

as to the vigorous intellect that Shri Aurobindo possessed.

I, on behalf of the Opposition, Sir, express my profound sorrow at the deaths of these great Indian leaders and associate myself with what you have said and with what the Hon'ble Leader of the House has said on the passing away of these leaders.

Mr. C. W. MORLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a great deal has already been said and I do not feel that I have much to add. But we should in all earnestness like to join with all other Members of this House in paying our tribute to the great service rendered to India by the late Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, at a time when the world situation has become most threatening and specially when India's political problems of the utmost magnitude are arising. It was indeed a great misfortune to lose a Leader who had for years been characterised as a leader with calm temperament and soundness of judgment. We are certain that his name will live for ever as one of the great architects of India, and we wish to associate ourselves with all in expressing our condolence and sincere sympathy to his family.

(March Session)

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Introduction of Hindi as a Compulsory Subject in the Secondary Schools

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

1. Will Government be pleased to refer to the Resolution No. 3 of the Assam Educational Conference held at Gauhati on the 28th July 1950, regarding introduction of Hindi as a compulsory subject in the Secondary Schools, and state what decision they have taken to give effect to the recommendations of the Conference and when do they propose to put their decision into practice ?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS replied :

1.—A scheme for the introduction of Hindi as a compulsory subject in the Secondary Schools is now nearing maturity and it is proposed to put it into practice from 1952.

Paribhasha Committee

Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR asked :

2. (a) Will Government be pleased to refer to the Resolution No. 9 regarding the setting up of a "Paribhasha Committee" for aiding compilation of Scientific books in Assamese passed at the Assam Education Conference held at Gauhati on the 28th July 1950 and state whether they have taken the Resolution into their consideration ?

(b) If so, whether they have set up a Committee as recommended by the Conference and who are the members thereof ?

(c) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS replied :

2. (a)—Yes.

(b)—It is under examination if the Paribhasha Committee could be set up immediately. Appointment of the members will be made when it is finally decided to constitute the Committee.

(c)—Does not arise.

Sibsagar Municipal Board

Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA asked :

3. (a) Is it a fact that the Sibsagar Municipal Board applied to the State Government for a loan of Rs. three lakhs for Water Works as early as in the year 1948 ?

(b) Is it a fact that in response to the said application a loan of Rs. 50,000 was given in the year 1950 to start the works ?

(c) Is it a fact that Government has not yet given a final reply to the Sibsagar Municipal Board as to the exact amount they would give and the manner in which the same will be paid ?

(d) Is it a fact that the final disposal of their loan application is held up as the Deputy Commissioner, Jorhat, does not submit the reports called for by Government ?

(e) If the reply to question (d) above be in the affirmative, what steps Government is taking to avoid such delays ?

(f) Is Government aware that the Sibsagar Municipal Board is undergoing loss on account of this delay in the disposal of the loan application ?

(g) Does Government propose to dispose of this loan application without further delay ?

4. (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they have received a prayer for a grant of a sum of about Rs.20,000 from the Sibsagar Municipal Board to repair the drains, culverts and roads damaged by the last earthquake and flood ?

(b) Is it a fact that the prayer has been turned down ?

(c) If the reply to question (b) above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons which led them to take such a decision ?

(d) Do Government propose to reconsider this prayer of the Sibsagar Municipal Board ?

The Hon'ble Maulavi ABDUL MATLIB MAZUMDAR replied :

3. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—The exact amount of the loan which may be granted is under the consideration of Government. This will depend on a satisfactory reply from the Sibsagar Municipal Board as to their guaranteeing regular repayment. The Board has been asked, through the Deputy Commissioner, to give this assurance of payment in view of the fact that the Board has defaulted in repayment of the loan granted in 1948-49.

(d)—The matter was delayed due to lack of report from the Deputy Commissioner, Jorhat, but was subsequently taken up on the initiative of Government and disposal awaits satisfaction on (c) above.

(e)—The Appointment Department has recently issued a Circular letter to all Deputy Commissioners that letters from Government are to be urgently dealt with and personally attended to. The personal attention of the Deputy Commissioner has been drawn to this matter.

(f)—Government have no such information.

(g)—Yes, subject to (c) above.

4. (a)—Yes.
 (b)—Yes.
 (c)—Due to financial stringency and consequent lack of funds.
 (d)—The case of all Local Bodies, affected by the earthquake, are under consideration of the Government.

Wireless Receiving and Transmission Van

Srijut BIMALAPROSAD CHALIHA asked: * 3

5. (a) Is it a fact that a Wireless receiving and transmission Van is lying exposed in the compound of the bungalow of the Subdivisional Officer, Sibsagar for many months ?

(b) If the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, who is the owner of this Van and why this costly property is lying exposed ?

(c) What Government propose to do with this Van ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

5. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The Van belongs to M/S. Allen Berry and Co. Ltd., Dibrugarh and was seized from their Moran Vehicle Depot sometime in 1948 as the Wireless receiving and transmitting set was held by that Company without a license. The W. T. Set inside the Van is of no use as it is not complete and spare parts are not available in India.

(c)—Under the general instructions of the Ministry of Communications the owner will be asked either to secure a license or to arrange the transfer of the set to another person holding a licence within a definite period, if he fails to do so, the set will be sold to the Director General of Disposals and the proceeds will be handed over to the owner.

Commission of Enquiry under the Indo-Pak Agreement

Maulavi ABUAL MAJID ZIAOSH SHAMS asked :

6. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Commission of Enquiry set up by the Government under the Indo-Pak Agreement has completed their enquiry ?

(b) Whether the said Commission has submitted the report ?

(c) Whether Government propose to implement their recommendations, if any ?

(d) Whether the members of the said Commission went round the places of disturbances to gain first-hand knowledge ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

6. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—Yes.

(d)—Yes.

Rehabilitation of Muslim Evacuees

Maulavi ABUAL MAJID ZIAOSH SHAMS asked :

7. Will Government be pleased to state whether all the Muslim evacuees who had left Assam during the 1950 disturbances and have come back, have been rehabilitated in their respective homes and whether they have been restored in possession to their lands ?

8. (a) Is it in the contemplation of Government to take all possible means by well organised definite measures to stop recurrence of communal disturbances in the State by such measures as (1) mass propaganda (2) by distribution of leaflets (3) by lecturing from village to village specially stressing communal toleration and equality of rights as secured in the Constitution of India ?

(b) If not, why not ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

7. Almost all Muslim genuine evacuees have been rehabilitated and possession of their property restored. Action is being taken under the Evacuee Property Ordinance, 1951, to restore possession of property to the remaining evacuees.

8. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Does not arise.

Srijut BELIRAM DAS : May I know, Sir, from the Hon'ble Chief Minister whether Maulavi Abual Majid Ziaosh Shams is now in Assam or in Pakistan. I think he has been sending all these communications from Pakistan.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : The Questions are not sent to the Government direct but to the Hon'ble Speaker.

Srijut BELIRAM DAS : Is it not a fact, Sir, that this gentleman has left Assam for good and has been sending these Questions from Pakistan ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : It is very difficult to say where he is at present, but my information is that he is not at Dhubri.

Zamindary Abolition and Agrarian Reform

Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI asked :

9. Will Government be pleased to state how far they have proceeded with the schemes of—

(i) Zamindary Abolition,

and

(ii) Agrarian Reform ?

Srijut HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister) replied :

9. (i)—The Assam State Acquisition of Zamindaris Bill, 1948 was reserved for President's assent. But the President returned it with a message recommending certain amendments. Those amendments with the message of the Governor will be introduced to the Legislature during this Session.

(ii)—Agrarian reform consequential to the abolition of Zamindaris has therefore been held up.

Flag hoisting Ceremony at Gauhati

Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI asked :

10. (a) Is it a fact that during the Flag hoisting ceremony at Gauhati on the last Republic Day the flag string snapped and the flag fell on the ground to the great dismay of the audience ?

(b) Was any practice rehearsal of hoisting the Flag done previous to the 26th January, 1951 ?

(c) Who is responsible for fitting up the flag in such a haphazard manner ?

(d) What steps Government propose to take to prevent recurrence of such incident in future ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

10. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes. A test was made as usual but nothing unsafe could be detected then.

(c)—This was a mere accident and not the result of any negligence or deliberate mischief on the part of any officer.

(d)—Government have already issued comprehensive instructions to ensure success of such National functions by adequate rehearsals so that the solemnity of these important occasions in the life of the Nation is not impaired in future.

Srijut BELIRAM DAS : As regards Question No.10, Sir, will Government take due precaution so that such things never recur in future ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : Only on the third day, Sir, I learned about the incident and immediately I directed the Chief Secretary to issue a circular to all the officers concerned to the effect that in order to prevent such a happening in future there should be a rehearsal of the ceremony and all kinds of precautions should be taken. The responsibility for due performance of such ceremony will be on the Deputy Commissioners, Subdivisional Officers and other heads of department in their respective sphere.

Confiscation of the gun of late Nandaram Gaonbura of Jamuguri village of Ghiladhary Mouza

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA asked :

11. Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) Whether late Nandaram Gaonbura of Jamuguri village of Ghiladhary Mouza in Golaghat was a Security Prisoner in 1942 movement ?

(b) Whether it is a fact that his M. L. Gun No.1084 was then seized by the Police ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that his son Buddhiram applied on 27th March 1946 and 2nd September 1949 to the District Magistrate, Sibsagar through the Subdivisional Officer, Golaghat either to return the gun or to pay him some compensation ?

(d) What action has been taken by the authorities in the matter ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI replied :

11. (a) & (b)—He was not a security prisoner. He was convicted in C. R. Case No.34 of 1943 of Golaghat under section 21 of the Indian Arms Act for lending his gun to one Bhogeswar and was sentenced to 4 months' R. I. and the gun was confiscated.

(c)—No.

(d)—Does not arise.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA : As regards Question No.11(c), Sir, the reply given is "No". Will Government take it from me that Buddhiram did apply on 27th March 1946 and again on the 2nd September 1949 requesting Government to return the gun ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : Such applications could not be traced by the Deputy Commissioner concerned in his office, from which it was probably inferred that he did not apply ; moreover no application was made to Government.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA : He applied to the District Magistrate, Sibsagar, through the Subdivisional Officer, Golaghat, on those dates, Sir.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : The dates might be given but the applications could not be traced. However, Sir, when he was once convicted for an offence it was very difficult for the Government to return the gun to him.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA : Will Government please make an enquiry, Sir, whether he was actually convicted in C.R. Case No. 34 of 1943 ? As a matter of fact he was not convicted for any such offence but he was in jail as a security prisoner.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : It is not correct, Sir, that Buddhiram applied to the District Magistrate, Sibsagar on those dates through the Subdivisional Officer, Golaghat either to return the gun to him or to pay him some compensation. The printed answer to the Question makes it clear that he was not a security prisoner but was convicted in C.R. Case No.34 of 1943 of Golaghat under section 21 of the Indian Arms Act for lending his gun to one Bhogeswar and was sentenced to 4 months' R.I. and the gun was confiscated. So there was a definite case against him.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA : As a matter of fact, Sir, he was a security prisoner. He was arrested in connection with the 1942 movement. His gun was seized at that time and was subsequently sold in auction. I therefore, Sir, request the Government to make an enquiry again.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI : In this particular case he was found guilty of an offence and convicted.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA : If that is so, why a reply is given by the Hon'ble Chief Minister that Government has not received any application from him ?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Because no application could be traced.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA: Who is responsible for that, Sir? Should the man who applied for returning the gun be responsible?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: There was no proof that the man ever applied, nor was there any trace of his applications.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA: I personally know, Sir, that he did apply through me and I recommended that his gun should be returned.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: It may or may not be, but that information is not available in the office.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA: I want to know, Sir, whether a statement made by any hon. Member of this House is honoured or not?

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: It is not a question of honouring or not honouring the statement of an hon. Member. The point is whether the man was actually convicted or not.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA: I want, Sir, that an enquiry be made.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: An enquiry was actually made and then reply has been given.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA: Sir, in view of the statement I have just now made in this House, I like that a second enquiry be made.

The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI: Such papers are not kept in office for such a long period of years.

Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA: The year is given here, Sir. It is 1949.

The Hon'ble the SPEAKER: Let us take up the next item of business.

Presentation of the Budget for the year 1951-52 and Budget Speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister

The Hon'ble Srijut MOTIRAM BORA: MR. SPEAKER, SIR, it is under the shadow of a great national calamity that I rise to present before this august House the annual statement of Budget estimates of receipts and expenditure of the State of Assam for the year 1951-52. Before our State could recover, even partially, from the bereavement caused by the demise of our beloved late Chief Minister, and the ravages and disasters caused by the great earthquake and the floods, came the stunning news of the departure of our great leader, the beloved

Sardarji, the Sardar of our nation and the architect of Free India of our dreams. I need hardly mention here the great qualities of the late Sardarji—his unique contribution to our struggle for freedom and his miraculous achievements in the political consolidation of our country. It is not unknown to you, how anxious he was for the welfare of this State and what active interest he took to guide and help us in our manifold difficulties. The great service he rendered to relieve Assam in her recent distress has made his name a household word in Assam. Even in his death-bed he could not forget the misfortunes of Assam and was making anxious enquiries about some consignments of materials for Assam Earthquake Relief. Such was his abiding and deep love for us and we have lost such a genuine friend! I bow down my head in reverence to the great departed soul and pray to God that his soul may always inspire and guide us in carrying out the heavy responsibilities that independence has thrown on us all.

My predecessor in office, the present Chief Minister, in his previous Budget speeches had very ably dealt with the manifold problems confronting this State and the financial difficulties she has been suffering from. He had also on many occasions presented our case very clearly for financial assistance from the Government of India and for sharing of certain revenues raised by the Centre in Assam between the Centre and the State. Hence I do not like to tax the patience of the House by repeating all of them. Only I have to mention that our problems have increased manifold by recent natural calamities as well as by disquieting developments in the international field. The House will realise that in the present context of things a state of unpreparedness with an outlook of complacency is no safety for a country which has an extensive border with a number of foreign states. Also, in the internal field, as is well known to the House, anti-social elements, out to destroy the very structure of society and to impose a type and pattern of life on the population by violence and threat of violence, have been very active. I will subsequently give the House some details as to the activities of these elements and the steps taken by the Government to root them out. All these have added to the gravity and immensity of our problems and the manifold difficulties we have to face both administratively and financially.

