cost incurred by the Board on the commission of the Project. When the representative of the Board was asked as to whether the project was completed within the final estimate of Rs. 14 crores he stated in reply—that is a point on which I like to

submit that it is very difficult to say 'yes' because there are certain transactions which are to take place which are not in record in the accounts. We have got suspense accounts which are not adjusted. All these accounts show the expenditure incurred from time to time on individual works comprised in the project. Unfortunately because of all these, a clear picture is not available. Not available to the Board itself! A Board which is undertaking a project has already spent 14 crores of rupees and to the Estimate Committee it says very frankly that a 'clear picture is not available' to them. This is a very efficient Board and the name of the Chairman of the Board will be written in golden letters! Sir, the Committee, therefore, came to the finding from the foregoing paragraphs, it will be evident that the final revised estimates have increased over 100 percent for the original estimate, a matter which ought to have deserved serious consideration of the Board. That is what the Committee had to say about the Board. Then what was the final result? I need not go into the details; I am confining to the summary. "On a casual glance of the statement I relating to Umiam project it would appear that at the end of 1968-69, they will have a deficit of Rs.60,000. The Board on the assumption that full installed generating capacity would be deemed as utilised, has anticipated an annual revenue of Rs 115 lakhs from the year 1969-70 which would amount to a surprising rise by Rs. 98 lakhs over the revenue of 1968-69. The Board on the above assumption is expecting to earn an annual surplus of Rs.16.40 lakhs from the year 1969-70 which will neutralise the cumulative deficit by 1973-74 and will give a surplus of Rs.6.60 lakhs in that year. The calculation in the statement has been made showing the financial results" are all false and I will show it how. This statement was made before the Estimate Committee to mislead it. But even then the Committee found 'from

the above it appears that the rate of Rs. 16.40 lakhs of annual net surplus assuming from the year 1973-74, the neutralisation of the total generating cost of 11.60 lakhs will take about 70 years\* Even if the Board had taken up this work it will take long 70 years to neutralise the capital investment, not to speak of giving any profit. The Committee goes on saying "the transmission cost involved is about three crores of rupees and if the same is included into this cost it will take some more years even to neutralise the capital investment. So far as the Ujjain Stage I is concerned it appears from the Statement I that the Board is required to pay an interest on Government loan at 5% which amounts to Rs. 58 lakhs annually and depreciations to be provided at 2½% stands at Rs. 29 lakhs annually. The financial result shown in the statement is based on assumption of revenue and also on availability water for production of power. At neutralisation stage, the revenue is assumed to rise from Rs. 122.40 lakhs to Rs. 265.80 lakhs, i. e., more than double which is a matter of doubtful achievement". The Committee has been very cautious in its observation. But even then it says that the claim is rather pre-posterous. Why? Because the result up till now is very depressing. As I said in the beginning of my speech it was said in 1958-59 that within 3 years the Board would be self sufficient and at the close of 5 years it will be profitgiving. Now in that very year in which the pompus declaration was made by the Chairman of the Board the total cumulative loss was Rs. 14 lakhs. Next year it rose to 31 lakhs. Still next 55 lakhs and there after 105 lakhs, then 1902 lakhs and odd, then 334 lakhs, then 529 lakhs, then 780 lakhs, then 1106 lakhs, then 1478 lakhs, that is near about 15 crores of rupees, of annual total cumulative loss in 1967 - 68. I do not find any adjective for this gentleman, the Chairman of the Board. This gentleman when he made his pompus announcement

in 1958-59 when he was giving a loss of 14 lakhs that after 5 years he would be giving profit. Now after ten years the loss has gone beyond 14 crores. Hundred time higher and we are told that this Government proposed to write the name of the Chairman in letters of gold. Because in the country of the blinds, in order to live there one must be blind and if any one with good eyes goes there his eyes will be pierced and spoiled. So it is only natural that the name of the person will be written in letter of gold or platinum who can raise the loss at the cost of the common people hundred times within a span of one decade. That is the position.

Sir, the Estimates Committee, therefore, found among other things that interest payable on loans on total cumulative loans to the tune of Rs. 14.78 crores has been arrived at by the Board in 1967-68. The above financial result shows that the Board after 10 years of its functioning has been running at a loss, a matter which deserves serious attention of the Government. Besides, the Board has been indulging on borrowing from the open market, viz, life Insurance Corporation of India, at a high rate of interest for financing their schemes and our country has been mortgaged for it. So that these people may rule in luxury the common people of Assam have been mortgaged; the State has to stand surety for the loans taken by this Board. In 1967-68 the Board borrowed a sum of Rs. 3 crores from the open market at a high rate of interest whereas the net loss for the same year comes to Rs. 3.27 crores. The representative of the Board stated in evidence that earning of profit by the Board would take sometime, and a few new schemes have since been taken up by the Board to overcome the present position. The taking up of the new schemes has increased the loans already incurred and be incurred. Further more certain very important aspects of the matter have not been taken into consideration, for example, while they



promise at present that after 70 years they will be giving profits they have forgotten that the life of the plants is only 25 years. So before these plants could be utilised for any profit these plants will outlive their utility. The Committee also apprehended whether the project would be commissioned in 1969-70 as stated by the representative of the Board due to the present deadlock. Therefore, the time element plays an important role in execution of such projects; if completion of projects takes longer time the capital invested in the project lies idle for a long period as has been lying in Nangabihra without any return. Moreover, in a country like ours where economic development is going on a major scale with the help of borrowing from foreign countries, the question of interest comes up with stagnation of capital so invested. The net result is that after completion of the project it would be found that the cost of production of generation of power goes up which produces a dis-incentive for the industrialists to use power that cost them more for developing their industries. Already there is a dis-incentive. Now, this Board proposes to make it all the more dis-incentive by raising the tariff by 10 percent. The Estimates Committee feels much about it because after all this committee is representative of this House and this House is representative of the people, but those who are responsible to nobody why should they bother. With regard to formation of the consultative Council the Committee observes "that the provisions showing sources from which members of the Consultative Council should be drawn has not been properly followed in constituting the State Electricity consultative Council. The Government should consult experts of various interests shown in the act and make selection of appropriate persons representing each interest and reconstitute the council properly as envisaged in the Act."

It is also now known as to whether the State Consul-

tative Council has ever properly reviewed the progress and work of the Board which is required to be done from time to time according to Section 16(5)(ii) of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948."

