

1061

QUESTIONS

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

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong at 9 A. M. on Friday, the 22nd June, 1962.

P R E S E N T

Shri MAHENDRA MOHAN CHOUDHURY, B.L., Speaker in the Chair, nine Ministers, two Ministers of State, three Deputy Ministers and sixty-three Members.

—————

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Supply): Mr. Speaker, Sir. Before calling up for questions with your permission, I want certain clarification regarding Question No.57.

Mr. SPEAKER: You will do it after Question Hour.

Re: Death caused to a Labour boy at Jobaka tea estate by falling of a new house

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) asked:

*21. Will the Minister-in-charge, Labour be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that in 1960 death was caused to a Labour boy at Jobaka tea estate by the falling of a new house ?
- (b) Whether Government have taken steps in the matter ?
- (c) What was the result of the judicial enquiry ?
- (d) Whether the report will be laid in the house ?
- (e) What steps Government have taken to prevent such accidents in future ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour) replied :

21. (a)—Yes, on 16th May 1960.

(b)—On receipt of information of the accident the Labour Officer, Sibsagar made an enquiry and submitted a report on 17th June 1960. Due to the importance of the matter and misgivings caused by the accident a judicial enquiry was ordered thereafter.

(c)—The judicial enquiry *inter alia* disclosed defective construction and inadequate supervision at the time of construction of the house concerned.

(d)—A copy of the report is placed on the Library table.

(e)—The management of Jobaka tea estate has been prosecuted under the provisions of the Plantations Labour Act, 1951. Instructions directing formation of bi-partite committees at garden level to supervise the design and construction of houses has been issued and such bi-partite committees are functioning in many tea estates. The question of laying down firm specifications and designs for labour houses in tea estates has been taken up by Government in the light of the findings of the Parliamentary Committee set up for assessment of the implementation of the provisions of the Plantations Labour Act, 1951 and the rules thereunder.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) : 'প্রচিকিউচন'ৰ বিজাল্ট কিহল ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour) : বিজাল্ট এতিয়াও ওলোৱা নাই।

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) : Sir, May I know from the hon. Minister who had supervised the construction of the building for the labour on behalf of Government? Is there any officer to supervise the construction of the houses in tea gardens?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : No, Sir. The responsibility for supervision and construction of buildings is the responsibility of the management itself.

Shri DURGESWAR SAIKIA (Thowra) : মই শুনিবলৈ পাইছো যে, বাগানৰ মেনেজমেণ্টক দুৰ্ঘা সাব্যস্ত কৰিছিল যদিও, যেহেতু চিমেণ্টত কিমান বালি মিহলাব লাগে তাৰ নিৰ্ধাৰণ কৰি দিয়াৰ কোনো নিয়ম (rule) নথকাৰ হেতু মুক্তি পাইছে। এই (rule) বিলাক কৰাৰ বিষয়ে চৰকাৰে কি কৰিছে।

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour) : Plantation Enquiry Committee rules সম্বন্ধে কিছুমান পৰামৰ্শ বিচৰা হৈছে আৰু সেই পৰামৰ্শ পালে প্ৰয়োজন অনুসৰি পৰিবৰ্ত্তন কৰিব লাগিব।

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS : Sir, hon. Minister said that there was certain defect in the construction of the house. Will the Government please to see that some officer on behalf of the Government be deputed to supervise the soundness of the construction of the labour houses?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: This point has been considered. Sir, for this work a large number of inspectors of technical nature is required, but it would not be possible for the Government to finance for these. We shall continue to fix liability with the management itself. Secondly, Sir, whether the supervision can be undertaken by the State will depend upon the report of the Plantation Enquiry Committee which has yet been received.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabor): Is it a fact that there were two more deaths in Assam, Sir ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour): Yes.

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahowal): এই ধৰ বিলাক কাৰিকৰী কৌশল মতে ব্যৱহাৰৰ উপযোগী হৈছেনে নাই সেই বিষয়ে কোনে certify কৰে।

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour): মই কৈছোয়েই যে ইয়াৰ ভাৱ 'মেনেজমেণ্টৰ' ওপৰত আছে, আৰু ভবিষ্যতে মেনেজমেণ্টৰ ওপৰত থাকিব।

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara): May I know from the Honourable Minister whether the deceased will get compensation for his life ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour): So far compensation is concerned, we have no information.

Shri RAMNATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]: Will the Government make enquiries whether the man died due to defects in the building ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour): We have made enquiries firstly by the Department and secondly by the Judicial Enquiry as a result of which prosecution was ordered. There is no doubt defects in the construction of the roof of the house, were there. But unfortunately, this is a case in the whole of India.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): Sir, what steps our Government propose to take to avoid such defects in construction of such houses in future ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour): Prosecution is the greatest step in this connection. Therefore, we have launched a prosecution. Now if this prosecution fails, then we will have to find out other means.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara): Sir, in view of several deaths due to defective construction of houses, will the Government consider to cover such cases by Insurance Policy ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour): Sir, Insurance will give money to other members of the family, but it will not give money to the deceased. For that purpose, I think, the compensation from the Management will be necessary.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): Whether it will be possible for the Government to depute some of the staff from the Executive Engineering Departments for the supervising of construction of such labour houses?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour): This is also a point under consideration, Sir.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabor): Sir, will the Government consider amending the rules in this regard?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Labour): The honourable member will be invited when the question of amendment of such rules is taken up.

Re: Extra high tension line from Barapani to Badarpur

Shri DEBENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) asked:

*22. Will the Minister-in-charge, Electricity be pleased to state—

- (a) The cost of drawing an extra high tension line to Badarpur from Barapani?
- (b) Whether there is proper scope for utilisation of such a huge quantity of power at Badarpur and surrounding places?
- (c) Who will bear the cost of extra high tension line drawing up to Badarpur?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Electricity) replied:

22. (a)—The cost of drawing an extra high tension line to Badarpur from Barapani is Rs. 62.70 lakhs.

(b)—There is a total demand of 44,200 KW. in the district of Cachar by 1965-66.

(c)—The Assam State Electricity Board will bear the cost.

Shri RAMNATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]: Sir, when the Extra High Tension Line from Barapani to Badarpur will be completed?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Electricity): Sir, we have called tenders only now. In view of this fact, the date of completion cannot be given now.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati): May I know from the honourable Minister whether these generating sets can be made more powerful ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Electricity): Sir, these are all Diesel sets. Unless bulk generators are made available, industrial power cannot be made cheap.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati): There are two generating sets—one at Karimganj and another at Silchar. Will not these be sufficient for those areas ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Electricity): Sir, even the existing requirement of those places is hardly met by these sets.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati): Cannot those generating sets be improved for producing more power ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Electricity): These are diesel sets. The requirement of power for Cachar now is based on diesel sets. Unless bulk generation is available industrial power cannot be made cheap enough. No industry can be based on diesel generation. Since in Cachar big industries are coming up, bulk generation of power at cheap cost would be necessary. It is for this reason that Cachar will now have to be connected with some bulk generation system.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati): The honourable Minister stated in reply to (c) that the Electricity Board will bear the cost. What is the source from which the Electricity Board will meet this huge sum of money ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Electricity): From the Plan allocations.

Shri RAM NATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]: With regard to supplementary to (a), the Minister stated that tender had been called for. May I know whether in the tender there is any indication of the date of completion of this line ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Electricity): I do not remember.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): The Honourable Minister stated that bulk power was necessary as big industries were coming up in Cachar. May I know what are the industries for which it has been considered necessary to draw this line ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: A load survey was made based on the requirements of two rayon pulp mills, one paper mill, one Fruit processing factory and the industrial estates and tea gardens asked for electricity. The load survey which was made by the Central Water and Power Commission showed that 44200 KW. of power would be necessary for the area by that date.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) : The Minister said that this line was necessary to supply bulk power to the industries proposed to be set up in Cachar. May I know why the cost of drawing this line cannot be realised from the industries concerned instead of taxing the entire population of Assam ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Electricity) : All the grids will have to be built by ourselves without which we cannot supply power to the industrial unit in the different parts of the State. The two giant grids, viz., (i) from Barapani to Badarpur, from Barapani to Gauhati, from Gauhati to Tezpur, from Gauhati to Bongaigaon, from Barapani to Nowgong and then to Silghat and then the other grid from Nahorkatiya via Nazira to Golaghat and Dergaon on the one side and to Margherita, Doom Dooma and Dibrugarh on the other side, will have to be built by ourselves. Otherwise, we cannot distribute power to the consumers. So, the grid will have to be entirely at our cost. Then we step down and distribute power to the local consumers. When we come to the distribution point then we charge the local consumers. But if we do not have the grid we cannot distribute bulk supply.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA : Does this rule apply to all places ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : Yes, Sir.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA : In that case may I know why the entire cost of connection was realised from the Gauhati Water Works when electricity was supplied to it by the State Electricity Board ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : That was the cost for supplying from the grid.

Shri RAM NATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] : The Honourable Minister said that a paper mill would be established in Cachar. May I know at what stage the project is now ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Electricity) : For information about the stages in which different industries are at present a separate question should be tabled.

Shri RAMNATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] : I was told about two years ago that a paper mill was licensed there.....

Mr. SPEAKER : He says that if a separate question is put that information will be supplied. It is not with him now.

Shri RAMNATH DAS : I think the Planning Minister is very conversant with these matters.

Mr. SPEAKER : He does not want to say something from his memory. He wants to say from the documents.

Re: State Electricity Board

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA asked :

*23. Will the Minister-in-charge, Electricity be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government have determined the life-time of the State Electricity Board ?

(b) If not, why ?

(c) Whether it is a fact that an employee of the Electricity Board drawing a salary of more than Rs.2,000 per month has been nominated as one of the members of the said Board ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Electricity) replied :

23. (a)—No. Under section 5 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 the Board is to be constituted without specifying the period.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—According to section 5(b) of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, of the members, one shall be an Electrical Engineer with wide experience, and in view of the statutory provision of the Electricity Act, the Chief Electrical Engineer has been appointed as one of the members of the Board.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) : Sir, Section 78 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, has authorised the State Government to make rules to determine the term of office of the Chairman and other Members of the Board. May I know why the State Government have not as yet determined the life-time of the Board ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : I have merely stated the present position

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) : May I know whether rules have been framed under the said Act ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : Some rules have been framed, but with regard to the term of the Board no rule has been framed as yet.

