

**Proceedings of the First Session of the Assam Legislative Assembly  
assembled under the Sovereign Democratic Republican  
Constitution of India**

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The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 10 a.m., on Monday, the 20th March 1950.

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P R E S E N T

The Hon'ble Mr. Lakshesvar Borooah, Speaker, in the Chair, the seven Hon'ble Ministers and thirty-four Members.

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**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**STARRED QUESTIONS**

(To which oral answers were given)

**Expulsion of undesirable persons from Assam**

**\*\*Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEV of Sidli** asked:

\*1. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) What steps, if any, were taken by Government so far to expel undesirable persons from the State of Assam ?
- (b) How many undesirable immigrants are so far expelled ?
- (c) If any step has been taken to stop such persons from entering Assam ?
- (d) If any step has been taken to ascertain the number of such persons in Assam ?
- (e) If so, the number of such persons in the district of Goalpara ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI** replied:

1. (a)—The Government telegraphically requested Government of India for delegation of powers under the Ordinance before the receipt of the copy of the Ordinance and have sent to officers concerned copies of the Ordinance and Notification delegating powers soon after the order was received and asked them to utilise their powers for expelling immigrants who in their considered opinion are undesirable.

(b)—Four—so far as the information in the possession of Government at present goes.

(c)—The provisions in the Ordinance will be available against undesirable immigrants entering Assam for prosecution after service of the order of compulsion.

(d)—The District Officers and Subdivisional Officers concerned have been instructed to collect information required for determining whether a non-Indian citizen is an undesirable immigrant or not.

(e)—In view of the present state of things in Goalpara, Government have felt it unrealistic to ask the Deputy Commissioner for this information.

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\*\*The Question was put by Srijut Sarat Chandra Sinha on authorisation.



**Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA:** Sir, may I ask whom Government consider undesirables ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** I draw the attention of the hon. Member to the Ordinance and the Act itself that it relates to the foreigners and also those who are anti-State and are creating disorder and exciting violence.

**Srijut SARAT CHANDRA SINHA:** Is it not necessary that they should be Muslims ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** The Ordinance did not make any exception, but the Act exempted persons who are refugees as defined by the Government of India.

### **Expulsion of undesirable persons from Assam**

**Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI** asked :

\*2. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have taken any steps to drive away the undesirable persons from the State of Assam after the promulgation of the recent Ordinance by the Governor General to this effect ?

(b) Are Government aware that the large scale repatriation of these undesirable persons is the urgent need of the hour to save Assam from the impending danger ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI** replied :

2. (a)—Hon. Member's attention is invited to the reply given to Starred Question No.1 (a)—(e) put by Raja Ajit Narayan Dev of Sidli in this session.

(b)—Government are aware that expulsion of undesirable immigrants is an urgent matter.

### **Plains Tribal Scholarship-holders in Aided Colleges**

**Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI** asked :

\*3. Will Government be pleased to state the names of the existing Plains Tribal students of the Aided Colleges of Assam who have been awarded scholarships ?

**Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Parliamentary Secretary)** replied :

3.—The names are as follows :—

- (1) Sree Promode Chandra Basumatari.
- (2) Sree Debendra Nath Sonowal.
- (3) Sree Thanuram Sonowal.
- (4) Sree Joliram Deuri.
- (5) Sree Karneswar Doley.
- (6) Sree Kamal Chandra Sonowal.
- (7) Sree Gangeswar Ayengia.
- (8) Sree Purna Chandra Bora.
- (9) Sree Narendra Nath Narjary.
- (10) Sree Mondeswar Deury.
- (11) Miss Swarna Mayee Brahma.
- (12) Sree Promode Chandra Basumatari.



## UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

**Purchase of Government Stationeries****Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA** asked :

26. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The amount of money spent for purchase of Government stationeries for the different offices of the State during 1948-49 and 1949-50 ?
- (b) From whom these stationeries are purchased ?
- (c) Why a State Stationery shop is not opened by the Government of Assam ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** replied :

26. (a)—The following amounts were spent on purchase of stationeries for different Government offices in Assam from the Central Stationery Office during 1948-49 :—

	Rs.	
Non-Excluded Areas ...	1,65,041	... This includes purchase of paper, etc., for the Government Press.
Excluded Areas ...	2,103	... In addition to this some officers had to make local purchases of stationeries as supplies from Central Stationery Office were irregular due to transport and other difficulties. The amounts spent on such local purchases are not readily available.

The amount spent during 1949-50 is not yet known as no debit has been received from the Central Stationery Office up till now.

(b)—From the Central Stationery Office.

(c)—The Central Stationery Office is a Government Store which supplies stationeries to all Government Offices both under the Central and State Governments, and being situated in Calcutta, is in a much better position to arrange supplies than any store that Government could open in Assam.

**Revenue received from the Gauhati-Shillong Road****Mr. LARSINGH KHYRIEM** asked :

27. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) the amount of revenue received from the Shillong-Gauhati road two years prior to the running of monopoly service by the Assam State Transport thereon ?
- (b) whether the Assam State Transport is running at a loss or with a profit ?



**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS** replied :

27. (a)—Rs.2,62,731 [in 1947 and Rs.2,86,929 in 1948, including taxes, permit fees and all other fees.

(b)—At a profit.

#### Supply of Atta, Maida and Sugar

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY** asked :

28. (a) Are Government aware of the hardships of the public in getting Ata, Maida and Sugar ?

(b) When will these be available in adequate quantities ?

**Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary)** replied :

28. (a)—Yes, for the last few weeks.

(b)—It all depend on adequate transport facilities which is very inadequate at present. Government are taking all possible steps to ensure adequate supply of Atta, Maida, etc., to all Districts and Subdivisions through transport by the Assam Rail Link.

#### Police Out-post at Nagar-Bera

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR** asked :

29. (a) Will Government be pleased to state—

(i) When the Police Out-post at Nagar-Bera in Mauza Paschim Chamaria in the district of Kamrup started ?

(ii) Whether the local public have to make contributions for its maintenance ?

(iii) If so, what is the amount of money they have to contribute annually or monthly ?

(iv) Whether the existence of this Out-post is dependent upon this contribution ?

(v) Whether there are any other Out-posts in the State which are maintained at public contribution partly or entirely ?

(vi) If so, what are the names of those Out-posts ?

(vii) Whether it is a fact that Nagar-Bera is within the Boko Police Station ?

(viii) If so, what is the distance between Boko and Nagar-Bera, and

(ix) What is the means of communication between Boko and Nagar-Bera ?

(b) Having regard to the fact that the existence of this Out-post at Nagar-Bera is a dire necessity for the preservation of peace and order in this locality, do Government propose to strengthen it and to exempt the public from making any contribution for its maintenance ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** replied :

29. (a) (i)—On 10th March 1948.

(ii)—To enable the Out-post to be started the public of Nagar-Bera at first provided a house to accommodate the staff. This has since been given up, and a house is now hired by Government for the purpose. This is the only contribution made by the public and was voluntary.



(iii)—This strictly does not arise, but it is understood that the value of the house previously provided was about Rs.25 a month.

(iv)—No.

(v)—No, although it is not uncommon for public-spirited individuals or groups of villagers to offer free accommodation to enable temporary Beat-Posts or patrol posts to be established.

(vi)—Does not arise.

(vii)—Yes.

(viii)—About 25 miles.

(ix)—The means of communication are entirely dependent upon seasonal conditions.

(b)—The continuance of the Out-post is under consideration.

**\*Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** The reply to Question 29(a) (iii) is not clear.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Sir, the answer is quite clear as no payment was made for the house. This question does not arise at all.

I think, the hon. Member has not taken care to go through the answers given in 29(a)(ii).

It runs thus—" To enable the out-post to be started the public of Nagar-Bera at first provided a house to accommodate the staff. This has since been given up, and a house is now hired by Government for the purpose. This is the only contribution made by the public and was voluntary.

(iii) This strictly does not arise, but it is understood that the value of the house previously provided was about Rs. 25 a month.

That question does not arise as the house was let out voluntarily without any rent.

**\*Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** The Hon'ble Minister has not taken care to ascertain the value of the rent.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Sir, it is not a question of purchase.

**\*Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** Sir, is it the intention of Government to continue or the Government have made up their mind to purchase it ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Whether permanently or temporarily the question is under consideration of the Government.

**\*Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** Sir, I want to know that having regard to the fact that the locality is 25 miles away from the Boko Police Station, do Government consider it or not, is not understood or whether the Government is inclined to take into consideration.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Sir, all these factors will be taken into consideration.



### Jowai Government High School Buildings

**Mr. LARSINGH KHYRIEM** asked :

30. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) To whom does the present buildings occupied by the Jowai Government High School belong to ?
- (b) How many buildings are there in all ?
- (c) Whether the buildings are contiguous or scattered ?
- (d) Whether Government are aware of the difficulties experienced by the teachers and students in rainy days, when they are to go from one building to another ?
- (e) Why the construction of the Jowai Government High School buildings for which money was included and voted in the Budget for 1949-50 has not yet materialised ?
- (f) Whether it is a fact that tender for this work was called for ?
- (g) Whether Government propose to provide money for the said construction in the Budget for 1950-51 ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI** replied :

30. (a)—Two buildings belong to the Welsh Mission and one belongs to a private gentleman.

(b)—Three buildings.

(c)—Scattered.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—In view of the general financial stringency consequent on the reduction of Post-War grants by the Government of India, Government decided to stop all building projects even though funds for them were included in the Budget for 1949-50.

(f)—The reply is in the affirmative.

(g)—No, not at present, *vide* answer to (e) above ; but will take up as soon as Funds would be available.

### Issue of Kerosene Oil to Dihing Kinar Co-operative Store

**Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI** asked :

31. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) How many gallons of Kerosene Oil have been supplied to Dihing Kinar Co-operative Store of Sassoni Mouza of Dibrugarh Subdivision during the period from January 1947 to December 1949, month by month ?
- (b) How many gallons have been supplied to the said Co-operative Store during the above period under special permit, month by month ?
- (c) For what purposes the Kerosene Oil was supplied ?



**Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA** (Parliamentary Secretary)  
replied :

31. (a)—A statement showing Kerosene Oil quotas issued to Dihing Kinar Co-operative Store of Sassoni Mouza, Dibrugarh, from January 1947 to December 1949 is placed below :—

Name of months	Quantity in gallons		
	1947	1948	1949
January ... ..	500	500	960
February ... ..	500	500	710
March ... ..	500	500	500
April ... ..	1,000	470	470
May ... ..	1,000	500	750
June ... ..	1,000	500	472
July ... ..	500	500	1,110
August ... ..	500	500	630
September ... ..	500	500	420
October ... ..	1,000	780	740
November ... ..	500	980	680
December ... ..	500	660	850

(b)—No special quotas have been issued to the Co-operative Store but the issues vary according to the stock with the Agents.

(c)—Kerosene quotas have been issued to this wholesaler for distribution among the pegged retailers under this store.

**Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI:** 31.(b) ইয়াত কোৱা হৈছে যে দিহিং কিনাৰ Co-operative Store ক special পাবমিটত কেবাচিন তেল দিয়া হোৱা নাই। কিন্তু পালিয়ামেণ্টৰী চেক্ৰেটৰীক কব খোজো যে supply অফিচৰ পৰা উক্ত সময়ৰ ভিতৰত উক্ত দিহিং কিনাৰ কোঃ অপাৰেটিভ ষ্টোৰক মাছে ১০০শ টিন কৰি special permit issue কৰা হৈছে ; কিন্তু pegged retailers বিলাকে সেই তেল অলপো পোৱা নাই।

এই প্ৰশ্নটো আজি ইয়াত উঠিব পাৰে বুলি মই জনা হলে মোৰ হাতত থকা সকলো কাগজ পত্ৰ লৈ আহিলোহেঁতেন তাত কোন তাৰিখে কিমান তেল Special permit ত issue কৰা হৈছে সকলো আছে। আৰু (c) ত কৈছে যে wholesaler এ retailer ক দিছে—কিন্তু একেবাৰে দিয়া হোৱা নাই।

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** আপুনি সেইটো ভাল হোৱা নাই বুলি কয় নেকি ?

**Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI:** হয়, সেইটো ঠিক হোৱা নাই।

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** আপোনাৰ হাতত প্ৰমাণ আছে নে ?



**Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI:** মোৰ হাতত যথেষ্ট থৰাপ আছে। আৰু নাহৰকটীয়াৰ কেবাচিন তেলৰ এজেন্ট জগন্নাথ হনুমান বন্ধৰ দোকানত ভাল বকমে অনুক্ৰান কৰিলেই জানিব পাৰিব।

**Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA (Parliamentary Secretary):** Sir, I do not know if the hon. Member is making a confusion between 'special permits' and 'supplementary permits'. Any way, I am quite prepared to accept the statement of the hon. Member and I am undertaking an enquiry in the matter.

