

Assam Legislative Assembly Debates

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION OF THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY AFTER THE FIRST GENERAL ELECTION
UNDER THE SOVEREIGN DEMO-
CRATIC REPUBLICAN CON-
STITUTION OF INDIA

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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 10 A. M., on Tuesday, the 25th March, 1952.

P R E S E N T

The Hon'ble Shri Kuladhar Chaliha, B. L., Speaker, in the Chair, the ten Hon'ble Ministers, two Deputy Ministers and eighty-seven Members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which Answers were laid on the table)

Charing Rural Panchayat

Shri ANANDA CHANDRA BEZBARUA asked :

7. Will Government be pleased to state—
- (a) When the Charing Rural Panchayat have been formed ?
 - (b) Whether all local rates, payable to the Panchayat since its formation have been paid to it ?
 - (c) If not, why not ?
 - (d) Whether it is a fact that local rates payable to the Panchayats have been withheld for the last two years ?
 - (e) If so, why ?
 - (f) Whether it is a fact that the Panchayats have been asked to forego local rates for 1949-50 and 1950-51 ?
 - (g) Whether Government are aware that for want of money, they have not been functioning properly ?

The Hon'ble Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY replied :

7. (a)—On 1st April 1949.
(b)—No.
(c)—As the Panchayat forms the fragment of a Mauza and as no separate touzi village-wise is maintained in the Land Record's office, the calculation of its share of Local Rates has been difficult. To avoid this difficulty Government have subsequently decided to include all the villages of the Mauza within one and a single Panchayat. The question of bringing first category Panchayats under this scheme is receiving attention of the Government. For realisation of the share of Local Rates of the Panchayat in question Government will do their best.

(d) & (e)—Do not arise.

(f)—As the local rates for 1949-50 and 1950-51 have been credited to the Local Boards as compensatory grants and as the Local Boards have undertaken certain works within the Panchayat areas, it was tentatively agreed by this Department to forego the amounts if it was not possible to find out the dues of the Panchayats as distinct from that of the Board. Charing Panchayat however will be paid the dues for the year 1951-52. Pending settlement, the Finance has agreed to pay the dues to Charing Panchayat and steps are being taken for the same.

(g)—Government do not believe so.

Shri ANANDA CHANDRA BEZBARUA: So far as Charing Rural Panchayat is concerned, I am sure the Local Board has done nothing since the formation of the Panchayat.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: You are giving information to the hon. Member. Therefore please ask things which you do not know.

Shri ANANDA CHANDRA BEZBARUA: Does Government admit that so far as Charing Panchayat is concerned nothing has been done by Local Board since its formation?

The Hon'ble Shri MAHENRDA MOHAN CHAUDHURY: I cannot agree with that.

Shri ANANDA CHANDRA BEZBARUA: Is it a fact that the Panchayat is not carrying on its duty for want of funds?

The Hon'ble Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY: The reply is quite clear. Government do not believe so.

Demands for Grants

GRANT No.35

(57-B—Capital Outlay on Road Transport Schemes financed from ordinary Revenues)

The Hon'ble Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.12,27,300 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1953 for the administration of the head—"57-B—Capital Outlay on Road Transport Schemes financed from ordinary revenues."

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.12,27,300 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1953 for the administration of the head—57-B—Capital Outlay on Road Transport Schemes financed from ordinary Revenues."

Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I beg to move that the provision of Rs.4,99,000 under Grant No.35, Major head 57-B—Capital Outlay on Road Transport Schemes financed from ordinary Revenues, Minor Head A—Capital Expenditure on Bus Service, Sub-head Section III—Pandu-Gauhati-Shillong Service (Total), at page 252 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.12,27,300 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, my intention in submitting this Motion is not to censure the Government but to give certain suggestions to the Government and for that purpose to raise a discussion on this particular point.

As I know, our Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Transport has taken up his portfolio recently. I think some concrete suggestions from this side of the House may be helpful to him. With that end in view, I have tabled this Motion and I want to confine myself to giving a few suggestions.

Firstly, I want to deal with section III, sub-section 2 under the title vehicles. It is common knowledge that it is more economical and less complicated for the road transport organisation to maintain a fleet of vehicles of the same make. Firstly, it helps to better control the spare parts section. If vehicles be of the same make, they can maintain a limited stock of spare parts and less number of vehicles are apt to lie idle. If a vehicle for example, gets shut down due to a defect in the dynamo and there be another vehicle getting shut down due to some defect in the spring assembly, one of these two can be put to run by replacing its defective part with the other vehicle's corresponding part. But if the vehicles be of different make there cannot be interchange of parts. Thirdly, as a result of the vehicles being of the same make there will be less work for the store department. There will be less correspondence. There will be less capital expenditure, because there will be no more necessity of various types of spare parts. Incidental expenses will be less. One order book will do, one stock book will do, one indent book will do. Correspondence will be less. From all points of view there will be less expenditure. As a result of this, there will be more profit in the long run. So far as the Assam Transport is concerned, in 1942-43 they used to run only two types of vehicles—one for Surma Valley and the other for Assam Valley. For Surma Valley they used to run perhaps Ford and for Assam Valley Cheverolet. We should have learnt also from the experiences of the Assam Transport. There are in the State Transport not only one or two types of vehicles, but many more. My information is that they use some five types of vehicles, *viz*, Cheverolet, Dodge, Coomer, Studebakar and Ford. Many people think that there are motives behind this sort of transaction. If different types are purchased, then different parties would come to sell different types of vehicles and some top-ranking people in the Assam Transport would get commission or something of the sort. from these different parties.

I do not propose to go into this matter; but I beg to state that as this State Transport is a commercial concern there should be every effort on our part to run it on commercial line. On the success or failure of these concern will depend to a very great extent whether we shall be able in future to place under State control other concerns as well. If the State Transport fails, then some Members of the Government may come forward with the plea that they do not like to bring other concerns under State control because the State Transport which they tried has failed. They would say that after all a Government concern cannot run on loss, so it is better that the whole concern is sold at half price to some private party. This position, Sir, is not quite unknown. So, I beg to stress that the success of the State Transport is a very important point.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: What is the charge of monopoly?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: That is so far as private monopoly is concerned. But when the State Transport is run by a democratic Government, it is a monopoly of the entire nation.

So far as the price of car is concerned, the Government of India has fixed the price. If it would have been a question of competitive price, if we had gone say for Ford, Studebaker would have come at a lesser price and if there had been only one type of vehicle, say Studebaker, the incidental charges would have been less.

The Hon'ble Shri RAMNATH DAS : Prices of different vehicles differ.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Differ according to quality. A vehicle of better quality would be purchased at a higher price and a vehicle of lesser quality would be purchased at a lesser price. I do not say that this particular vehicle should be purchased or that particular vehicle should not be purchased. I am only saying that for a concern which has a big fleet of vehicles, it is always economical to have one type of vehicles because of the less amount of incidental and other charges. As I have already stated, these things are to be taken into consideration.

Then again in this connection I should like to request the Hon'ble Minister to see that these vehicles are purchased from the importer and not from the dealer; because if the vehicles are purchased from the importer we get some rebate. Now by purchasing these vehicles from the dealer we are only paying a bigger amount. If I am wrong, I should like to be corrected, but I request the Hon'ble Minister to see to this. My information is that we purchase the vehicles from the dealer and as a result we are to pay a greater amount of money. My contention is that we should purchase from the importer.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : What is the rebate? Is it 30 per cent.?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : I do not know the figure quite accurately. I have put this suggestion not as an expert, but as a layman who feels for the country and who wants to give some positive suggestions to the Government for its consideration.

Not only with regard the purchase of vehicles, there is another point on which some capital expenditure is made, *i. e.*, with regard to insurance of these vehicles. According to the Central Government Act on the subject the third party insurance for a motor car is not compulsory on vehicles owned by Government. Now, the State Transport Vehicles owned by Government may not be insured as a third party insurance. As a result of insuring the State Transport Vehicles, I understand, more than Rs.50,000 have already been paid to different insurance companies.

The Hon'ble Shri RAMNATH DAS : He is not correct.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : May not be. I have already said that as regards figures, I may not be quite accurate. So far as my information goes, we have paid about or above Rs.50,000 as insurance premium and we have received back only about Rs.5,000 against our claims for accident. Only in the last few years we have thus paid about Rs.45,000. Now, for a Government concern like the State Transport, Government is entitled to make a pool of its own which may be styled as a Special Reserve for accidents or so. Such a pool can be made and whenever there is any accident or such a thing, money can be drawn from that pool and this pool becomes a part of our capital. This is not a new proposition. The Bombay City Transport has a pool of its own and as a result, the Bombay City Transport has profited a great deal.

The Hon'ble Shri RAMNATH DAS : That has been done here also.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : If that has been done, it is well and good.

Next I am coming to buildings. I am coming to the second part—buildings in section 3, sub-section (3). Here again I am basing on certain information that in Shillong itself we pay to Hariram Goenka Rs.110 a month for a Yard at Paltan Bazar, Shillong and to Ganeshdas Goenka Rs.350 per month for 9 rooms at Paltan Bazar. Again to Ganeshdas Goenka we pay Rs.170 a month for a small godown at Paltan Bazar and Rs.300 per month for a big godown. This comes to Rs.930 per month to this Goenka family as house rent, that is to say, annually we pay Rs.11,160 to the Goenka family as house rent for the godowns. If we have a long view and intention to make the State Transport a permanent concern of the Government, we can and should have our own buildings. If within the last few years that the State Transport has been running, we had not paid such a big amount to a private party, if we had made an investment by having some buildings of our own, then there would have been a bigger reserve and we would have saved a recurring expenditure on this house rent account.

Now I do not want to go to the second part of my Cut Motion; because I am afraid that it does not exactly come in within the present scope, *i. e.*, treatment to the employees.

I propose to deal with it when we come to Grant No.3, charges on account of Road Transport Schemes. Now, I beg to place it before the Hon'ble Minister for Transport that he should look into the matter and should see if there are certain defects in the matter of Capital Outlay, where lies the rut and how that can be rectified. I think, one of the reasons is that the whole State Transport Organisation is being controlled and managed by an authority which is not efficient. I understand that the Secretary of the Control Board himself is a gentleman without a diploma in Automobile Engineering and without any experience for running a commercial concern. Then again, so far as our Accounts Officer is concerned, I understand that he also is a gentleman without a diploma in Accountancy. When our funds are being managed by a gentleman without any knowledge of Accountancy and when the entire organisation is being controlled by a Secretary without a diploma in Automobile Engineering and without any knowledge or experience for running a commercial concern, naturally it can be guessed that such mistakes are quite likely.

So, Sir, with these few words I have placed my suggestions before the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of this Department, and I would request him to see whether these suggestions of mine can be taken seriously into consideration. I now beg to move that the provision of Rs.4,99,000 under Grant No.35, Major head 57-B—Capital Outlay on Road Transport Schemes financed from Ordinary Revenues, Minor head A—Capital Expenditure on Bus Service, Sub-head Section III—Pandu-Gauhati-Shillong Service (Total), at page 252 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.12,27,300 do stand reduced by Re.1.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved:

“That the provision of Rs.4,99,000 under grant No.35, Major head 57-B—Capital Outlay on Road Transport Schemes financed from ordinary Revenues, Minor head A.—Capital Expenditure on Bus Service, Sub-head Section III.—Pandu-Gauhati-Shillong Service (Total), at page 252 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.12,27,300 do stand reduced by Re.1.”

Maulavi MD. UMARUDDIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, apart from the Cut Motion which has been moved by my hon. Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, I want to draw the attention of the House to the general features of this particular item—how it is connected also with the Grant No. 38. I should like to be enlightened what connection this particular item of expenditure has with item No. 38 because this sum of Rs.12,27,300 is intended to be invested as Capital Outlay on motor vehicles and item No. 38 refers to the management or operation of Road Transport Schemes.

Sir, in discussing these demands we must bear in mind that this is a commercial concern undertaken by Government on which we are asked to vote money which Government propose to invest. This much money must yield profit, but here we do not see any profit. Sir, in the Budget speech the Hon'ble Finance Minister said that during the year 1950-51 there was a profit of Rs.16,35,659 as against Rs.12,79,459 in the previous year. Then he said, "By the end of September last Government have derived a nett profit of Rs.40,12,466 from the Transport Department run by the Government". Sir, this sum of Rs.40,12,466 has been shown as nett profit of the Government. I should like to know whether whole or part of that profit represents nett receipt to the Government exchequer? If that is so, how a sum of Rs. 20 lakhs has been shown as revised receipt for 1951-52. Sir, the whole thing—Receipts and Expenditure—are placed before us in such a way that no hon. Member is able to calculate what is the nett result of this undertaking. The Hon'ble Minister has said in his Budget speech that Government have a nett profit of Rs.40 lakhs and odd during the year 1951. Then this should be shown as Receipt under the State Transport Scheme. But we do not find anything of this sort. So I see no link between these two items, Grant No.35 and Grant No.38.