Shri DEBENDRA NATH SARMA : Section 78 has authorised the State Government to make rules for determining the period of the Chairman and other members of the Board and conditions under which they shall be eligible for reappointment, their remuneration, allowances and other conditions of service. I think rules for all these items, viz., remuneration, allowances and other conditions of service, have been made. But may I know why rules for determining the period of their office have not yet been framed by Government ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : It has not been fixed as yet. It will be fixed ; there will be no difficulty.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA : Sir, the question in (c) was "whether it is a fact that an employee of the Electricity Board drawing a salary of more than Rs.2,000 per month has been nominated as one of the members of the said Board ?" I want to know whether this Member of the Board is an employee of the Board itself ?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, he has replied "According to section 5(b) of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, of the members, one shall be an Electrical Engineer with wide experience, and in view of the statutory provision of the Electricity Act, the Chief Electrical Engineer has been appointed as one of the members of the Board". That is the reply.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati): Does this section anywhere mention specifically that an employee of the Board should be a member of the Board?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Electricity): There is no provision in any section to prevent it.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: Who has appointed him as a member of the Board? The State Government or the Board itself?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: We as State Government appoint the members of the Electricity Board. It is we who have appointed him.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: My information is that there is a Selection Committee of the State Electricity Board and the Selection Committee appointed him.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: When he was appointed he was not a member of the Board. After the other member went out, he came in.

Shri RAMNATH DAS: Has the Government framed rules under Section 78 of the Electricity Act?

Mr. SPEAKER: He has already replied that some rules have been framed, but no rule has been framed as yet regarding the tenure of the Board?

Shri RAMNATH DAS: Why not?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: The Board was constituted in 1958 and the recruitment of staff was more important than the question of retirement.....

Mr. SPEAKER: But four years is quite a long time.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): Why the most important rule fixing the life-time of the members of the Board has not been framed as yet?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: Sir, we wanted to do it after some experience of the working of the Board. In Africa it is said that when a King is installed on the throne, building of his pyramid begins. The Board was constituted in 1958 naturally we did not like to embark on the pyramid building immediately. Now after 4 years of experience we may.

Shri RAM NATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] Sir, my point was that whether the hon. Minister will be pleased to state why rules have not yet been framed under section 78 to determine the duration of the Electricity Board? May I know whether rules have been framed or not?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Electricity):
No.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): Sri, may I know from the Government whether the Government has violated the provisions by not framing the rules required under section 78 ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister Electricity):
Nothing has been violated.

Mr. SPEAKER: Section 78 empowers the State Government to frame Rules specifying the life of the Electricity Board. That Rules have not yet been framed. The hon. members want to know whether the Government has violated this provision.

Shri KAMAKHY PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister): Sir, I have already said that we want to frame these rules from our experience. We do not know what should be the proper duration of this Electricity Board. So, it was not laid down initially. Now we have to frame these rules from our experience.

Shri MAHAMMAD UMARUDDIN (Dhubri): Could not the Government obtain Rules from other States for finalising the rules of this State ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: As I said already Sir we want to gain experience first and then frame the Rules.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati): Sir, I read the rules "the term of office of the Chairman and other members of the Board, the conditions under which they shall be eligible for re-appointment and their remuneration allowances and other conditions of service."

So, my question is whether the rules will be framed according to the sweet will of some body ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): Sir, I may say that the Rules will be framed according to the convenience of the Government when we gain some experience to determine the life time of the Board.

Shri RAM NATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]: May I know when it will be convenient for the Government to gain experience and framing the Rules ? I think 4 years time is sufficient to gain experience.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Electricity):
Sir, we will frame the Rules in the light of our experience.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): In view of the fact that Section 78 provides for determining the duration of the Electricity Board may I know from Government whether for framing rules it will not violate the very provision if the Rules are not framed ?

Mr. SPEAKER: Chief Minister said that Rules would be framed according to the convenience of the Government.

Shri MOTI RAM BORA (Nowgong) : Is that the member En ineer a superannuated officer ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Electricity) : He was the Chief Engineer of the Punjab Government and at that stage we took him on deputation. He retired in 1961 and still continuing.

Shri MOTI RAM BORA (Nowgong) : How long will he continue ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : Upto 1964.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) : Sir, when the Act was passed it naturally follows that the Rules are to be framed under the very Act. Is there any provision to the effect that the Government can wait for sometime and frame rules picemeal ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : Sir, we are waiting till we gain experience.

Mr. SPEAKER : So far as the provision of framing Rules are concerned it is quite clear that Government is to frame the Rules under this Act. The question is whether there is any authority under this Act which entitles the Government to defer the date of framing the Rules indefinitely.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Electricity) : Sir, there is nothing to prevent this.

Shri LAKSHIMI PRASAD GOSWAMI (Laharighat) : Sir, the Chief Minister replied that Rules should be framed according to the convenience of the Government. May I know how the framing of these Rules created inconvenience to the Government ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) : Sir, my colleague has explained the position. So far as this State is concerned this State Electricity Board is a new Organisation and therefore, we want to gain some experience as to its working. And on the basis of our experience the Rules would be framed. The framing of Rules is no doubt an important matter, but, Sir, we want to frame these rules from our experience.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) : Sir, the Chief Engineer is an employee of the Board and he has been made the member of this Board also, although he has retired from service. Sir, may I know there is heavy dearth of engineer in our State ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Electricity) : Sir, when we took him he has not retired, he had one year service. He is a most experienced and qualified engineer and it is very difficult to get a man of his standing in our State. He was in a large scale Electricity Board and his experience is very much helpful to us, and we advisedly appointed him as a member of the Board.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Nowgong) : Was he appointed on the basis of one year service ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Electricity): Initially he was appointed for one year. Construction of the Umiam Project will take some time, so we did not like to change horses in the mid-stream. That is why he has been granted extension.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: Was there any advertisement inviting applications for this post ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: We appointed him in through my negotiation. Such experienced man cannot be obtained by advertisement. We also tried to bring another Engineer, for George Owmens from Madras. He was appointed as Chief Engineer, construction. But unfortunately he dies before he joined the appointment. Because the Umiam Project is a very complicated project that is going in India. So we want most experienced hands.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati): Sir, I want to know whether advertisement was made for this post ?

Mr. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister categorically said that appointment was made by negotiation.

Shri MOTIRAM BORA (Nowgong) : Who carried the negotiation, Sir ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Electricity): The Chairman of the Electricity Board.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla) : Did the Government consider before appointing him as a member whether the appointment would be in the best interest of the Board itself ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : Sir, it would serve the best interest of the people.

Re: Power Station at Garo Hills

Shri DEBENDRA NATH SARMA asked :

*24. Will the Minister-in-charge, Electricity be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that another power station of 5,000 KW. is soon going to be installed in the Garo Hills at an approximate cost of about Rupees one crore ?
- (b) If so, the broad-out lines of such a proposal ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Electricity) replied :

24. (a)—Yes. The cost of the project is Rs. 97.51 lakhs.

(b)—A copy of the public notice giving the broad out lines of the project is placed on the Library table.

Further, the station will also be connected to Goalpara.

Shri MAHAMMAD UMARUDDIN (Dhubri) : Sir, is it a fact that the Project has been enlarged ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Electricity) : Yes Sir. Now, the latest position is that the Planning Commission has agreed to expand this Station to 60,000 K. W. In view of the fact that all our electricity which is proposed to be generated in Naharkatiya and Umaniam is booked and if we want to have fresh licenses, we cannot get them unless we assure additional power.

Shri GHANASHYAM DAS [North-Salmara (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] : Will the work be started within the current year ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI : This will be started within the Third Plan.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Re : Sugar allotments

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked :

64. Will the Supply Minister be pleased to state—

(a) What quantity of sugar was allotted to the State in the years 1960-61 and 1961-62 ?

(b) What is the price of sugar fixed by the Government per maund ?

(c) What is the price of sugar now prevailing in the market ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Supply) replied :

64. (a)—73,360 tons during 1960-61 (April to March) and 29,422 tons during the period of April to September, 1961 sugar was decontrolled with effect from 29th September, 1961.

(b)—Sugar is a decontrolled commodity and its price is not fixed by Government.

(c)—A Statement showing the prevailing market prices of sugar at different centres of the State is placed on the Library table.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur): Is there no control over the price of Sugar ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Supply): No Sir.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI: What is the amount brought to Assam out of this allotment ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: The quantities are given here, Sir in reply.

Mr. SPEAKAR: No, he wants to know whether the quota was lifted or not, by the Government of Assam, that is the question ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: Sir, I require notice for that.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati): Sir, the price of sugar per seer is Re.1.28 nP. at Gauhati but at Shillong it is at Re.1.25 nP. Why this difference ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: As I have said Sir, this is a decontrolled commodity and it depends on the availability of sugar in a particular place.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur): Can the dealers extract any amount they like ?

Mr. SPEAKER: This is a decontrolled commodity and you may think any way you like.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): Sir, the hon'ble Minister said that certain quantities of Sugar were allotted during 1960-61 and 1961-62. May I ask the hon'ble Minister whether quantities that were allotted for these two years, were all lifted or supplied to this Government ?

Mr. SPEAKER: He wants notice.

Re: Loans advanced by the Finance Corporation

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI asked:

65. Will the Finance Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) What amount has been advanced as loans by the Assam Finance Corporation in the years 1960-61 and in 1961-62 ?
- (b) Whether Government will be pleased to place on the Library Table a list of the loanees with amounts sanctioned against each in the years 1960-61 and 1961-62 ?
- (c) What conditions are to be fulfilled to get loan under Assam Finance Corporation ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Finance Minister) replied :

65. (a)—The total amount advanced as loans by the Assam Financial Corporation is as follows :

1960-61—Rs.55,69,440.00 nP.

1961-62—Rs.59,96,902.48 nP.

(b)—A list is placed on the Library Table.