In the last year's Budget speech our present Hon'ble Chief Minister indicated that there would be a strong case for our getting from the Centre some aid at least to finance the continuance

of the development schemes which were already started under the post-war reconstruction schemes financed by India. But to our great misfortune, this hope has not materialised. The Government of India have turned down our request for such aid though they had a moral obligation to pay for all the schemes not only approved, but in a way initiated, by them. As a result the whole burden to finance the continuance of the development schemes is being borne by the State revenues alone. It will be realised that for an under-developed strategic State like ours, it is not possible to give up the development schemes already started for the betterment of the masses. We have recently communicated to the Planning Commission, set up by the Government of India, certain schemes for the development of the country. We hope that this time at least the Government of India will give special consideration to this State in view of her peculiar situation and problems, and that any scheme started under the Planning Commission will not meet with the fate of post-war reconstruction schemes. At a later stage of my discussion I will show how we have not only carried on our development schemes already started but have added to them though our resources are poor and the demands on our revenue are heavy and multifarious. We have always been guided by the basic principles that any scheme which is meant for the betterment of the rural population must have priority over every thing else and that in the dynamic world like ours, our State cannot remain static. Political independence is meaningless unless it ensures all-round betterment, educational, social, economic and otherwise to the people.

Under clause (b) of the 2nd proviso to Article 275 of the Constitution, the Government of India are to pay for the schemes approved by them for development of the six autonomous districts in our State. We accordingly forwarded to India some schemes entailing a cost of over 80 lakhs spread over 3 years with an expenditure of 30 lakhs in the current year. Due to financial stringency India asked us to reduce the cost of our schemes to certain proportions and we had to do it. Under the revised schemes our estimated expenditure in the current year was Rs.24 lakhs. I am glad to mention that the Government of India have sanctioned this 24 lakhs but the sanction came so late that it has not been possible to carry on the work to the extent desired. As a result it will not be possible to spend

the full amount of 24 lakhs and a part of the grant shall have to be surrendered. This caused us grave concern. However, recently the Secretary for Tribal Areas Department and the Deputy Secretary, Finance Department, visited Delhi and discussed this question with the Finance Ministry there. As a result of our explaining the difficulties and the reasons for which we could not spend the whole amount this year, the Finance Ministry assured us that any amount surrendered this year would be available for expenditure next year. So there is every hope that the schemes for the development of the autonomous districts would be carried through to completion without any difficulty.

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

Under clause (a) of the 2nd proviso to Article 275 of the Constitution, we are to receive annually from the Government of India an amount equal to the excess of expenditure over the receipts in respect of the administration of the 6 autonomous districts during the two years immediately preceding the commencement of the Constitution. There were certain differences between this Government and the Government of India as to the amount admissible to Assam under this clause. After protracted negotiations, the Deputy Secretary, Finance Department, and the Secretary for Tribal Affairs Department recently visited Delhi and discussed the matters in detail. As a result the Government of India have agreed on principle to our claim subject to audit certificate. Steps are being taken to secure such a certificate soon.

The extent of damage caused by the recent earthquake and the subsequent floods is well known to every hon'ble Member of this House. Roads, bridges, government buildings—educational institutions, hospitals and dispensaries—all these came in for destruction. It was beyond the financial capacity of this State to repair the damage caused. Hence we approached the Government of India for financial assistance to schemes of repairs and reconstruction, entailing a cost of about 3 crores and 44 lakhs. They included certain schemes for training of rivers and for opening new medical facilities to the rural population in the affected areas. The Government of India have intimated that they are unable to undertake any responsibility for river training projects and for new medical facilities, etc., and asked us to revise our schemes purely for reconstruction and repairs of buildings, roads, etc., that were already in existence. Accordingly we submitted schemes to cost 1 crore 44 lakhs spread over 3 years with an expenditure of

about 17 lakhs in the current year. I am glad to inform the House that Government of India have agreed to bear 50 per cent. of the expenditure on these schemes in principle and have already approved the scheme for the current year. As a result if we will spend the estimated amount this year we will be getting from India about 9 lakhs this year. So far as schemes for next year are concerned, Government of India want to be satisfied on some further details which are being supplied. However, during discussions with our representatives in Delhi recently the Government of India have agreed in general to all our schemes for the next year except two and it is hoped that assistance to the extent of over 44 lakhs will be forthcoming next year. I convey to the Government of India the gratitude of this Government, this House and the people of Assam for the very generous offer made to us in this respect and hope that further consideration will be shown to other schemes in view of our peculiar financial difficulties and misfortunes.

We had been hoping that the Finance Commission to be set up under the new Constitution will consider our case for financial assistance sympathetically and enable this State to carry on as a progressive and independent unit of the Indian Union but the Commission has not yet been appointed and necessary legislations are still to be passed. We hope that the Commission will be constituted without delay so that relief to Assam may not be delayed. On our side, all necessary steps are being taken to prepare our case for submission before this Commission.

Before I come to the financial position of the State for the years 1949-50 to 1951-52, I would like to give a brief review of the important trends of development and activities in the various departments during the current year.

Taxation Measures.—The two amending Acts, the Assam Sales Tax (Amendment) Act, 1950, and the Assam Amusements and Betting Tax (Amendment) Act, 1950, were brought into force from 1st April 1950. Both these were measures to increase the revenue yield from these taxes. These measures have brought in more revenue. During the first five months of the current year, the receipts under the Assam Sales Tax Act and the Assam Amusement and Betting Tax Act recorded an increase of Rs.8,75,527 and Rs.40,021, respectively over the receipts of the corresponding period of the previous year. The enhanced rates of court fee and stamp duties introduced under the

Assam Stamp (Amendment) Act, 1950, and the Assam Court Fees (Amendment) Act, 1950—brought into force from 1st April 1950—have also brought in some more revenue. During the first five months of the current year, the receipts under these two Acts show an increase of Rs.50,758 and Rs.70,679 respectively over the receipts of the corresponding period of the previous year. The enhanced rates of agricultural income-tax levied under the Assam Financial Act, 1950, have resulted in an excess receipt of Rs.5 lakhs in the first 7 months of the current year over receipts for the first 7 months of last year.

It is possible that further strengthening and reorganisation of the tax department may bring in more revenue by preventing tax evasions. Steps are being taken to strengthen and reorganise the tax department and it is hoped that this may lead to increased revenue in future from these sources.

Hon'ble Members are probably aware that there has arisen a need to amend the Assam Sales Tax Act, to bring it in line with our Constitution and an amending Bill will be put before the House in this session. This Bill when passed into an Act may result in some loss of revenue for us and it is therefore only meet and proper for us to strengthen our department to prevent evasion of taxes to enable us at least to meet the loss resulting from the proposed legislation.

It was represented by the Government of India that the military personnel posted in Assam being subject to our Professions, Trades, Callings and Employments Taxation Act, feel a sense of discrimination as such a tax prevails only in Madhya Pradesh and Assam. These persons do not have to pay the tax unless they are posted in these two States. Considering the important and special role the military has to play in the defence of our country and the very valuable services rendered by the military in our national calamities like earthquake and the floods, Government have exempted the military personnel from the payment of the tax by an Amending Act passed in the last September Session. Government have also exempted defence installations like the military farms, officers' shop, supply depots, canteens, etc., from the payment of the Sales Tax and have also exempted the Service Welfare shows, organised by the military, from the payment of the entertainment tax. Exemption from the payment of this tax has also been granted to the armed forces in uniform while attending cinema shows in the Garrison Theatre at Shillong.

The Government of India had been pressing us to exempt from taxation aviation spirit sold in Assam as it is very necessary to develop air traffic in Assam and as the air companies operating in Assam are suffering losses. Hence this Government granted a rebate of 50 per cent. of sale tax on aviation spirit sold to air companies operating services in Assam, but the Government of India are pressing us to give cent per cent. exemption. The matter is still under consideration.

Revenue.—It is not unknown to the hon'ble Members of this House that this Government being a Government of the people are keenly alive to the problem of rehabilitation of landless people in the State of Assam. Government have therefore been issuing instructions to the local officers ever since 1946 for settlement of waste land with landless and flood affected people of this State. Between April 1950 and December 1950, 9,839 bighas of village grazing grounds and 29,174 bighas of professional grazing reserves were settled with such people. Besides upto September 1950, about 6,300 people were given settlement of waste lands in 37,290 bighas in different districts in addition to the areas made available by opening reserves. The number of such people increased due to the recent earthquake and floods. To help these unfortunate people Government promptly instructed the Deputy Commissioner, Lakhimpur, and the Subdivisional Officer, North Lakhimpur, to open about 45,000 bighas of land in Rupahi (N. C.), Borbil, Boginadi professional grazing reserve, Bokanadi (N. C.), Gamnadi (N. C.), Nematenga (N. C.), and Subansiri Forest Reserve and the work of their rehabilitation is in progress.

This year an area of 6,230 bighas was dereserved from Borjari and Khorajan professional grazing reserve and is being settled under the Development Rate Scheme. Last year an area of about 33,000 bighas was opened up at Mangaldai under this scheme. This year a scheme has been drawn up for tractor operation, water-supply, medical relief, etc. and two Co-operative Societies formed by landless indigenous people have been given 1,300 bighas of land in this area.

Under the provisions of the Assam Land Requisition and Acquisition Act, 1948, about 70,170 bighas of surplus land mainly owned by tea estates have already been requisitioned. Uptil 31st January 1951, an area of 15,408 bighas have been settled with 1,703 indigenous landless and flood affected people and 27,689 bighas have been allotted to 2,001 refugees. Local officers are requisitioning more lands for these purposes.

The colonisation system was introduced during the Line System days by the British Government in the districts of Darrang, Nowgong and Kamrup for settlement of land with East Bengal immigrants. Government have already ordered winding up of the scheme and the scheme has since been wound up in Nowgong and Darrang. In Barpeta, it is being wound up now.

Rehabilitation of Refugees.—Besides allotting lands to landless indigenous people of the State as stated above large areas of lands have been made available for settlement with refugees and in Barpeta Subdivision alone an area of 28,000 bighas in Baghbar Circle has been allotted for this purpose.

Resettlement Operation.—The re-settlement operations which started in 1948 in Cachar and Gauhati town are now progressing according to schedule. Similar operations in the immature areas of Kamrup, Nowgong, Darrang and Sibsagar are being initiated this cold weather. In spite of various difficulties Government have taken up resettlement operations in these areas to remove the existing disparities in assessment of similar lands.

Zamindari.—The Assam State Acquisition of Zamindaries Bill which was passed by this House in March 1949 was submitted to the Government of India for obtaining assent of the President but it has been returned by the President with a message suggesting some amendments of certain clauses. In pursuance of this His Excellency the Governor has returned the Bill with a message for consideration of these amendments by this House. This Bill with the amendments suggested by the President will be placed before the House in the Session.

Pending acquisition of zamindaries under this Act, the State Government decided to take over management of three estates, *viz.*, Gauripur, Bijni and Chapar in the Goalpara District with effect from the 16th June 1950 under the Assam Management of Estates Act, 1949. Necessary orders were issued and all arrangements were complete when an order came from the Hon'ble Assam High Court staying our hands till disposal of appeals filed by the proprietors concerned.

The fee simple and other assessable revenue-free waste land grants which were assessed at a flat rate of rupee one per acre for 1948-49 and 1949-50 under the Assam Revenue-Free Waste Land Grants Act, 1948, have since been assessed at a

rate equal to that applicable to similar class of land in the neighbourhood with effect from 1st April 1950 till the expiry of the settlement current in the respective districts.

With a view to protect the interest of the tenants of urban areas, the Assam Non-Agricultural Urban Areas Tenancy Bill, 1950, as amended by the Select Committee, was introduced and passed in the September Session, 1950 and is awaiting the President's assent.

The existing fishery rules and executive instructions have been recast with a view to develop the dying-out fisheries, utilise old and abandoned tanks, to protect existing fisheries and for clearance of water hyacinth from the beel fisheries, creation of sanctuaries and declaration of closed seasons, etc. The draft rules were published for criticism. The criticisms received are being examined now.

In connection with the relief of distress due to flood and other natural calamities a sum of Rs.1,10,000 was provided for gratuitous relief in the current year's Budget. Another sum of Rs.2,55,000 was also provided for agricultural loans. Due to severe damages by the recent earthquake, supplementary grants of Rs.10,75,000 for gratuitous relief and Rs.10,00,000 for agricultural loans were obtained during the last session of the Assembly. Out of these grants sanctions have been given to the extent of Rs.2,78,272 for gratuitous relief and Rs.7,06,250 for agricultural loan up to 11th January 1951. Demands for more money in both the items are being received almost every day and it is likely that the whole of these two grants will be spent up. Government have daily received petitions from the unfortunate people of earthquake and flood-affected areas for remission of land revenue and the case is under active and sympathetic examination of the Government now.

Public Works Department.—An important feature of the Civil Works Budget for the year 1951-52 is that the approval of the Government of India was asked for a programme of road development to be financed from Assam's share of the Central Road Fund. The approval was received. This programme, expected to cost nearly Rs.62 lakhs will be confined to those post-war road projects on which more than 49 per cent. of work was done but which had to be suddenly stopped owing to curtailment of expenditure in all directions as an anti-inflationary measure as advised by the Government of India. The programme includes a sum of Rs.5,00,000 to be spent on

the Shillong-Silchar Road for completion of the remaining items of work so as to make it a fair weather road for light traffic, the completion of the road as originally planned having been given up on India's advice. The whole programme is expected to be completed within two years. The details are given in †Appendix. The scheme has been approved.