Then, Sir, there is no provision for depreciation fund. Sir, the real crux of the matter is depreciation of the vehicles employed. Vehicles run down appreciably every year, but we do not know how much money we may lose on a long-term basis. If the vehicles are run down and become scraps, we want to know how much money will be in the depreciation fund to cover the full book value of the motor vehicles. We do not have here a statement to show whether in the long run say, three, five or ten years when vehicles will have become complete scraps, Government have suffered any loss thereby; nothing has been shown here. So I should like the Hon'ble Minister to place before the hon. Members of this House a costing statement of the entire State Transport Department so that we may know whether in the long run this Department yield any nett profit to Government or not. So, Sir, I find that I am not in a position to understand how the receipt of Rs.18 lakhs shown under State Transport Scheme is linked up with the sum of 40 lakhs and odd shown as nett profit by the Hon'ble Finance Minister in his speech.

Then again, Sir, why this expenditure on the same scheme is shown under two heads? One is Capital Outlay on Road Transport Schemes financed from ordinary revenues and the other Road Transport Schemes. I do not know what is the meaning in showing these two items of expenditure relating to the same scheme under two different heads. As I have already said there is no provision for depreciation fund, so, Sir, the whole thing is complicated and is completely confused. As a matter of principle, I should like to know, how this expenditure of Rs.12 lakhs under Grant No. 35 is linked up with Grant No. 38, "Capital Outlay on Road Transport Schemes financed from the ordinary revenues" and how the expenditure of Rs. 12 lakhs now placed before the House is going to be justified when under Grant No. 38, Rs. 44 lakhs have been asked for "Road Transport Scheme—Working expenses"? How this amount of expenditure of Rs.44 lakhs under "Road Transport Scheme—Working expenses" has been arrived at? I want

to know also what is the significance of the Rs.40 lakhs, stated by the Hon'ble Finance Minister in his Budget speech as nett profit derived from the Transport Department ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Do you want to know from Government why profit has been shown without taking into account the depreciation ?

Maulavi MD. UMARUDDIN: Yes, Sir, I want to have a reconciliation of the statement given by the Hon'ble Finance Minister with the Budget figures for the year 1952-53.

Sir, if time permits and if we are given sufficient time, we will again discuss specially about the management side of the State Transport under Grant No. 38—“Road Transport Scheme—working expenses”.

I raised these few questions in order that the Hon'ble Minister enlighten us with the information sought for in my questions.

With these words, I support the Cut Motion moved by my hon. Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya.

The Hon'ble Shri SIDDHINANH SARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to my Friend, the hon. Mover of the Cut Motion, for giving some suggestions for improvement of the State Transport organisation. These suggestions will be examined properly and if feasible, will be given effect to.

Now, his first point is that the vehicles of the State Transport should be of the same make. There is some difficulties in having vehicles of the same make as we are not aware of longitivity of different vehicles. If a certain type of vehicle of the same make is decided to be purchased, it is found afterwards that the life time of such vehicles is short in comparison with the price than our Organisation will suffer. If it is durable, in that case it may be profitable in the long run. Therefore, vehicle of which make would be durable and profitable requires full examination.

As regards his suggestions about special insurance pool, that was done and has already been replied to by the Hon'ble Srijut Ramnath Das who was in charge of the Department before I had taken charge of it.

As regards the efficiency of the Secretary, as far as I am aware, Sir, he has been managing it efficiently and economically.

Regarding the Accountant who is alleged to be under-qualified, my information is that he is properly qualified in accounts and discharging his duties properly.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: These things ought to have been dealt under Grant No. 38.

The Hon'ble Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA: When the hon. Member referred these points, I am giving reply.

There is some impression in some quarters that the State Transport suffered heavy losses in the past in the purchase of vehicles and by acquiring not on rate contract. That impression is wrong. In order to give effect to the policy of nationalisation of road transport, a Resolution was adopted in this Legislature on 27th September, 1948 and with a view to give effect to that Resolution the Gauhati-Shillong route was taken up by the State Transport authority, with effect from the 1st of January, 1949 and Government had to purchase fleets from local dealers at a competitive price during the period from September 1948 and 1949 and it was done because at that time the advantage of rate contract was not available and Government had no information that vehicles could be had at rate

contract and as the Organisation took up Shillong-Gauhati line they had to purchase some vehicles at the market rate and this was explained in the floor of this House by my predecessor in reply to a question by Srijut Haladhar Bhuyan. I quote the reply:—

“I can explain this matter. The Comptroller said that in not purchasing 126 vehicles the Government sustained a loss to the extent of about 2½ lakhs. In making this report the Comptroller has taken into account 126 vehicles but out of which only 57 came under the rate contract and the remaining 69 were outside the rate contract at that time. Sir, in coming to the figure of 2½ lakhs, the Comptroller has taken into account only the rebate that could have been accrued on the basis of 20 per cent. on the list price plus 5 per cent. dealer's commission on the whole lot of 126 vehicles, but he has not taken into account the 2 per cent. on rate contract departmental charge, the Bombay sales tax, the transport, insurance, handling and other incidental charges from Bombay to Calcutta. If these charges would have been taken into account and only on 57 vehicles certainly the alleged figure of loss as shown by Comptroller could not have appeared as such. I think, I have sufficiently explained the report that was given by the Comptroller and from the statement that I have made it will be seen that the alleged loss of about Rs. 2½ lakhs is not correct. We have only lost Rs. 1,940 including 11 vehicles which were purchased subsequent to the receipt of the Director General of Industries and Supplies communication regarding rate contract of vehicles. In addition to that, I must be plain to state that we have paid Rs 4,300 to Assam as Sales-tax, and not to the Bombay Government. So, Sir, it is not a fact that Assam Transport Department lost a huge sum.”

It is a fact that some buildings were taken up on hire at the time when the Transport Department took up the organisation—as they had no land and the godowns of their own, they hired those buildings. I shall now see that the organisation has land and buildings of its own.

Now, Sir, let me come to the two Grants, Grant No.35 and 38. If we examine these Grants it will be seen that that Grant No.35 relates to the Capital Outlay on Road Transport Schemes financed from ordinary Revenues and Grant No. 35 relates to Road Transport Schemes—working expenses. Under this Head, *i. e.*, Grant No. 35, demand for the expenditure is on account of Lands, Vehicles, Buildings, Plant and Machinery, Furniture and Equipment, and Tools and Implements, for Gauhati-Nowgong Service, Nowgong-Jorhat service, Pandu-Gauhati-Shillong service and Jorhat-Sibsagar-Dibrugarh service and for Nowgong-Silghat service and Gauhati-Goalpara service. If we examine the other Head—Grant No. 38, it will be seen that the expenditure is for establishment including direction and operation charges for the Gauhati-Nowgong service, Nowgong-Jorhat service, Pandu-Gauhati-Shillong service, Jorhat-Sibsagar-Dibrugarh service, Nowgong-Silghat service and Gauhati-Goalpara service. The expenditure is shown in details. I do not know what difficulty is found by the hon. Member in understanding it.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The point is that the depreciation of the vehicles ought to have been taken into account.

The Hon'ble Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : That is shown, Sir, in the Balance Sheet.

***Maulavi Md. UMARUDDIN:** My point is that, Sir, if you refer to page 258 you will find that under the Head Contingencies against item (i) Depreciation Fund, an amount of Rs. 3,50,000 is shown for the year 1951-52, but, Sir, no amount has been set apart for the year 1952-53. May I understand, Sir, from the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge that this Depreciation Fund that was provided in the year 1951-52 is sufficient to meet the entire depreciation of vehicles in the course of next 5 or 6 years? We cannot judge anything until the percentage of depreciation, whether it is 50 per cent. or 60 per cent., is shown clearly at the time of making the total investment on purchase of vehicles. The Hon'ble Minister-in-charge will please enlighten on this point. My another point is that when some sort of an advance is taken from the ordinary revenue for investment on this commercial organisation of road transport, I want to know whether any interest is charged or not. If not, why not?

The Hon'ble Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA: For the information of the hon. Member I can point out that in 1948-49, in the last three months of that year, the investment as Capital Outlay was Rs. 12,29,138 and the net profit in that year was Rs. 1,68,028, when the organisation was taken up, and in the profit and loss account it is shown that in these three years ending in September 1951 the net profit is about Rs. 40 (forty) lakhs. In calculating the life time of the vehicles 2 years are considered to be the life time of a vehicle and depreciation is calculated at 25 per cent. less each year of the price of the vehicles and 6 per cent. of the value of other things like buildings and materials. So, in the year 1949-50 the net profit was Rs. 12,79,459 against the capital outlay of Rs. 29 lakhs and odds. On the basis of this calculation, the net profit in the year 1950-51 was Rs. 16,35,659 against a capital outlay of Rs. 20,76,800. The net profit was approximately 18 lakhs against a capital outlay of Rs. 70,72,048 in the year 1951-52. Sir, this year the Department will take up the Gauhati-Goalpara Road and Nowgong-Silghat Road, from 1st April next and when the entire nationalisation scheme is fully operated, the capital outlay will stand at sixteen lakhs and the profit expected will be about thirty two lakhs, besides building up a decent reserve for these depreciation.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: So the depreciation has been duly taken into account.

The Hon'ble Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA: Yes, Sir.

***Maulavi MD. UMARUDDIN:** Am I to understand that the depreciation is indicated for one year *i.e.*, 1951-52 only and that we should not have a recurring provision for the vehicles and the buildings every year?

The Hon'ble Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA: No, Sir. The provision is made for every year under a separate fund.

***Maulavi MD. UMARUDDIN:** Then why no money has been shown in the Budget?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The life of the vehicles has been shown as four years, and every year it is shown at the end of the year. I think, it will do.

***Maulavi MD. UMARUDDIN:** Then when will it begin and when will it end, Sir?

The Hon'ble Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA: After four years it will end, Sir.

The Hon'ble Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI: Sir, it has been lost sight of the fact that it is run on the line of a business concern. Every year these factors are taken into consideration. All these details are given in the balance sheet that is prepared and the balance sheet may be placed on the table, if it is desired.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The hon. Member may see it from the Hon'ble Minister, if he wants. Now what does the hon. Mover of the Cut Motion propose to do?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I beg to withdraw my Cut Motion, Sir.

(The Cut Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The Question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs.12,27,300 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1953 for the administration of the head—57-B—Capital Outlay on Road Transport Schemes financed from ordinary Revenues”.

(The Motion was adopted.)

GRANT No.18.

39.—Public Health

The Hon'ble Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.29,58,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March 1953 for the administration of the head “39.—Public Health.”

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

“That a sum not exceeding of Rs.29,58,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March 1953 for the administration of the head ‘39.—Public Health’.”

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 29,58,000 under Grant No.18, Major head 39.—Public Health, at page 122 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.29,58,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

My object of moving this Cut Motion is to raise a general discussion.

Sir, I appreciate many of the good works that is being done by the Public Health Department. I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge, to the fact, that the doctors of the Public Health Department should have better pay and prospects, in view of the fact that they have to live in out-of-the-way places, having no amenities of life. Their duties are of arduous nature, and they often do their duties at the risk of their lives. Sir, most of the Public Health Dispensaries are without any Compounders. Compounders should be provided for every dispensary. I also appreciate the good work that is being done by the so-called Rural Health Inspectors. One thing I want to draw the attention of the authority concerned is that the medicines and ampuls that are provided should actually go to the people for whom they are intended. Sir, it is reported that sometimes a portion of the medicine is being sold by these officers, and these do not reach the people. This should be properly checked, and the people should get the benefit out of the supply of medicine that is given. I also like to draw the

attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the fact that most of the Public Health Dispensaries are housed in thatched cottages which are in a most insanitary condition. Good houses should be provided for the dispensaries. I would also like to request the Hon'ble Minister to provide a Public Health Dispensary in Lengari in Dibrugarh Subdivision. There should be more liberal supply of pure drinking water for the rural people of the country. With these few words, I move this Cut Motion, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved :

“That the total provision of Rs.29,58,000 under Grant No.18 Major head 39.—Public Health, at page 122 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i. e., the amount of the whole grant on Rs 29,58,000 do stand reduced by Re.1”.

Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHAUDHURY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of the House the deplorable condition of public health in the State of Assam. On the one hand, the people are illiterate and ill-fed and are susceptible to diseases, and due to the adulterated food they are eating, they are getting diseases through food. On the other hand Government are apathetic to these people. The Government have a nominal agency of public health officers consisting of only 11 officers. This is itself a matter to be wondered at. Then out of these 11 posts almost half the posts are lying vacant and Government have not taken any steps to recruit doctors to these posts. How is it? Isn't it a serious matter to the State of Assam that out of the 11 officers provided, only 5 are working and the rest are not working? In the last year's Budget Rs.21,245 was sanctioned out of which only Rs.16,160 was spent and the rest was surrendered. This year also it is doubtful if Government can find out any doctors and health officers for recruitment in the cadre of public health officers. The reason is that the pay given to these officers is not attractive. In the Memorandum of Budget estimates we find that Government have given remarks for substantial pay scales to the Publicity Department in order to attract good people to join as Publicity Officers. I do not understand why the same treatment should not be meted out to the Public Health Department. This Department should be given attractive pay and allowances so that good doctors may come to this Department. At present doctors are going away from this Department and are practising as private practitioners. The reason is that the doctors are not getting anything attractive in this service. This being the state of affairs, the Public Health condition is deteriorating every year and the number of Tuberculosis and cancer cases is increasing every year, though the death rate from these diseases may be shown low at present.

Then, Sir, for detecting adulteration in food or such other things, the Public Health doctors should be given power to take these cases in their hands and they should be empowered to deal with cases of food adulteration. In West Bengal, probably because the Chief Minister is a doctor himself, he has taken very active steps in these matters and D. D.'T. for malaria has been supplied to every house and a close check is kept on the tea stalls. In Assam also tea stalls should be registered and instructions should be issued to the stall-holders how to run them properly. Tuberculosis cases are rapidly increasing in the country. The Government spent about a lakh of rupees for a mass radiography plant bought in 1948, which is lying uselessly at Jorhat. This should be brought to Gauhati. Sir, the Cotton College is the only Government College in Assam from where our Ministers have come out and they are proud to call themselves *ex-Cottonians*. In that very college Tuberculosis has broken out and four cases were detected in the Cotton College hostel. Government should take active steps to improve the health condition of the students in the hostels—the watering system, the latrine system, etc. and start a canteen for the students. Then, Sir, we do not get the actual report of Tuberculosis cases in Assam,

The Hon'ble Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : I think, Sir, it would be better to discuss about Tuberculosis when the Medical Grant is moved.

Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHAUDHURY : It is very difficult to differentiate between Medical and Public Health as it is difficult to differentiate between rice and boiled rice, which is called *bhat*. Any way, I shall try to confine myself to Public Health.

Then, I come to maternity and child welfare.

In 1947 the death of infants below one year was 10,477 and in 1948 it was 11,758 as seen in the Annual Report of the Public Health Department. That means, Sir, that infantile death rate is increasing, but Government have not taken any steps in this matter. We have got a Department of Maternity and Child Welfare; but only 4 doctors, 5 health visitors, one Assistant and 11 *dhais* comprise the whole Department. The activities of the Department are confined only to the towns. I wish Government should start schools or training centres for *dhais* and nurses so that they can go into the villages and train mothers. Every year we lose about 12,000 children below one year.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : What is the percentage of infantile death to the total death-rate in the State ?

Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHAUDHURY : Nearly 12 per cent., Sir. So I wish that Government should take active steps to improve the maternity and Child Welfare Department. As our Hon'ble Minister in charge of Public Health wants that I should speak only with regard to Public Health, I shall speak on other points when we come to Medical.

Maulavi MEHRAB ALI LASKAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in supporting the Cut Motion moved by hon. Friend, Mr. Gogoi, I like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Public Health and also of the hon. Members of this House to the following few points. My first point is this that the Medical Department and the Public Health Department should be amalgamated into one Department. This will perhaps reduce some amount of expenditure of the Government and this will, I hope, remove the long-standing grievances of the Public Health Doctors and it is known to every body that not being able to stand for roving and the camp life many Public Health Doctors got disgusted and tendered their resignation from the service.

The second point which I like to emphasise is that the adulteration of food-stuffs like *ghee*, milk and mustard oil, etc., should be ruthlessly suppressed. This adulteration is going on before the very eyes of the executive and not much attention appears to have been paid to this subject.

Thirdly, I should like to say that only to give facilities to the emergency cases of the interior locality, every Public Health dispensary should have emergency beds for hospital treatment and these Public Health dispensaries should have sufficient stock of medicines.

With these few words, I take my seat.

Shri JADAV CHANDRA KHAKHLARI. মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়,
আমার বিবোধী দলব.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : খাকলাবী ডাঙবীয়া, আপুনি মাইকব ওচৰলৈ আহক ।

Shri JADAV CHANDRA KHAKHLARI : অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমার বিবোধী দলৰ সদস্যসকলে, যিবিলাক কৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাব দিছে, তাৰ পৰায়ে বাইজৰ কিবা উপকাৰ হব, মই ভাবিব পৰা নাই। মাত্ৰ তেখেতসকলে 'ছ'ছিয়েলিষ্ট' অথবা 'কমিউনিষ্ট' পাৰ্টিৰ সমালোচনা মূলক নীতিৰ কথাহে প্ৰকাশ কৰিছে আৰু কাগজে পত্ৰে প্ৰকাশ হৈছে। তেওঁলোকৰ পাৰ্টিৰ ঘৰখন পকা কৰি লোৱাৰ এইবোৰ সজুলিহে।

চৰকাৰে বহুখিনি টকা বেমাৰীৰ পথ্য আৰু ঔষধৰ কাৰণে দিছে। চৰকাৰে কুকুৰা কিনিবলৈ দিয়া টকাৰে যদি ডাঙৰসকলে কুকুৰা কিনি চুৰুহা নিজে খাই, বেমাৰীক সিটা খাবলৈ দিয়ে তেতিয়াহলে তাৰ উপায় কি ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : খাকলাৰী ডাঙৰীয়া, আপুনি যে কলে, "ডাঙৰে চুৰুহা খাই বেমাৰীক সিটা দিয়ে", ইয়াৰ কিবা ভিত্তি আপোনাৰ ওচৰত আছে নেকি ? যদি আছে, তেতিয়াহলে বিতং বিবৰণ দিলে বিভাগীয় মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই সেই বিষয়ে, তদন্ত কৰিব। যদি নাই তেতিয়াহলে ডাঙৰসকলে কুকুৰা খাই, বেমাৰীক সিটা দিয়ে, এনেবিলাক অভিযোগৰ দ্বাৰা, মানুহৰ মনত বেয়া ধাৰনা হয় আৰু চৰকাৰী কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ বিৰুদ্ধে তেনেকৈ অভিযোগ অনা ভাল নহয়।

Shri JADAV CHANDRA KHAKHLARI : অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই সেই বিলাক অভিযোগৰ বিষয়ে, Socialist and Communist সকলৰ দৰে বদনাম কৰা নাই—দেখাও নাই। মই মাত্ৰ তেখেতসকলে দিয়া বদনামৰ এটা উপমাহে দিছো। মুঠৰ ওপৰত, ডাঙৰ সকলৰ সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি বা বেচি বিঘ্নান ডাঙৰ হলেও বেমাৰীবিলাকৰ বেমাৰৰ ওৰ নপৰিব। বেমাৰীক সুপথ্য, ভাল দৰব আৰু ভালকৈ থাকিবলৈ দিব লাগিব তেতিয়াহে বেমাৰীৰ সংখ্যা লাঘব হব আৰু বেমাৰৰ মাত্ৰা কমিব। আজি বাজেটত যি টকা মঞ্জুৰী কৰা হৈছে, তাৰ অধিকাংশই ডাঙৰসকলৰ বেতন আদিত যায়। এইয়ে ৫১ লাখ নে কিমান টকাৰ হিচাব ধৰিছে, তাতকৈ আৰু বেচি টকা ধৰিলেহে, বেমাৰৰ মাত্ৰা কমিব, বেমাৰীসকলৰো বেমাৰ উপশম হব।

মই যোৱা বছৰ, কামৰূপৰ ফালেদি যাওতে পাঠশালা ষ্টেচনৰ ১৫ মাইল মান দূৰত থকা কচাৰী গাওঁবিলাকত দেখিলো তাত লৰাছোৱালী নায়েই, জন্ম হয় আৰু মৰে, জন্ম হয় আৰু মৰে। এইদৰেই যদি হয়, তেতিয়াহলে, সেই মানুহ বিলাকৰ মাটি বাৰী, সম্পত্তিৰ প্ৰয়োজন কি ? জীয়াই থকাৰেই বা সাৰ্থকতা কি ? সেই নিচিনা ঠাইত চৰকাৰে ঔষধালয় পাতি দি, জনস্বাস্থ্যৰ প্ৰতি লক্ষ্য নকৰিলে, সেই মানুহ বিলাক সেই ঠাই এৰি অন্য ঠাইলৈ গুচিয়াব লাগিব আৰু চৰকাৰে মাটি দিব লাগিব। এই মানুহ বিলাক নিৰক্ষৰ : সিবিলাকে, আজিৰ জগতৰ কথা নাজানে—কি কৰিব লাগে বা নকৰিব লাগে একো নাজানে। কাজেই সেই মানুহ বিলাককো, আজি আমাৰ সমান শাৰীলৈ আনিব পৰাটোহে প্ৰকৃত সমস্যা এইবিষয়ে চৰকাৰে অনুসন্ধান কৰি, 'হস্পিটেল' আদি দি চিকিৎসাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে।

বিবোধী দলৰ সদস্যসকলে, কেৱল সমালোচনাৰ ওপৰতেই নাথাকি, এইবিলাক প্ৰকৃত সমস্যাৰ উন্নয়নৰ হকে গঠন মূলক আৰু উন্নয়ন মূলক পৰামৰ্শ চৰকাৰক দিয়ক—তেহে, বাইজৰ উপকাৰ হব আৰু তেওঁলোকো ধন্যবাদৰ পাত্ৰ হব।

ইয়াকে কৈ মই, কৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাৱটিৰ বিৰুদ্ধে থিয় দিছো।

The Hon'ble Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : I am very glad to find that the hon. Mover of the Cut Motion has very highly appreciated the works done by the Public Health Department. From what I have seen during the short period I have taken charge of this department I can say that the activities of this department have been most vigorous and this department has been doing marvellous works.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Marvellously or miraculously ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Mr. Gogoi's point was that the doctors are badly paid.

The Hon'ble Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: The department has been fighting against all sorts of diseases with its limited resources and limited staff.

It will take a long time to narrate the full activities of this Department. So I don't think it necessary, Sir, to narrate all the activities of the Public Health Department. I shall only reply to the points raised by my hon. Friend, Mr. Gogoi. He wants that the scale of pay of the Public Health Doctors should be increased. I am in agreement with Mr. Gogoi in this respect, but Sir, we have to examine also the financial aspect of the matter. If our funds permit taking into consideration the arduous works done by these Doctors in outlying areas we shall certainly see whether any improvement can be made. There is also an allegation from Mr. Gogoi against the Health Inspectors in rural areas for misusing the medicine meant for distribution to the masses. Sir, I have not received any information in this regard, but I shall look into the matter and see what can be done. As regards the demand for dispensaries in rural areas, Sir, the demands are so great that it will be difficult to meet the demands in all cases ; however, we shall see if anything can be done in this matter. Then Mr. Gogoi regretted the wretchedness of the Public Health Dispensary sheds. I personally know, Sir, that most of the Public Health Dispensary sheds, in outlying areas are thatched houses, but within our limited financial resources we have been doing our level best to improve these sheds where it is necessary. We shall see what can be done in that direction also. Then as regards supply of good drinking water, we are doing our utmost, Sir, to supply good drinking water in the rural areas.

Again, Sir, Dr. Choudhury has raised the question of adulteration in food-stuffs. In this connection, Sir, I may inform the Hon'ble House that an Act called the Assam Pure Food Act was passed in 1947 and as a result of the operation of this Act, we have striking achievements in this direction. We have practically suppressed adulteration of mustard oil as a result of the operation of this Act. The following figures will show this, Sir. The total number of mustard oil samples examined in 1948 was 3,261 and the number found adulterated with white oil was 30 and the percentage of adulterated was 11. In the year 1949 the number of mustard oil samples examined was 436 and the number found adulterated with white oil was 32, the percentage of adulteration was 7. In 1950 the total number of mustard oil samples examined was 263 and the number found adulterated with white oil was 5 and the percentage of adulteration was 1 only. So, from these figures hon. Members will see what result we have achieved in such measures against this adulteration under the Pure Food Act of 1947.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: What about the number of posts left unfilled—Mr. Gogoi complained that Government have not filled up half the posts of Public Health Doctors ?

The Hon'ble Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: I think hon. Members know quite well that there is a great dearth of Doctors in our State. Now that we have our own Medical College, we shall be able to get more qualified Doctors and in that case we shall be able to meet this demand for more qualified doctors.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: May we know from the Hon'ble Minister whether this is due to the "lake-lake" policy obtained in our country and.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: No, no. Please resume your seat.

The Hon'ble Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: Then my Friend, Mr. Mehrab Ali, raised the Question of amalgamation of the Medical and Public Health Departments. I may inform him that this matter has already received the attention of the Government and is still under consideration. After examination of the matter we shall see what can be done in this regard.

