

*[Handwritten signature]*

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

—————

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 10 A. M. on  
Saturday, the 10th March, 1951.

P r e s e n t

The Hon'ble Srijut Lakshesvar Borooah, Speaker, in the Chair, the seven  
Hon'ble Ministers, the three Deputy Ministers and thirty three Members.

—————

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**

(To which answers were laid on the table)

**Landless indigenous families**

**Srijut BEJOY CHANDRA SAIKIA** asked : 4

12 (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of indigenous families who have no land as per economic basis ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to give a list of persons who possess lands more than 100 acres excluding Tea Gardens ?

(c) How many of them are indigenous and how many of them are from outside the State of Assam ?

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

12. (a)—Accurate information is not available as no Census of such families or persons has been taken. But the sample survey of rural economic conditions made by the Government Statistical Department estimates the figure of landless families at 1,86,121.

(b) & (c)—Information is not available as no Census of such families or persons has been taken.

**Maulavi ABDUL HALIM** : ক্যা মই চৰকাৰমে য়হ বাত পুছ সকতা হুঁ কি জো ১৮৬১২১ landless families বতারা জা বহা হেয় উনকো জমীন দেনেকে লিয়ে চৰকাৰনে কয় বণ্ডোৰস্ত কিয়া হেয় ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut MOTI RAM BORA** : অসমীয়াতে কলেই ভাল হয় ।

**Srijut HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister)** : শুনা নাযায় ; ডাঙৰকৈ কব লাগে ।

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY** : য়হ বাত মেৰী সমৰামে নহী আন্নীহেয় কি landless families কা মতলব ক্যা হেয় ?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Order, order That's not the way. You cannot address the Members.

**Maulavi ABDUL HALIM :** ক্যা মই সবকাবচে য়হ বাত পুছ সকতা হুঁ কি জো ১৮৬১২১ landless families বতায়। জা বহা হেয়, উনকো জমীন দেনেকো লিয়ে সবকাবনে ক্যা বন্দোবস্তকিয়া হেয় ?

**Srijut HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister) :** That will appear from the Budget speech. We have dereserved many grazing reserves P.G. Rs. and V. G. Rs. waste lands have been opened, tribal belts and blocks have been created, surplus tea lands have been requisitioned and allotted to landless people.

**\*Maulavi MAKABBIR ALI MAZUMDAR :** May I know from which area these figures were taken ?

**Srijut HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister) :** These figures were taken from Darrang and an average of the entire State struck.

**\*Maulavi MAKABBIR ALI MAZUMDAR :** Was it not possible to give the figures asked in question (b) ?

**Srijut HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister) :** The information in (b) is not available, it will require much time and money—possibly six months time or a year—to collect those figures.

#### Landless Plains Tribal people

**Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI** asked :

13. Will Government be pleased to state—
- The number of landless Plains Tribal people ?
  - What steps Government propose to take to provide them with sufficient land to develop their economic conditions ?

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

13. (a)—The information is not available as no such register is maintained. But according to the sample survey undertaken by the Statistical Department of the Government of Assam, the total number of landless families in Assam including the plains tribals is estimated at 1,86,121.

(b)—To provide them with land and develop their economic condition, Government already amended the Land Revenue Regulation and added Chapter X. Pursuant to that amendment tribal belts and blocks covering an area of 49,63,961 bighas have either been formed or are in the process of being formed. Outside these belts and blocks also the landless tribals are treated on the same footing as other landless people in the matter of allotment of land.

**Agricultural Facilities to Plains Tribal People**

**Shri DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI** asked :

14. (a) Are Government aware that the Plains Tribal People are *bona fide* agriculturists ?

(b) If so, how Government propose to give them all sorts of agricultural facilities for extensive and intensive cultivation to help the Scheme of Grow More Food Campaign ?

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

14. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Help is being given by encouraging them to take up Irrigation Projects, Compost making, use of bonemeal and oilcake, double cropping and use of improved seeds on a subsidised basis ; rendering assistance in enforcing plant protection measures, in adopting improved cultural practices, in obtaining grafts and plants of fruit plants at reasonable prices to encourage fruit cultivation and in obtaining training in agriculture in our Schools and Colleges.

**Debate on His Excellency's Address**

**Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA**: Mr. Speaker, Sir the other day I moved a Motion as follows:—

“ That a respectful address be presented to His Excellency the Governor of Assam as follows:—

‘Your Excellency,

We the Members of the Assam Legislative Assembly assembled in this Session offer our humble thanks to your Excellency for the most illuminating speech which your Excellency has delivered to this House’.”

Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset I must speak a few words about the troublous days that we were in during the last year and the works done in the matter of ameliorating or meeting the situation. Perhaps in the history of last ten years Assam has faced the greatest catastrophe and apart from food and cloth we had the greatest earthquake in the history of Assam and at the same time the influx of refugees from East Bengal has also created a situation by which we had for some time really thought that we would be overwhelmed by them and we would not be able to get rid of the difficulties. As His Excellency has shown throughout his entire speech the Government have been able to meet the whole situation and been able to place before us a picture which is not only promising but giving us hope for future improvement.

As regards the earthquake situation, His Excellency and his Government took enormous pains to do whatever possible to meet the situation, and we are glad that they have been very successful in tackling that situation. The programme of work undertaken in that connection during the next year is also giving us hope that the damages done by the earthquake will be forgotten very soon.

As regards the rehabilitation of refugees who have come to Assam, the steps taken by the Government are very satisfactory and perhaps more satisfactory than anywhere else in India.

Then in regard to the food situation over which practically our Government could not have much control for various factors and particularly for the transport difficulties, the steps taken by our Government are very satisfactory, and we must congratulate them that they have been successfully keeping the whole State almost in a very peaceful condition and at the same time without letting any man die of starvation. Sir, in a place like Assam which has a bottle-neck of transport, the Government could not transport many things although they very much desired. At the same time they could not have enough cultivation to feed the entire population at such a time for the influx of the refugees and for the damages done by the earthquake and for the communal troubles during the early part of last year. Yet they have been able to keep the stock of the State without practically going outside and feed the people in the most difficult times. Therefore we must thank His Excellency and his Government for their successful management of the food problem of the State.

Sir, there are many other plans of future work which have been clearly mentioned in His Excellency's speech and we hope and trust that his Government will not fail to implement them and give better relief to the people of the State. There are many other things mentioned in His Excellency's speech which we ourselves could not know or the people could not know but that all these problems have been faced by the Government is clear from the speech of His Excellency the Governor.

Now, Sir, for all the steps taken by His Excellency and his Government we offer our grateful thanks, and we thank His Excellency for the excellent speech which he has made. From the speech it is clear that His Excellency is very sincere about all the work undertaken for the amelioration of the condition of the people of the State which we hope will be carried out satisfactorily.

**Mrs. BONILY KHONGMEN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, His Excellency the Governor's speech began with the condolence on the demise of the great Sardar of India. He told us how the great Sardar fought for the country and fought to his last days and how he was doing his best to serve the country and the people. I think many other speakers will take part in this discussion; so I will not take much time of the House. But I will only mention a few things which have been referred to in the speech which His Excellency delivered to this august House. On the one hand His Excellency has acquainted us with the tremendous amount of difficulties that our Government had to face on account of the calamities that have befallen our State of Assam, such as earthquake, the floods and the food situation of the State; and on the other hand His Excellency has given us details of information about the various plans and schemes that Government have in hand to tackle all the difficulties. I am very glad to know that our Government have tried their best to help all those who are in distress and in difficulty. In spite of all these difficulties Government are not indifferent to the needs of the people. On page 6 of His Excellency's speech he made mention of the attempt of the Government to open Maternity and Child Welfare Centres. One has already been opened at Nowgong and I am hoping that Government will be opening many more such centres for the benefit of the women of Assam. We all know that infant mortality is very great in Assam, and it is very important that the health of the women be looked after. His Excellency has also explained at great length about the food situation. We here

in Assam are under the impression that we are the only people who are suffering for want of food, but from His Excellency's speech we have noted that other brothers and sisters of ours in other parts of India are also suffering in the same manner that we are suffering here. His Excellency has appealed to all of us to co-operate with the Government in the matter of saving food and I am glad to inform the hon. Members of the House that we the women of Assam are not lacking behind in this matter. A Committee of all Assam Women Food Council has been formed under the Presidentship of Sreemati Jairamdas Doulatram, and we are making plans and schemes in order that we might be able to help the State, in saving food in the country. His Excellency also mentioned about the schemes that Government have worked up for the administration of the Autonomous Districts. We have already formed these Advisory Councils in five out of the six Autonomous Districts ; and in these Councils the members are preparing rules to hold elections in the districts ; and I hope that Government will take the suggestions that come from these Councils, so that the formation of the Provincial District Councils may be started as early as possible for the administration of the Hills areas.

With these few words, Sir, I beg to resume my seat.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** There is an amendment standing in the name of Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that at the end of the Motion moved by Shri Purna Chandra Sarma the following be added :—

“But this Assembly regrets that in the long gracious speech of His Excellency covering a wide range of subjects and expressing solicitude for the common man there is hardly any mention of an adequate statement of prevailing economic condition of the common man, the scarcity and mounting price of essential items of foodstuffs and clothing did not find adequate place therein. Nor was there any indication of adoption of effective measures necessary for meeting the acute food and cloth situation in the State.

His Excellency's direct reference to cession of territory in the State to Bhutan State under the Darjeeling Treaty during the pendency of the resolution yet to be moved by the Chief Minister to seek the consent of the House to the proposed cession of the area amounts to pressing the hon. Members for a speedy passage of the resolution.

Furthermore in His Excellency's lengthy address expressing anxiety for the people of the tribal areas, there was no mention whatsoever of the immediate representation of the people of North Cachar and Lushai Hills and the inadequate representation of the other Hill Districts of Part A of the table under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution in the State Legislative Assembly.

This Assembly therefore do request His Excellency and through him the Government of Assam to take immediate steps to provide the citizens of Assam with sufficient items of foodstuffs and clothing at a reasonable price within the means of the common man ; and full and immediate representation of the people in the Hills Areas in our State Legislative Assembly.”

Sir, the introduction of my long amendment to the Motion of thanks to His Excellency's address to this House has been prompted by three important factors :—

1. Absence of any mention of adequate statement of prevailing economic condition of the common man and the mounting price of essential items of foodstuffs and clothing, together with absence of any effective measures to meet the acute food and cloth situation in the State ;

2. The cession of territory in the State to Bhutan State under the Darjeeling Treaty ;

3. The complete absence of any mention whatsoever of the immediate representation of the people of North Cachar and Lushai Hills, and the inadequate representation of the other Hills Districts in the Legislative Assembly.

Sir, I thought that after hearing the important speech of the hon. Mover of the Motion of thanks, I might not have the necessity of moving my amendment, but after I have carefully listened to the speech delivered just now by the hon. Member Shri Purna Chandra Sarma, I think I remain where I was before the speech was made. I have carefully read the speech of His Excellency covering as it did a wide range of subjects. He touched whatever was found necessary and important, but His Excellency began his speech with a review of the world situation which remains explosive—you do not know when the next war will break out—and ended with an assessment of Assam's progress in the different direction under the present regime. There was a reference in His Excellency's address to the food situation. But there was no adequate statement about the present position in the matter of food.

Food shortage in the country remains very acute with the result that the poorer sections of the community like us have to suffer a lot, not the highly paid, rich officers. That is one of the reasons which prompted me or rather forced me to come up with this amendment otherwise we have every reason to be satisfied with His Excellency's address. During the last 7 to 8 years the country has been passing through a food crisis but in the last three years in spite of the measures to the contrary the prices of all essential commodities have been rising almost daily and the scarcity of commodities essential for life is growing more and more acute. According to the statistics of the Government of India, we find that there has been a terrible rise in the cost of living of the people. People not covered by the rationing system, constituting 70 per cent. of the country's total population had to spend some months ago at least 20 per cent. more on different items of food stuffs.

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

Madam, a middle class family earning Rs. 100 per mensem had to spend Rs. 84 per mensem as against Rs. 70 per mensem some time earlier. The price of rice went up by 12 per cent., of wheat by 16 per cent. and other articles such as Jowar, Bejra, etc., 20 per cent. In the case of spices, it shot up cent per cent.

This was the state of affairs during the period between the Korean War and last August. But during the last few weeks the position has become much worse. There has been an acute scarcity of rice in a number of Provinces. We read in the newspapers about the out-break of food riots. A number of Provinces, which used to produce rice and which are known to be surplus in the matter of rice, have been declared by Government as deficit pockets. Food has had to be rushed to these places to pacify the hungry people and to combat the riots. This is the state of affairs throughout the country at the present moment. In a number of places in Assam rice sells at one and half seer to a rupee. About a month back, we used to get one seer per rupee. Atta, Maida, Sugar, and Sujee, etc., are not available in the market. About sugar, the less said the better. At some places it is not at all available. As regards rice and paddy these are controlled commodities and yet they are sold in the open market at prices higher than the controlled rates. I do not understand what has happened to the Government, the executive and the controlling authorities before whose very eyes these important commodities essential for human life are selling at such high prices. Madam, I think, I would do well to quote an important saying in German:—'Man ist was er isst' 'Man is what he eats'. Unfortunately, what we get here is very much less than what we need. His Excellency referred to the reduction by 25 per cent. of cereal ration and he was also pleased to say

that this reduction has been accepted by the people without any murmur. As he has said in his address—"Labour in the tea gardens had already put itself patriotically on a par with the heavy manual workers in the country by accepting a reduction in their weekly wage rations." Now, these things have been imposed upon the people and they have no option but to remain quiet. Surely the hungry people are not glad to accept this drastic reduction in their already meagre meals. Famine conditions are reported in the papers. Our country known for its surplus in the matter of rice has been converted into a deficit country which compelled our Government to import foodgrains from foreign lands, and huge payments have had to be made in dollars and hard currencies. Since 1947, there has been a constant increase in the imported quantity of foodgrains. In 1948, Government spend 129.5 crores of rupees on food imports. Next year the figure was about 140 crores. Last year it was raised to 150 crores of rupees. Next year they will have to spend at least 200 crores of rupees to meet the demand of the hungry masses. But the disgusting thing in this connection is the utterances and pronouncement of the Government in season and out of season in the matter of self-sufficiency in food. It appears the Government are living in a dream-world of their own creation be dazzled by visions of self-sufficiency. In the early part of last year our Government reduced imports of foodgrains severley, towards the middle and third quarter of the year raised the figure slightly and ended up with frantic appeals to the world to assist us in importing large quantities of foodgrains. The hon. Members present here to day can well imagine the position of the country if we had not got the assurance of a gift of two millions tons of food grains from our generous and charitable friends in the United States of America. In the beginning of the year, Government came forward with a pompous statement regarding the self-sufficiency in cotton and jute to the existing vain and high sounding declaration of self-sufficiency in the matter of foodgrains. After having read the statement of His Excellency and after having listened to the speech made by my esteemed Friend, Srijut Purna Chandra Sarma and also to the speech of the hon. Mrs. Khongmen, all that I have gathered is that the Government try to lay the blame of this acute shortage bordering on scarcity of foodstuffs on Nature. They speak of droughts and floods, hailstorms, pests and tempests, cyclones and what not? We the students of Indian Economics know that in a cycle of five years one year is good, one bad and the other two indifferent. But before Swaraj and during the war days, we used to get more than what we are getting to-day, inspite of the utterances of our National leaders.