Provision for a sum of Rs.11.3 lakhs has also been assured, for a road development programme in the autonomous districts by the Government of India as grant-in-aid to the State under Article 275 of the Constitution of India.

For improvement of communications in the surplus paddy growing areas and for better procurement of rice and paddy, a programme of development of roads in surplus areas, costing nearly Rs.15 lakhs has been drawn up. The cost is to be met out of the food bonus earned by the State. A sum of Rs.7 lakhs is expected to be spent on this account during the current financial year and the balance in the next year. The details are given in ††Appendix.

The next important item in the Public Works Department work is the Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Projects connected with "Intensive cultivation" and "Food Bonus" schemes under "Grow-More-Food" campaign. These projects cover an expenditure of over one crore and 6 lakhs spread over a period terminating in March 1953.

POST-WAR ROAD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Communications.—A programme of road development was drawn up in 1946 which envisaged an expenditure of Rs.5 crores over a period of 5 years. The estimated cost was based at 50 per cent. higher than the average pre-war rates of the three years ending 1939-40. In course of execution the total estimated cost had to be revised to Rs.760 lakhs in 1948 on the basis of tenders received and of prevailing rates of labour and material. The programme aimed at construction of new roads as also improvement of existing roads to a higher and better standard. This scheme also embraced a large bridging programme and visualised elimination of most of the ferries, which are hindering through traffic at the present. The plan aimed at the development of approximately 525 miles of

†See Appendix A.

††See Appendix B.

district roads and 1,400 miles of village roads. It also included strengthening or reconstruction of existing bridges and construction of about 225 new bridges of 100 feet and over.

The execution of the programme was commenced in 1946-47 but was suspended temporarily in July 1947 due to partition of the country. By November 1947 work was resumed but the department could not go very much ahead with the implementation of the scheme due to shortage of technical staff and lack of controlled commodities like cement and steel, which were difficult to obtain due to transport difficulties at the time, as also due to scarcity of labour. The Government of Assam had to push on with the work under all these handicaps and were able to take up improvement or construction of 1,040 miles of road (district roads 247 miles in plains and village roads 519 miles in plains and 274 miles in hill areas) from 1946 to the end of 1948.

About 65 roads covering a mileage of 675 were taken up for improvement during 1946-47 while 21 roads covering a mileage of about 200 were taken up during 1947-48 and about 165 miles of road during 1948-49. Of these Medhipara-Phulbari-Tura road, about 78 miles in length, was constructed and opened to vehicular traffic in 1948-49 and 13 miles of roads were blacktopped while 197 miles of road were improved by gravelling. Earthwork, in raising and widening, was completed on about 400 miles of roads while works on little over 400 miles roads were at various stages of improvement, when further work on all post-war projects had to be slowed down by beginning of January 1949, and ultimately stopped in May 1949, due to curtailment of development grants from the Government of India.

The following roads in the plains tribal areas are proposed for improvement. The cost is roughly estimated at about Rs.30 lakhs, but the programme awaits approval of the Government of India.

DARRANG

1. Rowta-Orang Road—7 miles.

KAMRUP

2. Nagrijuli-Atherikhat Road—9 miles.
3. Barmara-Dhamdhama Road—7 miles.
4. Jallah-Kaklabari Road—13 miles.

GOALPARA

5. Chapaguri-Garubhasa Road—17 miles.
6. Sidli-Basugaon Road—6 miles.
7. Basbari-Jaldoba-Tamarhat Road—12 miles.

LAKHIMPUR

8. Chaldhoa-Sonarigaon Road—32 miles.

It is gratifying to note that the Government of India have approved the construction of the Shillong-Jowai-Badarpur Road, 132 miles long, as an alternative to the longer route *via* Jowai and Haflong on which the State Government had to bear $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of the expenditure. The entire cost of construction of the new road will be borne by the Government of India.

The Government of India have also agreed to pay $\frac{2}{3}$ rd share of the cost of construction of the Shillong-Silchar Road under the old alignment till work was stopped in October 1949. That share comes to over 86 lakhs of which credit of 86 lakhs has already been given to Assam.

In the current year the Government have taken up the following road projects to be financed from the Motor Vehicle Taxation Fund under which there is a provision of 3 lakhs in this Budget.

	Rs.
(1) Improving a portion of Babupatty Dhali in Sibsagar.	29,829
(2) Improvement of a portion of Mohanbari aerodrome road.	20,000
(3) Improving $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile of J. B. Road (Jorhat).	78,485
(4) Construction of pucca drain on both sides of Dhodar Ali.	7,305
(5) A portion of No-Ali (Jorhat) ...	27,000
(6) Gravelling Nalbari-Dhamdama Road ..	50,000
(7) Improving Hajo-Mukalmowa Road ...	1,00,000
(8) Improving North Salmara-Abhayapuri Road.	25,000
(9) Black-topping a portion of Mangaldai-Tangla Road.	30,000
(10) Metalling and black-topping S. T. Road (Badarpur).	12,800

Besides taking up completion of roads, as shown in †Appendix, from our share in the Petrol Tax Fund, the Government have also sanctioned completing the incomplete work on the following six roads :—

- | | | |
|---|---|--------------------|
| (1) Amingaon-Hajo Road | } | Kamrup District. |
| (2) Pathsala-Sarthebari Road | | |
| (3) Namati-Mosalpur Road | | |
| (4) Dhodar Ali | } | Sibsagar District. |
| (5) Borpatra Ali | | |
| (6) Basanghat-Bharagaon Road (Nowgong). | | |

The estimated cost is Rs.13,22,000 with an expenditure of Rs.1,90,000 in the current year.

Furthermore, Government have in the current year sanctioned taking over 14 new roads for improvement at a cost of Rs.33,62,000 to be met out of State revenues. The expenditure incurred this year is estimated at Rs.1,50,000. Details are given in ††Appendix.

As is well known to this House some roads were badly damaged by the earthquake and the floods. Government have sanctioned extensive repairs to the following six roads.—

	Estimated cost	Expenditure in 1950-51
	Rs.	Rs.
(1) North Trunk road between North Lakhimpur and Chaldhoa.	7,00,000	1,50,000
(2) North Trunk road between North Lakhimpur and Narayanpur.	3,76,500	1,50,000
(3) North Lakhimpur-Kamalabari road	3,72,000	1,00,000
(4) Rangijan road	50,000	15,000
(5) Bihpuria-Badati road	7,400	7,400
(6) Guijan-Markongselek road ...	3,30,000	1,50,000

Government have also decided to take over the Rupshi airfield and maintain it. Work for constructing an air strip in Mawphlang is already under way.

†See Appendix A
††See Appendix C

POST-WAR DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (BUILDINGS)

Assam Medical College at Dibrugarh.—Buildings projects estimated at Rs.1,12,85,000 (including Rs.24,38,000 for residential buildings) were framed by Government. The scheme, for the present, is being reduced to the extent of Rs.64.40 lakhs including works to the value of Rs.28.40 lakhs already completed.

Basic Education Buildings.—The following Basic Education Buildings costing Rs.9,12,050 upto March 1950 have been completed :—

						Rs.
(i)	Sapatgram	...	...	...	...	1,35,093
(ii)	Howli	...	...	...	...	1,48,865
(iii)	Charali	...	...	...	...	1,17,457
(iv)	Sootea	...	...	...	...	1,77,869
(v)	Khowang	...	...	...	...	2,08,086
(vi)	Udharband	...	...	...	...	1,24,680
						9,12,050

Some further expenditure of a little over 1,00,000 (one lakh) is being incurred against some of these institutions during the current year 1950-51 to eliminate any deficiency and wants to their proper functioning.

The construction of a new re-inforced concrete building for the accommodation of the Assam Secretariat has been in progress since 1948 and is expected to be completed within a few months. The estimated cost, inclusive of sanitary plumbing, electrical and heating arrangement is Rs.20,00,000 lakhs against which an expenditure of Rs.8,15,000 (Rupees eight lakhs fifteen thousand) has been booked upto September 1950.

Reconstruction of Kohima town.—A grant of Rs.15 lakhs was received from the Government of India in 1946 for the reconstruction of Kohima town destroyed by enemy action during the war.

The high school, Deputy Commissioner's residence and office, combined circuit house and dak bungalow, Executive Engineer's office, police station, police officer's quarters and certain married men's quarters and the jail buildings are the main items most of which have been completed or are nearing completion. The scheme for water supply at Kohima is also envisaged to be undertaken next year.

A direction has been received from the Central Government that as far as possible new capital expenditure should be avoided. Hence the Public Works Department has been directed to complete incomplete buildings before taking up new works as far as possible.

Due to unavoidable necessity, however, Government had to provide for certain new buildings, which are inescapable for next year. They include buildings of the Assam Medical College about which mention has been made elsewhere and buildings for Mokokchung high school, Cotton College hostels and Cotton College science laboratories, details of which will be found in the list of New Schemes.

AUTONOMOUS DISTRICTS

Despite the anxiety of Government to constitute the District Councils in the six autonomous districts at the earliest, it has not been possible so far to hold the elections to these bodies. The rules governing the composition of, the conduct of elections to, and the procedure and conduct of business in, the various District Councils, as also the establishment of an executive machinery to implement the decisions of the Councils have already been drafted. These draft rules have been forwarded to the various Advisory Councils for their comments, and will be finalised in the near future. The House is aware that Advisory Councils were set up last year in five out of the six autonomous districts in consultation with the principal tribal organisations and political bodies in the respective areas, with the intention, that they should serve as provisional District Councils during the interim period. I am glad to be able to say that the Advisory Councils have been functioning satisfactorily, and played an important part in shaping the decisions of Government in regard to the affairs of the autonomous districts. Apart from the time taken for the drafting and scrutiny of the rules for the constitution of the District Councils, there have been other weighty reasons for the delay in holding elections to these bodies. Among these may be mentioned the delay evinced by some of the Advisory Councils in delimiting the constituencies for the District Council elections, the need for the adjustment of the boundaries of some of the autonomous districts on a more scientific and ethnological basis before the delimitation of constituencies, the delay in the finalisation and printing of the electoral rolls for elections to the State Legislature and Parliament which are to be used as the electoral

rolls for the District Council elections, and the various essential preliminaries which have to be gone through before elections on the basis of adult suffrage can be held in the remote hilly areas virtually lacking in communications. Government have, however, decided that these elections should be held early during the next cold weather, and preparations to this end are in progress.

2. Elsewhere I have made a brief reference to the slow progress of the development schemes which have been started in the six autonomous districts and financed out of the grants made available by the Government of India under Article 275 of the Constitution. This has been due to the delay in receipt of the approval of the Government of India to the implementation of the schemes formulated by the State Government, and the inherent difficulties in implementing such schemes in hill areas. Survey and alignment of hill roads is a difficult task, and the preparation of detailed estimates based on the survey necessarily takes a long time. These estimates have to be scrutinised and sanctioned by Government before work can be started on the project. The collection of materials, their transport to the sites of work and the mobilisation of the necessary labour have presented many difficulties. In these circumstances, it is inevitable that an appreciable portion of the development grant will lapse this year but as I have already indicated, Government are hopeful that the funds surrendered during the current year will be re-allotted next year so as to enable us to complete the schemes already undertaken, in addition to what would otherwise be allotted for new projects. The schemes of development already started include the construction of some vital roads like the Dwarbund-Aijal road, the Amguri-Mokokchung road, and the Mawphlang-Balat road, the provincialisation of some schools, the grant of enhanced financial aid to private educational institutions, grant of a large number of scholarships to tribal students, establishment of hospitals and dispensaries, improvement of communications in forest reserves, development of cottage industries and the establishment of co-operative institutions, and the setting up of a shellac factory in the Mikir Hills.

3. I am happy to be able to inform the House that the trade across the border with Pakistan, which practically came to a standstill last year, has shown signs of revival. Thanks to the Prime Ministers' Agreement, and the efforts of our Hon'ble Chief Minister, there has been an appreciable volume of trade in oranges, tezpat, betel leaves, fish, poultry and eggs across the Khasi Hills-Pakistan border. The economic condition of our

people in the border areas of the Khasi Hills is, therefore, better. I wish I could make the same observation in respect of the people in the border areas of the Lushai Hills and Garo Hills but unfortunately in these areas conditions are not yet satisfactory. As during last year arrangements were made for the transport of oranges by air to Calcutta from the airstrip at Shella, which was revived during the current year by the voluntary free labour of the local people. The House will be glad to learn that the Government of India have recently taken in hand the improvement of this airfield by paving it with perforated steel plates so as to make it serviceable throughout the year. Recently the construction of another airfield at Mawphlang near Shillong was inaugurated by His Excellency the Governor. When this airfield is completed, Shillong, the Capital of our State, will find a place in the aerial map of the world.

4. The hon'ble members are perhaps aware that a proposal for the transfer of the plains areas of the frontier tracts to normal administration has been under the consideration of Government for sometime. The people inhabiting these plains areas are not hill tribals, and have much in common with the people in the rest of the plains areas of the State. The proposal to transfer these plains areas to normal administration under the State Government has been approved by the President, and steps are under way to incorporate these areas in the adjoining districts of Lakhimpur and Darrang. Inhabitants of these areas will, therefore, for the first time in history exercise their rights of franchise at the forthcoming General Elections.

Grow-More-Food schemes.—Twenty-four Grow-More-Food schemes are under operation at present. The Minor Irrigation Project Scheme had a target of 954 projects to benefit 238,000 acres and to produce 32,000 tons of extra foodgrains. Only 904 projects could be completed. The Power Pump Irrigation Scheme aimed at having 21 pumps in the current year to benefit 1,260 acres. Of these 12 pumps have been installed and about 300 acres are being benefited. Due to engine troubles and communal disturbances in the early part of 1950, the target could not be achieved. The Major Irrigation Project Scheme completed 13 projects in the current year and an area of 55,500 acres are expected to be benefited. The Mechanized Cultivation Scheme aimed at reclaiming 15,000 acres of waste land in the current year but only about 3,000 acres could be ploughed and about 5,500 harrowed due mainly to all the tractors not being in working order owing to non-availability of spare parts and want of trained personnel. Under the Seed

Multiplication and Distribution Scheme, 11,032 tons of improved seeds were distributed, and an area of over 15,000 acres covered. Under the Oil Cake Distribution Scheme up till December last, over 14 tons of oil cake were distributed. Manure Manufacturing and Distributing Scheme aims at manufacturing 55,000 tons of compost from refuse and to procure 995 tons of bone meal. Up till December 1950 about 12,000 tons of compost were manufactured and over 46 tons of bone meal distributed.