The Committee also wanted to know from the representative of the Board the circumstances under which the Government could not prescribe in the rules the terms of office and re-appointment of members of the Board as envisaged in the Act. I hope the Minister will kindly take note because taking advantage of the absence of such a rule some part time persons who are officers of the permanent cadre are sitting there as members of the board. They have got many duties to form, and they are only nominal members of the Board the real Board is Mr. Kapur and his subordinate officers. The others of the Government like the Finance Secretary and others because they have got thousand and one other works and birds of weather they did not hold the secretaryship for a long time, often they change, and, therefore, they are nominal members of the Board not real. Further what do they know of Electricity which is a technical subject. It is as good as my or Shri Barua sitting in the Board. They have neither the capacity to understand the things nor have the training to appreciate nor have they the time to devote energy left after doing their official business to concentrate in the work as members of the Board. The result is that this Board though there may be several names in the Board only a few persons under Kapur function as the Board. The Committee recommended that "Non-official members of the Board should represent the agricultural interest and Industrial interest. Selection of non-official members should be cautiously made so that these two representatives can truly represent the interest to which they belong. But that arrangement has not been made upto now. The

Committee wanted to know from the representative of the Department the circumstances under which the Government could not prescribe in the rules the terms of office and re-appointment<sup>1</sup> of members of the Board as envisaged in the Act. The representative of the Board stated that no need was felt by Government to make rigid provision in the rules as in that case Government would not have been able to act in a certain way. The representative was also of the view that even now Government have considerable scope to exercise its powers in this respect as the Board was to be re-constituted every year when the undesirable persons could be dropped. The Board's representative, it appears, feels and appreciates that there are undesirable elements in the Board. If there are undesirable elements it is only meet and proper that the Government should find out who these undesirable persons are and they should be removed as quickly as possible.

Now, in view of all this, the Estimates Committee came to the following conclusion: An important point which engaged the attention of the Committee during the course of examination was the future of the Assam State Electricity Board. Sir, it is really very unfortunate and pathetic that the Estimates Committee of this House should come to such a position when it found that the future of the Assam State Electricity Board, if it continues in the present way, is bleak. The Board has been burdened with a heavy loan and interest for installation of power projects in different parts of the State. The present load in Assam cannot pull the maximum power from the various projects, on the other hand, there is persistent cry for industrialisation of Assam in which case the load may rise to a great extent immediately. Again, the construction costs of the projects being on high order, it is doubtful as to whether the Board would be able to be free from liabilities from the power plants becoming

completely depreciated. The meagre revenue also is not collected in time by the Board. Sir, I shall presently show what is the amount of arrear. Over and above this, the establishment costs of the Board being on the high side, it is doubtful as to whether these projects would be at all remunerative in the long run. So far as the Umiam Hydel project, Stage I, is concerned, the Committee is convinced that the project was installed in a very high cost — extraordinarily high cost — and there was scope for reducing the constructional costs. The Umiam project report envisaged a return of 7.06 percent from the year of its commissioning which has been belied. Had not this project been integrated with Umtru and Nafangi, it is doubtful as to whether the project is at all functioning by itself, not to speak of giving any profit. The Committee could not examine the financial position of each project due to want of time. It is, therefore, felt that special audit should be conducted by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India to ascertain as to whether there are any irregularities in the transactions of the Umiam Project, Stage I. I do not know whether the services of the Comptroller and Auditor General have been requisitioned? If not, I hope the Government will do it forthwith because if these people are allowed to go their way, they will ruin this Board and ruin this country. They should help the Government on guideline of the Board for future guidance. The Committee has noticed that the Board was interested in installation of the project hurriedly which might have resulted in many unfructuous, idle and avoidable expenditures. A thorough examination of the inventory of the Board should be done by qualified persons to ascertain as to whether there is piling of excess and unnecessary stocks of tools and plants, etc. In this connection, there is a gossip that quite a number of diesel engines which were purchased for this Umiam project have been sold in bulk at Calcutta. I do not know

whether the money, if at all realised, has been deposited to the credit of the Board?

Shri Biswadev Sarma—Does the hon. Member mean the diesel generating sets?

Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya—Whether proper price was received for them. In case of Umiam Project, it appears that expenditure on civil works was unnecessarily high which calls for close examination in detail by competent persons. The Government should lay down distinct procedure for this proposal, about the financial results of each scheme from time to time. The Committee feels that the time has come to take stock of what has been done by the Board before it is too late. Sir, I said not only that the Board has been wasting public money but it has not even collected its own revenue. I am not giving the details but the arrear from municipal bodies comes up to Rs. 10,23,753 by the time this Estimate Committee enquired into the matter. That is, by 31st March, 1968, from Municipalities alone, a sum of Rs. 10,23,753 was lying in arrear, and from non-municipal customers, a sum of Rs. 25,41,553 was lying in arrear. The Board did not care to collect this arrear revenue.

Sir, in the matter of expenditure, particularly the headquarters expenses, there has been, as I said at the outset, colossal wastage. And they have been able to do it taking advantage of the headquarters being located here in Shillong by hiring houses at exorbitant rents. The Government had decided to build the headquarters of the State Electricity Board at Gauhati, that is at Beltola, and for that one hundred bighas of land were made available. Now, in spite of this decision of the Govt., the Board, by a resolution dated the 11th May, 1959, have flouted the Government decision and insisted the

keeping of the headquarters here in Shillong. And in spite of the subsequent pleadings on behalf of the Government that the headquarters should be shifted to the place—where it was said on some flimsy grounds the Board refused to shift its headquarters. One of the grounds given by the Board was that a number of members of the Board are part-timers, part-time Government officials, and, therefore, the headquarters should not be shifted. Why should these part-timers who, more or less, are ornamental members of the Board, should be there. Now, that we have one Electrical Adviser for the Govt. to represent Government, he should be included in the Board; there may be some others representing definite interests like agriculture and industry. It is not necessary that so many departmental Secretaries of the Government should lend their names to the Board. There is another difficulty, and this difficulty will be found if we go through the Civil List. Shri Kapur's name will be found somewhere near the top of the Civil List. Now, these Secretaries who are there as members of the Board are subordinate. Any day, Shri Kapur may be shunted back from there and made Chief Secretary of Assam. In other words, these Secretaries to the Government are very much subordinate, for the time being and for future of Shri Kapur.