(c)—Any industrial concern as defined in Section 2 of the State Financial Corporations Act, 1951, whose factory is situated in Assam or in the Union Territory of Tripura, is eligible for an advance from the Corporation for industrial purpose. Loans are granted by the Corporation mainly for the acquisition of block assets, *viz.*, acquisition of land, construction of factory buildings and purchase of machinery, as well as for purchase of accessories and necessary capital equipment. Loans are granted against a first legal mortgage of fixed assets, *viz.*, land, buildings and machinery, including those assets to be acquired with the loan. A margin of 50 per cent is maintained. The applicant has to satisfy the Corporation that he has made necessary arrangement for working capital, raw materials, technical personnel, etc., and generally on the financial soundness of the venture.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur): Whenever any advance or loan is given to an Industry whether there is any machinery to see whether that project has actually been executed or started.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): Sir, as have already pointed out that the loan granted has nothing to do so far Government is concerned. The loan is given by the Assam Financial Corporations, if the applicant for such loan satisfies the conditions and the corporation is satisfied that the industry will be started in the State or in Tripura because Tripura is also within that Act.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): Sir, may I know whether there is any follow-up machinery?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED: If the hon. member goes through the Report of the Assam Financial Corporation, which was placed before the House only thirteen days by me, he will be pleased to find that very Corporation is strict and careful in advancing the loans and following them up.

Re: Establishment of a full-fledged thana at Borgang (Behali)

Shri BISHNULAL UPADHAYA (Gohpur) asked:

66. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that on receipt of public demand for establishment of a full-fledged thana at Borgang, Government have recently taken steps to acquire a plot of land at Burgang which is the centrally located place in the Behali Anchalik Panchayat Area?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that necessary plan and estimates are also going to be prepared for administrative approval?
- (c) Whether execution of the work of building construction will be done within this financial year?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD GHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied:

66. (a)—No step has yet been taken to acquire any land at Borgang for establishment of a Police Station there. On receipt of the proceedings of the Behali Anchalik Panchayat the matter of establishment of a Police Station at Borgang is under consideration.

(b)—Does not arise.

(c)—Does not arise.

Re: The High Madrasah at Pashim Mainvari of Bagbar Mauza

Shri TAJUDDIN AHMED (Tarabari) asked:

67. Will the Education Minister be pleased to state—

(a) Whether one High Madrasah has been started at Pashim Mainvari of Bagbar Mauza?

(b) If so, whether Government has given permission to open the same?

(c) Whether any grant has been given to this institution?

(d) If not, why and when the grant will be given?

(e) Whether Government are aware that the area is very backward in the Sub-Division?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH (Minister of Education) replied:

67. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Yes, permission for opening classes for VII and VIII was accorded in January, 1962.

(c)—No.

(d)—Grants will be given when at least most essential conditions will be fulfilled such as appointment of qualified staff.

(e)—Yes.

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Deputy Minister, Education): Sir, I shall have to make some corrections so far as the question (c) and (d) are concerned. In (c) instead of No. should be Rs.800 out of savings was sanctioned as non-recurring lump sums grant to maintain the School in 1960-61 and (d) does not arise.

Shri MAHADEV DAS [Bhabanipur (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]: How many students are reading in the School and what is Teachers' capacity?

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Deputy Minister for Education): Sir, it is Venture School and we do not know the exact number of students.

Mr SPEAKER: Is it not necessary to examine the number of students at the time of sanctioning the grant?

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA: Sir, this is a Venture School and permission for opening the Classes VII and VIII has been given in 1961.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur): Is it the policy of the Government to advance grants to Institutions which are not yet recognised by the Government?

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA: Yes, some times, especially in Backward areas.

Re: Sub-Divisional Planning Secretaries

Sbri TAJUDDIN AHMED asked:

68. Will the Minister for Planning and Development be pleased to state who are the Sub-Divisional Planning Secretaries of this State?

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Deputy Minister, Panchayat) replied:

68.—There is no post of Sub-Divisional Planning Secretaries as such, but there are 23 posts of Sub-Divisional Planning Officers in this State. They are functioning in each Sub-Divisional Headquarters. The Sub-Divisional Planning Officers in the Plains Districts are also the Secretaries of Mohkuma Parishads. Names of the Sub-Divisional Planning Officers are given below—

(1) Shillong	...	...	...	...	Shri L. Khound.
(2) Jewai	...	...	...	...	Shri D. P. S. Tiewsoh.
(3) Haflong	...	...	...	...	Shri N. R. Das
(4) Diphu	...	...	...	...	Vacant.
(5) Aijal	...	...	...	...	Shri Sardar Kansingh.
(6) Lungleh	...	...	...	...	Vacant.
(7) Tura	...	...	...	...	Shri H. N. Bhattacharjee
(8) Hailakandi	...	...	...	...	Shri M. K. Nag.
(9) Silchar	...	...	...	...	Shri S. Ali Choudhury.
(10) Karimganj	...	...	...	...	Shri B. B. Das

(11) Gauhati ...	...	...	...	Shri A. C. Deka.
(12) Barpeta ...	...	...	...	Shri Haranath Gohain.
(13) Goalpara ..	...	...	..	Shri Hamendra Nath Gohain.
(14) Dhubri ...	..	...	...	Shri D. N. Mazumdar.
(15) Kokrajhar ...	...	..	...	Shri S. N. Sarma.
(16) Tezpur ..	...	...	...	Shri D. N. Bora.
(17) Mangaldai ...	...	...	...	Shri H. N. Sangma.
(18) Sibsagar ...	..	..	...	Shri B. G. Bhattacharjee.
(19) Jorhat ...	...	-	...	Shri A. C. Barua.
(20) Golaghat ...	...	...	...	Shri R. Shadap.
(21) Nowgong ..	...	...	...	Shri P. Saharia.
(22) Dibrugarh ...	...	...	...	Shri J. N. Borgohain.
(23) North Lakhimpur ...	...	...	...	Shri D. Rabha.

Action is being taken to fill up the vacant posts at Diphu and Lungleh soon.

Re: Lapsed Water Supply Grants

Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU [Majuli (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] asked:

69. Will the Minister in-charge, Tribal Areas Department be pleased to state—

- (a) Total amount of water supply grants which had been lapsed during the years 1959-60 and 1960-61 under Article 275 of the Constitution of India. (To be shown sub-Division-wis) ?
- (b) Why the grants had lapsed ?
- (c) Who is responsible for that ?
- (d) Whether the grants that had lapsed would be again granted to the Sub-Division concerned during the year 1962-63 ?

Shri CHATRASINGH TERON (Minister, Tribal Areas Department) replied:

69. (a)—The total amount of water supply grant lapsed during

1959-60

Hills—Rs.4,154 (Pawi-Lakher Regional Council.)

Plains—Deputy Commissioner, Nowgong—Rs.9,000.

Deputy Commissioner, Dibrugarh—Rs.8,452.

1960-61—HILLS DISTRICTS

					Rs.
United Khasi and Jaintia Hills	...	...	...	...	6,004
Garo Hills	...	...	...	...	22,294
Pawi-Lakher Regional Council	...	..	...	...	2,129
Sub-Divisional Officer, Jowai ..	...	..	...	...	...

PLAINS DISTRICTS

					Rs.
1. Gauhati	...	...	...	...	32,038
2. Nowgong	...	...	...	...	16,733
3. Tezpur	...	...	...	...	2,033
4. Jorhat ...	...	...	...	...	9,976
5. Golaghat	...	...	...	...	3,188
6. North Lakhimpur	...	...	...	...	14,246
7. Goalpara	...	...	...	..	19,638
8. Dhubri	...	...	...	...	4,369
9. Kokrajhar	..	...	...	...	27,941
10. Reserve	..	...	...	...	20,000
11. A. P. O. Murkongsellek	...	...	...	...	4,500

(b)—In 1959-60, the amount of Rs.4,154 sanctioned to Pawi-Lakher Regional Council could not be drawn by the Council for non-receipt of authority from Accountant General, Assam before 31st March, 1960. The amount of Rs.9,000 sanctioned to Deputy Commissioner, Nowgong in 1959-60 also could not be drawn by the Deputy Commissioner for the same reason as stated above. As regards the amount of Rs.8,452 sanctioned to Deputy Commissioner, Dibrugarh, it has been intimated by the Deputy Commissioner that due to shortage of time, the scheme could not be called for and approved by the Development Board and also there was no time to execute within 31st March, 1960. The Government informed the Deputy Commissioner by wire extending the time to complete the execution of the scheme upto 31st May, 1960 but Deputy Commissioner in the meantime before receiving the Government information surrendered the amount.

As regards the grants for the year 1960-61 to both the Hills and Plains Districts, sanction could not be issued as utilisation certificates in respect of the utilisation of the previous years' grants were not received by the Government from the Deputy Commissioners and Sub-Divisional Officers as the Deputy Commissioners and Sub-Divisional Officers could not obtain the utilisation report from the executing agencies like Anchalik Panchayat, etc., in time. Without being satisfied that the previous years' grants are properly utilised, no subsequent grant could be released.

(c)—Reply to (b) covers the reply to this question.

(d)—Grants already lapsed cannot again be revived as water supply grants are distributed every year to different sub-Divisions on area-cum-population basis. Government endeavours are to allot maximum sums possible to non-recipient of the previous years' grants.

Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU [Majull (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: May I know Sir, when the money was sanctioned and when the scheme was called for ?

Shri CHATRASINGH TERON (Minister T.A.D.): Sir, this information is not with me at the present moment and I shall give it later on.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Barchalla): The hon'ble Minister said that in 1960-61, because the utilisation certificates could not be obtained from the Anchalik Panchayats and for this the huge amount could not be drawn. May I ask the Hon'ble Minister that whether any action has been taken against the Anchalik Panchayat for their default in submitting the utilisation certificates ?

Shri CHATRASINGH TERON (Minister, T.A.D.): Sir, the whole sanctioned amount of 1960-61 could not be drawn. At the moment, I had no information as to whether any action has been proposed or taken for not submitting these utilisation certificates.

Shri MOTI RAM BORA (Nowgong): Sir, the amount of Rs.9,000 was for Nowgong district was not drawn because the receipt authority slip from A.G.'s Office could not be sent. Why the Government did not make an enquiry as to why the A G. failed to send the slip which involves lakhs of money ?