Government explanation is that on account of natural calamities we are left where we are at present. During the last few days references have been made to the recent damages caused to the State by the earthquake of August 15th, 1950. An esteemed Friend of mine occupying a very responsible position once tried to trace the cause of the earthquake damage at Jorhat to the sins of the citizens of the Subdivision from which I have the honour to hail. As a Jorhati sinner I am prepared to accept that statement provided Government also accept the glaring fact that because of their sins of commission and omission there is such a thing as the scarcity of foodstuffs and essential commodities throughout the country. If the Government accept that position I have no objection to accepting what my esteemed Friend told me once regarding the cause of the earthquake damage in my place. But the pity is that when Government commit a sin it is the people who have got to suffer, and when the next earthquake comes—it is said to be in the offing—the entire State is likely to be destroyed and no sign of any human life will be left. All that the people are asking for is a decent standard of living, enough food to eat and enough cloth to cover their bodies and houses to live in. I think this demand of the people



is quite reasonable and is quite consistent with the provisions of the Indian Constitution. In this connection I would do well to invite the attention of the hon. Members to Article 47 of the Constitution, which says "The State shall regard the raising of the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties...". That is what the people want, but the Government have been consistently unsuccessful in meeting these essential requirements of the people. I do not like to take any more time of the House by harping on the same thing, *viz.*, the food situation in the country.

I would now like to invite the attention of the hon. Members to the cloth situation,— just one sentence and nothing more. Very recently a distinguished Member of the Parliament Dr. Deshmukh brought an Adjournment Motion before the Parliament to discuss the acute shortage of cloth in the country, but that was disallowed. Cloth is not available in the State and I think that is enough to remind the hon. Members of their duties to meet the needs of the people in this respect.

The next point of my amendment, Madam, refers to retrocession of a part of Assam to the Bhutan State under the Darjeeling Treaty, which was concluded as early as 1949. It is said that a Treaty has been entered into by the Bhutan State on the one hand and our State on the other as a result of which a part of Assam is to be ceded to Bhutan, without, however, consulting the wishes of the citizens of this State of ours. His Excellency in course of his gracious speech said that a new Treaty at Darjeeling had been concluded between the two Governments in 1949, one of the terms of which was the retrocession to Bhutan of 32 sq. miles of territory at present forming part of India in the State of Assam. He went further and said that the Chief Minister would be bringing forward a legislation in this House on the subject so that with the consent of this House Parliament could enact a law providing for the cession to Bhutan of the area known as 'Dewan Giri'. Madam, I fail to understand how this dangerous precedent has been created by the Central Government, and how after a Treaty has been concluded by the Central Government, they should come and ask our State Government, through the Governor, for our consent. I think that without the consent of this House the Treaty will not be valid, and it is because of this that His Excellency has referred to the legislation that is to be brought forward by the Hon'ble Chief Minister seeking the approval of this House to that Treaty. I just do not know what might happen if a succeeding Government wish to cede a portion of any State's territory to a foreign country without the consent of the people. The Kashmir dispute has been before the U.N.O. for the last few years. So, in order to prevent the Union Government from taking such arbitrary and unilateral action in future in the matter of cession of territory of any State without caring for the wishes of the people I have brought up this amendment for the acceptance of the House.

Madam, I think Government would do well to hold a plebiscite not only in Dewan Giri, which area is to be ceded, but throughout the whole State in order to ascertain the minds of our people whether they want to give up this piece of territory to Bhutan or not. Hon. Members present here ought to be very careful in giving their consent to this highly controversial measure.

The next point in my amendment, Madam, refers to the complete absence of representatives of some Hill Districts and partial representation of a few others in this Legislative Assembly. Madam, may I refer to Part A of the table in the Sixth Schedule where we find as many as six items, *viz.*, the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills District, the Garo Hills District, the Lushai Hills District, the Naga Hills District, the North Cachar and Mikir Hills Districts, which

are to be represented here by their elected representatives. The Delimitation Committee have submitted their report recently and suggested that there should be as many as 17 representatives of these Hill Districts in the Legislative Assembly of 108 members. At present we have 71 members where only 5 hon. Members represent the Hills Districts; they are Hon'ble Rev. J.J.M. Nichols-Roy, Mr. Khyriem, Mr. Khorsing Terang and the two hon. Members from the Garo Hills. As for the hon. Member who represents the Women's Constituency, *viz.*, the lady who is now honouring us by occupying the chair of the Speaker, is a representative of the women under the 1935 Act and not of hill areas. Therefore the present ratio of representation so far as the Hills Districts are concerned is 71:13. We ought to have 13 Members representing the Hills Districts in this House of 71 Members. But we have at present 5, 8 seats remain vacant. I hope Government will hold elections as soon as possible to enable these people who are backward in so many important respects to represent their grievances before Government and in this legislature. In this connection I might remind hon. Members that sometime past a part of Cooch-Bihar was annexed to West Bengal. Is it because the people of West Bengal are more vocal, can shout louder, talk better and criticise better and are more merciless in their criticisms? Is it because of this that a part of Cooch-Bihar had to be ceded to or annexed with West Bengal. In that connection our President took special action to see that that part of Cooch-Bihar which came to be annexed with West Bengal be properly represented. Hon. Members are there in the West Bengal Legislature to represent that portion of Cooch-Bihar which has been merged with West Bengal.

Most of the Hills Districts people are backward. They are illiterate. They know very little of their rights and privileges of citizenship. It is therefore important and natural, Madam, that these people of the Hills Districts ought to be represented here. So long they have remained quiet in the belief that there will be a general election; but the date of the general election has been postponed. They say it will be held next winter, I do not know if it will be held at all. What I want to state is, let there be an immediate election in so far as these backward Hills Districts are concerned so that their grievances may find a place on the floor of this House. A very interesting article was published in the Hindusthan Standard of January 8th, 1951 regarding the representation of these people in our legislature. The writer of this interesting and learned article was Professor Misra. It is said Advisory Councils that have been created recently, but without their representation in this House, these Advisory Councils will be meaningless.

I hope the Hon'ble Chief Minister will come forward with a Resolution during this Session of this Assembly seeking the consent of the House to move our Parliament to do something in favour of these unrepresented people. Or you may make an appeal to the President under Article 392 (1) which says—

“The President may, for the purpose of removing any difficulties, particularly in relation to the transition from the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935, to the provisions of this Constitution, by order direct thatt his Constitution shall, during such period as may be specified in the order, have effect subject to such adaptations, whether by way of modification, addition or omission, as he may deem to be necessary or expedient”.

I hope the Hon'ble Chief Minister will be pleased to accede to my request on behalf of these people. Delay is dangerous. Mere lamentation will not do. Government have come forward with a number of excuses so far as foodgrains and supplies are concerned: either because of this or of that—hailstorms, natural calamities, earthquakes, etc., they have not been able to do much to give us enough food. But one thing they should know is that one who excuses himself accuses himself.

Madam, I don't think I need take any more time of the hon. Members by speaking any longer on the amendment. I think, Madam, my amendment is sizeable enough regard being had to the lengthiness of the gracious speech of His Excellency. Once again I appeal to the Government to be up and doing in the matter of representation of these unrepresented areas and be specially careful in the matter of secession of any territory of this State of ours to any other State.

I hope, Madam, my speech although tedious has not fallen on deaf ears. I hope some points would be made by other speakers who will follow me throwing further light on the amendment that I have had the privilege to move

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The Amendment moved :

“ That at the end of the Motion moved by Srijut Purna Chandra Sarma the following be added :—

‘ But this Assembly regrets that in the long gracious speech of His Excel'ency covering a wide range of subjects and expressing solicitude for the common man there is hardly any mention of an adequate statement of prevailing economic condition of the common man, the scarcity and mounting price of essential items of foodstuff and clothing did not find adequate place therein. Nor was there any indication of adoption of effective measures necessary for meeting the acute food and cloth situation in the State.

His Excellency's direct reference to cession of territory in the State to Bhutan State under the Darjeeling Treaty during the pendency of the resolution yet to be moved by the Chief Minister to seek the consent of the House to the proposed cession of the area amounts to pressing the hon. Members for a speedy passage of the resolution.

Furthermore in His Excellency's lengthy address expressing anxiety for the people of the tribal areas, there was no mention whatsoever of the immediate representation of the people of North Cachar and Lushai Hills and the inadequate representation of the other Hills Districts of Part A of the table under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution in the State Legislative Assembly.

This Assembly therefore do request His Excellency and through him the Government of Assam to take immediate steps to provide the citizens of Assam with sufficient items of foodstuff and clothing at a reasonable price within the means of the common man ; and full and immediate representation of the people in the Hills Areas in our State Legislative Assembly'.”

Any other hon. Member desires to take part in this discussion ?

**Mr. J. S. HARDMAN :** Madam, Deputy Speaker, before approaching the more controversial topics which have been raised in His Excellency's address, we would like to take this opportunity of conveying our congratulations to the three Parliamentary Secretaries who have recently been elevated to the posts of Deputy Ministers.....(Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury.....Hear, hear). In this respect we would remind you that Assam shares this distinction with the Parliament in Delhi in having Deputy Ministers. We are confident that this example will stimulate them and will encourage them to discharge their higher responsibilities to the full. We are conscious that in their previous posts they have acquired valuable experience which will stand them in good stead in future.

The address which has been given by His Excellency represents a statement on behalf of the Ministry, reviewing the Ministry's own appreciation of their achievement, their explanations about lack of a success in a number of directions and to some extent a forecast of their future policy. In general this has bees

supported by earlier speakers on behalf of the Government. There seems however to be a degree of complacency and a tendency to accept readily excuses for failure to achieve the objectives.

Outside this House we seem to sense a greater degree of reality.

Hon. Members will have realised that an important by-election has recently been contested to fill the vacancy due to the passing of our late Chief Minister. That by-election has resulted in a very narrow victory for the Congress Party. It must have given Government more food for thought than appears to be indicated in the statement made by His Excellency to this House. Why have so many of those who voted in the by-election decided to vote against the Congress Party? Was it because they are attracted by the doctrines of socialism or by the glamour of the socialist candidate? Or was it that they have a feeling that all is not as well as it might be with the administration and that another team might be able to do more good to the people? It is not a question of good intention; it is not a question of making efforts. It is a question of achieving results, and of doing real good to the people. We realise that in the Motion of amendment which the hon. Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury has moved there are references to certain matters which are causing disquiet to the public. Before, however, touching on these I would like to pay a tribute to the Ministry for what they have been doing. They have been successful in restoring tranquility throughout the State. A year ago when we assembled here the unfortunate communal disturbances were just commencing which have brought so much distress to the State. The measures which Government then set in motion had been successful in restoring order, though the dislocation produced by the disorder has been serious. There has been a progressive improvement and I am glad to say that at the present time there are excellent and harmonious relations between the principal communities. The problem of rehabilitation of refugees still remains intractable. In Cachar considerable progress appears to have been made and tea gardens have undoubtedly made a very conspicuous contribution in the scheme for settlement of about 3,000 families. In this connection I would incidentally mention that about 2,600 families have been settled by the Assam Government in the rest of the State.

We welcome the final settlement of a trade pact between India and Pakistan since we believe that the restoration of normal trade between contiguous areas will not merely be of benefit to both the countries economically but will also contribute to the establishment of amicable relations. It is obvious that in the past any interruption of trade has had unfortunate repercussions on the economy of Assam, since this State is dependent to a very large extent on East Bengal for its raw materials and its market for its finished products. For example, Khasi coal mines are so situated that their natural outlet is towards Sylhet and with the interruption of coal traffic the mines had to face the prospect of closure accompanied by consequential unemployment of those employed there. Credit is to a large extent due to the Tea and other industries in Assam, who have agreed to take coal from these mines at unremunerative rates in order that these mines should be kept in existence and unemployment, which would have been so great, could be averted. Now we hope to adopt a more rational economy since the production of those Khasi coal mines will be sold and consumed in East Bengal.

We have at times been critical of the arrangements which Government have made for the supply of foodgrains, not merely to industries but to the public at large. The major industries of Assam between them require for their labour forces approximately two-thirds of the foodgrains procured by Government. Although there have been so many changes in the Food Portfolio, there has unfortunately been a decreasing trend in procurement. To some extent this is understandable as producers and dealers, who have in recent years been able

to make vast profits by selling rice in the black market, are naturally reluctant to sell voluntarily to Government at controlled rates. This virtually is now admitted by the Government. Before the Food Advisory Committee we urged and urged very strongly that any scheme of procurement, which was based on voluntary sale by the cultivators, was doomed to failure. We had urged that it was necessary to have some method of compulsory levy and while Government recognised the logic of this, they still remained hopeful that a voluntary system would, inspite of weighty reasons to the contrary, prove successful. Time however has shown that voluntary procurement cannot make any progress. Government at that time stated that they were taking very large and extensive powers to compel the producers to sell any surplus if they were not willing to sell voluntarily to Government. It has been extremely disappointing to find that in a period when procurement has reached the very lowest point in the history of Government supply that no action has ever been taken to use those powers which were vested in Government. Government's own case is that the requirements of procurement are 16,000 tons a month. According to their own figures they claim that in three months some 26,000 tons have been procured—virtually 50 per cent. In any case their stock at the commencement of the year had been small. There has been most unfortunate reluctance to apply those powers which Government possessed. It is primarily the function of the Government to see that that State policy is carried out. When this House has entrusted the Government with powers, it is obligatory on Government to use them. We are confident—completely confident—that if Government had used those powers procurement would have succeeded. In one area alone *viz.* the Hojai area in Nowgong, large quantities have been secured. There have been many other similar areas in Assam, from which large quantities could have been obtained, sufficient to enable Government to meet all the current requirements, and to enable the Government and the industry to have the requisite stocks.

It may seem a little ungracious for me to criticise the Government when we have fortunately by an almost providential act been delivered from the hands of the blackmarket. At a time when our position had reached a most perilous stage, we received information from Government that their representations to the Centre had been heard. Five thousand tons of China rice have been allotted to the Tea Industry; on top of this a further allocation of forty thousand tons from Pakistan is being allotted to the Tea Industry, part of which will be shared with the tea gardens in West Bengal. This will enable the Tea Industry and other industries to go on for 4 to 5 months. I repeat that we are extremely grateful to the Government of Assam and to the Central Government for this signal assistance. We believe also that there will be a most spectacular change not only in the rice market but also in the economic position in Assam generally. To-day I am told the price in the black market in parts of Assam is Rs.37/8/- per maund against a controlled rate of Rs.20/12/-. We consider now that those who did not avail themselves of the brief opportunity which was afforded to them to sell at the enhanced controlled price which is in force only for two months as directed by the Government of India will find that they will have subsequently to sell their rice at rates which are nearer to Rs.15. In fact this will be most satisfactory method of reviving internal procurement. I share with Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury his apprehension about the rising cost of living; the value of money is disappearing, prices are rising and great distress is brought to a large section of the population.

We are also grateful to the Government of Assam for using their influence with the Centre to secure exemption for labourers at tea gardens and in other major industries from any further austerity cut in rice; As hon. Members are aware two cuts had been imposed during the past 12 months and we are

certain that any further attempt to lower their ration would have resulted in a certain amount of labour trouble. In His Excellency's speech, however, there is an unfortunate inaccuracy in regard to this reduction in the rice ration. We can only presume that this has been based on wrong information with which His Excellency has been furnished. On no occasion has any reduction in the ration issue resulted in any reduction in the labourers' wage. On every occasion compensation in cash has been given for any reduction in rice ration. We would therefore request the Government to see that a suitable alteration is made in the address by deleting those passages which suggest that reductions in rice rations constitute a reduction in wage.

While on the subject of rationed areas I would like to invite Government's attention to the general confusion which seems to exist. I can assure all Members that it is extremely difficult to get a ration card. If you have a ration card it is extremely difficult to get it renewed. If you have got a ration card it means you are privileged to attend at a ration shop without any guarantee of supply. I am informed that for some time meagre supplies have been doled out. If the Government granaries are empty the ration shops cannot obtain their supplies, but much of the criticism applies not merely to the time when there is acute scarcity, but even when procurement for a few months runs on an even keel. Even then the rationing arrangements are far from satisfactory, and we are confident that if more attention was devoted to this it would mean a great deal of benefit to the common man. Another point on which I have heard considerable criticism, is that when there is any necessity to reduce the ration temporary due to shortage of supplies I am told that such local cuts do not apply to the Government servants, but the rest of the rationed population get a reduced ration based on whatever is left. We have, I think some tendency to create a new caste system. We have the recent example of a military caste system. They are exempted from professional tax, exempted from sales tax and exempted from entertainment tax. Are we to create another caste to be exempted from any cut in ration even though there may be shortage in supply. We would, however, trust that Government will direct their attention to the urgency for improvement of the system of rationing.