Moreover, Shri Kapur, because of his shunting between Assam and Delhi, has become an important person, important liaison officer and in Delhi, it is said, that he has got a lot of influence and power of wire pooling. Therefore, these officers even if they find sometimes that the Chairman's dicta may not be correct, they dare not criticise him or suggest any alternative. Therefore, this Board has become a Triumvirate of Napoleon. When Napoleon came to power, everybody knows, he was not alone; he had a Committee of three. But everybody knew that the other two were practically non-existent and Napoleon was

the dictator. The same thing has happened with regard to the Assam State Electricity Board. So, Sir, the first point is a bogus one. Secondly it was said that since the Barapani project was there, the Board's headquarters should be here. But now it is over and Chandrapur project has got to be commissioned and Namrup has to be made workable, and the Manas project which has been kept in the cold storage for these long 20 years has got to be revived because that region, in economically backward Assam, is a hinterland. If that area is to be developed then the first and foremost thing necessary is power. As is known to the hon. Members of the House, when the backward and half industrialised country like Russia threw the capitalist shackle and adopted socialism, Lenin at that time had given a slogan that two things will make socialism in the Soviet Union ; one is the Soviets and the other is electricity. Man and power, man and nature or in the language of 'Shastra' ... .. This will create and recreate, generate and regenerate and this will procreate the real economy in our country. If we mean to do that then we shall have to accelerate our effort with regard to Manas project and we shall have to go on urging the Government of India to expedite putting into commission the hydro electric power project in the Kameng Division, and we shall have to bring in full swing operation of Namrup and Chandrapur projects. Therefore, in order to do these it is absolutely unnecessary to keep the headquarters of the Board here in Shillong in an official ridden bureaucratic conclave.

Shri Biswadev Sarma : Sir, If we are to shift the headquarters of the Board to Gauhati it will entail a heavy expenditure. At this stage will it be advisable to shift the headquarters ?

Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya : I am giving the answer

to that to the Minister, I have worked out the details. My suggestion is that the Government can straightaway arrange for about 20,000 sq. ft. rented house immediately and side by side give possession of the promised 100 bighas of land at Beltala with a directive to the State Electricity Board for building a few pre-fabricated houses for the establishment of the Chief Electrical Engineer and the Secretary of the Assam State Electricity Board. Of course, I know that the Secretary has demanded residential accommodation for his officers and staff. I do not know whether all the officers and employees of the State Electricity Board have been provided with residential quarters at Shillong or not. I do not know whether the Board has, by now, made it a policy to provide residential accommodation to the entire staff. But even now, so far as my knowledge goes, except the Chief Electrical Engineer and Chief Accounts Officer who are on contract service others have been provided with rented houses arranged by them and the rents of these houses, if the Minister be pleased to enquire, are very high. Some of the officers of the Board are in Government houses also. Now, it will be seen that the Chairman, Secretary and also the Chief Civil Engineer, have been instrumental in delaying the shifting of the headquarters. As a result of not shifting the headquarters from Shillong what has happened? The actual execution of the projects has been delayed and actual execution is more important than anything else. The technicians and Engineers being in the field if the headquarters of the Board is to be kept in Shillong inspite of Government's decision for the sake of Barapani project, as they said at that time, now that Barapani project is over why should there be any hesitation to shift the headquarters to Gauhati where the 30,000 K.W. project Chandrapur is yet to be commissioned? Therefore, their argument is no longer valid.



Shri Biswadev Sarma : As I have already said, will it be advisable to shift the headquarters at Gauhati at this stage at a huge expenditure ?

Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya : There the houses need not be very costly. We have got 100 bighas of land there and we may have, for the time being, pre-fabricated cheap houses, and within three years it will be seen that not only that it is not more costly but it is less costly because the land is already there. The houses may be simple and cheap and that is my answer.

Another thing is that if the headquarters be shifted to Gauhati then a good lot of expenditure incurred here on luxuries may be avoided, at least in so far as T. As are concerned. If one is to go anywhere—now that the construction works are not at Barapani—he has to go via Gauhati. Therefore, if the headquarters be shifted the up and down T.A. for this 64 miles of road can be saved and if one goes by Board's vehicle then to that extent the wear and tear of the vehicles can be saved and there will be a lot of savings on T. A.

Then, the third point is that Kapili is in the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills. If the Headquarters is at Shillong, then easily they can look after this project from Shillong. But, the Kapili Project is in cold storage. At any rate, the third argument goes.

Shri Biswadev Sarma, Investigation is still going on.

Shri Gaurisankar Bhattacharyya : Investigation is going on for over a decade and probably it will go another decade. One Mr. Nag who was supposed to be last man, in his wisdom and experience said that Kapili Project would

not be feasible. This was his last work in the Government of Assam. It was, of course, not in the present Minister's time. The present Minister is too young to deserve either praise or criticism for the State Electricity Board. But his predecessor said - "Why you are going on criticising Mr. Nag." The last word was not lost. There is somebody else who will find out "No". But, unfortunately, the man who thought it to be impossible and who as cent percent against it, was brought again. If I am convinced — either due to honesty or wisdom or swell-head — I would not have placed Mr. Nag in charge of the project. But our Government thought that no other man except Mr. Nag would fit for the work. As a result, the Kapili project remains a "Prahelika" — a mirrage. This Kapili was shown as the third argument that Government should shift the Headquarters from Shillong.

(A Voice — Where is Mr. Nag nce? He is hovering over somewhere here. He has retired — alright, it is a good news for Assam etc. etc.)

There is a saying "Pleasure is not in having pleasure, but pleasure is in thinking. It is better to get pleasure in thinking.

The fourth and the last ground shown by the Board is — We find that all the Hydraelectric projects are shifted to United Khasi and Jaintia Hills. I do not know when God sent this Eleventh Commandment. We know there are only ten Commandments, but here the State Electricity Board comes as the Eleventh Commandment. Why all of them should be in Khasi and Jaintia Hills. There is Garo Hills, There is Mikir Hills. It can be done in collaboration with N.E.F.A. — Kameng and other district. This is all ridiculous. Let them shift their Headquarters from Shillong to Gauhati — let all the

costly vehicles go — let the costly officers go back and let there be less number of highly paid engineers and let there be more efficient functioning of the Board, then and then only there may be raising of 10 percent tariff. People of Assam have long sacrifice and they also suffered a lot. At present, they are not going to provide such kind of highly paid officers from outside any more. How long it will continue in this way? About ten years have passed and within this ten years tariff has risen to 10 percent. Small industries cannot be run with high rate of tariff and thereby unemployment will increase. Therefore, I beseech the Government that they do not agree to the proposal of the State Electricity Board to raise the tariff by 10 percent. If they insist on Government may grant moratorium and allow them to function as other industries function. With this observation, I conclude my speech.