Sir, in view of what I have said, I hope, my Friend, Mr. Gogoi, will see his way to withdraw his Motion.

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI: I beg leave of the House, Sir, to withdraw my Motion.

(The Cut Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I put the main Motion as a Question.

The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs.29,58,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March 1953 for the administration of the head—39.—Public Health”.

(The Motion was adopted.)

GRANT No.17

(38.—MEDICAL)

The Hon'ble Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.51,15,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March 1953 for the administration of the head “38.—Medical”.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs.51,15,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1953 for the administration of the head “38.—Medical”.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.18,91,219 under Grant No 17, Major head—38.—Medical, Minor head—B.—Hospitals and Dispensaries (total) at page 115 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.51,15,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

In moving the Cut Motion, I would like to discuss about the inadequate provision made in the Budget Memorandum for ordinary dispensaries run by Local Boards, with special reference to the Provincialisation of the Karimganj Civil Hospital.

Sir, we always profess to establish a Welfare State, but in practice it will be found from the figures in the Budget presented to us that the Government is neglecting institutions, I mean Hospital and Dispensaries run by Local Boards, which are beyond the capacities of the Local Boards to run properly and give relief to the poor people.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: You speak about Karimganj Civil Hospital.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Karimganj Civil Hospital is under the Local Board. Now, I am speaking about Hospitals generally under Local Boards.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: You should concentrate your discussion to provincialisation of the Karimganj Civil Hospital and if you have time later, you can speak about other Hospitals.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: Karimganj Civil Hospital for provincialisation of which I am moving this Cut Motion, is a Hospital run by the Local Board of Karimganj. We know, Sir, before the Partition, the population of Karimganj according to 1941 Census was below 8,000 whereas from the 1951 Census taken after the Partition it appears that it has increased to over 20,000. I have taken figures from the Subdivision Medical Officer, Karimganj to show that the number of outdoor patients.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: You cannot quote figures. The Subdivisional Medical Officer cannot give you figures.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: I got these figures in my capacity as the Chairman of the Karimganj Municipal Board.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: You are doing a disservice to a Government servant.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Very innocuous figures, Sir.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: The number of outdoor patients in 1949-50 was 11,604 and of indoor patients 454, where the number increased in 1950-51 to 14,606 of outdoor patients and 843 of indoor patients. Thus it will appear that the number has increased by more than 3,000.

I know in the year 1950 there was a proposal of Government for provincialisation of this Civil Hospital and on this some preliminary arrangement was made and a report was submitted to Government by the Civil Surgeon, Cachar; but after that what happened we do not know.

Sir, I find from the Budget that 5 District Civil Hospitals are going to be provincialised. It is quite good, but so far as Karimganj Civil Hospital is concerned, when the number of outdoor and indoor patients have increased enormously and the Local Board is finding it very difficult to administer it with its poor financial resources, I think, it is high time that Government should provincialise it.

From the Budget figures we find that for ordinary dispensaries, provision has come down from the allotment made last year. From the Budget Memorandum, I could not understand that so far as Government dispensaries are concerned the provision for diet and medicine has been increased on the ground that the price of these have gone up, but in case of Local Board dispensaries provision is curtailed. I cannot understand about this differentiation.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: I will close, Sir.

In Grant No.17 allotment of expenditure for dispensaries, the amount is 6 lakhs less than in the previous year. So far as the Government dispensaries are concerned, money earmarked for medicine and diet has been increased, but in case of local bodies, they have curtailed in those provisions.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I cannot allow this sort of discussion.

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE : May I know from the hon. Member wherefrom he got that 5 dispensaries are going to be provincialised ?

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS : I will show him when the House rises. With what I have stated, Sir, I would commend my Motion for the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved is that the provision of Rs.18,91,219 under Grant No.17, Major head—38.—Medical, Minor head—B.—Hospitals and Dispensaries (total), at page 115 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.51,15,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Shri PRABHAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to oppose the Cut Motion moved by hon. Mr. Ranendra Mohan Das and appreciate the interest that the Government have taken so far for the relief of the people of Assam reflected through the Medical Department. Along with the establishment of the Medical College in the year 1947, I hope, the dearth of doctors will vanish and in future our people will get proper relief.

In this connection, I beg to draw the attention of the Government to see that both the Public Health Department and the Medical Department are amalgamated soon and I am really glad to find that our Hon'ble Minister in charge of Medical has given the assurance that this matter for amalgamation is under consideration of the Government and, I hope, this task will soon be effected.

I should also like to draw the attention of the Government that a large number of subsidised dispensaries is established throughout the length and breadth of the Province so that proper medical treatment can be available to our people without much difficulty.

The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA : I do not think, Sir, the hon. Member is relevant.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : You must confine yourself to the real point, that is, provincialisation of the Karimganj hospital.

Shri PRABHAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI : I am trying to show, Sir, that these matters are really.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : No, you cannot speak on that point. You must come to the real point.

Shri PRABHAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI : Now, Sir, I want to say that if the Government consider.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : No, you cannot speak any more, you must resume your seat.

The Hon'ble Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : Sir, this Karimganj hospital is a Local Board hospital and we give some grant-in-aid for purchasing medicines and medical equipments. This year, it appears, that as much as Rs.10,000 has been granted to this hospital for purchasing medicines and medical equipments. We cannot make any exception in the case of the Karimganj hospital. We have received demands from all the subdivisional headquarters for provincialisation of their hospitals. As a matter of fact, a scheme for provincialisation of hospitals was submitted to Government, but owing to paucity of fund, Government could not proceed in the matter. When the Government will decide to provincialise all the hospitals of the subdivisional headquarters, the case of Karimganj hospital will be taken into due consideration. But at present we cannot make any exception in the case of the Karimganj hospital.

In view of what I have stated, Sir, I hope my hon. Friend from Karimganj will see his way to withdraw his Motion.

(The Cut Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.)

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : I beg to move, Sir, that the total provision of Rs.51,15,500 under grant No.17, Major head—38.—Medical, at page 102 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1., *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.51,15,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

My object in moving this Cut Motion, Sir, is to raise a general discussion on the subject. So, I do not propose to take much of the valuable time of the Hon'ble House. The Hon'ble Finance Minister, in the course of the Budget speech, said that the number of dispensaries in this Province has been increasing. But, I am afraid, he did not say how many of these dispensaries really deserve the name. Many of these dispensaries are there only as window dressing. They are managed by doctors who are ill paid and ill provided with stock of medicines and other amenities. Even many of them have no compounders to help them, and so far as Civil and Local Board dispensaries are concerned, they are seldom visited by the Civil Surgeons and as a result of that in the out of the way places the dispensaries are often vary badly run.....

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : How do you know that these dispensaries are not visited by the Civil Surgeons ?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : I am saying this from the experience of my own District: I consulted with some of the doctors of those dispensaries and they said that their dispensaries are seldom visited by the Civil Surgeon.

With regard to the Local Board dispensaries, I must say that they should be properly looked after, because these dispensaries serve the purpose of quite a big portion of our population.

Secondly, Sir, I want to speak about the Tuberculosis menace in this Province. Yesterday the Hon'ble Minister in-charge of Medical Department said that an old X-ray plant had been given to the Gauhati Civil Hospital. He did not enlighten the House as to wherefrom and when that old X-ray plant came. If I am allowed to speak, I can say wherefrom it came. It came from the stock which was purchased at Barbari from the American Military Hospital. This plant was there and was not put into operation for half a decade. If I am wrong, the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge will please correct me. Sir, when one

benevolent person offered some donation for having an X-ray apparatus in the Gauhati Civil Hospital, because at the time there was none there, that is even in a premier town like Gauhati, there was no arrangement for X-ray examination, such a donation was not utilised in time. The old plant was lying useless and another plant had to be purchased at the cost of Rs.15,000—Government advancing Rs.10,000 due to the failure of the bank. So, Government, not being able to take the advantage of that donation in time, lost a great opportunity. Srijut (Dr.) J. C. Das, the Chairman of the Hospital Committee, wrote to the Government again and again to purchase the plant and only after a great deal of correspondence, the Government offered Rs.10,000 to purchase the plant. This is how, Sir, things are delayed, even in such important matters, as my hon. Friend, Dr. Choudhury, has already said.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Is the plant working now ?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : It is not yet working, Sir. The electrical arrangements are not there for the purpose. Only the future will know what will be the fate of this plant. It is about half a decade since the original purchase, but yet it is not in working condition. Sir, at the cost of several lakhs of rupees stocks of medicine and other equipments of hospitals were purchased. There has already been a discussion on the floor of this House about purchase of stocks of medicines, etc., but I do not know with what result. I do not like to go into this matter any more. The Medical Department will get more profit if there is proper and timely utilisation of the money allotted to it.

So far as the Local Board dispensaries in the Mofussil areas are concerned, the Government should see that substantial subvention is given to those dispensaries and there should be also provision of beds in those dispensaries.

The Hon'ble Shri MOTIRAM BORA : These have already been given.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA ; Sir, there are many Local Board dispensaries where there is no bed. I may point out to the Hon'ble Finance Minister that dispensary and hospital are two different things. It may not be possible to make them full-fledged just now, but there may be some beds attached to those dispensaries for emergency cases. With these words, Sir, I beg to move my Motion that the total provision of Rs. 51,15,500 under Grant No. 17, Major head—38.—Medical, at page 102 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 51,15,500 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved is that the total provision of Rs. 51,15,500 under Grant No. 17, Major head—38.—Medical, at page 102 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 51,15,500 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

The Hon'ble Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my hon. Friend, Srijut Bhattacharyya, has raised the question of X-Ray plant at Gauhati. Sir, yesterday it has been stated in the House that the service connection will be done in a month or so and as soon as it is done, I hope, it will start functioning. I hope there will be no more delay in putting it in working order. He has also referred to the cases of dispensaries, that the condition of those dispensaries is very poor and that in some dispensaries there is no Compounders. Sir, all these points will be taken into consideration. I shall also remember the suggestion put forward by my Friend, Shri Bhattacharyya, in other matters. They will also receive the attention of the Government. With these words of assurance, I hope he will withdraw his Motion,

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

(The Cut Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 51,15,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March 1953 for the administration of the head—38.—Medical".

(The Motion was adopted.)

GRANT No. 44.

(Loans and Advances bearing and not bearing Interest)

The Hon'ble Shri MOTIRAM BORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 98,05,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March 1953 for the administration of the head "Loans and Advances".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs. 98,05,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1953 for the administration of the head "Loans and Advances".

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not moved any Cut Motion on this Demand, and I have nothing much to say about other items except the item of 'Loans to Local Bodies'. We find that last year a loan of Rs. twenty lakhs was allotted as loan to Local Bodies. It is not shown which Bodies got how much, and even for the preceding year we do not get any idea how these loans were advanced and recovered and how the money was utilised by the Boards concerned. Sir, the Local Bodies are important organs for the functioning of the Democracy and decentralisation of Democratic Government, but we find that many Local Bodies and Municipalities are not functioning in the way they should have functioned. I make special mention of the Gauhati Municipality. A few years back a sum of about five to six lakhs of rupees was advanced to this Municipality for doing some repair works to roads. Sir, Gauhati is a premier town and *defacto* capital of Assam. The way the repairs were done appears to be most unsatisfactory. The water supply problem of the Gauhati town is also most unsatisfactory. If any one goes out in the morning it will be found that water is being carried in water vans for being supplied to the people. It is really an unfortunate sight to see in the premier town of Assam. Sir, recently there was a devastating fire not only in Gauhati, but also in Dibrugarh. Property worth lakhs of rupees were burnt down. Sir, when the money is being advanced to those Local Bodies or Municipalities, I would like that these Bodies should have purchased fire brigade to fight fire. Recently in the University Colony at Gauhati there was a fire. The Fire Brigade had to be brought from the Railway Colony, as a result of which by the time the Fire Brigade reached the scene of occurrence, the houses were already burnt down.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question of Fire Brigade has not come for discussion. So how can you speak about it?

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Sir, as I have already told that I am not moving any Cut Motion. My point is to draw the attention of the Government to this important aspect of the question.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: It cannot come under discussion now.

The House stands adjourned till 1 P.M.

Adjournment

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

After lunch

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my point in raising this discussion on this Motion was that we could not discuss Local Self-Government under any other head. When we advance loans to local bodies it is necessary that we should know that the money has been advanced to proper persons and for proper purposes. Sir, as I said, these local bodies are the most important organs of Democracy and, therefore, I said, Sir, that such scrutiny should be done before advancing money to the municipal bodies also.

Another point: I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the fact that in too many of the municipal bodies there will be election very shortly. Certain municipal boards were superseded, one such board is Gauhati.....

