

**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 1-30 P. M. on Friday, the 28th March, 1952.

**PRESENT**

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

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**

(To which Answers were laid on the table)

**Special pay to Police Officers serving in the Criminal Intelligence Department**

**Shri THANURAM GOGOI** asked :

8. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the rates of special pay granted to the Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors and Assistant Sub-Inspectors serving in the Criminal Intelligence Department of Assam since 1914 ?

(b) What are the rates of special pay granted to the Superintendent of Police and the Deputy Superintendent of Police serving in that Department respectively ?

(c) Is it a fact that the special pay granted to the Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors and Assistant Sub-Inspectors serving in the Criminal Intelligence Department has, all on a sudden, been reduced to Rs.35, Rs.30 and Rs.5 respectively?

(d) If so, from when and why it has been done?

(e) Why the same principle was not pursued in the case of Superintendent of Police and Deputy Superintendent of Police?

(f) Are Government aware of a resolution, passed in the last annual Session of the Assam Police Conference held at Shillong last year, under the presidency of the then Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of Supply and Publicity, urging the Government to restore the cut with retrospective effect?

(g) What steps have Government taken or propose to take on that resolution ?

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

8. (a)—The rates of special pay in force prior to the 1st March 1951, were as follows :—

	Rs.
Inspector ... ..	50
Sub-Inspector ... ..	30
Assistant Sub-Inspector ... ..	7

(b)—Special Superintendent of Police—A special pay of Rs.200 per month was attached to the post, prior to the abolition of the post in 1935. A compensatory allowance of Rs.150 has now been recommended by Government to the Government of India who asked for this Government's recommendation in respect of special pay to be attached to posts borne on the Indian Police Service Cadre for Assam.

	Rs.
Deputy Superintendent of Police ... ..	100

(c) & (d)—The special pay of Inspector, Sub-Inspector and Assistant Sub-Inspector has been reduced from Rs.50 to Rs.35, from Rs.30 to Rs.20 and from Rs.7 to Rs.5, respectively, from the 1st March, 1951, due to the introduction of better revised scales of pay which should compensate a part of the special pay.

(e)—The same principle was followed in the case of the Special Superintendent of Police, *vide* reply (d) above. In the case of Deputy Superintendent of Police, however, no reduction in the rate of special pay was made considering the special nature of his work.

(f)—Yes.

(g)—Government proposed to consider the entire question of pay and allowances of Subordinate Police Force on receipt of the report of the Police Reorganisation Committee, Assam, which is expected to be submitted to Government shortly.

#### Method of selection of candidates by the Assam Public Service Commission

Shri ANANDA CHANDRA BEZBARUA asked :

9. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The method of selection of candidates by the Assam Public Service Commission ?
- (b) Whether any regular examination is conducted by the Public Service Commission according to prescribed syllabus as in other States ?
- (c) If not, why not ?
- (d) Whether Government propose to enforce the same ?

The Hon'ble Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

9 (a)—The Assam Public Service Commission selects candidates normally by holding written examinations followed by a *viva voce* test; but in the case of recruitment for posts requiring specialised or technical knowledge, the Commission selects candidates only after interviewing them. In the case of promotion of officers from one grade to another where there is no necessity to hold a written examination or a *viva voce* test, the Commission selects candidates by examining their service records, character rolls or other particulars.

(b)—The examinations conducted by the Assam Public Service Commission have so far been of a general nature but for purposes of recruitment to the Assam Civil Service, Class I and Class II and the Assam Police Service, the syllabus for the various subjects in which the intending candidates will be examined, has been prepared and will be notified in due course.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—Does not arise.

#### Scarcity of Kerosene Oil

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS asked :

10. (a) Are Government aware that there is scarcity of kerosene oil in Darrang and other Districts of Assam ?

(b) Do Government propose to enquire into the reasons thereof and improve the supply ?

The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE replied :

10. (a)—Yes—Government have received reports from Darrang and Kamrup.

(b)—Government have already taken up the matter with the Assam Oil Company and are doing everything possible to improve supply in respect of this commodity which is now fully decontrolled in Assam.

**Shri MOHI KANTA DAS:** Will Government be able to state the present position of the Kerosene oil ?

**The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Sir, it is impossible for any human being to reply such Question. Will the hon. Member put the Question rather directly ? The answer is there. Sir, Kerosene oil is now a de-controlled commodity. As soon as we heard about the scarcity of this article we took up the matter with the Assam Oil Company. We have also written to the Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers that they should keep us informed whether the situation is improving or whether the situation is deteriorating. We have not heard anything from them yet. This was done before this matter was brought to our notice in the House. When nothing has been heard, it may be said that the position is improving.

**Shri MOHI KANTA DAS:** Sir, I want to know whether the situation has improved at Darrang, so far as the supply of Kerosene oil is concerned ?

**The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Sir, I have already replied that we have not heard anything from the local officers concerned. Sir, since we have not heard anything from the Deputy Commissioner, Darrang, Subdivisional Officers, Mangaldai, Barpeta and Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, whom we wrote to inform us if the situation deteriorates, it is presumed that the situation, so far as the supply of Kerosene oil is concerned, has improved.

#### Distribution of Agricultural Loans

**Shri MOHI KANTA DAS** asked :

11. (a) Are Government aware that there are popular grievances as regards distribution of agricultural loans and that the people have to pay heavily for getting the loans and that some undeserving cases get the benefit and poor people who cannot pay do not get this relief ?

(b) Do Government propose to establish a non-official committee with the Deputy Commissioner of the District as President for the purpose so that deserving persons may get the benefit and corruptions removed ?

**Shri HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister)** replied :

11. (a)—Government have got no information of the allegations made in the Question. Only in respect of Gauhati Subdivision some vague allegations were received, on which a circular was issued to all Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers directing them to keep proper watch and vigilance over the distribution of agricultural loans.

(b)—Government do not propose to establish a separate non-official committee but co-operation of the anti-corruption committees when re-constituted and of public in distribution of loan will be welcome.

#### Basic Education in the State

**Shri HAKIM CHANDRA RABHA** asked :

12. Will Government be pleased to state:—

(a) Whether the Basic Education in the State of Assam has fully been supported by the people ?

(b) What steps Government have taken to popularise the Basic Education amongst the people ?

**The Hon'ble Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS** replied :

12. (a)—Basic Education has been introduced in limited areas only. It has been well received by people in the areas where Basic Schools have been started. Demands for giving grants to new Venture Basic Schools started on public initiative are also being received and grants to some such schools have been sanctioned.

(b)—Government have set up five Basic Education Centres for the training of teachers for Basic Schools at Roha, Dudhnai, Titabar, Udaband and Shillong. There is also a Special Officer for Basic Education who has been specially trained in line. A good number of teachers were deputed to Sevagram (Wardha) and Jamia Millia (Delhi) to take their training in Basic Education. These trained teachers have now been appointed as Instructors of the above Basic Training Centres.

A Special Officer has been working for the preparation and publications of Basic Education literatures. There is also an Advisory Body constituted by Government with eminent educationists like Dr. Ansary of Jamia Millia (Delhi), Sri Aryyanayakam and Smt. Asha Debi of Hindustani Talimi Sangh, Sevagram (Wardha) to advise Government on the development of Basic System of Education in Assam. The question of reorganising Primary and Middle Schools on Basic lines is receiving active consideration of Government.

### Government High School at Sibsagar

**Shri ANANDA CHANDRA BEZBARUA** asked :

13. (a) Is Government aware that the Government High School at Sibsagar is situated in the midst of Marwaripatty ?

(b) Is it a fact that the said School and Boarding premises are in a very dilapidated conditions ?

(c) Is it a fact that Government wanted to shift the same as far back as in the twenties ?

(d) Is it a fact that the public of Sibsagar Town have been agitating for shifting the same since long ?

(e) Is it a fact that the then Chief Minister, late Lokapriya Bardolai, wanted to give effect to the proposal and got estimates prepared and that it has been dropped along with his demise ?

(f) Is it a fact that almost half of the cost of the project was estimated to be realised by the sale proceeds of the present site ?

(g) Is it a fact that inspite of the proposal, a big sum has recently been spent for repairs of the buildings ?

(h) If so, how much ?

(i) Do Government propose to make provision for materialisation of the project in the present Budget ?

**The Hon'ble Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS** replied :

13. (a) —Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—The proposal has not been dropped, but its implementation is being held over for financial reasons.

(f)—It was estimated that the buildings would fetch Rs.20,000 and the land on which the buildings stand would fetch Rs.1,18,000.

(g)—Yes.

(h)—Rs.2,800.

(i)—It will be considered on its own merit if and when funds are available.

**Number of High, Middle English, Middle Vernacular and Primary Schools**

**Shri ANANDA CHANDRA BEZBARUA** asked :

14. (a) Will Government be pleased to supply the following information with regard to Dhubri, Dibrugarh, Sibsagar, Jorhat and Tezpur Subdivisions ?

- (i) Number of High Schools,  
 (ii) „ „ Middle English Schools,  
 (iii) „ „ Middle Vernacular Schools and  
 (iv) „ „ Lower Primary Schools.

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Inspecting staff employed in each of the said Subdivisions ?

(c) Is Government aware that the time of Deputy Inspectors are almost taken up by office routine works as Secretary, School Boards and that they find practically no time for inspection works ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state the steps, it proposes to take to relieve Deputy Inspector of Schools for inspection works ?

**The Hon'ble Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS** replied :

14. (a) & (b)—Table below gives the total No. of High, Middle English, Middle Vernacular and Primary Schools in Dhubri, Dibrugarh, Sibsagar, Jorhat and Tezpur Subdivisions :—

Name of the Subdivision	Total No. of High Schools	Total No. of M. E. Schools	Total No. of M. V. Schools	Total No. of Primary Schools	Total No. of Inspecting staff
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1. Dhubri ... ..	28	38	38	900	12
2. Dibrugarh ... ..	27	57	21	783	11
3. Sibsagar ... ..	25	44	23	687	8
4. Jorhat ... ..	21	33	23	599	9
5. Tezpur ... ..	14	7	35	495	6

(c)—Yes, some time is taken up in office routine work as Secretary, School Boards, but still they have time for inspection of Schools.

(d)—In heavy Subdivisions, Additional Deputy Inspectors' posts have been created.

**Arrangement for transportation of Tezpatta from different Villages in the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills to Calcutta**

**Mr. A. ALLEY** asked :

15. (a) Are Government aware that at the present time a very large quantity of Tezpatta which used to be exported from different places in the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills District to Sylhet (Pakistan) are brought to Shillong to be sent to Calcutta for sale ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to enquire and state—

(i) The rate of carrying the Tezpatta per maund from the southern villages of the Khasi-Jaintia Hills District to Mawmluh centre ?

(ii) The Motor freight from Mawmluh to Shillong ?

(iii) The price of Tezpatta in Shillong in December 1951 and in January and February, 1952 ?

(iv) The rate charged by the State Transport for carrying Tezpatta from Shillong to Gauhati ?

(v) The amount received by the cultivators per maund of Tezpatta ?

16. (a) Will Government be pleased to state what arrangement has been made for the transport of Tezpatta from different places in the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills District to Calcutta ?

(b) What is the rate charged by the Railway ?

(c) Whether Wagons in the Assam Rail-link are allotted or not for this purpose ?

(d) What is the rate charged by the Airplanes ?

(e) Whether Airplanes are available for carrying Tezpatta to Calcutta ?

(f) Will Government be pleased to enquire and state the price of Tezpatta in Calcutta now ?

The Hon'ble Shri RAMNATH DAS replied :

15. (a)—Yes.

(b) (i)—This depends on the distance of villages from Mawmluh centre (Motor head). It varies from Re.1-8-0 for a distance of about 3 to 4 miles from Mawmluh to Rs.4 to Rs.4-8-0 distance of about 10 to 12 miles from Mawmluh per maund or per basket.