Shri Debeswar Sarma : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the House is thankful to Mr. Bhattacharyya for his illuminating speech. He has talked for nearly 120 minutes. I fully appreciate his view points and I enjoyed every minute of his speech. He has spoken very useful things. While the functioning of the State Electricity Board is a sorrowful tale, this is only possible in a State like Assam where people are most unsophisticated, people of Assam have full confidence on the Government and they are quite unaware of what is going on and what benefit their money pays for. I am at one with Shri Bhattacharyya to make to the Government at proper time and on proper occasion. I donot like to put blame on the Government alone. Sir, I cannot but recall here just now one thing which occurred sometimes 4 or 5 years back when the most respected person no other than Shri Omes Kumar Das who offered a mild

criticism of the State Electricity Board was termed as Drained — Inspector by the then Minister in charge of State Electricity Board.

Now that was the time when the eyes of the members of this House should have been opened. Now better be late than never. I said during the question hour that the State Electricity Board is to pay more than 64½ crores they owe to the state of Assam and the interest combined with at the rate of 6 p.c. works out to 1 lakh 6 thousand and odd. Just now I come to learn from the hon'ble member, Shri Bhattacharjee that a moratorium has been granted. Why? And wherefor? The state of Assam has public debt of about 153 crores. We had a population of 1 crore 18 lakhs in the last 1961 Census and by now it must have gone to 1 crore 25 lakhs. So, when a child is born at this moment, an innocent whom we call 'Deb Sisu' is born at the household of a cultivator who earn his livelihood of cultivation that child is mortgaged for more than 150 rupees at the moment of his birth in this unfortunate land of Assam. We call it unfortunate because we have plenty of minerals. Nowhere a country is poor where oil is found. But here in the Assam, there is oil, there is tea, there is coal, there is timber. As a matter of fact, we have everything that we need to create a State but where these are exploited to the advantage of capitalist and to the great disadvantage to the people of the State. This is not the time nor the opportunity or occasion to dilate on this point. What I mean to say is, this. When the state of Assam is saddled with a public debt of 153 crores what justification can the Govt. have to issue moratorium to such a wasteful department as the State Electricity Board. I submit there is no justification.

Now, before going to the financial aspect and other thing

first point is this one which was read out by Shri Bhattacharjee—"The revenue receipts for 1969-70 take into account an over all average increase in tariff of about 10 p.c. effective from the 1st of May, 1969." My question is straight and plain. Who authorised the State Electricity Board to take into credit an amount at the rate of 10 p.c. of their produce? Who authorised them? Did Govt. authorise them? I do not think Govt. authorised them.

Now, let us see what is the State Electricity Board. How it is created? What is the legal aspect of the whole matter in reference to State Electricity Board? And, how rate of tariff can be enhanced or decreased? What are the considerations? Whether it is possible to increase it or not? There are certain type of established consideration on which this State Electricity Board can increase or decrease the rate. Now, Sir I would invite your attention that State Electricity Board was created by this Act of 1910. This is the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, 9 of 1910 — by Naushir Bharucha. I am reading from it. "This Act may be called..... It extends to the whole of India..... It shall come into force on such date as the Central Govt. may, by notification in the Official Gazette, direct in this behalf." This was amended by the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948. Of this Act of Indian Electricity Act, 1910 there are certain things which do not apply today. We find in the index, I submit, Part II, Supply of Energy, Licenses that sections 19, 20, 21, 22 and 27 these would not apply. Now, let us see what is the scope of the Act. "This Act deals with rights and powers of licensees and prescribes the duties and liabilities of licensees" The Electricity Board is a licenses for the matter of that, "generating or distributing electricity and through its rules protects users of electricity from injury to person and property. It also prescribes the duties

and liability of electricity undertakings in regard to efficient service, and read along with provisions of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, determines the maximum rates which such licensees can charge to the consumer. The Act rests on the fact that the State derives the right to control electricity undertakings because of their status as public utility undertakings." The State controls the Electricity undertaking because it is a public utility undertaking. Therefore, the State has its right. It has its deep significance legally. "As a general rule it is the province of legislature to lay down what is wise and sound as a public policy in statutory regulation of public utilities within the constitutional limitations; the law Courts will not entrench on this subject." But when Electricity Board Act, and Govt. approves of an Act which is in contravention of rules or is against public policy or is not in accordance with natural justice, the Court i.e., the Supreme Court will always intervene. It is to be remembered,

Now, as regards the Act of 1948 at section 78A (I am reading out) it is said "Directions by the State Government (1) In the discharge of its functions, the Board shall be guided by such directions on questions of policy as may be given to it by the State Govt. (2) If any dispute arises between the Board and the state Govt. as to whether a question is or is not a question of policy, it shall be referred to the Authority whose decision thereon shall be final. The preamble to the Act provides for rationalisation of the production and supply of electricity, and generally for taking measures conducive to electrical development. For this purpose co-ordination of policy at the highest level of central Electricity Authority would be necessary. Power is therefore, reserved to the State Govt. to issue direction to the Board on question of policy and an obligation has been imposed on the Board to be guided by such directions."

Sir, there can be no manner of doubt that the Board is to seek guidance in the matter of setting the tariff rate. Unilaterally the State Electricity Board again fix a higher rate of tariff that is 10% or whatever it is. Sir, subject to correction my information is that this Board hussle through its proceedings to enhance the rate. The Minister will kindly enlighten this. I feel that some how in our State most of us well meaning and with a modicum of ability to understand things are also render harmless by the activities of some people. For instance they are in the Namrup Fertiliser Project. I suppose we have a Magistrate. In the matter of his getting presence, he site in the Selection Board but he does not know who is selected. In the Dibrugarh University where everything is conducted very highhandedly. In the last Executive Council we were out voted in matters of clear law. Clear irregularities have been brought in the advertisement 5 years experienc is required for a lecturer for the Law College. It was in the advertise ment but the incumbent has not even 1 year practicing Experience. Here also in this Electricity Board itself is a hussle to prove all these things. Just a few days say 4/5 days earlier it is stated that the matter of enhancement of the tariff rate was left open for revision if the members should apply their minds to it. After a few days, 4 or 5 days it was a clean proof whether any of the member know what they did and felt. In this respect we cannot always through open the Genl. Manager of the Fertilizers or the Vice-Chancellor of the University, or the Chairman of the Electricity. Our Govt. must share the responsibility for nominating the member. Most of the members are nominated and they should nominate such members who are capable of performing such works. It is we who are throwing away of our own interest. In this matter what are the reasons why they have raised it what are the main criteria which must be cited decide. Whether the tariff should be increased or not. The two main criteria are; firstly, has it been subjected to a

