



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

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The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong, at 10 A.M., on Monday the 19th 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 forty-three Members.

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**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**STARRED QUESTIONS**

(To which oral Answers were given)

**Scarcity of Ahu seeds in Goalpara District**

**Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEV of Sidli** asked : 1✓

\*3. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) If Government are aware of the scarcity of Ahu seeds in the District of Goalpara, specially on the North Bank of the Brahmaputra ;
- (b) If the Deputy Commissioner of Goalpara and the District Agricultural Officer were approached by a large number of cultivators for supply of Ahu seeds ;
- (c) If the matter was reported to the Hon'ble the Chief Minister by the Questioner in January, 1951 ;
- (d) If Government propose to make any early arrangements for import of Ahu seeds from other parts of the State ;
- (e) If not, why not ?

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

3. (a)—Yes.
- (b)—Yes.
- (c)—Yes.
- (d)—Yes, and it is being done.
- (e)—Does not arise.

**Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEV of Sidli** : When do we expect that the seed will reach the cultivators ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS** : 5,000 maunds have already reached.

## UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which Answers were laid on the table)

**Scholarships awarded to the tea garden and *ex*-tea garden labourers' children****Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN** asked :

55. Will Government be pleased to state the total number of scholarships awarded for the tea garden and *ex*-tea garden labourers' children reading in the Primary Schools, Secondary Schools and Colleges for the years 1948-49, 1949-50 and 1950-51 ?

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

	1948-49	1949-50	1950-51
55.—Primary scholarships ...	4	4	5
Middle Vernacular scholarships	1	1	nil
Middle English scholarships	2	2	2
College scholarships ...	nil	nil	1

No scholarship is awarded to students in the Primary School as Primary Education is free.

**Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN**: As regards Middle Vernacular Scholarships for 1950-51, the reply is 'nil'. May I know the cause of it ?

**Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY (Deputy Minister)**: Because in this year no students have passed the Middle Vernacular examination from *ex*-tea garden labour.

**Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN**: As regards College Scholarships for 1950-51 the reply is "1". Who is that student ?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER**: This is a new question.

**Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY (Deputy Minister)**: I shall require notice of this question.

**The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS**: The name can be supplied to him if he desires.

**Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN**: Last time I asked the *ex*-Minister in charge of Education, Srijut Motiram Bora, and he very kindly recommended the student for award of scholarship. It was forwarded to the Director of Public Instruction's office, but since then I have heard nothing about it.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER**: I shall not allow a discussion.

**Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN**: Why the student has not been awarded the scholarship ?

**Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY (Deputy Minister):** It may be there was some other qualified candidate.

**Prof. P. M. SARWAN:** Do Government consider the number of scholarship adequate considering the huge population of *ex-tea* garden labour ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS:** This question is not relevant, Sir.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** It is a matter of opinion.

**Official Mourning in connection with the death of Deputy Prime Minister of India.**

**Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA** asked: ✓ 27

56. Is Government aware that official Mourning in the office of the Special Officer, Social Education, Gauhati was observed a day more than what was notified by the Assam Government for the death of the Deputy Prime Minister of India ?

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

56.—The reply is in the negative.

**Srijut BIMALA PROSAD CHALIHA:** I have seen with my own eyes that a discoloured flag was flown half mast one day after the official mourning period.

**The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS:** It will be enquired into.

**Assistant Inspector of Schools for Tribal Education**

**Srijut BEJOY CHANDRA SAIKIA** asked: A 28

57. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating to abolish the post of the Assistant Inspector of Schools for Tribal Education ?
- (b) If so, how Government propose to carry on the work of spreading education among the Tribals of the Plains, as desired both by the State and the Central Government ?
- (c) Whether Government are aware that it will be **contrary to the** Constitutional safeguard provided for the Tribals ?
- (d) Why the Assam Government has decided to abolish the above post ?

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

57. (a)—No.

(b), (c) and (d)—Do not arise.

**State Transport Services on the Jorhat-Nowgong, Jorhat-Sibsagar and  
Dibrugarh-Sibsagar Routes**

**Srijut BEJOY CHANDRA SAIKIA** asked : \* 2<sup>a</sup>

58. (a) Will Government be pleased to give in details the income derived from the running of State Transport Services on the Jorhat-Nowgong, Jorhat-Sibsagar and Dibrugarh-Sibsagar routes (to be shown separately for each route from the year of their operation) ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the total expenditure incurred in placing vehicles on these routes ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAM NATH DAS** replied :

58. (a)—The income derived from running the following State Transport services is stated below :—

(i) Nowgong-Jorhat Route (operation commenced from 1st August 1948).

Total income during—				Rs.	a.	p.
1948-49	...	...	...	62,766	0	0
1949-50	...	...	...	82,883	3	0
1950-51	...	...	...	63,887	8	0
(upto 31st January 1951)						
			<b>Total</b>	2,09,536	11	0

(ii) Jorhat-Sibsagar-Dibrugarh Route (operation commenced from 1st October 1949).

Jorhat-Sibsagar Section—

Total income during—				Rs.	a.	p.
1949-50	...	...	...	57,826	14	0
1950-51	...	...	...	80,969	10	0
			<b>Total</b>	1,38,796	8	0

(iii) Sibhsagar-Dibrugarh Section—

Total income during—				Rs.	a.	p.
1949-50	...	...	...	67,250	0	0
1950-51	...	...	...	82,250	0	0
			<b>Total</b>	1,49,500	0	0

(b)—The total expenditure incurred as capital investment on placing vehicle on the above routes is shown below :—

(i) Nowgong-Jorhat Route—placed 10 vehicles (8 buses and 2 trucks).  
Capital investment Rs.56,086-2-0.

- (ii) Jorhat-Sibsagar—placed 10 buses.  
Capital investment Rs.2,16,207-2-0.
- (iii) Sibsagar-Dibrugarh route—placed 10 buses.  
Capital investment Rs.2,16,207-3-0.

**Maulavi Md. NAZMAL HAQUE**: From the answer regarding State Transport business, it appears that in the Jorhat-Sibsagar Section and in the Sibsagar-Dibrugarh Section there was a heavy loss.

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAM NATH DAS**: Where is the loss shown? This is capital expenditure incurred in the buses.

**Maulavi MAHAMMAD ROUFIQUE**: Will the Hon'ble Minister state the reason for the great disparity in the capital invested?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAM NATH DAS**: Some old buses previously used by the Assam Transport have been placed in this route.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR**: Are Government aware that most of the buses that run in the Gauhati-Nowgong Section are not working well.

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAM NATH DAS**: All the buses are running.

#### Aided High and Middle English Schools

**Srijut BEJOY CHANDRA SAIKIA** asked: 16

59. Will Government be pleased to state—

- (a) The amount of money awarded to the Aided High and Middle English Schools as compensation for giving free and half free studentship to Tribal students in the whole State of Assam?
- (b) Whether Government propose to give in tabular form the number of Tribal students reading in High and Middle English Schools, separately and subdivision by subdivision?
- (c) The amount of money allotted for each subdivision for the purpose of giving compensation to the schools for giving free and half free studentship to Tribal students?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that this amount corresponds to 25 per cent. in Aided Schools and 50 per cent. in Government schools according to the total number of Tribal students reading therein?
- (e) If not, in what basis such grant-in-aids are sanctioned?

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

59. (a), (b), (c), (d) & (e)—The information is being collected and the same will be communicated to the hon. Member when received.

#### Lower Primary School Teachers of Dibrugarh Subdivision

**Srijut BEJOY CHANDRA SAIKIA** asked: 17

60. (a) Will Government be pleased to state the amount of arrear pay of the Lower Primary Schools' teachers which remained unpaid with the Dibrugarh Local Board in November 1947?
- (b) What steps were taken up by the Government to transfer the amount to the School Board and to pay the poor teachers?

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

60. (a)—Government have no definite information.  
 (b)—Enquiries are being made and action will be taken on receipt of the information.

### **Trainees of the Teachers Training Institutions**

**Srijut BEJOY CHANDRA SAIKIA** asked :

61. (a) Is it a fact that a deputation party on behalf of the trainees of the Teachers Training Institutions waited upon the Hon'ble Education Minister, Parliamentary Secretary for the Education Department, Director of Public Instruction and State Secretary for Primary Education Board on a certain date in October 1950 ?  
 (b) Is it a fact that the parties reached a decision to raise the deputation allowance from Rs.13 to Rs.20 per month ?  
 (c) Why this has not been given effect to up till now as promised ?  
 (d) From when it is proposed to be given effect to ?  
 (e) Whether the trainees will get the arrear amount from October 1950 ?

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

61. (a)—Yes.  
 (b)—A demand was put for by the deputationists to raise the deputation allowance from Rs.13 to Rs.20 per month.  
 (c)—This could not be given effect to due to financial reasons.  
 (d)—Does not arise.  
 (e)—Does not arise.

### **Creation of the post of Deputy Inspector of Schools with headquarters at Nalbari**

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR** asked :

62. (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have received a copy of a Resolution passed at a meeting of the Presidents and Secretaries of 8 Mauza Congress Committees of North Kamrup of the Gauhati Subdivision held at Nalbari Mauza Congress Committee Office on 18th April 1949 under the presidency of Sri Haladhar Chakravarty demanding the creation of the post of a Deputy Inspector of Schools, with his headquarters at Nalbari ?  
 (b) If so, whether the request has been taken into consideration and what decision has been arrived at ?  
 (c) Are Government aware—  
 (i) that the communication to these localities of the Gauhati Subdivision lying in the North Bank of the Brahmaputra is extremely bad ;  
 (ii) that the number of Primary Middle Vernacular and Middle English schools in these areas is very large ;  
 (iii) that due to the lack of good communication the Deputy Inspector with his headquarters at Gauhati cannot properly and regularly discharge his duties towards the schools in these areas ;

- (iv) that the teachers of these schools find it very difficult to come to Gauhati where they are frequently required to come in connection with businesses in the office of the Deputy Inspector of Schools ;  
 (v) that the solution of all these difficulties is the appointment of an Additional Deputy Inspector of Schools with his headquarters at Nalbari ?

(d) Having regard to the vastness of the area of the Gauhati Subdivision, the lack of communication and the large number of schools, do Government propose to consider the suggestion with sympathy and to appoint an Additional Deputy Inspector of Schools as suggested above ?

(e) If not, why not ?

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

62. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes. Final decision will be taken when the Budget has been passed by the Legislature.

(c) (i)—Yes.

(ii)—Yes.

(iii) & (iv)—This is probably so.

(v)—This point is being seriously considered by Government.

(d)—Yes, Government will consider this suggestion with sympathy.

(e)—Does not arise.

#### Establishment of Sugar mills in Assam

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR** asked : \*

63. Will Government be pleased to refer to the Unstarred Question No.112 asked by the hon. Shri Nilmani Phookan on the subject of establishing sugar mills in Assam during the Budget Session of the Assembly, 1950 (at page 551 of the Assembly Debates of 27th March, 1950) and state :—

(a) Whether Government have succeeded in inducing any private parties to transfer their sugar mills to Assam as stated by Government or to start a new sugar mill ?

(b) Whether the party said to be willing to buy the Assam Government's sugar cane nursery at Dimapur has purchased the nursery ?

(c) If so, at what price ?

(d) If the replies to questions (a) and (b) above be in the negative, what do Government propose to do with the said sugar cane nursery ?

(e) Whether Government propose to start a *Gur* Factory of their own and thus utilise the sugar cane nursery ?

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

63. (a)—Not yet.

(b)—No.

(c)—Does not arise.

(d)—As the negotiations with the party referred to in the answer to question No. 112 (i) asked by Shri Nilmani Phookan in the Budget Session of the Assembly 1950, fell through, Government recently invited fresh applications from persons interested in the establishment of a sugar factory in Assam at their own cost by shifting one from outside the State. They have received five applications which are being considered now.

(e)—Government have already done so since the *Gur* making season of 1950.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** Is *Gur* being manufactured at Bokajan ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Yes.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** Will Government give me some idea as to the production of *Gur* in that factory ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** I want notice.

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** I would have been glad to know whether the expenditure incurred is commensurate with the quantity of *Gur* manufactured.

## DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

### Grant No. 10

#### (25.—General Administration)

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.64,02,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1952, for the administration of the head "25.—General Administration".

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.64,02,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1952, for the administration of the head 25.—General Administration."

There are five Cut Motions and I think there is one omnibus Motion.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** I think, Publicity should be taken separately and others can be spoken on in Motion No. 5.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Yes. Will Dr. Chaudhury move his Cut Motion No. 1 ?

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY** : Sir, I beg to move that the provision of Rs.2,63,009 under Grant No. 10, major-head—25.—General Administration, minor head—Secretariat and Headquarters Establishment, sub-head M(b) Publicity Department (total), at page 72 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole Grant of Rs.64,02,200 do stand reduced by Re.1.

The intention, Sir, of my Cut Motion is to help the Government to economise their expenditure in view of deficit Budget which have of late become chronic. In this connection I have already made some suggestions. In connection with my Cut Motion here today I should like to tell the Hon'ble Chief Minister and through him his Government that we can or the Government can advertise whatever they have got to bring to the notice of the public in Assam through the radio which is the most effective way of doing publicity and through the papers which they have and through the Gazette in which they are publishing their communiques and other statements. Hence I deem it appropriate by way of lessening the expenditure of the Government to bring this Cut Motion for the Hon'ble Chief Minister's kind and very serious and sympathetic consideration. That I hope is enough so far as the Cut Motion before me is concerned.