Shri CHATRASINGH TERON (Minister, T.A.D.): I have no information at the moment, Sir.

Shri RAM NATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]: May I know from the Hon'ble Minister whether the amount for Kamrup was cancelled and for the district of Nowgong the sanction was issued out later from the Secretariat ?

Shri CHATRASINGH TERON (Minister, T.A.D.): I have already said Sir, that the information is not at present with me.

Re: Shri Chandra Kanta Das an Ex-Military Service man

Shri MAHADEV DAS asked :

70. Will the Minister-in-charge of P. W. D. (R. and B.) be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that one Shri Chandra Kanta Das of Nalbari Village in Gauhati Sub-Division was an Ex-Military Service man who was promoted to the Post of Work Charged Overseer after he came out successful in Departmental Examination ?
- (b) Whether Government is aware that he hails from a very Backward Scheduled Caste (Namasudra) community ?
- (c) Whether it is a fact that finding him fit in the field work he was posted at Bijilighat as Sectional Officer where he served from October, 1958 to 30th June, 1959 ?

(d) If so, what are the reasons for which he has been reverted ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Minister of State, P. W. D. (R. and B. Wing)] replied :

70. (a)—He is a retrenched employee of the A. R. P. Service in Assam (now defunct). He was employed as a Work Charged Overseer from the post of a Muharrir without passing any Departmental Examination.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—In the absence of a regular Sectional Officer, Bijilighat Section, he was allowed to supervise the works of the Section for the period, from 1st October, 1958 to 6th February, 1959 as a Work Charged Overseer.

(d)—Does not arise in view of (c) above. He was transferred from Bijilighat as soon as a qualified Overseer joined there.

Shri MAHADEV DAS [Bhabanipur (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] : Sir, what is the difference between the Workcharged and full-fledged Overseer ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI (Minister of State P.W.D.) : Sir if he who pass the departmental examination or examination conducted by the Assam Public Service Commission, is a full-fledged Overseer and Workcharged Overseer is he who is not qualified but appointed charged to the work.

Shri RAM NATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] : Whether that fellow was not selected by the A. P. S. C. ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI (Minister of State P. W. D.) : This particular officer could not come out successful, that is why the A. P. S. C. did not select him.

Mr. SPEAKER : Whether they are selected through A. P. S. C. for promotion from Workcharged Overseer ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI (Minister of State P. W. D.) : Yes Sir. But this particular officer failed, he could not come out successful and the necessary qualifications required, that is, the survey, estimate, measurements, accounts, in all these things he falls short of.

Shri MAL CHANDRA PEGU [Majuli (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)] : I am not hearing anything.

Mr. SPEAKER : You should train your ears.

Then Mr. Brahma.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Supply) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in replies to question No.57(d), the price shown there in reply, is the wholesale market price and not the controlled price. The price shown for Gauhati, Shillong, and Dibrugarh is the wholesale market price and not controlled price. Regarding the outturn of Ushna rice per maund of paddy, the correct figure will be 16 seers instead of 15 seers, which is wrongly printed, due to typing mistake.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati): The hon'ble Minister has said about the wholesale price. Is that wholesale price controlled or not ?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is the wholesale market price, not the controlled price.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur): Sir, are we take that the supplementaries and the replies, we got yesterday on this question are not based on facts.

Shri RAM NATH DAS [Dergaon (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)]: In view of the corrections made by the hon'ble Minister now, yesterday's replies were not correct.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Supply): That is not the controlled price. This is the existing open wholesale market price.

Shri MOTI RAM BORA (Nongong): What is the difference between the existing market price and the controlled price.

Mr. SPEAKER: Can you give any reply to this question ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Supply): Sir, the hon'ble Member was once a Supply Minister and he knows everything. He is supposed to know what is the difference between the controlled market price and the open market price.

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI (Laharighat): No, Sir, we have the right to ask questions.

Mr. SPEAKER: The replies have values not only to the Members, who put the questions, but also to the hon'ble Ministers and the people of the whole country. Therefore suppose some *Ex-Minister* has certain information at his disposal that does not mean that other Members are deprived of very much.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur): Sir, in view of the importance of the question, with your permission, I beg to raise half-an-hour discussion on this matter as the Minister is not in a position to give the details now.

Shri MOHI KANTA DAS (Borchalla): Also we want to join the discussion.

Mr. SPEAKER: If you want to have half-an-hour discussion, under Rules 49 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly, the rule is that, "Discussion on a matter of public importance arising out of answer to a question—the Speaker shall allot half-an-hour for raising discussion on a matter of sufficient public importance which has been the subject of a recent questions, oral or written, and the answer to which needs elucidation on a matter of fact. You give a notice. Then again regarding starred question No.2 the hon'ble Minister in the course of supplementary could not give certain information to the Members regarding the licenses issued to hoarders of rice mills and he has given a statement and this statement will be laid on the table if any Member wants to put any supplementary on the statement. He will be able to do it to-morrow,

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara): What is the question? May I know it ?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes. Members interested can take note on that question. Now Item No.2—Shri Ahmed.

Voting on Demands for Grants

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.2,25,600, be granted to the Minister-in-charge to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1963 for the administration of the head "32.—Rural Development".

Mr. SPEAKER: The Motion moved is that a sum of Rs.26,25,600, be granted to the Minister-in-charge to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1963 for the administration of the head "32.—Rural Development".

There are three Cut Motions. For the guidance of the Members, I want to say that time allotted for all these grants No. 23, 29, 74, 84, 1, 5, 10, 14, 44, 43, 57 and 83, is one and quarter hour. Therefore, you should be very brief in your observations. I want to stick to the time-table fixed in consultation with the Opposition Members also. Therefore, you should be precise in your observations and also I think all the Members need not take part in it. If you take more time for one of the Demands then other Demands will go without any discussion. That will be difficult. I think all the Cut Motions may be taken as moved. Now Cut Motion No. 3. Any one of you move the Cut Motion, Shri Zahirul Islam, you do not move the Cut Motion. Then Shri Goswami.

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI (Laharighat): Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.36,17,500 under Grant No. 23, Major Head '32.—Rural Development', at page 22 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, i.e., the amount of the whole grant of Rs.36,17,500, do stand reduced by Re.1. The object of my Cut Motion is to criticise the Rural Development Scheme of the Govt.

Shri MAHAMMAD UMARUDDIN (Dhubri): Sir, one point I want to raise. In the Cut Motion moved by the hon'ble Member the amount is shown as Rs.36,17,500, but the amount shown by the Finance Minister is as Rs.26,25,600.

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI (Laharighat): Must be somewhere wrong in the printing.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): Sir, what has happened is this that some amount was taken last time for a period of three months as vote on accounts and what I am asking is deducted that is the whole grant amount. So there is no difficulty about it. The total grant is that and actually I am asking for this because the balance was given by the House on vote on accounts.

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI (Laharighat): Sir, this is the head under which the hon'ble Finance Minister wants the House to vote

is really a very important subject because when we talk of development of Assam without making provision for development of rural areas of Assam this development scheme or programme can have no meaning. From the census figures it is seen that out of 1,18,15,059 people 8,39,030 persons live in urban area and rest live in rural area. This is according to 1961 census.

So, unless we make provision in the development scheme for this huge number of population who reside in the villages, we cannot have any effective development scheme for this State. Sir, of all the schemes taken up for rural development of Assam, it appears that most of them have no meaning for the people in general. I have seen in certain areas that there are some houses, costly houses, constructed in the name of key village schemes artificial insemination.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Artificial insemination does not come under the purview of this cut motion. It comes under livestock.

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI (Laharighat): In the account, we see that there are provisions for Veterinary hospitals, key villages under this head. Sir, in these development schemes as we have seen in the Government of Assam detailed estimate of budget, we have seen certain schemes which include the improvement of grazing reserves, village grazing and also professional grazing. Sir, there are some minor items also for improvement of veterinary in the rural development scheme. I have never seen in villages whether actually there was any work done for improvement of grazing reserve or professional grazing reserves. We have seen, on the other hand, that most of these grazing reserves are under unauthorised occupation of hundreds of people whose origin is not known. If Government is serious about making some improvement in the villages, the improvement of professional grazing reserves and village grazing requires more attention. When we go to the villages we do not see any trace of work done under this Rural Development scheme excepting a few big buildings and some officers moving about. To make this scheme more effective and to bring the plan of the scheme to the villages, some effective propaganda work must be done. Again, Sir, in the budget provision, from the audit report of 1961, we see that the original final grant in the year 1959-60 was Rs.2,848,950. Out of this, the Department saved or surrendered Rs.4,23,137. On the other day, while replying to the budget debate, our Finance Minister replied that this surrender of money is not a serious thing. But for us who are not expert in budget or in finance, we find that it is a very serious thing. If from the budget provision of each year, the Department concerned surrenders money to the extent of lakhs of rupees, then in this way, the money will go on being surrendered from year to year and nobody knows when and how this money which is surrendered from year to year will be utilised for development purposes in rural areas because our Assam villages are so backward that there are lot of things to be done for the improvement of rural areas. We expect that the amount voted by this House should be spent to the last farthing when we see that the backwardness of our rural areas have not been improved or has not been removed and at the same time, when we see that the Department concerned failed to utilise the entire amount voted in this House and then we must admit that the Government's development scheme has something wrong somewhere and it requires a bit of treatment. So, Sir, as I feel, this rural development scheme has not been implemented to the extent at which our people in

rural areas can feel that actually the Government has done something for the improvement of their lot. I feel, Sir, that it should be done in some more democratic way by taking the opinion of the people. The officers should not only go round the villages in routine manner in grand jeeps without having any touch with the people themselves. The best thing for implementation of the scheme will be to go to each village, take the opinion of the people there, ascertain from them what actually their problems are and priority should be fixed accordingly. Without making such assessment from the villagers themselves, if somebody thrusts upon them something from outside, then the villages will not feel that the officers are there to do something for the improvement of their conditions. So, Sir, the whole rural development programme of the Government of Assam, if I am to consider it from the point of view of decentralisation of power, it is a total failure. So, my suggestion is that there should be some committees besides the Panchayat Committees which should be termed as Village Development Committees, on village level. It should have no connection with Panchayats. The Panchayats have multifarious work. So, to determine what the exact necessities are there for the villagers should be allowed to take some part in determination of these problems of the villages. The Panchayats have become something like a political front of rather I should say that the Panchayat has become something like a second front of Congress. We have seen that villages are divided into so many groups and group politics have been infused into the villages as a result of Panchayat politics. We have seen, so far as rural development is concerned that Panchayats have become ineffective and Panchayats are attached to Community Development centres. So, if there is the necessity of rural development and I feel if anything has to be done with the intention of developing the rural areas in Assam, and it is a welcome step, it should be welcome by everybody as everyone is interested in the improvement of conditions of Assam and its rural areas and every section of people should take keen interest in it. From that side in order to make people feel that these schemes are really meant for the villages, the officers should be trained in such a way, trained in the ideology, with the Government in fact entertain, They should be trained in that objective, the objective of establishing socialism in this country. They should be thoroughly trained and they should be asked to take the opinion of the villages without going to implement the schemes as if thrust upon them from outside, as if they have come from foreign countries, as if they have nothing to do with the village people. So, sir, I say that the Government have failed to implement rural development scheme in the way as the Government have done it.