tariff committee, secondly did they take Govt. approval. Govt. should examine these 2 conditions have been fulfilled, whether the tariff rate is co-related to cost of production or cost of generation or the cost of production or cost of generation per unit of electricity. What is most surprising. Even the Member himself, the Chairman himself or even the Board itself does not know what is the cost of production. I am reading from the latest Estimate Committees report 1968-69 of page 9 : " The Committee regrets to observe para 6 (i) At what course it will be completed nobody knows. The Electricity Board getting money from the L.I.C. merely by asking. They waste money like anything. Because it is Gauri Sen's money. "The Committee regrets to observe that the Board has not been able to furnish the Committee with the financial result of the project inspite of reminders spreading over months. In the financial forecast submitted to the technical authority it was stated that the Project would be remunerative from the first year of operation yielding a return of 7.06% In absence of financial statement showing the ultimate result of the Project, the Committee could not examine as to whether the promise made could be kept at all. The representative of the Board expressed his inability to furnish a statement showing the financial result of the Umiam Project as the Board does not maintain such records project-wise and only the over-all picture could be made available." It is criminal on the part of the Board. They are wasting the rate payers money like anything. We did not get the accounts project wise. There is so many accounts. "The Committee is not convinced. with the arguments putforward by the representative of the Board and the Committee observes that a commercial concern like the Assam State Electricity Board should have a clear financial picture of each project for its own interest. "Can they give a clear picture of the project. The enquiry board constituted is not upto ones satisfaction. However, I would suggest that a Chartered Accountant should be nominated



to be a member of this Committee and also I suppose the Govt. has got an officer who advice. Some persons in their supreme arrogance they are officers in the Electricity Board and if he becomes a member of the Committee. Can this Govt. require such officers those who are not willing to work under this committee and those who are reluctant to continue in this Electricity Board and if such person is make an officer, he is quite welcome to resign and he can go where milk and honey is flowing. I, therefore very strongly suggest a committee will enough..... Mr. Prafulla Barua..... Our friend Mr. Bhattacharyya is an astute man. Prafulla Barua is as able a man as Assam can produce in his own sphere. But what can they do if they are not provided with correct information? I hope I will not be accused of prejudging people. Correct figures will not be given, correct state of affairs will not be given. Therefore, I beseech our Members to reconsider the matter and keep Mr. Dowerah in the Committee as Adviser, An Adviser. I think is of the status of a Secretary but he is not to be a errand boy. If he has the qualification, keep him as an Adviser and if he is not qualified put him elsewhere. But an Adviser must be there. We must have somebody who will not fall into the rot. We have been beguiled by the Chairman for a long time and brought to such a position that we are bleeding and bleeding so hard that we are gasping for the life. In the present moment with a debt of 153 crores, a deficit budget of 50 crores and another 63 crores in this sphere and we do not see the end of it. We have to stand up to our best.

Now, since there is no Tariff Committee to advice the enhancement of the tariff rate, since the Government has not approved of it, and since the cost of production is known neither to the Government nor to the Estimates

Committee, there is no case made out for enhancement of tariff. Therefore, I would submit that the tariff rate may not be enhanced.

Now, Sir, I submit that the Government exercises its power and do the function. Government is here to function and the Government of Assam has the additional advantage that it has not to look over its shoulder to see whether it has got support or not and in such a matter of setting our affairs right, I have no doubt that in Assam we have very reasonable minded Members in the Opposition who will give all their support when things are understood to be properly done and set right. Therefore, I would submit that the whole matter should be thought over and in the Enquiry Committee one of our own officers who know it and one of the Chartered Accountants who can be trusted, with integrity, should be nominated as Members of this Committee. I understand there is one from the Accountant General's office but there is brotherhood with all the high officers and we cannot put our fingers on them. Why this state of affairs in the State? Here we have a brotherhood and my friend Shri Bhattacharjee said that since he is a member in the top rung of the ladder, therefore his subordinates have to care. What about our Chief Secretary. Whom the officers will care more—the Chief Secretary or the Chief Minister? Chief Ministers come and go. During the last so many years we have seen two chief Ministers come and go and now this is the third Chief Minister. But the Chief Secretary can do maximum harm to the officers. And so, the Chief Secretary is cared more. I do not say everybody cares and there are no straight officers. There are a large number of it but human beings have the weakness of flesh and blood. Human beings are human beings with virtues and vices and all sorts of weakness. Therefore, if the subordinates care more their officers, their Chairman or their Chief Secretary more than the Minister is

there any wonder? There is no wonder. The Government has to see that things are properly done. The Government has to see that its orders are properly carried out. We maintain cat to drive out rats and mice and feed it on milk but if the cat cannot free the house of rats and mice then what is the use of feeding it with milk. Therefore, I say that our officers have to be made to work and at the same moment I say Sir that the officers should not be made postmen only to carry the orders through to somebody. They should have their own judgement and they should be allowed to function properly. If they do not function properly, the Government is there to check it. And we the members of the House should not bother them by saying you have not done it I will show you. This is improper. This way democracy cannot function. If democracy is to function properly then the officers should be left alone. If we the Members find anything has not been done properly there is the Minister for us to complain and that is the proper way to do it.

Sir, here we have a Chairman with Rs. 3000/- per month. I am quoting from page II, after page 32. His name has been used by Mr. Bhattacharyya: Mr. Kapur. I object to criticising an officer when he cannot come here and reply to complacent circumstances of the State Electricity Board as also a sense of public duty goads me to say something against Shri Kapur about whom personally I have nothing to say. As an administrator, this Mr. Kapur has been unsuccessful. He was a Commissioner in Nagaland for some time and landed us in no end of difficulty and since the time of his taking over as Chairman of the State Electricity Board the Board is going down and down and the expenditure is running high and high. I can only compare him, I do not know with what. I recall something of our Upper Assam domesticity. Almost all of us in our household have got cattle and there is one whom

we call 'গোহালী টোকলা'. It is either a cow or a bull which does not have hair on its forehead. And there is a prejudice which goes after such a member of the cattle in a cow shed and the herd of the cattle can never thrive and thereby it goes down and down. Therefore, he can very well be termed as 'গোহালী টোকলা' in the State Electricity Board and I wish that this 'গোহালী টোকলা' should be got rid of. I understand he rides very expensive cars-I do not grudge him. If I had the money, I would also have done it.