Another disquieting factor at the present time is the general shortage of consumer goods. It would be wrong to blame the Ministry for this which is largely dependent on the Central import policy; but we are not quite sure that the Central Government realise to the full extent the effect of their policy in the remoter parts of the country. It unfortunately appears to be the case whenever there is short supply of imports or internal production, that Assam is the first State to suffer severely, specially when supplies are generally short throughout India. Obviously no one would take the trouble of sending goods to Assam, when it is easy for them to find ready markets in Bombay or Calcutta. All this tends to add fuel to the inflationary fires and it is almost a daily phenomenon to see goods disappearing from the counters, and a black market developing in goods which are not even controlled. We believe that Government by making suitable representations to the Central Government could ensure that a greater share of imported goods is brought into Assam and that special facilities are given to movement into Assam of goods produced elsewhere in India in order that some of the inflationary pressure can be absorbed. The public have for sometime been having a poor deal and it seems necessary that both positive and effective action should be taken to deal with the inflationary situation.

We cannot deny that the Earthquake has caused enormous damage to the communication systems in Assam, and the immediate improvisation carried out in getting the communications restored was very creditable, but we are somewhat disappointed at the delay and lack of initiative in the completion of the Public Works Department Programme. For example, in North Lakhimpur an area

which received very extensive damage to roads though six months have elapsed since the earthquake very little work has yet been done. One of the main life lines of Assam, the Trunk Road between Sibsagar and Dibrugarh is receiving some attention from the Public Works Department, but owing to failure to ensure supplies of road metal on the spot, earth-work only has been done on the road, making it more difficult than before for traffic to get through. We have made enquiries and have been informed that there is difficulty in obtaining road metal. But we are confident that if Government go all out they can overcome these difficulties, if road metal cannot be moved by rail, it can be moved by road, and thousands of tons of road metal were in fact transported during the war years. We can see no reason why immediate steps cannot be taken. There is next what I would term the lack of flexibility in the road programme. Far too little is provided for meeting emergent measures. The earmarking money for particular works results, if those works cannot be taken up, in the money lapsing although there are many other projects which require urgent attention. All of us know how many bridges have been broken or damaged by floods and to this day nothing has been done. Enquiries reveal that there is no money provided for emergent repairs to bridges.

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** Madam, may I know what bridge ?

**The Deputy SPEAKER:** The hon. Member may give the information.

**Mr. J. S. HARDMAN:** There are many such bridges. For example the bridge on the main road from Tezpur Town leading towards Colders Ghat about the 14th mile. I saw it personally and for many months no work has been done, although obviously this is a main life line of communication. It is essential that sufficient sums of money should be kept available and material and man power to deal with the maintenance of essential line of communications. It is not sufficient to plead that there is no money. It is a matter of real urgency to maintain under all conditions any essential line of communication.

Then again there is failure of Government to recognise the entire change that has come over the communication systems as a result of the Earthquake and the subsequent floods.

Dibrugarh which handled an enormous amount of road, rail and river traffic is now virtually closed. When it will be opened we do not know. In the meantime traffic has to use other ghats lower down *viz.*, Disangmukh and Niamati ghat although the roads which serve those areas are inadequate to bear the increased strain which is now placed on them. We have to draw the attention of Government to the need for maintaining these vital roads at a much higher standard than was essential formerly but unfortunately, we have been given no assurance that effective action will be taken in time.

While on the subject of roads, we feel that in far too many cases the standard of maintenance is deteriorating. We recognise that there are some roads which are still being adequately maintained. We would congratulate the Public Works Department for the manner in which they maintain the Gauhati-Shillong road. Possibly Government have not taken into account the heavy increase in motor traffic, due partly to the happy event of the lifting of petrol rationing and due to the less happy event of the decline in carrying capacity of the Assam Railways.

We congratulate Government on the success in countering subversive activities. The operations in Sibsagar and the subsequent operations now in progress in Lower Assam have produced very satisfactory results. In spite of this we still

feel that the Police force is not yet adequately equipped to cope with modern criminals. The Hon'ble Finance Minister said that Government have expanded the wireless organisation, and we note also that it has been a great success. This, however, is merely one of the many directions in which the Police force requires modernisation. I have no doubt that the Police will be quite able to tackle any situation which arises, when communications are good. Although it is relatively simple to move forces at certain times of the year, has Government any guarantee that those intent on disrupting the peace of the State will select a period of the year when communications are easy? At other times of the year any well-organised bands of law-breakers could disrupt communications to such an extent that vast areas of the State could be completely isolated, and controlled by subversive elements, and delay in arrival of adequate force might prove to be serious. We would ask Government to consider sparing a little more money for modernising the Police force to make it able to stand on equal terms with the criminals who can be relied upon to keep their equipment in good order.

We have never received any satisfactory explanation from the Government in regard to the appointment of a Re-organisation Committee. (*Hear, hear*—from the Opposition Bench). If my recollection is correct, Government suggested some years ago when any criticism of administration came up, that they would be considered by the Re-organisation Committee. Later, however, when the Committee's appointment was gazetted in the Gazette of 6th December, 1948, and its function defined, no meeting has ever been called and no statement appears to have been made for the apparent change of Government's mind. If the terms of reference are examined, it will be found that much of the work which has been entrusted to this Committee still remains to be done. We may be pardoned, but we cannot resist pointing out that there is a general impression that Government services are undoubtedly wasteful and that the standard of efficiency is not as high as it ought to be. We believe that with the greater expansion of Government activities and economic controls there are so many more occasions on which the people have to contact Government offices that there is a far greater need for higher standards of efficiency. Instead, therefore, of embarking on expensive schemes frequently too ambitious, we believe that if Government would concentrate on raising the standard of efficiency of the Government Services, it will undoubtedly enhance their prestige. A step in the right direction has been the decision to appoint a Commissioner. The inspection of Government Offices has not been satisfactorily done since this post was abolished. We would however like to impress on Government that this is only one of many measures which are urgently required if higher standards of efficiency are to be achieved. Taking a broad and balanced view, the main needs of Assam at the present moment are the consolidation of the food supply position and the importance of communications. We confess to some measure of anxiety over the present condition of railways and we trust that the Government of Assam will do their utmost to acquaint the Central Government with our apprehension,—possibly they are aware of these apprehensions. The carrying capacity of the railways appears to be steadily declining, and with the increased volume of goods there has been almost a practical blockade of supplies. In consequence, there has been a considerable diversion of traffic to the roads with a consequent increase in expenditure on the maintenance of the roads.

In conclusion, we do not propose to support the hon. Dr. Chaudhury's amendment though we concede that he has made a number of very relevant points, particularly on the economic situation. We would, however, be failing in our duty if we allow Government to draw the impression that we regard the situation as satisfactory. It is far from satisfactory at the present time, and we



expect from Government greater initiative and greater capacity than has been shown in the past years.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Srijut Nilmani Phookan will now speak.

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN:** Madam, I whole-heartedly associate myself with the Resolution of the Mover in offering thanks to His Excellency for the Address he delivered before the House the other day. To my mind, the Address has already covered all the important matters that affect our State and also those which are linked up with the problems of the whole Republic and at the background of international situation. In these matters possibly His Excellency has left nothing for this House to discuss any more. But I want to make a little observation on the Address in one point. For the last three years we have heard the Hon'ble Ministers, Their Excellencies and also the public men giving instructions to the people at large how to co-operate with the Government, how to increase production and also how to assist in procurement. But we have hardly heard enough from anybody how things should be best distributed among the people. Government are trying their level best to make the grow-more-food campaign successful and all the officials, the Cabinet Ministers, the Governors and the leaders of the Congress and other organisations have spoken in season and out of it that people must produce more and more if they want to live in sufficiency. From the Government side we have all along been asked to co-operate whole-heartedly with the Government officials in the proper function of the procurement, supply, textile and other departments which are controlling things at the present moment. But I have not heard any responsible Government officer either at the top or below telling us how the administrative machinery is working at present and what drastic steps they are taking to bring this machinery to proper working order. I conscientiously feel, and I can say boldly, that the old administrative machinery is still doing work not befitting the new urge of the people in the new order of things. The country has been made free by the great seer and prophet, both political and social, by non-violent means but with full revolutionary urge of the nation itself. Have we now used the same revolutionary urge by which we freed the country from the grip of the exploiting Imperial power in our economic, social and administrative fields? I only asked those who are responsible for these changes to think over this matter and find out a new policy so that all these bewailings and bemoanings from His Excellency downwards go (hear, hear.) It is no use simply hearing sweet messages, even from the highest in the land, unless we know that these pious words and good intentions are to be implemented and are being implemented on the spot. Without that no amount of messages, no amount of criticisms, no amount of hood-winkings and no amount of white-washings will save the nation. That is what I urge on the Government at the moment to think over. We have been asked by the Finance Minister, in his most detailed and able speech which he delivered yesterday, and by His Excellency as well in his Address, that the only way to do things now is that people should co-operate in making procurement and production successful. I for myself quite agree with all that has fallen from the lips of these high authorities, but I should also in all earnestness suggest to His Excellency and his Government whether the production and procurement matters have at all gone in the right direction even under the present exigencies. That is a matter which the public should know. I can quote a Government communique of the neighbouring State of West Bengal where it is stated that "a serious view must be taken of the fact that in a recent drive by the Enforcement Police against hoarded cloth in the burrabazar area alone 1443½ bales and 3249 "thans" of common varieties are stated to have been found undeclared and kept concealed."

These are the words quoted from the Government Communique. After close checks of this class of only 102 licenses of textile firms, the same Press Note also gives the information that something like 52 persons to whom textile licenses were given could not be traced.....

**The Deputy SPEAKER :** May I know from the hon. Member whether he got the information that he is reading from authentic source ?

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN :** It appeared in the Hindustan Standard of the 5th instant, but the words were quoted from the Government Communique. There it appeared—"the following is the Government Communique"—and then the quotations follow.....

**The Deputy SPEAKER :** Even then, do I understand that the hon. Member takes the responsibility as to the authenticity of his statement ?

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN :** I am only quoting the words of the Government Communique.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI :** May I enquire from the hon. Member if this relates to the Government of West Bengal, if so, it is not desirable to proceed in this matter any further.

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN :** Yes, but I want to emphasise this point, that similar state of things prevail in our Government also and they will be found out if proper enquiries are made. I take the responsibility of assisting the Government if they like to institute this inquiry in my subdivision.....

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI :** On a point of order Madam, can anything that happened in other States be the subject matter for discussion and criticism in this House ?

(*A voice*—We cannot discuss things that happened in other States in this House).

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN :** Madam, I am not criticising the West Bengal Government nor am I discussing matters of the West Bengal Government. But I was only quoting the words published from that Government's Communique that such things do happen in order to draw a parallel that if our Government also, I mean the Enforcement Department be up and doing now they will also find similar state of things, that is, permits were issued by the office but there are no permit holders. These will be detected by the Enforcement Branch if they care to make the enquiry that I am suggesting and I am taking the responsibility of assisting the Enforcement Branch if this inquiry is made in my subdivision (Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury... with my co-operation also)...

**Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY : (Deputy Minister)** Cannot the hon. Member give the Government the names of those persons who are doing these nefarious activities ?

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN :** I am not a Police officer nor an Enforcement officer..... (*laughter*.....) But I am only suggesting to those people who say they cannot find these blackmarketers—though I know they are as plenty as the black-berries in my subdivision or elsewhere to find them out, I can show them ways and means how to detect them. I am not befriending them though, but I can detect them.

**Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Deputy Minister):** My point is that if the Enforcement Department has failed will the hon. Member take the responsibility of finding out those persons who are carrying on such nefarious activities and submit their names to the Government ?

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN:** I have already told the House that I am not a Police spy nor a Police officer. But let the Government set up a Committee of Inquiry in my subdivision and I give the undertaking that at least 10 per cent. of these people, the blackmarketers, whom the officials of the Government could not find out, will be caught. (Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury— *hear, hear*). If the Government are not prepared to take the suggestions of hon. Members seriously and if they take it in a lighthearted manner as our newly promoted Deputy Minister has taken it on behalf of those officials who are in some cases befriending the blackmarketers, it is unfortunate. I am not bound under the responsibility of my constituency to take the matter lightheartedly as my Friend the hon. Deputy Minister could afford to do (*voices*) *hear, hear*.

**Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Deputy Minister):** On a point of clarification, Madam. My Friend has misunderstood me. He has said something about taking the responsibility of finding out those persons engaged in blackmarketing. What I suggested was that if the hon. Member can let us know the names of those persons, even confidentially, who are carrying on blackmarketing, then the Government will be in a position to hold the enquiry he has suggested. I do not mean to throw any insinuation on any one. But because my Friend boasts that he can find out some of those blackmarketers, it would be better if he wants to serve his constituency well, to give us the names of those people and the Government will be able to find out the culprits.

**The Deputy SPEAKER:** I think the hon. Member's suggestion was to have an Enquiry Committee and then he will do his best to assist the Government.

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN:** Yes, Madam,.....

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** If the hon. Member knows that there are a large number of people with bogus licences, then he may give us the names of such people. He can give them confidentially, we will not disclose the names of the informant.

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN:** I am not afraid of disclosing those names even on the floor of this House if necessary and I am not afraid of the blackmarketers also nor have I any bond with them. But I am only suggesting as a Member of this House and as a Member representing a large number of people of my subdivision, but I cannot work as a spy or an underling of the Government. These things are very important to a large number of the people who are able to stand on judgment over the Government itself. I will do my duty to them but I will not be led or guided to act under the behest of any administrative officer or even the Ministers in the way they like ; but I can assist them, I can give them proper data so that they may come to a right conclusion and do the right thing for the people. That is what I mean. I would request the Government to assist me rather in this matter by their power. I have already given my proposal for the Party Meeting to discuss about Procurement.....

**The Hon'ble RAMNATH DAS :** No names have been mentioned. The hon. Member only says that he wants to discuss about the system of procurement, but no mention was made about blackmarketing.

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN :** But I have already pointed out that there are some officials who are befriending the blackmarketers.....(*hear, hear*).

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Order, order, the House stands adjourned for lunch till 1 P.M.

### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned for lunch till 1 p. m.

### After lunch

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

**The Deputy SPEAKER :** Mr. Phookan may now continue his speech.

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN :** Madam, possibly I would have finished long before, but for the interruptions made by my hon. Friend, the Deputy Minister. However, I should like to assure the House and specially the Government side that my criticism was not meant to be levelled against the Cabinet Ministers, but what I wanted to say was regarding the address of His Excellency. I want to make certain observations in the way of real constructive suggestions for the consideration of His Excellency's Government, as well as by the Members of this House and public in general, outside this House. My honest belief is that if my constructive suggestions are really given some thought over them by those who have the authority to do so, possibly to some extent it may be helpful to remove many hindrances. That is my honest conviction and with that conviction I am going to finish the remaining portion of my speech now and I hope you will all have the confidence in me when I say that my constructive criticism is for the benefit of all including the Government.