Two fisheries schemes—one financed from loan and one from revenue—are in progress. Satisfactory progress has been made in collecting fries and distributing them.

Under Major Irrigation Scheme, 16 projects were already started. Of these 3 were completed and 3 are about to be completed. Satisfactory progress has been made in others. These schemes are estimated to cost Rs.38,50,000 and to benefit 140,000 acres which should yield an additional food crop of 31,500 tons. Estimates have been prepared for 13 other schemes to cost Rs.29,36,000 to benefit over 1 lakh acres and to yield over 22,000 tons of food-grains. Some of the estimates have been sanctioned and some are under scrutiny. Survey has been started for 18 more schemes to benefit an area of over 118,000 acres.

Under the new procedure laid down by Government of India, the whole expenditure of the Grow-More-Food schemes is first debited to the food bonus accruing to the State. Only the balance, if any, not covered by the food bonus is shared between the Centre and the State in the ratio 2:1 respectively. It is proposed to continue these Grow-More-Food schemes next year and to add upon them.

Food and Civil Supply.—Last year it was decided to export a quantity of rice to some parts of Indian Union to help the Central Government in meeting the grave food crisis in those areas, as there was a good harvest in Assam and a consequent surplus was expected. Accordingly 270,100 maunds of rice were exported out of Assam, and then suddenly there occurred an unexpected and great upheaval to upset the entire position—the influx of lakhs of refugees from East Pakistan. To add to the great burden thrown on us to feed these new-comers, the unfortunate communal disturbances that occurred inside our State led to the destruction of a very large quantity of paddy in the fields and granaries besides stoppage of cultivation in a vast area of land. After the Delhi Pact almost all the migrating

Muslims returned back to be fed from our meagre resources but the immigrating Hindus stayed behind. Thus the double responsibility of feeding the new coming-Hindus and the returning Muslims devolved on the Government. Government were striving hard to meet this difficult situation when came the great earthquake of August 1950. It destroyed not only the standing harvest but also the granaries. It became necessary to rush in foodstuffs to the affected areas. Under these circumstances the scheme of procurement was strained almost to the breaking point and Government would not have been able to honour all their commitments but for the timely and generous help received from outside. The Government of India allotted an aggregate quantity of 193,590 maunds of wheat and 121,500 maunds of rice in addition to the usual monthly quota of 44,982 maunds of wheat. Besides this, foodstuffs were received as gifts from Pakistan, Patiala, Kashmir and the Punjab. I take this opportunity of thanking these States on behalf of our Government and our people for the very generous and timely help given by them. I also express the thanks of the country and of the Government to the Railways for bearing half the transport charges for these commodities. The total quantity of rice thus received as gift and purchased by Government from outside amounts to 2,462 tons.

The landed cost of the rice received from India would have been much higher than the controlled price but it was decided to sell the commodity at controlled price and the difference was to be borne by Government.

A Procurement target of 74,25,000 maunds has been made for the next kharif year (November 1950 to October 1951), but due to the consequences of the earthquake and the floods and the damage caused by drought and insects in certain parts of Assam it may not be possible to fulfil this target. Every effort is however being made to go as near as possible to the target and with that end in view the following course of action is being adopted.

(1) Very strict measures are contemplated against hoarding, profiteering and smuggling. To provide for severe penalties food laws have been amended. Resort is being taken to seize unduly hoarded foodstuff even with police help.

(2) An Enforcement Branch and a Border Security Force are being created under the Police Department to prevent smuggling and other corrupt practices.

(3) About Rs.5 lakhs have been sanctioned for the construction of godowns in surplus areas for better storage of food-grains.

(4) A scheme of developing communication in surplus areas has been undertaken at a cost of Rs.15 lakhs.

(5) Procurement officers have been placed under the administrative control of the Deputy Commissioners and the Subdivisional Officers as the case may be.

(6) Certain new sub-areas have been created for achieving better procurement and certain extra staff have been sanctioned.

The schemes of requisitioning hoarded stock, isolation of surplus areas and bringing more areas and industries within Government commitments to eliminate competition and disturbances of the market have been made more comprehensive by setting off paddy grown by tea garden labourers against their ration, creating smaller procurement units with a single government purchasing agent in order to eliminate competition, enforcing strict movement control by establishing check gates and restricting rights of producers and consumers as regards the possession and disposal of foodgrains. The Assam Foodstuffs (Foodgrains) Control Order, 1951, has been promulgated to make the scheme more effective and more powers have been given to the district officers to tighten up procurement. Yet despite all these measures it is not likely that Government will be able to reach the target and discharge their responsibility as the yield of the last harvest was very unsatisfactory in the State. There are several factors also militating against this—(1) fear of communal disturbance (2) encroachment of paddy lands by money crops like jute (3) vast areas rendered uncultivable by the great earthquake and the floods.

There had been an enormous increase of the mouths to be fed. According to the 1941 census the population of present Assam was estimated at 74,60,537. Taking the normal rate of increase at 18.2 per cent. per decade the indigenous population of Assam now stands at 85 lakhs.

The number of Muslim immigrants migrating into Assam since 1941 and the increase by birth since then should be in the neighbourhood of 10 lakhs. The number of Hindu refugees from East Bengal as registered up till November last is 525,000, but there is no doubt that a very considerable number has not

been registered. There are several lakhs of such refugees who have migrated into Assam and are finding either shelter with their relations and friends already in Assam or are eking out an existence for themselves in the various trades, professions, employments and even in cultivation. Their number will be not inconsiderable even at a moderate estimate. Some $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs of people bordering on Pakistan formerly fed themselves by trade with East Pakistan as they cannot grow any foodgrains but due to stoppage of trade with Pakistan this number has added to the liability of the Government.

The acute food crisis during the last kharif year is having its effect on this year's procurement. Last year's experience has changed the psychology of the producers and the consumers resulting in extensive withholding of stocks in expectation of higher prices and scarcity during the rains. The intensive propaganda by some political parties urging the producers not to part with foodgrains at controlled rates is also aggravating the situation.

The monthly commitments of Government in respect of rice is about 16,000 tons but our rate of procurement since November last is hardly sufficient to meet even 50 per cent. of the commitments. The year 1950 opened with Government stock of 25,723 tons. The current year opened with a stock of only 6,895 tons. The total procurement during the months of November and December 1949 and January 1950 was 65,531 tons. Against that for the same period during the current kharif year the procurement is only 26,160 tons. In spite of stringent Control Order enforced from 1st January 1951 and considerable stiffening of the procurement scheme the rate of government procurement remains alarmingly low.

The circumstances thus explained have compelled this Government to ask India for an immediate supply of 20,000 tons of rice even as a loan, to help Assam to build up a stock to ease the situation, but the Government of India do not agree. Unlike other years, scarcity from both non-rationed rural areas and urban areas is being reported. As a result Government have been compelled to undertake additional liabilities. Till now the demands of all rationed and non-rationed rural and urban areas as also of all industries except the tea garden are being met by issuing a composite ration of atta and rice but the stocks everywhere, specially of the tea gardens, are fast disappearing as the rate of supply has not been able to keep pace with the rate of issues. Excepting in a few surplus areas

the prices of paddy and rice are ruling at Rs.3 to Rs.5 and at Rs.7 to Rs.9 higher than the controlled rates for paddy and rice respectively. Assam has been allotted by the Government of India 2,000 tons of wheat per month and the available surplus from the Manipur and the Tripura States. The Tripura State has pleaded inability to supply more than 5,000 maunds. The Manipur State is still declaring her inability to supply anything. The barter deal with East Pakistan for 20,000 maunds of rice in exchange of 10,000 tons of Assam coal as arranged through Indian Tea Association is making progress. A second deal for 30,000 maunds of rice for 15,000 tons of coal has been finalised and movement will start immediately. India has cut down our wheat allotment for the current month by 1,000 tons. The total monthly commitment in respect of the Indian Tea Association gardens is 10,200 tons of which the monthly requirement for Sibsagar district and the Dibrugarh subdivision alone is 6,000 tons. If the Government of India would undertake the responsibility of meeting the rice requirement of the tea circle of Dibrugarh and Sibsagar district it is expected that the situation in Assam would considerably improve and normally the Government of India would not perhaps be required to supply more than 25,000 tons and 20 per cent. to 25 per cent. of this may be supplied in wheat. This is considered to be the minimum help which the Government of India should extend towards Assam to save her from starvation. Thus it will be seen that the food situation in Assam is really alarming. Government have given topmost priority to procurement and supply and utmost attention is being given to overcome the apprehended crisis. The price of rice and paddy is being increased to some extent to induce the people to part with their stocks. Appeal is issued to the public to extend their co-operation as without it the scheme of procurement does not stand any chance of success. On the floor of the House I again make this fervent appeal on behalf of Government for public co-operation in our efforts to overcome the apprehended food crisis. I am confident that the hon'ble members of the House will do all that is possible for them to make our efforts a success. I hope and believe that the difficulties of the situation and the efforts of the Government will be appreciated by all.

Sugar, Cement and Salt.—The allotment of sugar, cement and salt by the Government of India appear to be about adequate but transport difficulties are causing occasional local scarcity.

Iron and Steel Materials.—There is acute scarcity of corrugated iron sheets throughout Assam. This is due to the reason that the allotment to Assam is meagre. Even this meagre quantity cannot be fully lifted sometime due to transport difficulties. Besides the normal periodical allotment of iron and steel goods, this Government has succeeded in obtaining *ad hoc* quota of 4,000 tons of corrugated iron sheets for helping the procurement drive and three thousand tons of corrugated iron sheets and one lakh feet of pipes and 400 tons of rods for earthquake and flood relief.

REHABILITATION OF EARTHQUAKE-AFFECTED PEOPLE

I have described elsewhere the steps taken by the different departments to meet the situation arising out of the earthquake and floods. The immediate emergency arising out of the earthquake and floods is now over, and the present problem is one of rehabilitation of the large number of people who have been uprooted from their homes and cultivation. In all about 18,000 families in the North Lakhimpur subdivision, 12,000 families in the Dibrugarh subdivision and 24,000 families in the plains portion of the Mishmi Hills and Abor Hills have to be rehabilitated in new areas. These people are agriculturists and so the problem of their rehabilitation resolves itself into one of finding them land for their homesteads and for their cultivation, and of providing them with seeds, agricultural implements and plough cattle, and the means of subsistence to carry on till the next harvest. Government have already allotted lands to these uprooted families in Unclassed State Forests, and areas dereserved from forest and grazing reserves, and requisitioned from tea garden waste lands. Loans both in cash and in the form of seeds, implements and plough cattle have been distributed on a wide scale. The rehabilitation of these people at the new sites is being supervised by a special relief staff and by experienced relief workers deputed by the executive committee of the Governor's Relief Fund. Due to the reluctance of the people to leave the areas where they have been living for generations, the non-availability of local labour for jungle cutting and the virtual absence of communications in the affected areas for the transport of materials essentially required for rehabilitation, the relief officers and their staff are finding the task extremely difficult. But despite all these handicaps, rehabilitation is progressing satisfactorily in most areas. In some areas the people have already raised good crops on their new lands.

6. The Government of India have allotted a special quota of 3,000 tons of corrugated iron sheets to our State for rehabilitation purposes. A part of this quota is earmarked for free distribution to deserving persons and the rest will be sold at a concessional rate to deserving persons recommended by the relief workers and local officers. The expenditure on account of the free distribution and the concessional sale will be borne by the Governor's Relief Fund. Nearly two-thirds of this quota have already been despatched from the factory and over 1,200 tons have reached the affected areas. The distribution to individual families is in progress. Throughout, the task of rendering relief to the earthquake and flood-affected people, and their rehabilitation in new sites, has been shared between Government and the Governor's Earthquake Relief Fund. Shortly after the tragic disaster of the 15th of August, it was decided to open a fund to be known as the Governor's Earthquake Relief Fund for the relief and rehabilitation of those who had been rendered destitute, homeless and landless, and who had suffered in other ways. Nationwide appeals were issued by the President, the Prime Minister, the late-lamented Deputy Prime Minister, His Excellency the Governor, and our Hon'ble Chief Minister for liberal contributions to the Relief Fund, both in cash and in kind, for the alleviation of distress and suffering in our State. These appeals met with generous response from the rich and the poor, the prince and the peasant, all over the country and in distant places abroad and upto the 15th February 1951, the total donations received in cash and credited to the Fund amount to Rs.59,46,902-12-2. In addition, the value of gifts received by the Relief Fund mainly in the form of rice, foodstuffs, yarn, cloth, woollen clothing and blankets amounts to Rs.8,80,500. Thakkar Bapa, that great savant of humanity whose death we mourned only yesterday, deputed a band of tried workers, with considerable experience of the organisation of relief in other national calamities, for relief work in the affected areas. These friends have been of invaluable help to us throughout these days of stress and strain, in rendering relief and succour to those who stand in dire need of them, both in the plains and in the distant hills. The responsibility for the distribution of relief from the Governor's Relief Fund has been entrusted to this band of workers. It is now common knowledge that well known Relief organisations like the Marwari Relief Society, the Kashi Biswanath Seva Samity, the Srimanta Sankar Mission, and the Rama Krishna Mission rushed men and materials to the worst affected areas soon after the earthquake in a determined effort to fight human suffering. I must, in this connection, refer to the

tragic boat accident which took a toll of six precious human lives, in which my valued friend and colleague the Hon'ble Omeo Kumar Das was involved, when some of the princes among social service workers were trying to cross the angry waters of the Brahmaputra on their bold mission of mercy to render relief to some of the villagers marooned on the north bank. To all those who have contributed so liberally to the Governor's Relief Fund, to all the selfless workers who came to our State from far and wide and threw themselves heart and soul in their efforts to alleviate the sufferings and distress of our people, to the Congress volunteers who organised relief in the remote villages and instilled courage into the people at a time when their spirits were at a low ebb, to the tea garden authorities in the affected areas who helped in the restoration of communications and assisted in the relief operations, to the Assam Rifles and the Army who organised rescue squads, repaired roads and bridges, and constructed landing fields for air craft, and to the men of the Indian Air Force who braved many a risk and the treacherous weather to rush supplies to the remote areas, where they were badly needed, our heartfelt thanks are due.