I do not grudge, let him ride. But since his coming into the State Electricity Board he imported not only very good cars, he imported a lot of expensive persons from the rest of India. Whoever comes from outside Assam becomes very experienced and efficient and our Assamese people become no good people to them. We brought one expert, probably during the time of late Bordoloi. Of course he was an amiable gentleman. But like this one after another is coming here in Assam. It is like a story of an old woman who was suffering from eye trouble. She engaged a young doctor and that doctor was treating her. It happened that doctor, gradually started removing the valuable goods and furniture from her house. And one day the doctor said to the old lady "you are completely cure, Now, give me my fees." The lady replied "how am I cured? It is worse than before, because with my failing eyes I could see that there were many things in the house, but after treatment I find nothing here." Sir, our position is like that old woman. If he is an expert, an experienced officer, let him go to the Centre and we will wish him. Now there should be a second man an advisor at Rs. 2500/-per month and a car. Sir, in no other State there is provision for an Officer-an advisor to be posted to Delhi with a salary of Rs. 2500/-plus a car. What he has done for the Kopili project, has been related at length by Mr. Bhattacharyya and I do not like to recapitulate this and waste the much

valuable time of the House. We do not know anything else about Kopili than what it is said in the music of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika" ...Assamese .....

..... ..

(laughter from all sides) We are laughing? We will laugh because we have such plight: The Electricity Board has taken a loan of Rs. 64 crores and on that they have to pay the interest. So, Sir, in consideration of everything, I hope, our young Minister will, of course I am not to harp any criticism on him, try to set things right. We can assure that he will get co-operation from all sides of the House. Is it Mr. Sarma? (to Mr. K.M. Sarma). But he must must set the matters right. If necessary, he should take advice from the people he knows.

Sir, I have come across my people, many friends, who said that I have committed many errors in my life and they extended pity to me. I counter pity them. But I do owe before the House my regret for voting against shifting of the Capital from Shillong. There is no sense in having the Capital at Shillong for so many reasons. We are doing many things here, but if the Capital was not at Shillong, and the people would have come to know all these things they would have turned us into pieces. These things are only possible in Shillong. I voted against shifting of the Capital even against our Congress Policy in order that it might assuage the feeling of our hill brothers with whom we wanted to stay. In that hope I voted against it. But in view of the economic condition of the State the capital has to be shifted from Shillong to Gauhati or any other place, Hon'ble members asked for shifting of State Electricity Board to Gauhati and the Minister wanted to know whether we may be in a position to spend such an amount at present.

But have you calculated how much money we are spending in travelling allowance for going down to Gauhati and coming back and the man power wasted in travelling? There is another point, apart from travelling allowance. That is after having a journey in such a zig zag road it is not possible for a person to attend to his office work immediately. He has to take rest for some hours. Of course in some particular cases, it may be an exception. The British people selected Shillong as Capital for reason of cool climate. They come from a cold country and the climate of Shillong suited their health. But after the British the same attitude is there. Because those who go to Lanka become Ravana's. Of course, by keeping the Capital here, we remain aloof from the people and public opinion. There are good reasons for which we should take the State Electricity Board to Gauhati and that is because it will function better. Apart from all other things, may I submit, Sir, that many of us come from poor middle class families. We live in houses with 'Kuccha' floor; some of us live in C. I. Sheets houses and some of us live in thatched houses. Many of us do not use electricity and still collect fire wood for burning.

It is said that Shillong has been disfigured by these two reinforced buildings of the Secretariat. Shillong was a lovely town. Some people say that Mussorie is the queen of the hill stations. But there is the mistake. Because most people say, that Shillong is the queen of all hills stations. And we have converted this beautiful town useful maid servant but a useless old lady. that is what...

That is what we have done by those re-inforced concrete buildings. When we have got many acres of land why don't we have Assam type houses. The Cotton College Science Block was constructed before 1901 and the Arts Block in

1911, 1912. Except the cement and the steel joists the houses were built with locally available materials, and secondly, every year by annual repairs at least a few poor families earn rupees five or six thousand. Once in Delhi our late lamented Jawaharlal Nehru took some visitors to see the Pusa institute. There the visitors told him that you have built some big houses, some magnificent buildings but the things inside are very poor, and he repeated it in the floor of the house the next day. Things are happening like this. Look at the Gauhati University. Because of rain and water in our country the buildings look hideous after a couple of years. If we see the houses built side by side by the Air Force—c.i.sheet houses—they are very nice. Why don't we do it? Why do we go for reinforced concrete houses. Coming from other places who want all these buildings we may say Sir, ours is a poor land, we cannot afford such buildings, we welcome you to leave the State and wish you god-speed. Sir, the State Electricity Board should be bundled out of Shillong within the next six months and the accounting of the State Electricity Board should also be operated.

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua ; Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. While participating in the motion which has been moved by the leader of the opposition, I submit a few things. Sir, we spend money just to get something out of it, but here in this particular project under this Board we have spent crores of rupees without getting anything in return. Sir, you will find that the major portion of the loan that we have taken from the Government of India has been spent for these projects and we expected that with the implementation of the projects we will be able to have industrial development throughout the State through which we can raise the economic condition of the people, but we have been completely frustrated by the performance of

this Department. Sir I shall read out the relevant portion from the report of the Estimates Committee (1967-68) which will make it clear as to the amounts taken as loan under the various so-called projects.

The loans received by the Board from the year 1958-59 together with interests accrued thereon are as follows:

Year	Total loans	Interest payable
1958-59	3,40,75,658.91	13,66,328.00
1959-60	1,01,20,000.00	17,78,855.00
1960-61	2,60,00,000.00	24,57,688.00
1961-62	5,27,50,000.00	46,01,469.00
1962-63	8,32,00,000.00	79,11,032.00
1963-64	12,71,29,000.00	1,32,48,119.00
1964-65	8,15,11,756.18	1,84,13,681.00
1965-66	7,09,27,850.20	2,26,16,035.00
1966-67	4,83,79,000.00	2,56,47,102.00
1967-68	6,00,00,000.00	2,84,00,000.00

It would appear from the above statement that no attempt seems to have been made to repay the interest even not to speak of the original loan. If we examine these things we will find that the proposal that the revenue receipt for the year 1969-70 taken into consideration there is an overall increase of 10%. I would submit, if it is not unparliamentary, that this is an insane proposition made by the Board to increase the rate of tariff as they are not in a position to utilise the amounts that have been taken for the purpose of power development through which they can feed the various industries and through which they can bring industrial revolution throughout the State. As they are not in a position to do so I do not find any reason why there should be increase in the rate of



tarrif. As has been stated by Shri D. Sarma it also seems to be illegal. Sir, you will find that the power potential in the State, leaving aside the power potential of the Brahmputra, is the highest in the country and occupies the pride place of nearly 30% of All-India average.