Mr. SPEAKER : Motion moved is that the sum of Rs.26,25,600, be granted to the Minister-in-charge to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1963 for the administration of the head—“32.—Rural Development”.

✓ **Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) :**
মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, বাজ্যৰ উন্নয়নৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত চৰকাৰে যিটো গাঁও উন্নয়নৰ আঁচনি দাঙি ধৰিছে মই জনাত তাৰ জৰিয়তে গাঁও উন্নয়ন হোৱা নাই। জনসাধাৰণে ভাবিছিল যে স্বাধীনতাৰ পাছত জনসাধাৰণৰ হাতলৈ ক্ষমতা আহিব আৰু শাসন কৃতকাৰ্য কৰাৰ ক্ষমতা সমূহ বাইজৰ হাতত অৰ্পণ হব। কিন্তু চৰকাৰে জনসাধাৰণক পঞ্চায়তৰ যোগেদি ক্ষমতা দিয়াৰ পৰিবৰ্ত্তে কিছুমান পঞ্চায়ত গঠন কৰি এই পঞ্চায়তৰ দ্বাৰা চৰকাৰৰ কিছুমান হুকুম কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰোৱাইছে। গতিকে এই পঞ্চায়ত বিলাক কাৰ্য্যকৰী কমিটি হিচাবেহে গঠন

কৰা যেন লাগে। গাঁও অঞ্চলৰ খাজনা বৃদ্ধি বা হ্রাস কৰাৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত পঞ্চায়তৰ কোনো পৰামৰ্শ লোৱা নহয়। মাটিহীন লোকক মাটি দিয়াৰ ক্ষমতাও পঞ্চায়তক দিয়া হোৱা নাই। চৰকাৰে স্থানীয় কৰ বঢ়াব খুজিছে কিন্তু তাত পঞ্চায়তৰ মতামত লোৱা হোৱা নাই। এনে ক্ষমতাহীন পঞ্চায়তৰ দ্বাৰা গাঁও উন্নয়নৰ কাম কেনেকৈ হ'ব? শিক্ষা, ভূমিবিভৰন, জলসিঞ্চনৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত তেওলোকৰ কোনো পৰামৰ্শই লোৱা নহয়। তেওলোকক টকা আদায় কৰাৰ এটা যত্ন কৰি লৈছে। চাইকেল গৰুগাৰীত কৰ বহাইছে চুকেকানে পৰি থকা চাইকেল, গৰুগাৰীৰ টেক্স আজি আদায় কৰিছে পঞ্চায়তৰ টকা মুঠেই কম শতকৰা ১৫ ভাগ খাজনা গাঁও আৰু ১০ ভাগ আঞ্চলিক পঞ্চায়তক দিয়ে। বাবে বাবে কোৱা হৈছে যে শতকৰা ২৫ ভাগ আঞ্চলিক পঞ্চায়তে আৰু শতকৰা ৫০ ভাগ গাঁও পঞ্চায়তে খাজনাৰ ভাগ পাব লাগে। কিন্তু প্ৰকৃততে বৰ্তমান পঞ্চায়তৰ টকা কম। টকা নাপালে কামেই বা কেনেকৈ হাতত ল'ব? টকা উলিওৱা ক্ষেত্ৰত কিছুমান পঞ্চায়তে সা-সুবিধা এৰি দিছে।

তথাপি সেইবিলাক দোষণীয় বুলি ধৰা নহয়। কাৰণ পঞ্চায়তৰ উচ্চ লোক সকল প্ৰতিপত্তি থকা কংগ্ৰেছী মানুহ ভোটৰ সময়ত কংগ্ৰেছক সহায় কৰে।

মই উদাহৰণ হিচাবে নাজিৰা আঞ্চলিক পঞ্চায়তৰ কথা কও—সেই পঞ্চায়তে বৰছিল বাগাঁনৰ মেনেজাৰৰ লগত বৰছিল বজাৰৰ গোপন চুক্তি কৰি ৭ হাজাৰ টকাৰ ঠাইত দুহেজাৰলৈ হাট খন দি দিছে। মেনেজাৰে ২ হাজাৰত লৈ অন্য এজনক ৫ হাজাৰত আকৌ অন্যজনে ৭ হাজাৰত হাট লৈছে। এই পাঁচহেজাৰ বাটতে অন্যৰ হাতত পৰিছে। যদি সেই বজাৰ খন বাগাঁনৰ মাটিত পৰিছে তেন্তে তাক অধিগ্ৰহণ কৰা দৰ্কাৰ আছিল আৰু মুকলিভাবে ডাকত দিব লাগিছিল। সেইটো কৰা হোৱা নাই।

এখন বজাৰ লৈ দুখন পঞ্চায়তৰ ভিতৰত মনোমালিন্য চলিছে টক পায় এখনে আনখনে হাটবহুৱাই অৰ্থ সংগ্ৰহ কৰিবৰ অৰ্থে অন্যপিনে বেলেগে এখন বজাৰ বহাইছে। যেনে যোৰহাটৰ দক্ষিণ হেঙ্গেৰা হাট। এই দৰেই পঞ্চায়তৰ উপাৰ্জনলৈ পঞ্চায়তৰ ভিতৰত বিবাদ চলিছে। ✓

চৰকাৰে আদশ গাঁও তৈয়াৰ কৰাৰ নামত কিছুমান কংগ্ৰেছীক মাটি দিয়ে। মই শিৱসাগৰৰ গড়গাঁওৰ কথাই কৈছো—তাত আদশ গাঁও বঢ়াব বুলি কিছুমান যথেষ্ট মাটিখকা কংগ্ৰেছী লোকক মাটি দিলে। অথাত আদশ গাঁও নিৰ্মাণ কৰাৰ নামত কিছুমান চৰকাৰৰ নিজা মানুহৰ পুনৰসংস্থাপন কৰিছে। কোনো আদশ সেই গাঁৱত পোৱা নাযায়-জলকীয়া বেঙেনা, লাউ সেই গাঁৱত যিদৰে অন্য ঠাইতো একেই। সেই কাৰণে বৰ্তমান পঞ্চায়ত ব্যৱস্থাৰ ওপৰত মানুহৰ সহানুভূতি কমি আহিছে। কিছুমানে পইছা আনি খোৱাৰ ব্যৱস্থা হৈছে মাত্ৰ। মানুহ গাঁও সভাৰ সাধাৰণ সভাতে উপস্থিত নাথাকে। মই ৩৪ খন গাঁৱসভা দেখিলো কিন্তু উপস্থিতিৰ গড় শতকৰা ১০।২০ ভাগো নহয়। গতিকে মানুহৰ পঞ্চায়তৰ ওপৰত আস্থা নাই।

সেইকাৰণে মই কৰ্ত্তণ প্ৰস্তাবটোৰ সপক্ষে মোৰ মতামত ডাঙি ধৰিলো।

Shri RATHINDRA NATH SEN (Karimganj North): Mr Speaker, Sir, while supporting the cut motion moved by our esteemed Leader, Shri Goswami, I would like only to say a little about this Rural Development Scheme which Government has so kindly sponsored. Sir, there are too many Rural Development Officers, always pose like Badshas, that

they seldom feel that they are being vested with some power, some duties and some responsibilities to look to the well being of the people at large living in the obscure corner of the State, in obscure villages without practically anything done for them up till now in road construction to enable them to live humanly. Sir, there is a proverb: 'Too many cooks spoil the dinner.' It is true, because our Government though really desire to do something for the people, but too many Department have, in fact, spoiled the development work. Sir, in this sphere we find there are the Community Development, the Rural Development, the Panchayats and also there is another semi-Government social organisation names Bharat Sevak Samaj which also at times does some work in the villages. Now, what happens, Sir? Each department throws the responsibility upon the other, result is thus Zero. If you happen to be in some villages, the villagers will come and say—'See our condition, how we are living?' You will find, Sir, some roads have been sanctioned but on enquiry it has been found that payment has been made by the Department concerned to the contractors, but there is no trace of the roads at all. Same is the case with the Rural Development or Panchayat or Community Development or Bharat Sevak Samaj, there is no trace at all although on several cases false payments are being made. In respect of tanks in the rural areas, what is the position? Very recently, only yesterday, our Hon'ble Minister for Health and Minister, Agriculture and Flood Control have returned after witnessing the flood devastated district of Cachar and they have incidentally gone to several villages and have for themselves witnessed the tremendous and terrible plight of the people living in the rural areas. Flood is a natural calamity, I agree. But, Sir, if actually there is some rural development work or works for the rural people to be done by the Government, there is no reason why Government should wait till the flood water subsides. The people will die of epidemic diseases for scarcity of water. These Departments should have constructed some tanks scientifically and some big roads at least for easy communications with other part of the Sub-division or District. But nothing in fact was done. So, Sir, the cut motion was moved with the very intention that Government should be more judicious and businesslike in its functions and it should look to the rural development and see whether any work is being done or not. Lakhs and lakhs of rupees are being taken by this Government being sanctioned by this Assembly and the money is being squandered away by the so called unsocial and unqualified officers maintained by this Government. With these observations I would request the Government to look into the position carefully and see that by the time the Government comes up with another demand in the coming session, we are not supposed to speak in the same line.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I welcome this opportunity of removing certain misconceptions on the basis of which some criticisms have been levelled against this grant by some of my hon. Friends. There can be no two opinion that in our State, out of the total population of nearly 1 crore and 19 lakhs, more than one crore live in rural areas. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary and incumbent on the Government of the State—a welfare State, to look to the upliftment and progress of the people living in the rural areas. Keeping this essential in view, we have been following the path of progress. The hon. Members are aware of the Panchayat Act which has already been enacted and also of schemes and objective underlying the provisions of the Panchayat Act. Under the Panchayat Act there are three tiers of organisations— the Mahkuma Parishads, Anchalik Panchayats and Gaon