RELIEF AND REHABILITATION OF DISPLACED PERSONS IN ASSAM

Statistics of Displaced Persons.—According to the census taken in July 1949, there were about 24,600 families consisting of 114,500 "old" displaced persons in Assam.

During the period 1st January 1950 to 31st December 1950 about 4 lakhs of "new" displaced persons came to this State. About 55,000 "old" and about 228,000 "new" displaced persons are in the district of Cachar where responsibility for relief and rehabilitation work has been taken over by the Central Government direct.

During the last communal disturbances in February and March 1950, about 52,700 families of Indian Muslims are estimated to have been displaced in Assam. Of these about 34,100 families consisting of about 119,000 persons are known to have migrated to Pakistan.

As a result of the Indo-Pakistan Agreement of April 1950, most of the displaced Muslims have returned. It is estimated that up to 31st December 1950, about 41,000 families consisting of 129,000 persons including those who were hanging around in

the State have come back to their original homes in Assam. The number of Hindu displaced persons who returned from Assam to East Bengal was only about 23,300 during the same period.

Progress of Relief Work.—To give succour to the “new” refugees who began pouring into the State in large numbers, relief camps were opened in March last in all the border districts and in some of the interior districts like Kamrup and Nowgong.

Excluding the Cachar district there were in the State in April 1950 28 camps sheltering about 18,600 displaced persons. By the 1st of January 1951, this number had come down to about 3,500 accommodated in seven camps. Of these about 600 were either unattached women, children or infirm persons.

Up to the end of December 1950, about Rs.12,96,000 had been spent on feeding and clothing of displaced persons ; transport, accommodation and medical charges came to Rs.3,95,000 nearly.

Progress of Rehabilitation.—According to the estimates made by the district officers about 7,000 families of “old” and about 6,000 families of “new” displaced persons have rehabilitated themselves through their own efforts, either as “adhiars” on land or in trades and professions in urban or rural areas of the State (excluding Cachar).

State aid towards rehabilitation has been in the shape of loans according to scales laid down for trades, professions and industry in urban areas and for agricultural and non-agricultural pursuits in rural areas. These loans provide also for construction of a small house in rural areas and for the maintenance charges of the family for the first few months before it becomes self-supporting.

In April last when evacuation of large areas by the Muslims created a serious problem for the State Government it was decided that the “new” agriculturist refugees should be temporarily rehabilitated on these lands for the purpose of either looking after the standing crops or of sowing new crops. About 7,600 families of displaced persons from East Bengal were temporarily rehabilitated under this scheme. These lands are now being restored to the Muslim owners on their return and the refugee occupants are being given lands elsewhere for permanent rehabilitation.

Apart from the above, about 2,600 families of displaced persons from East Bengal had been rehabilitated upto the end of December 1950 through the agency of the State Government—of these about 1,560 families were helped with loans for settling on land, about 750 families in trades and professions and about 290 in Government or private employment.

The total amount issued on rehabilitation loans upto 31st December 1950, came to about Rs.9,36,000 of which about Rs.5,07,000 was issued in urban areas.

Rehabilitation Schemes for Refugees.—The Government of India have sanctioned a scheme for permanent rehabilitation of 2,400 families of agriculturist refugees in the Barpeta subdivision at a total estimated cost of Rs.25 lakhs approximately and another scheme for 200 families of agriculturists in Rangia circle of Gauhati subdivision at a total cost of about Rs.2¼ lakhs. These two schemes are being implemented from December last.

It has been agreed that 1,400 agriculturist refugees from Assam will be permanently rehabilitated on land in Manipur State. The first few batches of refugees under this scheme have already left for Manipur.

Two other schemes for agriculturist refugees have been sent to the Government of India for approval—one for 2,500 families to be permanently rehabilitated in lands available from the zamindari estates of the Goalpara district and the other for 200 families in the Nowgong district on surplus lands available from tea gardens. These schemes are estimated to cost about Rs.25 lakhs and Rs.1¾ lakhs respectively.

A scheme for rehabilitation of about 800 families of rural non-agriculturists costing in all about Rs.4 lakhs has been sanctioned for the Goalpara district and is being implemented from December last. Similar schemes are awaiting sanction for Kamrup and Nowgong districts.

Among the schemes for technical and vocational training of displaced persons may be mentioned the Jorhat scheme under which 76 refugee trainees are being taught useful crafts in the Industrial training institute run by the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment at Jorhat, the Nowgong scheme under which 20 refugee girls are being given “dhai” training at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at Nowgong and the Paper training centre, Shillong, where instruction in paper-making, printing and book-binding is being imparted to 20 refugee trainees.

Four schemes for establishment of training *cum* work centres at Shillong, Gauhati, Rupshi and Bhalukmari have been sent to the Government of India and are awaiting their approval and financial sanction. The total number of displaced persons expected to be given training in these four centres is about 800 to 1,000.

The Government of India have already sanctioned establishment of a Women's Home at Gauhati for accommodating about 100 unattached women and children. The Home is expected to be established at a very early date. Such a destitute Home has already been established at Rupshi where about 90 unattached women and children are being looked after and are taught useful arts and crafts like spinning, weaving, etc. Another proposal for establishment of a similar Home at Nowgong is at present under correspondence with the Government of India.

As regards the education of displaced children, a scheme sanctioned by the Government of India provides for issue of free-studentships to deserving students in schools and of stipends to certain categories of college students. So far 110 stipends and 389 free-studentships have been given in Assam; the total financial commitment on this account upto 31st March 1951 comes to Rs.40,000 approximately.

Apart from the above, financial assistance to the extent of Rs.10,000 has been rendered to 95 school and 25 college students so far from His Excellency the Governor's Relief Fund.

Progress of Rehabilitation of Displaced Muslims.—Out of the total estimated number of 52,700 families of Muslims who were displaced in Assam about 41,000 families had returned to their homes by the end of December 1950.

Of these, about 23,920 families had been either partially or fully restored to their lands. About Rs.2,53,000 was spent on relief, *i.e.*, feeding and transport of these displaced persons and about Rs.20,60,000 was issued upto 31st December 1950, as rehabilitation loans to about 17,870 families among those who had got back their lands.

Public Health.—The heavy influx of refugees created vital problems of sanitation and the Public Health Department had to take vigorous measures to prevent any epidemic. The measures taken included inoculation and vaccination against cholera and small-pox, disinfecting all sources of drinking water and spraying camps with D.D.T.

The great earthquake and the floods following put this department to severe test and I am glad to inform the hon'ble Members that it came out successful. All available personnel and preventive medicines were rushed through to the affected areas. Over 4 lakhs of inoculations and vaccines were given and over 72 thousand sources of drinking water disinfected. In addition the department had been distributing milk powder received from various sources outside the State.

I take this opportunity of expressing our sincere appreciation and thanks to the various medical units and squads formed both outside and inside this State who at considerable risk to themselves and immense sacrifice had been giving help to the distressed people. I also express the gratitude of the people and the Government of Assam to the Indian Red Cross Society, the Government of West Bengal and the UNICEF for the kind gift of medical stores, powdered milk, etc.

The work of sinking 310 tube wells so kindly gifted by the Government of India is also under progress.

Besides these abnormal activities in its normal sphere of work a campaign against hook-worm with 2 mobile units has been started by the department. Treatment of leprosy cases by sulpha drugs has been introduced and funds are being provided to extend the scheme next year. A grant of Rs.5,000 has been given to the Assam Tribal Works for a leprosy centre at Soriahajan in Mikir Hills. More funds have been provided in the next year's budget for leprosy centres.

As the House will see from the list of New Schemes provision has been made for several new dispensaries for the next year.

A Public Health dispensary was opened this year at Ghitamari (North Lakhimpur) and 2 mobile units for detection and treatment of *Kala azar* cases in Garo Hills have been started.

Medical.—Though it has not been possible in the current year to extend medical facilities to the extent desired due to financial limitations, some steps have been taken. Provision for X-Ray apparatus for some hospitals was made, the Sutnga dispensary opened, dispensary buildings at Dalu were extended and buildings of Bualpai and Vahai dispensaries completed. A

10-bedded hospital at Maibong was completed and dispensaries were started at Kangung in N. C. Hills, Rangjen in Garo Hills, Thimokeduma and Janheboto in Naga Hills, and at Vahai in Lushai Hills and travelling dispensaries were started in Lushai, Naga and Mikir Hills.

Financial assistance was given to the Srimanta Sankar Mission for opening Eye Relief camps.

A good number of buildings for the Medical College have been completed. A building programme to cost about 38 lakhs has been sanctioned and 12 lakhs provided in the next year's budget.

The M. B. examination results have been very satisfactory. A condensed M. B. course has been started.

Besides other extra rural activities, students and professors of the College rendered very meritorious service to relieve the distress caused by the earthquake and the floods. I take this opportunity of thanking them for all they have done and done so splendidly.

Rural Development.—In the current year a provision of about 5 lakhs was made for increasing the number of Rural Panchayats in our State on the condition that payment would be made only if Government of India would agree to make a contribution of this amount but Government of India could not agree to make the contribution as expected by us. The Government feel that development of rural areas is a vital problem which cannot be delayed any longer and in consideration of the importance and urgency of the matter they have agreed to spend the amount from out of their meagre resources. For the next year a provision is being made in the budget not only to grant Rs.2,40,000 to the existing Panchayats but also another amount of Rs.2,70,000 is being provided for starting fifteen new Panchayats.

Self-Help grants which were stopped for a time following stoppage of India's grant were revived and for the next year a provision has been made for a sum of 3 lakhs for Self-Help enterprises. The scheme of Self-Help enterprises has been very popular with our rural population and this grant is expected to serve a very useful purpose in

rural areas by enlisting public sympathy and thus encouraging our rural population to take to useful works of rural upliftment.

Ever since the assumptions of office, this government have been very anxious to develop rural communications and improve rural water supply. In his budget speech last year, the then Hon'ble Finance Minister had indicated in a tabular form the sums already granted for this purpose. No opportunity is lost by us to increase the grants for improvement of rural conditions and even in the current year, the budgeted amount for rural water supply and village communications been increased by addition of substantial amounts.

For the next year we are making a provision of Rs.7,50,000 for improvement of Rural Water Supply and another amount of Rs.7,50,000 has been provided for improvement of village communications.

Similarly a substantial amount of Rs.5 lakhs has been budgeted for grant to local bodies to provide for supply of more medicines in Local Board dispensaries which serve our people in the villages.

EDUCATION

Hon'ble Members are already aware of the enormous strides we have made in the field of education. This is reflected by the fact that while in 1944-45 the expenditure on education in Assam including Sylhet was only Rs.50,67,000, in 1950-51 it is Rs.1,53,03,000 and in the next year it will be Rs.1,69,75,000 for Assam excluding Sylhet.

Compulsory Primary Education.—The compulsory primary education scheme is making very satisfactory progress. There are now 9,110 primary schools under the school boards in the plains districts alone with a total student strength of 512,826 which is about half the child population in our State. More trained teachers is a prerequisite of more schools. As a result of training of teachers we have today 2,433 trained teachers. In the current year we have started one more training school at Sootea and provision is being made to grant aid to two training schools next year.

Compulsory primary education has now affected $\frac{1}{6}$ th of the total population of Assam. Provision is being made in the next year's budget to increase the area of compulsion.

Besides normal teaching, facilities have been afforded for endi-spinning in some schools in tribal areas. Model schools, which are expected to be centres of village activity, have been started. Through corporate activity, excursions, village-survey and crafts these schools are expected to produce children, intelligent and strong, courageous and patriotic, clean and healthy, children who could not only make themselves better but their society greater and happier.

The expenditure for the schools under the Primary Education Board has risen to Rs.65,60,682 for the next year. Besides these schools the number of government primary schools has increased to 628 involving an expenditure of Rs.7,59,319 in 1951-52 as against Rs.2,16,307 in 1944-45. In the current year 20 more schools have been started and besides the budget provision, Trs.1,30 were sanctioned for improvement of primary education.

Social Education.—On the initiative of the Government of India the social education scheme was started in 1949-50. The Central Government were to pay us 4 lakhs of rupees in 1949-50 and 4 lakhs in 1950-51, but they could not pay, and yet the scheme is being continued by us out of our meagre resources.

Secondary Education.—The number of Government secondary schools was 53 in 1944-45 when Sylhet was a part of Assam. Today the number in Assam *minus* Sylhet is 67. The expenditure on this score is estimated at Rs.20,00,574 in 1951-52 as against Rs.11,62,395 in 1944-45. In the current year two more schools were added to the list. Provision is made in the next year's budget to provincialise the Haflong high school, one middle english school in Mikir Hills and a number of middle vernacular schools in tribal and backward areas.

The number of aided secondary schools in Assam (including Sylhet) in 1944-45 was 506. Today the number is 582 for divided Assam. In 1944-45 direct government grants to such schools and grants to Local Bodies for such schools were Rs.5,44,436. In 1950-51 the figure is Rs.22,76,000 and for 1951-52 the estimates are Rs.23,58,337.

The table below will give a comparative statement of expenditure on education.