**Srijut BHADRA KANTA GOGOI:** Special permit বুলিহে লিখা আছে। সেইটো মই নিজে ভালকৈ পৰীক্ষা কৰি চাই আহিছো। Special permit ত উল্ল দিহিং কিনাৰ কোঃঅপাৰেটিভ ষ্টোৰে যি তেল নিছিল সেই তেল কলা হাৰিত বিক্ৰী কৰিলে বুলিয়েই মোৰ বিশ্বাস।

### Northbrook Gate at Gauhati

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR** asked :

32. Will Government be pleased to refer to the replies given to Unstarred Question No.139 (f) and (j) asked by the Questioner during the September Session of the Assembly, 1949 (*vide* Assembly Debates of 20th September at page 1050) and state—

- (a) Whether Government have been able by this time to conclude their promised consideration of the question regarding the repair of the Northbrook Gate at Gauhati ?
- (b) If so, what is the final decision of the Government in the matter ?
- (c) Do Government propose to take early steps for its repair ?
- (d) If not, why not ?

**The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY** replied :

32 (a)—Yes.

(b)—It has been decided by Government that necessary repairs to the Gate should be made by the Gauhati Municipal Board who is responsible for its proper maintenance.

(c) & (d)—Do not arise.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** Will Government be pleased to state whether they have instructed the Executive Officer of the Gauhati Municipality to undertake the work of repair of the Gate ?

**The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY:** Sir, it is the duty of the Municipal Board to look into this matter. As the Executive Officer is in charge of the Municipality he will no doubt look into this matter. Perhaps, the Hon'ble Minister, Local Self-Government will kindly instruct the Executive Officer to attend to this.

### Transportation of timber from Assam to Calcutta Market

**Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEV** of Sidli asked :

33. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) If it is a fact that timber from Assam is not being transported as before due to want of accommodation in the trains ?



- (b) If it is a fact that timber market is now considerably dull owing to want of movement of timber from Assam to Calcutta Market ?
- (c) If Government expect any fall in forest revenue due to the above cause ?
- (d) If Government propose to contact the relevant authorities to provide proper facilities for transporting timber to Calcutta by the new link line ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA** replied :

33. (a)—Yes.  
 (b)—Yes.  
 (c)—Yes.  
 (d)—Government have already contacted the relevant authorities.

**Announcement of the result of election to the Assam Embankment and Drainage Advisory Committee**

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** As a result of voting for election to the Assam Embankment and Drainage Advisory Committee, I hereby announce that Shri Dharanidhar Basumatari has been elected. No votes were cast in favour of any other candidates.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

GRANT No. 35

(72.—Capital Outlay on Industrial Development)

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,100 be granted so defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head "72.—Capital Outlay on Industrial Development."

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Motion moved :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head '72.—Capital Outlay on Industrial Development'."

There are no Cut Motions.

I put the question.

The question is :

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head '72.—Capital Outlay on Industrial Development.'"

The question was adopted.



## GRANT No. 36

**(82B.—Capital Outlay on Nationalisation of Road Transport)**

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,75,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head "82B.—Capital Outlay on Nationalisation of Road Transport."

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,75,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head '82B.—Capital Outlay on Nationalisation of Road Transport.'"

There are no Cut Motions. I put the question.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,75,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head '82B.—Capital Outlay on Nationalisation of Road Transport.'"

The question was adopted.

## GRANT No. 34

**(71.—Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research)**

**The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,94,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head "71.—Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research".

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,94,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head '71.—Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research.'"

There are no Cut Motions. I put the question.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,94,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head '71.—Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research.'"

The question was adopted.



## GRANT No. 1

## (4.—Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax)

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 46,700 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1951 for the administration of the head "4.—Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax".

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 46,700 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1951 for the administration of the head '4.—Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax'".

There are no Cut Motions. I put the question.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 46,700 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1951 for the administration of the head '4.—Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax'".

The question was adopted.

## GRANT No. 25

## (Public Works Tools and Plants and Establishment)

**The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 25,28,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head "Public Works Tools and Plants and Establishment".

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 25,28,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head "Public Works Tools and Plants and Establishment'".

I put the question.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 25,28,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head 'Public Works Tools and Plants and Establishment'".

The question was adopted.

## GRANT No. 7

## (12.—Charges on Motor Vehicles Taxation Act)

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,56,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head "12.—Charges on Motor Vehicles Taxation Act".



**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Motion moved:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,56,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head ‘12.—Charges on Motor Vehicles Taxation Act’ ”.

There are no Cut Motions.

I put the question.

The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,56,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head ‘12.—Charges on Motor Vehicles Taxation Act’ ”.

The question was adopted.

#### GRANT No. 8

#### (13.—Other Taxes and Duties)

**The Hon'ble Srijit BISHNURAM MEDHI:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,18,600 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head ‘13.—Other Taxes and Duties’ ”.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Motion moved:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,18,600 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head ‘13.—Other Taxes and Duties’ ”.

There is no Cut Motion. I put it as a question.

The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,18,600 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head ‘13.—Other Taxes and Duties’ ”.

The question was adopted.

#### GRANT No. 14

#### (30.—Ports and Pilotage)

**The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head ‘30.—Ports and Pilotage’ ”.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Motion moved:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head ‘30.—Ports and Pilotage’ ”.

There is no Cut Motion. I put it as a question.



The question is :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head ‘30.—Ports and Pilotage’ ”.

The question was adopted.

#### GRANT No. 28

#### (55.—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions and 83.—Payment of Commuted Value of Pensions)

**The Hon’ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 33,13,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head “55.—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions and 83.—Payment of Commuted Value of Pensions”.

**The Hon’ble the SPEAKER:** Motion moved :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 33,13,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head ‘55.—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions and 83.—Payment of Commuted Value of Pensions’ ”.

There is no Cut Motion. I put it as a question.

The question is :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 33,13,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head ‘55.—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions and 83.—Payment of Commuted Value of Pensions’ ”.

The question was adopted.

#### GRANT No. 6

#### (11.—Registration)

**The Hon’ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,13,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head “11.—Registration”.

**The Hon’ble the SPEAKER:** Motion moved :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,13,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head ‘11.—Registration’ ”.

There is no Cut Motion. I put it as a question.

The question is :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,13,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head ‘11.—Registration’ ”.

The question was adopted.



## GRANT No. 27

## (54-A.—Famine Relief)

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,10,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head "54-A.—Famine Relief".

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,10,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head '54-A.—Famine Relief'".

There is no Cut Motion. I put it as a question.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,10,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head '54.—A—Famine Relief'".

The question was adopted.

## GRANT No. 15

## (36.—Scientific Departments)

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head "36.—Scientific Departments".

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head '36.—Scientific Departments'".

There is no Cut Motion. I put it as a question.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 13,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head '36.—Scientific Departments'".

The question was adopted.

## GRANT No. 5

## (10.—Forests)

**The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 36,38,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head "10.—Forests".

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 36,38,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head '10.—Forests'".

There is one Cut Motion standing in the name of Prof. Sarwan.



**Prof. P. M. SARWAN:** I beg to move, Sir, that the total provision of Rs.36,38,500 under Grant No. 5, Major head—10.—Forests, at page 46 of the Budget be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.36,38,500 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

My object is to criticise the Government regarding their re-forestation plans.

I am specially concerned with the Forest Department as quite an appreciable portion of the tea garden tribes form the majority of people labouring on the Forests of Assam. The labourers of the Forests belong to the same section of people that go to supply labour for the tea gardens. *Ex-tea* labourers who do not find Government waste lands to produce food move into the Forests and labour in the forest to eke out a living and these labourers often form forest villages. Though as a national of Assam I am just as interested in the development of the forests of Assam, I am at the present moment, because of the present crisis, more interested in the well-being and happiness of people who labour in the forests as well as those who labour on lands outside the Reserved Forests.

The Forests Department, in their plans to develop and extend the forests of Assam, may overlook the fact that the Forest Department just as all other Government Departments exist, in the ultimate analysis, for the well-being, contentment and happiness of people, men, women and children. Unhappiness and misery of any section of people is bound to affect the rest of the population whether now or hereafter.

Re-forestation of lands already used, occupied and cultivated by people for the production of food, may be desirable from the stand-point of forest development and extension. But when reforestation is suddenly ordered by Government, the people affected are likely to be disorganised through misunderstanding and a sense of insecurity and injustice might spread among them and through them among their kinsmen outside the forests and thence to the large tea garden population on the tea estates of Assam. To illustrate my point I refer to the proposal of the Government to re-forest Government non-cadastral waste-lands occupied by *ex-tea* garden labourers in Mokhua and Gorsinga areas of Dibrugarh subdivision and latterly in Doom-Dooma area. Two years ago the subordinates of the Forest Department went to measure the boundaries of the above areas of Mokhua and Garsinga without having explained what they were doing. The ignorant raiyats were given to understand that since they did not belong to the Congress Party, the Congress Government was taking away their lands to turn them out of their hearths and homes! A Government regardless of its colour has to take care of all people, and I am sure the present Congress Government is anxious to do so. But the Government should be careful to see how its policies and plans are actually being implemented by the subordinates who are in direct touch with the masses. Just as the Revenue Department should see how the Sub-Deputy Collectors, the Kanungoes and the Mondals are behaving in their relations with the raiyats, so the Forest Department should see how the Rangers, the Foresters and the Forest Guards are behaving with the forest labourers, tenants and others with whom they are or come in direct contact.

After all Government Departments exist for the people and not *vice-versa*. If the people are rendered miserable by any action of any Department of the Government, the Government should be ready to find out where the shoe pinches and remove the cause of the trouble and avoid precipitate actions likely to result in sense of insecurity, panic or frustration.

Although this is a Cut Motion and a defect is being indicated in the traditional style, one must not fail to congratulate the Department for trying to carry out all the forest plans and routine work in an efficient manner in spite of paucity of funds. The Forest Department is being run much more efficiently than many other Departments of Government, *e. g.*, much more efficiently than the Public Works Department, but my Cut Motion is in the nature of drawing the attention



of the Government to the need of not over-looking the human element which is just as important as efficiency. If the human touch is given the go-by at Cabinet level, gradually we shall find that the Government is moving in one direction, the M. L. A's moving in another, the supporters outside trekking in a third direction, while the masses will be moving in no direction or perhaps drifting towards the abyss.

**Mr. J. S. HARDMAN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, while not necessarily wishing to lend support to all the points which the hon. Mr. Sarwan has made in moving this Cut Motion, I would like to take this opportunity of drawing the attention of Government and of hon. Members of this House to a number of important items in the Forest Department portfolio.

First of all Mr. Sarwan has rightly referred to the high standard of administration which continues to characterise the Forest Department; particularly on the financial side we find that the accounts are well prepared and that Department is bringing in a substantial amount of revenue to Government. Temporarily it may be handicapped by the difficulties which transport dislocation has imposed, but nevertheless we can hope that the Forest Department will continue for many years to contribute substantial and increasing sums to the Exchequer of this State. In fact we would be happier to find rather more expenditure on the Forest Department because we believe that productive expenditure is most important at the present time, since the low standard of *per capita* income referred to the other day by the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition and also by the Hon'ble Food Minister, can only be raised if the productive income of the State is increased and the Forest Department is doing its bit towards this. It is not, however, on this item particularly that I wish to take up the time of the House. Now that progress has been made with the integration of Assam and if my reading of the new Constitution is correct, the powers of Government are greater in those areas where formerly they exercised only an indirect control. It is, therefore, necessary to draw the attention of Government to the importance of immediate steps to re-afforest those hill slopes in the State which have been so severely denuded in the past. To-day during the rains we find that the rivers of Assam are thick with mud, which is the wealth of the State drifting out to the sea; the topsoil which carries most of the valuable mineral properties is being washed away into the rivers, and the river beds are rising with the result that we can contemplate in the next few years that floods in Assam will become greater and more devastating. It is, therefore, of the utmost importance if the topsoil of this State is preserved, if devastating floods are to be prevented, that immediate steps be taken to re-afforest on a far vaster scale than has been hitherto contemplated those hill slopes which are now barren and from which torrential rain falls into the valleys below producing all the problems of soil erosion. We have the problem of flood control which can only be tackled if re-afforestation is carried out on a really extensive scale.

I hope that the Hon'ble Forest Minister will be able to give us an assurance that Government have this matter in hand.

**The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not at all prepared to accept the statement made by the hon. Mover of the Cut Motion that the *ex-tea* garden labourers are neglected. As a matter of fact in the reserved forests where we have got forest villages we have been accommodating these *ex-tea* garden labourers, namely Santhals and others. We have been entertaining them as forests villagers and we are now taking more care for the development of these forests villages, with regard to sanitation, communication, water supply and education. The hon. Mover of this Cut Motion made a specific reference to certain reserves, namely Makhowa and Garsinghia in the Lakhimpur Division. With regard to this I beg to invite the attention of the hon. Members to the replies given by me in the 1948 September Session of the Assembly to the question put by the same hon. Member. The replies to Question 60 (c) and (d)



It has been reported that there are no private lands or villages within the proposed areas, but there are squatters only who are mostly Nepalese and *ex-tea* garden labourers who have been doing a great deal of damage to these forest areas by indiscriminate felling. In "d" and "e", it is stated that the proposal has yet to be examined and enquired into before any final declaration is made to constitute these areas as the reserved forests. As usual preliminary notification will be published by Government inviting objections from persons who may have any grievances against such reservation. Tea garden tribes and castes if there be any such caste and tribe will then be able to file or represent their cases before the Settlement Officer to be appointed by Government and their grievances, if any, will certainly be enquired into by him before any final decision is made. So this reservation is not done all on a sudden. We have been inviting objections from different people and have given sufficient opportunity to the people to file their objections. I do not know whether the hon. Member is aware that such preliminary notifications were issued in the meantime.