Regarding the food situation I have heard all the criticisms from the Leader of the Opposition and also of the European Group. I may not agree with them in all their criticisms so far as they are concerned. Whatever they might have said I am not going to criticise their remarks, nor am I going to criticise the actual working of the Government itself. But my whole criticism will be based on the policy which I honestly believe should be shaped anew in the field of economic problem and more specially in the administrative machinery. I have no doubt the administrative machinery at present is as old as the Government of those who have left this country and gone back 6,000 miles overseas. Unless that old machinery is properly overhauled to suit the requirement of the nation, the tinkering of that machinery will never carry the Government to a long distance. That I honestly believe. Therefore my honest conviction is that the whole Government machinery should be overhauled exactly to suit the present national objective for which the Congress fought for the last 30 years. That objective was always before our eyes. But for the attainment of that objective the present ricketty, old, worn out machinery will never carry us long. It will be just like an old motor car of 1920 model (*hear, hear*). While we have the new models of cars which have been used by our Cabinet Ministers, similarly new machinery of the administration must be now introduced. That is what I honestly want.....

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** On a point of information, Madam, how can we replace the old machinery of our cars by new ones ?

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN:** I will show him the way Madam, how to do it if he takes me into his garage (*laughter and interruption*). Madam, such interruptions will not either help them nor me.

**The Deputy SPEAKER:** Hon. Members are not to interrupt so much.

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN:** Specially I request the Hon'ble Chief Minister who is running the Government to think of overhauling the Government machinery to the extent that will be necessary and with that end in view a committee of experts should be appointed to see in which parts this machinery can be overhauled.

**Srijut DANDESWAR HAZARIKA:** The hon. Member can suggest names for such a committee.

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN:** I can never suggest the name of Srijut Dandeswar Hazarika at least, he being lazy (*laughter*). In general I may say that the number of additional, most of the deputies and most of the extra deputies, the offices which have been created during the war should be thoroughly curtailed after examination. It is not a question of personal matter, but it is a question of national necessity. So, if for the good of the nation we could sacrifice thousands of young men and if for the freedom of the country millions of young men may be sacrificed in the battle field, can we not sacrifice a few officials, if necessary, for the good of the administration ? That can be done. This is my general criticism.

Then as regards the food situation which is looming large not only before the Cabinet Ministers and the Legislative Assembly Members but even to the street beggar, this question is certainly most important from the point of view of the existence of the nation itself. So the observations made by His Excellency are true picture of the situation. But we should be encouraged if His Excellency showed us the way how to solve this problem energetically and definitely in a definite line. His Excellency was pleased to bring a true picture of the present food situation before this House, but it seems that His Excellency is equally helpless to solve the problem immediately. I think the whole food question not only depends upon the import of outside food grains from other countries, it not only depends upon the communication, it not only depends on the exigencies of the time, but it also does depend upon one principle, *i.e.*, how the land policy of the Government is working at present. It will ultimately depend upon the land policy of the Government to grow more food, to produce more and also to distribute more. So the land policy of this State has to be shaped anew if we really feel that we are friends of the people and if we feel that we are going to establish the Ram Rajya of Mahatma Gandhi in which the common man will be given an economic holding from which no power on earth can dislodge him. That state of affairs shall have to be brought about by the authority concerned. That is my firm conviction. But what is the present condition ? We are talking about grow more food campaign and Minister after Minister is going about and preaching that doctrine to the people. But 50 per cent. of the people have no land of their own to grow any food. That is my own experience at Jorhat. They come and tell me “দউতা আৰ্খিলৈ দিয়া মাটিত, এতিয়া আমাক আহুখেতি কৰিবলৈ কেছে—কিন্তু আমাৰ যে মাটি নাই। যাব মাটি তেওঁ এতিয়া আমাক আহুধান ববলৈ নিদিয়ে।”

**Shri PURNA CHANDRA SARMA:** Is this relevant?

**Shri NILMANI PHOOKAN:** How is it irrelevant? If it is irrelevant, then he himself has spoken many irrelevant things.

So this is the present picture which I present before the hon. Members. The Hon'ble Food Minister goes about and asks the people to grow more food. Again when I go to the villages and preach this grow more food doctrine I find that 50 per cent. of the cultivators who are asked to grow double crop have no land of their own. The owner of the land will not allow them to grow Ahu for fear of not growing more Sali during the season. So that is the dilemma not only to the Hon'ble Ministers but also to the public men who preach the doctrine of grow more food among the cultivators. In such a state of things we should like to be advised by the Hon'ble Revenue Minister how to carry on the campaign. That is what I want to know. Then again if we want the grow more food campaign to be successful the land also must be improved. These Adhidars have no desire to improve the land because next year they do not know if they would get that land. This is another stumbling block which is standing on the way of grow more food. So, if the production is to be made more and more, then this question of land policy and land tenure must also be tackled along with it otherwise it is superficial to exhort the people and ask them to grow more food.

Then as regards procurement, I quite agree that when the produce is less, procurement must also be less. But may I ask the Hon'ble Minister of Supply whether he is conscientiously sure that the Procurement Department is doing its utmost to procure as much as possible and looking to the interest of the starving people? Are they trying to see that not a Powa of rice or a Don of paddy has been lost due to their neglect? It appears to me that the Procurement Department is either inefficient or indifferent. The interest of many of them is not with the people but with the business men. So all the paddy that has been gathered by the Procurement Department for the last 3 years, have they all gone to the respective organisations such as the tea labour and other institutions? Has all this paddy gone to the proper place and not a single quantity of that has gone to the black market due to the neglect or inefficiency of the Procurement Department? So, I hope the authority will take this charge into consideration and find out where the real truth is or whether as a responsible Member of this House I have exaggerated it. If I have exaggerated it I shall be guilty of that.

I remember last time my hon. Friend, Dalbir Sing Lohar, brought several charges against the officials of Dibrugarh in the open Assembly. I want to know if those charges have been enquired into by the authority and with what result? Please make a statement in the Assembly so that Members may be careful and no exaggeration may take place. If I have exaggerated and am talking irresponsible things I should resign my seat if I find my exaggerations have gone to such an extent that no Members can believe me.

Regarding foodgrains, I fully appreciate what His Excellency has placed before us. I should feel whether His Excellency himself just like a common man move from place to place.....

**The Deputy SPEAKER:** May I remind the hon. Member that His Excellency's name should not be used in his personal capacity?

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN:** Very well, Madam.

His address is full of matters which must give food for reflection not only to hon. Members like us but must also give food for reflection for the Hon'ble Chief Minister. I think my Hon'ble Friend, Mr. Medhi, will try his level best to implement as quickly as possible even under circumstances which are not very favourable. The Head must be very strict; every department must be handled in such a way that there may not be any laxity in supervision. If any officer says that the work is too heavy for him the proper remedy is to ask him to resign. I honestly feel that the departmental Heads should change their habits of sending file after file to different tables. They should run from place to place themselves if necessary.

I have another thing—the labour welfare matter. There is a mention that a Bill will be introduced in this session to extend the period of maternity leave. I can only emphasise that we have introduced a Bill which will be taken into consideration some day after but I can only suggest one thing and I shall do it in the party meeting, to make an amendment of that Bill to make 4 months as the statutory period for leave for maternity privilege. It is not my opinion. It is the decided medical opinion that one month previous to confinement and three months after will be necessary for maternity benefits. All the tea garden doctors have testified to that. If we do not amend the provision of the Bill to that extent it will be in my opinion doing wrong to the womanhood of the country. This is the first welfare item in the nation's programme to protect the women who even carry all the Prime Ministers in their womb. If we do not protect the womanhood of the country future generations of Prime Ministers will be all rickety. So we must do that.

As regards other matters I need not dwell with every subject in detail but I feel that His Excellency's address is replete with matters which must give food for reflection to us—Legislative Assembly Members and Cabinet Ministers. If we give sincere thought to the circumstances under which we are labouring and which were placed before our eyes through His Excellency's address then it will be something to move a Motion of sincere thanks to His Excellency for delivering the speech.

Then Rehabilitation of Refugees—Refugee question is looming large before our eyes. We have to settle, I believe, no less than 10 lakhs of refugees who had to leave their hearth and home and three storied buildings to remain in the shelters and cottages here and there. Certainly these refugees required fullest sympathy from every people and they must be rehabilitated properly but sympathy and actual facts are two different things. We are to think seriously. The number of refugees that have already come and may be coming—have we any room to accommodate them all? If any fiat comes from the Centre that we should accommodate all, have we not the right to say that we have no room to accommodate one and all the refugees that may come? Let them be distributed evenly throughout the length and breadth of the Indian Union. These are the practical difficulties. We cannot actually take them all. One or two lakhs of landless people are already in the land of their birth. We have not been able to accommodate them.

In addition to that if we are to accommodate lakhs and lakhs of refugees without the proper counting and proper method, it will certainly create such a state that it will neither be happy for the refugees nor for the children of the soil. Therefore, it will be the duty of the Government to absorb as many refugee families in our midst so that in future there may not be the difference between the refugees and the people of this Province, they should be totally absorbed in the fold of the Assamese people, and the Assamese people in that case must embrace them as their own brothers and sisters who had come from another place at great disadvantage

to their lives and honour, property and everything to be absorbed in Assamese fold. This is a plain talk from my side and I hope my friends of Bengal will yet take my criticism in that spirit in which it was given.

Regarding the earthquake relief, the country had already acknowledged and we are thankful to all those numerous persons and institutions in the country and abroad who have contributed to the Earthquake Relief Fund to succour the distress after the earthquake and to the flood-stricken people. We the people of the State cannot sufficiently express our gratitude to our benefactors. It is a fact that we acknowledged all these things in public platform and on the floor of the Assembly, and what His Excellency has said in this matter is a matter of history, I need not recapitulate; what he says is exactly correct. At this moment without thinking of persons, without thinking of party, as human beings every one and all should try to rehabilitate all those unfortunate brothers and sisters of hills and plains who have already suffered the greatest havoc in their lives, and if I am allowed to give a little part of my own experience in this matter, I find at Dibrugarh and North-Lakhimpur that though the relief is already there but there is laziness on the part of some. The winter cloth arrived two months before, in many places the cloths are still in the godowns and not distributed, and in similar matters we have heard of the same complaints—these are the general complaints, I cannot say whether they are true or not. The authorities should make immediate enquiry when things for relief had arrived in the godowns and when it had been disposed of, how long it would take to reach those things to proper destinations. I hope the authorities will enquire from the local authorities in the manner I have pointed out above, and if these figures are provided, then my hon. Friend, the Minister in-charge of Supply, will be able to see these things here even without going out to all those places. This is what I feel. With regard to another thing His Excellency has mentioned about the boat disaster, and in this connection though I am one of the persons of the unfortunate families who suffered, but I am not mentioning my own thing, but I should say of those unfortunate families, though it is a matter of accident, certainly it is the duty of the Government to take further care so that these things may not happen in future. On this point I do request the hon. Members connected with this to let us know after that incident what kind of rescue party has been formed and what equipments scientific and ordinary, necessary for rescue work have been already provided and who are in-charge of the rescue party! Had it not been for the universal sympathy, for the sympathy of the President of the Republic of India, and other officials of the Government of India, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, His Excellency and his gracious consort and bright daughter, the words of solace and sympathy of the peoples and organisations through out the length and breadth of the country, these unfortunate families would not have stood the shock. For the sympathy they thus received, they have forgotten to a great extent, the criminal negligence of the local authorities at the helm of the affairs—I can say definitely, I have got positive proof, because it is not a personal matter—to arrange things, they failed to bring boats which are allowable under the Act to ply. May I ask the Government to make an enquiry of the local authority whether those country boats came under the certified provision of the India Steam Vessels Act, under which they are to ply? Can Government say that those boats were approved by the Surveyor? These things should have been enquired into by the local authorities before they venture to send one of the most respectable Ministers of the Government with the most popular young leader of the place and with the most energetic, young and dutiful officers of the Government. Had they taken all these precautions, had they had these country boats fitted with engines certified under the provision of the Indian Steam Vessels Act, or certified as of required size and engine power the incident might have been averted. However, I leave this matter for enquiry, and reply by the Government. I am thankful to His Excellency and other noble souls who visited



these unfortunate families and offered words of solace and also material help. I found the Hon'ble Chief Minister was there and no body is more concerned and sorrowful than the Hon'ble Sri Omeo Kumar Das himself. In spite of the unanimous verdict of the Dibrugarh people, the Government misrepresented by the local authorities and without making any enquiry issued a publication to the effect that the Government was satisfied that every precaution was taken. The Hon'ble Minister could not go there and make the enquiry himself. He merely relied on his subordinates who misled the Government. It is a very serious thing. I hope the Hon'ble Chief Minister will take a serious view of the thing and see whether the report submitted by the local authorities is correct or not. But I take the responsibility of saying that all these facts that have been reported to the Government are not correct. Positive proof I can give, and I shall give it in course of time, and not now. What happened is that there has been irreparable loss of human lives which cannot be recouped, and what is the duty of the Government and the public towards the families of these unfortunate victims, I need not be anxious to know. I have no reason to think of that. Because these families suffered irreparable loss in precious human lives, no material help can now help them. Whatever material succour and whatever public sympathy has been shown will be humbly accepted by the families themselves. His Excellency the Governor of Assam who went there personally said, "the sacrifice of these youngmen will be a source of inspiration to the Assamese youth". But we must take a lesson out of it. I do not say that because there was an unfortunate accident so the Assamese youth should not be adventurous and should not do public service. At least I must be credited with anything but cowardice. But I do insist on Government that not a single youngman should be asked to do public service in future at such a moment without proper equipment for emergency. There was not a single boat available from Government side at a place where there are about 2 or 3 furious big rivers. Whenever necessary, the Police go about and ask some boat-men to give their boats and to some others to give their engines and then they fix one man's boat with another man's engine. There is a saying in Assamese which says:—“এঘবৰ পাটনাদ, এঘবৰ জৰী, এঘবে পানী ভোলে ঘটং ঘটং কৰি”। This adage may well be applied in this case.

So I want to know from Government and also I appeal to the Central Relief Committee through His Excellency the Governor of Assam, who is the President of the committee I believe, to let us know what further precaution have been taken at Dibrugarh, Sadiya, North Lakhimpur and other earthquake-affected places so that such thing may not happen in future. The other day we have heard from the Zoologist and the experts sent by the Government of India saying that there is every possibility of the river Subansiri being in spate by 3' or 4' more than the last year and that the river Brahmaputra might also create greater havoc at Dibrugarh. For such an emergency boats might be necessary for rescue and relief works and unless these things are kept in readiness from now it might prove disastrous. It appears in such emergency the Deputy Commissioner sends a slip to the Superintendent of Police and the Superintendent of Police to his subordinates to find out boats. This is sheer foolishness. Unless these officers mend their ways, they should not be allowed to hold charge of such areas. They should be replaced by bolder officers with stout heart and with national vision. If these things are repeated, the country will not forgive those underlings of the Government who are in the responsible position and who fail to discharge their duties. May I ask how many of the big officers ever visited Dhamaji side before they allowed the Hon'ble Minister and the party to risk a voyage in such rickety boats in the midst of the furious Brahmaputra?

**The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS:** I was not asked by any one to go there.

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN:** I am not referring whether the Hon'ble Minister and Jiban Ram Phukan and others were dragged there or they went there voluntarily, but I am saying that the Hon'ble Minister should not have been allowed by the local authorities to make such a venture.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** May I take that the Hon'ble Ministers are to be guided by the Officers in their work ?