	1944-45	Revised, 1950-51	Budget, 1951-52
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Government arts colleges ...	4,58,987	4,18,323	4,39,987
	(2 Colleges)	(one College)	
Direct grants to non-government arts colleges.	58,620	2,03,990	3,52,468
Government professional colleges ...	52,754	1,26,913	1,57,016
Government secondary schools ...	11,62,395	18,11,141	20,00,574
Direct grants to non-government secondary schools.	5,04,255	19,09,120	19,98,937
Grants to Local Bodies for secondary schools.	40,181	3,66,880	3,59,400
Government primary schools ...	2,16,307	6,10,836	7,59,319
Primary Education Board ...	.....	56,99,927	65,60,682
Government special schools and colleges.	1,34,090	7,76,788	11,52,364
Direct grants to non-government special schools.	1,29,739	1,93,475	1,55,275
Grants to Local Bodies for special education.	24,398	34,160	37,418

In the current year a further grant of 5 lakhs for buildings was given to the University.

The List of new schemes will reveal that education is having a considerable share of the new schemes accepted for 1951-52. They include a large number of schemes for expansion of education in the autonomous districts and provision for giving increased grants to aided colleges on some scientific basis.

Basic Education.—Further development of 85 junior basic schools and 2 senior basic schools already taken over is

under progress. Provision for training 100 teachers for basic schools has been made. Basic schools have been started from the beginning of this year, and the training centres from the beginning of last year. In the training centres, spinning, weaving, agriculture, sericulture, bamboo and cane works, and in one or two centres bee-keeping have also been introduced. In the basic schools small vegetable gardens have been started.

Basic education buildings at Sapatgram, Howli, Charali, Chutia, Khowang and Udarband have been completed at a cost of over 9 lakhs and expenditure of about one lakh is being incurred to eliminate any shortcomings that may be visible now.

Technical Education.—Due to the opening of the diploma classes at the Jorhat Technical School, the higher motor mechanics section has been abolished. Diploma courses in engineering have been started. The commercial section is producing a variety of articles, and the products have been able to capture a ready market.

Cottage Industries.—The only cottage industry now functioning is soap making at the soap making institution, which produced a large quantity of soap and allied products, for the consumers. It has been decided this year to extend the scope and function of this institution.

Stipends have been granted both from the State budget as well as from the Assam Williamson Endowment Fund and Gopal Chandra Das Trust Fund to students desirous of undergoing training in certain subjects such as leather and shoe making, lock making, mining, ceramics, electrical and mechanical engineering, sugar technology, textile manufacturing, fine arts and crafts, soap manufacture and practical motor mechanics. Development schemes under this department for the autonomous districts have been drawn up and sanctioned. The main items are award of stipends to students who learn fruit preservation, soap manufacturing, pottery work, basket and cane work, bee-keeping and training in the lac industry. It is intended to establish a cane and bamboo training class in the Mikir Hills next year.

Sericulture.—The weaving branch with the peripatetic weaving parties had been rendering help to the weavers in all the districts. They popularised up-to-date methods of weaving. Two additional female demonstrators were sanctioned to

strengthen the existing number to 6 to render help specially to institutions like the Mahila Samabai Samiti. Due to the weaving training classes which were added to the Reid House, Aijal for modernising the methods of weaving, the production of Lushai products for external market has been progressing satisfactorily. Weaving training classes were also established in Sadiya, Haflong and Lungleh.

During the year 1950-51, the total amount of Rs.35,321 was received as grant from the Central Handloom Board for the following 3 development schemes, *viz.*,

- (1) Development of dyeing and bleaching
- (2) Establishment of 2 more training classes at Tura and Pasighat and
- (3) Research in marketing for the development of ancient Assamese designs to utilise them for creating markets. These are all in progress.

There are 7 sericultural farms at present. Extension to the sericulture farms at Gaurisagar, Titabar and Chendhoa have been carried out and the eri seed grainage at Haflong is progressing satisfactorily.

Construction of 2 rearing and seed cutting houses at sericultural farm, Mangaldai has been sanctioned and work is in progress.

Ten stipendiaries from the hills and 33 from the plain districts are undergoing training in the Government Weaving Institute, Gauhati. Stipendiaries are also being trained at the sericultural training class, Titabar and in different farms. Three stipendiaries are undergoing higher training in Textile Technological Institutes at Bombay, Bangalore and Kanpur respectively and another one in fine arts in Kala Bhavan Santiniketan.

An amount of Rs.25,000 has been received as grants from the Central Silk Board for 2 schemes, namely :—

- (1) Rupees 20,000 to rear foreign races of univoltine and bivoltine races of silk worms at the hill stations and for the development of mulberry silk, and

- (2) Rupees 5,000 for the establishment of a small cocoon market. The schemes are in progress.

Schemes to the extent of Rs.95,000 for the autonomous districts have been framed and sanctioned. They include the establishment of a sericultural farm, two weaving training classes, entertainment of an additional sericultural party and grant of subsidies to individuals to start cottage industries. Some more schemes for the development of sericultural and weaving amongst the plains tribal people are expected to be sanctioned next year.

Factories.—The Assam Factories Rules, 1950, have been brought into force. As a result the amount of registration fees is expected to exceed 1½ lakhs. To facilitate quicker and better inspection and to avoid unnecessary expenditure it is proposed to open a branch office in Dibrugarh and Jorhat area in the next year.

The survey of the Umtru river scheme has been completed and the data has been submitted to the C. W. I. N. C., for detailed examination. Due to paucity of funds it is not proposed to undertake any other survey next year but to devote all energy and resources to the completion of the Umtru scheme.

Jails.—There are 14 jails in the plains districts of the State with a total accommodation of 3,515. Due to abnormal events there had been serious over-crowding in the jails and to relieve congestion, Government sanctioned an expenditure of over 4 lakhs for extension, repairs and re-construction of jails. Unfortunately due to several factors it will not be possible to complete the whole work within the year but it is hoped to complete it early next year.

With a view to tighten up discipline and to raise the standard of efficiency, the warder establishment has been increased by employing 88 temporary hands and the executive staff by 14 temporary assistant jailors and one jailor.

At present there are only 2 jails in the autonomous districts at Aijal and Tura. Some improvements have been made to the Aijal jail. Construction of a new jail at Kohima at an estimated cost of Rs.2,20,000 is in progress.

Textiles.—It is probably not unknown to the hon'ble members of the House that altogether 38,624 bales of textiles worth Rs.3,49,65,000 *ex-mill* price were purchased by Government. The sales proceeds up to 30th September 1950 amounted to Rs.3,63,06,000. The total sum of Rs.3,52,35,495 drawn against the latter credit opened with the Imperial Bank has been fully repaid by 22nd November 1950, by utilising the sale proceeds to the extent of Rs.3,50,24,000 and the State funds to the extent of 2,11,338. There is still a stock worth about 2 lakhs which is being liquidated. The agency for procurement and distribution of textiles has again reverted to the ordinary trade channels.

Excise.—Though it has not been possible to embark upon a campaign of full fledged prohibition of liquor in the State as our opium prohibition campaign is still in progress, Government have taken a number of measures to reduce consumption. The measures are :—

1. Imposition of restriction on the sale of country spirit in Ledo and Margheritta areas, and in the Goalpara subdivision.

2. Closure of all liquor shops in Dhubri subdivision and Kamrup district contiguous to Goalpara subdivision on every Sunday, Independence day, Gandhi-Jayanti day and Dusserah day.

3. The minimum age of consumers eligible to purchase liquor has been raised to 21 years. Sale of liquor to students has been prohibited.

Government have also decided to close all the lessee managers' shops and the canteens located within one mile from licensed liquor shops with effect from the 1st April 1951.

As a step towards prohibition of foreign liquor, Government have ordered not to renew any license for sale of liquor in the steamers. Sale of foreign liquor in the railway refreshment rooms and dining cars was also stopped. Issue of bar license for sale of foreign liquor was also stopped.

There is total prohibition of opium in the United Khasi and Jaintia Hills district and the Mikir Hills besides the plains districts. A camp hospital was started in Nongpoh for treatment of opium addicts which is rendering valuable services. It is reported that propaganda and treatment of the addicts in the

hospitals, compelled even the very old addicts to give up opium habit. It is proposed to open camp hospitals also in the Mikir Hills district this year. There is no consumption of opium in the Garo Hills and the Lushai Hills districts. In the Naga and North Cachar Hills opium is issued only to holders of passes granted on medical grounds.

Transport.—Despite certain unfavourable factors, such as :—

(i) Increase of prices of stores varying between 50 to 90 per cent.,

(ii) abnormal decrease in through booking with railways due to the transport bottle-neck,

(iii) increase in rates of Road Tax and increased fees for vehicles, working of the routes—Dibrugarh-Nowgong and Nowgong-Jorhat, Pandu-Gauhati-Shillong, Jorhat-Sibsagar-Dibrugarh, for the last half-year ending the 30th September 1950 revealed a net profit of over 11 lakhs which shows a profit of about 50 per cent. on the capital investment.

It is proposed to take over the Gauhati-Goalpara road and the Silghat-Chaparmukh section next year, and provision has accordingly been made in the budget for the next year.

On every line the services rendered by the State transport organisation are reported to be satisfactory, and the relation between the employees and the employers has been very cordial.

Co-operatives.—In order to give Government the degree of control considered necessary over the co-operatives a Co-operative Bill was introduced in March 1949. This was passed subsequently and brought into force from 1st April 1950. The audit work is being gradually separated from inspection work, and a chief auditor has been entertained to look after audit, and the collection of audit fees. Steps have been taken to send the societies in moribund condition into liquidation, and to complete liquidation proceedings of all those that have already been sent to liquidation, an officer has been specially entertained and entrusted with the work.

Cottage industries on co-operative lines have not developed adequately in this State. There are at present about 123 weaving co-operatives, 29 fishery co-operatives, one bell

metal manufacturing co-operatives and 3 umbrella manufacturing co-operatives.

The Assam co-operative umbrella association, limited, has expanded its activities to a great extent, and also started manufacturing all umbrella handles from indigenous bamboos.

There are at present 10 farming co-operatives included amongst the 4,000 societies that exist in all. It has been the policy of Government that the formation of only such societies which can function properly should be encouraged and it is not desirable to have innumerable societies which cannot function in the proper spirit and manner to develop the co-operative habit amongst the members.

Statistics.—Under the rural economic survey scheme altogether 21,609 families were interrogated in respect of various items of information for agro-economic conditions prevailing in rural areas. The report of the survey in the district of Darrang has been published; and that of the district of Sibsagar is under preparation. The analysis of the returns from the other districts is also progressing satisfactorily. An enquiry into the education of children in the age group from 6 to 11 years was undertaken at the instance of the education department simultaneously with rural economic survey in the districts of Goalpara, Kamrup, Nowgong and Cachar in a 10 per cent. random sample of families in the villages covered by rural economic survey. A full report prepared from the analysis of the returns from the first three districts has been published.

Crop cutting experiment by the random sample method on winter paddy, autumn paddy and potato is being conducted by this department in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. This will enable us to give an objective estimate of yield rates of the crop for the whole State, as well as in the 6 temporarily settled plains districts.

In pursuance of propositions made by the Agriculture and Revenue departments of the state to implement the government statistics proposal for improving the compilation of agricultural statistics, this department is considering a scheme for implementation of the project. Due to financial limitation, it has not been possible to bring the whole State under the purview of this scheme, and hence it might be necessary to limit its operation to one or two districts only.

The work of assessment of increased production on account of Grow-More-Food scheme through scientific seed and crop cutting experiment is being taken up by this department in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research which exercises all-India co-ordination of the work. The work of assessment is in progress in the districts of Kamrup, Nowgong and Darrang.

Police.—In the current year a scheme was taken up for the expansion of the wireless organisation. The expansion of the wireless branch though constituting a large quota of the increased expenditure, is an investment which has proved its worth many times. After the last earthquake and the floods when all communications were cut off for a considerable time, wireless was the only means of communication between the affected areas and the rest of the world. Even today it is the only means of communication to some isolated areas and is undoubtedly the quickest means of communication.

Due to the prevailing crime situation and the internal troubles it has been found necessary to increase the police staff to some extent. It has also been found that mobility of the police is most essential. Hence it has been decided to purchase some 33 trucks in the current year and orders have been placed accordingly. Provision for more trucks is also being made in the next year's budget.

It may not be out of place to mention here that during the current year the R. C. P. I. which has been responsible for the commission of 12 murders, 16 dacoities and a number of other crimes became very active. Hence it has been found necessary to carry out an extensive campaign against these lawless elements in the districts of Sibsagar and Kamrup with the collaboration of the Assam Police Battalion. As a result over 1,250 R. C. P. I. members were arrested. Some 115 have already been convicted and investigation is proceeding against about 200. Over 850 were released.

The House is aware of the communal disturbances that took place early in 1950. In connection with these disturbances about 7,000 persons were arrested and over 250 already convicted. Investigation and prosecution are pending against over 2,900.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. Is it the sense of the House that we should continue till the Hon'ble Finance Minister finishes his speech?

(Voices—Yes, yes.)

Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA: আগার মনেবে এতিয়াই শেষ কৰিব লাগে।

The Hon'ble Srijut MOTIRAM BORA : Besides its normal duty to maintain law and order, the police did commendable service in connection with the distress caused by the earthquake and the flood. The police personnel rescued marooned people, restored lost property, surveyed affected areas, arranged ration and fodder, distributed food-stuffs and clothes and took steps to prevent crimes.

Morale and discipline are the most essential requisites in the police force and every endeavour is being made—consistent with the financial position of the State—to keep the morale and discipline at the highest level. To keep the force happy and contented is the aim of our Government and whatever is possible is being done in this respect. I am glad to inform the House that we have been able to maintain the requisite standard of morale and discipline in the force.