(ii)—Rupee 1-4-0 to Re.1-8-0 per maund.

(iii)—The price of Tezpatta in December 1951 :—

(a)—Mawsynram leaves Rs.10 per maund (Class I).

(b)—Lakhat leaves Rs.9 per maund (Class II).

(c)—Cherra leaves Rs.8 per maund (Class III).

In January and February, 1952 :—

(a)—Mawsynram leaves Rs.8 to Rs.9 per maund (Class I).

(b)—Lakhat leaves Rs.7 to Rs.8 per maund (Class II).

(c)—Cherra leaves Rs.5-12-0 to Rs.6 per maund (Class III).

(iv)—Rupees 2 per maund from January to June and Re.1-8-0 from July to December.

(v)—Rupees 3 to Rs.3-8-0 per maund in places of about 3 to 4 miles from Mawmluh road head and Re.1 to Re.1-8-0 per maund in distant places.

Mr. A. ALLEY : What is the middleman's profit, Sir ?

The Hon'ble Shri RAMNATH DAS : It depends upon the price at which it is purchased from the cultivators and the price he gets after selling it to some other persons or concern after meeting the transport charges, etc.

Mr. A. ALLEY : Are Government aware that the cultivators get only few annas per maund of Tezpatta ?

The Hon'ble Shri RAMNATH DAS : What can the Government do, Sir ?

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Minister should say, what can be done.

The Hon'ble Shri RAMNATH DAS : Sir, it depends upon the buyers and sellers.

Mr. A. ALLEY : Will Government take steps to reduce the freight charged by the State Transport from Rs.2 to Re.1 per maund ?

**The Hon'ble Shri RAMNATH DAS :** Sir, Rs.2 is charged only in lean months. With reference to this Question, I cannot say anything to the hon. Member about the reduction of the freight.

**Mr. A. ALLEY :** Are Government aware that the immediate completion of the Mawmluh-Phalibazar Road will solve the problem of the cultivators to a large extent ?

**The Hon'ble Shri RAMNATH DAS :** Yes, Sir, to some extent.

**Mr. A. ALLEY :** Do Government propose to complete it immediately ?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Are you in charge of roads ?

**The Hon'ble Shri RAMNATH DAS :** No, Sir, I am not.

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

16. (a) & (c)—The State Transport, Assam, has arranged for handling all the traffic in Tezpatta for export by Rail and by Steamer.

Rupees 2-14-10 per maund from Gauhati to Calcutta.

(d)—Government have no information.

(e)—No, unless arrangement is made to charter-planes for the purpose.

(f)—Prices of Tezpatta in Calcutta now :—

(a)—Mawsynram leaves Rs.16 per maund (Class I).

(b)—Lakhat leaves Rs.14 per maund (Class II).

(c)—Cherra leaves Rs.12-14-0 per maund (Class III).

### ADJOURNMENT MOTION

#### Adjournment Motion *re fast* undertaken by Shri Baldev Thakur on account of ruthless eviction operation conducted by Darrang police

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg leave to move that the Assembly do now adjourn to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance and recent occurrences, *viz.*, the fast undertaken by Shri Baldev Thakur, Secretary, Bhurabanda Primary Congress Committee, consequent upon the ruthless eviction operation conducted by the Darrang Police Battalion on the Bhurabanda Reserve since 9th and 10th March 1952.

Sir, I received a telegram about the eviction operation on 12th of this month. Then again in the *Assam Tribune* of 26th March news were given out about the people who were rendered homeless and as a result of which Baldev Thakur resorted to hunger strike.

**The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE :** Since what date, Sir ?

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI :** Since 24th of March. I also received a letter to the effect that no action has been taken by the Government to give shelter to those who have been rendered homeless and that forced the gentleman to resort to hunger strike. So, Sir, it is a matter of urgent public importance, because Baldev Thakur is not an ordinary man ; he is the Secretary of Bhurabanda Primary Congress Committee. He is a respectable gentleman with a representative status and therefore his fast has immense importance.

Secondly, Sir, in these days of food crisis we find that the eviction operation was not opportune at the moment and that the eviction that has been conducted

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** That's all right.

**The Hon'ble Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI :** Rule 105, sub-clause (4) of the Assembly Rules reads thus :

“On the last day of the days so allotted, at 3 P.M. or 3-30 P.M. on Fridays, the Speaker shall forthwith put every question necessary to dispose of all the outstanding matter in connection with the demands for grants ; and the consideration thereof shall not be anticipated by any Motion for adjournment or be interrupted in any manner whatsoever nor shall any dilatory Motion be moved in regard thereto.”

So this Adjournment Motion cannot be taken up today.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** What is the objection you have got to this Motion ?

**The Hon'ble Shri MOTIRAM BORA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a news to me, so to say. I have never been given any information whatsoever that one gentleman has gone on hunger strike. As a matter of fact if my hon. Friend had given me the information, I could have given him the assurance that I would look into the matter. But, Sir, I do not think that it is a very urgent matter of public importance.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** What is the reason ?

**The Hon'ble Shri MOTIRAM BORA:** Sir, an encroachment has been going on in Burra Chapari Reserve for two years and the encroachers were given time to vacate on several occasions by Government, but they did not leave the Chapari. They have been evicted from the reserve which is in the Darrang district, but these people are claiming that they are within Nowgong district. Actually they were occupying land in Darrang district and therefore the Deputy Commissioner has evicted them.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Whether it is reasonable or not ?

**The Hon'ble Shri MOTIRAM BORA:** It has not come to my notice so long. The encroachment is going on for two years.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** What about the fast undertaken by Baldev Thakur ?

**The Hon'ble Shri MOTIRAM BORA:** I do not know anything about the fast.

**The Hon'ble Shri BISHNURAM MEDHI:** The date on which the fast was resorted to has not been mentioned in the Adjournment Motion. The subject matter of the Adjournment Motion is that the occurrence took place on 9th and 10th March. He laid emphasis on the eviction that took place on 9th and 10th March, but no mention has been made about the date on which the fast was resorted to. An Adjournment Motion must disclose all that.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The Hon'ble Leader of the House has pointed out that on the last day of the days so allotted, at 3 P.M. or 3-30 P.M. on Fridays, the Speaker shall forthwith put every question necessary to dispose of all outstanding matter in connection with the demands for grants. So we are in difficult position. I do not consider that we can take up this matter today. If you give a fresh notice and if you so desire, then the matter will be considered. But you have heard the objection and you can think as you like best.



## GRANT No.40

(72.—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT)

**The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.78,000 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 "72.—Capital Outlay on Industrial Development".

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.78,000 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—72.—Capital Outlay on Industrial Development".

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.78,000 under Grant No.40, Major head 72.—Capital Outlay on Industrial Development, at page 264 of the Budget, be refused, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.78,000 do stand refused.

The intention of my moving this Motion is to criticise Government for its failure to make provision of any amount of money under this head in the list of new schemes included in the Budget for 1952-53.

We have heard, Sir, very cheering words from our Hon'ble Chief Minister that it is our duty to transform our State from a Police State into a Welfare State. If we are to make our State a Welfare State.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Will you come to the point ?

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** Sir, if we are to make our State a Welfare State, the first thing that is necessary is to have our State industrialised, because as has been said by almost all the hon. Members on different occasions on the floor of this House, the various problems of our State cannot be solved and the problem of food, clothing, etc., to our people cannot be solved if our State remains primarily an agrarian State. With that end in view, in order to make our national income a big one, in order to increase the *per capita* income of our people, it is absolutely necessary that our State should be industrialised. Here in this very aspect the Government has shown utter negligence and this is quite evident from the fact that only Rs.78,000 has been provided under this very important head and this amount also is to be spent not actually in any new undertaking, but only for a running establishment. So I think the Government is doing an injustice to the very promise that they have made to make our State a Welfare State. I submit that this Motion of mine should be adopted and this grant should be refused.

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

"That the total provision of Rs.78,000 under Grant No.40, Major head—72.—Capital Outlay on Industrial Development, at page 264 of the Budget, be refused, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.78,000 do stand refused."

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.78,000 under Grant No.40, Major head—72.—Capital Outlay on Industrial Development, at page 264 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.78,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

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

Sir, when I went through the Schedule for demands for grants and when I found the item "Capital Outlay on Industrial Development", I expected that some schemes must have been prepared for the development of the country in the industrial sphere. But to my utter surprise I find that only Rs.78,000 has been allotted for this and that too for fisheries. That is the amount that is being asked for Capital Outlay on Industrial Development. Sir, I feel the sum can take us nowhere.

Not only that, when we see the item at page 38, we find that the whole amount is being taken up for the development of fisheries. We find also this item being put under "Industries" in item No.25. We find the fishery item is item No.25 where Rs.1,10,600 has been sanctioned for development of fishery.

Again here we find that for the Capital Outlay on Industrial Development the same amount, *viz.*, Rs.78,000, is being spent. It is difficult for me to understand why these two things should in this way be mixed up and should be brought under two different heads. My main objection is that this outlay does not take us anywhere; it will not industrialise the State. Sir, some years back an Industrial Adviser was appointed and a huge sum of money was spent on his appointment and upkeep here.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** What was that huge amount?

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Not less than one lakh of rupees. But, Sir, still we have produced nothing at all. So, Sir, my point is that we could as well leave aside the whole item and it would be better to say that we have not spent anything on Capital Outlay on Industrial Development than to say that we have spent Rs.78,000 and produced nothing in the industrial sphere.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Cut Motion moved: "That the total provision of Rs.78,000 under Grant No.40, Major head—72.—Capital Outlay on Industrial Development, at page 264 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.78,000 do stand reduced by Re.1

**The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad that both my hon. Friends, Mr. Bhattacharya and Mr. Goswami, have moved their Cut Motions.

Sir, Mr. Bhattacharyya's complaint is that more money should have been provided under this head so that industry might go hand in hand with agriculture for the real betterment of the State. He of course did not miss the opportunity of using his usual stick to hit the Hon'ble Chief Minister.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** You may spare him these things.

**The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** But those were outwardly cheering words.....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Never mind them.

**The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Those cheering words sounded very sweet, but the effect was really bitter.

Anyway, Sir, the whole point is that most probably my Friends do not know the present policy of the Government, which was enunciated in a Press Note (Press Note No.21, dated Shillong, the 30th January 1950), wherein it was stated: "According to the industrial policy of the Government of Assam, as announced in their Communique of the 26th August 1940, certain industries

like paper, textile, sugar, etc., mentioned in the Schedule attached thereto, were to be State-owned either fully or partially. In pursuance of that policy schemes for the establishment of a paper mill, cotton textile mill and a sugar factory were enunciated by this Government. But owing to financial difficulties they regret they have been compelled to abandon the policy of State-ownership of industries. Government therefore would invite private ventures, particularly those in which the people of the province would participate, to come forward and undertake establishment of the above industries in Assam. In view of the availability of the raw materials, viz., bamboo, coal and limestones, Assam is ideally situated for the paper industry and the Paper Panel appointed by the Government of India allotted to the province a production capacity of 8,000 to 10,000 tons a year. The Paper Expert appointed by this Government has surveyed most of the suitable areas and suggested several convenient sites which offer transport and other facilities apart from raw materials. The information collected by the Paper Expert as well as other facilities which would be possible for Government to give would be available to the private company approved by this Government for the purpose of establishment of a paper mill in Assam".