Here, Sir, if you go through the comparative statement-of course should say, you were kind enough in the capacity of the Chairman of the Estimates Committee to examine the details of this project, you will find that Andhra is having the power potentialities of 2,47,650 and Assam 11,59,09,400 Bihar is having 6,09,700, Gujarat 6,77,000, Jammu and Kashmir 3,59,500, Kerala 1,53,950, Madhya Pradesh 4,58,230 Madras 7,08,200, Maharashtra, 19,960, Mysore 3,72,800, Orissa 2,62,000 Punjab 3,60,500, Rajasthan 1,49,000, U. P. 37,64,000 and West Bengal 22,000. Here, you will find Assam's position in respect of power potentiality.

Shri Biswadev Sarma—What is that figure you have quoted ?

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua—It is an all India figure—it is about the power potentialities. Now, again you will find that the per capita consumption of power in the State was the lowest It is 1.61 KW hours in the year 1957-58. At the end of the Second Plan, that state of affairs continued to occupy the bottom position ; the per capita consumption of power was 3.6 KW. as against the all India figure of 38.3 KW. Sir, my contention of making a reference to these figures is that though we are having such huge power potentialities in the State, yet we do not know the reason why this lowest power consumption took place in the State. As I have already said that in respect of planning there should be a policy of re-orientation because of the fact that we are producing power. But I am sorry to say that the money allotted for transmission is so low.

Moreover, the Government proposed to utilise the power potentialities of the State specially from this project which has been taken up, that is the Umiam Hydel Project, for meeting the demand of Cherrapunji Cement Factory, Shillong and Guwahati, jute mill, re-rolling mill, spun silk mill and few siliminite factories. We find that this project has been taken up for the above purposes. But I should say though I am a layman, that there is no farsightedness on the part of those who prepared the project. For instance I like to mention here, as has been pointed out by Mr. Bhattacharyya, leader of the Opposition and hon. Member, Mr. Sarma, that there was no co-ordinated planning between industries and power. Whatever power we produce there must be co-relation between industrial development and power. Unless the per capita consumption is increased through industrial development, there would not be any prospect of this power bringing any revenue out of it. Therefore, very frequently I have drawn the attention of the Govt. to this fact that unless proper/co-ordinated planning between power and industrial development everywhere these projects will fail. Therefore, I submit that instead of going in for more projects which are becoming the losing concern from top to bottom, we should see that the power potential can be properly utilised for industrial development projects. Therefore, attempts should be made either from the Board's side or from the industry's side. Unless that is done, it will be a cry in the wilderness. It will serve no useful purpose to furnish such kind of audit report every year. So, my whole contention is that Govt. should reconsider their planning in respect of industrial development and try to re-orient it so that the power potential can be utilised to the maximum possible for the benefit of the people of the State and for the benefit of the people living around in other regions of the State.

Now, Sir, you will find that every time there is a sheer wastage of public money for which the financial position of the State has dwindled, and I should say it has become practically very deplorable. Therefore, at the time of making plans and projects, all these experts should put their heads together and should try their utmost to prepare a perfect and well co-ordinated project report. As that has not been done here in this case, it has become practically a losing concern. Here, at page 17 of the Estimates Committee Report, 1967-68, where the Estimate Committee has rightly pointed out that the State Electricity Board requested the Government in the Public Works Department to take up the construction of the road from Damra to Nangalbibra in August 1962. The Public Works Department by their letter, dated 6th August 1962 assured the Board to complete the construction of the road within 1962-63 with the exception that the construction of bridges would take some time which would depend upon approval of the Govt. of India. Ultimately the road was not constructed either by the Board or by the Government and both the parties remained killing valuable time in long correspondences and meetings in the high level. Neither the Power and Mines Department nor the Public Works Department thought for a while to bring the matter to the notice of the highest form in the Executive i. e. the Cabinet. Sir, here Parkinson's law is applicable. In this matter all toplevel meetings are taking place, due to which this Board has incurred a heavy loss both ways. This is really a very bad picture on the part of the officials of the Board as well as the Public Works Department officials.

In this connection I like to draw your attention to one of my experiences in this regard. Even when we suggested and decided that a matter should be decided on the spot either at official level or Ministerial level, they are dragging

the matter in such a way that the main object of the project or the matter has been totally lost. Therefore, it is the duty of the officials to see the things in their proper perspective. The main responsibility for taking up the project at Nāngalbibra in Garo Hills is of the Board and therefore the Board should have seen to the all round development of the project. Sir, it appears that the construction of the road was taken up from Baghmari to Darugiri instead of from Darugiri and the road could not be completed according to the original alignment on the basis of which the administrative approval was given. As a result extra expenditure had to be incurred and the contractor concerned tried to evade his responsibility on this or that plea. Sir, here in page 18 it has been rightly observed that the contractors were aware of the road condition and to that effect there was a clause in the agreement. It says— "The contractors hereby confirm that they are aware of the local site conditions, state of roads and other factors involved in the performance of the above services. The Contractors will, therefore, claim no extra charge on account of these factors which may include temporary diversion for want of bridges as and where necessary and transport equipments." Now, Sir, from both sides we have lost; we have incurred extra expenditure and on the other the Board has not made any attempt to realise, with the help of law, the penalty who has violated the terms of the agreement. An observation has been made to this effect in the Committee's report. "The Board in future should provide an estimate through a Supplementary Project for construction of approach road in such cases where the cost of construction of the approach road involves a considerable amount so that the Board need not depend upon other agency for such work which is vitally linked up with completion of the project in time." Therefore, Sir, as I have said, before undertaking a project the Board should examine the nook and corner of the

proposed project and experts should prepare to project report. Again Sir, at page 21 of the report the Committee recommended as follows :- "The Committee recommends that the lapses on the part of the Board for not enforcing penal clauses of the contract entered into by the Board with the contractor company, dated 1st October, 1963 should be enquired into by the Government and pin-point the responsibility on the officer/officers concerned for such serious lapses." I want to submit that some sort of hankey pankey was going on and the people who are not interested in the development of the State were given the responsibility and therefore, naturally there will be lack of sincerity of purpose. They will not care whether the State will gain or lose. Sir, another important factor has been pointed out by the Estimates Committee at page 22 of its report. It says that "...the Mining Corporation has invested a total amount of Rs. 4.12 lakhs in developing the coal mine at Nangalbibra to feed the project and upto 1966-67 the Corporation would have to pay a total interest of Rs. 29, 227. The stagnation of the capital and accruing of interest on the capital invested by the Mining Corporation will continue till the thermal project is completed."