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

“That the provision of Rs.2,63,009 under Grant No 10, major head—25.—General Administration, minor head—Secretariat and Headquarters Establishment, sub-head M(b) Publicity Department (total), at page 72 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.64,02,200 do stand reduced by Re.1.”

Any hon. Member taking part ?

*(After a pause)*

The Hon'ble Chief Minister to reply.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI** : Deputy Minister, Mr. Choudhury, will reply.

**Srijut MAHENDRAMOHAN CHOUDHURY (Deputy Minister)** : Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the information of Dr. Chaudhury I may say that the Publicity Budget has been already reduced. In the year 1949-50 the Budget grant was Rs.4,38,523. In 1950-51 the grant was reduced to Rs.2,24,947 and this year also the Budget grant for the Publicity Department is on reduction. We are already for economy and have actually effected economy in this Department. Publicity Department Vans which were taking very heavy consumption have been disposed of and many other implements that were lying in the godown for years together have been sold recently and from the sale proceeds we have got this year approximately Rs.73,000. We are going to spend only Rs.38,000 during the year 1951-52 for purchase of new vans and implements and taking the amount of Rs.73,000 into account, in fact the Budget grant under the Publicity Department will be reduced by Rs.35,000 in 1951-52.

Sir, my hon. Friend agrees with me that the department has certain utility to counteract false propaganda against the Government or to give publicity to the schemes launched by the Government. I think therefore he should vote for an efficient publicity organisation. To maintain the Publicity Department some

amount of expenditure has to be incurred and I would have been glad if my hon. Friend, Dr. Chaudhury, would have told me if there is any lavish expenditure in the Publicity Department during this year or in the coming year. But as Dr. Chaudhury has failed to bring to notice any extravagant expenditure in this Department I must note that he is not in favour of any retrenchment in this Department. He has mentioned that radio and the *Assam Gazette* are the best media to give publicity to the Government schemes, which I fail to understand. These are only media for giving publicity, but then we want a personnel to give things proper shape before publicity. I hope Dr. Chaudhury is not serious for the reduction of Grant to the Publicity Department, and, considering the useful service the Publicity Department is giving, I would request him to withdraw his Cut Motion.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Although I do not fully agree with what has been said, yet I may fulfil his hope by asking leave of the House to withdraw my Cut Motion.

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

**Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE:** Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.64,02,200 under Grant No.10, major head—25.—General administration, at page 60 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.64,02,200 do stand reduced by Re.1.

My intention to move this Motion is to criticize Government for having failed in keeping efficiency of the administration. Since their taking office efficiency in the general administration has been deteriorated. This is due to lack of strict supervision and inspection. We have so many Secretaries, Additional Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Under-Secretaries and so on but there is no arrangement for timely inspection of offices, particularly the District and Subdivisional Offices. These offices should be inspected at least twice a year. The Government have budgeted an amount of Rs.52,100 for the revival of the post of the Commissioner and his staff. This is surely in order to bring efficiency in the administration, but at this present time this expenditure is uncalled for as the works of this intermediate establishment could have very easily been done by the Secretaries. I would like to remind the House that once we in the Opposition objected vehemently for the abolition of the Commissioner's post and the Government paid no heed to our suggestions. Thus, they have killed the goose laying golden eggs. Now again they want to create the post of the Commissioner. The function of the Commissioner could have been very easily done by one of the Secretaries, instead of creating the post of the Commissioner and the staff in this stage of financial crisis. Sir, the aim should be to remove the top heaviness in the administration for which we have been crying hoarse, but on the contrary we find that much expenditure is going to be incurred to make the top more heavy.

This is evident in the provision of Rs.2,69,000 for the current year's sanctioned grant, under the Secretariat and Headquarters' Establishment head. The works of the Hon'ble Chief Minister have not so abnormally increased that an Additional Personal Assistant is required. This expenditure of Rs.5,000 is quite unnecessary.

With these words, I beg to move my Cut Motion for acceptance of the Hon'ble House.

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

"That the total provision of Rs.64,02,200 under grant No.10, Major head—25—General Administration, at page 60 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.64,02,200 do stand reduced by Re.1".

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, while wholeheartedly agreeing with what has been said by my hon Friend, Mr. Nazmal Haque, I should like to tell the hon. Members sitting in the Treasury Benches, the intention of bringing up Cut Motions is not always necessarily forcing a division. These are brought before the House to draw Government's attention and grievances of particular areas and of particular Constituencies and also to help the Government in the reduction of their expenditure. It is with this estimation, that I wanted to discuss the necessity of economising expenditures in the Publicity Department

Sir, my Friend has just now said that in spite of vehement opposition in 1947 of the Government's move for the abolition of the Commissioner's post the argument put forward by Government then was that it would result in large saving and that the post was not necessary. I think, I would do well to bring to the knowledge of the hon. Members of the House what was then stated by the late Lokapriya Bardoloi in connection with the Motion that had been brought in for the abolition of the post of the remaining Commissioner of Assam. He said that—"Further experience has convinced us that the remaining post of Commissioner was not necessary. It was therefore decided by the Government that the second Commissionership should also be abolished." This he said in the September Session 1947 of this Assembly of ours. We have seen how Government have been expressing their misgivings on account of this deficit Budget. They have advanced no reasons why they have been forced to incur the expenditure connected with the post and why they have thought it fit to re-create this post. This Cut Motion has been moved in order to remind the Government of their duty to curtail expenditure as far as possible. I should like also to tell the House that the Centralised Planning Department in Assam not fully conversant with economic planning asked for suggestions from the different departments which supply it. It takes little or no initiative in the matter. With their proposals and suggestions, I think, this Centralised Department might be abolished consistent with the deficit Budget of the Province. The question of a Centralised Department in our province is ill-conceived. Much money will be saved if this Department is abolished. Some time back a point was raised by my hon. Friend, Mr. Hardman, regarding the failure of the Government to convene the Services Re-organisation Committee. If I remember aright, I received towards the end of October, 1948, a letter from some Government Official asking for my consent to serve on the Committee. It was gazetted that the purpose of the Committee was to increase the efficiency of the different Departments of the Administration, regard being had to the economy in expenditure. I at once replied to the official that I would be too glad to serve on the Committee, if my services therein were considered by Government to be helpful in bringing about efficiency in the administration. Since then no meeting of this Committee has been convened. If I remember aright, I brought in a Cut Motion in this connection, but withdrew it after having got an assurance from late Lokopriya Bardoloi that a meeting of the Committee will be called very soon, but no meeting has yet been convened. Government desire an increase in the efficiency of the people. Yet they do not take steps in that direction. By way of increasing the desired efficiency Government ought to consider the wages of the people consistent with the provisions in our Constitution. I hope, Sir, ours is not a cry in wilderness. We hope we have been able to give some reasons as to why the Cut Motion

has been brought. It has not been brought only to force a division. Our intention, as we have repeatedly said, is just to curtail expenditure having regard to our Budget which is a deficit one.

With these words, Sir, I support the Cut Motion of my Friend, Maulavi Nazmal Haque, and I also commend it for the acceptance of this Hon'ble House.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Professor P. M. Sarwan to speak.

**Prof. P. M. SARWAN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad to be able to support the present Cut Motion for the simple reason that the expenditure in the State of Assam needs to be curtailed. We have a deficit Budget, and in spite of that, we do not see that the Government is desirous of cutting down expenditure, but rather we find that there have been discovered new ways of spending money further, *viz.*, revival of the post of the Commissioner of Divisions. The revival of the Commissioner's post as shown in the Budget will cost the Government more than half a lakh of rupees. Under British rule, administration was highly centralised and also very efficient, more efficient than the administration at the present moment. But when we in India have accepted the ideals of democracy, we have to admit that decentralisation will sooner or later be necessary. The Government have started to give effect to decentralisation by setting up Advisory Boards. These Advisory Boards would be very successful in course of time if they are truly represented by all sections of the people. I do not know if these Advisory Boards are succeeding in achieving the efficiency and the object for which they have been established. I have no doubt that as years pass these Advisory Boards will really be helpful in producing efficient administration when they will have a truly representative character. In view of the financial stringency in the State, the Government would do well to ponder seriously whether they could not do without the revival of the post of the Commissioner of Divisions. The post of Commissioner has been dead and by bringing it to new life will not mean a revival but it will be resurrecting of a dead animal. I do not think at the present moment Government are in a position to resurrect the dead animal—I mean the Commissioner's posts.—but will do better to devise methods to increase efficiency in the administration. I request that the Government should hold over for the time being this idea of re-establishing the post of the Commissioner. To make the administration more efficient, I would request the Government to give their full support to the Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional Officers in carrying out Government policies. I am sure that Government will not only give their support to the people who are able to force the Deputy Commissioners and the Subdivisional Officers to deviate from Government policies merely because they are able or they are believed to be able to catch the ears of the authorities in Shillong. If the Deputy Commissioners and the Subdivisional Officers have the support, the full support, the unstinted support of the Government, the administration will become efficient and will be appreciated by the public at large. Let us not forget the efficient manner in which the British administered the State. We did not like them and we got rid of them, but we should learn one thing from them which is—efficiency. Perhaps decentralisation will mean difficulties for the Government because that will mean change of administration.

I must tell the Government that people think that British administration was more efficient than the present administration. When the people will see that the officers in-charge are carrying out the policies of Government, with which I do not quarrel at all, the people will appreciate the Government and will also be happy and contented.

**Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA** : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been in my mind for a long time to say whether certain measures cannot be taken so that we can have increased efficiency in our administration. At the outset I must make it clear that I am not supporting the Cut Motion, but only giving certain suggestions. It seems to me that there has been some duplication of work between the Secretariat and the Heads of Department Offices, the ministerial staff in the Secretariat and that in the Heads of Department Offices almost do the same work. My idea is that if the Heads of Departments are also made Secretaries, *e. g.*, if Inspector General of Civil Hospitals is made the Secretary of the Medical Department, the Director of Agriculture that of Agriculture Department, the Director, Public Instruction that of Education Department, etc., we can have more efficiency in work and more quickness in the disposal of official matters. I also find, Sir, that there has been some heart-burning among the clerical staff because the clerical staff in the Secretariat get a higher scale of pay than the clerical staff in the Heads of Department Offices though in many cases practically the same work is done by both these ministerial staffs. So, I suggest to Government to see whether something can be done in this matter and thus whether some officers and also some of the Ministerial staff can be curtailed and engaged in more suitable works.

Regarding revival of the post of the Commissioner, my Friend, Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury, has made much of it. But I should tell him that 1947 is not 1951. There have now been so many increased responsibilities of Government in various Departments. Then the Deputy Commissioners' and the Sub-divisional Officers' offices are not working well, there has not been strict supervision over them. Therefore the post of Commissioner has become necessary now in order to keep a very good control over the Deputy Commissioners' and Sub-Divisional Officers' offices. Thus the hon. Member will see that the revival of the post of Commissioner has become necessary.

The question of money is a different thing. The point at issue now is whether, and if so how, we should increase the efficiency in the administration. Whether this should be done by creating more posts or abolishing existing ones is a different matter. So, these are my suggestions for the time being.

**Mr J. S. HARDMAN** : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are indebted to the Opposition for initiating a discussion which has centred on the efficiency of the administration and the expenditure incurred upon it. We consider, however, that the members of the Opposition who have complained of lack of efficiency in the administration are wrong to criticise Government for taking a step which, we believe, is calculated to improve the standard of the administration, *viz.*, the revival of the post of Commissioner. As hon. Members will realise, this post was abolished in the year 1947 and no adequate arrangements had been made to discharge the functions both of inspection and of rendering assistance to the district officers. An estimate of half a lakh in a Budget of 10 crores and 60 lakhs is not a large amount and there is no doubt that efficiency will bring a very large saving to the State. There is, however, one point on which we would like to have further information from Government. In 1947 the Commissioner's powers were distributed to various other authorities and legislation for that purpose was introduced and passed by this House. I am not aware, Sir, what the position will be when the post of the Commissioner is revived. But it would seem to be obvious that those powers which the Commissioner was able to discharge before 1947 should be once more given back to the Commissioner to perform. It will, in our view, relieve a certain amount of pressure on the Secretariat and enable the matters, which at present are taking rather longer, to be dealt with more expeditiously.

We offer a little moral support to the Opposition in their complaint about the Re-organisation Committee. Whether it was right or wrong for this Committee to be appointed, we feel that it was singularly inopportune for Government to allow this Committee to lapse into oblivion. It was never even summoned and no statement was made by Government indicating the reasons for changing their mind. It is evident that many of the functions which the Committee were expected to perform still remain to be done. In the last year's Budget debate Government appeared to indicate that some of these functions were to be performed by another Committee which went by the designation of the High Power Committee. On this Committee there was to be the Chief Secretary, and, if I remember correctly, hon. Mr. Siddhinath Sarma, a Member of this House. Once again this Committee has not met and we have no indication of the reasons for this inactivity, particularly, when we find that from all sections of this House there are complaints that the standard of efficiency is not entirely what it was.