Sir, there is no denying the fact that during the year 1946 Government decided that the industries, which are non-existent then and are non-existent even now, would be State-owned from the very beginning so that there might not be any heart-burning in future. After some private concerns start industries and when they just begin to make profits, if Government want to nationalise those industries it would not be fair and it would look rather odd and people would feel it. Therefore, Government decided that industries which were not in existence at that time, viz., paper, textile, jute and sugar, should be owned by the Government and they were confident at that time that financial assistance would be forthcoming from the Centre. But, Sir, as it was found afterwards that due to various reasons the Central Government could not help us in this matter, so we dropped the idea and it was given out for general information that Government were no longer interested in nationalising these industries and therefore they invited private companies to come forward and take up those industries. Sir, after that we have given license for establishing a ply-wood factory at Mariani and jute mill nearabout Gauhati. Those who approach the Government for necessary assistance in the matter of starting any new big industry, to them Government is extending their helping hand. Government are always ready to give them all possible assistance provided they fulfil certain conditions, viz., that the people of the State get sufficient share in the concern and the local people are employed in the venture.

Now, Sir, I hope that after I have stated the present policy of this Government, my hon. Friends will certainly see their way to withdraw their Cut Motions. After all, Government are not to be blamed. It is due to the paucity of funds that they are not in a position to take up any major industry.

Then, Sir, I come to the other part. My Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya, contended that Government should not waste this amount which, he said, would be spent for maintaining the establishment. But this is not so. Mr. Goswami, who has cared to go through the Budget, has pointed it out in the other way. He found that there were something under two different heads and he failed to understand what was the reason for showing the same thing under two different heads. Sir, there are two things, the first one, as mentioned by Mr. Goswami, will be financed from the State revenues and the other one from the Central grant. Now, it will be found at page 264 of the Budget that the whole amount *i.e.*, the amount for the development of fisheries should have gone under "Development of Fisheries" usually and not under the head "Capital Outlay on Major Industries." Why that has not been done, I am bound to give an explanation. It has been clearly shown there for which purpose this amount is required. This is just the nucleus. Sir, in five places we are trying to introduce this new

method so that we can have more fish for the consumption of the people. One farm has been started at Roha in the district of Nowgong, one in Gauhati, one at Joysagar in Sibsagar District, one at Tezpur and the other at Silchar. As a matter of fact, these need not have been shown under major industries. But as the money comes from the Central Government, it has been done so. The idea was not to mix up the two things. This amount will not be wasted. It will be fully utilised.

After I have explained the situation, I hope the hon. Members will withdraw their Cut Motions. I am ready to make further clarification if necessary.

**Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE:** What happened to Mr. Guha's report?

**The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** The report has two sides. Both the Government and interested public may take advantage of the report. As we have changed the policy, we cannot take any advantage of his report at present. It has another side. Those private concerns who are interested in any industry I have mentioned above, his report and advice will be available to them.

**Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE:** Is it decided to reject the report and recommendations of Mr. Guha?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** You need not answer that question.

**The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** I am always ready to answer, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Now I put the Cut Motion as a question: The question is: "That the total provision of Rs.78,000 under Grant No.40, Major Head—72—Capital Outlay on Industrial Development at page 264 of Budget, be refused, that is the amount of whole Grant of Rs.78,000 do stand refused.

(The Cut Motion was lost.)

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The question is: "That the total provision of Rs.78,000 under Grant No.40—Major Head—72.—Capital Outlay on Industrial Development at page 264 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.78,000 do stand reduced by Re.1".

(The Cut Motion was lost.)

I put the original demand.

The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs.78,000 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—72.—Capital Outlay on Industrial Development".

(The Cut Motion was adopted.)

#### GRANT No.39

(71.—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON SCHEMES OF AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMNT AND RESEARCH)

**The Hon'ble Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam,

I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.4,29,800 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—71.—Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research.

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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs.4,29,800 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—71.—Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research.”

**Maulavi MD. UMARUDDIN:** I beg, Sir, to move that the total provision of Rs.4,29,800 under the Grant No.39—Major head—71.—Capital outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research at page 262 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.4,29,800 do stand reduced by Re.1.

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

Sir, I find that a large sum of money, as much as Rs.4,29,800 has been provided for Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research, but from details given at page 262 I find that the whole amount is for the purchase of tractors. I do admit that though there is limited scope to introduce mechanised cultivation, we cannot take to mechanised cultivation on a large scale. Sir, we know about 3 years back Government purchased certain tractors from the military dump at Dibrugarh. I am informed that these tractors have never been used. They are lying derelict somewhere. A considerable agitation was made in this House that a large sum of money has been wasted on the purchase of the tractors. There has been experiment with doubtful results and possibilities. We have spent lakhs of money on luxurious and reckless experiments and we do not know what has been the result of the money spent on mechanised cultivation and such other experiments. In 1950-51 a sum of Rs.1,20,000 was spent. Unless the result is shown, we cannot say whether the whole experiment has proved a success. We have pursued this hopeless schemes without any ostensible gain.

Sir, there are very many pressing and urgent problems connected with the rural economy of our State awaiting solution. We have not the resources nor the personnel to tackle all the problems at the same time. Therefore, we must determine the priority of each problem with reference to its urgency and concentrate our efforts for the implementation of the schemes pertaining to that problem. Sir, in view of the seriousness of the food problem, and the urgent need for the improvement of agriculture generally, highest priority should be given to those aspects of agriculture which affect the general masses. So, Sir, all the money that is available should be utilised for the provision of improved seeds, manuring of lands, provision of better plough-cattle, small irrigation projects, etc. Mechanised cultivation is not suitable for Assam having regard to the configuration of the soil surface. It has no scope for large scale mechanised cultivation. Yet, there is some limited scope for it so that private enterprises may be encouraged in mechanised cultivation. We have got money but we do not take to mechanised cultivation in the right way. On the other hand more money should be diverted to some other profitable projects so that the money spent will go to the benefit of the masses.

With these words, Sir, I move my Cut Motion.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Cut motion moved: “That the total provision of Rs.4,29,800 under Grant No.39—Major head—71.—Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research at page 262 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.4,29,800 do stand reduced by Re.1.”

**The Hon'ble Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not been able properly to follow my hon. Friend, Mr. Umaruddin. At the outset he blamed Government for initiating mechanised schemes for extension of cultivation in the State, but in the next breath he condemned Government by saying that mechanised cultivation is a luxury and they are spending money for nothing on it. These two contradictory statements cannot go together, Sir. It seems to me that regarding mechanised cultivation scheme, my Friend Mr. Md. Umaruddin is labouring under some confusion. The other day also he mentioned about the Misamari scheme. He perhaps thinks that in Misamari there are a few hundreds of tractors lying idle, but that is not a fact. In Misamari only three tractors are operating and these tractors were not purchased from any military dump nor are they second hand tractors. These are new tractors purchased by Government and they are working very well to the satisfaction of every one.

Next, Sir, about the mechanised cultivation scheme. Of course we have not been able to extend the scheme to the extent we expect to, but we are trying our best that with the availability of trained personnel, we shall be able to extend the scheme to every part of the State. Formerly we used to distribute the tractors throughout the State piecemeal, but now from experience it has been found that that method has not been economic. Therefore we are concentrating our mechanised cultivation only in three districts for the time being. Another point my hon. Friend has tried to make out is that the Government has spent a lot of money in second hand tractors purchased from military dumps. That is also not a fact, Sir. For the information of the hon. Member I may state that during the year 1948-49 altogether 29 tractors were purchased by this State Government of which 11 were purchased through the Government of India and the other eighteen were purchased second hand locally. The operations were first started at Moamari, Orang and .....

**Maulavi MD. UMARUDDIN:** Yes, Sir, I mean the Moamari project and not Misamari.

**The Hon'ble Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY:** That is why Sir, I want to emphasise that my Friend Jonab Umaruddin Saheb is always labouring under some confusion. He is confusing the number of tractors and he is confusing also the places of their operation and the agencies from which they have been purchased. As I said, Sir, tractor operations were first started at Moamari, Orang and Jaoni-Chapari in Darrang District, in Hautley in Sibsagar, in Gurdhoria in Lakhimpur and in Salchapra in Cachar. Shortage of machinery implements and trained personnel were some of the serious handicaps in the progress of work and the transport difficulties at last made the operation costly. In 1949-50, three new tractors were purchased and the work was carried out in all the seven districts of the State. In 1950-51 another two of new tractors were purchased and it was decided to concentrate reclamation works in three districts for better supervision and also to minimise the working expenses. Accordingly in the middle of the year, work of Cachar and Goalpara districts were closed down and tractors were all concentrated in the Districts of Kamrup, Darrang and Goalpara. Two Nos. Td.6 Tractors were sold to Army Farm at Shelatang out of total 34 Nos. In 1951-52 another 7 Nos. of new tractors and one second hand D8 caterpillar (Bull dozer) were purchased and the work was carried out in Kamrup, Darrang and Nowgong only. Reclamation work was carried out mostly in the Forest Reserves opened and settled with the landless people. The forest areas taken up for reclamation work since the latter part of 1950-51, are Sonajuli in Darrang, Kauli Kumrikata and Sonkuchi in Kamrup and Kaki in Nowgong district.

So, Sir, in view of all the information I have placed before the House, I hope my hon. Friend has no reason to press his Motion and will be pleased to withdraw it.

**Maulvi MD. UMARUDDIN:** I beg leave of the House, Sir, to withdraw my Cut 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.4,29,800 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—71.—Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research".

(The Motion was adopted.)

#### GRANT No.1

##### (4.—TAXES ON INCOME OTHER THAN CORPORATION TAX)

**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.86,600 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 "4.—Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax".

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

That a sum not exceeding Rs.86,600 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 "4.—Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax".

There is one Cut Motion in the name of Mr. Md. Umaruddin.

**Maulavi MD. UMARUDDIN:** I do not propose to move this Cut Motion, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** That is all right, then I will put the main Motion.

The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs.86,600 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—4.—Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax".

(The Motion was adopted.)

#### GRANT No.28

##### [50.—CIVIL WORKS (TOOLS, PLANT 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.36,94,400 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 "50.—Civil Works (Tools, Plant and Establishments)."

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

“ That a sum not exceeding Rs.36,94,400 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 50.—Civil Works (Tools, Plant and Establishments). ”

**Maulavi Md. UMARUDDIN :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.36,94,400 under Grant No.28, Major head—18-B—Navigation, Embankments and Drainage Works, 39.—Public Health and 50.—Civil Works, at page 224 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.36,94,400 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, the only object for my moving this Cut Motion is to raise a discussion as to the general administration of the Public Works Department. Sir, the Public Works Department has got a sum of Rs.3 crores and 13 lakhs sanctioned for the execution of various works undertaken by the Department. Against that, the Hon'ble Minister wants this amount for the administration of this Department under the head—‘ Tools, Plants and Establishments.’

Now, Sir, our experience is this that every year we take certain projects, but in course of the year we cannot complete them with the result that at the end of every year there is lapse of money earmarked for the purpose. That has been a regular feature with our Public Works Department Budget. Now, we want a sum of over Rs.36 lakhs for Civil Works (Tools, Plant and Establishment) but at the end of the year we will find that we have not been able to spend the money allotted for various works. I do not understand why we take up projects which we cannot complete. We also find that the works are taken up sometime in the middle of the year and sometime at the fag end of the year and at the same time we find that the money is not sanctioned in time and also not communicated to officers concerned in time, but still the works are taken up very late in the year when there is no time left to finish them.

Again, Sir, I have noticed that when our provincial works are not possible to be completed within the year, our staff are engaged to undertake projects of the Central Government, like the Jowai-Badarpur Road and Assam-Agartala Road. In these projects our Provincial Government staff are employed when our own works are suffering. I think, Sir, we should not take up the projects of the Government of India, but concentrate our officers on our own projects so that in future money allotted for different projects do not lapse as is the case almost every year.

Unless, we can spend our money in time, I do not see the necessity of providing more money for more roads. We should earmark money in such a way that we can spend the same within the year and can complete our projects timely.