**Prof. P. M. SARWAN:** I am aware of the notification, Sir. I have brought the matter to the notice of the Settlement Officer, that is the Deputy Commissioner.

**The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA:** Did he submit any formal objection to the Settlement Officer?

**Prof. P. M. SARWAN:** I have indicated to the people to do so, but we have to consider the backwardness and ignorance of the people.

**The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA:** Any way, at the time of passing the final order I shall look into it and see what can be done.

I am really very glad to hear that the hon. Member has stated before the House that of all the Departments the Forest Department is running very efficiently. With regard to the point raised by Mr. Hardman, I may tell him that Government is quite alive to the question of more reservation specially in slopes, and we have definite scheme for extending the reservation areas.

I may tell the hon. Members in this connection that the area of the reserved forests in this Province is still now very small. According to expert opinion 25 per cent. of the total area of the State is required. But we have at the moment 12 per cent. only. We have not got half the area that is the standard percentage of the State. So, I hope and I am very glad to find that the hon. Members will give full support with this drive of the Ministry.

**Prof. P. M. SARWAN:** I have drawn the attention of the Government to the matter. My purpose has been served, and Government have expressed their anxiety to attend to the matter that I have brought before the House. Therefore, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his Motion?

The Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I put the question.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 36,38,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1951 for the administration of the head '10.—Forests'."

The question was adopted.



## GRANT No. 21

## (42.—Co-operation—I—Co-operative Societies)

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,27,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1951 for the administration of the head "42.—Co-operation—I.—Co-operative Societies."

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,27,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1951 for the administration of the head '42.—Co-operation—I.—Co-operative Societies'."

I see there are no Cut Motions. So I put the question.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,27,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1951 for the administration of the head '42.—Co-operation—I.—Co-operative Societies'."

The question was adopted.

## GRANT No. 21A

## (42.—Co-operation—II—Rural Development)

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,02,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1951 for the administration of the head "42.—Co-operation—II—Rural Development".

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,02,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1951 for the administration of the head '42.—Co-operation—II—Rural Development'."

There are no Cut Motions. So I put the question.

The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,02,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1951 for the administration of the head '42.—Co-operation—II—Rural Development'."

The question was adopted.

## GRANT No. 30

## (57.—Miscellaneous)

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,12,22,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951, for the administration of the head "57.—Miscellaneous".

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,12,22,100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1951, for the administration of the head '57.—Miscellaneous'."

As there were no Cut Motions, the Motion was put by the Chair as a question before the House, and adopted.



## GRANT No. 13

## (29.—Police)

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 78,33,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1951 for the administration of the head "29.—Police".

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 78,33,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1951 for the administration of the head '29.—Police'."

As there were no Cut Motions, the Motion was put by the Chair as a question before the House, and adopted.

## GRANT No. 18

## (39.—Public Health)

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,50,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1951, for the administration of the head "39.—Public Health".

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,50,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1951 for the administration of the head '39.—Public Health'."

As there were no Cut Motions, the Motion was put by the Chair as a question before the House and adopted.

## Government Resolutions

**The Hon'ble Rev J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to move the Government \*Resolution standing in my name, which was laid on the table of the hon. Members on Saturday last, if the hon. Members would give me permission.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The proposed Resolution was placed on the table on Saturday last. Under the Rules the hon. Members are entitled to have at least two days' time for tabling of amendments. It is not yet two days. However, if the hon. Members have no objection I would allow the Hon'ble Minister to move his Resolution.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Some hon. Members might like to table amendments.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Then we can take this up to-morrow. The hon. Members may table amendments to-day before 3 p. m.

## Resolutions

We now come to private members' business—Resolutions. The first Resolution stands in the name of Prof. P. M. Sarwan. He may move his Resolution.



**Resolutions *re* : holding of Local Board Elections under adult franchise**

**Prof. P. M SARWAN** : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not going to move this Resolution, but may I be permitted to speak a few words on it ?

**A Voice** : Move the Resolution.

**Prof. P. M. SARWAN** : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that in view of the provision made in the Constitution of India by which all adults have been enfranchised, this Assembly is of opinion that henceforward the Local Board elections in Assam be held under adult franchise.

Sir, in a democracy it is of great importance that elections should not be delayed, and hence the ensuing Local Board elections should not any longer be postponed. But in view of the fact that the new electoral rolls prepared in accordance with the Constitution have not yet been published and their publication for the purpose of Local Board elections will entail further delay in holding the said elections, already too long delayed, and as the Government have shown, by a Bill, their democratic anxiety not to postpone the elections beyond 31st May next, it would be difficult to move the Resolution, and at the same time to ask the Government to be democratic and not hold immediate elections. That being my difficulty, Sir, I beg to withdraw my Resolution. Have I got the permission of the House to do so ?

The Resolution was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

(At this stage the Hon'ble Speaker vacated the Chair and the Deputy Speaker occupied it).

**Resolution regarding reduction of salaries of the Hon'ble Ministers and the Hon'ble Speaker**

**Maulavi ABDUL HALIM** : Madam, Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take immediate steps to introduce necessary legislation to reduce the salaries of the Hon'ble Ministers and the Hon'ble Speaker to the amount of Rs.500 only per month for each of them.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI** : Madam, I rise on a point of order. This Resolution as it appears relates to two different matter namely, the salaries of the Hon'ble Ministers and the salary of the Hon'ble Speaker, whereas, a Resolution can contain one subject only and not two subjects and as such this Resolution is out of order. (*Hear, hear*).

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY** : This Resolution has been admitted.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI** : Two subject matters cannot be included in a Resolution.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY** : In that case one of the two subjects may be eliminated.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER** : What is the opinion of the hon. Mover ?



**Maulavi ABDUL HALIM**: I would like to move eliminating the salary of the Hon'ble Speaker.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI**: When there is a question of order, the opinion of the hon. Mover is not at all necessary. It is to be decided whether it is permissible or not to move this Resolution according to the rules of the Assembly.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER**: According to the rules, this Resolution is not in order, as it contains the salaries of the Hon'ble Speaker as well as of the Hon'ble Ministers. So, I rule that this Resolution is out of order.

**Resolution regarding conversion into a National Health Resort of the Hot Spring Tank known as Garampani in Nambar Forest, Golaghat**

**Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA**: Madam, Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take steps to convert into a National Health Resort the Hot Spring Tank known as Garampani in the Nambar Forests, Golaghat by reclaiming the same with necessary improvements and constructions; and that for the bathers and pleasure seekers a levy of such fees as may be decided by Government be fixed by eliminating indiscriminate bathing and polluting the water of the said tank.

Madam, I think, most of our hon. Members have seen this beauty spot in Assam, known as Garampani, about 14 miles off from the town of Golaghat. It is situated in the Nambar Forests, the Forest Reserve, and the place where this tank is situated is just on the main road of Golaghat-Dimapur Road, a first class Public Works Department road, fully developed, nearby which we have also an Inspection Bungalow. But the tank which will be about 30 square feet, just on the side of the Nambar river, has been every year deteriorating. Many people from Assam and outside also go to this place and take bath in the tank, but, generally we find that there is no check and all sorts of people, even lepers, go there and take bath. Of course, there is one exit from the tank to the Nambar river nearby where the water flows, which is on a low level, which is a salient feature of the tank, otherwise, perhaps, many people would have refused to have bath in this tank. The water of the tank contains sulphur and many people who suffer from skin disease go there to take bath, as it is said that many people get advantage of their ailments being cured there.

Madam, my intention of moving this Resolution is to ask the Government to improve the said tank. While I was the Chairman of the Golaghat Local Board in 1929, I reclaimed this tank to some extent and moved the Government to issue a pass system so that indiscriminate bathing might be checked. My idea was that there should be a Chaukidar or a Clerk, who on production of a certification from a Doctor would allow a person to take bath in the tank. But that was refused, I think, because Government of Assam had no jurisdiction over it as it contains mineral resources, which are under the domain of the Government of India. So the matter ended there. Now, that we are independent, we have got our own State as an independent State within the Union, I think, we can devise means to improve the tank and introduce permit system to check indiscriminate bathing.

I am glad to inform the House, and I congratulate the Government that in the Budget Memorandum this year I find that they are going to erect an inn near the tank. I think they have provided for this Garampani tank a sum of Rs.6,000 and odd to erect a permanent shed in the Garampani and a shed near the tank. My contention is that the tank should be improved by cementing the sides of the tank,



and, if possible, by a system of separate small tanks nearby connected with pipe systems so that if a person goes there and takes his bath, the water might be emptied and fresh flow of water from the main tank may be introduced. I think it will be a very healthy system and, at the same time, with advantage, may cure diseases of many people who come from a great distance to have their bath there.

In this connection, I may also refer that we will eventually from this part of the tank—about 13 miles off from the Golaghat Town—have a national park with Dimapur, Mao and Nichugard leading up to the region of Logtak lake in Manipur. I have found from a report written by Mr. E. P. Gee that Logtak lake abounds in wild ducks and wild fowls nearby and this will be a very suitable place for good and controlled shooting for the Sikaries, sportsmen and tourists and so eventually with this tank converted into a systematic and protective tank with Dimapur, Nichugard and Mao right up to Logtak region about 150 miles in distance or so—we might convert the whole area into a National Park.

In this connection, I can tell the House that we have no good and large National Parks in India. There is hardly any National Park in our country. We have some such national park in Ceylon, I think, in the United Provinces we have a national park, but nothing has been heard about it. We hear that Government is proposing to have one Tirap Frontier Tracts national park, but I do not think that this National Park will be of any advantage in the line suggested as from the nearest road one has to walk about 4 or 5 days to reach the area. I am of opinion that no money should be expended on it.

**Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Madam, are these all relevant to Garampani ?

**Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA:** Madam, if this tank is improved, I think, we may have in contemplation to build a National Park as suggested. The area is very suitable, and if it is converted into a National Park including Dimapur, Nichugard and Mao and up to Logtak region this will form a very good National Park with immense possibilities for good game and controlled shooting that will attract world tourists and sportsmen who will have access to our Province. So, I beg to move that this Resolution be taken into consideration.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Resolution moved: "This Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take steps to convert into a National Health Resort the Hot Spring Tank known as Garampani in the Nambar Forests, Golaghat by reclaiming the same with necessary improvements and constructions ; and that for the bathers and pleasure seekers a levy of such fees as may be decided by Government be fixed by eliminating indiscriminate bathing and polluting the water of the said."

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN:** Madam, I rise to support the Resolution moved by my Friend which proposes to keep the Garampani unpolluted and for which he wants to make a proposal to the Government or the Public Works Department to spend a little so that this very useful health resort with medicated water may stand there as a real health resort. Recently I had been there, and fortunately I met one of the Public Works Department Engineers, and we had a talk about the very thing that the muddy water of Garampani might not be polluted, and with a little expenditure and a little imagination Garampani might be turned into a very good health resort, where people go for picnic or for bath. I find that possibly on a modest calculation it would not cost more than 10 to 20 thousand rupees for its resuscitation and at the same time to make a small quarter where the people may take shelter. If a small levy is made, everybody will be pleased to pay the levy when they come for enjoyment and for picnic purpose or for bath. As such even by spending Rs.20 to Rs.30 thousand even in these days of financial hardship, I believe, we can have a good bath there and what little amount would be spent could be realised within a year or two.



**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** How these amounts could be realised within a year or two ?

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN:** The amounts could be realised from the people who come to the health resort by way of a levy.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** What should be the amount of fee ? (*A voice annas four*).

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN:** It should be little more in the case of individuals. I say for a family or for a person who goes there with his family it should be Re.1 or Rs.2 or per capita  $\frac{2}{4}$  or  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** May I know what is the distance from the nearest village ?

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN:** It is in the heart of the Forest Reserve.

**Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Twelve miles from Golaghat town.

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN:** This is a very lovely place. People come there with advantage to their health, to their mind and for relaxing their jaded muscles. I think this much of amount will not be grudged by the Public Works Department Minister to make a scheme for this purpose, and the Hon'ble Finance Minister to find out the money.

**Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Madam, Deputy Speaker, I am raising a point of order. In the discussion of Resolutions, the usual procedure is that when the Mover makes a preliminary speech we then hear the Government point of view and after that the subject is open for general discussion. The hon. Mover has moved his Resolution and now we want to hear the Government point of view first before any other Member takes part in the discussion.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Yes, that is the procedure.

**The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA:** Madam, Deputy Speaker, I quite appreciate the views expressed by the hon. Mover of this Resolution.