This Motion enables me to raise another question closely connected with this issue, and that is the dilatory disposal of criminal cases. I have had occasion to bring this several times to the notice of Government. I am referring to the cases which are tried by stipendiary magistrates whose pay is met from the head "25—General Administration" and for the moment I am not referring to what is equally serious, namely, the delay in some of the higher Courts. There are many occasions when witnesses attend long distances time after time only to go away without having their evidence taken. I realise that on some occasions it is not the fault of the Court. Lawyers are entitled to apply for time on behalf of the parties they represent. But I am afraid that on an increasingly number of occasions the responsibility for delay rests very heavily with the Court. It is not an obligation of the Court to grant time to parties unless they feel that a sound case has been made out. Our complaint, however, is not so much to ill-advised decisions in regard to applications for time, but to sheer failure on the part of the Courts to devote themselves to the work in hand. Sometime ago I had the privilege of attending in the precincts of a court and I was very disturbed to see the general atmosphere there. Half an hour after work was supposed to commence the clerical staff were seen to be busily engaged in starting work, that is half an hour late. After a suitable and appropriate interval senior officers began to assemble on the premises; but there was at least a further hour before work actually started only to be interrupted again by other business which came up and not long afterwards the work appears to be in the process of closing down. In many instances there is no system: a large number of cases are fixed, witnesses are called as a matter of course and the consequences is that the Courts are unable to hear these witnesses. A pertinent remark was made by one hon. Member that in case of much criminal litigation, the complainant is being punished as heavily as the accused. I have a letter here from one of my constituents in which he asks me to draw the attention of the Government to the difficulties which are being experienced. He has already attempted to draw the attention of the Court concerned and also of the District Magistrate. This is a case under Sections 325, 379, Indian Penal Code which is pending in the Court of the Subdivisional Officer, Karimganj; up to date the witnesses appear to have attended on no less than 9 occasions and it is not clear whether their evidence has yet been recorded. The first appearance was on the 20th of June 1950, the last appearance was on the 8th of March 1951 and they are again being summoned to attend on, I think it is, the 9th April. On the 9th January the Manager of the Garden concerned thought it desirable to draw the attention of the Court to the inconvenience which was being caused by the absence on so many occasions for

no purpose of his medical officer and several members of the Garden staff. Unfortunately on the occasion when he sent a note to the Subdivisional Officer, it could not be presented as the officer was not in the Court.

These are by no means isolated instances. I know of a case in Jorhat which had gone on for nine months and the prosecution witnesses had not been examined. We feel that unless more attention is paid by the district authorities to the prompt disposal of criminal cases, there can be no value in maintaining Courts which contribute so little to the settlement of outstanding litigation. We hope that the appointment of the Commissioner will do much to remove all the inconvenience which the litigant public is experiencing at the present time. Litigation, however, is merely one of the items which fall under the purview of the district administration. We would be the first to recognise that District Magistrates are today carrying on a very heavy burden. All additional control place responsibilities on the District Magistrates. At the same time there is an impression that the authorities attempt to concentrate unduly on a few special activities and pay little attention to the disposal of routine work. It is extremely difficult to get a prompt reply from most of these Government offices ; there may be reasons for this. In some cases it is not so very easy for the information to be supplied at once. But in many a simple matter there is inordinate delay. On one occasion on a simple matter a fortnight is taken to type out a letter—an inordinate interval between the approval of the draft and the production of the completed letter. But all these indicate the urgent need for an overhaul of the system—a system which was possibly designed for doing work in more leisurely days can hardly work today—and there is, without doubt, an urgent need for reorganisation. Whether Government decide to appoint an executive committee composed of officials or to obtain outside experts or to revive the moribund Reorganisation Committee or to appoint a High Power Committee it is not for me to say, but we would commend to Government the most urgent need for securing the highest standard of efficiency possible in the District administration.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, Dr. Emran Husain Saheb and Jonab Md. Nazmal Haque Saheb have raised a discussion against the proposal of the creation of the post of the Commissioner. In view of the financial condition of the Government they are for abolition of the post rather than for its revival. The argument advanced by them in support of this proposal seems to be quite conflicting to what they say later on for making arrangement for inspection and supervision of the district offices. They insist that strict supervision or inspection is necessary in the District and Subdivisional offices. The object of the Mover in this respect can only be achieved by appointment of a senior officer with experience to go round the district for inspection and supervision of the district and other offices.

Mr. Hardman, in the argument advanced by him, said that there has been much accumulation of criminal cases for a long time. We had been trying to appoint as many Magistrates as is possible, and yet the accumulation has not been cleared up. We now feel that the full amount of work has not been realised from our officers. In many places District and Subdivisional Officers are new and besides that they had also to deal with various other works in the Districts and Subdivisions and as such they cannot devote adequate time to the supervision of the works of the Magistrates in the disposal of their cases and reason of such accumulation of pending criminal cases and to see if punctuality is observed. During my tours all these matters were brought to my notice in some of the Districts. As a matter of fact it was also brought to my notice that some of the officers do not come to their offices punctually and many

of the officers spend their time by gossiping outside their offices. In order to check all these the necessity of an experienced and senior officer is greatly felt and that is why the post of a Commissioner is being created on a temporary basis as an experimental measure with his headquarters as Shillong. We now want a Commissioner whose office must be in the Secretariat here so that he can go round the Districts and ascertain why there has been accumulation of cases in the courts of the different Magistrates and also examine the working of the district offices. After his inspection he would suggest measures how the efficiency in the District administration can be improved, how Government policy can be speedily implemented and how defects can be remedied. Many of the hon. Members are complaining that the land settlement policy of the Government has not been carried out as speedily as desired by them. This is one of the reasons why the Government propose to appoint a Commissioner who can advise the district officers to speed up the work and implement Government policy in the respective districts. He will also inspect the output of work of each officer and submit his report regarding the merits of such officers. With regard to the delegation of powers to the proposed Commissioner the matter will be duly considered. Some of the powers exercised by Commissioner are now being exercised by the Government and some by the existing Development Commissioner. At present we propose to send this Officer to the Districts to study matters and then to send a complete report to Government with his suggestions as to how efficiency can be increased, how accumulation of criminal and other works can be disposed of as speedily as possible. On the basis of that report it may be necessary to call a high power committee. But without any materials it is difficult for a committee to make any recommendation. I need not impress that it is not possible for a committee to make any recommendation without facts and figures for reorganisation of the offices with a view to increase efficiency and suggest measures for retrenchment without impairing efficiency.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** You have got 5 minutes more only.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI :** Hon. Members may remember that Relief Rehabilitation is very urgent and important matter and a post of Secretary had to be created to expedite the relief and rehabilitation work and the expenditure of the Secretary is being borne by the Government of India. Secondly, Autonomous District Councils are to be formed, rules are to be framed. The work in connection with the constitution of the Autonomous District Councils and that in connection with the development programme in these districts has increased to such an extent that to expedite the work a post of Secretary had to be created.

Then the Reorganisation Committee—Why this was not called? Immediately after the announcement of the Reorganisation Committee we were faced with great financial difficulty. I may mention in the year 1948-49 the Post-War grant was suddenly reduced and we were informed almost simultaneously that no Post-war grant was to be obtained by the State in 1949-50. Under the circumstances the Government had to devote their undivided attention to reduce expenditure to the tune of a crore for 1948-49 and to adjust our budget for 1949-50 without the Post-war grant of more than 3 crores to save the State from a financial catastrophe. I may draw the attention of the Members to what I stated in my budget speech.

“I may mention also that in our heroic efforts and drive for retrenchment we had the most unpleasant duty of discharging as many as 1,083 persons employed in connection with the various development schemes with a view to reduce expenditure by Rs.1,265 thousands”.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** What is the position now?

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** I am coming to it.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The Hon'ble Minister has got only 2 minutes more.

**Babu KAMINI KUMAR SEN:** I think we have saved enough time from the question hour. That saving can be utilised now.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** So we had to make retrenchment in all Departments. Subsequently in order to see the working of the various Departments we were trying to find out a whole time experienced officer to inspect the working of the Secretariat and offices of the Heads of Departments and submit his report. Failing to obtain a whole time retired officer we had to entrust the work to an officer in addition to his duties. He submitted his report but that did not contain the material we wanted. It was thought that no useful purpose would be served by calling this committee of re-organisation, on such materials. When the material could not be collected by the officer, we thought of getting reports from the Heads of the Departments and the Secretariat. These reports are not also satisfactory and none of them indicate any scope of retrenchment nor any suggestion for increasing efficiency. In the meantime it is proposed to make recruitment by competitive examination to Secretariat and Heads of Departments offices and to open classes for giving training to the office Assistants. But for want of accommodation we have not been able to open the class. We approached the Hon'ble Speaker to ascertain if some room could be provided for the training class. But there was some difficulty as some other Departments are occupying some of the rooms. After the Secretariat building is completed we propose to have this training class and the officer will be appointed for giving the training. This officer experienced in the working of the Secretariat may be available for collecting adequate material after inspection of the various Departments. After the materials are collected the desirability of placing the matter before a high power committee will be examined.

Regarding planning it will be remembered by hon. Members that a Planning Commission has been formed by the Centre and they want to have close co-operation with the State. The Co-ordination Committee is to be inter-departmental Committee of which there should be one Secretary. There is possibility of getting some money from the development projects. We have already submitted development programme to the tune of 21 crores. We propose to send schemes for reclamation of land, where collective and joint cultivation could be done. I think under the circumstances it is essential to have some one to look after this programme and keep in constant touch with the Planning Commission and collect materials from different Departments. With these words I request hon. Members to withdraw their Cut Motions.

**Maulavi Md. NAZMAL HAQUE:** May I know whether there should be an additional Personal Assistant to the Hon'ble Chief Minister? The Hon'ble Chief Minister has not stated the reasons for the creation of an Additional Personal Assistant's post to the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** It is really necessary. The two officers cannot cope with the work. They are to remain working from 6-00 A. M. to 10-00 P. M., the time up to which I work.

**Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA:** The Chief Minister has not stated regarding my suggestion.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** The desirability of making Head of Department as Secretary of the Department is under consideration of the Government, but I am afraid there are some difficulties in giving effect to such a proposal. I may take the case of Inspector General of Civil Hospitals acting also as a Secretary for Medical Department. The hon. Members must have seen how the condition and upkeep of the Civil Hospitals and Jail administration, have deteriorated in efficiency. In order to improve the condition and administration of the Medical and Jail Department much frequent inspection by Inspector General of Civil Hospitals seems essential. In doing so, he will have to be absent from the headquarters for a long time and during his absence all the works will be held up in his absence to deal with such matter. We are likely to be confronted with similar difficulties in case the Director of Public Instruction is also to work as Secretary for Education.

**Srijut RAJENDRA NATH BARUA:** The Assistant Director of Public Instruction can do the Secretary's job.

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Although, we would like to do away with the posts of Secretaries wherever possible but in view of the difficulties and deterioration in administration it is not possible to accept the suggestion of Shri R. Barua in general. The desirability of giving a trial is under consideration of Government. With these remarks, I would request the hon. Member to withdraw his Cut Motion.

**Maulavi Md. NAZMAL HAQUE:** My suggestion was that the inspection duty should be placed in charge of some Secretaries in place of the Commissioner.

Although, I am not satisfied with all the explanations given by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the Motion.

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

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

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I put the original Motion as a question.

The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.64,02,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1952, for the administration of the head—"25.—General Administration".

The Motion was adopted.

**Grant No.2**  
(7—LAND REVENUE)

**The Hon'ble Srijut MOTIRAM BORA:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Sir, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.33,04,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1952, for the administration of the head—"7.—Land Revenue".

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs.33,04,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1952, for the administration of the head—"7.—Land Revenue."

There are two Cut Motions standing in the name of Mr. Binode Kumar J. Sarwan and Maulavi Nazmal Haque. I think, hon. Mr. Sarwan will speak on Mr. Nazmal Haque's Motions.

**Maulavi Md. NAZMAL HAQUE:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.33,04,800 under grant No.2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue, at page 32 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.33,04,800 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, I want to show by this Cut Motion how expenditure under this head could be curtailed. Now, it is evident from the actuals of receipts and expenditure side from the year 1947 right upto 1949-50 that with less expenditure the receipts were satisfactory in comparison with the expenditure to be incurred in the current and the next year. The Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the year 1948-49 when collection was less shows that less collection was due to unsatisfactory economic condition of the people but not due to shortage of staff, and in the current and next year the receipts will surely come down due to uneconomic conditions of the people. Knowing fully well that due to some natural calamity we cannot have more receipts next year, estimation of more expenditure is not satisfactory. This is surely a bad estimation of the Budget. Though there is no prospect of more collection to increase the receipt, the Government is making provision for 24 more Sub-Deputy Collectors and to increase subordinate staff under the Land Record Head. In the present state of financial stringency in the State this expenditure may easily be delayed.

Sir, in this connection also, I draw the attention of the Government to the landless condition of the people in the Mechpara Wards' Estate in the district of Goalpara. Hundreds of people are landless, as they have lost their lands due to erosion. Some of the affected people have crossed over the Brahmaputra river and acquired some lands within the tribal area. The last communal disturbances have ousted them. Now, these people are without land and I would request Government that necessary staff should be given to the Manager concerned to find out land within the State and give these people land for cultivation.

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

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Cut Motion moved: "That the total provision of Rs.33,04,800 under Grant No. 2, Major head—7.—Land Revenue at page 32 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1 *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.33,04,800 do stand reduced by Re.1."

**Mr. BINODE KUMAR J. SARWAN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to speak on Cut Motion No.1 which is to the effect that the provision of Rs.62,844 under Grant No.2, Major head—C.—Management of Government Estates, Minor head—(b)—Development Rates Scheme (total), at page 37 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.33,04,800 do stand reduced by Re.1. It was tabled with the intention to criticise the Government policies regarding the settlement of land.