The Hon'ble Shri MOTIRAM BORA: These are not relevant to the Demand, Sir.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: He seems to be labouring under the difficulty that as regards Local Self-Government there is no head.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Yes, Sir, that is my difficulty.

The Hon'ble Shri MOTIRAM BORA: There is a grant under which there is a head "Contributions to Local Bodies".

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: But we cannot discuss Local Self-Government as such.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: You can discuss it under other heads, *viz.*, Medical, Veterinary, etc.,—that so much money has been granted for local board dispensaries, so much for veterinary, and so on. I fully realise your difficulty, but at the same time the discussions are not relevant to the demand.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: I appreciate the difficulty of the Hon'ble Finance Minister. But at the same time if we are to confine ourselves to this head the discussions become very much restricted. We cannot bring in certain matters which are very important at the present moment, *e.g.*, election to the local bodies, which will not come under any head. So, Sir, when we discuss "Loans and Advances" we have a larger orbit of discussion and can give out our feelings on this subject also.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: I appreciate your remark, but I hope you will desist from speaking on anything which has no bearing on "Loans and Advances".

(Shri Hareswar Goswami resumed his seat.)

(The Hon'ble Shri Motiram Bora rose to reply.)

The Hon'ble Minister need not reply to the whole range of discussions, but confine himself to the points relevant to the Demand.

The Hon'ble Shri MOTIRAM BORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my hon. Friend, Mr. Goswami, the Leader of the Opposition, wanted certain informations from Government. As you said, I would reply only to those points which are relevant to the Demand.

Mr. Goswami said that we had provided about 20 lakhs of rupees as loans to local bodies for the next year, but we have given no information as to how this money would be distributed and to whom. For his information I should say that it is not possible just at present to indicate which of the Local or Municipal Boards will be the recipients of this loan. The amount is being provided in the Budget as a lump sum provision to meet the demands for loans that will come in the course of the year from different local bodies. Therefore no information can be given now which local bodies will be recipients of this loan. But the amount provided, *viz.*, about 20 lakhs of rupees, is a big sum considering the state of our finances and our heavy deficit.

Next, Sir, my Friend wanted to know how the last year's money was distributed by this Government. For his information I can tell him that the money was given to different Municipal Boards,—2 lakhs to the Tezpur Municipal Board for improvement of communication and water supply, 2 lakhs to the Nowgong Municipal Board for improvement of communication and a few lakhs—I cannot give him the exact figure—but about 3 to 4 lakhs, to the Municipal Boards of Sibsagar and Golaghat for improvement of water supply. The loan that has been given to the Gauhati Municipal Board during the last 3 or 4 years comes to the neighbourhood of 16 lakhs of rupees for two distinct purposes, *viz.*, (1) for improvement of communication and (2) for improvement of water supply. So far as the first part is concerned, the work has been completed by the Municipal Board and the repayment of the loan has fallen due. As a matter of fact, the Municipal Board is paying the *kists*, though not very regularly, but not very unsatisfactorily also. As for the other part, *viz.*, improvement of water supply in the Gauhati town, the work for providing a big storage tank for water, providing big and powerful machinery for lifting water, the works for laying out pipes, for fitting them and taking water to the consumers—all these works are being undertaken by the Public Works Department and after the Public Works Department has taken up these works, the work is also going on not unsatisfactorily and if everything goes according to the plan, we hope, the work can be completed within the course of next year.

So far as repayment of the *kist* for this loan is concerned, that has not yet fallen due because we have not been able to complete the work there.

The third information is about Karimganj Municipal Board. That Municipal Board was given a substantial loan by Government. For the information of the hon. Member and the Hon'ble House I may say that so far as repayment of this loan is concerned, the Municipal Board is making some default and the Board has also diverted a good part of the loan to some other purposes for which the loan was not meant. The matter is now under consideration. Government is considering what appropriate action should be taken against the Municipal Board concerned for diverting a good part of the money for other purposes. These are the informations that are at my disposal.

So far as the granting loan to these local bodies is concerned, this is being done after a good deal of scrutiny. As soon as a local body makes a demand for certain purposes, the matter comes to the Local Self-Government Department and utmost care is taken to see that the loan that is given is utilised for the purpose for which it is taken and that the loan is necessary. Sir, it is the duty of the Government to come forward to the help of the local bodies whenever

and wherever possible. In all such cases due consideration is given to prayees for loans. When the money is decided to be advanced, Government also sees that there is ample possibility on the part of the local body concerned to repay the money. After taking all these things into consideration the loan is advanced. Therefore, my Friend may rest assured that the advance of such a loan is made after a good deal of consideration and scrutiny.

Sir, with these observations, when there is no Cut Motion, I move that my Motion be accepted by this House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.98,05,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March 1953 for the administration of the head—Loans and Advances."

(The Motion was adopted.)

GRANT No.9

(18-B and 68-B Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: We have only about twelve minutes for about five items.

The Hon'ble Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.20,30,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March 1953, for the administration of the head "18-B. and 68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works".

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.20,30,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March 1953, for the administration of the head—18-B. and 68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works."

Shri GHANAKANTA GOGOI: I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.20,30,900 under Grant No.9, Major head—18-B. and 68-B—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works, at page 28 of the Budget be reduced, by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.20,30,900 do stand reduced by Re.1.

By this, I want to raise a general discussion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: That is all right. You have no time to speak on the Motion.

Cut Motion moved:

"That the total provision of Rs. 20,30,900 under Grant No. 9, Major head—18-B. and 68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works at page 28 of the Budget be reduced by Re. 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.20,30,900 do stand reduced by Re. 1."

(The Motion was put as a question before the House and lost.)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Then I put the original Motion.

The question is :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs.20,30,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March 1953, for the administration of the head—“18-B. and 68-B.—Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works.”

(The Motion was adopted.)

GRANT No. 33

(56.—Stationery and Printing)

The Hon'ble Shri 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.9,23,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March 1953 for the administration of the head—“56.—Stationery and Printing”.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs.9,23,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March 1953 for the administration of the head—56.—Stationery and Printing.”

(The Motion was put as a question before the House and adopted.)

GRANT No. 4

(9.—Stamps)

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. 82,400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March 1953, for the administration of the head—“9.—Stamps”.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 82,400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March 1953, for the administration of the head—“9.—Stamps.”

(The Motion was put as a question before the House and adopted.)

GRANT No. 37

(64.—C—Pre-partition Payments)

The Hon'ble Shri MOTIRAM BORA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 50,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1953 for the administration of the head—“64-C.—Pre-partition payments the local

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 50,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1953, for the administration of the head—64-C.—Pre-partition payments”.

(The Motion was put as a question before the House and adopted.)

GRANT No. 27

[50—Civil Works (excluding Tools and Plants and establishment charges)]

The Hon'ble Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,15,08,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1953 for the administration of the head—“50.—Civil Works (Excluding Tools, Plants and establishment).”

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved :

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,15,08,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1953 for the administration of the head—“50 --Civil Works (Excluding Tools, Plants and establishment).”

Shri RANENDRA MOHAN DAS: I am not going to move the Cut Motion. My Friend Maham Sing will move his Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Half a minute.

Shri MAHAM SINGH: In that case I do not want to waste my Motion. I do not move it.

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

The question is :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,15,08,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1953 for the administration of the head—50.—Civil Works (Excluding Tools, Plants and Establishment.)”

(The Motion was adopted.)

GRANT No. 38

(XLVIA—Road Transport Schemes—Working expenses)

The Hon'ble Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 44,88,600 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1953 for the administration of the head—“XLVIA.—Road Transport Schemes—Woking Expenses.”

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved :

“That a sum not exceeding Rs.44,88,600 be granted to defray the charge which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March

1953 for the administration of the head—XLVIA.—Road Transport Schemes—Working Expenses.”

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 44,88,600 under Grant No. 38, Major Head—XLVIA.—Road Transport Schemes—Working Expenses at page 255 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 44,88,600 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

The object of my Motion is to raise a general discussion.

In this connection, I do not propose to go into all the heads and all the sub-heads of this grant. I propose to confine myself only to a portion which is covered by the Shillong-Gauhati-Pandu Road. Now, as it is generally said, the Directorate marches on its head and the workers march on their bellies. If we go to apply this dictum to the running of the road transport system, we see both these aspects of the dictum are neglected. So far as the Directorate is concerned, I have already stated something and I do not want to dilate on this. I want to say a few words with regard to the employees and the workers of the State Transport. I do not know whether the Station Superintendent is a part of the Directorate or of the employees. At any rate, there is some travelling allowance to the officers—Rs.5,000. It is reported that some of the Station Superintendents are provided with State cars namely, ASK 664 is said to be used by the Station Superintendent, Jorhat. I hope, the Hon'ble Minister for Transport would enlighten us whether the State vehicle is being run by the Station Superintendent.

With regard to the workers and employees of the Organisation and the Directorate, if they do not feel like one team, if there be discontent and suffering, we cannot expect to attain the ideal result; because not only the orders from the top but also the willingness of the workers from bottom are necessary for an efficient administration. Now, if we compare the working condition and facilities of our State Transport Employees with the facilities of the employees of the Commercial Carrying Company which was the predecessor of this State Transport, we shall find that the condition of our State Transport employees are far worse. I shall only cite a few instances. The scale of pay of the Drivers under the Commercial Carrying Co., was Rs. 40—5—125. Here in the State Transport it is Rs.45—5—100. The Handyman under the Commercial Carrying Co., used to get Rs. 20—2—40. In the State Transport they get Rs. 22— $\frac{1}{2}$ —28. The Chowkidar or peon under the category under the Commercial Carrying Co., used to get Rs. 30—1—50, in the State Transport they are paid Rupees 22— $\frac{1}{2}$ —28 and so on. Then under the Commercial Carrying Co., there was rice concession at Rs. 8 per month for the workers. They used to get oil at As. 8 per seer and Dal at As. 3-6 per seer; but here in the State Transport no such concession is given to workers. With regard to leave also, we see that the Commercial Carrying Co., used to give more leave with pay than State Transport. Under the Commercial Carrying Co., running staff used to get double the pay on Sundays and other holidays. In State Transport no such allowance is given. No bonus is given by the State Transport. But bonus equivalent to 2 months' pay used to be given by the Commercial Carrying Co., There were some other facilities provided for the workers in the time of the Commercial Carrying Co; no such facilities are provided by the State Transport. There were Provident Fund facilities under the Commercial Carrying Co.; but no such Provident Fund facilities have been given by the State Transport. In addition to this, there are going on various kinds of harassment on the workers specially on the workers of

the lower grade. Moreover with regard to their leave, on many occasions they do not get leave due to them in proper time. I cite one instance. The Government has decided to take over the Gauhati-Palashbari-Goalpara Road. Some employees of the State Transport have been asked to opt for the line. Many who opted were not taken in and many who did not opt were taken.

I do not want to go into many more details. My purpose in citing these instances is to show that there are reasons for which the employees are discontented and the Directorate of the State Transport should see that these legitimate grievances are redressed and that the employees under the State Transport are not worsened than the employees under the then Commercial Carrying Company, because only if they are better treated will they show more interest and more willingness to contribute their mite to make this State Transport Organisation a success.

Now, another item on which I want to speak a few words is with regard to petrol under "running expense." Sir, in the days of the Commercial Carrying Company, there were petrol pumps both at Gauhati and at Shillong. As a result, they used to get commission perhaps to the extent of Rs. 2,000 per month, but now under the State Transport, there is no petrol pump at Shillong. Sir, the State Transport Organisation's monthly consumption of petrol amounts to about 17,900 gallons and as such, if it is halved, it will come to about 8,900 gallons from Shillong point; but since journey from Shillong is mostly downwards, let us take that the consumption of petrol will be a bit less in the down journey. So even if we take it at only 8,000 gallons, our State Transport up till now are losing about Rs. 1,000 per month in the shape of commission for this petrol.

Then there are also other things. As I have already said, because vehicles are of various makes in the matter of stores, tools, spare parts, etc, for the various makes of cars more expenditure is being incurred in that connection also. I want to stress this point Sir. There are also certain deficiencies and shortages. For example, at Gauhati so far as the stocking of stores etc., is concerned, it is not properly done.

The Hon'ble Shri RAMNATH DAS : How does the hon. Member know that it is not properly done ?

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : If I am allowed the time, Sir, I can furnish full details in this connection. I have got a very big file about these things and I can give the Hon'ble Minister the details.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : No, no, we need not go into that.

Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Then, Sir, with regard to holidays. Whereas under the Negotiable Instruments Act workers and employees get 28 days' as holidays *plus* other public holidays like Sundays, New year's Day, Good Friday, Christmas Day and so on, here in our State Transport the workers are given only 16 days, holidays. With regard to the treatment of the Directorate to the lower strata of officers and employees, the less said the better.