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN:** I do not mean that, but I say that the local officers should have pointed out the risk involved. Any way, whenever any Hon'ble Minister goes any where he is accompanied by the Police Officers and the Criminal Investigation Department Officers for the safety of the Hon'ble Ministers. In this case also the local officers were also responsible for the safety of the Hon'ble Minister. If the Hon'ble Minister—who, I know, is a good swimmer wanted to go, was it not the duty of the Deputy Commissioner to ask the Hon'ble Minister not to go and was it not his duty not to allow the Sub-Deputy Collector, who said that he did not know swimming, and also who, it is reported said 'Sir, I cannot take the responsibility of this trip' to accompany the Hon'ble Minister in the rickety boat with the engines which are not allowed by the law to ply ? Only this point I want to emphasise. I hope the Government will enquire whether these boats were registered under the Indian Steam Vessels Act, whether the Engine Drivers were qualified and had the requisite permit from the authorities concerned, whether they have been threatened by the Officers in charge of the area with the words—'You will be put into Jail, if you do not go etc.' ? These things, if properly enquired into, will show that the local officers cannot substantiate that all the provisions of the Act have been satisfied. If these facts are proved action against these officers should be taken and they should not be allowed to hold charge of the area any longer. I think they may even come under Section 304A of the Indian Penal Code. I therefore urge upon the Government to enquire whether the boats and the engines had satisfied the provisions of the Indian Navigation Act, or other laws for such boats and if after enquiry it was found that they were actually plying under the provisions of the Act then I shall be compelled to apologise to the officers concerned and also to the House for making this statement.

**Srijut DALBIR SINGH LOHAR:** মাননীয়া উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মাননীয় ৰাজ্য-পাল ডাক্তৰীয়াই এই অধিবেশনত সিদিনা খন যি মূল্যবান অভিভাষণ পাঠ কৰিলে, তাত, আমাৰ দেশত উদ্ভৱ হোৱা সকলো বিলাক গুৰুত্বপূৰ্ণ প্ৰশ্নবেই, আংশিক ভাবে হলেও—নিখুঁত ভাবে আলোচনা কৰাৰ কাৰণে তেখেতক সম্বৰ্দ্ধনা জনাও আৰু ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ৰ অভিভাষণৰ প্ৰত্যুত্তৰ হিচাবে, শ্ৰীযুত পূৰ্ণচন্দ্ৰ শৰ্ম্মা দেৱে কৃতজ্ঞতা জ্ঞাপন কৰিবলৈ যি প্ৰস্তাৱ দাঙি ধৰিছে সেই প্ৰস্তাৱ মই আন্তৰিকতাৰে সৈতে সমৰ্থন কৰো। মই বনুৱাৰ প্ৰতিনিধি আৰু সেই হিচাবে—আমাৰ দেশৰ হাজাৰ-বিজাৰ বনুৱাৰ আৰ্থিক উন্নয়ন আৰু বাস-ঘৰৰ উন্নয়নৰ হকে প্ৰথমেই দুই-চাৰিঘাৰ কৈ তাৰ পিচত ভগনীয়াৰ পুনৰ সংস্থাপন, আৰু খাদ্য পৰিস্থিতিৰ বিষয়ে দুই এঘাৰ কম।

আজিৰ এই আলোচনা প্ৰসঙ্গত, কব খোজো যে, বনুৱাসকলৰ সৰ্ব্বতো প্ৰকাৰৰ উন্নতিৰ হকে, তেওঁবিলাকৰ যুক্তিযুক্ত দাবী বিলাক চৰকাৰে পূৰ্ণ কৰিবলৈ আহোপুৰুষাৰ্থ কৰিছে যদিও অনেক ক্ষেত্ৰত মালিক সকলে নতুন যুগৰ লগত খাপ খোৱা মনোভাৱ দেখুৱাৰ পৰা নাই। তাৰ কাৰণে ত্ৰিদলীয় আলোচনা কাৰ্য্যকৰী হোৱা টান হৈ পৰিছে। এনে অৱস্থাত চৰকাৰে আইনৰ যোগেদি বনুৱা সকলৰ প্ৰাপ্য সুযোগ-সুবিধা বিলাক দিয়াৰ বাহিৰে আন উপায় নাই। এই কাৰ্য্য ক্ৰমত গতিত হোৱা বাঞ্ছনীয়। “মিনিমাম ৱেজ এক্ট” মতে বনুৱাৰ সৰ্ব-নিয়ম দৰ্শনহাৰ হাৰ বান্ধি দিবৰ নিমিত্তে সম্প্ৰতি ত্ৰিদলীয় আলোচনা চলি আছে। এই আলোচনাত দেখা গৈছে যে বনুৱাৰ অতি যুক্তিযুক্ত দাবীও মালিক সকলে মানি

লব খোজা নাই। চৰকাৰে মধ্যস্থতা কৰি এই বিষয়ে এটা মীমাংসা কৰা উচিত হ'ব। বনুৱাৰ ফালৰ পৰা এনে দাবী কৰা হোৱা নাই; যিটো চাহ শিল্পই সহজে দিব নোৱাৰে। চাহ শিল্পত ওপৰৰ ফালে চালে অনুপাত হিচাবে বনুৱাতকৈ যি বোৰ বেচি খৰচ হৈ আছে তাক ওপৰৰ পৰা চালেও দেখা যাব। বাগিচাত এজন মেনেজাৰে বছৰি ৫০/৬০ হাজাৰ টকা কমিছন পায় আৰু এই 'কমিছন'ৰ মূল কৰ্মী হ'ল দুখীয়া বনুৱাসকল যি কপালৰ ঘাম মাটিত পেলাই আন্তৰিকতাৰে সৈতে পৰিশ্ৰম কৰে—অৰ্থাৎ তাৰ বিনিময়ে মেনেজাৰ সকলে পোৱা ৫০/৬০ হাজাৰ টকাৰ কোনো অংশই তেওঁবিলাকে নাপায়। ইয়াতো নিশ্চয় বনুৱাৰ ভাগ আছে। সকলোৱেই এইটো জানে যে, বনুৱা বিলাকৰ সহযোগ আৰু পৰিশ্ৰমৰ সহায় নাপালে মেনেজাৰৰ পৰিচালনাই বাগানৰ উন্মত্তি কৰি দিব নোৱাৰে। কিন্তু পৰিচালনাৰ কৃত-কাৰ্য্যতাৰ কাৰণে মেনেজাৰক যেতিয়া ৫০/৬০ হাজাৰ টকা দিয়া হয়, ভালকৈ কাম কৰাৰ কাৰণে বনুৱাক তেনে কোনো অংশ নিদিয়াতো বৰ পৰিতাপৰ কথা। কাজেই আজি বনুৱাই যিটো সৰ্ব্ব নিম্ন দাবী কৰিছে, চাহ শিল্পই তাৰ বোজা বহন কৰিব নোৱাৰিব বুলি ভাবিবৰ কোনো কাৰণ নাই। মই আশা কৰো যে, তাৰ অলপো পলম নকৰাকৈ চৰকাৰে বনুৱাৰ সৰ্ব্বনিম্ন দক্ষহাৰ হাৰ বান্ধি দিব। ইয়াৰ লগতে মই কব খোজো যে চাহশিল্পত কামকৰা বনুৱা আৰু বিশেষকৈ কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ কাম কৰাৰ সময় (hours of work) নিৰূপন কৰা জৰুৰী হৈ পৰিছে। বাগিচাৰ কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ কাম আগতকৈ অনেক গুনে বাঢ়িছে। কিয়নো তেওঁলোকে এতিয়া আগতকৈ বেচি হিচাব পত্ৰ ৰাখিব লগাত পৰিছে। যি হিচাবে বাগানৰ কাম বাঢ়িব লাগিছে, সেই অনুপাতে কৰ্মচাৰীৰ সংখ্যা বঢ়োৱা হোৱা নাই। অনেক ঠাইত মালিক সকলে কৰ্মচাৰীৰ সংখ্যা কমাইছে। একেখিনি কৰ্মচাৰীয়েই বেচি কাম কৰিব লগা হৈছে। “মিনিমাম ৱেজ এক্ট” মতে তেওঁলোকৰ কাম কৰাৰ ঘণ্টা (hours of work) কিমান হোৱা উচিত সেইটো সোনকালে নিৰ্দ্ধাৰণ কৰি দিয়া উচিত হ'ব।

বৰ দুখেৰে সৈতে মই এইবাৰৰ অধিবেশনতো কবলগীয়া হৈছো যে, বনুৱা আৰু কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ থকা ঘৰৰ আচনি কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰাৰ কাম একো বিশেষ আগবঢ়া নাই। নমুনা হিচাবে দুই এটা ঘৰ কোনো কোনো ঠাইত সাজি থৈ কেবল আতুৱা ভৰাহে হৈছে। এবছৰ যেতিয়া, যি অনুপাতে নতন ঘৰ সজা হৈছে তেনে গতিত কাম চলিব লাগিলে কেইশ বছৰ যে লাগিব তাক কোৱা টান। তিনি বছৰৰ ভিতৰত সকলো বিলাক ঘৰ নিৰ্দ্ধিষ্ট পৰিকল্পনা অনযায়ী সাজি শেষ কৰিবলৈ এটা কাৰ্য্যকৰী ব্যৱস্থা লব লাগে। এই কাম কিমান দৰ আগবাঢ়িছে তাক চাবৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে। তিনি মাহে তিনি মাহে বাগিচা বিলাকে ক'ত কিমান ঘৰ নতুনকৈ সাজি উলিয়ালে, চৰকাৰক তাৰ বিপোর্ট দিয়াৰ নিয়ম হ'ব লাগে।

চাহ বাগিচাৰ শিক্ষাৰ বিষয়ে আশি আগতে যতে আছিলো এতিয়াও তাতেই আছে বুলি কব লাগে। চৰকাৰী শিক্ষা বিভাগৰ পৰা বাগিচাৰ স্কুল বিলাকৰ পৰিদৰ্শণৰ ভাল ব্যৱস্থা হ'ব লাগে। চৰকাৰৰ সামাজিক শিক্ষা বিভাগে, বাগিচাবিলাকত তেওঁলোকৰ পদ্ধতি অনুসৰি শিক্ষা দিয়া কাম হাতত ললে ভাল ফল পোৱা যাব বুলি আশা কৰা যায়। ইয়াৰ খৰচটো চাহ শিল্পৰ পৰা আদায় কৰা একোটা নহব। বনুৱাৰ লৰা ছোৱালীৰ সাম্ভৱতাৰ শিক্ষা কৃত-কাৰ্য্য হ'ব—যদি সামাজিক শিক্ষা দি বাগিচাৰ সকলো মানুহৰ মাজতে এটা শিক্ষাৰ বাতাৰণ সৃষ্টি কৰা হয়। আপোনালোক সকলোৱেই জানে যে—বাগিচাৰ—বনুৱা সকলৰ মাজত মাদক দ্ৰব্যৰ প্ৰচলন বৰ বেচি। মাদক দ্ৰব্যৰ ব্যৱহাৰৰ কাৰণেও বনুৱা বিলাকৰ আৰ্থিক অৱস্থা অতীব শোচনীয়। এই মাদকতা নিবাৰণৰ কাৰণে, তেওঁ বিলাকৰ মাজত ব্যাপক ভাবে সামাজিক শিক্ষা প্ৰচাৰ কৰিব লাগে। মাদকতা নিবাৰণৰ কামো তেতিয়া সহজ হৈ পৰিব।

মাননীয় উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়া, তাৰ পিচত থুবল বেগে বাঢ়ি অহা খাদ্য অনাটন পৰিস্থিতি সম্পৰ্কে মাননীয় ডাঃ ইমৰান হুচেইন চৌধুৰী ডাঃ জয়পাল মহোদয়ৰ ভাষণৰ ওপৰত যি সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱ আনিছে, তাক মই সমৰ্থন কৰিব নোৱাৰো, কাৰণ সেই সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱত খাদ্য অনাটন পৰিস্থিতিৰ উন্নয়ন পৰিকল্পনা তেখেতে কোনো আচনি বা constructive

suggestion দাঙ্গি ধৰা নাই—যাব দ্বাৰা জনসাধৰণৰ নিত্য প্ৰয়োজনীয় বস্তুৰ সৰবৰাহ আৰু বিতৰণ সহজ সাধ্য হৈ উঠিব পাৰে। আনফালে, এই দুকহ নিত্য প্ৰয়োজনীয় দ্ৰব্য সংগ্ৰহ আৰু বিতৰণৰ অৰ্থে চৰকাৰে সদায়ে চেষ্টা কৰি আহিব লাগিছে আৰু চৰকাৰৰ তৰফৰপৰা, এই যত্নৰ কোনো বৰ কম ক্ৰতি হোৱা নাই। আমি এখন স্বাধীন ৰাষ্ট্ৰৰ সমষ্টি হিচাবে টকি থাকিবলৈ—চৰকাৰৰ তৰফৰ পৰা যি খিনি প্ৰচেষ্টাৰ প্ৰয়োজন সেইখিনি অটুত ৰাখিবলৈ, চৰকাৰে কেৱল বজুতা ওপৰতেই থকা নাই—কাৰ্য্যকৰী পন্থাও অঙ্কিত কৰি কৃতকাৰ্য্যতাৰে আগ বাঢ়িছে। বানপানী—, তাৰপিছত সাম্প্ৰদায়িক বিবাদ (communal disturbance), তাৰ পিছত ভূমিকম্প, তাৰপিছত আকৌ বানপানী ইত্যাদি নানা বৰ কমৰ প্ৰাকৃতিক দুৰ্যোগৰ সন্মুখীন হব লগা হোৱাতো চৰকাৰে ৰাইজৰ কোনো কামকে অৱহেলা কৰি পেলাই থোৱা নাই। আপোনালোকৰ কাৰো নজন্য নহয় যে, সেই দুৰ্যোগৰ সন্মুখীন হব লগা অৱস্থাটো চৰকাৰে সদায় সকলো কামকে সাধ্য অনুসৰি কৰি আহিব লাগিছে। যদি মাননীয় সদস্যই কিছুমান suggestion অথবা আচনি দাঙ্গি ধৰিলেহেঁতেন, তেনেহলেও তেখেতৰ সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱৰ মূল্য থাকিলেহেঁতেন বুলি জানিলেহেঁতেন। কাজেই মই তেখেতৰ দীঘলীয়া সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱটো সমৰ্থন কৰিব নোৱাৰো। আজিৰ এই আলোচনা প্ৰসঙ্গত, চৰকাৰক মোৰ ব্যক্তিগত দুটা মান suggestion দিব খোজো। আমাৰ চৰকাৰৰ সহানুভূতি, দায়িত্ব—জনসাধাৰণৰ প্ৰতি যথেষ্ট পৰিলক্ষিত হৈছে। বনুৱা সম্প্ৰদায়টোৰ আৰ্থিক, সামাজিক উন্নতিৰ হকে—মই চৰকাৰক এই কথাটোকেই অনুৰোধ কৰিব খুজিছো যে, চৰকাৰৰ তৰফৰ পৰা যিমানদূৰ সম্ভৱ সিমানখিনি কাৰ্য্যকৰী ব্যৱস্থা হাতত লব লাগে। বাগানৰ গ্ৰাণ্টৰ লগত যি বিলাক মাটি পতিত হৈ পৰি আছে—বনুৱা বিলাক সেই মাটিত শতকৰা দিনে অন্ততঃ ১ ঘণ্টাকৈ পৰিশ্ৰম কৰি মাটি চাহ কৰি আমাৰ নিত্য প্ৰয়োজনীয় ধান, মাহ, সব্বিয়হ, ধোঁহ, শাক পাচলি আদি শস্য নিয়মীয়াকৈ উৎপাদন কৰিবলৈ দিলে খাদ্য অনাটন সংকটৰ বহুতো লাঘৱ হ'ব। সেই কাৰণে মই চৰকাৰ, I. T. A. আৰু বাগানৰ মেনেজাৰ সকলক এই বিষয়ত কাৰ্য্যকৰী ব্যৱস্থা অনতিপলমে হাতত লবলৈ অনুৰোধ জনাও। যি কোনো প্ৰকাৰেই হওক এই কাম বৰ্তমান অৱস্থাত বৰ জৰুৰী হৈ পৰিছে।

উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, তাৰপিছত খাদ্য বস্তুৰ বিষয়ে ইয়াকো কও যে, চাউল, দাইল, আটা, মাহ, সব্বিয়হ আদিৰ ওপৰতে নিৰ্ভৰ নকৰি আমাৰ মাজত পুষ্টিকৰ খাদ্য ঘি, গাখীৰ, মাখন, দৈ আদি কেনেকৈ বেচি উৎপাদন কৰিব পাৰে তাৰো চিন্তা কৰিব লাগে। সেই বিলাকো যাতে বৃদ্ধি কৰি আমাৰ আহাৰৰ ভিতৰত পেলাব পাৰি তালৈ লক্ষ্য ৰাখিব লাগে।

এই বস্তুবিলাক বেচি কৰিবলৈ হলে যিবিলাক ৰিজাৰ্ভত বেদখল কৰিছে, সেই বেদখলকাৰী বিলাকক উচ্ছেদ কৰিব লাগে যাতে আমাৰ গৰু-ম'হবিলাক চৰাবলৈ সুবিধা হয়। গ্ৰেজিৱাৰ সকলক যথেষ্ট সুবিধা দিব লাগে। কিন্তু মই নিজে দেখি আহিছো যে, তেজপুৰ বুঢ়াচাপৰি গ্ৰেজিং ৰিজাৰ্ভত বেদখলকাৰী বিলাক দিনে দিনে বাঢ়ি যাব লাগিছে। তাত থকা গ্ৰেজিয়াৰ সকলৰ ওপৰত বেদখলকাৰীৰ নানান অত্যাচাৰ হব লাগিছে। তাৰ গ্ৰেজিয়াৰ বিলাকে Mental Hospital, Civil Hospital আৰু চহৰৰ অন্যান্য জনসাধাৰণক দৈনিক ৯।১০ মৌণ পৰিমাণে গাখীৰ যোগায়। যদি এই গ্ৰেজিয়াৰ বিলাকে তেওঁলোকৰ গৰু-ম'হ চৰাবলৈ চৰণীয়া পথাৰ নেপায়, তেনেহলে ঘি, মাখন, গাখীৰ, দৈ আদি ক'ব পৰা দিব? এই বিলাক কথাৰ বিষয়ে এচেন্সলীত বজুতা দিয়া যিমান সহজ কথা practically কৰা সিমান সহজ নহয়। আমাৰ চৰকাৰে ফাৰ্মত পশ্চিমীয়া গাই মহ আনি নমুনা হিচাবে ৰাখিছে যদিও তাৰ পৰা বিশেষ লাভ হোৱা নাই। কাৰণ ফাৰ্মৰ এজনী গাই বা ম'হে ২০।৩০ সেৰ গাখীৰ দিলেই গোটেই প্ৰদেশৰ গাখীৰ, ঘি আদিৰ অভাৱ মিটি নাযায়। যদিও পশ্চিমীয়া গৰুৱে বেচি গাখীৰ দিয়ে, কিন্তু সি বেচি দিন নিটিকে। পশ্চিমীয়া গৰু আনি আমাৰ প্ৰদেশত খেতি কৰা অসম্ভৱ। পশ্চিমীয়া এহাল—হালোৱা গৰু কিনিবলৈ গলে কমেও ৭।৮ শ টকা লাগে। আজি জনসাধাৰণৰ যি অৱস্থা হৈছে; খেতিয়কৰ যি অৱস্থা হৈছে—যি গাৱলৈ গৈছে তেওঁবিলাকেহে দেখিছে—তেওঁবিলাকেহে বুজিব কি অৱস্থা হৈছে। গতিকে গ্ৰেজিয়াৰ বিলাকক সকলো সুবিধা নিদিলে তেওঁলোকে গৰু পুহিব কেনেকৈ? বা গাখীৰ যোগাব কেনেকৈ? আজি হালোৱা গৰু

অভাৱত মানুহে দুটা খেতি কৰিব পৰা নাই। এবছৰ খেতি কৰাৰ পিচতে গৰু মৰি থাকে। গৰু ম'হৰ বেমাৰ হলে টাউনৰ ওচৰতো veterinary doctor বিচাৰি পোৱা নেযায়। এনে স্থলত গৰু কেনেকৈ বেচি হব পাৰে? আমাৰ লৰা ছোৱালীবেবা মগজ কেনেকৈ ভাল হব? আমি কেৱল ধান চাউলৰ কথাৰে নেভাবি গাখীৰ, ঘি, মাখন আদি পুষ্টিৰ খাদ্য দ্ৰব্যৰ কথাও চিন্তা কৰিব লাগে। আমি এটা কথা কোৱা শুনো যে, vegetable ghee নেখাব। কিন্তু কিছুমান ডাক্তৰে কয় ইয়াক খোৱা ভাল, আৰু কিছুমানে কয় vegetable ghee খালে স্বাস্থ্য হানি হয়। আমি কোনটো কথা শুনিম। টিনত থকা vegetable ghee আমি অমৃত বুলি গ্ৰহণ কৰিব লগা হৈছে। কাৰণ আমাৰ ইয়াত পুচুৰ উৎপাদন কৰিব পৰা নাই। এই বিলাক বস্তু উৎপাদন কৰিবলৈ সকলো সুবিধা দিব লাগে। সেই কাৰণে মই চৰকাৰক কব খোজো যে, আমাৰ যিমান বিলাক গ্ৰেজিং ৰিজাৰ্ভ আছে সেই সকলো বিলাক বন্ধা কৰিব লাগে। আমাৰ যিবিলাক ভবিষ্যৎ বংশধৰ সেই বিলাকৰ কি অৱস্থা হব যদি আমি গ্ৰেজিং ৰিজাৰ্ভ বিলাক বন্ধা কৰিবলৈ চেষ্টা নকৰো। সেই কাৰণে মই চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰো যে, বেদখলকাৰীক উচ্ছেদ কৰিব লাগে। উত্তৰ লক্ষীমপুৰত গ্ৰেজিং ৰিজাৰ্ভত পাঁচমাৰি বেদখলকাৰীয়ে দখল কৰিছে। নগাঁৱৰ ভুববন্ধা ৰিজাৰ্ভটো দেখিলো তাতে বেদখলকাৰীয়ে দখল কৰিছে। যদি এই বিলাকক উচ্ছেদ নকৰে তেনেহলে জনসাধাৰণ কেনেকৈ টিকি থাকিব। সেই কাৰণে মই পুনৰ চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰিছো যাতে বেদখলকাৰীক অতি সোনকালে উচ্ছেদ কৰি গ্ৰেজিয়াৰ সকলক বন্ধা কৰি গাখীৰ, ঘি, মাখন আদি ও হালৰ গৰু তৈয়াৰ কৰিবলৈ উৎসাহ দিয়ে।

তাৰ পিচত বিলিফৰ কথা, মাননীয় শ্ৰীযুত নীলমণি ফুকন ডাঙৰীয়াই কৈছে যে, ডিব্ৰুগড়ত কিছুমান বস্তু গুদামতে পৰি আছে, আৰু এতিয়ালৈকে বিতৰণ কৰা হোৱা নাই। উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়া, মই যোৱা পৰিষদত কৈছিলো যে, ভূমিকম্পৰ পিচত অনেক ঠাইলৈ অনেক দিনলৈকে—কোনো যাব পৰা নাছিল। ভূমিকম্পৰ পিচত বাণপানীত বৃক্ষপুত্ৰত ডাঙৰ ডাঙৰ কাঠ উঠি অহাত নাওঁ যাব পৰা নাছিল। তেনে অৱস্থাত বিলিফ দিবলৈ যাওঁতে অনেক কৰ্মী বিপদৰ সন্মুখীন হব লগা হৈছিল। দুৰ্ভাগ্যৰ বিষয় যে, ভূমিকম্পৰ দুমাহৰ পিচত ঠিক সেই দৰে বিলিফ দিবলৈ যাওঁতে মোৰ অন্তৰঙ্গ বন্ধু, ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰ উজ্জল বন্ধু স্বৰ্গীয় জীৱনবাম ফুকন আৰু লগতে ৫১৬ জন উঠি অহা যুৱকৰ নদীৰ গৰ্ভত জীৱন নাশ হল। এতিয়াও সেই বিলাকৰ কিছুমান ঠাইত বিলিফৰ কাম কৰিব পৰা নাই। ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰ উত্তৰ পাৰে কিছুমান ঠাই এতিয়াও ৩ ফুটৰ পৰা ৪ ফুটলৈকে পানীৰ তলত আছে। সেই বিলাকৰ কিছুমান ঠাইৰ ৪।৫টা পৰিয়ালে একোটা সৰু সৰু পামঘৰ সাজি আন গাঁৱতগৈ জীৱন বন্ধা কৰিব লগাত পৰিছে। সেই কাৰণে এনেকুৱা কিছুমান মানুহক সহায় কৰিবৰ কাৰণে বৰ্তমানো কিছুমান বস্তু গুদামত বখা হৈছে। এই মাৰ্চ মাহৰ ভিতৰতে সকলো শেষ কৰিব পৰা হব। ময়ো ডিব্ৰুগড় Earthquake Relief ৰ এটা centre ৰ charge ত আছো। মোৰ বন্ধু শ্ৰীযুত বিজয় চন্দ্ৰ শইকীয়া এম, এল, এ, ডাঙৰীয়া আৰু তাৰ মুখিয়াল মুখিয়াল লোক সকলে এই বিলাক কামত যথেষ্ট সহায় কৰি আছে। উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়া, যি বিলাক মানুহ তালৈ গৈছিল সেই বিলাকৰ পৰা জানিব পাবিব যে, তাত খোৱা পানীৰ কেনেকুৱা হাঁহাকাৰ হৈছিল; ঠিক যেন চাহাৰা মৰুভূমি। অৱস্থা যেনেকুৱা গুৰুতৰ হৈছিল—তাক বণোৱা অসম্ভৱ। চৰকাৰী সাহায্যদিনো শুকান বালি কিমান তিয়াব। ভূমিকম্পৰ পিচত আকৌ যেতিয়া বাৰিষা আহিব তেতিয়া ভূমিকম্পত বিধস্ত হোৱা সেই ঠাই বিলাকৰ যে কি অৱস্থা হব আমি এতিয়াও ধাৰণা কৰা অসম্ভৱ হৈ পৰিছে। বাৰিষা অহাৰ আগতে যদি চৰকাৰে এই ঠাইৰ লোক সকলক বন্ধা কৰিবলৈ সাজু নহয় তেন্তে এটা অতি ভয়ঙ্কৰ অৱস্থা হব। বিলিফৰ কাৰণে ডাঙৰ নাওঁ বা motor boat নাই। যদি এতিয়াৰ পৰাই চৰকাৰে ডাঙৰ ডাঙৰ মাৰনাওঁ, মটৰ বোট, মটৰ লান্স আদি যোগাৰৰ ব্যৱস্থা নকৰে তেন্তে গৰু ম'হৰ কথাই নাই মানুহকো বন্ধা কৰা টান হৈ পৰিব। সেই কাৰণে চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰো যাতে সেই বিলাকৰ কাৰণে এতিয়াৰ পৰাই তৎপৰ হয়।

জানিব পৰা গৈছে যে, শিৱসাগৰ আৰু লক্ষীমপুৰ জিলাৰ ভিতৰত যি বিলাক শিক্ষা সঞ্চয়ী অনুষ্টান হানি হৈছে সেই বিলাক পুনৰ স্থাপিত কৰিবলৈ যি খৰছ হব তাৰ আধা ভাগ কেন্দ্ৰীয়

চৰকাৰে বহন কৰিব বুলি কৈছে। মই আশা কৰো যে, আমাৰ শিক্ষা মন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই তাৰ কাৰণে এতিয়াৰ পৰাই তৎপৰ হৈ আমাৰ শিক্ষা সম্বন্ধীয় অভাৱ বিলাক পূৰণ কৰিব।

তাৰ পিচত মাটিহীন মানুহৰ কথা, চৰকাৰে কৈছে যে, যিবিলাক মানুহৰ মাটি নাই সেই বিলাকক মাটি দিব লাগে, আৰু সেই বিষয়ে বোলে জিলাধিপতি সকলক কেতিয়াবাই নিৰ্দেশ দিছে। কিন্তু মই নিজে এজন এচেম্বলীৰ সভ্য হৈও আজি পৰিমিত কত আবেদন নিবেদন কৰি এডোখৰ মাটি পোৱা নাই। মই ভূমিহীন হিচাবে আজি প্ৰায় এবছৰৰ আগতে বৰ্তমান মাননীয় মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়া যেতিয়া তেখেত ৰাজহ মন্ত্ৰী আছিল তেখেতক কৈ আবেদন কৰি মই নিজে খেতি কৰিবৰ কাৰণে ৫০ বিঘা মাটি মঞ্জুৰ কৰাইছিলো। তেখেতে মোৰ দৰ্শাস্তত লিখি দিছিল, কিন্তু সেই দৰ্শাস্তখন আজি এবছৰেও ডিফ্ৰগড় পোৱা গৈ নাই। যদি এজন এম, এল, এৰ কাগজখন ডিফ্ৰগড় পাওঁতে এবছৰ লাগে তেন্তে চুকে কোনে অৱহেলিত হৈ পৰি থকা ভূমিহীন মানুহৰ কি অৱস্থা হব সহজে অনুমাণ কৰিব পাৰি। সেই কাৰণে চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰিছো যাতে তেখেত সকলে তেখেত সকলৰ অফিচাৰ বিলাকক ভালকৈ চলাবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰে।

অৱশ্যে চৰকাৰে আমাৰ কৰ্মচাৰী সকলক যিমানদূৰ সম্ভৱ ভালকৈয়ে চলাবৰ চেষ্টা কৰিছে। তথাপিও বহুতো ক্ষেত্ৰত যিবিলাক বেমেজালি ঘটিছে তাৰ মূলত আছে আমাৰ কিছুমান কৰ্মচাৰীৰ কাৰ্যশিক্ষিততা আৰু আন্তৰ্গামীতা, এতিয়াই আমাৰ মাননীয় ফুকন ডাঙৰীয়াই কৈ গৈছে যে, কেনেকৈ আমাৰ গাঁৱলীয়া ৰাইজৰ অভাৱ অনাটনত পীড়িত। এফালে ৰাইজৰ এই অভাৱ অনাটন আৰু আনফালে কেনেকৈ আমাৰ কৰ্মচাৰী সকলে আংশিকভাবে বা পূৰ্ণোদ্যমে চোৰাবজাৰ আৰু চোৰাবজাৰকাৰী বেপাৰীসকলক সন্নিবিধা দিছে। এই শ্ৰেণীৰ কৰ্মচাৰীৰ কথা যোৱা অধিবেশনতো মই উল্লেখ কৰিছিলো।

এতিয়া চৰকাৰৰ ফালৰ পৰা হয়তো মোক কব পাৰে যে, মই তেনেকুৱা কিছুমান কৰ্মচাৰীৰ নাম নিদিও কিয়? মই নামো দিব পাৰো কিন্তু নাম দিয়াতকৈ চৰকাৰে দুই চাৰিটা ঘটনাৰ অনুসন্ধান কৰিলেই সহজতে ওলাই পৰিব আৰু তেতিয়া এই ঘটনাৰ গুৰুত্ব বাঢ়িব।

উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, বৃটিশৰ আমোলত আনকি ডি, এন্স পি এজনেও এখন মটৰগাড়ী ৰাখিবলৈ সক্ষম নহৈছিল, কিন্তু আজি দেখিছো, এজন Havildarয়েও মটৰগাড়ী দৌৰায়। এই দুৰ্দ্ধিনত সেই তাকৰ দৰমহাৰে মটৰগাড়ী ৰখাটো জানো আচৰিত নহয়? এইবিলাক বিভাগীয় মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে অলপ অনুসন্ধান কৰিলেই আমাৰ কৰ্মচাৰী সকলৰ সকলো অনিয়মানুবৰ্তিতা ওলাই পৰিব।