"From above, it appers that the project was not properly prepared. The preparation of this Revised estimate on the basis of the comments of the C. W. P. C. dated 4 th may, 1961 took more than 4 years which has not yet been approved by the Board. This undue delay in preparing the Revised estimates cannot be attributed to any convincing reasons." This supports the contention I have expressed earlier. The Committee, therefore, rightly recommended as follows :-

"(1) The Board should keep in view the following points for its future guidance.

- (a) That there is no delay in planning and implementation of the Scheme.
- (b) That the economic consequences of the schemes undertaken by it should be kept in view by the Board as well as by the Government.
- (c) That proper man power planning and proper manning of top management posts are done at right time.
- (d) Proper policy in pricing and profitability adopted by the Board.
- (e) Evaluation of performance is made from time to time. This is the point I also want to emphasise. Sir, unless there is industrial development this Board cannot earn any profit and that point is to be threshed out and co-ordinated plan has to be made between the Industries Department and the Board.
- (g) Economy measures should be taken immediately in each level and steps be taken in consultation with Government to provide employment for the surplus man power, if any elsewhere.

In this connection I would like to mention that if you see the percentage of employment potential in the different hydel and thermal projects that have been taken up by the Board you will find that it is not very satisfactory. Therefore, unless the Board takes up the matter seriously and make proper consolidated and co-ordinated plan there will be huge retrenchment in future because an organisation which can neither earn any profit nor give any benefit to the State, a time will come when there will be a complete deadlock. Therefore, just to save that situation the Board should take steps now on so that there may be more

employment avenues through industrialisation, and thereby we can give economic benefit to the people of the State.

Sir, again here you will find how improper the project is. I do not like to go into details in respect of Umiam Hydel project. The original estimates of the Umiam Hydel Project Stage I under the Civil and Electrical works are given below:—I do not like to go through the Electrical works. I simply like to mention the irregularities of the Civil works—

The original estimate was of Rs. 523.18 lakhs.

The first revised estimate was Rs. 672.07 lakhs.

The final revised estimate stood at Rs. 124.52 lakhs.

In this way, you will find, the expenditure increases one after another. This is not proper. It is due to lack of foresight of so called technical experts who were engaged to prepare estimates of—gigantic power projects like this. With regard to construction of roads also, you will find that "the constructional cost per mile of the priphery road along the Western bank of the reservoir was estimated at Rs. 50,000 per mile, but in fact, the Board had to incur a cost of Rs. 90,000 per mile. There is practically an increase of 90 percent of the originally estimated cost. Sir, it is evident that where a common knowledge is sufficient there also they committed such a blunder. They cannot foresee things in their proper perspective and they cannot make the estimates to the point. Here, in this particular case they spent about 90 percent more than what they estimated originally. Similarly, in the case of buildings also, they could not make their estimates properly.

Shri Biswadev Sarma : I would like to know from the

honourable member what is the recommendation of the Estimates Committee regarding that portion of the road ?

Shri Dulal Chandra Barua : You will find it in the Estimates Committee Report, 1968-69.

Here, in Estimates of Building, you will find—The original estimate for construction of Buildings which stood at Rs. 51.65 lakhs had to be revised and it was increased to Rs. 74.13 lakhs. Sir, occasionally, there might be some omissions and commissions here and there, that is a different thing—that is a common thing to an Engineer. But here the increase is a remarkable one. It rises from Rs. 51.65 lakhs to Rs. 74.13 lakhs. Here, it is observed by the Committee that “the cost of construction of the buildings however exceeded the cost of originally worked out on the plinth area basis due to rise in cost of materials, transport, labour and difficult conditions obtaining at site.” These things should have been foreseen before. It is due to lack of foresight of the Engineers. Again, while explaining the increase in cost of building over the original estimate of the Board is stated to be—“On arrival of the Power House equipment, it was found necessary to construct a number of ware-houses to house the same which were not originally included in the project report. The cost of preparation of site amounting to Rs. 4 lakhs was also not provided for in the original estimate”. “From the foregoing paragraphs, it will be evident that the final estimates have increased over 100 percent of the original estimate, a matter which ought to have deserved serious consideration of the Board. From the minutes of the Board’s meeting held on 8th October, 1966, approving the revised estimate of Rs. 14.13 crores for Umiam Hydel Project Stage I it appears that only satisfaction of the Board was that the revised estimate was not disproportionate with the increase in cost over the original estimates of



the other comparable projects in the country.....”

The Committee also noted that the revised estimate was approved on the 8th October, 1966 after the Commission of the project in 1965.” This is completely irregular. The Committee observed that Board should not have taken the risk of execution of the project without complete survey.

**Shri Biswadev Sarma :** No project is taken up for execution without proper survey and project report.

**Shri Dulal Chandra Barua :** Sir, experts are there. They could have pointed out the implication that may arise out of the project which is taken up for execution. It is their duty as well as responsibility to point out which is possible, which is not possible or what to do and what not to do. All these things ought to have pointed out by the experts to the Board before taking up any project.

Now, Sir, going through the “Load Demand”. According to the Project Report, the demand of power was estimated at 26,000 K.W. by 1961, 52,000 KW by 1966 and 78,000 KW by 1971. Again, the firm capacity is 11,000 KW at the time of preparation of the project report. The shortage of power in Assam, according to the project report, is likely to be 15,000 KW by 1961, 41,000 KW by 1968 and 67,000 KW by 1971.

( Interruption )

Sir, the whole planning is wrong. Now, again, it has rightly been said that the present power which has been produced, is not consumed properly. The consumption capacity is not increased.

Therefore, the whole calculation is to be revised because

this calculation as has been stated by the Minister, has been made... (Bell rang) I will require some more time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Then, Mr. Barua, you will continue tomorrow when the Motion will be taken up for discussion. Unveiling of the portrait of late Speaker Shri Hareswar Goswami,

Mr. Deputy Speaker : Now, before I adjourn the House I would like to remind the hon. Members that there is a ceremony in the pictorial gallery where the portrait of our late Speaker, Shir Hareswar Goswami, will be unveiled by the Chief Minister at 4.30 p.m. the 1969.

#### Adjournment

The Assembly than adjourned till 10 A.M. on Wednesday, the 9th April 1969.

Shillong

U-Tahbilder  
Secretary,  
Legislative Assembly, Assam.