Panchayats. The Anchalik Panchayats and Gaon Panchayats are the important organisations and agencies through which the effort to associate and bring about active participation of the people living in those areas, that is to say, in Anchalik Panchayat Area and Gaon Panchayat area, in the development of rural areas is being made. It is, therefore, to say that the people under the jurisdiction of a Gaon Sabha and Gaon Panchayat are not consulted in the matter of fixing programmes for various developments and activities in their respective areas. If the hon. Members will carefully go through the provisions of the Act, they will find that so far as activities, such as development of rural communications, rural water supply, local self-development and such other things connected with the increase in production are concerned, they have been left completely to the Panchayats and people living therein not only for the more purpose of execution of schemes but also for preparing the schemes and for determining how and in what manner these are to be undertaken and achieved by the Panchayat. Sir, under the scheme of Panchayat Act the executing agency is generally the Gaon Panchayat with full authority and jurisdiction to decide what activity and in what particular place within their area it should be undertaken to develop the area. It is essentially for the purpose of giving technical assistance and helping the Gaon Panchayats that various categories of officers have been provided at the Anchalik Panchayat level under the supervision and control of the Panchayats concerned. Therefore, it is wrong to say that whatever work is done at the Gaon Panchayat level, the direction for doing it comes from Shillong, the District or Sub-division. In fact there is now complete transfer of jurisdiction. I seek the co-operation of the hon. Members of this House to realise and understand the implications and importance of this policy of de-centralisation and is fully explained, whenever an opportunity arises, to the Panchayats and people living in rural areas concerned so that they may, taking full advantage of this process of de-centralisation, direct themselves to undertake activities to develop the areas according to their wishes and plans. Then the question arises how to get the funds necessary to implement schemes and undertake activities for the improvement of their areas. There are two or three channels through which the Panchayats at different levels will receive funds to execute their schemes. Government have entirely transferred the receipts from local rates to Gaon Panchayats. As the hon. Members may have seen, from this year it is also proposed to give the Anchalik and Gaon Panchayats 37½ per cent of the net revenue collection. Until last year we were giving them about 25 per cent of the net revenue collection. Now this increase of 12½ will mean that the Panchayats will get annually about 19 to 20 lakhs of rupees more from this source. The local rate has been given entirely to the Gaon Panchayats. Over and above this, the Panchayats have their income, from Cycle Tax, Cart tax, Hat tax, etc. The hon. Member, Shri Barbaruah complained about the unsatisfactorily manner in which these hats are settled and the income derived from these hats is wasted by the Panchayats concerned. So far as the settlement of hats are concerned, these are not done by officers. We have given the complete freedom and authority to the Panchayats concerned for settling them according to the prescribed rules, after inviting tenders to the highest tenderer.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) : Whether tenders were called for in settling Barchala bazar ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Panchayat) : What I would like to impress upon the hon. Members is that if

anything has gone wrong, it has not gone wrong because of any act of commission on occasions on the part of our officers but for some Panchayats not following the prescribed rules. And on that purpose the forum for agitation and for removing the irregularities is not this Assembly, but either the Anchalik Panchayat or the Gaon Panchayat concerned. Nevertheless, the hon. Members may be aware that because of numerous similar complaints, the Government propose to place before the House an amendment bill under which it is to have the settlement of hats to the Mahkuma Parishad in Association with that Anchalik Panchayat concerned and that of receipts from such settlements whenever they exceed the specified amount will be credited to a common fund under the Mahkuma Parishad for distribution to the Panchayats under the jurisdiction of the Mahkuma Parishad. The hon. Members will get opportunity to consider these proposals and to give their suggestions when the Bill is placed before this House. Similarly there are other taxes, such as, cycle tax, cart tax, etc., which are realised by the Panchayats. In this way, they receive funds. By this Bill it will further be provided how Panchayats will be equitably allotted more funds from proceeds of hats under their jurisdiction. In respect of Anchalik Panchayats having benefit of Extension Blocks and expenditures under Agriculture, Veterinary, etc., to be incurred in areas under Panchayats, the Anchalik Panchayats have complete say and jurisdiction to decide the manner and place in which the funds so allotted should be spent. They will decide what allotment for expenditure on development schemes should be shown to the Gaon Panchayats under their jurisdiction. After fund is allotted to a Gaon Panchayat it will have scope and freedom to frame not only the budget in respect of receipts or income coming from its own resources but also funds coming from Government and National Extension Blocks, etc., through the Anchalik Panchayats. But, unfortunately, the authority and jurisdictions delegated under the Panchayats Act and objectives we have in view have not been fully realised and understood by many and particularly those who have been entrusted with these functions and duties. So far as Government is concerned it has given and will give these people further training. It is enough for us only to pass a legislation or to clarify the objectives from time to time. What is essential is that they should be acquainted and trained to utilise this legislation in their advantage and to improve the condition and the life in the rural areas. Whatever Party we may belong to it should be our effort to make the people living in rural areas realise their responsibility and scope for work by taking the fullest benefit from this legislation. I can assure you, Sir, that so far our party is concerned, we do not want to pursue work in Panchayats on Party lines and I feel that which we are engaged in the list of rural development through panchayats we should forget altogether our Party affiliations and should concern ourselves to mobilise rural people and resources to develop rural areas. If in this direction all of us, proceed, so far as the Congress is concerned the fullest co-operation will be forthcoming from its incentive, our task in making rural life happier such fuller will considerably be made easier.

Sir, it may be remembered that the last Panchayat elections were not fought on Party lines. The Congress organisation did not set up its candidates for these elections, but if the people in the villages at the time of elections preferred individual Congressmen, the organisation cannot be blamed for contesting on party lines. Because the Panchayats have a large number of Congress supporters, it cannot be said that everything is wrong in the Panchayats. These are matters which we should try to understand with all their implications and should see that they are made use of not for propaganda

purpose but to achieve our objectives through sincere efforts and by giving fullest co-operation to all sections of the people and by undertaking these works on a centrally-wise basis. The matters relating to functioning of Panchayats will be fully discussed by the State Advisory Board in which I have included some hon. Members from the Opposition side. The first meeting of that Advisory Board is being held on 22nd of this month, where the opportunity to discuss all the drawbacks and how best we can help the increasing productions in rural areas ever be provided.

With these observations, I resume my seat.

Mr. SPEAKER : Are you withdrawing your motion, Mr. Goswami ?

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI (Laharighat) : No.

Mr. SPEAKER : I put the Cut Motion.

The question is that the total provision of Rs.36,17,500 under Grant No.23, Major head "32.—Rural Development", at page 224 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.36,17,500 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(The question was negatived).

Mr. SPEAKER : I put the main question.

The question is that a sum of Rs.26,25,600, be granted to the Minister in-charge to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1963 for the administration of the head "32.—Rural Development".

(The question was adopted)

Grant No.29

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor of Assam, I beg, to move that a sum of Rs.2,00,12,200 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963 for the administration of the head "37.—I—Community Development Projects, National Extension Service".

Mr. SPEAKER : The motion moved is that a sum of Rs.2,00,12,00 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1963 for the administration of the head "37.—I—Community Development Projects, National Extension Service".

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI (Laharighat) : Sir, I beg to move that the total provision of Rs.2,60,83,000 under Grant No.29 Major head "37.—I—Community Development Projects, National Extension Service and Local Development Works", at page 308 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,66,83,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Sir, many of the hon. Members during their speeches on the floor of the House stated that there is multiplications of officers and duplication of work in certain Departments of the Government. Here is one very living example which goes to prove this allegation made by the hon. Members repeatedly on the floor of the House.

Here, Sir, I will show how this department has miserably failed to utilise the money granted by this House for implementation of various schemes. Sir, I have the Audit Report of 1959 before me. We have seen that in 1958-59, out of a financial grant of Rs.1,18,23,856, an amount to the extent of Rs.45,14,233 was spent in excess. Similarly, Sir, in the year 1959-60 also an amount of Rs.15,37,600 was spent in excess. So, Sir, in 1958-59, 1959-60, during these two years, this department spent about more than Rs.60 lakhs, in excess. Sir, in this department there are enumerable officers maintained by the Government for keeping accounts or for examining accounts. I will simply bring to the notice of this House the number of officers maintained in this department for examining accounts:—

Accounts Officer	1 No.
Assistant Accounts Officer (one recruited from A. G's Office).	2 Nos.
Superintendent of Accounts	3 Nos.
Senior Accountants	2 Nos.
Inspecting Auditors	9 Nos.
Accountants	12 Nos.
Accountants Assistant	16 Nos.
L. D. Assistants in Account	3 Nos.

There are 4 other posts sanctioned which are shortly going to be filled up within three four days. They are—

Superintendent of Accounts	1 No.
Inspecting Auditors	29 Nos. (including Panchayats).

So, Sir, these are the officers which are working at the H. Q. at Shillong, for maintaining accounts or regularising the accounts which are sanctioned for this Community Development Projects. I do not know even in the Central Government if there is any such department where such a huge staff is maintained for maintaining and regularising accounts. So, Sir, this department is a living example which is to be brought to the notice of the hon. Members. Sir, from the statement just given by me, it shows how there is multiplicity of officers in the same department. So if these officers are meant for regularising the expenditure I do not know how this department can within two years spend an amount exceeding rupees sixty lakhs which was an excess of what this House voted. Sir, these procedures are to be followed by the Accounts Officers. Sir, in this connection

I would like to read Paragraph 140 of the Budget Manual of the Government of Assam, which reads :—

“The submission of returns in Form B will be watched by Controlling Officers by means of a broadsheet in Form G. The receipt of returns must be scrupulously watched, as the accuracy of the Controlling Officers, accounts will depend upon their completeness and if necessary a subsidiary broadsheet should be kept to watch them. Reminders should be sent if returns are not received by the 7th of the month.