With these words, Sir, I move my Cut Motion for the acceptance of the House.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Cut Motion moved : “ That the total provision of Rs.36,94,400 under Grant No.28, Major head—18-B.—Navigation, Embankments and Drainage Works, 39.—Public Health and 50—Civil Works, at page 224 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.36,94,400 do stand reduced by Re.1. ”

**The Hon'ble Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, this grant relates to Tools, Plant and Establishment. My Friend, hon. Maulavi Md. Umaruddin, complains that the works are taken up in the middle of the year with the result that such works cannot be completed within the time. To this, Sir, I say that volume of work under the Public Works Department in comparison with the staffs required for execution of the works is greater. Our staff is



short ; so works cannot be completed in time. There are other difficulties as well. In order to complete the work of a road, first the road is to be surveyed, then plans and estimates are to be prepared. Administrative and Technical sanctions are also necessary to the plan and estimates of the scheme and tenders are to be called for. Besides these, there are the difficulties in procuring materials, such as, cement and iron materials. There is also transport difficulties.

As regards this grant, the actual expenditure for 1950-51 was Rs.21,28,415, in 1951-52 the revised estimate was Rs.26,00,886 and in 1952-53 it is estimated at Rs.36,94,400. The increase is due to the following reasons. (1) The State Government have taken the Assam-Agartala Road and provision made in the Budget for 1952-53 is Rs.3,23,000 ; (2) Creation of a new post of Electrical Engineer ; (3) Taking up of larger number of works and (4) Purchase of new staff cars ; a staff car for each subdivision.

Now, Sir, if we compare the expenditure under this head with the expenditure on the same head in the previous years, it will be found that the expenditure in comparison with previous years is very low. In 1938-39 the percentage of expenditure was 34·3, in 1950-51—16·75, in 1951-52—6·94, in the current year although our expenditure is about Rs.4 crores, the percentage of expenditure will be about 9·29. I also tried to collect informations from other Provinces regarding expenditure on tools, plants and establishment with a view to compare our expenditure. I have received information from the Uttar Pradesh only. Their percentage of expenditure is about 15·6.

**Maulavi MD. UMARUDDIN :** I do not dispute that.

**The Hon'ble Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA :** In conclusion, I want to state that our expenditure is much less on this Grant.

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

**Maulavi MD. UMARUDDIN :** Is it incumbent on our State Government to take up the works of the Central Government ?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Yes, it is because the Central Government have no other machinery to implement their works in our State.

**Maulavi MD. UMARUDDIN :** The result is that we cannot do anything properly and in time.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** But we are getting our highways.

**Maulavi MD. UMARUDDIN :** Before withdrawing my Cut Motion, Sir, I want assurance from the Hon'ble Minister that the projects we undertake are completed in time and done satisfactorily.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** The Hon'ble Minister has given that assurance.

**Maulavi MD. UMARUDDIN :** Then 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 :** The question is : "That a sum not exceeding Rs.36,94,400 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 50. —Civil Works (Tools, Plant and Establishment)."

(The Motion was adopted).

## GRANT No.32

(55.—SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS AND 83.—PAYMENT OF COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS AND 85.—PAYMENT TO RETRENCHED PERSONNEL)

**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.32,70,000 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 "55.—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions and 83.—Payment of Commuted value of pensions and 85.—Payments to retrenched personnel".

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Motion moved : "That a sum not exceeding Rs.32,70,000 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 55.—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions and 83.—Payment of Commuted value of pensions and 85.—Payments to retrenched personnel. "

**Maulavi MD. UMARUDDIN:** I do not like to move the Cut Motion, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The question is : "That a sum not exceeding Rs.32,70,000 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 55.—Superannuation Allowances and Pensions and 83.—Payment of Commuted value of pensions and 85.—Payments to retrenched personnel. "

(The Motion was adopted.)

## DEMAND No.31

(54-A.—FAMINE RELIEF AND 54-B.—TRANSFER TO FAMINE RELIEF FUND)

**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.2,45,000 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 "54-A.—Famine Relief and 54-B.—Transfer to Famine Relief Fund".

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Motion moved is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs.2,45,000 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 54-A.—Famine Relief and 54-B.—Transfer to Famine Relief Fund. "

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.2,45,000 under Grant No.31, Major head—54-A.—Famine Relief, at page 229 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,45,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

The object for my moving this Cut Motion is to raise a general discussion.

Sir, I have no objection in spending 2 lakhs of rupees or even more on relief work, but I am surprised to see this work or famine relief here. I do not remember at any time the Government admitted the prevalence of famine condition in the State.

(Voices—This is the usual heading)

My second objection is that there were indeed periods of famine in this Province and in certain parts of it people actually died, although the Government did not want to admit such deaths. One death of Jhilkadhulia occurred at Bhurapara in Rampur Mouza. It was a death out of starvation. This person did not have anything to eat for 7 days. Also in those parts of the country the people really suffered for want of paddy and other things.

My request to the Government in this connection is that, Sir, when we spend such amount of money it should be spent in areas where this is actually required. But to my utter disappointment I find at times this money has not been spent in areas where it should be spent. During the discussion under the head Land Revenue I said about the hailstorm, Sir, that hailstorm over-took many parts of the Province, specially the Kamrup District in November last year and as a result the whole paddy crop in certain Mouzas, namely, Rani, Barduar and Chaygaon Pathar was damaged and it could not be harvested. Therefore, Sir, this relief work should be there. But I find that although a large amount was spent in this connection no relief has been given to those people. I request the Hon'ble Finance Minister to see that when such a large amount is there for the next year, this amount is spent in the areas where it is mostly needed.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Cut Motion moved: "That the total provision of Rs.2,45,000 under Grant No.31, Major head 54-A.—Famine Relief, at page 229 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,45,000 do stand reduced by Re.1."

**The Hon'ble Shri MOTIRAM BORA:** Sir, this amount is provided for two purposes, namely, an amount of one lakh is for the purpose of famine relief, as there is a statutory obligation of this Government to provide this money, and the other amount of Rs.1,45,000 is for the purpose of gratuitous relief. We give this relief when there is demand from the District Magistrates or Officers, and we are doing this every year.

My hon. Friend, to my utter surprise, stated that one case of death occurred in a certain part of Kamrup District as a result of starvation. It is a news to me. I did not find this report even in the local newspapers (*A voice*—It is in the newspaper). It is the first time, Sir, I have heard that death occurred in the Kamrup District for starvation. The hon. Member did not bring to my notice any such news though I had met him on all these days during the last 3 weeks. Had he done so, I could have made an enquiry. But for the information of the House I must say that as far as I know, this news is not correct. However, Sir, when he has brought this news to my notice just now, I will make an enquiry.

The hon. Member has also stated that there was crop damage in some parts of the Kamrup District. During the general discussion of the Budget I told him in this connection that the matter will be enquired into and if needs be and if warranted by circumstances, remission of land revenue will be given. But in this respect, there is no demand from the District Magistrate, Sir, for remission of land revenue. Even then, Sir, if such a demand comes still now, it shall be given due consideration. I did not hear that on account of hailstorm in certain parts of the Kamrup District the people incurred great loss in crop and that they deserve gratuitous relief. However, the matter will be enquired into and, if need be, proper relief will be given.

I do not feel, Sir, that there is any urgency in the matter and I hope my hon. Friend will see his way to withdraw the Cut Motion.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** I beg leave of the House, Sir, to withdraw my Cut 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.2,45,000 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—54-A.—Famine Relief and 54-B.—Transfer to Famine Relief Fund".

(The Motion was adopted).

#### GRANT No.6

##### (11.—REGISTRATION)

**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.1,40,600 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 "11.—Registration".

**\*Mr. A. S. KHONGPHAI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.1,40,600 under Grant No.6, Major head—11.—Registration, at page 22 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,40,600 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the object of bringing this Cut Motion is to draw the particular attention of the Government regarding the increasing number of documents that are being now-adays registered in the Shillong Registration Office. Sir, the registration work in the Shillong Sub-Registrar's office has increased to a great extent, as a result of increase in population and also as a result of influx of refugees in Shillong. This work is so long entrusted to an officer who is required to do some other duties, such as the work of registration of marriage, etc. The second point is that the work of the clerk in-charge of the registration has become humanly impossible, since he is alone required to do the increased work.

Sir, my first suggestion is that the work should be entrusted to one officer who is not required to do any other duties. The second suggestion is that the number of clerks should be increased to two at least. Sir, it is humanly impossible for one man to copy the documents as a result of which the registration work is delayed. Another hand should be provided so that the work can be done quickly. I also suggest that the clerk should not be deprived of the small amount of copying fee.

With these words, Sir, I request the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge to take into consideration my above suggestion.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Cut Motion moved: "That the total provision of Rs.1,40,600 under Grant No.6.—Major head—11.—Registration, at page 22 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.* the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,40,600 do stand reduced by Re.1."

**The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad that Mr. Khongphai has drawn the attention of the Government to the increase of work in the Registration Office in Shillong. Sir, in the past, there were very few documents that came up for registration.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** What was the number ?

**The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY :** 1948—402, 1949—423, 1950—547. At that time it was possible and sufficient for one officer to do this work in addition to other work. Sir, this question will be taken into consideration. As regards the necessity of increasing the number of clerks also that will be taken into consideration. We shall also consider the fact whether a Special Sub-Deputy Collector or officer should be appointed as a Sub-Registrar in Shillong. With these words, Sir, I hope, the hon. Member will withdraw his Cut 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.1,40,600 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—"11.—Registration".

The Motion was adopted.

#### GRANT No. 15

#### (36.—SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENTS)

**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.16,000 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 "36.—Scientific Departments".

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Motion moved:  
"That a sum not exceeding Rs.16,000 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 "36.—Scientific Departments".

(The Motion was put and adopted).

#### GRANT No. 12

#### (28.—JAILS AND CONVICT SETTLEMENTS)

**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.21,41,300 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 "28.—Jails and Convict Settlements".

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Motion moved:  
"That a sum not exceeding Rs.21,41,300 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 28.—Jails and Convict Settlements."

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have got two Cut Motions under this Grant. With the leave of the House, I beg to move No.1 only. I beg to move that the provision of Rs.17,82,403 under Grant No.12, Major head—28.—Jails and Convict Settlements, Minor head—A—District Jails (total), at page 63 of the Budget, be refused. *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.21,41,300 do stand refused by Rs.17,82,403.

There is some printing mistake, Sir, instead of 'reduced' it should have been 'refused'.

My object is to criticise the Government for persecuting political prisoners. Sir, I do not like to inflict a long speech. We have got here on the Government side only three hon. Members, *viz.*, Maulavi Namwar Ali Barbhuiya, Maulavi Moinul Haque Chaudhury and Mr. Dengthuama who not long ago were put to jail as political suspects. They know and I hope, they will bear me out that there has been persecution in the jails. I hope, if the Hon'ble Minister enquires, he will know that political prisoners like Deben Khaklari, Madhab Nath, Padma Kakati and Kamakshya Basak lost their lives in prison. All political prisoners will say this and the Hon'ble Minister, if he enquires, will know that Shri Kali Charan Basumatari, Bhati Ram Deka Majhi, under-trial prisoners in Gauhati Jail were beaten. If he cares to make enquiries, he will come to know whether various other sorts of persecution on the political prisoners are going on or not.

Then, one Professor Hemanta Ganguly, who was an under-trial political prisoner was put in a cell.....

**The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY:** On a point of information, Sir, I want to know whether this gentleman Kalicharan Basumatari is still in jail or not.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** He has now been released. He was an under-trial prisoner and as no case could be made out against him, after some months he was released. At the time he was an under-trial prisoner, some convict warders and night watchers beat him so brutally that one of his eyes got seriously injured and he was under the treatment of the jail doctor. This was done at the instigation of the jailor of the Gauhati jail. If the Hon'ble Minister makes an enquiry he will be able to find it out.