Our land is rich in natural resources. We have a number of water falls and hot springs here and there. I have personally visited the two localities where we have got hot springs. To one the hon. Mover of the Resolution has already referred and the other is just by the side of the road from Jowai to Haffong. There are also some hot springs I think in some other parts of our Province. With regard to the hot spring which has been referred to in the Resolution by my Friend, Mr. Barua, I have seen it more than once and the attention of the Government has already been drawn to this and we have made a provision for constructing a shed. We have also asked the local Divisional Forest Officer to sink a well and have the water examined chemically. These are the steps already taken by the Government and in view of this I hope the hon. Mover of the Resolution will kindly withdraw the Resolution. We shall see in what best way we can improve the hot springs.

**Srijut KHORSING TERANG:** মাননীয়া সভানেত্রী মহোদয়া, আমার বক্তরা ডাঙৰীয়াই যিটো resolution আনিছে সেইটো মই বৰ দৰকাৰী বুলি ভাবো। মই সেই পুখুৰীত কেবাবাৰো নিজে গৈ গা ধুই পাইছো। নানা ঠাইৰ পৰা মানুহে গৰু গাড়ীৰে বা গটৰে আহি তাত গা ধোৱে। তাত গা ধোৱাৰ উদ্দেশ্য হৈছে এয়ে যে, তাত গা ধুলে খঙ, খঞ্জলি ইত্যাদি ভাল হয় বুলি মানুহৰ বিশ্বাস।

(*A voice*—তাত গা ধুলে শকতো হয় নেকি ?)



কব নোৱাৰো, হয়তো হবও পাৰে, সেই কাৰণেই হয়তো মই শকত হৈছো।—যাই হওক আমাৰ ফুকন ডাঙৰীয়াই যিটো ১০ হাজাৰ টকাৰ হিচাব দিলে, মোৰ মনেৰে সিমানখিনিও খৰচ নহব। কাৰণ তাত পাথৰ বালি পোৱা যায়, মাত্ৰ তাত চিমেন্ট দিলেই হব। গতিকে তাত সামান্য খৰচেৰেই কাম হৈ যাব। সেই পুখুৰীত গা ধুবলৈ ল'ৰা ছোৱালীৰে সৈতে বহুত দুৰৰ পৰা মানুহ আহে। গতিকে তেওঁলোকক তাত থাকিবলৈ সুবিধা কৰি দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰি দিব লাগে। গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে চৰাই ঘৰৰ নিচিনা একোটা ঘৰ কৰি দিলেও হব।

(A voice—সেইটো কোৱাই হৈছে)

মই কৈছো অকল পুখুৰীটোৰ সেৱাসতি কৰিলেই নহব। মানুহক এনেকুৱা সুবিধা কৰি দিব লাগে যাতে যিবিলাক মানুহ দুৰৰ পৰা আহে তেওঁলোক তাত দুই তিন দিন মান সুবিধাৰে থাকিব পাৰে। তাত হিন্দু মুছলমানৰ ভেদাভেদ নোহোৱাকৈ সকলোৱে গা ধোৱে। গতিকে মই আশা কৰো এই resolution টো গভৰ্ণমেণ্টে যেন বিবেচনা কৰি চায়।

(A voice—Tax কিমান কৈ লোৱা হব?)

—Tax ব সম্বন্ধে মই বিশেষ কব নোৱাৰো। গা ধোৱা মানুহে কিন্তু এনেয়ে পানীত পইচা পেলাই দিয়ে।

(A voice—তাত দেও আছে নে কি?)

বোধকৰো—কোনো দেৱতাক সেইটো উৎসৰ্গা কৰিয়েই দিয়ে। গতিকে মই এই resolution টো সমৰ্থন কৰো।

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Madam, I have the fullest sympathy with the Mover of this Resolution, my esteemed Friend, Mr. Barua, for more reasons than one. No. 1, it is a very important hot spring that we have in Assam. No. 2, on another occasion, I think last year, my Friend, Mr. Barua, had the courage and courtesy to support a Motion of mine though later on he roused the indignation of some of the hon. Members of his own Party. I endorse everything that has fallen from his lips and I fully agree with him that this is a very important health resort and Government attention ought to be paid adequately to this important matter. Mr. Barua has said that most of the hon. Members of this House must have seen this hot spring. I should like to contradict that statement of his. In my opinion most of the hon. Members have not seen it and I hope the Government would make arrangements, as soon as the session is over, to carry all the hon. Members here to this hot spring (*Hear, hear*). I understand the spring is haunted. Some arrangement may be made by the Forest Department, the administration of which has been appreciated by some of the hon. Members in this House, in order to get more sympathy and tributes from us to carry the hon. Members to this health resort to give them a Turkish bath. This is confirmed by Mr. Terang with all the weight of his bulky figure when he says that money is thrown into the water and that this money is pocketed by demons. Madam, enough attention has not been paid to this important hot spring as, I understand, only Rs. 6,000 is being provided for this.....(voices: No. No. Only for this year this amount has been provided). However, Madam, at least Rs. 20,000 should be provided, otherwise we would not allow Mr. Barua to withdraw his Resolution (*laughter*).

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** May I know, Madam, whether Dr. Chaudhury has ever visited this hot spring?

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** No Madam, I have never had occasion to go there and therefore I want that arrangements may be made to carry all the hon. Members of this House to that place to see the hot spring.

**Maulavi Sa'iyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Madam, Deputy Speaker, I have been rather amused at the trend of discussion over this simple Resolution. I have been amused at the thought that many hon. Members have described this place as a health resort. It is far from it. It has been admitted by many hon. speakers that it is in the heart of Nambar Forest and Nambar Forest is a notoriously malarial place. So this place cannot be called a



health resort. I had been twice to that tank. The conditions of the surroundings at both the times of my visit were so filthy that I had to put a handkerchief to my nose. I found not merely human excretas within 10 feet of this supposed sacred tank but the banks of this tank also were full of cowdung, and as has been described by my hon. Friend the waters of this tank are not only muddy but some kind of gas or vapour bubbles through its surface.

If the idea of the hon. Mover is to convert this tank with his supposedly medicinal virtues into a health resort he should have proper data and complete analysis of the water to see whether it really has any medicinal properties and before recommending it to Government that the tank be converted into one of the celebrated hot springs that are found in various places in Europe which go by the name "spa"s, he should have requested Government to first survey all the data or rather collect data before converting it into what he terms to be a health resort. My hon. Friend, Mr. Nilmani Phookan, has gone a step further and he says that people go there for picnic parties. I don't think the idea of my Friend, the Mover of this Resolution is to convert this place into a picnic ground and I doubt whether it is suitable for this because the clearing around this tank is about the size of this Chamber and the tank itself will be about 1/3rd of it. If we want to convert it into a health giving "spa" where people suffering especially from skin diseases can go, then the tank should have to be excavated, the land around it reclaimed and the water in it should be made crystal clear. I find, Madam, that Government are already committed to spend for Rs. 6,000 because they have included this sum in their projects of new schemes. If it is the idea of the Government to construct some 'serai' to give shelter to the people going there, they should also make some conservancy arrangements, otherwise the place instead of being converted into a health resort or a beauty spot will be converted into a plague spot breeding diseases.

This Garam Pani is at a distance from Golaghat—the nearest town—of about 12 miles and if I remember aright, the nearest village will be about 6 miles away. There are other hot springs in Assam as already stated by the Hon'ble Forest Minister, one is in Jowai Subdivision.....(Hon'ble Srijut Rupnath Brahma—It is not in Jowai, but in the district of North Cachar Hills). It may be so, but on your way from Jowai to Haflong you touch a village called *garam pani*. Whatever that may be, what I want to impress upon the House is that at this time of great financial stringency we should not spend however small a sum may be even Rs. 6,000 without collecting proper data. First bring some sample of this water, send it to the Pasteur Institute at Shillong and have it analysed to find out if there are any salts or gaseous matter and whether it has really got any medicinal or curative value. Secondly, if it really has got medicinal properties then to advertise it widely so that people from all parts of Assam and India may go there.

I have not been to any of those "spa"s in Europe, but I have read a lot about them and I find that the curative effect from those places lies in drinking of their water. To take a bath in so small a tank of the Garam Pani even if it has got medicinal or curative value will instead convert into a bed of infectious diseases. You should make arrangements for separate platforms for taking bath by taking the water from the tank and have the bath outside it and make proper drains so that the water may not flow back into the tank itself and thereby pollute it. The first thing that should be done here is to reclaim the tank and make its water crystal clear so that people can drink it. I have read that the water from the "Spa"s in Europe is really very good for people suffering from rheumatism, gout or skin diseases. Besides, separate arrangements for bathing are provided in cubicles so that people can bathe in privacy and use the medicinal water for baths and the "Spa" water is not polluted.

Therefore, although I have every sympathy with the hon. Mover of this Resolution to have this place improved or rather renovated, I would ask Government to make enquiries on the lines that I have suggested before they invest any amount of the public money in this project,



**Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA:** Madam, I am very much obliged to my Friend, the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition, for giving his views about the place which perhaps he had seen some ten years or more..... (Maulavi Saiyid Muhammad Saadulla—ten years ago and also last year)—I am constrained to admit that what he said, that at the time he first went to that locality he had to take his handkerchief on his nose on account of the very bad smell from the surroundings, was unfortunately correct. But I must inform him that that was partly due to the fact that there was no systematic check at the time and people who went there when they had the call of nature they rather used the tank freely. But I have seen this very tank last cold weather and I found it is now in much more better condition. Since the Chowkidar of the Inspection Bungalow and other visitors take a little care to cleanse the surroundings of the tank, there is now no question of bad smell coming out and many people go there for picnics also. At any rate, the suggestions given by my Friend are worth consideration. I think the water contains sulphur, because if we light a match stick in the vapour the whole thing is set on fire. So I quite agree that this should be done and the minerals that are found in the water might be analysed, and if it is found to be conducive to health, surely the Government will take steps. I understand the Hon'ble the Forest Minister has said that steps are being taken in that direction, and will see how far the water is conducive to health. At any rate, the Hon'ble Forest Minister has given us assurance that he will look into the matter, how the tank can be improved, and in view of the proposal of the Government that an inn is going to be constructed there, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the resolution.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his resolution ?

The Resolution was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** I do not propose to move the resolution.\*

**Resolution regarding opening of some portion of Forest Reserve Lands and Professional Grazing Reserves for cultivation**

**Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN:** Madam, I beg to move that this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take immediate steps to throw open some portions of Reserve Forest Lands and also some portions of Professional Grazing Reserves for cultivation by the landless indigenous and domiciled people of Assam, in Darrang District with a view to giving an impetus for "Grow-More-Food Campaign".

The object of moving my Resolution is to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Revenue Minister that there are thousands of landless indigenous and domiciled people in Darrang District and other areas of Assam who require land for cultivation for their livelihood. These wretched people take other peoples' lands on Mukswa Khajana or Adhya by which it is not sufficient to maintain themselves and their families. It is very pitiable that seeing no Government waste lands for cultivation these wretched people have applied to the Deputy Commissioner, Darrang for settlement of land, in some portion of the non-cadastral forest

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\* Having regard to the fact that a huge amount of money shall have to be spent in raising the grounds of the present site of the Gauhati University at Pandu before they can be made fit for use and also in view of the inconvenience that is likely to be caused to the smooth working of the University due to its close proximity to the Pandu Railway Station, this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do shift the present site of the Gauhati University from Pandu to the eastern side of the Gauhati town somewhere near the Bamuni Maidan where vast areas of high lands fit for immediate use can be acquired without incurring heavy expenditure and where the site is also charming.



reserve land in Sakomato Mauza and also applied for settlement of land in the Professional Grazing Reserve land in Behali Mauza. Among these applicants for land there are some flood-affected people who may kindly be provided with land for cultivation in the Professional Grazing Reserve lands in Behali Mauza. If the Government would favourably consider the case of these landless and flood-affected people and grant some portion of the non-cadastral reserve forest land and Professional Grazing Reserve land in Sakomato and Behali Mauzas respectively they would be saved from their misery. They will be able to grow more food for themselves and others and will bring more revenue for the Government. I am not asking the Hon'ble Revenue Minister to give land to the immigrants but to the *bona fide* Assamese and domiciled people of Assam.

With these words I commend my Resolution for the acceptance of the House.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Resolution moved: "this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take immediate steps to throw open some portions of Reserve Forest Lands and also some portions of Professional Grazing Reserves for cultivation by the landless indigenous and domiciled people of Assam, in Darrang District with a view to giving an impetus for 'Grow-More-Food Campaign'."

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Madam, when the Resolution consists of two different matters it is very difficult to answer, because under Rule 79, it is clearly laid down that "subject to the restrictions contained in these rules, any member may move a resolution relating to a matter of general public interest." It contains two parts, namely dereservation of Reserve Forests and Professional Grazing Reserves. So in view of this I raise a point of order. Of course, I am prepared to reply to him, if he amends the resolution. If it is Reserve Forests, this will be replied by the Hon'ble Minister in-charge of Forest.

**Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN:** Madam, I beg leave of the House to amend my Resolution.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Is it the sense of the House that we allow the amendment made by the hon. Member ?

(Voices :—No.)

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I think the sense of the House is not to allow the hon. Member to amend his Resolution. I therefore declare the Resolution out of order as it relates to two different subjects.

We shall now take up the next Resolution, standing in the name of Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury.