With these few words, Sir, I comment my Motion for the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Cut Motion moved :

“That the total provision of Rs. 44,88,600 under Grant No. 38, Major Head—XLVIA—Road Transport Schemes—Working Expenses, at page 255 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.44,88,600 do stand reduced by Re. 1.”

The Hon'ble Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as regards the allotment of a car to the Transport Superintendent at Jorhat—Car No.ASK-664—I have no information, but I shall enquire of the matter.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Is it not necessary for checking ?

The Hon'ble Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : It may be necessary, Sir, but, as I said, I shall enquire into the matter.

Now, as regards the wages paid to the workers of the State Transport, I may, inform the House that it is higher than that laid down under the Minimum Wages Act.

Shri GAURI SANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : May we know, Sir, whether it is higher than that used to be given by the Commercial Carrying Company ?

The Hon'ble Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : Yes, Sir, in some cases it is. But I have not been able to examine all cases.

Now, Sir, as regards the pay given to the Lower grade workers, drivers of the senior grade get Rs. 45—100 and junior Rs. 30—45 ; conductors—senior Rs. 45—60, junior Rs.30—40 ; handymen Rs. 22 to 28. That is their basic pay scale and over and above that they also get the trip allowance : for a car the rate is Rs. 4 per trip ; for buses it is Rs. 2 per trip and for lorries, Rs. 3 per trip. And in addition to that, they also get dearness allowance, the monthly rate of which is thus : for pay between Rs.22—35 the rate is Rs. 25 ; between Rs.70—140 Rs. 35 ; between Rs. 140—220 Rs.45 ; between Rs.221—450, Rs.50 and above Rs. 450, it is 10 per cent. subject to the maximum of Rs. 50.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : On a point of information, Sir. Whether these dearness allowances and trip allowances were received also by the drivers and handymen of the Commercial Carrying Company or whether these are newly introduced and if there is any increase, what is the rate of increase ?

The Hon'ble Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : So, Sir, if you calculate the total emoluments of drivers, on the average it comes to from Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 per month and for the conductors and handymen it is between Rs. 70 and Rs 120 and for the mechanical staff it is between Rs. 100 and Rs. 275. The first grade mechanics get from Rs.4-8 to Rs. 6, the second grade mechanics get Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 and the third grade mechanics get Rs. 1-8 and Rs. 2-12 per day as basic wage and in addition to this they get dearness allowance of 12 annas to Rs. 1-8 per day. So, Sir, they are better off and their pay and emoluments are higher than the Minimum Wages Act laid down and, as I said before, in some cases higher than that which the Commercial Carrying Company used to pay.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : Does the Minimum Wages Act apply to Road Transport employees also ?

The Hon'ble Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : It may not be.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : This set of workers are different and in their case this Act cannot be applied.

The Hon'ble Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA : It may be taken as a criterion.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI : This should not be a criterion.

The Hon'ble Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA . As regards the appointments in lines which will be opened with effect from the 1st of April next, the officers and employees who are in the employment now and efficient will be generally employed there. Those who are efficient and willing will be taken in, but it has not been finalised as yet.

As regards, running expenditure of petrol pump, my Friend suggested that there should be a petrol pump at Shillong. It is not necessary because the vehicles draw petrol at Gauhati for both ways, *i. e.*, for coming up to Shillong and going back. Creation of a petrol pump will only mean additional expenditure.

As regards number of holidays, I shall examine the list and shall see whether I can do anything in this matter.

Another point is that there is a persistent demand for bonus out of the profit derived from operation service. Government do not accept the principle of employees sharing the profit of State enterprises, in view of the fact that the entire profit goes to the benefit of the tax payers and not to the individuals. Therefore, the principle of giving bonus cannot be accepted.

As regards the suggestion made by hon. Members to reduce the expenditure, it is the desire of all to reduce unnecessary expenditure and try to make it a profitable commercial concern.

With these words, Sir, I request my hon. Friend to withdraw his Motion.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : I am sorry, Sir, I cannot withdraw my Motion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is:

“That the total provisions of Rs.44,88,600 under Grant No. 38, Major head—XLVIA.—Road Transport Schemes—Working Expenses, at page 255 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 44,88,600 do stand reduced by Re. 1”.

(The Cut Motion was negatived).

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs. 44,88,600 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1953 for the administration of the head—“XLVIA —Road Transport Schemes—Working Expenses”.

(The question was adopted).

GRANT No. 19

(40—Agriculture)

The Hon'ble Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY : On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 54,09,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March 1953 for the administration of the head—“40—Agriculture”.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Motion moved:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs. 54,09,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March 1953 for the administration of the head—40—Agriculture”.

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 54,09,500 under Grant No. 19, Major head—40—Agriculture, at page 133 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1 *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 54,09,500 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

Sir, I am moving this Cut Motion in order to raise a general discussion. I will not speak on this as my hon. Friend, Shri Radha Charan Chaudhury, will do so.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved:

“That the total provision of Rs. 54,09,500 under Grant No. 19, Major head—40—Agriculture, at page 133 of the Budget, be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs 54,09,500 do stand reduced by Re. 1”.

Shri RADHA CHARAN CHAUDHURY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to say something in support of the Cut Motion moved by my hon. Friend, Shri Ghana Kanta Gogoi.

In Agriculture expenditure in item (k), I have seen that allotment for 1952-53 is shown as less than the current year's allotment. This deals with irrigation projects. When the country mainly depends on agriculture and in Assam we know that prospects of agriculture depends on the whims of nature, I cannot understand why the expenditure on irrigation works should be decreased. It would have been better if some more money was allotted for this purpose.

In item No. (j)—Other charges—which deals with seeds, plants, etc., the allotment here also is less in the next year than in the current year. To give proper facilities to cultivators, the expenditure on purchase of seeds and plants, etc., would have been more welcome if the amount would have been greater than the present allotment made in the Budget.

Moreover, we always see that seeds and plants which are distributed to cultivators are supplied ultimately when the actual cultivation season is over. So, I want to draw the attention of the Government to see that these things, seeds plants, etc., are supplied to the cultivators timely.

As regards jute propaganda, we have seen that some laymen, most of them untrained, have been appointed to do this work; but our villagers do not care to pay heed to the propaganda work done by these officers as the cultivators know better of jute cultivation and better qualified than these demonstrators or officers. The cultivators have better experience of the field works than these officers. So I draw the attention of the Government to see that these officers are given proper training for the work.

One of the most important factors of agriculture is the system of granting agricultural loans to cultivators. In this system we have seen that if a cultivator possesses a periodic patta land, he is allowed to get agricultural loan, whereas a cultivator possessing annual patta land is not allowed to have the same. If the agricultural loan is meant for giving help to the agriculturists or cultivators for production of food, then this discrimination should not be made. Whether one possesses periodic patta land or annual patta land, he is the real cultivator. If any security is needed for the loan, it should be other than the land, say on the produce, etc. I therefore suggest to the Government that when loans are given to the agriculturists or cultivators, they should be given to the deserving people, irrespective of the fact that he is a periodic patta holder or annual patta holder. We have seen that the tribal cultivators are mostly annual patta holders.....

The Hon'ble Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY: For the information of the hon. Member I may say that the question of agricultural loan does not come under the Grant under discussion. This comes under Land Revenue.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: You need not discuss these things under this Grant.

Shri RADHA CHARAN CHOUDHURY: Then, Sir, I come to another point. Cultivation is affected by floods, water-hyacinth and other pests. Therefore Government attention is invited also to fight out these evils so that the cultivators would not have to face such damages on account of flood, water-hyacinth and such other pests. Though it does not come under the subject of agriculture, proper embankment and drainage should be made in most cases to save the agriculturists from being surrounded with those pests and to help them to produce more food.

With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Shri JOGAKANTA BARUAH: মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, এই কৃষি বিভাগৰ আলোচনা প্ৰসঙ্গত ময়ো দুঘাৰ কণ্ট বুলি থিয় হলো। মোৰ বোধেৰে আমাৰ চৰকাৰে কৃষি কাৰ্য্যৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে আৰু কিছু টকা বেচিকৈ ধৰাই দৰ্কাৰ আছিল, তথাপি যি ৫৪ লাখ টকা এই কাৰণত ব্যয় কৰিবলৈ ওলাইছে, তাৰ বাবে মই চৰকাৰক ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন কৰিছো। কিন্তু দেখিছো, এই ৫৪ লাখৰো খৰচ আৰু জমাৰ স্বত ৩৯ লাখ টকা দেখুওৱা হৈছে। গতিকে বাকী ১৫ লাখহে প্ৰকৃততে এই কামত ব্যয় হব।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমাৰ দেশখন কৃষি প্ৰধান দেশ, ইয়াৰ শতকৰা ৮৫ জন মানুহেই কৃষিজীবি বিশেষকৈ এই দেশৰ উন্নতিৰ সহায়ক হিচাপে নিৰ্ভৰ কৰিছে, এই কৃষিকাৰ্য্যৰ ওপৰত। এতিয়াও চৰকাৰে যিখিনি টকা খৰচ কৰিবলৈ আগবাঢ়িছে, তাকেই স্পৰ্শিকল্পনাৰ সৈতে খৰচ কৰিলে নিশ্চয় দেশৰ উন্নতি হব। দেখা গৈছে, যে আমাৰ কৃষি বিভাগৰ কাৰণে যি টকা ধৰা হয়, তাৰ সবহ ভাগেই বিভাগীয় কৰ্মচাৰী সকলক বেতন দিওঁতে খৰচ হয়। গতিকে দুখীয়া কৃষক সকলে খেতিৰ উন্নতি সাধন কৰাত অসমৰ্থ হোৱা দেখা যায়। মই নিজেই খেতিয়ক মানুহ, মোৰ নিজৰ অভিজ্ঞতাৰ পৰা কব পাৰো যে কৃষি বিভাগৰ যিবিলাক কৰ্মচাৰী আছে, তেওঁলোকে আমাৰ সৰ্বসাধাৰণ কৃষকক কৃষিৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে কোনো ভাল দিহা পৰামৰ্শ দি সহায় কৰিব নোৱাৰে। প্ৰধানকৈ এতিয়া দেখিছো যে প্ৰকৃত কামতকৈ অনেক টকা Experiment তহে খৰচ কৰা হৈছে এনেকুৱা খাদ্য-সঙ্কটৰ দিনত আমাৰ সৰ্বপ্ৰধান কৰ্তব্য হৈছে আমাৰ ৰাজ্যখনক খাদ্যবিষয়ত আত্মনিৰ্ভৰশীল কৰা। ইয়াকে কৰিবলৈ, প্ৰথমতে এক্সপেৰিমেণ্টত হাত নিদি যদি আমাৰ চৰকাৰে খেতিৰ মাটিত ভাল সাৰ যোগোৱাত খৰচ কৰিলেহেতেন তেন্তে মই ভাবো আমাৰ ৰাজ্যত ধানৰ যি আটক হৈছে সেই আটক সোনকালেই নাইকীয়া হ'লহেতেন। মই গবৰ্ণমেণ্টক টানি অনুৰোধ কৰো যাতে এই টকাৰে খেতিয়ক সকলক বেচিকৈ সাৰ আদি যোগাই ভালকৈ খেতি কৰাত উৎসাহিত কৰাৰ পিনে বেচিকৈ জোৰ দিয়ে।

তাৰ পিচত, আমাৰ ৰাজ্যৰ বহুত ঠাইত দেখা গৈছে যে ভালকৈ কৰিলে আপেল, নাচপতি আদি হয়। বিশেষকৈ আমাৰ যিবিলাক পাহাৰ অঞ্চল আছে, সেইবিলাকত এই নাচপতি, আপেল আদি ফলবিলাক বেচি পৰিমাণে হয়। চৰকাৰৰ তৰফৰ পৰা কিছু তদাৰক লৈ কৰালে হয়তো আমি গোটেই ভাৰতবৰ্ষতেই এই ফলবিলাকৰ যোগান দিব পাৰিলোহেতেন। আমাৰ ৰাজ্যলৈ বাহিৰৰ পৰা টকা অনাৰ ইয়ো এটা উপায়। এই কথাটোলৈ জোৰ দিবলৈ মই গবৰ্ণমেণ্টক অনুৰোধ কৰিলো।

অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, আমাৰ ডিব্ৰুগড় অঞ্চলত ডাঙৰ ডাঙৰ মাটিকঠাল যথেষ্ট পৰিমাণে হয়। অজ্ঞতাৰ কাৰণেই হওক বা অসুবিধাৰ কাৰণেই হওক, বাইজে উৎপাদন কৰাৰ স্ৰয়োগ নাপায় অথচ এইবিলাক হৈছে ধনঘটা কৃষি। এই কৃষিটো বন্ধ কৰাটো চৰকাৰৰ কৰ্তব্য। মই আশা কৰো চৰকাৰে এই বিষয়তো চকু বাখি কিছু সাহায্য আৰু উৎসাহ উদ্দীপনা দি ৰাইজক এই কামত