আমাৰ ডিফ্ৰগড় মহকুমাত মই জনামতে এনেকুৱা কোনো কৰ্মচাৰী নাই, যাৰ এখন নহয় এখন Ford বা Chevrolet গাড়ী নাই Jeepৰতো কথাই নকওঁ। এই বিলাক অলপ অনুসন্ধান কৰিলেই দেখা যাব যে, নিজৰ নামত নাৰাখিলেও পুত্ৰকৰ সম্বন্ধীয় এটা নহয় এটাৰ নামত আছে। নিজৰ নামত নাৰাখি হয় পেহীয়েক নহয় মাহীয়েকৰ নামত ৰাখিছে। আমাৰ অসমীয়াত এফাঁকি কথা আছে, “বাঘ চাব নালাগে বিড়ালীকেই চাওক”। আন গুৰুত্বপূৰ্ণ ঔদাসীন্যলৈ দৃষ্টিপাত নকৰিও এই সামান্য কাৰ্যকলাপখিনি অলপ অনুসন্ধান কৰি চালেই দেখা যাব যে, আমাৰ অফিচাৰ সকলে কিখিনি আন্তৰিকতাৰে সৈতে দেশৰ নিৰীহ লোক সকলৰ হকে কাম কৰিছে। এফালে গাঁৱলীয়া খেতিয়কে বছৰৰ পিচত বছৰকৈ গোটেই বাৰিঘাতো হাড়ভঙা পৰিশ্ৰম কৰি এটাৰ পৰা দুটা ভৰাল কৰিব পৰা নাই আনফালে দুই চাৰি মাহ কি এবছৰ কাম কৰাৰ পিচতেই আমাৰ কৰ্মচাৰী সকলে আমাৰ চকুৰ আগতে এখনৰ পিচত এখনকৈ মটৰ দৌৰাইছে।

মই এইবিলাক উনুকিওৱা কাৰণে চৰকাৰে এইটো ভবা উচিত নহয় যে, মই চৰকাৰক নিন্দা কৰিছো বৰং মই এই বিলাক উল্লেখ কৰি তেখেত সকলৰ সহযোগীতাহে কৰিছো। মোৰ

উক্তি সত্য হয় নে নহয় অনুসন্ধান কৰি চাওক। যদি হয়, তেন্তে অচিৰে তাৰ প্ৰতিকাৰ কৰক “দুৰ্নীতি ধ্বংস কৰিবলৈ চৰকাৰক আমি সদাই সহায় কৰিম। তেখেত সকলো আমাৰ মানুহ— আমাৰ দেশৰ মানুহ। গতিকে মই আশাকৰো চৰকাৰে এই বিষয়ে অনুসন্ধান কৰি অনতিপলমে এই দুৰ্নীতি নিৰাৰণ কৰাৰ যেন ব্যৱস্থা কৰে।

ইয়াৰ পিচত আমাৰ গাৱলীয়া বাইজৰ বাস্তা পদুলীৰ বেমেজালিৰ কথাও অলপ উল্লেখ কৰো। মোৰ ব্যক্তিগত অভিজ্ঞতাৰ পৰা কও যে, ডিব্ৰুগড়ৰ উত্তৰ পাৰৰ পৰা ধেমাজীলৈ যোৱা যিটো বাস্তা নিৰ্মাণ কৰিবলৈ গড়কাপ্তানি বিভাগে হাতত লৈছে, সেই বাস্তাৰ নৈ বিলাকৰ ওপৰৰ ৭খন দলং এতিয়াও অসম্পূৰ্ণ অৱস্থাতেই পৰি আছে। এই ৭খন বাহৰ দলং দিয়াৰ পৰিকল্পনাৰ কথা বোধকৰো গড়কাপ্তানি বিভাগৰ মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে জানে। তাৰে এতিয়ালৈকে ৪ খনহে সম্পূৰ্ণ হৈছে বাকী ৩ খনৰ কাম হৈয়ে আছে। এই কেইখন কৰা শেষ নোহওতেই বাৰিষা আহি পৰিব আৰু যি বাহ আদি পৰি আছে তাকো বাৰিষাৰ নৈৰ ঢলে উটুৱাই লৈ যাব বুলিহে অনুমান হৈছে। সেই কাৰণে সকলোবিলাক কথা ভালকৈ অনুসন্ধান কৰি চাই সেই অনুসাৰে কাৰ্য্যকৰী ব্যৱস্থা কৰিবলৈ মই চৰকাৰক টানি অনুৰোধ কৰিলো।

অৱশেষত আমাৰ মাননীয় ৰাজ্যপাল মহোদয়ে আমাৰ আগত যি ভাষণ ডাঙি ধৰিলে তাত আমাৰ ৰাজ্যৰ সকলো পৰিস্থিতিৰ কথা তনুতনুকৈ ফহিয়াই দেখুৱাইছে। মোৰ মনেৰে তেখেতৰ ভাষণত সকলো মূল্যবান কথাই ঠাই পাইছে। এইবিলাক তেখেতে আমাক বিশ্লেষণ কৰি দেখুৱাই দিয়া কাৰণে মই মোৰ আন্তৰিক ধন্যবাদ জ্ঞাপন কৰিছো আৰু সেই মৰ্মে লোৱা আমাৰ মাননীয় শ্ৰীপুণশ্ৰী ডাঙৰীয়াৰ প্ৰস্তাৱ মই আন্তৰিকতাৰে সৈতে সমৰ্থন কৰো। আৰু আমাৰ ডাঃ ইম্ৰান হুচেইন ডাঙৰীয়াৰ সংশোধনী প্ৰস্তাৱৰ কোনো আৱশ্যকতা মই দেখা নাই। সেই কাৰণে মই তেখেতৰ সংশোধনীৰ ঘোৰ বিৰোধীতা কৰিছো।

জয় হিন্দ।

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Madam, I have heard with rapt attention and with great expectation the statement made by the hon. Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury in support of his amendment. But in his whole speech, from the beginning to the end, I failed to find any constructive or alternative suggestions in connection with the efforts of the Government in meeting the difficulties and problems with which Government have been confronted and which are fully appreciated by all. As a true citizen of the Indian Union he had not seen his way to suggest anything how to face those difficulties and problems, as Mr. Hardman tried to do in his speech. I am grateful to Mr. Hardman for his valuable suggestions and those will always be taken into consideration. In the speech of Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury I similarly expected to get some suggestions for solution of our difficult problems, but I have been thoroughly disappointed.

Before coming into details of the points raised by some of the hon. Members of this House, I like to remove from the mind of Mr. Hardman a wrong impression in the matter of recent 25% cut in ration. It was said that that ration cut was not applied to Government servants who draw free ration or rice concessions. That is not correct. This cut in ration is applied to Government servants as well as to the people of the State. The labourers in exchange of the amount of cut get in cash some compensation. This 25% cut in ration even if enforced would not mean a further cut in wages as the labourers get cash compensations for the quantity of reduced ration. But I understand there is always a dispute regarding the rate of compensation between the industry and labour. The labour representatives would not like to accept the compensation at the controlled rate. On account of this difference there has always been a difficulty in reducing

a part of their ration. Had there been no such difficulty the point raised by Mr. Hardman in his speech would not have arisen?

Regarding His Excellency's address, it is not possible to give detailed particulars of programmes and policies that are followed by the Government. In the general discussion of the budget and also in moving cut motions to demands the House will have enough opportunity to go into detailed policies and programmes which may be subjected to detailed criticism by the hon. Members. It is not expected that His Excellency's speech should contain all those particulars with regard to present or future activities of the Government or measures undertaken to give relief to the people.

Then the hon. Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury says, "His Excellency's direct reference to cession of territory in the State to Bhutan State under the Darjeeling Treaty during the pendency of the resolution yet to be moved by the Hon'ble Chief Minister to seek the consent of the House to the proposed cession of the area amounts to pressing the hon. Members for a speedy passage of the resolution."

My idea is that the Governor's speech should always indicate the various legislative measures and resolutions and other matters that will be placed before the House for consideration. When the particular resolution comes before the House Members will have ample opportunity of accepting or not accepting the resolution.

His Excellency also mentions that the Hon'ble Chief Minister will move a resolution for the approval of the House for the cession of Dewangiri. A Bill for retrocession under the Constitution will have to be introduced in the Parliament as regards the cession of the territory after consulting the State Legislature. The President has consulted the State Government. A resolution will come before the House and it will be for the House to consider if the resolution is to be approved or not. I think there is no reasonable justification for an amendment of His Excellency's speech for indicating that this resolution will be moved by Hon'ble Chief Minister in the House for consideration. As a matter of fact His Excellency's speech mentions about the resolution. For the information of the House I may say that in the area proposed to be included in the resolution and for which the recommendation of the House is sought for—not a single Indian citizen resides.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** May I know whether the area has been ceded or not?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** The Treaty is there. It has to be ratified. All Treaties are to be ratified in Parliament. A resolution will be placed before the House for the recommendation of the House so that in Parliament a Legislation may be introduced for ceding specified portions of the territories to the Bhutan State. So I find no justification for amending His Excellency's address simply because it mentions that the resolutions will be moved. It has been further stated that in His Excellency's lengthy address expressing anxiety for the people of the tribal areas, there was no mention whatsoever of the immediate representation of the people of the North Cachar Hills, Lushai Hills and inadequate representations of the other Hills districts of part A of the table under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution in the State Legislative Assembly.

Government is more anxious than the hon. Mover himself to associate a representative of the autonomous tribal areas in the Legislature. That we are anxious will appear from the efforts of the Government in securing representation of the B Tribal areas by nomination in Parliament. It is at the instance of the



State Government that a representative of the B tribal areas was nominated by the President to represent the B tribal areas in Parliament.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Is it relevant, Madam? I mentioned Part A of the table and not part B.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** It is relevant, Madam. Under Article 379(2) of Constitution, "The President may by Rules provide for—(a) the representation, in the provisional Parliament functioning under clause (1), of any State or other territory which was not represented in the Constituent Assembly of the Dominion of India immediately before the commencement of this Constitution."

On the strength of this, B tribal areas were represented in the provisional Parliament. There is provision for representation in Parliament, but there is, however, no provision for having interim representation in the State Legislature. Due to this difficulty it has not been possible in spite of our efforts to get representations for the autonomous tribals in Legislative Assembly.

**DR. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** What about Cooch Bihar?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** At the time of accession of Cooch Bihar there was a separate legislation. This is a different matter. The Constitution of India governs the autonomous districts. There is no provision in the Constitution for their interim representation in the State Legislature.

The Secretary, State Tribal Areas while in Delhi under my direction contacted the Law Department of the Government of India to ascertain if anything could be done even by amending the Constitution to bring in a representative of the autonomous tribal areas in the State Assembly. The only article which is reserved also for the autonomous districts in the Legislative Assembly in State of Assam". There is no provision for interim representation at all. The number of seats to be reserved for an autonomous district at the time of General Election is given in clauses (4) and (5). So far efforts made have not succeeded in securing any interim representation of the autonomous districts. We have been trying to make the best use of what we can under the circumstances. Advisory Councils have been formed in the autonomous districts and in all matters affecting those areas Government make it a point to consult the Advisory Committee. As an interim measure we always take the advice of the Advisory Council into consideration. I shall be obliged to the Hon'ble the Mover of the amendment if he can point out any provision of Constitution by which we can bring representative of the Autonomous Districts into the State Assembly.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** How does the Hon'ble Chief Minister interpret Article 392 (1)?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** I am coming. Article 392 (1) does not authorise the President to change the Constitution or add to the Constitution. President can only remove any difficulty as to the application of any articles or rules.

Article 392 (1)—"Power of the President to remove difficulties".

"The President may, for the purpose of removing any difficulties, particularly in relation to the transition from the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935, to the provisions of this Constitution, by order direct that this

Constitution shall, during such period as may be specified in the order, have effect subject to such adaptations, whether by way of modification, addition or omission, as he may deem necessary or expedient".

It will appear that there is no provision under the Article to nominate representation of autonomous districts to State Legislature. I, therefore, submit that there is practically no substance in the amendment that the hon. Member has brought in with regard to His Excellency's speech, that there was no mention whatsoever of the immediate representation of the autonomous districts. Long before this amendment we have been trying our utmost to secure representation of the autonomous districts during the interim period, and we have not yet ceased our further efforts. We are still in correspondence with the Government of India in this matter. We, as Congressmen believe that people who are under-developed should have opportunity to ventilate their grievances.

Regarding the food situation in our State all Government efforts that have been made from time to time to tackle the food problems have been laid down in the speech of my colleague, the Hon'ble Finance Minister in his Budget speech and also in His Excellency's address at page 6.

"Hon. Members of the Assembly are fully aware that the food situation in the country as a whole continues to be serious and within our own State also it has become the cause of considerable worry to my Government.....";

His Excellency has also therefore dealt with the food problems in his speech. All efforts have been made by Government to obtain food from outside, and also to procure food from the surplus areas to feed the deficit and partially deficit areas. (The efforts made by Government in connection with the campaign for growing more food crop have been indicated in the address of His Excellency and the speech just delivered in presenting the Budget). For equitable distribution of foodstuffs and essential commodities Cheap Grain Shops have been opened in rationed areas and also in deficit areas. Procurement of paddy from surplus areas has to be carried out to feed those in deficit areas and rationing areas— (For that purpose the surplus areas have been cordoned restricting movement of paddy) so that people will have no alternative but to sell the paddy to the Government Agent or the Government Procuring Machinery. If we do not allow the paddy to go out, the cultivators and landholders will have no other alternative but to sell surplus paddy to Government Agents. At the same time efforts are being made to open Cheap Grain Shops wherever there is scarcity.

For that purpose more commitments and responsibilities have been taken by Government. We know that we are to face the food problem and make our best efforts for meeting the difficult situation. We cannot run away as free citizens of the Indian Union like cowards but we must face the problem and devise ways and means as to how we can best feed all of us. We also at the same time must see to the difficulties of the rest of India where the people also are suffering. We must take all these facts into consideration. We must not lose sight of the fact that inspite of the best efforts Government of India have not yet been able to import sufficient foodgrains into the country and were forced to impose 25 per cent. cut as a temporary measure. We have not started the seizure operation because on the last occasion the result was not satisfactory, and because during the financial year 1950-51, the State had to face a series of unusual calamities, the earthquake, the flood and the drought and all these factors had their effect on production. Large stock of paddy in granaries was damaged by the earthquake and washed away by the flood following in its wake. Due to these natural calamities and other factors the province has lost the surplus character and is deficit in the matter of foodgrains.