#### **Resolution regarding bringing of more land under jute Cultivation**

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Madam, I beg to move that in view of the serious shortage of jute in the country, this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take early steps to bring more land under jute cultivation.

As is clear from the wording of the Resolution, there is a great shortage of jute in India. With the partition of the country, nearly 80 per cent. of the jute has fallen to the other Dominion, with the result that with the little amount of production that we have got India has not been able to earn enough of foreign exchange. It has been said, and rightly so, that jute is among the few items which are responsible for earning this currency, *viz.*, Dollar.



Now, most of the jute that is produced in India is grown in Assam, but here too enough land is not available for the production of this vital commodity. Hence I have been constrained to bring up this Resolution for sympathetic consideration of, and acceptance by, the House.

Madam, it is because of this serious shortage of jute that about September and October last quite a number of jute mills had to be totally closed and others had to be run only partially until at last the Indian Jute Mills Association considered it appropriate and advisable not to close down mills but to run them shorter hours. It is only recently that some quantity of Assam jute that passed through Pakistan from Assam was released by the Pakistan Government. The other Dominion has also created certain difficulties with regard to the purchase by the Indian Jute Mills Association of the jute produced in Pakistan. Any way, until a final agreement is reached between our country and the other Dominion with regard to the smooth purchase of this commodity from Pakistan we have got to see that enough jute is produced in Assam and in India as a whole. Since we are concerned, through this Resolution, with the growing of jute in Assam we would request the Government to make more land available for the production of this commodity in order to keep our mills running throughout the year.

This industry employs thousands of people and should there be scarcity as occasionally reported of jute and should on account of this scarcity some of the mills have to be closed down, we can well imagine what may happen to the vast number of people who are thrown out of employment. Unemployment is the breeding ground of Communism. The moment a person is unemployed he had nothing to hold on to and in that condition he commits certain acts condemned by society and the State and of that situation the anti-social elements take ready advantage. It is to prevent those people from taking advantage of any such situation, whose recurrence might be very likely on account of this acute shortage of jute for the mills of Calcutta, that I have, through this Resolution, and drawn the pointed attention of the Government to the necessity of making more plots of land available for the growing of jute. Jute mills without jute mean nothing; similarly jute without mills is also meaningless. Unfortunately on account of the division of the country we are faced with a situation in which all the jute mills have fallen to India and most of the jute to Pakistan. Therefore I request the Government to consider and reconsider the Resolution which I have brought forward for making more land available for the cultivation of jute.

With these few words, I commend my Resolution to the acceptance of the House.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Resolution moved: "That in view of the serious shortage of jute in the country, this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take early steps to bring more land under jute cultivation."

We shall continue discussion of this Resolution after lunch.

#### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned for lunch till 1 P. M.

#### After Lunch

The Assembly *re*-assembled after lunch at 1 P. M. with the Hon'ble Speaker on the Chair.

**The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Mover of this Resolution has not mentioned what steps should be taken regarding increased cultivation of jute. I am glad that he is also conscious of the jute shortage in our territory. I must state that this Government is aware of the jute shortage and since September last, Government has taken steps to increase



the jute acreage. But, as I mentioned on Saturday last, with reference to a Motion on the food position of the Province, that increased production of any agricultural crops depends entirely on the technical ability of the cultivators and the capacity of their plough-bullocks. In this economic context, Sir, we have formulated our plans for more production of jute. In a Conference held here in Shillong with the Government of India officers we have taken steps to have double cropping in some Sali areas. In some areas of Barpeta, Nowgong and Darrang the jute is followed by Sali and we are taking steps whether in other Sali areas also we can introduce jute as the first crop to be followed by Sali. Our steps also include distribution of seeds in the new areas which are to be developed especially in Upper Assam. But I must state that it is the human material which will count in this production. We have taken this step for opening large areas for jute cultivation in some of the Professional Grazing Reserves without giving the cultivators any ownership over the land. The people are encouraged to form into groups for joint cultivation in such Professional Grazing Reserves. But, as I have already mentioned, it is the technical ability of the cultivators which will count much.

The Government of India has placed at the disposal of the Provincial Government an amount for helping cultivators for retting tanks and distribution of seeds. I think, there is no use in moving this Resolution. I would have gladly accepted any constructive suggestions if the hon. Mover would have put. In view of this fact that we had already taken steps to increase production of jute I would request the hon. Member to withdraw his Resolution.

**Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thought that this Resolution is only recommending the obvious and therefore it would be gladly accepted by the Hon'ble Minister in-charge. But, I hear a very lame excuse that as details have not been forthcoming from the hon. Mover of the Resolution, therefore he thinks that this Resolution cannot be accepted and that it should be withdrawn.

Sir, I am surprised at this attitude. On the other hand, he should have welcomed it and as I said sometime before, not only Assam is interested in the cultivation of jute, which will mean production of more jute, but it is the earnest desire of the Government of India themselves that in order to make the Republic of India self-sufficient in jute and not dependent upon Pakistan that jute has been given the first priority even over grow-more-food scheme to make India self-sufficient by 1951. Everyone who reads newspapers knows about it. Jute must be given great importance by Assam even though for a limited period of ten years, the new Constitution has provided a subsidy in lieu of Jute export duty. We are getting and will be getting for the next 9 years a sum of Rs. 40 lakhs as our share from the Jute Export Duty.

It is known to everyone of this House that since 1935, the Government of India has been distributing half of the proceeds of the jute export duty to the producing Provinces according to the proportion of the production of jute. This was embodied in a section of the Constitution Act of 1935. Later on by an Order in Council the proportion to be distributed to the producing Provinces was increased from 50 per cent. to 62½ per cent. In those times when East Bengal supplied practically the whole of jute produced in India, the share of Assam's Production was only 5 per cent. Now that East Bengal has gone out of India and is a province of Pakistan, the proportion of Assam's jute has necessarily gone up, but to our misfortune that last year an unilateral order was passed by the Central Government by which that 62½ per cent. of the return to the Province from jute export duty was reduced to 20 per cent. Yet the share that we have been getting for the last two years is to the tune of 40 lakhs of rupees. Therefore if we can increase our jute production, the Province will gain in two ways. We will get a greater income in the return of jute export duty from the Centre as



well as extend a much needed money crop for the cultivators of Assam. The Hon'ble Minister is quite correct when he said that we have not got many people who are accustomed to the technique of jute production. As a matter of fact, before 30 years jute was hardly produced in Assam. It was the much maligned immigrants from East Bengal who introduced this cultivation into Assam, and Assam has, thereby gained enormously. If we can encourage these people we shall be able to produce double quantity of the jute that we now produce. The Hon'ble Minister wants, in spite of his many experts in the Agriculture Department, details how to increase the production of jute in the Province. For the facility of his work I will make certain suggestions. I was once in charge of the Agriculture Department till 1929 and I had gone into the subject very carefully. Whereas jute produced from the indigenous seed will not be more than 6 ft. in height and the fibre will be of reddish colour which has no good market and which fetches very little price, the improved variety of jute seeds which is known technically as "Chinsura green" produce jute which will be 15-16 ft. in height and which produces a silken white fibre which is very much in demand in the Calcutta market. I do not know what steps the Assam Government or the Minister in charge has taken to produce this improved variety seed in Assam or that they are still dependent upon the West Bengal Government and get their seeds from Chinsura Farm. The criticism which the Hon'ble Minister has levelled against the Mover of the Resolution can redound upon his own self. Beyond saying that seeds are being distributed, he did not say whether he was distributing the improved variety of seed, and wherefrom he has brought the seed and at what price he has been selling it to the cultivators.

Next, the benefit having been got from the production of jute, we must now extend the cultivation of jute in our waste land areas. Last year 3 high ranking officials of the Agriculture Department of the Central Government came to Assam and after an extensive survey, going up to the borders of Burma by the war-time Stillwell Road, into the Hills of Assam, they reported that there were as much as 9 million acres of land suitable for cultivation of jute and rice in the Forest Department itself. These do not produce any valuable timber, but are kept reserved as Unclassed State Forest. These lands can very well be utilised for the grow-more-food campaign and brought under jute and rice. This morning my Friend, Mr. Binode Kumar Sarwan, mentioned about one of these areas in the Darrang District only. Unfortunately the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker ruled his Resolution as out of order and therefore there was no discussion. But I am glad to find from the speech of the Hon'ble Minister that they are throwing open some portions of Professional Grazing Reserves for extension of jute cultivation. It is good that they are following my policy of throwing open unwanted Professional Grazing Reserves for cultivation. Secondly these grazing reserves contain good manure from the cowdung as these are areas where cattle graze. Therefore they are naturally manured and are more suitable for cultivation either of paddy or jute than any other land.

The next thing that I heard from the Hon'ble Minister is a vague term called "double cropping". I have experience of extensive and intensive cultivation of jute. By "double cropping" my Friend, the Hon'ble Minister, probably means growing of jute as well as paddy from the same plot of land. But I understand this won't increase the production of jute. This system has been followed by immigrants in Assam for the last 30 years or more. I have personally visited some of the fields of the immigrants in Nowgong District. I saw the entire family of the immigrant having gone into the field, one half of the family was cutting the jute plant and lopping of the unwanted green leaves at the top of the plant, which the another group was pushing into the muddy land to serve as green manure, while the women were throwing broadcast some kind of paddy in the portion cleared of jute plants. So this cutting of the jute and growing of rice had been done simultaneously. So if this kind of double cropping is adopted by the Assamese



cultivators, they will surely increase production of paddy. The experts say that they cannot get the same amount of rice from such lands as from virgin lands. It is only natural that by cultivation of jute one takes out a portion of the manure that is on the land. Therefore, paddy cultivation on the same plot of land would not produce the same amount of rice by double cropping. The Hon'ble Minister and his Propaganda Branch should induce the Assamese cultivators to follow the example of these immigrant cultivators.

Lastly, Sir the jute that is grown does not depend much upon human labour, as it is not difficult to grow but the most important part of producing the jute is steeping and retching. Steeping is done in running water as well as in stagnant water. Thereafter the decomposed fibres of the plant needs retching and washing which adds to the fineness of the fibre, as fineness of the fibre fetches the highest price. So Government should employ people who are experts in the subject to teach our indigenious cultivators this method of producing good kind of fibre. If this process is adopted judiciously, it will produce the desired result.

The jute mills of the Republic of India are suffering for want of Jute. The Government of India hope that they would be self-sufficient in respect of jute within a year or two. In the meantime, they are trying to lessen their acute shortage of jute by adulterating another fibre called Mesta with jute. It may stop the gap, but will not improve the quality of jute fabrics. I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister in charge not to throw cold water on what I have suggested on the Resolution of Dr. Emran Hussain.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Sir, I am sorry that the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge has not seen his way to appreciating the intention as embodied in the Resolution. He has dismissed my Resolution, if I may say so, as containing no concrete suggestions by which production of jute in Assam could be increased. In my humble opinion what I have stated is that the Assam Government do take early steps to bring more land under jute cultivation, and it is enough to convey my humble intention. It has been admitted on all hands, that on account of the shortage of jute, a cash crop, the Indian Jute Mills' Association has had to take drastic steps to keep their people employed. Nearly 3 lakhs of people are unemployed in the jute industry.

Quite a number of suggestions have been offered by the Leader of the Opposition. I am glad to see that many fields have been thrown open for the cultivation of jute. That is not enough. I hope, the Hon'ble Minister will see his way to accepting the Resolution and thereby increasing the activities of his Department in furthering the interests of the jute industry. Beyond this, I do not propose to go.

**The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had already stated what is being done with regard to increased cultivation of jute. The hon. Member should have put what further suggestions he has to make. I am glad that the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition has taken part in this debate, but he seems to think that improved seeds are not available in Assam. I cannot accept his statement.

**Maulvi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** This is very simple question. We wanted to know whether they are bringing seeds from Bengal.

**The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS:** Sir, he referred to his experience in 1929. Since 1929 things have changed much. The Muslim immigrants brought with them Bengal seeds and 90 per cent. of cropped area under jute has been covered by improved seeds. Sir, it was agreed in the Conference held in December last that some quantity of improved seeds from Chinsura Farm would be supplied to our Department. But this has not materialised and we are procuring improved seeds available in our State. More over we grow some quantity in our own farms.



I have stated already that this Government is conscious of the necessity of expansion of jute cultivation and have already taken steps in this matter. The trend of high prices of jute in the recent years have already contributed to the expansion of our jute areas. From the statistics that are available it will be found that there is natural increase to the extent of 6 or 7 per cent. every year. Our present acreage under jute is about 2 lakhs 58 thousand acres and we have proposed to increase this by an additional 1 lakh acres. Besides natural increase which we expect to be nearly 20 thousand acres, we expect to attain the target by double cropping and opening new acres. In some areas jute is double cropped with Sali. I have visited some of the areas in Barpeta side where it is practised. In some areas mustard or some other Rabi crop follows jute. It all depends upon the suitability of the soil. In some areas we are trying to have an early crop of jute to be followed by Sali by propaganda. The Government of India have assured to place at our hands a stock of fertiliser for this purpose. We expect to have an additional double cropped area to the extent of 50 thousand acres and the rest by opening new areas. These are the steps we have taken and I therefore request the hon. Member to withdraw the Motion. I shall gladly accept any concrete suggestion which any hon. Member may put before the House. I do not see any reason for accepting such a vague Resolution. I therefore request the hon. Mover to withdraw this Resolution.

**Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** On a point of information, Sir. What manure is being distributed to the cultivators at the expense of the Government of India ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS:** Our Analyst of the soil finds that Amon Phosphate is the best for our soil conditions. But our cultivators are not conscious of the necessity of having the soil manured. So we are providing demonstration plots to convince the cultivators of the utility of manure.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** In view of what the Hon'ble Minister has stated I beg leave of the House to withdraw the Resolution.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Has the hon. Member got the leave of the House to withdraw his Resolution ?

The Resolution was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

#### **Resolution regarding establishment of a sugar mill in Assam**

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Sir, I beg to move that in view of the acute shortage of sugar this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do take immediate steps for the establishment of a sugar mill in the State.

Sir, it is a known fact that India has the largest acreage under sugarcane in the whole world. During the post-war years the consumption of sugar has increased doubly and it is a known fact that year by year a greater acreage is brought under sugarcane industry. But with all that the shortage of sugar in the country is occasionally felt and at times there is a virtual famine of sugar. Enough discussion has taken place during the last few days about the sugar shortage in the country. It was only yesterday during the debate which ensued from my Motion on the food situation in Assam, that attention of the Government was drawn to the fact that even when the Government announce to the public that sugar is not available and that no sugar quota has arrived in Assam, sugar can be had at fancy prices in the black-market at 3½ or 4 rupees per seer. Sir, sugar is available for anybody at any time in the black-market and this is known to every Government officer. The House can well imagine the condition of the sick people and the children who have to go without sugar. Sugar is very necessary for them and naturally the parents of the children and those who have to attend to the sick



have to take resort to the black-market to purchase sugar at greatly enhanced prices. Even though there is a scarcity of sugar in the country we can take tea in the hotel not at high price but at the usual price of 2 annas per cup or at most at 2½ annas per cup. But we were told yesterday by Mr. Kedarmal Brahmin that certain classes of merchants bring sugar which he called Banarasi sugar from Banaras by aeroplane and in view of this I would advice or rather request my Friend, Mr. Brahmin, to continue to bring sugar even at a high rate of Rs.3-8-0 or Rs.4 per seer from Banaras in order to make it available to our people so that there may not be discontent or dissatisfaction among the public and that I may not be forced to rise on my feet to disturb the Government or those hon. Members who adorn the Treasury Benches with regard to this shortage of sugar in the country. This very morning the hon. Members who live in the Assembly Hostel had to go without sugar and I think they must have used something else in their tea but not sugar. Adequate quantity of this commodity is not available in the Province.

Sir, the sugar industry has a chequered history in India. Factory production of refined sugar did not begin till 1932. Government took special steps to put the Industry on a firm footing. Liberal tariff protection was given to it and this continued until recently. I think it continues even today. The policy of the Government at the time was, "to nurse the baby, protect the child and free the adult" in the language of late Lala Harkishan Lal Gauba, one of the great industrialists, but the greatest debator the country has so far produced. Sugar can be had in foreign countries at very much lower prices. I am glad this question has been amply thrashed out on the floor of Parliament and amply discussed on this floor. I would urge Government to give their best thoughts to the Resolution.

According to the Industrial Panel on Sugar 20 new factories are to be started in the country and the capacity of the existing factories is to be extended. I would request Government to be good enough to accept my Resolution and take early steps for the establishment of a sugar mill in Assam.

With these words, Sir, I commend my Resolution for the sympathetic consideration of the Members of the Treasury Benches.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Resolution moved :

"That in view of the acute shortage of sugar this Assembly is of the opinion that the Government of Assam do take immediate steps for the establishment of a sugar mill in the State".

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I give a detailed reply to the Resolution that has been brought before the House I would like to state that we are in full accord with the purport of the Resolution that has been moved by my hon. Friend, Dr. Emran Husain Chowdhury. I have not, of course been able to follow the argument where he says that sugar is available in plenty in the black market, as if that bears any relation to his arguments for the establishment of a sugar mill in Assam. I am, however, quite prepared to accept the proposition that black market is due to shortage, and if a sugar mill is established it may go to a large extent in giving adequate supply of this commodity to the people and thereby obviate shortage and consequential black-marketing.

It may be wellknown to the hon. Members of this House, that under the advice of Experts we had decided that this Industry—on account of the importance which the hon. Member has given and which the State Government are prepared to agree—should be a nationalised industry and that we should bring into existence such number of sugar mills as were allotted to us by the Government of India. It is also possibly well known to hon. Members of this House that while enunciating this policy we said that the Government of India are prepared to allot us 2 mills to be started in Assam. But as it may be in the recollection of those hon. Members who have been in the Industrial Advisory Committee of the



Government of Assam, that on account of the inability of the Government of India to provide finance, the industrial policy of nationalization had to be dropped with the result that this project also had to be abandoned and our policy changed. It is well known to some hon. Members of the House that we had actually sent out students from Assam to get training in sugar technology and Industry, in United States of America ; but as I said just now that on account of the failure of the Government of India to finance the ventures we had to fall back on the policy of private enterprise to start this industry.

In pursuance of the policy of nationalisation, we had as a matter of fact, established a farm for preparation of "suits" of sugarcane and over 30 acres of land were brought under cultivation and preparation and these "suits" were in fact ready to be transplanted. The original idea was to have about 5,000 acres of land under sugarcane, so that by the time the sugar mill was established, the factory could be fed with sugarcane already ready there. Now, as I have said, we had to change our policy and we are now inviting persons to take up this cultivation also as private enterprise. We have given assurance that such party as would establish a sugar factory would be given all necessary facilities for its early working. For the information of the House I would like to say that 2 or 3 parties approached the Government of Assam for giving them facilities for establishment of this industry, but they also wanted certain conditions attached to it with which it was not possible for the Government to agree for reason of financial difficulties. There was one group of industrialists known as Thappars—well-known sugar manufacturers—who said that they were prepared to start a sugar factory here in Assam by removing one of their factory from Kashmir to Assam, provided the Government of Assam were prepared to subscribe a sum of 15 lakhs for the purpose of removing this factory. We had to refuse this offer for the same reason which prevented us from nationalising this industry ourselves, *i.e.*, financial difficulties. Before this, Government of India was approached for loan but they have also restricted granting of loans to only a very few limited projects ; so we had to give that up also. In the meantime another party has submitted an application to us, saying that they would similarly bring in a factory to this Province. They did not insist on subscription of shares from the Government, but they wanted certain facilities which the Government was considering. The new factory which they propose to bring over here and set up is from the United Provinces. I should like to say for the information of the House that they have not yet started selling shares for which they require the sanction of the Government of India. We have recommended their case with the recommendation that as far as possible they secure shares from the Province. From the names of promoters it seemed to us that they have put some persons of the Province among them. So if they bring a first class machinery, Government would be prepared to give them such facilities as may be necessary to bring the factory into existence as early as possible. The question as to the machinery being up-to-date and proper is now under examination of the Government. Our proposal is that some expert should go and see whether the machinery is up-to-date. Our point of view is that if Government are to give facilities to any particular party they must be satisfied that the machinery the party employs is up-to-date. Production capacity of this machinery, proposed by this party, is 800 tons. If Government is satisfied that production could be done satisfactorily Government will not find any difficulty in giving them facilities of starting the work. At present, I suppose this is the only party which offers to establish the factory in Assam.

I hope, Sir, this gives an indication of how earnest the Government are in the matter of establishing a sugar mill in the State. I hope, Sir, if anything comes up in the discussion, I shall have occasion to reply, but in the meanwhile I have given sufficient indications to the House that Government are taking every possible steps to bring into existence the sugar mill. I do not think one sugar mill would actually meet the entire necessity of the Province. Government of India, after examining the matter in the Planning Committee, thought that two



mills could be established in this Province and production from these two mills could go some way in satisfying the sugar requirement in the Province. As a matter of fact necessary data were collected even for this. This is the real position.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** I am delighted to hear what has been done by the Government of Assam to ease the difficulties of people with regard to sugar shortage. I am glad to hear that Government is going to have not one, but two sugar mills in Assam and that the Leader of the House is taking steps in this direction. The object of moving of my resolution has been served. So far from pressing the Resolution for the acceptance of the House, I will only be too glad to beg leave of the House to withdraw my Resolution.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Has the hon. Member got leave of the House to withdraw his Resolution?

The Resolution was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** I do not propose to move my Resolution\*.

**Resolution Re :growing of varieties of winter crops after paddy harvesting as a measure of " Grow-More-Food Campaign."**

**Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN:** Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do provide necessary facilities with a view to encourage the agriculturist ryots of Assam to grow varieties of winter crops, after paddy harvesting is over, in all the fallow fields, as a measure of " Grow-More-Food Campaign".

Sir, in moving this Resolution I beg to bring to the notice of Government that generally after the Winter crop cultivation is over the paddy fields are left uncultivated and so, Sir for the Grow-More-Food Campaign I request that Government should give facilities to grow other varieties of Winter crops. The ryots do not know how to grow the various kinds of crops, the Government should teach them to grow varieties of crops, thereby they will bring more food to the country. The agricultural ryots could grow varieties of crops, such as different kinds of *pulses* and different kinds of vegetables. So I would request the Government to give more seeds to the agricultural ryots and also the Government should teach them by propaganda works, and thereby it will serve to grow more food for the country and produce more food in the country. In this hard food crisis everyone of us should try our utmost to make every effort to grow more food.

With these few words, I commend my Resolution for the acceptance of this House.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Resolution moved :

" That this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do provide necessary facilities with a view to encourage the agriculturist ryots of Assam to grow varieties of winter crops, after paddy harvesting is over, in all the fallow fields, as a measure of ' Grow-More-Food Campaign '."

**The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, this House is aware of the steps taken by this Government for increased cultivation of winter crops. The Hon'ble Finance Minister in his Budget Speech has sufficiently indicated the activities undertaken by the Agriculture Department. This Resolution, as it

\*In view of the fact that the present practice of observing half-holidays on Saturdays in Law Courts and Government offices is not serving much useful purpose, this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Assam do discontinue these half-holidays and do add a few days out of the time thus saved to some existing holidays so that Government servants may enjoy the benefits of one long holiday.



is worded, is rather vague. The hon. Mover does not mention what crops are to be sown after the paddy harvest. Growing winter crops is part of the normal activities of the Agriculture Department. If the hon. Member means to say that the land after the Sali harvest is to be sown with winter crops then I must say that he is rather ignorant of A, B, C of Agriculture because, the Sali crop is harvested generally from the last week of December to January. Of course it is possible to follow Ahu paddy winter crops. The only crop that is possible to be double-cropped with Sali is the pulse known as Khesari, but no other pulses can be grown on Sali land. The season for mustard ends by early part of November, so no mustard crop can be grown after the Sali harvest.

Sir, for increased production of Winter crops, we have already taken steps by distribution of seeds for pulses and potato. But I must admit that there is a snag about it. For the pulses, we have to depend on procurement of seeds from markets in Bihar and other provinces and generally the complaint was being received that large quantities of seeds were not being used by the cultivators for sowing. For this reason we had to stop supply of seeds last year. Now, with the establishment of Village Food Committees we are going to reintroduce distribution of seeds through these committees. The committees will distribute these seeds to the listed growers and in this way we are trying to increase the cultivation of winter crops. As regards potatoes, the House is aware that large sums of money were wasted in previous years because of rotting and many other things, and last year we abandoned the scheme to supply potato seeds from the market. We supplied only improved varieties of potato seeds from our farm. Now, Sir, the Government of India are again insisting that we should reintroduce our potato distribution scheme. We are now considering the question of distributing about 27,000 maunds of potato in the next potato season. But we will have to depend on seeds procured from the market and distribution will be done through the Village Food Production Committees. In this way, Sir, we are trying to increase the production of food-crops. The Resolution, as it has been moved by the hon. Member is rather vague and he has not also given any constructive suggestions. If he had given any constructive suggestions I would have certainly accepted them. I feel that there is no meaning in moving such a Resolution and would request the hon. Mover to withdraw it.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Mr Speaker, Sir, I am in full sympathy with the hon. Mover of the Resolution although the Resolution, as the Hon'ble Minister in-charge of Food has stated, is vague. I am not fully satisfied with the statement made by the Hon'ble Minister with regard to the steps he has taken not to keep the land after harvest fallow, but under cultivation. Among the steps taken, he has mentioned the distribution of seeds through the Village Food Committees. But the fact remains that unless some kind of compulsion is used, the land will remain fallow. Since our college days we have been reading in Indian Economics, and have observed, that from 6 to 9 months in the year most tracts of land remain idle in most parts of the country. This is because the importance of double-cropping has not been brought home to our cultivators.

**The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS:** Will the hon. Member please state what crops does he suggest, should be followed after *sali* ?

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Mustard (*Loud laughter*).

**The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS:** Mustard season ends by the end of October or the first week of November.



**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The hon. Member has been put to a severe test.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** I am sorry, Sir. But any crop that is necessary for the Province should be grown.