Sir, since more than 2 years ago applications were invited from the local people of Darrang District as well as others who are landless for settlement of Batimari Professional Grazing Reserve land, also Borsola and other Professional Grazing Reserve lands, but few people have actually been helped to occupy this lands. The Government should fix time limit of two years at least, during which time applicants should be prepared to occupy the above Professional Grazing Reserved lands. The Settlement Department should have allotted lands to the landless applicants by now and failure to occupy the above lands within the time limit should entitle others for settlement on the same lands. It

is true that hundreds of applications has been received in the Office of the Sub-Deputy Collector, Behali and Tezpur Sadar Office, and therefore during these two years there should have been no difficulty in granting allotment of lands. I therefore suggest that the time limit be 2 years latest, during which time the settlement officers should allot lands to the landless cultivators. The Deputy Commissioner should be instructed to give preference or priority to the landless cultivators residing near the Professional Grazing Reserved lands and the landless cultivators already in occupation should not, as far as possible, be ejected to make room for new-comers. In these abnormal days when there is acute food scarcity and when the vital need is to grow more food, there should be no delay in giving settlement of these lands to the landless local cultivators or even to the landless cultivators of other localities.

With these few words, I request the Hon'ble Revenue Minister-in-charge for allotment of lands to the landless cultivators.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Prof. P. M. Sarwan to speak.

**Prof. P. M. SARWAN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I whole-heartedly support this Cut Motion for the simple reason that the inefficiency of the Government has been reflected in the administration of their land settlement policy. Three years ago, Government instructed the Officers of the Settlement Department not to allow people to squat on Government waste lands. That was quite right, but there were people who were already in occupation of certain waste lands but these occupants had not been given pattas for the lands in their occupation. On the other hand the Government's instructions for the provision of new squatters were made use of by some Sub-Deputy Collectors who ousted or ejected these innocent people who were already in occupation of the lands before Government's instructions were issued. Last year certain ryots in Titabar Circle were in great trouble. They had been in occupation of Government waste lands for quite a long time. Pattas for some of these lands had already been received. The Sub-Deputy Collector failed to issue pattas for all the lands in their occupation on the ground that they had not applied in accordance with the Government's instructions. Thus those who were in occupation of land for a long time past were ejected. I think it was a great wrong done to these innocent people who have been there before Government's instructions had been issued. The Government have been calling for applications from landless people who want land for cultivation. These people applied two years ago and many of these landless people applied for lands in Dibrugarh, Sibsagar, Jorhat and perhaps in Nowgong Subdivisions. These applications piled up in each Subdivision and in two years' time most of these lands that were to be settled were not taken care of by the Sub-Deputy Collectors in-charge. Now this reflects a great deal of inefficiency, lack of promptness in the Settlement Department. Sir, the Settlement Department is a very important Branch of the Government administration for the rural people. The rural people do not want jobs, they do not want to be employed in Offices, but they want efficient administration in regard to land settlement matter, and if there is not an efficient administration in regard to settlement of lands, a large portion of the people of Assam as well as of India will have cause of complaints against negligence or callousness on the part of the Government.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Mr. Speaker, Sir. I beg to lend my support to the hon. Mover of this Cut Motion, Maulavi Nazmal Haque.

Sir, from the discussion that have already taken place on the floor of the House regarding the mismanagement in the settlement of lands with people who are landless I may draw the attention of the Government regarding the hardships caused to the people of Ouguri area where the people who had been in occupation of land were forcibly ejected. I therefore endorse what has been stated by one of the hon. Members of the Government Party—I think it was Srijut Dalbir Singh Lohar—when he invited the pointed attention of the Government to the hardships of the people of Ouguri area. In view of the scarcity of food stuff, I think Government would be well-advised to see that waste lands or tea garden grants go to people who actually deserve them, *i. e.*, to people who are landless.

**Maulavi Md. MAKSED ALI:** Sir, in our district there are many landless people, but recently the East Bengal refugees have been rehabilitated in some grazing lands under the Zemindars of Goalpara. Sir, we know that our indigenous people are more acquainted with the art of cultivation, and we do not know whether these East Bengal refugees are at all acquainted with the art of cultivation. I therefore do not understand why these people are being rehabilitated in these useful waste lands. Of course I do not say that these unfortunate East Bengal refugees should not be rehabilitated at all, but my point is that these people do not know the art of cultivation of our province and Government should see that these people are settled only on useless waste lands. When we are in need of more food we can best utilise our useful grazing lands by settling them with the unfortunate immigrants as well as indigenous landless people.

With these few words, I support the Cut Motion moved by my Friend on this side of the House.

**Srijut HARINARAYAN BARUA:** মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, মই কেৱল এটা কথা কব খুজিছো— ডাক্তৰ ইমবাণ হছেইন চৌধুৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই ঔণ্ডৰিৰ যিখিনি মানুহৰ Eviction কৰা বুলি উল্লেখ কৰিছে সেই মানুহখিনিক ওচৰৰ ২নং কাঠৈমাৰী বিজাৰ্ভত মাটি allot কৰি দিছে।

**Srijut HEM CHANDRA HAZARIKA:** মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, দৰং জিলাৰ বিহালী বতিয়ামাৰী গ্ৰেজিঙৰ মাটি দিয়া হোৱা নাই বুলি শ্ৰীযুত চাৰোৱান দেৱে যি কথা কৈছে তাৰ উত্তৰ হিচাবে মই কব খুজিছো যে সেই অঞ্চলত স্থানীয় মাটিহীন মানুহক মাটি দিয়া হৈছে। কিন্তু, সেই অঞ্চললৈ ৰাইজ সকল গৈ মাটি এতিয়াও দখল কৰাৰগৈ নাই তেনেস্বলত, তেখেতে কিয় মাটি দিয়া হোৱা নাই বুলি কৈছে কব নোৱাৰো। এই কথাখিনি মই জানিব পাৰিছো এই দৰে যে—উত্তৰলক্ষীমপুৰৰ কিছুমান মাটিহীন মানুহে দৰং জিলাৰ বতিয়ামাৰী বিহালী অঞ্চলত মাটি বিচাৰোতে তেওলোকক কোৱা হৈছিল—যে যদি আগতে স্থানীয় ৰাইজ সকল সেই অঞ্চললৈ গৈ মাটি দখল নকৰেগৈ তেনেহলে উত্তৰ লক্ষীমপুৰৰ মানুহক দিয়া হব।

**Srijut KARKA DALAI MIRI:** বোধকৰো শ্ৰীযুত চাৰোৱান চাহাবৰ constituency ৰ পৰা তেখেতৰ মনোনীত কোনো মানুহে মাটি নাপালে।

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** The Hon'ble Srijut Motiram Bora to reply now.

**The Hon'ble Srijut MOTIRAM BORA:** My Friend, Srijut Hareswar Das, Deputy Minister-in-charge of Revenue will reply.

**Srijut HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member Mr. B. Sarwan should have raised this Batiamari matter in the form of a question and we could then supply the information. This reserve consisted of about 8,438 bighas. Of this about 6,000 bighas were dereserved and 2,000 bighas were asked to be settled with Nowgong people and the rest with other people. The Deputy Commissioner was given full powers of settlement. A few minutes ago the other Sarwan wanted that full powers should be given to the Deputy Commissioners and the Subdivisional Officers. We gave them full powers. If people did not get any land, Mr. Sarwan should have approached the Deputy Commissioner and not come over here. As regards the allottees not going there, my Friend, Srijut Hazarika has given the answer.

As regards the point raised by Jonab Nazmal Haque Sahib, Mechpara is a permanently-settled Estate. If some tenant of Mechpara lost their lands by erosion this Government cannot help them. It is for the Mechpara Estate to supply them with land. If there is any land, the Manager of the Mechpara Estate knows it, and he has full powers to settle them. Instead of coming to Government, my Friend should have moved the Manager of the Mechpara Estate to settle those people, if land is available.

As regards the other point raised by Nazmal Haque Sahib, land revenue is not expected to be more with the increase of staff, I want to say that land revenue and personnel cannot go together. Instead of the 24 appointments made recently the Sub-Deputy Collectors' cadre is still less by about 20. At present settlement work has begun in the Cachar district, Gauhati town, Kamrup district, Nowgong district and in many other places. So, a large number of land records staff is necessary. Then due to earthquake many people were stranded, many tea garden lands have been requisitioned and various reserves have been dereserved. These lands have got to be settled with the landless people. For these reasons this land records staff is necessary. The revenue which these settlements will bring may not immediately be commensurate with the increase in staff. If the settlement work is completed and landless people are rehabilitated revenue will come a few years hence. Land is a long-term project. Immediately it may not bring any revenue at all, but ultimately it will bring revenue. Then there is another aspect of the question. The landless people and those people who have lost their land as a result of erosion and earthquake, it is the duty of Government to settle them in new lands. For that reason also Land Records staff is necessary. So, this should not be judged by what amount of additional revenue is derived.

Then, Sir, I am a bit surprised that a man of Prof. Sarwan's standing lacks in common knowledge of land law. He said that encroachers, *i. e.*, those who encroached on Government lands should be kept there. Sir, in 1945 all the parties met together and adopted a Resolution known as the July 1945 Resolution.....

**Prof. P. M. SARWAN:** On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I never said that encroachers should be excused. What I said was that people who had been on the land before the Government's instructions were issued should have been settled.

**Srijut HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister):** As encroachers? Sir, he does not know what is meant by "encroacher". Under the 1945 Resolution for waste land a man must file an application and only when land is allotted to him and possession is delivered he can go to the land. If without doing this, a man enters into a reserve or any waste land and occupies it, he is an encroacher. My Friend Mr. Sarwan by way of personal explanation seems to have expressed his ignorance of the meaning of the word encroacher.

**Prof. P. M SARWAN:** My point is that the Government issued some instructions about three years ago and before that these squatters were recognised by the Government.

**Srijut HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister):** My Friend has again proved his ignorance of the law, Sir. The Land and Revenue Regulation is there from 1882. What he refers to as Government's notification, was not a notification, but it was a Resolution adopted on the 13th of July, 1945—ignorance of law does not protect anybody. So now I think my hon. Friend realises that he has no case for these encroachers. Whatever action was taken by the Sub-divisional Officer or the Deputy Commissioner to evict these encroachers, they did under the law.

As regards Ouguri Reserve—these are also encroachers, Sir, and they were evicted after due enquiry spread over about two years. There was local agitation because that portion of the land which they occupied was the only high land where the people could keep their cattle. The Revenue Officers gave the encroachers land elsewhere in the same Professional Grazing Reserve and evicted them. As there were several parties among the local people supporting this party or that, possibly my Friend, Dr. Emran Husain, belonged to one of them and was supporting the encroachers.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** That is an insinuation, Sir, I think the hon. Deputy Minister will withdraw that. I was not siding with any party. I only took the opportunity of helping in the settlement of land there. I was not siding with this or that party.

**Srijut HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister):** Many thanks, Sir. I am very glad to hear that.

Another point, Sir, raised by my hon. Friend, Maked Ali, that Government should refuse to give lands to refugees. Sir, the registered number of refugees will be about 5 lakhs 25 thousand and if we take into account those who were not registered the total will come up to about 8 lakhs. It is impossible for the Government to give lands to all these refugees. If my Friend, Maulavi Maked Ali, could induce the Central Government to take away some of these refugees, we shall thank him.

**Maulavi Md. MAKSED ALI:** There are indigenous people, Sir. Is it not the duty of the Government to see that the indigenous people are provided with land because local agitation is going on?

**Srijut HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister):** We have already adopted a resolution to provide lands to the landless indigenous people. But there is a humanitarian side; these refugees lost their all due to communal violence in Pakistan and for no fault of theirs. We must help them and rehabilitate them and we are doing so to the best of our ability. But we cannot rehabilitate all for want of land. So if the surplus number of refugees were taken away by the Central Government and my Friend can persuade them to do that we would welcome it.

I think possibly I have touched all points and.....

**Prof. P M. SARWAN:** The point on inefficiency has not been answered Sir.

**Srijut HARESWAR DAS (Deputy Minister):** Inefficiency cannot be taken generally, Sir. Some official may be inefficient and if my hon. Friend can give the name of that person, we will certainly take necessary steps.

In view of what I have said, I would request my hon. Friend, the Mover of this Motion to withdraw it.

**Maulavi MD NAZMAL HAQUE:** On a point of information, Sir. Is it not the duty of the Government to see that the landless people are provided with lands whether it is State land or waste land, when some one has brought that fact to the notice of the Government?

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Does not the hon. Member want to withdraw his Cut Motion?

**Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE:** I have no alternative, Sir, but to beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

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

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

The question is: "That a sum not exceeding Rs.33,04,800 be granted to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1952, for the administration of the head 7.—Land Revenue".

The Motion was adopted.

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

#### GRANT No.22

#### 43—Industries and Supplies —I—Sericulture and Weaving

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** Madam, Deputy Speaker, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.7,72,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1952 for the administration of the head "43—Industries and Supplies—I—Sericulture and Weaving".

**The Deputy SPEAKER:** Motion moved is that, a sum not exceeding Rs 7,72,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1952 for the administration of the head "43.—Industries and Supplies—I—Sericulture and Weaving."

There is one Cut Motion in the name of Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury. The hon. Member can move his Cut Motion after launch.

#### Adjournment

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

*After launch.*

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury may now move his Cut Motion under grant No. 22.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** I beg to move, Madam, that the total provision of Rs.7,72,200 under Grant No.22 Major head—43.—Industries and Supplies.—I.—Sericulture and Weaving at page 220 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.7,72,200 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Madam, I have brought up this Cut Motion in order to learn from the Government as to the progress they have been able to register in regard to this very important industry. In the whole of India, Madam, handloom industry is the biggest cottage industry and it is in this connection that I had occasions previously to complain of the acute shortage of cloth as a result, among other things, of the exportation of large quantities of cloth, to foreign lands. There is little, if at all, import of Kashmiri silk and China silk, into India. We produce our own silk, but not in proportion to our demand. Hence the reason for my bringing in the Cut Motion in order to draw the attention of the Government to the defects which are to be seen in the sericulture and weaving industry.