( *A voice:* How was he beaten ? )

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** He was belaboured by a wooden sandal (*kharam*). The convict warders are often allowed to use *kharams*...

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Is it allowed ?

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** I don't know whether it is allowed by the Jail Manual. But we saw them using *kharams*. By such a *kharam* Basumatari was belaboured.

Then, Sir, the political prisoners because they are political prisoners are put in cells. They are put there as a sort of punishment. I mentioned about Professor Hemanta Ganguly, who was a Professor of the Darrang College at Tezpur. He was arrested under the Assam Maintenance of Public Order Act and brought to the Gauhati jail. He was put in a cell and on his sides in the other two cells two non-criminal lunatics were put. It was only for three hours during the day that he was allowed to come outside in front of his cell, but for the remaining 21 hours he was confined to that cell. He could not sleep at night due to the continuous shrieking of those lunatics. Then, Sir, Nilmony Barthakur and Sushen Bhuyan, two other under-trial political prisoners, were also put in cells. Sushen Bhuyan was kept there even when he was suffering from pleurisy. It was after about 15 days of his running temperature that he was removed to the hospital.

Then, Sir, with regard to the interviews, I hope the Hon'ble Minister already knows certain facts. Whenever a relative of any under-trial prisoner comes seeking an interview, the Jail Superintendent would not give him permission. He would be sent to the Deputy Commissioner; the Deputy Commissioner would ask him to go to the C. I. D. Inspector or the D. S. P. in charge of C. I. D., who in his turn would send him to the Sub-Inspector, and so on. In this way anybody coming for interview must run after officers and even after he comes

with the permission of the Deputy Commissioner on the recommendation of the C. I. D., there are jail officers in the gate, who would take something from him before interview is granted. Many such instances were reported and one culprit was caught red-handed. As the case is still *sub-judice* I do not want to go into it. But many other culprits went scot-free whether with regard to the torture on political prisoners or with regard to interviews. Sir, thus in every respect the political prisoners are persecuted, they are not even given the treatment meted out to the ordinary convicts. It seems, Sir, that the jail officers have been instructed to treat political prisoners with some vengeance. At least that is the general impression of the political prisoners and also of many people outside. I would therefore like to hear from the Hon'ble Minister whether it is actually the intention of Government to persecute, even after they are in jail, the political opponents of the party in power. If that is so, we should know. We want to call a spade a spade. And, with these few words, I beg to move my Cut Motion for the acceptance of the House.

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

"That the provision of Rs.17,82,403 under Grant No.12, Major head—28.—Jails and Convict Settlements, Minor head—A.—District Jails (total), at page 63 of the Budget, be refused, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.21,41,300 do stand reduced by Rs.17,82,403.

Mr. Hareswar Goswami may move his Cut Motion.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.21,41,300 under Grant No.12, Major head—28.—Jail and Convict Settlements, at page 62 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.21,41,300 do stand reduced by Re.1. The object of moving this Cut Motion is to raise a general discussion on the subject.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is really a sad commentary on the Congress Government that with its coming to power the expenditure on Police and Jails should increase. In the Jails we find it has increased from Rs.15,41,000 in 1948-49 to Rs.21,41,000. In the Police we find it has increased from Rs.96,67,000 to Rs.1,05,44,000.

Sir, when the Hon'ble Ministers were in this side of the House, they were very eloquent in denouncing that the State maintained by the British Government was a Police State. To-day when they are on the other side of the House they want to say that this is a welfare State. But when we look into the expenditure, if not into their actions, we find the same Police State is being maintained. I do not want to say anything about the Police here, but what do we find with regard to jails? Sir, the purposes of punishment are three, *viz.*, punitive, deterrent and reformatory. We find the third purpose totally missing in our behaviour towards the prisoners. The jails are not places for reformation for those people, who for certain crimes or who in the heat of the moment commit crimes go there. They do not get the consideration they deserve. On the other hand, we find people come out of the jails as greater rogues at times, not because they have any inherent tendency to become rogues but because we have maintained our jails in such a way that due to mixing with certain types of hard-boiled criminals they come out as rogues. I do not speak about political prisoners. My Friend Mr. Bhattacharyya has said many things about the political prisoners. Our prisoners have increased in number but with what result. We have not been able to reform them during the last 5 years. Unless we give more attention to this side of the matter they will be isolated from the general community of people. Our policy should be to reform these people who committed crimes on account of certain weaknesses in human behaviour. There is too much of harassment on the ordinary prisoners. I speak more specially of Sylhet, Gauhati and Jorhat jails which I had the privilege to visit. They get up early in the morning and are sent on various errands and are shut up after 6 P.M. For

twelve hours they do all sorts of things. My whole idea is this: the jails also may become reformataries if we care to reform them in that way. People who commit a crime at the heat of the moment should not be lost to the society. They deserve our sympathetic consideration.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** What is your suggestion ?

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** In the Jails it is necessary that even the criminals should have some cultural activities. There should be some educational activities also, so that on their release from the jail they may become honourable members of the society. This idea is completely lost in the jail administration. The most important thing is that in foreign countries they maintain certain experimental psychologists to study the psychology of criminals. This is an important aspects and I suggest that we should also have one or two such psychologists for the whole State and it will be an interesting study in criminal behaviour.

Secondly, Sir, about the productive activity. In Russia a big canal was dug by the labour of the prisoners. Labour is a most important factor. But here we find labour is mostly wasted. They are only engaged in bringing water from outside. These labour force may be engaged on better things. We have not been able to harness this labour. They are given such dress that they feel ashamed to come out with that dress to work outside. We should do something to make this dress decent and honourable which will overcome such feeling for the benefit of the society. In spending money on the jails we should not lose sight of the aspects that are necessary to reform the 'man'.

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

That the total provision of Rs.21,41,300 under Grant No.12, Major head 28.—Jails and Convicts Settlement, at page 62 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.21,41,300 do stand reduced by Re.1.

**The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very glad that Mr. Bhattacharyya has mentioned certain names which are supposed to have been persecuted in the jails. He has also asked the Government whether it is the policy of this Government to wreak vengeance on the political prisoners. I may tell him that it cannot be the desire or policy of any civilised Government to wreak vengeance on the political prisoners, much less the Congress Government. He seems to be under a wrong impression that this is the idea of the Government. But we treat political prisoners very cordially. It is the policy of this Government not to persecute them in any way. I can cite an instance to show how well we treat political prisoners. The expenditure on a security prisoner is about Rs.1,450 a year, whereas the expenditure for a common prisoner is about Rs.460 a year. This shows that this Government considers that the political prisoners are on a different basis altogether. We treat them as gentlemen. If any of the officers of the jails have done anything wrong surely it is not the desire of the Government that our officers should do such a thing. We do not want these things to be carried on in our jails if there is anything objectionable done by any officer.

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** Does the Hon'ble Minister regard only the security prisoners as political prisoners and not under-trials ?

**The Hon'ble Rev. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY:** We do not make any difference among security prisoners—whether they are political prisoners or under-trial prisoners. No one should be ill-treated. It is inhuman for any man in jail to ill-treat prisoners. They are human beings. It is not the policy of any civilised Government to ill-treat prisoners, and not surely of the Congress Government.



He is labouring under a mis-conception that the Government wants to wreak vengeance on the political prisoners. That is not correct. This hon. House know what the Congress Government have done in releasing the political prisoners at the time of the last election. There are now only 28 security prisoners in our special jail. This is the number according to the report, dated the 22nd March from the Special Jail at Nowgong. We should also see that better sense also prevails in our political friends. They should change their mind also. (*Hear, hear*).

I think that is all that I can say about the criticisms made by Mr. Bhattacharyya. I shall surely go through his speech after it is printed and make investigation about those persons one by one, but it must also be remembered that some of our political prisoners are also very very rough and rowdy. Some of them are also very unruly. Sir, this is my experience. When I went to visit a certain jail some of these security prisoners shouted at me ..... (*laughter*). Yes, Sir, they shouted saying "We do not want the Jail Minister. Down with the Congress Government". Sometimes, they cried slogans and made noises. When I visited the jails sometimes I did not go to see the security prisoners. On the other hand there are some of these security prisoners who acted honourably and who are docile. I used to go among them and talk to them. By the action of some of the security prisoners, sometimes our jail officers were forced to do perhaps what may seem to be like ill-treatment. This is the other side which must not be lost sight of.

Sir, the reason why our jails were so full of prisoners and over-crowded is not because the Government want to arrest and imprison people, but because the mentality of those friends of ours was different from the attitude which my hon. Friend Mr. Bhattacharyya is showing now in this House. What could the Government and the police do when there was an outburst of violent activities such as dacoity, theft, murder? In order to preserve peace, the Government had to take action against such activities. It is those friends who are responsible for the over-crowding of our jails. If they will follow Mr. Bhattacharyya's example manifested now, there will be no need for any political man to go to jail. The number of persons now in our jails have gone down. We shall be very glad if all our jails become empty. Let Mr. Bhattacharyya go and preach like a missionary among his friends and lead them by his example to a peaceful way of life, and we shall expect better and peaceful days in our country.

With regard to the suggestions which have been made by hon. Friend Mr. Goswami that those convicts who go to the jails should be reformed, I want to say that it is my desire and it is the desire of everyone that those who go to the jails should be reformed if we had the money to do so. I feel that we should have a Jail Reformatory School at least for the sake of the younger people. But the question of money stands in the way. I do hope that when better days come, we shall be able to start such a School in Assam for prisoners. Now we have in a small-scale some cane work, carpentry, paper making, smithy, etc. We want more facilities in this respect when finance will be available.

Then, Sir, with regard to our having a Psychologist to examine the mind of the people, and to study their minds and suggest how these people can be reformed, I admit that it would be a good thing. If we have the money we would like to have that too. Here again the question of money comes in. In the present financial condition of Assam, it is very difficult for us to start such things just now but I hope the time will come when there will be such facilities for the sake of reforming our unfortunate brethren who are in jail.

In regard to expenses, Mr. Goswami said that there are so much expenses this year than there was in the previous year. Sir, these expenses were not due to the desire of Government to put people in jail. Government are forced to arrest people when they become violent. If they had not been violent, if there had not been dacoities, thefts and other violent actions and if the people had

lived in a peaceful manner, there would have been no arrests and there would have been no expenditure. Now we have to give them food, we have to give them clothes and we have to give them better accommodation. Last year there were so many people brought to the jails that we could not even get any accommodation and we had to construct temporary buildings. But now our jail population has gone down and I hope in course of time there may be no political prisoners at all. The peaceful example now of my hon. friends Mr. Bhattacharyya and Mr. Goswami, I hope, will make others follow the cool manner of speech and thinking and that there will be no violent acts in the country. I hope both my Friends Mr. Bhattacharyya and Mr. Goswami after hearing what I have said will withdraw their Cut Motions.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** What do the hon. Members say ?

(Both Mr. Bhattacharyya and Mr. Goswami beg leave of the House to withdraw their Cut Motions).

(The Cut Motions stand withdrawn with the leave of the House).

The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.21,41,300 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 "28.—Jails and Convict Settlements".

The Motion was adopted.

#### GRANT No.21

#### (42.—CO-OPERATION—I—CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES)

**The Hon'ble Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.7,50,100 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—"42.—Co-operation—I—Co-operative Societies".

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

That a sum not exceeding Rs.7,50,100 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 "42.—Co-operation—I—Co-operative Societies".