141. On receipt of the returns, the Controlling Officer will examine them carefully to see—

- (a) That the account classified has been correctly given.
- (b) That the appropriations and available balances agree with the ledger of the Controlling Officer ;
- (c) That the expenditure is within the appropriation and that this is not likely to be exceeded”.

Sir, when the Manual states the normal functions of these Controlling Officers and when there is such a big staff to control the expenditure and regularise the money sanctioned, I fail to understand why this department cannot show accuracy in expenditure. Besides this, Sir, in course of the Budget Debate, many things were discussed regarding this particular department. Sir, this Community Development Department has created a sensation in the minds of common people. The officers are provided with vehicles. They go on carrying their friends, as if, these jeeps are provided with them to enjoy the marriages of their friends and cinemas. It is seen, sometimes, these Community Development Officers take their jeeps to fetch a bread from 20 miles away.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): Are you referring to B. D. Os. ?

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI (Laharighat): Yes, B.D Os, surely.

Now, Sir, in my last statement which was made during the Debate on Governor's Address, I also referred to certain instance of Rangbang Community Development Block in Nowgong District. Sir, there are so many anomalies in this centre are going on. I also learned from the Panchayat members and as well as Panchayat President that these things were reported to the H. Q., *i.e.*, to Shillong. There was a scheme for water supply. Pipes worth Rs.28,000 were purchased by the Project Officer, with the help of probably one engineer and when these pipes were examined, I am told that people refused to take these pipes and that these pipes are still rotting in the godown as people refuse to take them due to their, inferior qualities and when the Panchayat Committee discussed this matter they decided to bring this matter to the notice of the higher authority and I am told they actually brought this matter to the notice of the higher authority here. There is a wastage to the extent of Rs.38,000. Not only this, the B. D. O. ordered for some furniture for some schools. Sir, I am told by the members that the furniture were useless. These furniture are still rotting in the godown. The schools did not take delivery of these

furniture. There are many such furniture which can be obtained at a cheaper rate in the open market. This matter was brought to the notice of the highest authority here but no one has taken any interest in this matter.

Sir, regarding this community project officer, I said during my speech on Governor Address that this particular officer was transferred 3 or 4 times. His transfer was demanded by the people. I do not know what machinery he has here, every time of his transfer he comes over to Shillong and he manages to stay his transfer orders. Sir, this B. D. O. was also transferred to another place called Juria which is not a distant place from the place where he is posted now. But he has not gone there instead of he has been moving here in the high quarters to cancel his transfer orders. Sir, there are the things going on in this department and I can cite hundreds of examples of this nature. Sir, the most important thing is that there is some serious and unbridgeable gulf between the villagers and the B. D. O. They consider themselves as very big officers beyond the reach of the common people. They move in their own world in their own way. I therefore want to impress upon this house that it is necessary to have strict supervision and control over these officers. Sir, we shall have to change the outlook of these officers and sooner we can change this outlook is better for the development and unless we do this the future of our country is very very dark. The officers must always keep their contact with the people and they must be sincere in their duties. Therefore, Sir, I appeal to the Government to take something very serious steps if we want to change and improve the lots of our people. Sir, if the money given by this House is not spent for the development works and if it is spent for maintaining staff at the headquarters and if the officers are not within the easy reach of the common people then the fault will lie with the Government. I therefore feel that these are very serious matters. We have passed two plan periods and we are embarking upon the 3rd Five Year Plan. If our officers behave like this the progress of our country will be retarded and our plan will not be successful. Therefore, Sir, I move my cut motion to criticize this Department of Community Project and move that the total provision of Rs.2,66,83,000 under Grant No.29, Major head "37 I.—Community Development Projects, National Extension Service, and Local Development Works" at page 308 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i. e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,66,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

Thank you Sir.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara): Mr. Speaker Sir, while opposing the cut motion moved by Shri Goswami I would like to make a few observations with regard to this important scheme of the Government. Sir, as it is named as Community Development, we are anxious to develop our community in our state. Sir, I am very much interested in one of the blocks situated at Balipara. I have found that during the pre-extension period some very important data were collected at the village level. This is with regard to the number of landless people in the village and the number of people engaged in employment and the number of unemployed. But unfortunately I find that these data are not utilised for the purpose of preparing programme or scheme by the department for productive purposes. Therefore, I suggest that these data should be availed of for the development of the community at the village level. These data may be taken advantage of either by the Planning department or by the Community Development department in order to draw up Schemes.

Secondly, I want to say that the Community Development Block should devote its entire attention for productive purposes of the scheme. All importance must be directed for the success of these schemes. Sir, I am sorry I cannot agree with Mr. Goswami that there are large number of officers in this department. My experience is quite different. Sir, in the Balipara block although it is more than 1½ years some extension officers have not yet been appointed as a result the work of this scheme could not be undertaken during the financial year. So Sir, the work could not be undertaken for want of officers. Sir, a few months back I had to transmit wire for Public Works Department Overseers, for want of which the Project undertaken by Anchalik panchayats for road communication, bridges and culverts could not be implemented as the Overseer was not there for several months, as a result of which some amount of money could not be spent. So Sir, I would request the Government that the moment when the Block comes to Stage I or Stage II the Development Extension Officers should be provided so that integrated scheme for village and Anchalik Panchayat can be undertaken and the money provided for is spent during that year.

Sir, regarding Audit staff which was mentioned by Shri Goswami, I feel the Audit service should be properly utilised so that audit at all levels can be made. I think there are many discrepancies in the expenditure and so these matters should be taken up in right earnest so that people should not feel that their money is spent unnecessarily.

With these few observations, I support the demand made by the Minister, Community Development.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Mr. Speaker, Sir while supporting the cut-motion moved by our Leader Mr. Goswami, I want to make a few observations about this. Sir, I am very pleased to hear that the Finance Minister has already expressed in this morning that development schemes should not be only in paper, it should be shown in practice by developing the village in a proper way. Sir, in the same tune I also want to point out that in every Five Year Plan Government have taken up such kind of schemes, Community Projects and others but I am sorry to find out that no proper development has taken place, because, as our Finance Minister observed, the development cannot be judged from here. Unless and until the proper development has taken place in the village, you cannot have development properly.

Sir, as for, the Community Project, when we go through schemes it is very nice, but in practice it has done practically nothing. Therefore, as our Leader already explained about the huge staff of Audit but I am sorry to find that no proper function has been done by those officers to check up accounts. Sir, I am going to site some examples, that this is a sheer wastage of public money in the name of schemes, in the name of development and in the name of Socialist pattern of Society. This Government is going to spend money lavishly without any purpose, without going into details. In this Directorate, there was some officer for one year on deputation. In 1958, a big defalcation has taken place, that was of nearly Rs.30,000 but up-till-now, nothing has been done. The officer concerned was there, the Accounts Officers were there, the Audits were there, but in spite of all these officials being

there the defalcation has taken place in the head of department. This is not a question of district level officials. Sir, you will be sorry to find out that up-till-now no decision has been taken up by the Government. That Officer who was in charge did not check up the accounts. There was a Typist and he was on verbal order appointed as Cashier. Officer used to make money and after that Sir, he has been compelled by the officers to leave that department and a case is registered against him. So far I know in the Audit Reports, everything has been clearly mentioned.

After the incident took place not only money, materials of department including carpets of the office rooms have been carried away by the officers. Sir, this is a clear example. Now Sir, there has been some. I am not hesitating to point out Sir, that the present Deputy Commissioner was in-charge there at the time he was Deputy Development Commissioner. The case is hanging, and he is also in power. That is why he is transferring the case from this court to that for last few years. And the thing is this that poor fellow is not having any subsistence allowance for three years. Sir, this is against the Constitution of India.

Mr. SPEAKER: What do you mean by the Constitution ?

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): There is a provision in the Constitution of India that the people who has been suspended on a particular charge they are to get subsistence allowance.

Mr. SPEAKER: Provided he is a permanent incumbent.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): No specific mention is there Sir,

Now Sir, apart from that there are so many other defalcation cases. According to our hon'ble Member during the time he has given findings that some particular man who was responsible for defalcation, but now we see these officers are enjoying here and there in the topmost posts.

Mr. SPEAKER: In which Department ?

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): In the Community Project Department, Sir.

Sir, in Bihpuria also there is a defalcation and this is also of Rs.20,000 nearly. Sir, I think the Hon'ble Members of the august House will agree with this humble self that this clearly shows a sheer wastage of public exchequer, because we spend money for the purpose of development and its main purpose is not served. I do not find any reason why our Government is not coming up with those proposals. In this way the first Plan and the second Plan also passed away and we are now in the Third Plan and what is the development we have done. We made a few big bungalows and in some cases nothing.

Sir, this is a funny thing. If this Government mean by development only a few roads and bungalows I cannot agree with them. My

point is Sir, there cannot be any development until and unless the Government will be able to change the outlook of the people, there cannot be any development. Therefore, when the outlook of the officers for which purpose they have been deputed is so narrow when they are busy with such kind of things how can we expect about the mental development of the poor people. Therefore, I want to put a question, Sir, to our Minister as to what measures he is going to take to implement the schemes in a proper way so that main purpose of the scheme may be served in right earnest.

Another funny thing is Sir, in the last election the party in power has purchased some jeeps for election days and those jeeps have been purchased by our Community Department I do not know exactly Sir, Rs. 3,000 or so. What will be the cost, it may be more or less. And in place of the old jeep a new jeep has been given to our Party involved, that is to one high businessman. Sir, these are the things going on in the department in the name of the State. These are all full of scandals.