We here want more yarn. The demand in the countryside is more for yarn than for cloth. We have our handloom industry here and if yarn is made available to us the people would weave their own cloth and this could be done to some extent by improving the sericulture industry in our Province.

From the Budget speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister we find the mention of 3 development schemes, namely, (1) the development of dyeing and bleaching, (2) establishment of two more training classes at Tura and Pasighat and (3) research in marketing for the development of ancient Assamese designs to utilise them for creating markets. The industry cannot thrive unless proper attention is given to the staff who are employed in this industry. Last year I remember having brought up a Cut Motion in order to draw the attention of the Government to the difficulties experienced by low paid subordinate officers, specially demonstrators connected with this industry. I remember having brought to the knowledge of Mr. Bimala Prosad Chaliha the plight of the demonstrators engaged in the sericulture industry. I have known cases of persons who have got their training in Madras, some at their own expense. Those trainees are qualified for promotion in their department. One does not work efficiently unless there is hope for promotion or change for the better. On the contrary we find, Madam, the Pay Committee, for whom I have every regard, did not pay adequate attention to the cases of those engaged in the sericulture industry, specially of those who are in the subordinate position. I understand, the pay of the demonstrator starts from Rs.40 and ends somewhere at Rs.70 or 80. In addition to his pay, I understand, some Rs.16 or 17 is paid only as his allowance while his jurisdiction is nearly the whole Subdivision and while he has to run about with his bicycle to many distant places and does frequently incur a loss, connected with the repairs of his bicycle, etc. Thus the remuneration he gets for his services is very little and is out of proportion. Hence, I believe Government should pay a little more attention to the cases of the demonstrators and also to the other staff so that the people in Assam who are so very short of cloth might get more cloth.

In the Budget speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister I do not think there is any indication of sufficient progress being made by this industry. In view of the shortage of cloth and of the non-availability of Kashmiri cloth and also China silk there is all the greater necessity of improving the sericulture industry in our province.

I hope, Madam, Government will pay some attention to the complaints that I have urged before the House with all the sincerity that I can command. From

what I find from the attention that is being paid so far by Government and from what I have stated now I am inclined to believe, nay, encouraged to say, that the House is going to accept my Cut Motion.

**The Deputy SPEAKER:** Cut Motion moved: "That the total provision of Rs.7,72,200 under Grant No.22 Major head—43.—Industries and Supplies.—I.—Sericulture and Weaving at page 220 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.7,72,200 do stand reduced by Re.1."

**Srijut PURNA CHANDRA SARMA:** Madam, Deputy Speaker, this is a matter on which I feel I should speak a few words. Although I do not support the cut even by one pie, I endorse certain views expressed by Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury only in the sense that he is urging the Government to give a little more attention for the expansion and development of Sericulture and Weaving. These are cottage industries which can be developed like small industries on co-operative basis. In sericulture, Assam is famous all over India for the quality of the silk and the varieties. We have Endi which is found nowhere in India and which is very popular outside Assam, and for that purpose the only area which is getting mentionable something out of this sericulture is Sualkuchi and Palasbari area. If the Government would make serious efforts to push and encourage this industry in other parts of the country, we could get more money. Actually in Bombay and other places it is so popular that Endi is sold four times higher there than anywhere in Assam.

As regards Mejangkari which is rather dying out, it is found only in the North Lakhimpur area and it has a first class texture. If it is developed and encouraged by the Government as a cottage industry by putting some experts in the localities, that would be a very valuable thing and would fetch us much money from outside of India.

As regards other silks, we have found the very same thing going on all over Assam as it was twenty years before. In Madras and other places there are silks from 300 to 400 counts and they are sold in Assam at a much lesser price than what is produced here locally. I would ask the Government to encourage youngmen on co-operative basis or on small industries basis to take up this sericulture and weaving on larger scales so that the benefit which was meant to be given from the weaving school and sericulture institutes might be utilised by the people for their own advantage instead of going for service or asking for service. The Weaving School was originally meant to introduce better type of weaving so that the youngmen of this province might be given the impetus to start their own industry. But what do we find now? All those who go to the Weaving School and come away from there after two or three years training, all go for service and never care to introduce this improved method of weaving in the country by starting their own business. We ask the Government to encourage those young people to start their own industry instead of hankering after Government service and we urge the Government to give more attention to these industries. I would not certainly support Dr. Husain in cutting even a single pie out of this small budget.

**Srijut HEM CHANDRA HAZARIKA:** মাননীয়া উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়া, মই পুস্তাৰটোৰ সমৰ্থন কৰাব আগতে কেইটামান কথা কবলৈ ইচ্ছা কৰিছো।

অসম মুগা, পাট, মেজাঙ্কৰীৰ ব্যৱহাৰৰ কাৰণে অতীতৰ পৰা বিখ্যাত কিন্তু দুঃখৰ কথা যে আজিলৈকে এইবোৰ শিল্পৰ উন্নতিৰ কাৰণে বিশেষ একো চেষ্টা কৰা দেখা নাই। এতিয়া আমি দেখিছো যে এই বিলাক শিল্প প্ৰায় স্বংস হবলৈ ধৰিছে। এই বিলাক শিল্পৰ কাৰণে যথেষ্ট টকা মঞ্জুৰি দি এই শিল্প বোৰৰ প্ৰচলন কৰা হলে আজি দেশৰ কাপোৰৰ যি হাহাকাৰৰ অৱস্থা হৈছে সেই অৱস্থাৰ কিছু লাঘব হব পাৰিলে হেঁতেন। জাপানৰ পৰা অভিজ্ঞতা লাভ কৰি অহা শ্ৰীযুত ৰমানন্দ শৰ্মা দেৱে পৰীক্ষা কৰি চাইছে যে কিবা এটা কেমিকেল পদাৰ্থ দি মুগা কাপোৰ পৰিষ্কাৰ কৰি একবকম পাট সূতা তৈয়াৰ কৰিব পাৰি। কিন্তু শৰ্মা দেৱে আমাৰ দেশৰ পৰা কোনো উৎসাহ নোপোৱাৰ কাৰণে পৰীক্ষানুলকভাবে কাম হাতত লব পৰা নাই। মুগা কেনেকৈ ৰেশমৰ নিচিনা কৰিব পাৰি তাৰ কাৰণে শৰ্মা দেৱে যি চেষ্টা কৰি আছে তাত তেখেতক স্তুবিধা দি আমাৰ এই শিল্প বিস্তাৰৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে যথেষ্ট বকমে টকা মঞ্জুৰি দিয়া উচিত। আমাৰ দেশত যি মুগা কাপোৰ তৈয়াৰ হয় আৰু মুগাৰ পাটৰ কাপোৰ তৈয়াৰ হয় আমাৰ মানুহে সেইবোৰ ব্যৱহাৰ নকৰি বাদ্যালোৰৰ পাট আৰু মাদ্ৰাজৰ কেবেদী ব্যৱহাৰ কৰা দেখা যায়। আমাৰ দেশৰ মুগা পাটৰ প্ৰচলন বঢ়াই এইবোৰ শিল্পৰ উৎসাহ দিব পাৰিলে আমাৰ দেশত কাপোৰৰ হাহাকাৰ অনেক পৰিমাণে কমি আহিব।

চৌধুৰী ডাঙৰীয়াই demonstrator সকলৰ বিষয়ে কোৱা এটা কথাও মই তেখেতৰ লগত একমত। Demonstrator সকলৰ দৰমহা কম হৈছে সেইটো ঠিক, কিন্তু আনটো কথাও একমত হব নোৱাৰিলো যে তেখেতে কৈছে এখন জিলাত এজনকৈ demonstrator দিয়া হয়। যি কোনো অঞ্চলত এই শিল্পৰ বহুল প্ৰচলনৰ কাৰণে আৱশ্যক হলে আমাৰ চৰকাৰক জনালে সেই সেই অঞ্চলত demonstrator নিদিয়াকৈ নোথাকে। মই নিজে লিখা লিখি কৰি কেইবাজনো কৰ্মচাৰী বঢ়াই লৈছো। আমাৰ মহকুমাতে তিনি চাৰিজন demonstrator নতুনকৈ মোৰ অনুৰোধত দিয়া হৈছে।

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** মই কব খুজিছো, তেওঁলোকে কেবালোও চাব লাগে, কামৰ হেচা বেচি, গতিকে তেওঁলোকক পইছা অলপ বেচিকৈ দিব।

**Srijut HEM CHANDRA HAZARIKA:** কাম বেচি হব পাৰে। মোৰ বোধেৰে আৱশ্যক হলে demonstrator বেচি কৰাত চৰকাৰে অৱহেলা নকৰিব। মোৰ অভিজ্ঞতাৰ পৰাই জানো উত্তৰ লক্ষীমপুৰতে বিহপুৰীয়াৰ কাৰণে আৰু ধোমাজীৰ কাৰণে demonstrator চৰকাৰে দিছে। Demonstrator ৰ আৱশ্যকতাৰ কাৰণে লিখিলে সেই অঞ্চলৰ কাৰণে নিশ্চয় চৰকাৰে demonstrator নিয়োগ কৰিব। কাজেই মই চৰকাৰক অনুৰোধ কৰো যে য'ত এই শিল্পৰ কাৰণে আগ্ৰহ আছে সেই অঞ্চলত এই শিল্পৰ কাৰণে যথেষ্ট মঞ্জুৰি দিব। উত্তৰ লক্ষীমপুৰতো পাট খেতিৰ কেন্দ্ৰ স্থাপন কৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থাৰ যাতে কৰা হয় তাৰ বাবে অনুৰোধ জনালো। চেৰিকালচাৰ বিভাগৰ বহুল প্ৰচলন কৰিবৰ নিমিত্তে, নুনী গছ লগাবলৈ আলচ কৰি উত্তৰ লক্ষীমপুৰত কিছু গোচৰনীয়া মাটি দিয়া হৈছিল, অৱশ্যে এইবোৰৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে মাটি দি থাকে। কিন্তু সেই স্কীম অনুসৰি কাম বিশেষ একো হোৱা নাই। উত্তৰ লক্ষীমপুৰত জাপীসজীয়া চেৰিকালচাৰ স্কীম আছিল সেইটো যাতে কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰা হয় তালৈ অনুৰোধ জনায় চৌধুৰী ডাঙৰীয়াক প্ৰতিবাদ কৰি মোৰ বক্তব্য শেষ কৰিলো।

**Srijut GAURI KANTA TALUKDAR:** মাননীয়া উপাধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়া, এই প্ৰসঙ্গত মই এটা অতি লাগতীয়াল কথালৈ চৰকাৰৰ মনোযোগ অকৰ্ষণ কৰিব খোজোঁ। সেইটো হৈছে-silk spinning অৰ্থাৎ পাট-সূতা কটাৰ ব্যৱস্থা। চৰকাৰে এৰিমুগাৰ আৰু পাটৰ উৎপাদন বঢ়াবলৈ বহু যত্ন কৰিছে সচা। কিন্তু এৰি মুগা আৰু পাটৰ সূতা কটাৰ পুৰণি প্ৰথাৰ উন্নতিৰ অৰ্থে যথোচিত ব্যৱস্থা কৰা নাই। আমাৰ মানুহে আমনি লগা আৰু আয় নোহোৱা এৰি মুগা সূতা কটাৰ পুৰণি প্ৰথাকে সাবতি ধৰি আছে। ফলত পাট-শিল্পই যথোচিত ভাৱে বিস্তৃতি লাভ কৰিব পৰা নাই।

মহোদয়, মই সন্তোষেৰে এই পৰিষদক জনাব খোজো যে, গুৱাহাটীৰ শ্ৰীযুত নিধিবান দাস ডাঙৰীয়াই এৰি মুগা আৰু তচৰ সূতা কাটিব পৰা দুটা উন্নত ধৰণৰ যন্ত্ৰ বহু বছৰৰ সাধনাৰ পিছত বহু অৰ্থ ব্যয় কৰি উদ্ভাৱন কৰিছে। শুনিব পাইছোঁ যন্ত্ৰ দুটাই কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰৰ শিল্প বিভাগৰ পৰা নতৈ সুখ্যাতি লাভ কৰিছে। কিন্তু দুখৰ বিষয় মূলধনৰ অভাৱত দাস ডাঙৰীয়াই চাহিদা অনুপাতে যন্ত্ৰ তৈয়াৰ কৰি উলিয়াব পৰা নাই। মই অনুৰোধ কৰো আমাৰ চৰকাৰে শ্ৰীযুত দাস ডাঙৰীয়াক এই কাৰ্যত যথোচিত ভাবে আৰ্থিক সাহায্য কৰক—যাতে তেখেতৰ যন্ত্ৰ দুটাৰ প্ৰচলন ভাৰতব্যাপী হব পাৰে। তাৰ দ্বাৰা অকল দাস ডাঙৰীয়াক সহায় কৰা নহব তাৰ পৰা অসমীয়াৰ সুখ্যাতি ভাৰতত বিয়পি পৰাত সহায় কৰা হব আৰু যন্ত্ৰাদি উদ্ভাৱন বিষয়ত আন আন অসমবাসীক উদগনি দিয়া হব। দ্বিতীয়তে এৰি, মুগা, পাট আদি পোহাৰ লগে লগে যদি আমাৰ ইয়াত তচৰ পোহাৰ নিয়ম প্ৰচলন কৰা হয় তেন্তে তাৰ পৰাও আমাৰ মানুহৰ আৰু এটা উপাৰ্জনৰ পথ মুকলি হয়। যদিও অসমৰ কোনো কোনো হাবিত তচৰ সচ পোৱা যায় তথাপি তালৈ বাট নাচাই উৰিঘাৰা বা বিহাৰৰ পৰা তচৰ সঁচ আনি আমাৰ ইয়াত সহজে প্ৰচলন কৰিব পৰা যায়। তচৰ শিল্প এৰি মুগাৰ দৰে এটা বৰ ডাঙৰ খেতি। মই আশা কৰো চৰকাৰে মোৰ কথাটোলৈ কান দিব।

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** The Deputy Minister will reply.

**Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Deputy Minister):**

Deputy Speaker, Madam, I am thankful to the hon. Members who have in the course of the discussion of this Cut Motion given suggestions for the development of sericulture and weaving industry of Assam. It is needless to say that Assam has her reputation in producing silk, more particularly, Endi and Muga and for the development of these two industries Government have been doing their utmost. Mr. Sarma who is sitting by my side has said that the demonstrators who receive instruction in the weaving and in sericulture come for service instead of going to independent profession. It is for the popular leaders to create a feeling in the country so that youngmen in the country, instead of hankering after Government jobs start business. By importing instruction in sericulture and weaving we do not mean that the trainees should come for Government service. Whereas we desire that they should earn their livelihood by starting independent business.

Srijut Hazarika has deplored about the stoppage of North Lakhimpur Farm. That Farm was proposed to be taken up from the development grant of the Government of India. Owing to the stoppage of the development grant that could not be taken up. As soon as the situation improves and we are in a position financially to take up the scheme, we shall see that the North Lakhimpur Farm is started.

I cannot admit the allegations made by Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury regarding the negligence on the part of the Government for the improvement of these Industries.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** I did not make any allegation. I only said that more attention should be paid.

**Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Deputy Minister):**

I cannot hold that Government is not giving due attention for the development of these industries. Government is doing their utmost. It is for people to see that this industry thrives. Diseased free seeds have been supplied and arrangement for proper instruction has been made to impart instruction to those who come in for this profession; and to the credit of the Government I may say that the production has been increasing yearly. In 1948 the production of Eri was 4,20,000 lbs. In 1949 it has come to 5 lacks 10 thousand lbs. Mulberry

silk production in 1948 was 1,50,000 lbs. In 1949 it has come up to 2,00,000 lbs. I must say that the production of Muga has remained stationary; both in 1948 and 1949 it is 2,00,000 lbs. From these figures it cannot be said that the Sericulture Industry is not receiving due attention. It is receiving gradual encouragement from the people as well. As Mr. Sarma has suggested that this industry should be so organised so that it can fetch some money to the coffers of the poor peasants who rear them. I fully agree with him that Government have been, through their marketing organisations, trying to this end. The industry is not confined to a particular locality. It is gradually spreading over the whole State. I do not agree with Mr. Sarma when he says that Endi industry is confined to Palasari and Sualkuchi alone. The industry has been spreading over the whole of Assam Valley Districts and we are trying to develop them in the Hills also. Therefore, Madam, I do not think that Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury has any basis for this Motion. Therefore, I would request him to withdraw it.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** The question of the pay of the demonstrators please ?

**Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Deputy Minister):** It is Rs. 65.

**The Deputy SPEAKER:** Will the hon. Member please withdraw his Motion ?

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** What else can I do, Madam, except asking the leave of the House to withdraw the Motion.

**The Deputy SPEAKER:** Has the hon. Member the leave of the House to withdraw his Motion. (*Voices—yes, yes.*)

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

**The Deputy SPEAKER:** I put the main Motion :

The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.7,72,200 be granted to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1952 for the administration of the head—'43—Industries and Supplies—I.—Sericulture and Weaving”.

The Motion was adopted.

Grant No. 22-A.

(43.—Industries and Supplies—II.—Cottage Industries.)

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Madam, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,59,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1952 for the administration of the head—“43.—Industries and Supplies—II.—Cottage Industries”.

The Cut Motion will be replied to by the Deputy Minister.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,59,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1952 for the administration of the head—"43.—Industries and Supplies—II.—Cottage Industries".

There is one Cut Motion standing in the name of the hon. Dr. Emran Husa'in Chaudhury.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** What is the time allotted to me ?

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** 5 minutes for discussion and 5 minutes for reply.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Madam, Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs. 2,59,000 under Grant No. 22-A, major head—43.—Industries and Supplies—II.—Cottage Industries at page 238 of the Budget be reduced by Re. 1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 2,59,000 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

My object of moving this Motion is to raise a general discussion about the administration of the Department and marketing of Cottage Industrial products.

Madam, on account of the very little time given to me and for the reply, the best thing that we could do is to come to a compromise which is to accept my Cut Motion. The Deputy Minister need not bother to find facts to rebute my arguments.

Madam, Assam products, as a matter of fact, are known throughout the country. We do not know if there is any expert marketing officers of our State in the West—by West, I mean, Bombay, Central Provinces, etc. I do not know the gentleman who has been appointed to arrange the marketing of Assam products there. Our Hills people produce different types of cloths, especially, the Nagas, Lushais, Khasis and so do the indigenous people of Assam. But since nothing has been reported about the marketing of these products, I have thought it proper to bring in this Cut Motion for the quick acceptance of the Government.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Motion moved is that the total provision of Rs. 2,59,000 under Grant No. 22-A, major head—43.—Industries and Supplies—II.—Cottage Industries at page 238 of the Budget be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs. 2,59,000 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

As no hon. Member is taking part in the discussion, I will call the hon. Deputy Minister to reply.

**Srijut MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY (Deputy Minister):** The Cottage Industries Department is not mainly concerned with the marketing of Cottage Industries products. The two Emporia at Gauhati and Karimganj and their seven branches at Sibsagar, Nowgong, Roha, Charaibahi, Morigaon, Nalbari and Silchar which are under the Rural Development Department are catering for marketing of Cottage Industries products.

The Assam Co-operative Cottage Industries Association Limited, Shillong serves as a Central Cottage Industries Museum of the State. The Association is also in contact with the Cottage Industries Board organised by the Government of India for marketing of Cottage Industries products. Attention has also been given by the said Association to export Cottage Industries products of varied representative character by participating in All-India Exhibitions and International Trade Fair.

On the other hand, contact has been made with the Artisans to organise the Industries for production of articles according to demand, quality and price. Action is also being taken by the Marketing section of the Rural Development

Department to organise Cottage Industries on marketing lines in the Panchayat areas and in Rural areas on Co-operative lines. The Marketing Section deals in all existing Cottage Industries products, mainly Hill products, ivory products, bell-metal articles, cane and Bamboo articles, etc., although the handloom textiles from the main Cottage Industries of the State. It is the aim of the Department to revive and popularise Cottage Industries with a view to increase the *par capita* income of the population.

I think, this information will go to show how the Department is functioning and I think, when Dr. Chaudhury is given to know the working of the Department in the lines I have already stated, he will be pleased to withdraw his Cut Motion.

**Dr. EMRAM HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Yes, Madam, I am quite pleased to withdraw my Motion with the leave of the House.

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

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

#### GRANT No.22-B

#### (43—Industries and Supplies—III.—Fisheries)

**The Hon'ble Srijut BISHNURAM MEDHI:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Madam, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.84,700 be granted to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1952 for the administration of the head "43.—Industries and Supplies—III.—Fisheries".

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs.84,700 be granted to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1952 for the administration of the head "43.—Industries and Supplies—III.—Fisheries".

There are two Cut Motions standing in the name of Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury and Maulavi Md. Nazmal Haque. We take up Cut Motion No.2 standing in the name of hon. Md. Nazmal Haque. Hon. Dr. Chaudhury can take part in this Motion.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** My Motion is general enough.

**Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE:** Madam, Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.84,700 under Grant No.22-B, major head 43.—Industries and Supplies—III.—Fisheries, at page 247 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.84,700 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Madam, the object of my moving this Cut Motion is to raise a discussion on the subject and to give an opportunity to the Government to enlighten the hon. Members of this House and also the public what Government have done as to the improvement of this important subject of fishery. It is well known to the hon. Members that fish is an important food for the people of our country. Fish is going to be scarce day by day ; even the capital of the State is to depend upon import of fish from Pakistan. The existing fishery Mahals are giving less

production. Our Government has not taken such measures as to increase the production and to bring to the notice of the public the importance of this industry and the benefit therefrom. It requires much propaganda and demonstration by which the public should be made known that this industry is an important industry for the people of the country. There are many tanks in every subdivision of the State. The Municipalities and the Town Committees concerned should be instructed to rear fish and thereby to increase there the revenue as well as fish production of the State. We cannot feel that our Fishery Department has done anything towards its production. I hope the Government will enlighten us as to what our Fishery Department has done towards the improvement of this important industry.

With these few words, Madam, I commend my motion to the acceptance of this House.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The motion moved is that the total provision of Rs.84,700 under Grant No.22-B,—major head 43.—Industries and Supplies—III.—Fisheries, at page 247 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.84,700 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Any hon. Member wants to speak ?

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY.**—Madam, I am in full agreement with what has been said by my Friend Maulvi Nazmal Haque—specially with his statement that the Government should let the House know what steps they have taken for the improvement of this important industry. Pisciculture requires more attention than what is being paid by Government here. Recently they have brought up a piece of important legislation, *viz.*, almost total stoppage of slaughter of cattle. That will at once raise the prices of articles like vegetables fish, etc., the moment the Bill is passed into an Act. We people in Assam cannot do without fish. We want that enough fish should be made available to us. If we cannot produce enough fish in Assam, it would have to be imported from neighbouring countries. The Fishery Mahals are given to highest bidders, but not even 10% of what is obtained from lease holders is spent on Pisciculture. Recently some people have been appointed as Inspectors in the Department who are charged with the important work of improving the breeding and rearing connected with Pisciculture. Besides what has been stated at page 17 of the Budget Speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister, *viz.* Two fisheries schemes—one financed from loan and one from revenue—are in progress. Satisfactory progress has been made in collecting fries and distributing them. We do not see what progress actually has been made in the matter. For the last two days I have been fruitlessly trying to contact the Hon'ble Supply Minister in order to go through the report which he has in his possession in this connection, but unfortunately I have not yet been able to contact him and to go through it.

Madam, very recently a debate took place on the floor of the West Bengal Assembly, arising out of a cut motion brought up by a counterpart of mine in the West Bengal Assembly. Bengalees like Assamese like fish very much. They are very good fish eaters. West Bengal had to depend on East Bengal for fish because West Bengal is not self-sufficient in the matter of fish. In the course of the discussion Mr. Naskar as also the Chief Minister Dr. B. C. Roy who also took part in the debate said that some people have been sent abroad to have expert knowledge in Pisciculture. I think, in view of the fact that 99.9% of the people of Assam take fish and since on account of the acute shortage of food stuff and also of fish the prices of different articles have gone up very high recently, I think that it is very advisable to send some people abroad—to

countries like Denmark—from this State to acquire expert knowledge in this matter so that they could on return develop Pisciculture in Assam. I think, Madam, we have spent a lot on the imported fish from foreign lands. If that money had remained in Assam we could have devoted more money, more energy towards the development of this industry and could have increased the production of this important item of food in this State. I am sure there is hardly any Member on the floor of this house who does not take fish. I think every hon Member present here likes fish. With the exception of one gentleman of course, and he is Mr. Kedarmal Brahmin who is not present here to day (*voices*—there is another gentlemen Srijut Harinarayan Barua, who does not take fish). I should advise him to take more fish in order to encourage its cultivation and development (*Laughter*). Madam, beyond this I do not propose to go.

**Srijut BELIRAM DAS:** Madam, the production of fish or the improvement of the fisheries cannot be done all at once. Government of India have spent a large sum of money on propaganda only on this matter. The improvement of fishery also requires financial backing. Money is required for reclaiming and digging out tanks for this purpose. The case of West Bengal is quite different. West Bengal which is near the sea.....

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Madam, is West Bengal in the sea?

**Srijut BELIRAM DAS:** Madam, I did not say that West Bengal is in the sea. I say that as West Bengal is adjacent to the sea, Government may be in a position to catch fish by trawlers and there may be scope for deep-sea fishing. But here we have only got Khals and Beels. So the same policy cannot be followed in Assam. During the last earthquake a large number of fisheries have been silted up. I draw the pointed attention of the Government to utilise the services of the fishery officers to improve the fisheries. I am glad to find that Government have taken steps to improve the condition of the tanks in the State including Gauhati town. But I draw the pointed attention of the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge that the work is not going on smoothly. The contractor entrusted with the job has not done his work as arranged. I request the Government to see that the contractor finishes the work most speedily and as expeditiously as possible. Madam, I have nothing more to say, and with these words, I take my seat.

**The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS:** Madam, Deputy Speaker, I am in sympathy with the object of the mover of this Cut Motion, for the expansion of the Fish Industry in this State, but I feel that the hon. Mover and some other hon. Members have confused the issue with regard to the object for which sanction for this grant is demanded. The Fishery Department which have been established nearly three years ago is not concerned with the development of natural fisheries which are the beels and rivers. It is concerned with the development work relating to tanks and other possibilities. This department has been carrying on activities by encouraging private endeavour to rear fish in tanks, etc., by helping the same with spawns and fingerlings. The hon. Mover of this motion is perhaps aware that we lack in trained personnel to develop the Pisciculture in this State. This is a subject almost unknown in this State.