**The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS:** I wanted suggestions of the crops to be followed after Sali.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** I do not want to say that the land should remain fallow. I am glad that the Hon'ble Minister is prepared to take any suggestions put forward by us.

It is a fact that we are still short of food in the country which is confirmed by the fact that as much as 2·8 million tons at a cost of Rs.130 crores was imported into India in 1948 and no less than 3·7 million tons of the order of 148 crores was imported in 1949. Although, I cannot give the Hon'ble Minister, not being an agriculturist, what particular crops can be grown, I would like to draw attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the fact that mere distribution of seeds would not do, unless compulsion is used by these Committees in their grow-more-food drive

**Prof. P. M. SARWAN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say a word or two in support of this Resolution.

After the month of September large areas of land are seen without any crops. Here no crop is grown after the month of September when the Lahi paddy has been harvested by the end of September.

(Voices—It cannot be end of September. Lahi is not harvested in the end of September).

I would request the hon. Members to visit Garmur Mauza, a rural area in which I have the pleasure of living and I have seen there and also in some other parts of Jorhat

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** In what parts of Jorhat, Sir, may I know from the hon. Member?

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** I have seen. I also come from Jorhat.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** It seems all Professors are ignorant of agriculture.

**Prof. P. M. SARWAN:** Although I do not plough myself, but I have been observing the ploughmen.

After the month of September, I would extend and say by the middle of October this harvesting is done and since then the lands remain fallow for want of any other cultivation.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Is it before the Puja holidays?

**Prof. P. M. SARWAN:** Puja holidays do not take place at the same time every year. Sometime it begins early and sometime it begins late.

But if any Member of the Government wants to see it, I would gladly invite him to Jorhat by the middle of October and I will take him round and will show him the amount of land that lie without crop after the middle of October till June.

By this I want to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that these lands lie fallow for half of the year without any useful crop, which can be grown if Government give advice to the cultivators to grow certain crops and supply them with manure and seed.



**Srijut HARINARAYAN BARUA:** যোৰহাটৰ কোন কোন মৌজাত মাটি পৰি থাকে ? কাৰণ তেখেতে কৈছে যে যোৰহাটত বহুতো মাটি এনেয়ে পৰি আছে। তেনেহলে আমি থকা যোৰহাট আৰু তেখেত থকা যোৰহাট বেলেগ ?

**Prof. P. M. SARWAN:** For Jorhat Subdivision, I would ask the hon. Member to go and see Garmur Mauza, for Sibsagar Subdivision, I would ask him to go to Kharahat area in Thowra Mauza, for Golaghat Subdivision, I would ask him to go to parts of Barpathar and Sarupathar. In fact this year, Sir, particularly due to failure of rain large tracts went uncultivated and have been wasted and thus for the whole year parts of Barpathar and Sarupathar area went without any crop.

**Srijut DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI:** বি কথা তেখেতে ভালকৈ নাজানে, কোন মাহত কি খেতি হয়, সেইটো নজনাকৈয়ে জোৰ দি কোৱাতহে মই আচৰিত হৈছো। আমাক সুধিলে, আমি ভাল উপদেশ দিব পাৰো।

**Prof. P. M. SARWAN:** I am stating facts, Sir, and the Government ought to know much better than hon. Members, who are not experts, whereas, Government is supposed to be expert to give us expert advice. We are pointing these facts to the Government in order that they may help the ryots who do not know what they should do with their land and if the ryots know they would surely like to produce more crops. Let them be convinced and it is for the Government to give them necessary advice and help so that more food crops can be produced.

With these words, Sir, I support this Resolution and request the Government to accept this Resolution.

**The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA:** May I speak a few words, Sir ? In Sali area Ahu crop is generally grown by the people just after the harvest of the Sali crop. In places where there is perennial sources of water for supply to the paddy fields, the Boro crop can be grown in the Sali areas. This is possible in northern areas of Darrang and Kamrup where people have irrigation canals. In those areas, I think, we may try Boro crops after harvesting Sali crop.

**Mr. J. S. HARDMAN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, at considerable risk I am venturing to intervene in this debate, as I do not pretend to be an agriculturist, and I find that those who are not agriculturist, are liable to be exposed to severe cross-examination. The Hon'ble Minister for Grow More Food Campaign, has, however, asked for constructive suggestions. Whether my suggestion will be regarded by other hon. Members as constructive or not, I am endeavouring to place it before the House.

In an earlier debate in this Session on jute the Hon'ble the Leader of the Opposition had pointed out the great importance of improved variety of seed which resulted in increased yield, and higher quality of fibre, and that was, I believe, acknowledged by the Hon'ble the Food Minister, but he pointed out that Government were unable to supply the full requirement of seed of the improved variety. If necessary, the Hon'ble Minister told us Government would collect the seed locally and would arrange supplies from this source. I understand that this seed might not be of an improved variety, or of the requisite quality. It has been our experience, Sir, that when we apply to the Agriculture Department for improved variety of seed we are informed that these supplies are



unfortunately, not in stock, but we are invariably given hope that supply would be forthcoming shortly. I have received several letters recently, in connection with applications for Ahu seeds from the Agriculture Department, the supply of which had not been made available. Sir, as I have stated earlier it should be our objective to make practical suggestions and I would request Government to consider whether the existing arrangements for multiplication of seed of improved varieties are adequate to meet the present demand. There is no doubt that with increased expenditure and improved organisation all types of seed can be rapidly multiplied, but it must be recognised that the production of quality seed is an expensive business, and by no means as easy, or as cheap as producing for the commercial market. We have a little experience of attempts to act on behalf of the Agriculture Department of Government for multiplying improved seed and it has been our experience that these schemes have not been entirely satisfactory, because the rates which Government offer for improved seeds are not remunerative and do not reimburse the grower for the increased expenditure he has to incur.

Sir, we belong to a party which believes in the need for incentive. If Government want to get a job done satisfactorily, it is necessary to offer some incentive, and the premium which is being paid to growers of improved variety of seed by Government Departments does not encourage those who could carry out extensive scheme of seed multiplication. It is therefore necessary that Government in the interest of reducing the food deficit in the country should arrange for multiplication and wide distribution of seed. I would therefore request Government to consider whether they can make arrangements which will encourage private individuals to produce in a substantial scale improved variety of seed on behalf of the Agriculture Department.

**Maulavi SAIYID MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, this simple Resolution of my Friend, Mr. Sarwan, has sharpened the knowledge of many people in agriculture and some have tried to cross-examine different Members about their knowledge of agriculture. I venture to suggest that those who are really agriculturists in this House should have got up and given us the benefit of their knowledge, instead of speaking in a patronising way and criticising those who showed their ignorance.

Sir, the Cabinet Members are supposed to be experts on many subjects and the Hon'ble Minister who holds charge of agriculture or "Grow More Food Campaign" is a super-expert in that team. But I was sorry to hear his utterances which are contrary to the existing facts and instances. He categorically stated that after harvesting of Sali crop no other crop than Khesari can be grown on that land. But, Sir, I have seen with my own eyes in South Salmara a few years back that double cropping on pulses with wet rice cultivation is practicable. When I was motoring to Tura side I saw in a field that something was growing out of the harvested Sali field. In order to satisfy my curiosity I got down from my car and enquired what were those stump like plants. The people whom I was questioning explained to me (that the cultivators who were settlers or immigrants) that those plants were Mug and Masur. These were sown broadcast while the Sali paddy was throwing corn ears. I can boldly assert from this personal experience that these people who know can use paddy lands for double cropping with other cultivation.

During my Ministry I had to address meetings of over ten thousand people in many parts of the State as Leader of the National War-front and often time I urged the people that they should grow more pulses. During War time we were importing from Bihar and the United Provinces as much as 5 lakh maunds of Dal at the rate of 30 to 35 rupees per maund. At the present moment the price of Dal has gone higher, some Dals like Chana or Motor are unavailable.



Some times in Shillong the prices are more than in the Plains. Therefore I am thankful to Government that they are re-introducing the system that we had before, that is, of importing improved variety of Dal seeds from Bihar and distributing them to the cultivators. The delay in making these available to the cultivators is the principal stumbling block in popularising this scheme and for this neither the Government nor the officers of the Agriculture Department are to be taken to task as the main difficulty is transport. Even before the present difficulty of transport—I mean before the partition of India and creation of Pakistan and Hindustan—was there and our import had to be carried by the O. T. Railway which could not handle them as early as desired. Often times the Assam Government received these seeds at a late stage when the season for cultivation of pulses was over. The same thing is likely to take place now, from what we have heard from the Hon'ble Minister about potato seeds. I can say from my own experience of the days when I presided over the Ministry that it was difficult for the transport company running from Pandu to Shillong and from Shillong to Sylhet when Sylhet was a part of Assam to carry the seeds in sufficient quantity in time so that they could reach the cultivators before the season of potato cultivation. The Resolution, again I can say, is recommending the obvious fact or accomplished fact. Those hon. Members who follow the Press must have known that the food shortage of India is responsible for a heavy drain in our cash currency. During the last three years a sum of 150 crores of rupees on an average had to be spent in importing foodstuffs, specially in cereals from outside India. It is the bounden duty of every citizen of India to see that this drain on the exchequer is stopped and therefore everyone who give a little thought to this subject how to improve the production of foodgrains in the Province or in India is a patriot and we ought to thank Mr. Sarwan for having in those lines recommended to Government to throw open land for expansion of cultivation and for suggesting to the cultivators what Rabi crop they could produce after the Sali crop is harvested. These things clearly show that he has the best interest of Assam in his heart and therefore he should be congratulated rather than criticised. Sir, the Government is really trying their level best and I think the Central Government in this matter has given Assam quite a substantial amount for the Grow-More-Food Campaign. All I want to impress upon the Ministry is this that let us earn the encomium of the Central Government by producing the maximum quantity of food-stuffs and taking the first place in this respect in India.

**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA:** Sir, I think every hon. Member has a right of recommending his views to Government in this House. Before giving any information to this House every hon. Member must know all facts and figures well. We are sorry to learn from Mr. Sarwan when he says that Sali crop is harvested at the end of September or in the beginning of October. As a matter of fact the Sali crop specially in the three subdivisions which he mentioned, that is Jorhat, Golaghat and Sibsagar is harvested towards the end of November and in December and so the lands lie fallow from December to May, for about 5 months. Of course it is the duty of every responsible citizen of the country and of the Government to educate the cultivators by making propaganda amongst them so that their land does not lie fallow for those 5 months even. But I do not find any reason why the hon. Leader of the Opposition was so much aggrieved when some of the hon. Members of this House criticised Mr. Sarwan who has no knowledge of Sali crop at all.

**Prof. P. M. SARWAN:** I did not talk about Sali crop, Sir, but I was talking about Lahi crop.

**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA:** I think Mr. Sarwan has confused Lahi as Sali.



**Prof. P. M. SARWAN:** I am not confusing, Sir. I know their difference as much as others know. I think the hon. Member himself does not know about Lahi crop.

**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA:** If the hon. Member would go to the cultivators he would learn that certain smaller kinds of paddy are harvested from early part of December and even people who consume them know that the paddy is harvested from the beginning of December. I know this as I am son of a cultivator and come from a village.

**Prof. P. M. SARWAN:** The hon. Member is not quite correct as regards Lahi crop, Sir.

**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA:** I do not think the hon. Member can name some varieties of the Lahi paddy. They are harvested generally at the end of November and in the beginning of December, that is, before *Magh Bihu*. Any way, Sir, I think the remark passed by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition for criticising Professor Sarwan is not justified. Moreover, Sir, what has been stated by Professor Sarwan is wrong. With these words, I resume my seat.

**Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** I simply agreed with my Friend, Professor Sarwan, that wet Sali crop is harvested towards the end of November and generally harvesting ends at the end of December.

**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA:** This statement, Sir, supports my argument.

**The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful that the hon. Leader of the Opposition and Mr. Hardman had taken part in this debate and have given some suggestions also. Sir, the hon. Leader of the Opposition has narrated his experience regarding the cultivation of varieties of Mosur and Moong after harvesting Sali paddy in South Salmara. These are *char* lands and generally due to flood these *char* lands are not cultivated with Sali paddy, but with Ahu paddy. It may be that he mistook the stumps of Ahu paddy for those of Sali. Mosur and Moong are generally cultivated during the months of August and mid-September. In our varietal experiments done in our farms difference in yield of these pulses is found to depend on the change of season. The best season for sowing crops like Matikalai or Mosur is at the mid-August and the crops sown in such periods give much better yield than those sown in the last part of September.

Sir, Mr. Hardman had referred to the jute seed. He seems to labour under a misunderstanding. I think I must clarify to remove this. I stated that after investigation it was found that 90 per cent. of the cropped area under jute is under better varieties. Government are taking steps to have this area also under improved varieties of seed. We have also grown a good quantity of jute seeds in some of our farms and the Government of India had assured us for help to develop our seed farms like that in Chinsura which the hon. Leader of the Opposition mentioned in his speech.