আগবঢ়াৰ। আমাৰ অসমত কিয় গোট্টেই পৃথিবীতেই ধানৰ নাটনি হৈছে। বহু ঠাইত দেখা গৈছে যে ধান নহয়। সেই বিলাক ঠাইত মানুহে অলপ অচৰপ গম বা যব ধানৰ যি খেতি কৰিছে, সেইবোৰ ভাল ধৰণে হৈছে। ইয়াৰ পৰা বুজা যায় আমাৰ ৰাজ্যতো এইবিলাক খেতি হয়। এই খেতি কেনেকৈ কৰে হয়তো আমাৰ মানুহে ভালকৈ নাজানে। আমাৰ ৰাজ্যত মানুহে কেবল ধান খেতিৰ ওপৰতে নিৰ্ভৰ নকৰি এইবিলাক খেতিও কৰিলে আমাৰ যি খাদ্যৰ নাটনি হৈছে তাৰ সোনকালে ওৰ পৰিব বুলি মোৰ বিশ্বাস। মই চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰো যাতে এই বিষয়তো কৃষক সকলক সাহায্য কৰে।

সবশেষত, মই আশা কৰো যাতে এই কৃষি বিভাগটো খেতিয়ক ৰাইজৰ উপকাৰত আহে তাৰ কাৰণে আমাৰ চৰকাৰে ঢোকা দুটি ৰাখে, আৰু মই যি কেইটা পৰামৰ্শ আগ বঢ়ালো তাৰ কাৰ্য্য-কাৰীতা ভালকৈ পৰীক্ষা কৰি কামত খটাই চাব বুলি আশা কৰিলো।

Maulavi MD. UMARUDDIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad to find that the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture has provided a big sum of money for Agriculture. Sir, I want to make it clear that mere provision of huge sums will not solve our problems. Not only we should provide money, but we should have the proper machinery for implementing various schemes for which money is provided. Sir, there are certain fundamental things in agriculture, the most important of which is the supply of seeds, and the next is manure. Then other things like irrigational projects, scientific investigation, etc., come next. In this country our cultivators are extremely backward and they are following the same old method of cultivation from time immemorial and no attempt has been made to make them follow the modern method of cultivation. At the same time the land which they have been cultivating is the same land which has been overtaxed and as a result its yielding capacity has been reduced. While our population is increasing by leaps and bounds the yielding capacity of our land is going in the opposite direction. So, to check further deterioration it is the bounden duty of the Government to see that the land is properly manured not only to increase the production of food, but to increase over-all production in such a way that it can keep pace with the increase in population.

Sir, for seed multiplication I find in the year 1950-51 a sum of Rs.14 lakhs was spent, though a sum of about Rs.10,000 was provided. In the year 1951-52 a sum of Rs.9 lakhs was spent. I do not know whether this money was spent for actual seed multiplication. As far as my knowledge goes, Sir, a considerable amount of money has been spent on seed multiplication, but I say that it is actually not for seed multiplication, it is for seed de-multiplication. Seed is not multiplied at all. Sir, I have good reason to say that all the money that has been spent on this account has not been properly utilised. If the money had been properly utilised, I do not see how there could be shortage of seeds in the beginning of the year 1950 at the time of communal disturbances in our Province. The Hon'ble Finance Minister visited our district in the month of December 1950 and we brought to his notice the urgent need of providing seed to the cultivators. That was after the great communal trouble. The fields were got ready but no seed came. As a result, thousands of bighas of land remained fallow. No food could be grown there. Where has the money—the provision of Rs.14 lakh gone? How has the money been spent? Could not there be any arrangements made to buy seeds from private sources? Had there been timely supply of seeds there would not have been this terrible shortage of food which we are now facing. I approached the District Agriculture Officer several times and told him about the urgent need of seed, but nothing was done. Sir, Aus is grown on a large scale in our District. But for want of seed it could not be grown properly. Is this the way we are going to solve the problem of food shortage? When the seeds

are required, Government cannot supply them. What guarantee will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Agriculture give that seed will be made available to the cultivators in time? It is a scandal, Sir, that when our villagers are in urgent need of seed, the Government cannot supply the necessary seeds. Even when they are available they are found to be sterile. Often they are found not to have germinated. So the poor villagers have lost all faith in all seeds supplied by Government. Sir, the next question is about compost. In the year 1951-52 a provision of rupees four lakhs sixty-two thousand was made to give compost bonus. This year it is only three lakhs. It is also found that a sum of rupees one lakh has only been spent in paying bonus to cultivators for compost making.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : You have got only three minutes more.

Maulavi MD. UMARUDDIN : Now, Sir, this is a very important question. We can improve the yielding capacity of the land by making compost on an extensive scale and using them on the lands. Our cultivators are poor. They cannot afford to purchase other kinds of chemical manure. They can be easily taught to make compost and use them on an extensive scale. But here again, Sir, no proper propaganda has been made by Government. May I know from the Government what the Publicity Department is doing? Is it not the duty of Publicity Department to tour in the interior and give demonstration to the cultivators about the method of preparing and using compost in their land. They should not only accompany the Hon'ble Ministers in their tours and take down their speeches and photographs, but they should make extensive tours in the interior villages and teach the cultivators about utility of making and using manure. Sir, in the Budget we find that the Publicity Department is going to be made permanent. There is no mention of so-called activities of the Publicity Department. The people do not get any real service from the Publicity Department. It should be the duty of the Publicity Department to go and enthuse the people and educate them about the necessity of Growing-More-Food which is a great problem. Now out of this four lakhs only one lakh has been spent. What is the reason for the balance of rupees three lakhs not being spent? Sir, I welcome the various schemes under the Agriculture Department.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : Your time is up.

Maulavi MD. UMARUDDIN : Sir, water-hyacinth is another menace to the cultivation of paddy. But we we have seen how in West Bengal steps are being taken to make manure out of it through compost making. Sir, we can turn this monster into a friend, if we take proper steps to make compost and prepare manure out of water-hyacinth.

With these words, Sir, I take my seat.

Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI : May I speak a few words, Sir?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : No.

The Hon'ble Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to my hon. Friends who have put forward suggestions as to how we can improve our cultivation and solve the most naughty problem of food. But I do find difficulties to agree with many of the arguments advanced by some of the hon. Members. My Friend, Shri Radha Charan Chaudhury has regretted that this Government has reduced the grant on irrigation. This is not a fact. Government is trying their utmost to irrigate the land and to make people more independent of the nature. With that end in view we have also the major irrigation projects in the Public Works Department

Budget. The provision in the Agriculture Budget is only for minor irrigation projects and they are mostly on self-help basis. Government contribute only part of the cost, and I believe the amount provided in the Budget will be sufficient to meet such enterprises. The major irrigation projects have already been voted by this Hon'ble House. I hope the Public Works Department would do their best to see that these schemes are fully implemented. Then regarding seed it has been regretted that provision has been reduced from that of the last year. This might be so, but it has sufficient reasons. My Friend, Jonab Umaruddin Sahib, described it as a scandal and said that Government failed to supply seeds to the cultivators in time. I do not agree with him. Sir, Assam is a land of agriculturists. Almost everyone of this House and about 95 per cent. of the population of this State come from agricultural families. We are all agriculturists by birth; everybody more or less has some sort of agricultural occupation. And, therefore, Sir, I do not see any reason why Government should undertake the responsibility of supplying seeds in the ordinary circumstances to the people. We are growing paddy since the time of creation and what is the necessity to-day, in the year 1952, for this Government to supply paddy seeds to the agriculturists? I do not find any force in this argument. We should inspire and extend mutual help among each other. If somebody by accident or by reason of any natural calamity loses his paddy, his neighbours are there to help him. We must teach the people to rely on themselves, and stand on their own legs. Without asking and persuading them to do so if we come here and deliver speeches condemning the Government, does the hon. Member believe that we shall increase our food production thereby?

Maulavi Md. UMARUDDIN: May I know from the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Agriculture whether the Government have any seed multiplication farm and whether from that farm seeds can be purchased? Is it not the policy of Government to supply paddy seeds to the people from this farm so that the yield increases? If he leaves everything to the agriculturists, then his portfolio should go.

The Hon'ble Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY: There are places in our State where the people did not grow Ahu paddy. For instance, in the districts of Sibsagar and Lakhimpur and some parts of the district of Darrang the people did not grow Ahu paddy in the past and so we had to supply them with Ahu seeds now. Can that be a sufficient reason for every one to demand Ahu and Bao paddy seeds from the seed multiplication farm?

Then, Sir, Mr. Chaudhury stated the some Jute Demonstrators have been appointed, who do not possess any technical qualification. I also agree with him to a certain extent. We have shifted some of our experienced demonstrators to the grow-more-food campaign side and therefore some new demonstrators appointed. They were given some sort of preliminary training and they are carrying on with the jute multiplication propaganda in the villages. It may be that the work of some of them may not be as satisfactory as we want it to be. My hon. Friend, Mr. Umaruddin Sahib, has stated that mere provision in the Budget does not grow more in the country. I should go a bit further and say that mere speech-making in the Assembly does not grow more; (*A voice:— From both sides*). If we want to grow more, we must go to the countryside, meet the people and give them proper advice and guidance. I am grateful to my hon. Friend that he has volunteered his services for making propaganda in the villages with a view to grow more food. I am glad that he has offered his services most willingly and I will utilise them whenever necessary.

About compost-making propaganda, Sir, he has condemned the Publicity Department of the Government of Assam for not doing anything in this behalf. I do not hold any brief for the Publicity Department, but at the same time I can tell my hon. Friend that if the Publicity Department has done anything, it has done the compost-making propaganda in the State. They are publishing many brochures, issuing statements and persuade people to make compost. My hon. Friend has said that the subsidy given for compost-making has not been fully utilised. But who is to be blamed for it? We have got a programme, we are asking people to carry on compost-making in the villages and telling them that whatever they do, we are prepared to give them subsidy. It is up to the hon. Members, who feel that compost making should be done in our country, to see that the entire amount that has been provided in the Budget is fully utilised. Government efforts alone are not sufficient, something more is needed.

Then, Sir, about the Golakganj Seed Farm I can tell Mr. Umaruddin Sahib that it is not doing very bad. Of course, I am not fully satisfied with the working of this farm, but I must say for his information that the farm is not doing very bad. In the year 1949-50 the acreage under Ahu was 12, Sali 8, Bao 20, Arhar 1, Sugarcane 1 and Jute 7. The total production was:—Ahu 85 mds., Sali 301 mds., Bao 101 mds., Rahar 2 mds., Sugarcane 15,000 sets and Jute 17 mds. This year the acreage under Ahu is 20, Sali 25, Bao 10, Arhar 10, Matikalai 10, Mung 4, Peas 3, Gram 4, Masur 3 and Wheat 2, and the estimated yield is as follows:—Ahu 250 mds., Sali 500 mds., Bao 250 mds., Arhar 80 mds., Matikalai 125 mds., Mung 45 mds., Peas 30 mds., Gram 50 mds., Masur 30 mds. and Wheat 25 mds.—total 1,385 mds.

Maulavi Md. UMARUDDIN: What is the cost?

The Hon'ble Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY: Rupees 24,614-5-0, Rs.17,579-5-0 recurring and Rs.7,035-0-0 non-recurring.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Does the hon. Mover press his Motion?

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI: No, Sir.

(The Cut Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: The question is:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs.54,09,500 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March 1953 for the administration of the head—40.—Agriculture”.

(The Motion was adopted.)

GRANT No.13

(29—Police)

The Hon'ble Shri 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.1,05,43,600 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1953 for the administration of the head “29—Police”.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Motion moved:

“That a sum not exceeding Rs.1,05,43,600 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1953 for the administration of the head—29—Police”.

Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to suggest that instead of moving all the three motions it would be better if the one standing in the name of Shri Ghana Kanta Gogoi, which seeks to raise a general discussion, is moved. Other Members can take part in the debate. That will save time.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: As you like.

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI: I beg Sir to move that the total provision of Rs.1,05,43,600 under Grant No.13, Major head—29.—Police' at page 66 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1., *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,05,43,600 do stand reduced by Re.1.

The object of my moving this is to raise a general discussion.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Cut Motion moved is :

“That the total provision of Rs.1,05,43,600 under Grant No.13, Major head—29.—Police, at page 66 of the Budget be reduced by Re 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,05,43,600 do stand reduced by Re.1.”

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I take this opportunity, while supporting the Cut Motion moved by my hon. Friend, Mr. Gogoi, to declare unequivocally that I am and have always been against terrorism whether committed by any individual or any group or by the police. My intention in standing to support the Motion of Mr. Gogoi is to draw the attention of the House and particularly the attention of the Hon'ble Chief Minister to the terrorism committed by the Police of this Province against the people of this State. While I was talking that day on the general administration, I was referring to certain observations made by an *ex-Judge* of the Calcutta High Court and at present a Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court. At that time, the Hon'ble Chief Minister very rightly said that it would come under the Police Budget ; so I am referring to it now.