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg, to move that the total provision of Rs.7,50,100 under Grant No.21, Major head—42.—Co-operation—I—Co-operative Societies, at page 168 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.7,50,100 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, I am all for co-operation. I want that Co-operative Societies should increase in our country and therefore the purpose of moving this Motion on my part is to give certain suggestions and to make a few constructive criticisms. As we all know, Sir, it was during the war days that some Trading Co-operative Societies began to grow in our country and at one time the number of these Trading Co-operative Societies came to something like 1,900. Now what was the basis of these Co-operative Societies? The basis was salt, sugar, and a few other commodities. When these articles were scarce in the market, when there was black-marketing going on in these commodities, the people as a means of

getting these things at controlled prices at whatever small quantity they may have, began to start these Co-operative Societies. But as soon as salt and some other food articles were available in the open market, these Co-operative Societies began to die and I think, most of those Trading Co-operative Societies of the war days in the rural areas have by this time become dead. At present we see only some Central Co-operative Societies, a few Trading Co-operative Societies and some Credit Co-operative Societies and very few producers co-operative societies. So far as trading co-operative societies are concerned, we have seen that most of them are dependent on textile goods such as, cloth and yarn which are supplied to them and people mainly become members of these societies in order to get cloth and yarn. Of course, there may be exceptions, but this is the rule. But so far as other Co-operative societies are concerned, in the rural areas it is in the defunct stage and in the urban areas they are not thriving upto the mark, they are only living somehow.

Sir, so far as the Farming co-operative societies are concerned, it seems, it is not the Government policy to encourage them. Inspectors and other officers who inspect them do not want to take up organisation works now as they have been instructed to give priority to inspect and audit the work of defunct or going to be defunct co-operative societies. That is to say, improvement of co-operative societies in this line is not encouraged by Government. That is the real picture of today, although Government says that it wants that co-operative movement should thrive and grow in this country and although every patriotic individual wants that the co-operative movement should grow in this country. Co-operative movement is actually not growing so well and the very few that are there are not functioning properly.

How to solve this problem. I think, Sir, Government should review the entire problem anew. The so-called Hayley Scheme has proved to be an unrealistic utopian scheme.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** What about Chinese Scheme ?

**Shri GAURISANKAR BHATTACHARYYA:** I will come to Chinese and Russian schemes soon.

So far as Hayley scheme is concerned, it has proved to be an unrealistic utopian scheme because it has been dependent on certain abnormalities. When there was abnormal condition in the market, when certain goods were not available through normal channel then alone this scheme could serve the public to some extent. But we cannot welcome abnormalities in our society and we do want that normal condition of trade channel prevails. This scheme encourages the impository system and not the spontaneous and voluntary system of co-operative movement. It is why Lenin in inaugurating the new economic policy in the Soviet Union, encouraged co-operative societies of various types based on voluntary response. By that he did not want to displace the normal trades in that country. We have seen in the Soviet Union that the initiative is primarily taken by the people to start co-operative societies. The feeling for the co-operative movement grew from the common people of the society and was not an imposition from top as is the case with the Hayley Scheme ; which is more of an imposition although there may be paternal feeling in it. It has concentrated more on the imposition from the top than allowing a spontaneous growth from below. It is one of the differences between the Lenin and Hayley Schemes. Lenin scheme aims at having the spontaneous co-operative feeling grown from below and Hayley scheme looks at the top to thrust the co-operative organisation on the people below.

With regard to China. In China, most of the co-operatives have thrived. As in our country, in China also there was very acute problem of food and exploitation by the landlords and the rich on the poor. China like India was under

poverty and famine conditions. In order to save the country from such poverty and famine, Government began to introduce co-operative societies and public bodies also encouraged it. Co-operative societies were mostly introduced in accordance with the policy of the Peoples Government of China under the leadership of the Communist Party. Previously also it was introduced, but in a much lesser degree. In this respect, Government of India some years ago circulated a book on Co-operative Movement in China and I am sure many of our hon. Members have gone through that book. The difference between Chinese Co-operative movement and our co-operative movement is that in China emphasis is given on producers' co-operatives like farming co-operatives but here in our country emphasis is given on trading and credit co-operatives. Our Government is not giving encouragement to the producers' co-operatives although there is a growing urge and feeling amongst our people for such co-operatives.

In this connection, Sir, I can cite examples. At Mahgarh in Kokilamukh in Jorhat subdivision, some persons got some land and there they on their own initiative started a co-operative farm. It is about one year that they applied for registration of this co-operative farm but uptil now it has not been registered. Then again, in Dibrugarh at Merabil in Bardubi area such a co-operative farm was started about 3 years ago but it has not also been registered. I would ask the Hon'ble Minister of Co-operative Societies whether he received any no-confidence motion censoring the Co-operative Department for not granting registration to this Co-operative farming? Only a few days back some persons came from Hastinapur Mauza in North Kamrup to Shillong and they said that they came to meet the Hon'ble Mr. Chaudhury in order to acquaint him with the fact that they have started a co-operative farm there but they have not got any help from the Inspectors and others to have it registered. I can cite many other instances but for the present this will suffice.

Now, a spontaneous feeling in our people has began to grow to make co-operative movement permanent. I want that the Government policy should be to encourage co-operative farming in opening fallow lands for cultivation. Government policy to open fallow lands should not only be on paper but should be in practice when I urge upon the Government to encourage co-operative farming in these lands I visualise that some young people may come from the neighbourhood and join in this farming. They should also be supplied with seeds and implements so that they can make a good start. If the Government appreciates such a policy then instead of dividing and subdividing holdings into small fragments, Government should start co-operative farming or patronise such farms. If through such farms, a greater yield of crops can be had then those who are now having fragmented private holdings will also be encouraged to take to co-operative farming. That may take some time, but if it is true that example is better than precept, then the success of farming co-operatives will encourage the people to come forward with their holdings for collective farming, and in that case mechanised ploughing may be employed and that will bring greater yield that is, with greater economy there will be greater output and greater profit. I hope, Government will consider whether this method of collective farming can be profitably utilised or not.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Cut motion moved:

“That the total provision of Rs.7,50,100 under Grant No.21, Major Head—42.—Co-operation—I.—Co-operative Societies, at page 168 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.7,50,100 do stand reduced by Re.1.

**The Hon'ble Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am really very glad to the valuable suggestions given by my hon. Friend

Mr. Bhattacharyya for rearing up the co-operative movement in the State. I think much of his criticism would not have been there had he been fully informed of facts. This Government, from the very beginning, is trying its utmost to see that the co-operative movement in the country gets a momentum for its development and Government is also trying its best to see that the co-operative societies in different spheres of activities for the development of village life become useful institutions to serve the country.

As regards the Hayley scheme I am not aware of such a scheme at all. Perhaps, as Mr. Hayley was the Registrar of Co-operative Societies in Assam for some time, the schemes adopted then have been styled as "Hayley Scheme." But if my hon. Friend takes pains to go through the co-operative scheme that this Government had, I think he will find everything therein what in this respect is being done now in China and Russia. As a matter of fact, we have gone a step farther. We are trying to make people co-operative minded and also we are trying to give them all possible help from the State so that this movement thrives and may serve the people to the greatest extent possible. My hon. Friend Shri Bhattacharyya has mentioned three names of Farming Co-operative Societies that are not receiving registration. I do not know about two of them, but I know something of the Hastinapur Farming Co-operative Society. This is a society of the landlords only. If Mr. Bhattacharyya in the name of co-operative wants to encourage landlordism I am undone. Does my hon. Friend even now press for registration of such societies? I pause for a reply. Government policy is to combine the landless people into co-operative societies to get land and to start co-operative farming. I think Mr. Bhattacharyya will fully agree with me that such a society before registration should fully satisfy the above condition. The coming in of Capitalists' Co-operative does not lead ahead in any way our Co-operative Movement and such a move should be discouraged. I shall surely make an enquiry why the other two Co-operative Societies of which my hon. Friend has made mentions are not receiving registration. We have got certain model bye-laws and under such bye-laws the Co-operative Farming Societies are to be formed if this taste is fulfilled I am sure they will receive registration. Our Co-operative Societies are not institutions of traders or dealers, neither are they institutions of the rich people. They are peoples' institutions. Everyone of the villages can become member of a trading Co-operative Society and those who have no money to purchase shares can become its applicant members in all respects carrying with them the privileges of shareholders by mere producing a certificate of a 'Gaonbura' or a Mauzadar. These Co-operative Societies are meant to serve the people of all sections. We expected that these societies having monopoly rights of sales of control commodities would thrive and prosper and expand their activities in other directions. But the hope of the Government have been belied. They have become static organisation and the activities have not expanded. The real spirit of the Co-operative Movement is to enthuse people to develop their initiative. They cannot thrive for all time to come on mere spoon feeding. I want the co-operation of every hon. Members of this House to make our Co-operative Movement successful so that this movement can develop to serve the purpose for which it is meant. This Government is bent on lending all possible help and assistance to Co-operative Farming Societies of the landless people.

With these words, Sir, I request my hon. Friend to withdraw his Cut 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.7,50,100 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—'42.—Co-operation—1.—Co-operative Societies'.

The Motion was adopted.

## GRANT No.22

## (42.—CO-OPERATION—II.—RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**The Hon'ble Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.22,85,800 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—"42.—Co-operation—II.—Rural Development."

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.22,85,800 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—"42.—Co-operation—II.—Rural Development."

**\*Maulavi MUKHTAR ALI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.22,85,800 under Grant No.22, Major head—42.—Co-operation—II.—Rural Development, at page 177 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1., *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.22,85,800 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, I wish the Government will establish village panchayats throughout the whole State. But as it is admitted that our Government cannot afford to finance to start such panchayats everywhere I beg to suggest that our Government will establish such panchayats as far as possible in the adjacent areas. Our Government is establishing Village Panchayats in isolated areas. I think these isolated Panchayats will not grow as our Government wish.

Secondly, I beg to suggest that the location of the proposed Panchayats should be at the central places—not in corners—not in villages connected with interested persons. For example, I can cite an instance that the location of Chenga Village Panchayat should have been at Tarabari, but it was not.

Further I beg to suggest that our Government will give sufficient power to these Panchayats to collect revenues and taxes to meet the expenditure of the Panchayats.

With these words I move my Motion for the acceptance of the House.

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

"That the total provision of Rs.22,85,800 under Grant No.22, Major Head—42.—Co-operation—II.—Rural Development, at page 177 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.22,85,800 do stand reduced by Re.1.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN:** Sir, we cannot but appreciate the Scheme of Rural Development as initiated. I understand that this scheme was drawn up by Mr. Hayley and it is called chakra of rural development and commonly known as "Hayley Chakra". But with the disappearance of Mr. Hayley the Chakra has failed to move.

**The Hon'ble Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE:** Hayley has gone to take the place of Lenin.

**Maulavi MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN:** Yes, the Hon'ble Mr. Chaudhury has taken Hayley's place.

Sir, the rural Panchayat system is a form of rural autonomy. The intention is to give certain rights to levy certain taxes, etc. for development of rural areas. So before we give power to these rural bodies we must see that there is co-ordination between their rights and rights to be exercised by the local bodies. It seems that there will be conflict between these bodies and local bodies in the field of taxation, etc. At the same time we must be very careful in selecting the sites for the establishment of these rural Panchayats. We must see that there is no faction or difference among the members entrusted with the management of these Panchayats. So, Sir, to keep these institutions free from such evil influences we must appoint really efficient and good persons. Our wish is that not only people of certain political parties should be selected but also good and reliable people irrespective of his political affiliation should be appointed in these institutions. Attempts should be made to see that only good people who will actually be willing to run the administration properly and efficiently are taken in without consideration of his political affiliation.

Sir, a big sum has been spent as grants to the rural Panchayats. I find from the speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister that by the end of 1950-51, 29 Rural Panchayats were started and in 1951-52, 22 more have been added, raising the total to 51. During the next year, *i.e.* 1952-53, 59 new Panchayats are intended to be added, for which a sum of Rs.8,85,000 has been allotted. Therefore the total grant comes to Rs.15,65,000.