Again, Mr. Hardman has referred to difficulties of supply of seeds to the cultivators. I have already stated that owing to our limited financial resources we had not enough Seed Farms. We have developed a few farms, but they are not yet fully established owing to financial difficulties. In some of these farms we have not been able to construct necessary quarters for the Managers and staff, etc. We have adopted measures for multiplication of seeds of improved variety and some of the Experts whom we



have consulted had advised us to come in for legislation to compel cultivators to sow only improved variety of seeds. But we think that time is not yet ripe to come in for a legislation. We have already adopted measures for multiplication of seeds by supplying improved seeds to registered growers in particular localities and asking them to supply seeds of improved variety to the cultivators of that locality.

Sir, I had asked for constructive suggestions assuring that I would consider any such suggestion. But the Resolution as it is worded is rather vague. The hon. Mover wanted that winter crops should be sown in all fallow lands after harvesting of paddy is over. I ask him whether this is possible. According to the experience of the Agriculture Department we have found that no crop could be sown after harvesting of Sali paddy, of course it is possible to follow Ahu with winter crops. Generally our cultivators use Ahu land for cultivation of mustard seeds, vegetable, etc. But the Sali land is generally left fallow. In some areas we have found that Sali lands could be utilised for Boro or Ahu cultivation. We are trying to expand our efforts for Boro cultivation and during these years as the hon. Leader of the Opposition knows that after having lost the Boro areas in Sylhet we have by our efforts been able to increase nearly 2,500 acres of Boro areas by giving facilities to the cultivators. We have established a farm at Roha for seeds. In this respect, the co-operation and efforts of the cultivators are important factors. In some areas cultivation of Boro is not possible because of this. In some areas the agriculturists are reluctant to take to it. But we have been carrying on propaganda in this connection and in our programme we have fixed a target for the next year and instructed our agricultural officers to strive for that target by giving seeds and other facilities to cultivators. However, in spite of these difficulties I must state for the information of the House that in Dibrugarh I found recently in my visit, some areas where Boro cultivation has been introduced by our efforts. Of course the acreage is small. In this way, Sir, we are trying to help the cultivators to utilise the land in all possible ways. But as I have already stated in a previous debate, technical ability and availability of capital are important factors in this production drive. These are factors which must be taken into account.

I would certainly welcome constructive suggestions. As I have already stated that we have made the following provisions, *i. e.*, for seed distribution, for pumping arrangements, for small irrigation projects and major irrigation projects; we have also provided facilities for manure. But all these must be taken advantage of by our cultivators themselves.

For these reasons we had adopted in our scheme for having demonstration plots in the cultivators' own fields as far as possible to convince the cultivators of the utility of manure.

Mr. Hardman was complaining about seeds. I think he must be referring to fifty thousand maunds of Ahu seeds required for increased production in the tea garden areas. I have already stated my difficulty.

Sir, with these few words, I request the hon. Mover of the Motion not to press his Motion which is vaguely worded and because I had already taken steps in this direction.

**Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN:** I have drawn the attention of the House to the needs of the poor agricultural ryots to grow more food and we have also heard some constructive suggestions from the Leader of the Opposition. Now I think it would be accelerated to give effect to by the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture. The Leader of the Opposition has given good suggestions, though I have not very many suggestions to say now. What ever has been said, we are thankful for them. The Hon'ble Minister in-charge of



Agriculture will be able to help the poor, needy paddy cultivators, and thereby it will serve to bring more food for this country.

In view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister in-charge of Agriculture, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my resolution.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his resolution ?

The Resolution was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

**Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** I would suggest that we better postpone now. I think there will be nothing left of non-official business for the sitting of 28th March 1950.

**Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA:** So we will be able to finish on the 27th March, 1950.

#### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Tuesday, the 21st March 1950.

SHILLONG :

*The 12th May, 1950.*

R. N. BARUA,

*Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.*



## APPENDIX C

## ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

## Government Resolution for the Budget Session of the Assembly, 1950

The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY to move:—

That this Assembly do approve of an expenditure of Rs. 3,72,573 under the head "50.—Civil Works (excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment)" for the items below. The amounts involved will be met from the sanctioned grant.

"50.—Civil Works (excluding Tools and Plant and Establishment)".

		Rs.
I—Grant originally voted by the Assembly		1,80,18,000
II—Sub-heads under which the appropriations will be accounted for:—		
(i)—(a) Buildings—		Rs.
General Administration	... ..	30,134
Administration of Justice	... ..	26,783
Jails and Convict Settlements	... ..	1,23,000
Police other than Assam Rifles	... ..	2,000
Medical	... ..	3,000
Public Health	... ..	3,200
Veterinary—Post-War	... ..	46
Industries—Post-War	... ..	10,000
Civil Works—Post-War	... ..	2,410
Total (a) Buildings		1,88,117
		{ Voted—Normal ... .. 12,456
		{ Post-War ... ..
(ii)—(b) Communications—		
Ordinary Roads	... ..	2,000
Petrol Tax Projects—Ordinary	... ..	70,000
Total (b) Communications—Voted—Normal		72,000
(iii)—B—Repairs—		
Maintenance of Shillong-Silchar Road	... ..	1,00,000
Total—Repairs—Normal		1,00,000
GRAND TOTAL		3,72,573

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

(i) Of the schemes as per schedules enclosed (pages 2-7) some are new projects which cropped up during the course of the year and some are incomplete works for which it was not possible to make specific provision at the time of framing the budget for 1949-50. Hence the provision.

(ii) As above (page 7).

(iii) *Maintenance of Shillong-Silchar Road.*—The amount is required for maintenance of the road from Shillong to Jowai. The Government of India have since refused to bear the maintenance cost for this road.



Major, minor and sub-head under which provision should be made	1	Nature of Scheme	Estimate of ultimate cost		Estimate of expenditure during 1949-50		Remarks		
			Non-Recurring	Recurring	Non-recurring	Recurring		Total	
50.—C. W.—Provincial— A.—O. W.—(a) Voted N. E. A.—(a) Buildings— General Administration.	2	1. Improvement to the Firs Bungalow.	Rs. 5,636	Rs. ..	5,636	5,634	..	5,634	The Bungalow which has been acquired by Government requires improvement to bring it up to the P. W. D. standard for future maintenance.
		2. Improvement to Club building at Dibrugarh.	41,000	..	10,000	..	..	10,000	As above.
		3. Converting the Cottage attached to Lakeside into an independent unit.	7,600	..	1,500	..	..	1,500	It has been decided to convert the cottage attached to the main Bungalow into an independent residence for allotment to an officer in view of the acute shortage of residential building at Shillong.
		4. Additions and alterations to Stoney-lands Buildings at Shillong.	25,000	..	12,000	..	..	12,000	The Stoney-lands property has been purchased by Government and requires additions and alterations to make them fit for occupation by officers of Government.
		5. Opening of a temporary Sub-Treasury at Diphu.	14,000	..	1,000	..	..	1,000	Due to establishment of a Civil District in the Mikir Hills, a Sub-Treasury is essential.
		Total General Administration	..	..	30,134	..	..	30,134	



Administration of 1. Furniture for the residence of an Hon'ble Judge, Assam High Court, Gauhati.	12,000	..	12,000	..	1,800	1,800	The amount is required for the supply of furniture to an Hon'ble Judge's residence, but it has since been decided that the bungalow of the Hon'ble Judges will not be furnished at Government expense, the furniture already made will either be sold to the Hon'ble Judge or will otherwise be disposed of. The amount is required to regularise expenditure already incurred.
2. Carrying out certain additions and alterations to the Chummary buildings at Gauhati for accommodation of a Judge of Assam High Court.	16,000	..	16,000	..	7,490	7,490	This is imperatively necessary to make the building habitable for the Hon'ble High Court Judge pending construction of a new bungalow for him.
3. Carrying out certain additions and alterations to the Commissioner's office to accommodate Assam High Court, Gauhati.	26,173	..	26,173	..	5,000	5,000	These are urgent works in connection with the Assam High Court.
4. Construction of Advocates' Library attached to Assam High Court at Gauhati.	10,000	..	10,000	..	9,015	9,015	ditto.
5. Carrying out certain additions and alterations to the residence of the Hon'ble Chief Justice at Gauhati (providing hot water installation).	2,725	..	2,725	..	1,918	1,918	Ditto ditto.



Major, minor and sub-head under which provision should be made	Nature of Scheme	Estimate of ultimate cost		Estimate of expenditure during 1949-50		Remarks		
		Non-recurring	Recurring	Non-recurring	Recurring			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Administration of Justice.	6. Carrying out certain additions and alterations to the European Club Building to accommodate the Assam High Court at Gauhati.	16,111	..	16,111	1,560	..	1,560	These are urgent works in connection with the Assam High Court.
Total—Administration of Justice .. .. .		..	..	..	26,783	..	26,783	
Jails and Convict Settlements.	1. Construction of additional Jail at Nowgong.	1,61,500	..	1,61,500	98,000	..	98,000	(1) and (2).—Construction of an additional Jail together with quarters for staff at Nowgong for accommodation of security prisoners has become absolutely necessary, during the course of the year.
	2. Construction of five staff quarters in connection with additional jail at Nowgong (Staff quarters).	42,122	..	42,122	25,000	..	25,000	
Total—Jails and Convict Settlements .. .. .		..	..	..	1,23,000	..	1,23,000	



Police other than A.R. 1. Taking over of fire service Building at Dhubri by Police Department.

23,000	..	23,000	2,000	..	2,000
Total—Police other than A.R. ..					

Total—Police other than A.R. ..

Medical .. 1. Conversion of the Isolation Ward attached to the "Red Hill" Bungalow into an independent unit.

7,000	..	7,000	3,000	..	3,000
Total—Medical ..					

Total—Medical ..

Public Health .. 1. Taking over by Government Red Cross Maternity and Child Welfare Centre in Nowgong including Balabox Hansoria Red Cross Hall and Lady Health Visitors quarters.

4,320	..	4,520	3,200	..	3,200
Total—Public Health ..					

Total—Public Health ..

The building has been taken over by the Police Department and its improvement is to be effected to bring it up to the standard for future maintenance by Public Works Department.

It has been decided to convert the Cottage attached to the main Bungalow into an independent residence for allotment to an officer of Government in view of the acute shortage of residential building at Shillong.

It was decided by Government to take over the buildings of the Balabox Hansoria Maternity and Child Welfare Centre from the Indian Red Cross Society.

The work was carried out at the instance of the Public Health Department in the year 1948-49 but as there was no provision of funds under the appropriate head the expenditure could not be met.

There is no specific provision in the Budget for 1949-50. Hence the provision.



Major, minor and sub-head under which provision should be made

Major, minor and sub-head under which provision should be made	Nature of Scheme	Estimate of ultimate cost				Estimate of expenditure during 1949-50			Remarks
		Non-recurring	Recurring	Total	Non-recurring	Recurring	Total		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.		
Veterinary—Post-War.	1. Construction of a Veterinary Laboratory at Silchar.	12,040	..	12,040	46	..	46	46 As a measure of economy Government have decided to drop the project from Post-War programme. The amount of Rs.46 is required to pay to the contractor as compensation for cutting the foundation trenches and laying out the building. Corresponding sur-render will be made by the Veterinary Department.	
<b>Total—Veterinary—Post-War</b>		..	..	..	46	..	46		
Industries—Post-War.	1. Improvement to 2 Nos. of Departmental houses in the compound of the Government Weaving Institute, Gauhati to bring them to Public Works Department standard.	10,000	..	10,000	10,000	..	10,000	These buildings were purchased from the Military in 1947 and it has become absolutely necessary to improve them in order to bring them up to Public Works Department standard.	
<b>Total—Industries—Post-War</b>		..	..	..	10,000	..	10,000		



The building was constructed to provide for a Common room, an Engineering Model room, and Library attached to the Public Works Department Secretariat.

A road is essential in the vicinity of the quarters of Government Servants who have been allotted Government lands to build their houses due to acute shortage of house accommodation in the town. The construction will be made by Public Works Department and the expenditure will be counter-balanced by the premium received from the Government Servants. The road will be made over to the Municipal Board on completion.

The project was recommended by the Road Board for improvement under the Central Road Fund. Government accepted their recommendation and the project was taken up. The amount required for the project is being met from Provincial revenue to be set off against the grant from the Central Road Fund.

Civil Works—Post-War.	9,950	..	9,950	410	..	2,410
1. Construction of a Common Room and Library attached to Public Works Department Secretariat.	9,950	..	9,950	410	..	2,410
<hr/>						
Total—Civil Works—Post War.	..	..	..	2,410	..	2,410
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(b)—Communi cations—Ordinary Roads.	14,694	..	14,694	2,000	..	2,000
1. Construction of Bishnupur Road in and around the plots allotted to Government Servants at Kench's Trace, Shillong.	14,694	..	14,694	2,000	..	2,000
<hr/>						
Total—Ordinary Roads	..	..	..	2,000	..	2,000
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Petrol Tax Projects —Ordinary.	4,58,300	..	4,58,300	70,000	..	70,000
1. Metalling and surfacing Barpeta-Chap a k u m a r Road (2nd portion) 9½ miles.	4,58,300	..	4,58,300	70,000	..	70,000
<hr/>						
Total—Petrol Tax Projects—Ordinary.	..	..	..	70,000	..	70,000