In one point I seek your protection and also ruling. I am putting that question now. On several occasions in the past on the floor of this House from the exalted and privileged position of the Chief Minister, the Hon'ble the Chief Minister referred to certain documents alleged to have been the documents of the Communist Party I have disowned them again and again. I beg to submit that if the Hon'ble Chief Minister wants to make the documents a subject matter of this discussion here, I think it is proper on his part to place these documents on the table here and to appoint a committee of this august House to enquire into the truth or otherwise of the documents. Because we know of Zinoviev documents. The Political history of that document is that it is forged and concocted. The document which was delivered to the Chief Minister by the Police must be a forged one. My point is, that unless the document is placed on the table that cannot be a subject matter of discussion. On this matter I seek your protection. As we have already said, the Police in the North Bank of Kamrup arrested about two thousand persons and they were kept detained not on an order of the Magistrate but of the Police. They were being kept in the premises of the Nalbari College for several days. I think, this was a case of illegal detention and the Police Superintendent who let that campaign himself admitted in a press statement to the P. T. I.—Reuters that out of the total of about two thousand people arrested about one hundred could be detained, the rest might be released after interrogation. That shows the amount of half-heartedness on the part of the Police regarding the fundamental rights of the citizens. They were mostly arrested under section 17(1) of the Criminal Law Amendment Act. This Act was declared *ultra vires* of the Constitution of India by a full Bench of the Madras High Court in V. G. Row's case. The Calcutta High Court also declared it *ultra vires* of the Constitution. Of course the Assam High Court has not yet given any decision on this point. In our law courts however, we are guided by the rulings of other

High Courts also. Most of these people who were arrested under this law were released after some months. As a matter of fact in case of most of those no case was filed even; those who were brought for trial were brought in batches in hundreds. When people come in hundreds to Court, how these accuseds could be properly looked after? Even when they were in jail custody, the C. I. D.,—Deputy Superintendent of Police, Tanu Ram Dutta, sent a note to the jail that some of them should be sent to the Reserve for police investigation. Accordingly, these under trial prisoners were taken away to the Reserve. They were interrogated in a manner which I do not want to describe. Many were groaning when they came back. That kind of interrogation were made on the prisoners! After the interrogation, I requested the Doctor at Gauhati to admit one of the persons groaning seriously, but the Doctor replied, to the effect—I am very sorry, I cannot oblige you for this night. I may give him aid next morning; because he may file a case against the police which may bring serious trouble on me. This is how the political prisoners were treated. These things happened not only in Kamrup district, but also in other districts, Sir. If those who are really terrorists, those who are really dacoits and murderers are brought for trial and given punishment, everybody will welcome it. But because Government cannot tackle the problem of thefts, dacoities and murders, a large scale operation is done against the people. That is surely not befitting a civilised Government. Sir, we had been taught by the Congress itself to fight against injustice. We are not new to the Congress. From the age of 12 I had been a Congress worker and had been to jail twice at least as a Congress worker. We were taught by our Congress leaders to stand against injustice, to stand against illegal laws, to stand against any kind of detention without trial and our leader Pandit Nehru said that a Government which depends itself upon detaining persons without trial, has no justification of existence. This he said as President of the All-India Civil Liberties Union. But our Government unfortunately is doing contrary to all the teachings and traditions of our national movement.

Now, with regard to the police investigation—how police arrested innocent persons and detained them, I beg to cite a few instances. One Shri Nalini Kumar Misra of this Shillong Town, who is a College Professor, was arrested on the alleged ground that he was an organiser of the S. F. and C. P. I. whose aim is calculated to overthrow the present Government. Here I will give in original what the District Magistrate has said, that the object of the C. P. I. is calculated to overthrow the present Government. I say, Sir, if any Government is sought to be overthrown, then it can be done so by non-violent means as well as by violent means and when the Government itself did not say that the C. P. I. is bent upon overthrowing the Government by “violent means”, he cannot be detained. I can tell the House that this gentleman has nothing to do with the C. P. I., he is neither a member of the C. P. I. nor associates himself with this Party. Even then, he was arrested and detained. It is only after an intervention by His Excellency the Governor that he was released and even after his release he was again interned on the very same grounds.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: You have exhausted your time. Please resume your seat.

The Hon'ble Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this connection I consider it my duty to inform the hon. Members of this House, and also through them the general public outside, under what circumstances and Government had to take measures to protect the people, the law abiding citizens of the country against the lawlessness and acts of violence that have been committed by certain anti-social elements, some ill advised youngmen with an adventurous spirit under the guidance of the Revolutionary Communist Party and the

Communist Party of India. As you know, Sir, this Communist Party always have two wings for their operations. One side carry on their under-ground activities, under cover of the other side carrying on the open activities. It is known to all that the motive of the R. C. P. I. and the G. P. I. is for capturing power, by over-throwing the Government by means of violence.

Now, Sir, I desire to give an idea of the nature of crimes committed by the Revolutionary Communist Party of India as well as the Communist Party. On the 13th February, members of the R.C.P.I. armed with sten guns and revolvers carried out a series of outrages on unarmed and innocent people of Tihu under Barama Police Station (Kamrup) in which they killed the Manager of a Marwari Firm in committing dacoity, burnt the Post Office failing to break the safe, looted rice mill in the bazar area, gutted the Circle Office destroying revenue records, looted another Marwari shop injuring inmates, attacked two other shops and decamped with valuables, burnt down the Inspection Bungalow and set fire to the Congress Secretary's house. If the Congress Secretary, merchants, officials and other victims had not taken cover, there would have been more deaths due to the use of fire arms used by these anti-social elements.

On the 13th July 1950, the Communists carried out a dacoity in Sorbhog area in which nine partymen had been arrested. Within a month the Communists interfered in the peaceful celebration of the Independence Day at Sarupeta, pulled down the National Flag in the meeting and created a disturbance. By putting the women in front they sought to resist the police with impunity and they indulged in rowdism in the Patacharkuchi area.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA : Whether this was done by the R.C.P.I. or the Communist Party, Sir ?

The Hon'ble Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI : On the 12th October 1950, the terrorists murdered Gudu Mahajan in Nalbari, a man noted for his public spirit and helpfulness to the police. On the 24th October 1950 they looted Rs. 20,000 in an armed hold-up of the remittance of Doomni Tea Garden. On 26th March 1950 Gangadhar Sarma was shot dead at Bangora at the time of presiding over a local meeting. On the 28th May 1950 the inmates of Dighalkuchi Satra had a narrow escape from them when the stock of paddy was looted. The granary of Dhola Koch of Delopara (Palasbari) was looted. On the 30th June 1950, the house of Mukunda Mahajan of Abkiari (Chaygaon Police station) was attacked with deadly weapons and his stock of paddy was carried off. Some shops in Barduar bazar and Bashbari bazar were looted and clothes and other articles worth thousands of rupees were taken away. Merchants were attacked and relieved of their cash and other valuables. On 16th October 1950, Bhabadhar Chowdhury of Garubari (Palasbari) lost property worth Rs. 15,500 to the Communist dacoits. A Marwari merchant lost his life and property in Atharikhat in Mangaldai. In three cases in Kalaigaon and Paneri "political" dacoits dressed in khaki uniform robbed well-to-do men. There have been cases of arson and intimidation also. Similar situation existed in the Goalpara district also. The resources of the terrorists can be gauged from the fact that the police have recovered the major part of their arms and ammunitions in Lower Assam operations totalling one machine gun, five sten guns, one rifle, twenty-four shot guns and ammunitions counted by thousands.

So, Sir, on account of lawlessness and terrorism let loose by these irresponsible anti-social elements throughout the country, Government had no other alternative but to prepare themselves for all contingencies, and to round up these terrorists all possible precautions were taken.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYA : On a point of information, Sir, are these terrorists members of the Communist Party ? If so, is there any proof of that ?

The Hon'ble Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI : These operations were started with headquarters at Nalbari, but after these operations were done in the South, some of these people escaped and got themselves mixed up in Nalbari area. A Magistrate with first class powers was specially deputed to look after the arrested persons and he examined each case separately, and on the merits of each case he either released or sent them to *Hajot* and he visited different places where the police was going. A temporary lock-up was established for the convenience of the persons who were arrested. From the documents seized by the Police, the location of arms and ammunitions and names of persons of the Revolutionary Communist Party were revealed, and only those persons who were connected with these affairs were arrested.

As far as my information goes, a Medical Officer of a Civil Hospital was deputed and the Inspector General of Prisons deputed one Jailor to look into the interest of the persons arrested. The Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup used to pay visits. The Magistrates examined the cases properly and he exercised his judicial powers in releasing or remanding these persons and such detention was not done under the direction of police. There cannot be any condemnation on the floor of this House regarding the persons who were kept in lock-up as undertrials under orders of a Magistrate.

According to the official list, number of persons arrested is 517, but my Friend said that 2,000 persons were arrested. He was describing the incident of Nalbari and said that 2,000 persons were arrested. In support of this he gave out some press statement. That was a fake statement. A paper like *Statesman* should not have given publicity to such statement.

What were the firearms used by them ? Single barrel and double barrel guns, sten guns, etc. and in seven different places a large amount of arms and ammunitions were recovered. Party documents, leaflets, pamphlets, booklets and records were seized from different places. From these, names of the persons were collected. Some of the persons who were found to have been coerced or forced by show of violence to join this movement, were released on giving undertaking that they would not continue to take part in such activities. This shows that Government were always anxious to release persons who were found innocent and Government would not keep a man a single day more in the *Hajot* if it was found that his presence would not jeopardise with the peace of the country. A large number of them gave undertaking. As a matter of fact they were found to have joined this party under threats, that their lives would be in danger, given by anti-social elements. Whenever undertaking was given, Government released them. Some of these persons were of course kept under detention in case there was sufficient strong grounds justifying such detention. In such cases, the grounds and the representation and connected papers are placed before Advisory Board consisting of a High Court Judge and two other persons who are qualified to be appointed High Court Judges. The members of the Advisory Board sometimes interrogate them and make their

recommendations. In cases in which the Judges pass order recommending detention, they were detained and in other cases where they make recommendation of their release, they were released.

The hon. Member said that that interrogation was done in the lock-up or Police Reserve at Gauhati. This is a news to me. There is no case in which these persons were taken to Police Reserve at Gauhati for interrogation.

He said about injuries to some persons. He makes this statement after about two years.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: I was an eye witness, Sir, when I was an undertrial.

The Hon'ble Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI: When he mixed up with other convicts, he committed an offence under the Jail Manual.

Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA: The Hon'ble Chief Minister is making an insinuation. I was an undertrial at that time and I was in the general barrack.

The Hon'ble Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI: He should not have made such a statement that jail doctor refused treatment of injuries alleged to have been sustained by some undertrials.

I do not think there is any properly qualified physician who would have refused to give the treatment. That statement is an afterthought and made for the purpose of propaganda here.

I will just cite other cases, why Government had to take large number of Civil Police and other Police Forces during the Sibsagar Operation. Sten Barua who was caught in Nitaipukhuri area was about to fire his Sten gun on the Police party and others when an outsider jumped on him and succeeded with the help of police in overpowering him. They used sten gun and others arms not only at the time when the Police was not there but when the Police went to arrest them. It will be, I hope, realised that we have to deal with such dangerous persons armed with fire arms.

On 11th October, 1950 Anil Roy, Mohonlal Mukherjee and a few other R. C. P. I. members were hiding in a house at village Dharia under Bordubi Police Station of Lakhimpur district. Police received information and surrounded the house. Sub-Inspector of Police, Girija Mohon Das, first saw one of the R. C. P. I. members entering that house and no sooner he proceeded towards the house then he was fired with Sten gun and Rifle and was killed on the spot.

In an other case also one Boloram Basumatari, an important R.C.P.I. worker of Beltola in Kamrup District, opened fire towards the police while he was traced at his shelter at Rani Hills. These are the persons against whom we have to carry on our operation, and we feel that all necessary measures were taken for the protection of the lives and liberty of the citizens. Magistrates, doctors, the Deputy Commissioner used to go there on duty, and also the Inspector General of Police himself used to go there to control the operation of the Police.

Under these circumstances, I submit that there is no justification for this Cut Motion and I hope the hon. Member will see his way to withdraw his Cut Motion.

Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI: Sir, in view of the statement made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Cut Motion.

(The Cut Motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn)

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : I then put the main Motion.

The question is : "that a sum not exceeding Rs.1,05,43,600 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on 31st March, 1953 for the administration of the head—29.—Police".

(The Motion was adopted.)

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 1-30 P. M., on Friday, the 28th March, 1952.

SHILLONG :

R. N. BARUA,

The 26th June, 1952.

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.