Labour.—In the field of labour administration Government is mainly concerned with maintaining good relationship between the industry and labour by minimising conflicts between them in keeping with the policy of industrial truce, and secondly, by fostering labour welfare among the workers with a view to raising their standard of living and to enable them to enjoy the conditions for functioning as full citizens of a free State. To achieve the first objective, Government have mainly relied upon the machinery of Tripartite Conference which provides for the best opportunities of mutual understanding by mutual discussions. It is noteworthy that due to ceaseless efforts and vigilance on the part of Government not only has there been no major strikes, but also the number of minor strikes have been progressively coming down as also the number of man-days lost. In a period of three years the number of labourers involved in strikes has come down from 24,021 to only 3,328 and the number of man-days lost from 78,541 to only 2,934. The number of disputes settled in 1950, (upto October) was 610 as against 285 in 1948. This largely explains the fortunate fall in the number of strikes and man-days lost. The provisions of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, have been extended to the motor omnibus services, docks, wharves or jetties and the inland steam vessel services. The provisions of the Shops and Establishments Act, 1948, have been put into force in the Municipal towns of Shillong, Gauhati, Barpeta, Dhubri, Goalpara, Nowgong, Jorhat, Golaghat, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Silchar and Karimganj, thereby benefitting a considerable number of workers under commercial establishments. Government are now examining the question of bringing certain other shops, hitherto exempted, under the operation of the latter Act. The Factories rules, 1950, have been finalised and

put into operation. The new rules which contain specific provisions for welfare measures are expected to provide amenities and better conditions of life for factory workers. Steps are also being taken to fix the minimum rate of wages for workers employed in certain scheduled employments such as employment in tea industry, rice and oil mills, roads and building constructions, public motor transport and local authorities, on the basic concept of social justice and human dignity as contemplated and provided for under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.

A Bill to amend the Maternity Benefit Act with a view to providing for better maternity benefits by extending the maternity period of leave from 8 to 9 weeks along with other advantages is being introduced before the House in this session.

As a result of agreements arrived at in various Tripartite Conferences convened by Government many important problems relating to foodstuff concession and ration scales have been solved. Due to such conferences, for all clerical staff in the tea estates drawing a pay of Rs.55 per mensem or more a provident fund scheme has been started and has been in operation for some time in most European owned concerns. A scheme of housing for the tea garden labourer has been accepted and a fair progress thereon has already been made by the industry. For the purpose of removing illiteracy among the tea garden labourers, a proposal is now under active consideration of Government to get a Central Education Board to be set up by the industry. A scheme for medical facilities has also been drawn up by the industry in accordance with the standard recommended by Dr. Lloyd Jones in his Report on the standard of medical care for the tea garden labourers. In some cases the scheme has already been given a start to by the Indian Tea Association.

This year, Government have inaugurated a welfare scheme for the labourers both men and women with the object of bringing about an all round improvement in their social standard and living with the help of such non-official organisations as the Hindustan Mazdoor Sangha, the Assam *ex-tea* garden Labour and Tribal Welfare Organisation and the Provincial Kasturba Gandhi Trust Committee. They will be taught useful handicrafts and will also be given training in organised social activities. Their minds will also be cultivated with folk music, folk dance, dramatic performances, etc. To co-ordinate the activities and to administer the scheme, a Labour Welfare Board with the Hon'ble Minister, Labour, as its Chairman has been set up.

Owing to the country wide heavy food deficit which has been further aggravated by the recent earthquake and floods in the State, the All-India ration scale has been introduced in the tea gardens in agreement with labour and industry. The tea garden labourers have also agreed to the adjustment of 2/3rd of the khet produce against the ration to be issued to them, retaining only 1/3rd for meeting incidental costs. Government fully appreciate the way labour accepted the scale and the off-setting of the khet land produce against ration and the industry co-operated to meet the national emergency in food position.

After this brief review of the activities of the Government I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble members to the budget figures. For that purpose I begin with the accounts of the year 1949-50 as revealed by the actuals.

1949-50

Revenue.—The 1949-50 (Revised) budget estimated a revenue receipt of Trs.9,07,42 and a revenue expenditure of Trs.9,66,28 thus resulting in a deficit of Trs.58,86. I am glad to inform the House that the actuals revealed a surplus of Trs.35,89. Receipts rose to Trs.10,30,14, an excess of Trs.1,22,72, but this was partly counterbalanced by an excess of Trs.27,97 under expenditure which rose to Trs.9,94,25 as against the estimated sum of Trs.9,66,28. The heads of Revenue contributing to the extra receipts are mainly Income Tax, Forest, Other Taxes, XLVI.—Miscellaneous, Land Revenue, Customs, Motor Vehicles Taxes and Stamps, and to a lesser extent Medical, Public Health and Miscellaneous. There were lesser receipts mainly under Police, Agriculture and Civil Works. The variations are explained in the Memorandum.

Expenditure.—On the expenditure side there was considerable extra expenditure under General Administration, Administration of Justice, Jails, Education, Medical, Rural Development and Sericultural and Weaving, counterbalanced to some extent by lesser expenditure under Civil Works, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage, Excise and Land Revenue. Detailed variations are explained in the Memorandum.

The table below, given for ready reference, will show the picture at a glance.

	Budget, 1949-50	Revised, 1949-50	Actuals, 1949-50	+ or -
	Trs.	Trs.	Trs.	Trs.
Revenue Receipts ...	8,91,77	9,07,42	10,30,14	+1,22,72
Revenue Expenditure ...	9,52,35	9,66,28	9,94,25	+27,97
Capital Receipts ...	13,58,67	15,77,52	34,54,24	+18,76,72
Capital Expenditure ...	15,61,58	16,02,52	35,08,79	+19,06,27
Total Receipts ...	22,50,44	24,84,94	44,84,38	+19,99,44
Total Expenditure ...	25,13,93	25,68,80	45,03,04	+19,34,24
Opening Balance ...	4,40,70	2,20,71	2,22,16	+1,45
Closing Balance ...	1,77,21	1,36,85	2,03,50	+66,65

1950-51

Turning to the Revised Estimates for the current year I am happy to inform the Hon'ble Members that we have been able to keep the wolf from the door by our efforts at raising more revenues and reducing expenditure. The original budget provided for a revenue receipt of Trs.9,01,64 with a revenue expenditure of Trs.9,88,53 working out a deficit of Trs.86,89. With an expenditure of about Rs.30 lakhs sanctioned, subsequently, the deficit might have risen to Trs.1,16,89. But the Revised Budget estimates show a receipt of Trs.9,86,13 with an expenditure of Trs.9,94,23 reducing the deficit to Trs.8,10 only. Increased receipts are estimated under Agricultural Income Tax, Excise, Motor Vehicles Tax, Civil Works, Other Taxes and Stamps. Expenditure under Land Revenue, Excise, Charges under Motor Vehicle Taxation, Interest and General Administration is expected to be less than originally estimated, while expenditure under Forests, Administration of Justice, Jails, Police, Education, Medical, Public Health, Co-operation, Relief, Cottage Industries, Miscellaneous, Sericultural and Weaving, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage and Veterinary is expected to exceed the original estimates. The details are explained in the Memorandum.

The Hon'ble members will notice that increased receipts are due to increasing the rates of certain taxes which the House so kindly voted in the last budget session and to a vigorous drive against evasion of taxation and illicit distillation. The House will further notice that increased expenditure under certain heads is due to the earthquake and the floods and to taking up certain schemes financed by the Government of India for development of the autonomous districts, while reduction of expenditure was enforced by drastic economy under all heads not affecting the welfare of the population.

Here I may mention that though apparently a deficit of 8 lakhs is expected, in fact there is a surplus of about 27 lakhs, as a sum of 35 lakhs is being carried forward for the next year under the Contingency Fund.

The table below will show the position at a glance :

	1949-50 (Actuals)	1950-51 (Budget)	1950-51 (Revised)	1951-52 (Budget)
	Trs.	Trs.	Trs.	Trs.
Revenue Receipts ...	10,30,14	9,01,64	9,86,13	9,62,40
Revenue Expenditure ...	9,94,25	9,88,53	9,94,23	10,60,24
Capital Receipts ...	34,54,24	16,89,73	17,32,43	14,52,64
Capital Expenditure ...	35,08,79	15,95,20	17,34,29	14,57,82
Total Receipts ...	44,84,38	25,91,37	27,18,56	24,15,04
Total Expenditure ...	45,03,04	25,83,73	27,28,52	25,18,06
Opening Balance ...	2,22,16	1,36,85	2,03,50	2,28,54
Closing Balance ...	2,03,50	1,79,49	2,28,54	1,25,52

1951-52

I regret that I have not been able to present a bright picture for the next year. The Budget for the next year threatens a deficit of Trs.97,84 with a revenue receipt of Trs. 9,62,40 and a revenue expenditure of Trs.10,60,24. Revenues at increased figures over the current year's revised estimate have been estimated under all major heads except Income-tax. Yet the total revenues would fall short of the current year's

estimates because of lesser receipts under Civil Works. The current year's revised estimates include Trs.86,00 received from India as their share of the Shillong-Silchar Road. There is no like item of receipt for the next year.

On the expenditure side increased expenditure is estimated under Land Revenue, Excise, Forest, General Administration, Jails, Police, Education, Medical, Public Health, Veterinary, Co-operation, Rural Development, Cottage Industries and Civil Works. Some increased expenditure has been forced on us by the effects of the earthquake and the floods, and some is due to further progress expected in the development schemes for autonomous districts financed by India. Yet it will be noticed that all nation-building departments have been well provided for and Government have not hesitated to undertake new schemes calculated to benefit the rural population. All the details will be found in the List of new schemes appended to the Memorandum. Yet particular mention may be made of the provision made for diversion of the Ghograjan (Jorhat), protection of Silchar town, teaching of Assamese to teachers from the hills, increasing the number of free studentships in Cotton College, increased grants-in-aid to aided colleges, aid to Sadiya Girls' High English School, adding more schools to the aided list, starting Hindi training centres, provincialisation of some middle vernacular schools in tribal and backward areas, increasing the number of scholarships in Cotton College, provincialisation of Markongselek Middle English School, increments of pay to trained lower primary school teachers, taking over venture lower primary schools in areas inhabited by plains tribal and scheduled caste people, expansion of compulsory primary education, construction of science laboratories and hostels for Cotton College, establishment of dispensaries at Kokrajhar (Dhubri) Singlimari (Darrang), Markongselek (Abor Hills), Jagi Road (Nowgong), Bogolajan (Nowgong), Narliang (Khasi and Jaintia Hills), Ashala (Cachar), Diphu (Mikir Hills) and Bhaitabari (Garo Hills), grant for indoor hospital at Rangiya, starting 35 more subsidised dispensaries, grant to Local Bodies for high price of medicines, starting a leprosy colony in Singimari (Nowgong), grant for a 4-bedded dispensary in Bongaon (Jorhat), construction of buildings for Serfanguri (Dhubri) Dispensary, construction of buildings for Mokokchung high school, provincialisation of Haflong high school and Merrok (Mikir Hills) M. E. School, travelling dispensary in Khasi and Jaintia Hills, purchasing a power marboat for Nazira-Balighat Ferry, expansion of education in the autonomous districts, starting 15 more Rural

panchayats, grants for rural water supply and communications and provision of 2 lakhs for strengthening the Self-help Fund. All the new schemes accepted would cost Trs.68,43 in the next year with an ultimate cost of Trs.52,90 in subsequent years.

The House will thus notice that far from curtailing any expenditure on measures likely to benefit the rural population, Government have provided further sums for such services despite the threatened deficit.

In his budget speech last year the then Finance Minister (now Hon'ble Chief Minister) gave you figures to show how we have been endeavouring to reduce the percentage of expenditure on routine administration and increase it on nation-building activities. I give below a table which will make the position, already shown by him, more up-to-date.

I may mention here that after the budget estimates were finalised we have received intimation from the Government of India that we can expect a further sum of Trs.7,50 as our share of Income-tax. Thus the estimated deficit stands reduced to that amount. Also as indicated before we are likely to get from the Government of India a sum of over 40 lakhs as their contribution to repairs and reconstruction necessitated by the earthquake. No estimate for this sum could be taken under receipt heads. Hence the threatened deficit of Trs.97,84 is almost certain to be reduced to about half a crore.

Heads of Expenditure	Expenditure							
	Including Sylhet		Excluding Sylhet					
	1944-45		1949-50		1950-51 (Revised)		1951-52 (Budget)	
	Trs.	Percentage	Trs.	Percentage	Trs.	Percentage	Trs.	Percentage
Navigation, Embankment and Drainage	3,85	·5	9,44	·9	9,07	·9	9,01	·8
General Administration	46,75	8·5	73,15	7·3	65,57	6·5	69,14	6·5
Administration of Justice	13,36	2·4	12,23	1·2	14,60	1·4	14,11	1·3
Jails	13,39	2·4	18,92	1·9	16,99	1·6	19,75	1·8
Police	49,49	9	80,02	8	88,32	8·8	93,04	8·7
Education	50,67	9	1,45,72	14·6	1,53,03	15·3	1,69,75	16
Medical	19,55	3·5	41,35	4·2	40,63	4	51,19	4·8
Agriculture	26,45	4	35,77	3·6	59,70	6	59,47	5·6
Co-operative Societies	2,88	·5	4,39	·5	6,55	·7	7,91	·7
Rural Development.. ..	3,42	·6	11,57	1·2	5,09	·5	11,15	1
Sericulture and Weaving .. ..	..	..	5,17	·5	5,82	·6	7,73	·7
Civil Works	57,82	10·5	2,58,98	26	1,72,17	17	2,27,07	21

Hon'ble members will realise that I have made every endeavour to wipe away the deficit and to present a surplus budget if possible but in spite of my earnest anxiety my attempts have failed. I have examined all avenues of taxation and I do not find any avenue to lay my hands on. All sources of possible taxation in Assam have been exhausted, and I have not been able to bring in any new measure of taxation before this House in this session.