Further I emphasise that the development officers who are responsible for the supervision of these Panchayats should be chosen from among people of great ability, integrity, initiative and drive with considerable knowledge of rural life. By this measure we are proposing to improve the rural economy. Rural indebtedness, rural cottage industries, sericulture, weaving—these are the subjects which we propose to promote through the medium of rural development scheme. So far my information goes some of these Panchayats are not being run properly and unless efficient and constant supervision is maintained over their management, they are bound to disintegrate into mere instruments of corruption and malpractice and further contaminate rural life.

**The Hon'ble Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Mover of the Cut Motion, Jonab Mukhtar Ali Sahib, has mentioned only about the location of Panchayat's headquarters at central places and he has found fault with the Government that Tarabari has not been selected as the headquarters of Chenga Village Panchayat.

I have personal knowledge about the locality and I know that Tarabari is placed just on the border of three mouzas namely Bogribari, Chenga and Bagbor. Therefore I do not see any force in his argument that Tarabari is the centre of Chenga mauza. But, Sir, I agree that Tarabari is a rising commercial place and as such if the Panchayat Headquarters were there then it would have drawn greater attention of the people there. I may tell for the information of the hon. Member that there is a move from the people of Tarabari to constitute Tarabari into a Small Town Committee. In that case the Panchayat will not be operative because Panchayat is only operative in rural areas. It has nothing to do with urban or town areas. Therefore, Sir, although it may be a rising commercial place and the selection of Panchayat Headquarters will attract more people there, yet Government finds it difficult to select Tarabari as the Headquarters. At the same time, the selection of Headquarters does not lie with the Government. Of course in the case of a conflict, Government may try to settle the matter in the best possible way. Further as Tarabari has not yet been included in the Chenga Panchayat and as the Panchayat Act in that area is not operative the question of Tarabari as Headquarter of Chenga Panchayat cannot be taken into consideration. He has also referred to the question of collection of revenue, etc. Sir, if my hon. Friend goes through the Panchayat Act, he will find that ultimately the collection of land revenue, etc., will be done by the Panchayat

Therefore, Sir, it appears that my Friend is not very serious about what he has said on this matter. About my hon. Friend Jonab Umaruddin Sahib's argument, I have something to say. Sir, we believe in the decentralisation of power. We the Members of this side of the House, believe in Panchayat Raj. We believe that through a net work of Panchayats, people will carry on their own administration. Therefore I want to counsel my hon. Friend Jonab Umaruddin Saheb that it is the order of the day that the power will be decentralised and the people of every village and every Mauza will run their own administration. That is what we aim at and this is the purport of the Panchayat Act. But I am sorry, my Friend, Jonab Umaruddin Saheb does not share this view. How can I help him? About the question of conflict between Local Bodies and Panchayats, I do not believe there would be any difficulty. With the establishment of the Panchayats the Local Bodies wither away. They will go out of existence. About the apprehensions of Jonab Umaruddin Saheb's in the matter of setting up Self-Help Advisory Board, I may assure him that, we shall try our best to keep it above party politics. Sir, we believe in constructive work, and we want that work should be done by any Member whatever his political affiliation might be. We shall see that these Boards are not formed on party basis. We shall see that all section of population find representation in them. But I must warn that these Boards should not be used as forums of political quarrels. If it becomes a forum of quarrels the whole purpose of the constitution of Advisory Boards will be frustrated. Therefore, I may assure my Friend that those who believe in constructive work, those who sincerely believe in village upliftment works, will find representation in the Selp-Help Advisory Boards. With these words, Sir, I request my Friend Maulavi Mukhtar Ali Saheb to withdraw his Motion.

**Maulavi MD. UMARUDDIN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I know how the Development Officers are appointed. Is it not a fact that they are very highly paid?

**The Hon'ble Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY:** They are not very highly paid, Sir. Most of them have been recruited on the recommendations of the Public Service Commission.

**Maulavi MUKHTAR ALI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, 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:** The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.22,85,800 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—"42.—Co-operation—II.—Rural Development".

The Motion was adopted.

#### GRANT No.16

(37.—EDUCATION OTHER THAN EUROPEAN)

**The Hon'ble Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.1,84,90,700 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—"37.—Education".



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

“That a sum not exceeding Rs.1,84,90,700 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—“37.—Education”.

Shri Ranendra Mohan Das.

He is absent.

Shri Ghana Kanta Gogoi.

**Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI:** Mr. Spcaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.1,84,90,700 under Grant No.16, Major Head—37.—Education, at page 82 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,84,90,700 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, the object of my Cut Motion is to raise a discussion on the subject of education. Sir, it is a pleasure to find that education is receiving greater attention from year to year. Sir, we are living in a new age. Changes are taking place rapidly. We are to think out new ideas and try to fit in ourselves accordingly. This can only be done through education, Sir. We are to infuse civic sense and a patriotic feeling in our people. Sir, in a Democratic country like ours, this illiteracy among the masses cannot be allowed to remain. Illiteracy and Democracy go very ill together. So Government should do everything possible to eliminate this illiteracy from the masses quickly, otherwise Democracy cannot function properly. Sir, I appreciate what the Government is doing to impart higher education in arts, science, agriculture and other technical subjects. These are at present suitable for people living in higher strata of the society. But what is the demand of the masses? They .....

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** What is the percentage of literacy in the State?

**Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI:** Sir, I think it is near about 15 per cent. I think, in Lushai Hills the percentage is 45 per cent. and in Khasi and Jaintia Hills it is a bit higher. But in the plains the percentage is very much low. The high percentage of literacy in the Hills districts compared to the Plains, is due to the activities of missionaries and not so much due to the activities of Government.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** What does Mr. Saprawnga say?  
What is the percentage of literacy in the Lushai Hills?

**Mr. Pu Ch. SAPRAWNGA:** About 45 per cent., but I am not quite sure.

**Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI:** So, I plead for spread of mass education and primary education, specially in my district of Lakhimpur which is educationally backward. Hundreds of *ex-tea* garden villages and also Assamese villages are going without L. P. schools. There are however some schools organised and run by private bodies and in order to help spread of primary education we demand that these schools should be taken over by Government immediately.

Then, Sir, another thing I appreciate is the starting of the N. C. C. organisation here in this State. But one thing I find that most of the youngsters who have joined the N. C. C. are sometimes compelled to go without food. They do not get the opportunity to take their meals timely. A good number of them, who have to attend to their college work and also undergo military training, very often they have to go without food and bath. The demand of the N. C. C. Cottonians is that they should have a separate hostel where special arrangements for their messing can be made. If that is done they will be happy and carry on with their normal college activities as well as military training.

Sir, another thing is that the distinction between the teachers of the aided secondary schools and those of the Government schools should immediately be removed. There is no reason why people having the same education and doing the same work and living in the same democratic country should work under different conditions. I plead for provincialisation of all the secondary schools. I think this should be done with regard to the private colleges as well. Sir, if we can give education and more education to the people, I think we can save a lot of expenses for maintenance of the C. I. D. people, the intelligence staff, the anti-corruption people, etc.

(A voice—How does it come in?)

**Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI:** It does come in the sense that if we give social education to the people and develop their patriotic spirit, we can do away with all these, even the money spent for prohibition, can be diverted for the cause of education and then the Hon'ble Minister for Education will not have much difficulty to find funds for education drive. We need more education and this is the need of the moment. With these few words, I commend my Motion for the acceptance of the House.

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

"That the total provision of Rs.1,84,90,700 under Grant No.16, Major head—37.—Education, at page 82 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i. e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.1,84,90,700 do stand reduced by Re.1."

**Shri RADHA CHARAN CHAUDHURY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other day during Budget discussions I spoke many things about primary education. So, I do not like to reiterate them again. I simply want to speak a few words regarding one specific matter.

The other day the Secretary of the A. B. Mission Primary School, Kamrup, Gauhati, by his letter, dated 10th February 1949, requested the Hon'ble Minister of Education to increase the grant to enable that school to pay its teachers at the same scale as that of the Government primary schools. In reply to this letter, the Secretary of the Provincial Primary Education Board informed him that it will be possible to give the school increased grants provided the authorities of the school agreed to introduce Assamese language as the medium of instruction in their schools. The letter which was addressed to the Hon'ble Minister of Education by the Secretary, A. B. Mission Primary Schools, reads thus: "We hereby approach you with the petition that you will please give us increased grant to enable us to pay our teachers at the same scale as those of the Government primary schools". The reply, dated 1st March 1949, from the Secretary, Provincial Primary Education Board, reads as follows:—"With reference to your petition, dated 10th February 1949, to the Hon'ble Education Minister, I have the honour to request you to let me know if you are agreeable to introduce Assamese as the medium of instruction in your schools and abide by the Rules, in this behalf, which govern other schools of the Province now under the direct responsibility of Government. Should you find it possible to agree, you will please re-submit another list numbering the schools in order of preference, so that we may consider how many of them can be taken over by us, during the ensuing financial year".

Sir, Article 30(2) of the Constitution of India states "The State shall not, in granting aid to the educational institutions, discriminate against any educational institution on the ground that it is under the management of a minority, whether based on religion or language". So, Sir, the Constitution has given the right to the Garo people to teach their language in their schools. Why then, Sir, should this condition of introducing Assamese in the lower primary schools of the Garo people in the Kamrup district should be insisted on? Not only this. So far as

we know throughout the whole of India the medium of instruction in the primary schools is the mother tongue of the children. The Garo people's mother tongue is not Assamese, so why should they be forced to introduce Assamese as medium of instruction in their primary schools. So, I should like to draw the attention of the Government to see that this Garo people do enjoy the rights and privileges granted by the Constitution and introduce their mother tongue in the Lower Primary Schools.

Next there is also practical difficulty in introducing Assamese language in Garo Schools.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Will you please read article 29(1) ?

**Shri RADHA CHARAN CHAUDHURY:** Very well, Sir. Section 29(1) says. "Any section of the citizens residing in the territory of India or any part thereof having a distinct language, script or culture of its own shall have the right to conserve the same."

Article 30(1) says, "All minorities whether based on religion or language shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice."

Not only this there is also practical difficulties in introducing Assamese in Garo Schools because the present teachers of the Garo community do not understand Assamese. Assamese teachers know full well that if they are appointed as teachers in Garo Schools will find difficulty in understanding the language of the Garo pupils. Garo pupils of class A and B will not understand the language of the teachers. Assamese teachers do not understand the language of the pupils and the pupils do not understand the language of the teachers. This condition prevails in the district of Kamrup. I wish to draw the attention of the Government to see to it and rectify this.

**The Hon'ble Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA:** Generally Garo teachers are employed.

**Shri RADHA CHARAN CHAUDHURY:** So far I believe 90 per cent. of the Garo teachers will get plucked in the examination and they will be removed. (Voice—No one has yet been removed.)

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** If instances are given they will be enquired into.

**Shri RADHA CHARAN CHAUDHURY:** I shall give a few cases, not now. (Voices—Hon. Member was an S. I. of Schools.) Whatever that might be, if other districts are being allowed to introduce their mother tongue in the lower primary schools why the Garo pupils should not be allowed to have their own mother tongue ?

**The Hon'ble Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHAUDHURY:** On a point of information, Sir, in Assam we have got composite schools. We have generally one set of students reading Bengali, Rava, Assamese, Garo and so on.

**Shri RADHA CHARAN CHAUDHURY:** To this I may say that in Garo schools cent per cent. of the pupils are Garo. Their case is different.