This Government having been conscious of the need for expansion of the activities for the development of fish culture took a scheme for training of personnel some years ago. As soon as some of the personnel returned from training, this Department took up the work of spawn collection in the upper reaches of the Dikhow river near Nazira and also established a stocking tank in one of the ditches surrounding the famous tank of Joysagar. With the acquisition of

experience a spawning centre was established there. During the current year, as soon as more personnel came back from training two more spawning centres were organised, one at Desang river near Suffry and another at Haria near about Roha. A stocking tank was also organised at Roha. It was also proposed to have more spawning centres and more stocking tanks at Gauhati and Tezpur. The work has been recently undertaken. My hon. Friend Srijut Beliram Das has requested to see that the work undertaken at Gauhati might be completed before the rains set in, I will certainly look to this. These development schemes are being operated on a loan scheme from Government of India but the present demand for which I have come to the House for sanction is to be met from the State funds for the entertainment of the Staff. The loan scheme is being operated in several areas. The Joysagar stocking tank is being established as a fish farm.

We have to take much caution in spending money during these years. From the Budget proposals the House must have seen that in 1949-50 the expenditure was Rs.14,827. During the current year we came forward with a proposal to spend about Rs.81,000 for the entertainment of staff, but owing to the non-appointment of the fishery expert the amount spent came to about Rs.53,200. This year we have come with a proposal to spend Rs.84,700.

I think the hon. Mover has confused the issue with regarding to this grant which has no relation to development of natural fisheries. I have every sympathy with him regarding development of natural fisheries, but, it is not proposed to take up the work immediately. But in the near future when Government will find that more trained personnel will be available development of these natural fisheries may be taken into consideration.

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

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Two little points remain unanswered. Where these people have been trained?

**The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS:** In Calcutta and Madras.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Are Government contemplating sending any one abroad for higher training?

**The Hon'ble Srijut OMEO KUMAR DAS:** For inland fishery I do not think there is any need to send people for training abroad.

**Maulavi Md. NAZMUL HAQUE:** On hearing the Hon'ble Minister, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.  
(The Motion was, by the leave of the House, withdrawn).

**The Deputy SPEAKER:** The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.84,700 be granted to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1952 for the administration of the head "43.—Industries and Supplies—III.—Fisheries".

The motion was adopted.

## GRANT No.37.

## (85-A.—Capital Outlay on Schemes of State Trading)

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Madam, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1952 for the administration of the head "85-A.—Capital Outlay on Schemes of State Trading".

**The Deputy SPEAKER:** Motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs.100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1952 for the administration of the head "85-A.—Capital Outlay on Schemes of State Trading".

There is one Cut Motion standing in the name of Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Madam, Deputy Speaker, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.100 under Grant No.37, major head 85-A.—Capital Outlay on schemes of State Trading, at page 304 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.100 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Madam, the intention of suggesting this cut of Re.1 in the small sum of Rs.100 is to discuss the failure of the Procurement Department in procuring paddy and rice. Madam, I think I should finish my speech by taking only two precious minutes of the House by saying that the Procurement Department, generally speaking, has failed. This has been admitted by Government also. Many hon. Members have already spoken on this subject. Government have declared our State as a deficit one. Hence I think the Procurement Department has failed. If the State is deficit and there is no paddy or rice to be procured where is the necessity of the Procurement Department? I simply want to draw Government attention to this fact.

**The Deputy SPEAKER:** Motion moved is that the total provision of Rs.100 under Grant No.37, major head 85-A.—Capital Outlay on Schemes of State Trading, at page 304 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.100 do stand reduced by Re.1.

**Maulavi Md. MAKSED ALI:** Madam, I stand to support the motion moved by my hon. Friend Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury. Madam, it is known to all that there has been scarcity of food throughout the country. The other day we heard the Supply Minister saying that the procurement drive has practically failed. Before coming to Shillong I have seen that in some places in my district, such as Lakshiganj Bazar, Bilashipara, Gauri and Dhubri, rice was being sold at 1 seer to 1 seer 4 chhataks a rupee. This shows that there is shortage of food in the country. So I urge Government to stop this procurement drive at once and also urge Government to start some Cheap Grains Shops even in the most remote villages. With these few words, Madam, I take my seat lending my support to the Cut Motion of my hon. Friend Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury.

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** Madam, Deputy Speaker, I am sorry that the hon. Mover of this Cut Motion while admitting that Assam is a deficit state has not seen the need of the Procurement Department. He says that when Assam has become a deficit State there should be no Procurement Department at all and there should be no procurement.....

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** May I know why the Hon'ble Minister is laughing ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** The way in which my Friend has argued on behalf of his Cut Motion has made me laugh. Madam, in a deficit State the necessity of a Procurement Department is greater. The need of deficit areas have to be met by us. Food is needed by one and all and therefore it is the duty of this Government to see to the need of all the people in general. If we are charged with this responsibility, then we must procure in surplus areas to distribute food to the needy people in the deficit areas. To discharge that responsibility, therefore, Madam, we cannot but keep the Procurement Department and it must remain.

My Friend Maulvi Maked Ali also in support of this Cut Motion wants that Government should increase the number of the Cheap Grains Shops. To increase the Cheap Grains Shops there should be procurement and stock. In our scheme we have contemplated to start more Cheap Grains Shops in deficit areas. If we stop procurement, then I am afraid, I will not be able to meet the wishes of my hon. Friend Maulvi Maked Ali to increase the number of Cheap Grains Shops in our deficit areas.

Madam, I do not like to say anything more, but I would like to request my Friends to think and consider whether the Procurement Department or procurement drive should be there or not when Assam has become deficit in food ?

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

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** What the hon. Member has got to say ?

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** By way of complying to the request made from the side opposite, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Cut Motion.

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

(Voices—Yes, yes)

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

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I put the main Motion:

The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.100 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1952 for the administration of the head "85-A.—Capital Outlay on Schemes of State Trading".

The Motion was adopted.

#### GRANT No.31

(63.—Extraordinary Charges)

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Madam, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.26,07,400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1952 for the administration of the head "63.—Extraordinary Charges".

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The Motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs.26,07,400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March 1952 for the administration of the head "63.—Extraordinary Charges".

There is one Cut Motion standing in the name of Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY :** Madam, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.26,07,400 under Grant No.31, major head 63.—Extraordinary Charges, at page 289 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.26,07,400 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Madam, once more I rise to disturb the hon. Members on the side opposite to give me a reply as to what the Trade Adviser has been doing in the matter of purchases. I need not repeat what I have already said and what other hon. Members also have already said regarding the shortage of cloth. All that I want is a statement from the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge as to the activities of our Trade Adviser with regard to purchase of consumer goods.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The Motion moved is that the total provision of Rs.26,07,400 under Grant No.31, major head 63.—Extraordinary Charges, at page 289 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.26,07,400 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Is there any hon. Member taking part ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS :** Madam, Deputy Speaker, the main function of the Trade Adviser is not to purchase things on behalf of the Government of Assam. His main function is to arrange transport for various articles that are to come to meet the requirements of Assam. That is his main function. In addition to that, if any reference is made by the Assam Government or by any of the Departments of the Assam Government to the Trade Adviser to supply any information to them, then he supplies that information. I can say that what has been entrusted to his charge he has done his best to discharge. It is known to the hon. Members of this House the transport bottleneck of these days and sometimes with his best efforts he may not be able to arrange the transport that is needed for Assam. These are the main duties, Madam, of the Trade Adviser. So I do not think I should make a statement about articles purchased by him on behalf of Assam. His main function is to arrange transport and to give information and not to purchase things on behalf of Assam Government. Therefore, Madam, my hon. Friend, the Mover of the Motion, is not right in asking me to give a statement in detail about the things purchased. In view of what I have said, Madam, I hope the hon. Member will see his way to withdraw his Motion. It appears that he is under a wrong impression about the function of this Trade Adviser.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY :** On the statement given by the Hon'ble Minister regarding the function of the Trade Adviser and in view of the fact that I was under a mistaken idea in this regard, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

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

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Now I put the main demand as a question :  
The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs 26,07,400 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1952 for the administration of the head "63.—Extraordinary Charges".

The Motion was adopted.

## GRANT No.26

**(52A.—Other Revenue Expenditure connected with Electricity Schemes).**

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS :** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Madam, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.44,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1952 for the administration of the head "52-A.—Other Revenue Expenditure connected with Electricity Schemes".

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The Motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs.44,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1952 for the administration of the head "52-A.—Other Revenue Expenditure connected with Electricity Schemes".

There is one Cut Motion standing in the name of Dr. Emran Husain Choudhury. He may move it.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY :** Madam, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.44,900 under Grant No.26, major head 52-A.—Other Revenue Expenditure connected with Electricity Schemes, at page 262 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs 44,900 do stand reduced by Re.1.

My intention is to know from the Hon'ble Minister in charge as to how these electricity schemes are operating, how they are functioning and how far they have been successful. In the Shillong town I find that the electric supply often fails much to the inconvenience of the residents of the town. That is all I have to urge by way of this Cut Motion.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The Motion moved is that the total provision of Rs.44,900 under Grant No.26, major head 52-A.—Other Revenue Expenditure connected with Electricity Schemes, at page 262 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.44,900 do stand reduced by Re.1.

**Mualavi Md. MAKSED ALI :** Madam, under this Cut Motion I beg to say that the Dhubri town is going on without electricity, I should say, for several years. In this connection my hon. Friend Srijut Ajit Narayan Deb of Sidli put questions in the last session of the Assembly in order to see that proper arrangement for the Dhubri town power house be made and he also had asked the Government to settle the electric power house concerned with some other party. But I do not know whether up to this time Government has made any arrangement to remove the difficulties of the people of Dhubri town and to make an arrangement for settling the said power house with some other suitable party. I shall be glad to get a reply from the Hon'ble Minister in charge on these points.

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS :** Madam, this Cut Motion has been brought under the Development Branch and not under the ordinary Electricity Branch. The hon. Member who spoke just now in support of the Cut Motion should have therefore asked me to inform him about points under the Development side and not under the ordinary Electricity side. Even then,

Madam, since he wants to know from me about the condition of the Shillong Electricity concern. I would like to give him the information and also to Maulavi Maksed Ali about the Dhubri concern.

About two years ago the license of the Dhubri Electricity concern had to be cancelled as the licensee had failed to give efficient service to the people of this town. This cancellation order had to be passed by the Government when the Municipality of Dhubri as well as the public of the town submitted petitions to the Government to cancel the license. Government had tried long to put some other suitable party to take charge of this electricity concern by advertisement but no suitable party could be found. The old company re-organised itself and applied for the license again. As no other suitable party was forthcoming Government has no alternative than to grant the license to this re-organised concern which will try to supply electric power to the people of Dhubri town as soon as possible.

As regards the disturbance in supply of electric power in Shillong I have to say that after the war the Company could not arrange new engines readily. Only recently the Shillong Hydro-electric Company could bring two engines. and as far as I know they have completed the installation of these new engines. After the fitting of these engines the difficulty experienced by the public will be removed. As my Friend has wrongly put the Cut Motion and moved it, I like to request him to withdraw his Cut Motion.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY :** As I have wrongly put it by way of satisfying the demand of my Friend I beg leave of the house to withdraw the Cut Motion.

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

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

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** I put the question.

The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.44,900 be granted to defray the charges which will come in the course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1952 for the administration of the Head "52-A.—Other Revenue Expenditure connected with Electricity Schemes".

The Motion was adopted.

#### GRANT No.11

(27.—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE)

**The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA :** On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor of Assam, I beg, Madam, to move that a sum not exceeding Rs.10,72,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1952, for the administration of the head "27.—Administration of Justice".

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Motion moved is that a sum not exceeding Rs.10,72,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1952, for the administration of the head "27.—Administration of Justice".

There are two Cut Motions. The first stands in the name of Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury.

**The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA :** It will be better if the other Motion standing in the name of hon. Maulavi Md. Nazmal Haque is moved. It raises a general discussion.

**Maulavi Md. NAZMAL HAQUE :** I beg, Madam, to move that the total provision of Rs.10,72,000 under Grant No.11, major head 27.—Administration of Justice, at page 84 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.10,72,000 do stand reduced by Re. 1.

Madam, by moving this Cut Motion I want to show how justice is being denied to our people. Justice delay is justice denying and justice denying has been the state of affairs in the administration of justice in our State. In the present set up of things due to increase of work most of the time of the head of the administration, particularly of the districts and subdivisional heads, is being taken for miscellaneous and executive works. Justice seekers have been undergoing much troubles and difficulties by way of pecuniary loss and loss of time in attending to their day to day works. It is, therefore, urged that both for the good of the people and for the better management of executive work, the Executive should be separated from the Judiciary. On this subject also my Friend Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury has got his Cut Motion. Madam, in the present financial crisis it is not possible, I know, to adopt the scheme of absolute separation of the Executive from the Judiciary, but the Government can at least exempt the heads of the administration, I mean the District and Subdivisional Executives from the case works. If it is done, the District and Subdivisional Executives will get much time for the Executive and miscellaneous works. With these words, I commend my Motion to the acceptance of the House.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Motion moved is that the total provision of Rs.10,72,000 under Grant No.11, major head 27.—Administration of Justice, at page 84 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.10,72,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY :** Madam, my Cut Motion comes under the general discussion which has been raised by my hon. Friend Maulavi Md. Nazmal Haque. I want to discuss Governments' failure to separate the Judiciary from the Executive. We know how because of the continuation of this the Judges are absolutely subordinate to the Executive. Madam, the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive has been an age long question. On this the Members of the Treasury Benches have expressed their minds times without number before they achieved Swaraj. They have always been talking of the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive but nothing has been done so far. Justice Clifford Agarwala, *Ex-Chief Justice of Patna High Court* in the course of a judgment of his had occasion to refer to the interference of the judiciary by the executive. He remarked in the course of the judgment that Congress had pledged itself to secure the independence of the judiciary. Pandit Nehru had himself spoken many times on this. Yet on the assumption of power adequate thought was not given to this. From all this he inferred "Power Corrupts." In connection with the Zemindari Act or some similar piece of legislation our Prime Minister went to the length of saying that if Judges give verdict against the spirit of the Act, he would be forced to appoint Judges of his own choice. That led Justice Das to resign his post and form Civil Liberties Union.