Ours is an undeveloped State and a very backward and a poor one too. Conditions of life in a greater part of the state, specially in the tribal areas, are most primitive and deplorable and any improvement of life and living conditions in such a country and in the standard to bring her in line with the rest of the advanced States in a free country, requires a mint of money. It is not possible for us to find out the money and that is why we are crying hoarse before the Government of India to come to our rescue. We feel that Assam has not got financial justice from the Centre for a long time and we fervently pray that justice that is due will be meted out to us this time, and Assam will be able to march ahead like other progressive sister States. The stigma of poverty and backwardness must be removed and it behoves Government of India to render every possible assistance to us and that too ungrudgingly especially in view of our strategic position in the Indian Union.

Madam, I have taxed the patience of the hon'ble members too long and I must now come to an end. I propose to avail of this opportunity however generally to request the hon'ble members of the House and our countrymen to help and guide us with constructive suggestions and advice. Any suggestion that will enable us to serve our country better is most welcome. We are not infallible and we crave the co-operation and good will of all who have the betterment of the country in their hearts. I must also be excused if I say that it serves no useful purpose to blame the Government for all that is evil and the ills the country is suffering from. We want no praise for what we have done, but it is also unfair to put on us all the blame for circumstances which are not our creation and which are beyond our control. If you blame a person for everything he is not responsible for, he becomes callous and loses all heart to do good. Problems of bread and cloth prevailing in our country, problems of transport, problems arising out of natural calamities are not our making. As humble servants of the people we can only

tackle the problems and seek solution. That we have been constantly doing, but limitations imposed by resources are always there. We hope that with the good-will and co-operation of our brothers and sisters we will tide over all our difficulties. But to do so our efforts should not be marred or weakened by disunity and our attention not diverted by chaos and confusion. Let us all unite in the face of peril. Let us settle our differences, if any, by peaceful means and not by activities calculated to bring terror and dire consequences on the country and our peaceful people at large. The sword has never settled any differences in the world, not will it ever do.

I also once more appeal to the hon'ble members of the House and to my brothers and sisters in the country to extend full co-operation and help to us in the foodfront. Our people are God-fearing and kind. I am sure if the possible consequences of the food situation are explained to them, there will be none to beat them in their fight to overcome the food crisis. If our primary producers realise that their hoarding of stock will mean starvation and death of many, they will part with their stock even at the point of starvation. I refuse to believe that any primary producer in Assam would like to amass rice or money over the dead bodies of his countrymen. Madam, I request the hon'ble members of the House and all social and political workers to go out to the villages, explain the situation to our people and encourage them in all possible ways to grow more food.

I also request the hon'ble members to excuse me for taking up so much of their time. I thank the Secretary, Finance Department, and the Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department and their staff for their ungrudging assistance and co-operation in preparing the budget estimates and the Superintendent of the Press and his over-worked staff for printing the budgets and the ancilliary matters in so short a time.

I also heartily thank the Comptroller, Assam, and his Staff for giving all the assistance in preparing the Budget Estimates and for their advice and help throughout the year.

Madam, with these remarks, I beg to present the budget for 1951-52 for the approval of the House.

JAI HIND

Fixation of dates for the General discussion of Budget

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members have come to know that 13th March, 15th and 16th March have been fixed for the general discussion of the Budget. It will be somewhat difficult for me to fix a time limit, if necessary, for speeches until and unless I know how many members desire to take part in the discussion on a particular day. I would therefore request the Leaders of various Parties to give the names of their Party Members who desire to speak on the subject on different dates to the Assembly Department by 12 noon on Monday, the 12th March, 1951.

With regard to the Demands for Grants to be considered by the House, hon. Members are now aware of the days that have been fixed for the purpose. I have got a time-table prepared allotting the time that should be devoted to the discussion of each of the demands during this Session. Copies of the time-table have already been circulated to the Leaders of Parties. I would request them to examine the same and inform the Secretary of their views, if any, on the said time-table before 12 noon on Monday, the 12th March. Printed copies of the time-table will be circulated to the hon. Members as soon as it is approved. I may, however, inform the hon. Members that the last date and time for receipt of Cut Motions on Demands for Grants to be taken up by the House on the 19th March is before 2 P. M. on the 15th March, 1951.

Before I adjourn the House I should like to inform the hon. Members that I have noticed some hon. Members leaving their seats allotted to them and occupying other hon. Members' seats. I think according to the rule hon. Members are expected to sit in their own seats. I think we should strictly follow the rule of our Assembly Rules. I request the hon. Members to see that in future they sit in their own seats.

Srijut PURNA CHADRA SARMA: জী হাঁ, বহত শুক্রিয়া ।

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A. M. on Saturday, the 10th March, 1951.

SHILLONG:
The 21st April 1951.

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

APPENDIX A

List of incomplete Post-War Reconstruction Road Projects, recommended for Improvement to make the road motorable throughout the whole year

Serial No.	Name of Post-War Reconstruction Road Project	Length in miles	Proposed standard	Further requirement for proposed improvement
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
CENTRAL ASSAM DIVISION				Rs.
1	Depota-Ghogra Road	4.0	Gravelled ...	20,000
2	Surfacing certain stretches of North Trunk Road in Central Assam Division.	10.0	Surfaced ...	35,000
3	Improving Chaldhoa-Bordoibam-Ghilamara-Machkhoa-Sisimukh Road.	25.0	Gravelled ...	4,88,000
4	Improving No-Ali-Panigaon to Subansiri.	7.0	Do. ...	1,50,000
5	Improving Ghilamara-Chakuakha-na Road.	7.0	Do. ...	1,50,000
WESTERN ASSAM DIVISION				
6	Improving Dhubri-Patamari Road	9.5	Gravelled ...	60,000
7	Improving Damra-Dalgoma Road	13.25	Do. ...	60,000
8	Improving Rangjuli-Simultola Road.	9.2	Do. ...	39,000
9	Improving Salkocha-Lakhiganj Village Road.	8.99	Do. ...	50,000
10	Improving Kokrajhar-Patalpur Road (Kokrajhar to Adhabari).	2.7	Do. ...	25,000
11	Constructing a road from Golakganj to Soulmari.	5.1	Do. ...	45,000
12	Paikan-Bajengdoba Road, Section I.	14.32	Do. ...	29,000
TURA DIVISION				
13	Improving Medhipara-Phulbari-Tura Road.	69.0	Gravelled ...	2,00,000
14	Paikan-Bajengdoba Road (Section III, portion Tura to Rongram).	9.0	Do. ...	50,000

APPENDIX A—contd.

Serial No.	Name of Post-War Reconstruction Road Project	Length in miles	Proposed standard	Further requirement for proposed improvement
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
LOWER ASSAM DIVISION				
				Rs.
15	Improving North Gauhati-Amingaon-Hajo-Nalbari Road, Section I.	15.4	Gravelled and partly surfaced.	15,000
16	Nalbari-Palla Road	12.2	Gravelled ...	50,000
17	Improving Rangiya-Hajo Road ...	13.45	Do. ...	1,10,000
18	Improving Barpeta-Bhowanipur Road.	11.23	Do. ...	2,00,000
19	Improving Amirkhowa-Bhalla Road.	16.8	Do. ...	3,50,000
20	Improving Sarupeta Feeder Road	2.6	Do. ...	10,000
21	Improving Tihu Feeder Road ...	3.3	Gravelled and partly surfaced.	10,000
22	Improving Katharali Road ...	12.14	Gravelled	25,000
23	Constructing an Inspection Bungalow at Athiabari.	...	...	6,000
24	Constructing an Inspection Bungalow at Tarabari.	...	...	10,000
25	Constructing a bridge over Pagladiya river on North Trunk Road.	...	...	1,00,000
26	Improving Gauhati-Sonapur Road	15.2	Gravelled	30,000
27	Improving Barbari Road ...	7.0	Do. ...	10,000
CACHAR DIVISION				
28	Kalain-Katigora Road	7.37	Do. ...	20,000
29	Metalling black-topping Shingling side berms of South Trunk Road East.	6.0	Metalled and surfaced.	60,000
30	Lalabazar-Lalamukh Road ...	1.55	Gravelled ...	8,000

APPENDIX A—*contd.*

Serial No.	Name of Post-War Reconstruction Road Project	Length in miles	Proposed standard	Further requirement for proposed improvement
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)

LAKHIMPUR DIVISION

(a) DIBRUGARH SUBDIVISION

Rs.

31	Joypur Ali	15.0	Gravelled	1,10,000
32	Chabua-Tengakhat	8.7	Do.	25,000
33	Rupahi-Kakopathar	7.0	Do.	30,000
34	Dirai-Bhuman-Tin-Ali	12.4	Do.	1,70,000
35	Sologuri-Moran	12	Do.	80,000
36	Naharkatia to Tin-Ali	13	Do.	1,50,000

(b) SIBSAGAR SUBDIVISION

37	Dhodar Ali between Banferra to Dillighat.	20.3	Gravelled	1,00,000
38	Bhimbar Ali	7.0	Do.	30,000
39	Dhodar Ali from Jhanji to Nazira	16.0	Do.	1,00,000

JORHAT DIVISION

40	Sapekhati Feeder Road	3	Gravelled	34,000
41	Bokakhat-Dhansirimukh Road	5.5	Do.	1,40,000
42	Seoni Ali	4.5	Do.	40,000

JORHAT SUBDIVISION

43	A road from Mudaijan Bridge on Assam Trunk Road to Jhanjimukh <i>via</i> Kamargaon.	5.85	Gravelled	70,000
44	Cinamara-Titabar Road	8.0	Do.	40,000
45	Charigaon Ali	3.6	Do.	20,000
46	Jagduar Ali	3.13	Do.	40,000

APPENDIX A—concl'd.

Serial No.	Name of Post-War Reconstruction Road Project	Length in miles	Proposed standard	Further requirement of proposed improvement
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
JORHAT DIVISION				
GOLAGHAT SUBDIVISION				
				Rs.
47	Mahura Ali from Assam Trunk Road to Gelabil.	2.6	Gravelled ...	40,000
48	Khumtai Ali	4.5	Do. ...	10,000
49	Nagora Ali	8.67	Do. ...	10,000
50	Athgaon Ali	8.5	Do. ...	50,000
NOWGONG DIVISION				
51	Nowgong-Laokhoa-Bhurbhanga Road.	19.0	Gravelled ...	1,30,000
52	Nowgong-Bhuragaon Road upto Dhingbazar.	16	Do. ...	2,70,000
53	Nakola-Bhakatgaon-Rajamayang-Kullonghat Road.	19	Do. ...	3,24,000
54	Morigaon-Bhakatgaon Road	9.62	Do. ...	1,00,000
55	Dharamtul-Dandua Road	4.62	Do. ...	20,000
56	Puranigudam Railway Station to K. A. Road.	4.75	Do. ...	40,000
57	Borbhogia-Mikirbheta-Dhing Road	14.25	Do. ...	1,00,000
58	Sarupathar-Jamunamukh Road	4.36	Do. ...	50,000
59	Samaguri-Lailuri Road	7.5	Do. ...	80,000
MISHMI HILLS DISTRICT				
60	Metalling and surfacing Station Road.	Sadiya 5.23	Surfaced ...	45,000
61	Rongdoi to Laikajan	... 10.4	Gravelled ...	1,00,000
62	Saikhowa-Diramukh Road	... 5.12	Do. ...	40,000
63	Laikajan-Murkongselek including a ferry.	... 3.0	Do. ...	50,000
				<u>50,83,000</u>
SPECIAL ALLOTMENT				
Items 35-37 and 41-43				6,14,000
				<u>56,97,000</u>

APPENDIX B

*List of Roads proposed to be improved under the Procurement Schemes
(1950-51)*

NOWGONG

				Rs.
1.	Doboka-Jamunamukh Road	...	...	1,00,900
2.	Hojai Railway Station Road	...	...	1,400
3.	Basanghat-Bhuragaon Road	76,300

GOALPARA

4.	Gossaigaon-Tamarhat Road	3,92,000
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DARRANG

5.	Silikhaguri Approach Road	57,663
6.	Udalguri-Rowta Road...	1,00,000
7.	Dumdumia to Trunk Road	1,00,000

KAMRUP

8.	Tamulpur-Nagriji Road	...	...	1,50,000
9.	Pathsala-Sarthebari Road	...	...	50,000
10.	Silchar-Kabuganj Road	1,00,000
11.	Lalabazar-Manipur Road	1,00,000

SIBSAGAR

12.	Demau-Dehing Road	1,50,000
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NORTH LAKHIMPUR

13.	Narayanpur to Tatibahar	49,937
				<u>14,28,200</u>

APPENDIX C

List of New Schemes to be financed out of State Revenue

Name of work	Estimated cost	Amount required during 1950-51
DARRANG (TEZPUR)		
	Rs.	Rs.
1. Diversion of North Trunk Road to shift Colderghat ferry upstream to Shilonipam.	3,50,000	30,000
MANGALDAI		
2. Improvement of Orang-Rowta Road to avoid present Dhansiri crossing.	3,80,000	30,000
KAMRUP		
3. Gravelling North Trunk Road between miles 114 to 119.	35,000	10,000
4. 6 Nos. of bridges between Bhabanipur and Patacharkuchi.	50,000	10,000
5. Bridging 1st 5 miles of Barpeta-Tarabari Road.	50,000	5,000
6. Patacharkuchi to Katharali ...	1,00,000	...
GOALPARA		
7. Fakiragram-Sarfanguri Road Remaining length.	3,50,000	20,000
8. Simultola-Nagarbara Road ...	2,00,000	15,000
SIBSAGAR DISTRICT		
9. Hahshara Road from Assam Trunk Road via Tamulisingagaon.	1,00,000	...
10. Ramani Ali between Sibsagar Railway Station to Behubar Quarry.	80,000	10,000
11. Taxi Ali	50,000	10,000
12. Majuli Road—Survey and Construction.	14,17,000	10,000
13. Kordaiguri Ali (Golaghat) ...	1,00,000	...
DIBRUGARH		
14. Namrup-Tengkhong Road ...	1,00,000	...

Taken under Post-War programme but work not started.