The entire outlook of education both primary and secondary should be changed because we find that the entire outlook of the system of education is nothing but passing the examination. The examination is given priority now-a-days. It is a means to judge the merit of the students. Therefore examination

should be given the second priority and not the first priority. So change this outlook, and if this present outlook prevails then at a huge expense we shall encourage cramming. So I suggest that the Government should consult expert educationists of India or abroad to change the whole outlook.

Once Boko was the foremost place in the Non-co-operation Movement of the Congress. It served the country. Those people have been neglected mostly in respect of education. So the attention of the Government is drawn to the people of Boko for consideration about grants.

**The Hon'ble Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the object with which my hon. Friend Mr. Gogoi has moved this Motion was to raise a general discussion. He has brought in the question of venture schools. I must state that this Government are doing their utmost in recognising such schools. Almost all the venture schools as far as practicable have been brought under the Primary Education School Board. I am glad that he has a word in appreciation of this N. C. C. scheme but he has mentioned that the boys are put to difficulties they have to pay attention to their studies and also to this training. I have to say that two days have been fixed only for the training and this has been adjusted to the normal routine of the school.

He has referred to the old question of aided school teachers and Government school teachers as regards their pay scale. This is an old question. This Government is spending nearly 21 lakhs of rupees to put on their feet more than two hundred High Schools. On the other hand such High Schools are increasing in number. It is not possible to increase their salary immediately. However, this question has been under consideration of the Government. I must mention that previous to the introduction of the new scheme of aid to the non-Government High Schools, the teachers were receiving very low pay and the Government had to come to their aid by granting them dearness allowance. When the new scale was introduced this amount of dearness allowance was included in the pay.

Again he has mentioned that the amount spent for Prohibition and other such things provided in the Budget should be utilised for Education. I am not surprised at his argument. The other day he raised his voice against prohibition and he wanted introduction of rationing scheme for opium. Coming from Khowang as he does it is not unnatural for him, we all know. In 1939 our Hon'ble Chief Minister, late Lokapriya Bardoloi was about to be assaulted in Khowang because Opium Prohibition was being introduced in that area. However I want to bring to his notice, Sir, that Prohibition is a part of man's education—we must educate our boys not to take opium.

Then Sir, my friend Mr. Chaudhury has brought in the question of introduction of Assamese language in the Garo Schools situated on the bordering foothills of Garo Hills falling within the district of Kamrup. Sir, I may inform the hon. Member that it was on the application from the people that this Government started Assamese Training Centres at Nishangram sometime ago and because the people living in the areas bordering Garo Hills desire that they should be taught in Assamese instead of Garo. But some Missionary authorities want to keep the Garos away from the people of the surrounding areas. The Garo felt that the opportunities for higher education would not be available if they did not take the available educational institution of the neighbourhood.

Then my Friend has mentioned that the examination system should be given second priority and not top most priority. Sir, I am not a research worker in Education, but I beg to say that education is a social process and it needs constant research and investigation in better methods. The Government of India

as well as our Government are considering the question of reforming the present system of secondary education. In this connection the Government of India are contemplating to institute a Commission on Secondary Education and our Government is also considering on the same lines as to how to reshape and reorient the system of secondary education.

My hon. Friend also mentioned the question of the Boko High School. Sir we have every sympathy with this Boko High School. In fact a few days ago some friends from Boko came to meet me and prayed for substantial help to this High School. I want to bring to his notice that this School has been given grants long before it was affiliated by the University.

With these words, Sir, I hope my hon. Friend will withdraw his Cut Motion.

**Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI:** In view of what the Hon'ble Minister has said, I agree to withdraw my Motion but will the Hon'ble Minister give me some assurance that he will take up the venture Lower Primary Schools in my area which have not been taken up by Government ?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** My question is, will you withdraw the Motion ?

**Shri GHANA KANTA GOGOI:** If the House give me permission, yes, Sir, I beg to withdraw my Cut Motion.

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

**Shri MAHENDRA HAZARIKA:** অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই এটা প্রশ্ন স্মিথি খোজো।

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** কাক স্মিথি। এতিয়া বহুত পলম হৈ গৈছে।

**Shri MAHENDRA HAZARIKA:** মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ক স্মিথি খোজো। অনুগ্রহ কৰি মোক অলপ সময় দিলে ভাল পাম ( *voices*—দিয়ক, দিয়ক )।

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** বাক। আপোনাক অলপ সময় দিয়া হৈছে।

**Shri MAHENDRA HAZARIKA:** অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই আমাৰ মাননীয় শিক্ষামন্ত্রী মহোদয়ৰ পৰা এইখিনিকে জানিবলৈ বিচাৰিছো যে তপচীলভুক্ত সম্প্রদায়ৰ ছাত্র-ছাত্রীসকলৰ শিক্ষাৰ কাৰণে এই বাৰৰ বাজেটত কিবা টকা ধৰা হৈছেনে নাই। ( *Voice*—বাজেটখন পঢ়িলেই পাব, চাব )। বাজেটত লিখা নাই কাৰণেহে স্মিথিছো।

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** শিক্ষামন্ত্রীয়ে কিবা উত্তৰ দিবনে কি ?

**The Hon'ble Shri OMEO KUMAR DAS:** He has given notice of a question on this point and that will be discussed in the House at the time the question is put.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,84,90,700 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 " 37.—Education ".

The Motion was adopted.

## GRANT No. 5

(10.—FORESTS)

**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.43,78,300 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—"10.—Forests".

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.43,78,300 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—" 10.—Forests".

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

## GRANT No.7

(12.—CHARGES ON ACCOUNT OF MOTOR VEHICLES TAXATION ACT)

**The Hon'ble Shri SIDDHINATH SARMA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, that on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.6,78,300 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending 31st March 1953 for administration of the head—"12.—Charges on account of Motor Vehicles Taxation Act".

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.6,78,300 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—"12.—Charges on account of Motor Vehicles Taxation Act".

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

## GRANT No.8

(13.—OTHER TAXES AND DUTIES)

**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.3,18,700 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—"13.—Other Taxes and Duties".

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

That a sum not exceeding Rs.3,18,700 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—"13.—Other Taxes and Duties."

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.3,18,700 under Grant No.8, Major Head—13.—Other Taxes and Duties, at page 26 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.3,18,700 do stand reduced by Re.1. Sir, as my hon. Friend, Mr. Bhattacharyya rightly said last time that this is a misnomer, I fully agree with him mainly on the items on Sales Tax. The sales tax is not paid by the sellers but is paid by purchasers should be called a

purchase tax. If we go carefully in to this matter, it will be very difficult to find out how many times a purchaser pays sales tax for the same commodity.

In recent years, the incident of tax on the poor section of the people have gone up and in recent years I find from the Economic Journal that the incidence between direct and indirect taxes have changed from 32 to 68 to 32 into 66 respectively. That is to say that the indirect taxes have increased and have become a burden on the poorer section of the people. Wherever we go, we find people clamouring about this sales tax. If you even purchase medicine you have to pay sales tax. You will find that when so much money has been set apart by Government for Medical and Public Health our Government is not anxious to improve the health of the people. It is a tax on the health. It is a tax on my health and also on the health of my Friends sitting on that side of the House.

In England, just a few years ago medical services were made free but only after the coming in of the Conservative Government they have imposed tax on false teeth and on glasses, but that is also not too much. In India, you will find a different picture. When you purchase medicine you have got to pay sales tax. Similarly, if you take food in a restaurant, say at Lumding Junction, you have to pay sales tax. It is inconceivable. The restaurant authority also has got to pay sales tax on mustard oil, dal, etc. In tea also you have got to pay sales tax if you take tea at Lumding, Gauhati or any other stations. You have got to pay sales tax on tea leaves as well. Thus there is double and treble taxation.

I find that there are many luxury goods which have been taxed. I find that it brings in a very good sum of revenue to the tune of Rs.10,38,000. Sir, it has been increasing. I would not mind if the luxury goods are taxed heavily but when our poorer section of the people buy cloth, medicine and books, I cannot appreciate it when they are taxed.

Secondly, my objection is that entertainment tax should not be levied on all cases. We should surely encourage cultural activities. I find that when some amateur people stage a drama or theatre even they do not escape from this tax. I would request the Government to see that on cultural activities which enriches our country culture and heritage there should not be any sales tax and no amusement or entertainment tax should be levied on them.

On the whole, I feel that in the matter of sales tax, it has been admitted in an All-India sphere that there is overlapping of such taxes on the same commodity.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Government of India are giving a portion of the same to us.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** It is in the concurrent list and a move is on to bring uniformity in the matter of sales tax. My submission is that sales tax should not be levied on those articles which are generally purchased by poorer sections of the people, such as, on foodstuff, cloth and medicine and there should not be any entertainment tax which enriches our culture and heritage.

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

“That the total provision of Rs.3,18,700 under Grant No.8, Major Head—13.—Other Taxes and Duties, at page 26 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the whole grant of Rs.3,18,700 do stand reduced by Re.1.

**The Hon'ble Shri MOTIRAM BORA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am really thankful to my hon. Friend, Mr. Goswami, for raising certain points in course of his speech in moving his Cut Motion; this will enable me to explain Government position.

My Friend gives us the idea that it should not be called a sales tax as it is really a purchase tax. I do not like to quarrel with him over words, whether he wants it to be called a purchase tax or a sales tax. To me it is a sales tax because it is paid by the seller and the seller is not bound to pass it over to purchaser.

His second point is that the tax is paid at several places. This is not true. Our system is a single point system, and therefore, I do not see how it is paid at several points by several men on the same commodity. I have not come across such cases as yet.

The third point raised is that the burden on the poor have been increased by this tax and incidentally he said that this Government has imposed more taxes on the poor. So far as the tax on medicines is concerned, Sir, my hon. Friend is not correct. The medicine that is generally used by the poor people is exempted from this tax. In this category of medicine, quinine, chincona and etc., come. The medicines generally used by well-to-do persons like my hon. Friend Mr. Goswami (*laughter*) is not exempt from this tax.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** Sir, on a point of information, do you think, Sir, that penicillin is not to be given to the poor people ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut MOTIRAM BORA:** What I mean is Wincarnis and such other medicines that are generally used by the rich people. The medicines that are used to fight malaria, small-pox, etc., are exempted from this tax.

So far as tax on books is concerned, Sir, I may inform the hon. Members that this Government has been pleased to exempt the text books from this tax. This Government is very careful to see that the poor people are not overburdened with tax.

So far as tax on cloth is concerned I may state that the tax is imposed because it is used by all sections of people. But as far as endi, muga and hand woven khadi are concerned tax is not imposed on them.

As to Entertainment Tax, Sir, my hon. Friend raised two points. If he goes through the provisions of the Act he will find that there are 2 Sections, *viz.*, Section 8(1) and Section 8(2), and under Section 8(1) such shows as are charitable shows, educational shows, cultural shows, religious shows, and etc., are exempt from the tax ; and under Section 8(2) also Government has made provision to exempt certain shows, namely, theatrical shows and other performances that are intended for institutions like libraries, schools, hospitals, etc. Government has reserved certain powers to give exemption in such cases. But to get exemption of tax for theatrical performance meant for such purposes, people must apply to the Government first. This shows that the Government is doing its best for the good of the poor people. Even in cases of football and cricket matches exemption is often given from the Entertainment Tax. My hon. Friend referred to some theatrical performance in our State. Sir, I also used to get some complaints about this. In such deserving cases also exemption is given by the Government.

I think, Sir, the points raised by my hon. Friend Mr. Goswami have been fully met and I hope he will please withdraw his Motion.

**Shri HARESWAR GOSWAMI:** I do not propose to withdraw my Motion.

(The question was put to the House and was lost).



**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.3,18,700 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 " 13.—Other Taxes and Duties ".

The Motion was adopted.

### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M. on Saturday, the 29th March 1952.

**Shillong:**  
The 28th June 1952.

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