I, therefore, appeal to the Government to see to this important need of separating the Judiciary from the Executive as soon as possible. With these few words, I support the Motion for the acceptance of the House.

**Mr. J. S. HARDMAN :** Deputy Speaker, Madam, I propose with the permission of the House to refer to a topic which I raised somewhat earlier in the day. I was speaking earlier on delays in the Subordinate Courts but these are not sole offenders, and we find that the Senior Courts are similarly involved. In many cases there is a very prolonged period between the commission of an offence and the trial of the accused in the Sessions Court. We would ask Government to examine whether the strength of these Courts is adequate in the prevalent state of crime in the State. We have had some experience of the misfortunes that follow serious delays in the trial of important cases. There are often delays in the commission of cases to the Court of Sessions and if these are followed by further delays there is every reason to believe that justice which is required to be done will not be achieved. In many cases, witnesses are being required to testify to facts which relate to events of a year previous and cannot really be expected to promote the ends of justice. This gives an opportunity, too frequently exploited, for the more capable and successful type of lawyer to convince a Court that there is no evidence to justify a conviction. We feel certain that the punishment of crime on which the effectiveness of the Police so largely depends will be greatly enhanced if there are more speedy and more expeditious trials for serious offences.

**The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA :** Madam, Deputy Speaker, I have failed to understand how the hon. Mover Mr. Nazmal Haque can say that there has been any denial of justice.

The denial of justice is one thing and the delay in disposal of cases is quite another thing. Regarding the delay in disposal it has already been fully discussed and sufficient reply has been given in reply to the Cut Motion discussed in connection with the general administration.

Now, regarding the point raised by Mr. Hardman we have already given two Additional Judges in the two Divisions. In the Upper Assam Division we have given one Additional Judge and in the Lower Assam Division we have given another Additional Judge. We have also increased the number of Subordinate Judges with Assistant Sessions Judge's power.

Anyhow, I shall see after taking the figures from Judges if there is any justification of increasing the cadre of the Superior Judges. I am glad that the very important question of the separation of Judiciary from Executive has been raised by both the hon. Members, Mr. Nazmal Haque and Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury. This is a very important subject, which requires very careful consideration. There is time, circumstances and many other factors including financial implications which we have to take into serious consideration before we take a decision in such an important matter of far-reaching changes.

This question has been engaging the serious attention of the Government and certainly there has not been any failure of the Government in this. On the other hand, we have been giving best consideration to this matter and I am glad to point out to the hon. Members of this House that we have recently decided to have a separate Judicial Cadre for the superior posts.

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY :** To be appointed by whom ?

**The Hon'ble Srijut RUPNATH BRAHMA :** That is a different matter. We have also recently formulated certain rules which are going to be finalised in consultation with the High Court.

In regard to the Subordinate Judicial Cadre, we propose to take up this later after gaining the experience from the separate Judicial Cadre of the superior posts. We have taken all possible steps to separate the Judiciary from the Executive,

As regards delay in the disposal of the cases, it has already been pointed out by our Hon'ble Chief Minister that it may either be due to the fact that the works of the Magistrates are not fully realised or due to the fact that there has not been proper supervision and inspection by responsible officers. We have been at the same time issuing strict instructions to the Deputy Magistrates to see that the disposal is speeded up. Recently, we have decided to have an increase in the Assam Civil Service Cadre, Class I, and we hope that with this increased Cadre the position will be improved.

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

**Maulavi MD. NAZMAL HAQUE:** Madam, Deputy Speaker. On the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister in charge, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Motion.

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

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Now, I put the question.

The question is that a sum not exceeding Rs.10,72,000 be granted to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1952, for the administration of the head-"27-Administration of Justice".

The Motion was adopted.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** We have finished with the Demands for Grants of to-day's list. We continued our discussion about foodstuff and textile.

#### **Resumption of debates on the Motion regarding scarcity of textile and foodstuff of the State.**

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** Mr. Sarwan wants to speak on it.

**Mr. BENODE KUMAR J. SARWAN:** Madam, Deputy Speaker, I have nothing much to say but there is great need for impressing on this subject. I want to add a few words more. We have heard many things from both sides, both from Government side and Members of the Opposition. I speak on it as it is a matter of vital importance.

Madam, everybody knows that the people are hard hit. The cultivators are finding very much difficulty to part with their hard laboured cultivated paddy which they have earned. The Government is imposing the fixed price of Rs. 7 to Rs.10 per maund of paddy at which price they find difficult to part with. The price of Mustard Oil, Atta and other necessities of life are not reduced but are selling at very high prices. It would have been reasonable that as the price of paddy and rice are fixed to be sold at low prices, the prices of other food commodities should have been fixed to be sold at reduced prices. In these abnormal days of food scarcity, the importance of Grow-More-Food Campaign is being simply talked of from the platforms, but actually no practical work is being done to increase the production of food. I request the Hon'ble Revenue Minister to find his way to see that not an inch of land that can grow food remain uncultivated, so that in the coming years we may have more cultivation of paddy, and thereby the cultivator's needs will be fulfilled. I fully endorse what has been said by Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury.

With these few words I take my seat.

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** Madam, Deputy Speaker, before the Motion about the critical food situation moved by my Friend hon. Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury on the 17th last, there had been series of discussion about the subject. It started with the amendment moved by the same hon. Member to the thanks-giving resolution moved by my Friend, Srijut Purna Chandra Sarma. In reply to the points raised by hon. Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury in support of his amendment Motion, the Hon'ble Leader of the House detailed at length the food position of the State. This statement of the Hon'ble Leader of the House was followed by the Budget speech made by the Hon'ble Finance Minister and his replies given to the points raised to his speech regarding the food situation of the State. It is therefore clear, Madam, that the House had already become familiar to the food situation of the State and through which we are passing before the motion moved by my Friend, Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury. So I did not think it worthwhile to give any preliminary reply immediately after the Motion was moved. I agree, Sir, that as food touches all intimately, it to-day provokes the greatest amount of controversy. But the problem, however, has to be viewed free from prejudice and with a clear understanding of the present real position. The food situation is grave in the whole of India and it is so in Assam as Assam being a deficit State. The situation is due to the fact that with the increase of population our production has not kept pace with it, resulting in less availability of rice and the natural calamities have also added to this shortage.

In 1941 our population was 74,06,537; but with the normal increase of indigenous population, migration of East Bengal Muslims since 1941 and the influx of Hindu refugees since partition, our population has come to more than a crore. According to the Agricultural Statistics the total production of rice in 1949-50 is 17,29,500 tons as against 13,05,660 tons in 1942-43, but our production according to the final forecast of 1950-51 has come to 12,93,100 tons thus registering a fall to the extent of 4,36,400 tons, *i.e.*, 25 per cent. as compared to the production of the previous year, 1949-50.

The decrease for year 1950-51 is attributed to natural calamities, lands lying fallow due to communal disturbances and encroachment on paddy lands by money crops like jute, etc. Besides, a population of one and half lakh residing in the Pakistan bordering areas of Assam, who do not grow any food-grains, are now wholly dependent on this State. Apart from above, the loss of paddy in granaries (*i*) by earthquake and floods and (*ii*) due to communal disturbances were respectively 4,852 tons and 14,226 tons totalling 19,078 tons.

So it is apparent that on the one side population has increased but on the other side we have got less production. With a view to ease the food situation of the State, we have strongly took up with India to revise their view that Assam was surplus State and therefore is not in a position to export any quantity of rice and paddy. India has therefore absolved this State from any export commitment. Further being pressed by this Government, the Government of India have allotted 24,000 tons of wheat to this State at monthly rate of 2,000 tons and also allotted all the available surplus of the States of Manipur and Tripura.

The prices of essential requirements of life being gone up considerably as compared to the controlled prices of rice and paddy in Assam, we moved Government of India to agree to our proposal to raise the price of paddy and rice to which they have also agreed and accordingly the increased prices have been given effect to from the 1st of this month to remain in force upto 30th of April. But it is strictly enjoined by India that the prices current in February last should be reintroduced from the 1st of May next.

10,000 maunds of rice out of the ready stock of the State of Tripura and 4,000 maunds from Manipur are in the process of transport to Assam. The Government of India also approved of two barter deals to procure 50,000 maunds of

rice in exchange of 25,000 tons of Assam coal. These two deals are also in the process of execution. But as this State Government had been constantly urging on the Government of India to make available much larger quantities of rice the Government of India have allotted 5,000 tons of rice from the imported grains for the month of March which is now under process of transport to Assam. It is expected that similar allotments would also be available for subsequent months.

Just a few days back the Government of India have intimated this State Government that a considerable quantity of rice and wheat out of ready stock in East Pakistan may be available to this State and it is reasonably expected that Assam would get an additional quantity of at least 20,000 tons. Arrangements have been made with the Indian Tea Association to give effect to this deal also. The heaviest Government commitment is in respect of the Tea industry in the district of Sibsagar and the Dibrugarh Sadar Subdivision which alone amounts to 6,000 tons per month. This Government had been pressing the Government of India to take over this commitment and the aforesaid 5,000 tons rice for March and the prospective allotment of minimum 20,000 tons from East Pakistan have been made presumably on that basis. Thus, it will appear that this Government are not leaving any stone unturned to import into Assam as much of foodgrains as possible from different sources. Apart from this serious attempts are being made to increase food production and Government procurement in Assam. The Government feel confident that if all the expectations are fulfilled, both in respect of imports and local procurement, the food situation in Assam should be adequately met during the current year. Just recently the local procurement has shown an improvement and we are now procuring at a monthly rate of nearly 13,000 to 14,000 tons as against our monthly commitment of about 16,000 tons. It is expected that this rate of increase shall be maintained till rains set in.

Apart from the industrial and other miscellaneous commitments, this Government, in respect of rice supply in the State, are maintaining 237 ration shops in six statutory rationed areas of Dhubri, Gauhati, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Karimganj and Shillong and monthly issues from these shops are more than 42,000 maunds. In addition, and consistent with the Government's policy to feed the deficit pockets not under statutory rationing, 149 cheap grain shops are being run for urban areas and 328 such shops for rural areas (totalling 487) from which more than 45,000 maunds of rice per month are being issued.

So, Madam, I have detailed the food position of the State and also stated that along with the increase of internal procurement and the quantity of import from outside Assam we hope to meet the situation, although with difficulty.

My hon. Friend Dr. Emran Husain Chaudhury in moving his Motion has raised the following points:—

According to him we are simply shouting at the shortage and doing nothing. I am afraid in making this uncharitable remark he has not given his mind to the Grow-More-Food Scheme launched by Government and which has been described at length at page 17 of the Budget Speech made by the Hon'ble Finance Minister and also settlement of lands made as far as practicable to indigenous people, the refugees who are agriculturists and restoration of lands made to those Muslim migrants who have returned back. Also he has not cared to view with sympathy the serious attempts made by Government to import foodstuffs into the State with the help of India.

Then he has, Madam, found fault with the restriction that has been imposed on the cordoned areas; he suggests increase of cheap grain shops suggests opening lands to landless people and to constitute Food Advisory Committees in different areas. These are the main points raised by him. Now we have to see whether

to increase the number of cheap grain shops restriction imposed on the cordoned areas can be withdrawn or not. I submit, Madam, the restriction cannot be withdrawn. If we withdraw the restriction then there will be no chance of Government procurement to meet the wishes of the hon. Friend. To start cheap grain shops along with procurement is our policy and it is in our scheme to gradually increase the number of such shops depending on the increase in the stock procured. As our stock will gradually increase I can assure the House that the number of such shops will be increased too. At present we have, as I have already stated, 487 such shops and this number will be increased as stock permits.

Regarding his suggestion about settlement of land, I must say, Madam, that lands are being gradually settled with the deserving people, and my hon. Friend admits that it is being done in Titabar also. So, Madam, the suggestion of his is a belated one.

As regards his suggestion to constitute food committees in the subdivisions I would like to inform him that this has already been done and these committees are in existence .....

**Dr. EMRAN HUSAIN CHAUDHURY:** I am sorry the Hon'ble Minister misunderstood me. I spoke about the constitution of a Central Food Advisory Council. In the beginning of 1948 such a Council did some service to the Province so far as food situation was concerned.

**The Hon'ble Srijut RAMNATH DAS:** We have got our Central Food Advisory Council. It was summoned and they considered and approved our procurement policy. Mr. Hardman, who is a member of that Council, will, I hope support me. So, Madam, my Friend in criticising the Government's policy has not been able to give any concrete suggestions to improve the food situation, which has not been adopted by us.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, order. Is it the sense of the House that we sit a little longer ?

(Voices: No. No.)

#### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A. M. on Tuesday the 20th March, 1951.

SHILLONG :  
The 2nd June, 1951.

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