The cultivators were so long reluctant to part with their surplus paddy as the controlled price fixed at Rs.7-8-0 is considered uneconomical in view of the

rise in price of other essential commodities. We have been pressing the Government of India to increase the procurement price of paddy at Rs.10 a maund and the Government of India have been pleased to approve our proposal to raise the price of paddy to Rs.10, temporarily for two months, upto the end of April, 1951. As the increase in the price of paddy has been approved by the Government of India, we desire to give some time to the cultivator to part with their surplus foodgrains at this increased rate. In expectation of raising the controlled price of paddy with Government of India's approval, the mass seizure operation was postponed to enable the cultivators to reap the full benefit of higher price for their paddy. As soon as the higher price has been approved by the Government of India, instructions were issued to that effect to the District authorities to procure paddy, and appeals have been issued to the cultivators to part with their surplus paddy. I also take the opportunity of appealing to the hon Members to persuade the cultivators and others to part with their surplus paddy. If persuasion fails, we shall have no alternative but to seize the surplus paddy. I am quite sure the people of this State will rise to the occasion and will part with their surplus stocks. The way in which we are bringing rice and wheat products from outside the State will enable us to have sufficient stock and the price will automatically come down after April. Ultimately the cultivators will have to sell their surplus stock after April at lower price in case they do not sell paddy now, as the price is sure to go down after April. If inspite of our fervent appeals the cultivators do not part with their surplus stocks, it is the cultivators who will lose ultimately. They will have to sell their paddy and rice for purchasing other essential commodities which they require. I again appeal that the public-spirited citizens and non-official groups throughout Assam will propagate the message of co-operation in the countryside and persuade those fortunate brothers who have surplus stocks of grain to part with their surplus to feed those who are in dire need. I draw the attention of the Members to that part of the address of His Excellency, which indicates briefly that the food scarcity in the State is due to the natural calamity and other difficulties beyond the control of Government — "During the financial year 1950-51, the State had to face a series of unusual calamities. We had the great earthquake of August last. We had unprecedented floods in its wake. Communal disturbances had their effect on production. And lastly the insect pests took their share of our crops. It has been estimated that the crop yield as compared with the previous financial year (1949-50) has gone down by as much as 4,41,500 tons (in terms of rice) owing to lands remaining fallow or having been rendered unfit for cultivation and because of damage to standing crops". As soon as we got these figures we moved the Government of India to give us 20,000 tons of rice and wheat products to build up a stock so that we may feed the people of the rationed areas and the people of the tea industry. As a matter of fact our commitments have also increased. There has been an increase of population to about one crore in place of 85 lakhs. Besides, there are more than 5 lakhs of refugees in this State and we have to feed them. In addition, 2 lakhs of people living in the hills bordering on Pakistan who used to get rice from Pakistan before, are to be supplied with rice now. These are the factors which clearly indicate how difficult the problem is and what efforts we are making to deal with this difficult problem. As indicated above, there is a shortage of about 4 lakhs tons of rice, and we have been moving the Government of India to help us with food grains. Assam is not now a surplus State in the matter of food grains and therefore it is not in a position to export any quantity of rice to any other States. In fact, last year we had to export 75 thousand tons but after exporting about 10,000 tons we stopped export, in order to feed our people. There is some impression that Assam is not helping in the

matter of food supply to other parts of the country. I have, however, shown that Assam is not in a position to export any quantity of rice under the present circumstances, rather we are in great need of foodgrains from outside. As a matter of fact, the Government of India have made an allotment of 24,000 tons of wheat products for the current year on our representation. The available surplus from the Manipur and Tripura States has also been allotted to us and they are in the process of coming. We are not only depending on the resources of Assam, but we are making every effort to get foodgrains from outside this State, consistent with the need of other States. We are to think of other States also. We cannot be selfish in a matter of such vital importance. The Government of India also approved of two barter deals with East Pakistan for 50,000 maunds of rice in exchange of 25,000 tons of Assam coal, and these are in the process of execution. The hon. Members will be pleased to know that as a result of our persistent demands, 5,000 tons of rice and 1,000 tons of wheat products have been allotted to us for the current month and they are in the process of transport to Assam. It is expected that similar allotments will also be available for a few months more. As a result of the recent Indo-Pakistan Trade Agreement, we have received intimation that a considerable quantity of rice and wheat products out of the ready stocks of East Bengal may be available to this State. It is expected that Assam would get an additional quantity of at least 20,000 tons. The heaviest commitments in respect of the tea gardens are the tea gardens in Sibsagar and Dibrugarh areas, the monthly requirements of which is about 6,000 tons.

Thus it will appear that this Government are not leaving any stone unturned to import into Assam as much foodgrains as possible from different sources. Then, Madam, we have tried to distribute what we have got equitably among the people. Besides the ration shops a number of cheap grain shops have been opened recently in many areas. The Government feel confident that if all our expectations are fulfilled, both in respect of import as well as probable procurement, the food situation in Assam would be adequately met during the current year.

Madam, Mr. Hardman said that procurement was not very good, but I submit that procurement is fast improving. I shall give certain figures to justify my statement. We are now procuring at the monthly rate of 13,000 tons against our commitment of about 16,000 tons. It is expected that this rate of increase shall be maintained if there is no dislocation of communication with the setting in of rains. The recent rise in prices will also augment procurement to a great extent. Moreover when the people will know that huge quantities of foodgrains are coming into this State they will naturally part with their surplus paddy. I hope hon. Members will also help us in this respect, so that it may not be necessary for Government to resort to the unpleasant duty of forcibly seizing surplus stock in the different areas. It will be in the interest of the cultivators also to part with their surplus stocks when prices are high from Rs.9-12 to Rs.10-8, and these prices will not continue beyond the month of April (Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhuri:—Is that the controlled price?). Yes. It varies from Rs.9-12 to Rs.10-8 according to 3 zones.

Madam, apart from our commitment to tea gardens and industrial areas (which form two-thirds of our total commitment) this Government are maintaining 237 Ration Shops in six statutory rationed areas at Dhubri, Gauhati, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Karimganj and Shillong and the monthly issues for these shops are more than 42,000 maunds. In addition, Madam, 149 Cheap Grain Shops have been opened for urban areas and 328 such shops for rural areas, totalling 487 shops for which more than 45,000 maunds of rice are issued by Government

monthly. We will open more such shops, if necessary, to feed the deficit areas. That is our programme. We cannot allow any part of the country to go without food, that is our aim. I hope the hon. Members will help us and persuade the cultivators, the middlemen and the big landlords to part with their hoarded stock. Of course for big hoarders and middlemen we have instructed the Procurement Department and the Deputy Commissioners to seize the hoarded stocks immediately and to prosecute the hoarders wherever possible.....

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** On a point of information, Sir.

What have Government got to say about selling of rice at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  seers to a rupee at a number of places in the Jorhat Subdivision ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** I did not say that we had been able to open Cheap Grain Shops in all the deficit areas. But within a short time we have opened as many as 487 cheap grain shops for distributing rice at controlled rates. With the improvement of procurement we will open such shops wherever necessary.

These are, Madam, some of the measures that we have taken for equitable distribution and procurement of foodgrains. The Government of India after taking into consideration all relevant factors fix the price structure over which the State Government have no control.

The distribution of controlled commodities is the responsibility of the State Government. And in that regard this Government have tried to do their utmost as I had enumerated before. Government, as the hon. Members know, are also distributing sugar and salt at controlled rates. Further, the hon. Members know that mustard oil and pulses are not controlled commodities, but they are very essential for our people. This Government, therefore, persuaded the Government of India to permit us to prohibit export of mustard oil and mustard seeds from this State. We apprehended that the prices of mustard oil and mustard seeds would shoot up with decontrol and we moved the Government of India to permit us to prohibit export of these commodities. At the same time we encouraged everyone to bring mustard seeds from outside Assam so that we may have sufficient supply within the province for distribution according to needs.

Then, Madam, I come to cloth, yarn, cement, etc. All these things have to be imported into our State. As the hon. Members know due to strikes and shortage of cotton the production in the textile mills had gone down considerably.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Is the Hon'ble Chief Minister aware of the fact that large quantities of cloth have been exported from the country ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Import and export licenses are issued by the Government of India, and we have no hand in it. But I saw a statement in the *Hindusthan Standard* that export has been stopped now.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** My point is that in spite of the difficult cloth situation due to strikes and cotton shortage, why should the Government of India have thought it fit to allow export of large quantities of cloth ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** It is difficult for me to say because I have not got all the facts before me to be able to state under what circumstances the Government of India did allow export. But when the Government of India realised the difficulties they prohibited export. As a matter of fact, they are now thinking of taking away the right of the mill owners to distribute one third of the production of the mills. The Government of India are thinking of taking away that right on account of this shortage of cloth and yarn throughout the country. I do not know what orders will be passed by the Government of India in this matter. But as a matter of fact, in the matter of distribution of cloth and yarn our aim is to establish a net work of co-operative societies throughout the State so that these co-operative societies may equitably distribute cloth and yarns in their respective areas at controlled rates.

Salt is readily available and at very reasonable price. There is no difficulty in this respect.

As I have said, we have made all efforts to meet the situation in the face of many difficulties. Even the hon. Mover of this amendment also has not been able to point out where we are erring and how such error can be rectified. Therefore, Madam, in view of these efforts as I have narrated, my submission is that this amendment is not justified and not reasonable. Hon. Members are no doubt aware of the problems that are facing the country. I appeal to all hon. Members to realise that the problem of feeding the people and to give them cloth to wear, is a difficult problem which can only be solved with the wholehearted co-operation of all parties and people. I seek the co-operation of my hon. Friend in the solution of these problems facing the State. Let my Friend, Dr. Emran Husain Choudhury, point out where are the defects and how to improve them. I assure him that his suggestions will be taken into consideration. The suggestions of Mr. Hardman in connection with certain roads and other things will be taken into consideration.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It is now 3 o'clock. Is it the sense of the House to sit for some time more ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Yes, Madam, I will finish in about 10 minutes.

Now, as regards the road to North Lakhimpur and other grievances put forward by Mr. Hardman, efforts are being made to keep open this road. But financial limitations always stand in the way. Hon. Members have seen that there is a budget deficit and whatever money is available it has to be distributed according to the urgency of the situation. We are conscious of the importance of removing the difficulty of communications to North Lakhimpur. In fact I have been feeling that it will not be possible to connect North Lakhimpur by road with the rest of the State during the rains as I apprehend floods specially after the recent earthquake, and for this reason I tried to connect North Lakhimpur by air. I may inform the House that at our request an air strip has been constructed by the Government of India at Lilabari and this air strip is now ready even for landing of Dakotas. I am quite sure that the Government of India will soon issue instructions to connect North Lakhimpur by a Scheduled Air service. During the last earthquake we suffered a great deal because we had no connection with North Lakhimpur even by air.

It is also very difficult during the rains to cross over to Pasighat from the other side, and at our initiative the Government of India have constructed landing strips in Pasighat and Sadiya also so that these places can be reached by air in times of emergency.

We have moved the Government of India to send Experts to help us in finding ways and means as how to prevent and control the floods of these two great rivers, *viz.*, Brahmaputra and Subansiri. The Experts who came were of the opinion that it will not be possible to take any measure before the rains to control or prevent the floods from the Brahmaputra and the Subansiri, and therefore we must be prepared for that contingency. To meet the situation a large number of country boats will have to be kept ready for shifting the people from areas which are likely to go under water to safer zones. A large number of boats will also be needed for rescue work and for carrying rescue workers to the affected areas with necessary commodities for relief. For this purpose we have instructed the Deputy Commissioners, Subdivisional Officers and Political Officers concerned to keep themselves ready with necessary arrangements to meet the situation if there be floods in their areas. From preliminary reports received from the Expert Committee three or four days ago, I can tell the hon. Members that there is apprehension of high flood in those areas and they suggested construction of embankment in Sadiya and Dibrugarh and other measures as a short term measure. I am however afraid that it is doubtful if these measures can be completed within such a short time as enough labourers may not be available.

Taking all these facts into consideration, I am afraid that in spite of Government efforts, hard days lie ahead of us. But that is no reason why we should not face the difficulties courageously. We must face them to the best of our ability.

As my Friend, Srijut Phookan says that some persons are responsible for sending those unfortunate people to Dhemaji for relief of the distressed on the other bank and that those persons are liable under section 304A of the Indian Penal Code in connection with boat-disaster.

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN:** My complaint is that these boats were not actually registered under the Navigation Act and that these dug-outs with engines should be registered and certified before they were allowed to ply. I know that those private boats were not being done so and if such boats were used by some official, then that official will come under that section.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** I have myself heard all the facts. If my Friend Srijut, Omeo Kumar Das and his Friends were forced by some officer to go against their will then of course we can blame that officer. But these Congress gentlemen were all adults bent on a mission of mercy. People in a mission of mercy do not care for risks involved in such mission. In that spirit those gentlemen in spite of the fury of the Brahmaputra started on their mission of mercy; who can prevent them from going? I do not understand how the Deputy Commissioner or any officer could prevent them.

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN:** My point is that those boats should not have been allowed to ply and.....

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** But I am not yielding Madam, because I have heard the facts. If some persons decided to go on a mission of mercy, how can the Deputy Commissioner prevent them and.....

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN :** I did not raise that point.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI :** But that is the implication of my Friend's arguments. These bold youngmen who sacrificed their lives for the relief of distressed humanity set a high and noble example to the country. We are all proud of them. The country is proud of them.

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN :** On a point of order, Madam. I do not dispute that. I agree with the Hon'ble Chief Minister about their sacrifice and I know that ; in fact I am proud of my nephew who was one of them, but he should not have met with this fate but for those unlicensed boats which were allowed to ply and those boats were requisitioned by the officer without making proper investigation whether they were safe or not. I am sorry the Hon'ble Chief Minister has missed my point. He knows that ; as a lawyer he ought not to have missed that point.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI :** The driver had a license and as a matter of fact the boat was not requisitioned. Such unhappy accidents always happen. Some people survive and some people do not survive. That is why we do appreciate that they did not hesitate to face the danger of the storm and the anger of the Brahmaputra current. My Friend will remember that after the earthquake even a steamer had ceased to ply to Dibrugarh. Mr. Hardman has said that they had to carry their goods to Neamati, they could not deliver them at Dibrugarh. Even a launch if it were used would have run the same risk and might have sunk as well. Those young men went to save some people and in doing so they lost their lives. We should emulate this noble example which should inspire our youngmen.

I can assure the House that all constructive suggestions will be taken into consideration.

**Srijut NILMANI PHOOKAN :** I raised this question of boat disaster. I am sorry the Hon'ble Chief Minister has missed my point of view and he was giving me a sermon. One of the victims is my nephew and I do not think he needs tell me that the sacrifice of these people we are not appreciating. However, when he has missed the point, I will make him satisfied with facts and figures either publicly or privately, if he wants.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Order : Order : What does the hon. Mover of the Amendment intend to do ?

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY :** I hope I have a right to reply.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** No, not in the amendment. He could either withdraw the amendment or press for it.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY :** In the circumstances, Madam, I have no other option but to beg leave of the House to withdraw the amendment. (The Amendment was, by leave of the House, withdrawn )

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Now I put the main question. The question is :  
 'That a respectful address be presented to His Excellency the Governor of Assam as follows :—  
 'Your Excellency,

We the members of the Assam Legislative Assembly assembled in this session



126 STATEMENT RE: COURSE OF PRIVATE [10TH MAR. 1951]  
MEMBERS' BUSINESS DURING THE BUDGET SESSION  
OF THE ASSEMBLY

offer our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the most illuminating speech which Your Excellency has delivered to this House'."

The Motion was adopted.

Statement re: Course of Private Members' Business during the Budget Session of the Assembly

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now make the statement regarding Private Members' business during this session.

In pursuance of Rule 18 of the Assam Legislative Assembly Rules, I hereby allot in consultation with the Hon'ble Chief Minister the following days for Private Members' business during the present session of the Assam Legislative Assembly:—

Saturday, the 17th March

Thursday, the 29th March

} Bills, Motions and Resolutions.

Private Members' Motions and Resolutions will also be taken up, if time permits, on the following days, after disposal of Government Business of those days:—

Monday, the 19th March, Tuesday, the 20th March, Thursday, the 22nd March, Saturday, the 24th March and Tuesday, the 27th March.

This order shall be subject to my revision, if necessary, from time to time.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M., on Monday, the 12th March 1951.

DATED SHILLONG :

The 27th April, 1951.

R. N. BARUA,

Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.

Shillong, the 27th April 1951

CORRECTION SLIP TO THE ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 8TH MARCH 1951, PUBLISHED IN PART VI OF THE ASSAM GAZETTE, DATED THE 18TH APRIL 1951.

At page 1—

No.1

(1) Delete the words " Consumer Goods " occurring in line 3 against the portfolio of the Hon'ble Srijut Motiram Bora.

(2) After the word " etc. " at the end of the portfolio against the Hon'ble Srijut Ramnath Das, insert the words " Procurement and Consumer Goods ".

R. N. BARUA,

Secy., Legislative Assembly, Assam.