Sir, I have observed the statement made by our Hon'ble Finance Minister that Government is very keen to develop poor people, develop the entire State, to give sufficient food and cloths; but Sir, these are only in discussion. This is useless to discuss here about the development of our undeveloped State, until and unless we join our heads together to find out ways and means to improve the condition of these poor people.

Another point I would suggest. I would say in the House that this department instead of developing the mentality of our people, is increasing corruption, moral corruption so to say. In many places the B. D. Os. I can cite example, specially of Bihpuria Projects, are just moving in cars and jeeps by taking Gram Sevikas with them and it is only an example how our Government is going to develop our country.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): The hon' Member mentioned about the B. D. O. What is his name?

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): He is Mr. Rahman.

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI (Minister of State, P.W.D.): Is there any restriction for the B. D. Os. to take Gram Savikas with them?

(laughter)

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: There are some other things I can disclose. These are open secret, Sir. Another most important problem solved by this department, is the marriage problem.

(laughter)

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order please. I want to read out the relevant rule. If you want to make certain allegation of defamatory or incriminatory nature, you should give that information before hand, that

is before putting in the Assembly, so that the Minister enquire in to the matter for the purpose of reply. So, you can not go on making allegations of a defamatory or incriminatory nature against any officer or anybody else.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): No, I am not going. Now, Sir, I have already referred that one problem that is marriage between a Gram Sevak and Gram Sevika has been solved by this department. Now regarding these things, Sir, in the name of development, all these are done.

Now, Sir, in last year, in the month of November a sum of Rs.80,000 has been sanctioned to the Jorhat Anchalik Panchayat and I think our Finance Minister is also aware of that. But I am sorry to say that the said amount has not been received by this Anchalik Panchayat. For that reason, now the Secretaries of the respective Anchalik Panchayats are not in a position to go to their offices due to the cry of the people and I have come to know from a very reliable source that due to the negligence of the Deputy Commissioner concerned that grant has not been received by them, the grant that was sanctioned by the Central Government and so far I know that grant will not come again to the State from the Government of India.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): What grant ?

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Grant for water supply and sanitation. Now all the functions of the Jorhat Anchalik Panchayat and North-East of Jorhat has been in stand still. I do not know, being an I. A. S. officer, how he could not find the ways and means to draw the amount, though clear instruction was also given from the department dide to draw the amount, so far as I know. But he could not. For that the people are suffering. No water supply scheme has been taken up by the department. In the meantime what they have done ; in anticipation of setting the grant they have already distributed that such and such amount should be given for such and such department. Now the Secretary is doing some smuggling. I think the Government will take serious move on this matter and the officer responsible for this should be seriously punished. Now our esteemed friends dealt on the subject but I could not agree with our esteemed friend Shri Sharma that they are doing nothing. Actually they are doing some buildings and some Gram Sevak and Gram Sevika who are just loitering. If the House wants I can cite so many examples to the Hon'ble Finance Minister in this respect. Corruption is increasing from all corners. Therefore, I think the main purpose of the schemes has not been served as there is so many anomalies in the name of development. Therefore, I earnestly hope that Government will take serious views of this matter and find ways and means to remove all these anomalies. We are also here not to oppose the Government in developing schemes but to help the Government in removing the anomalies and the deficiencies of the Government machinery. So, I think before coming to any new proposals Government should look after all these anomalise and defects so that the development schemes that will be undertaken can be made a success.

Therefore, I hope this House will accept the Cut Motion moved by our Leader Shri Goswami.

Thank you.

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri):

মাননীয় অধ্যক্ষ মহোদয়, এই বাব চৰকাৰে কৈছে বোলে সমূহীয়া উন্নয়ন খণ্ডৰ কাম আৰু এই বাব সকলো ফালে উন্নয়ন কৰাৰ পৰিকল্পনা। এই পৰিকল্পনা বিলাক হৈছে হওকে নহওক পয়চা খৰচ কৰাৰ পৰিকল্পনা। কেৱল কিছুমান বিল্ডিং হৈছে। সুন্দৰ সুন্দৰ চণ দিয়া ঘৰ, তাৰ আইনা লগোৱা পকা ভেটি। তাৰ লগতে বাহিৰৰ সেউজীয়া ঘাঁহনিৰ ওপৰত দুই চাৰিখন গাৰী, জীপ গাৰী। কেতিয়াবা কেতিয়াবা ভোঁ ভোঁ কৰে গাৰী চলাই কৰ্মচাৰী সকলে কামৰ ব্যস্ততা প্ৰকাশ কৰে। কলৈযে যায়—এই গাৰীবোৰ ইমান তীব্ৰ গতিৰে? কিজানিবা চিনেমা পাওতে পাওতে দেৰীয়েই হয়, চিনেমাটো পাবই লাগিব।

(বিৰাট হৰ্ষধ্বনি)

Mr. SPEAKER: কিমান মাইল স্পিদত চলায় ?

***Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH:** মটৰ খনেহে জানে চাব, কিমানলৈ বঠা বহে।

(বিৰাট হৰ্ষধ্বনি)

তাৰ পিচত পয়চা কৰিবলৈ বাট লাগে। সেই কাৰণে কত এই বিলাক অনুষ্ঠানৰ ঘৰ সাজিব তাৰ কাৰণে ঠাই বিচাৰি বিচাৰি উলিয়াবলৈ এনেকুৱা এখন ঠাই যত পয়চা খৰচ নহৈ নোৱাৰে। এনেকুৱা সেই স্থান হ'ব, যাক বক্ষা কৰিবলৈ বেলেগে মঠাউৰি লাগিব, protecting force লাগিব—ইত্যাদি ইত্যাদি। তাৰোপৰি এই বিচাৰি বিচাৰি উলিওৱা ঠাই বিলাক হ'ব লাগিব—গ্ৰাম বিলাকৰ পৰা দূৰত—বহু দূৰত। কিয়নো ইমান দূৰত হ'ব লাগে—তাবো উদ্দেশ্য আছে.....। উদাহৰণ স্বৰূপে মাংৰ প্ৰজেক্ট ঘৰ চুড়ান্ত।

তাৰ পিচত ফাৰ্মবিলাক যে চৰকাৰে কৰিছে তাৰ পৰা যি বিলাক গুটি ওলায় সেই বিলাক বজাবলৈ বেচিবলৈ নিলে কিমান টকা ইয়াৰ পৰা পোৱা যাব ঠাৱৰাব নোৱাৰি। সেই বিলাক খাইনে বেচে, কৰ্মচাৰী সকলে—বুজিবই নোৱাৰি। হলগুৰিৰ যিখন ফাৰ্ম সেই খন আমি দেখিছো। উৎকৃষ্ট ফেনচিং—কি সুন্দৰ লাগে দেখিলে। কিন্তু তাৰ গুটি? কিযে ধানৰ গুটি চৰকাৰে উলিয়াইছে—।

(বিৰাট হৰ্ষধ্বনি)

তাৰপিচত এইযে ঘৰবিলাকৰ কথা কৈ আহিছে; সেই ঘৰ বিলাক কিছুমান মানুহ বিশেষৰ আন্দাৰ স্থল তালৈ যাব পাৰে মাত্ৰ সেই বিলাক-যিবিলাক বটল ফ্লেণ্ড, অথবা 'ফ্লাচক'ৰ যি বৰঙ্গণা যোগাৰ পাৰে অথবা 'দাইচ'ৰ প্ৰতিযোগীতা কৰিব পাৰে। যাব কল্যাণৰ কাৰণে সেইবিলাক অনুষ্ঠান গঢ়ি উঠিছে; সেই সহজ সবল নীৰিহ জনসাধাৰণৰ প্ৰবেশ তালৈ নিষেধ। তেওঁলোক তালৈ যাবলৈ ভয় কৰে। নকৰি কেনেকৈ পাৰে তাৰ যি পৰিবেশ।

মাত্ৰ কেজনমান মানুহ আছে। record কৰিলে গম পাৰ সেই কেইজন মানুহ দিনে ৪/৫ বাধ আছে। তাত জুৰা চলিয়েই আছে। দুবৰ পৰা পৰ্বৰত ধুনীয়া দেখি, কিন্তু যত কমিউনিটি প্ৰজেক্ট আছে তাত মানুহক শোধক তেওঁলোকে ক'ব যে আমাৰ

অৱস্থা আগতকৈ পৰিহে গৈছে। দিনো বুলি এখন কেন্দ্ৰ আছে তাত মনুহে খাপলৈ নোপোৱাহে হৈ গৈছে। সেই ধৰণৰ আৰু বহুত কেন্দ্ৰ আছে যত মানুহৰ অৱস্থা আগতকৈ বেয়া হৈছে। এই বোৰৰ কাৰণ আমাৰ ৰাজহৰ পৰা মিছাতে অৰু টকা খৰছ হৈছে-এতিয়া ২ কোটি টকা বিচাৰিছে। এই দুই কোটিত ৫০ হাজাৰ মানো কামত আহে নে নাই কব নোৱাৰো। শিক্ষিত মানুহে দুৰ্নীতি কৰিলে ধৰা বৰ টান, গতিকে এই শিতানৰ টকা এনেৰে বৰবাদ হৈছে। সেইকাৰণে মই কৰ্ত্তন প্ৰস্তাৱটো সমৰ্থন কৰিছো।

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not think that it will be possible for me to cover within such a short time many of the points raised by the hon'ble Members.

Mr. SPEAKER: We may sit for 10 minutes more, upto 11.40.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance):** Sir, there is another demand also and we may consider extending by 15 minutes.

Mr. SPEAKER: Go on.

***Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance):** Sir, I do not agree with the hon'ble Members about their wholesale condemnation of the Department and the criticism made by them that no work or no results have been achieved by this Department. Sir, my friend Shri Goswami criticised the Department for increase in expenditure, for excess expenditures in the year 1958-59 and also for the year 1959-60. Sir, I do not know the basis for which such criticism has been levelled. The hon'ble Member is aware that under Extension I Block for five years, a certain amount is provided in the budget for various activities in the blocks. If in any particular year, with respect to some of the items of work allotted under this block, excess expenditure is incurred, that excess has to be encouraged and not discouraged and it is because an excess expenditure has been incurred which will be adjusted within the 5-year period for which the amount is allotted for that block. In fact, no excess can be said to have been incurred and for this excess expenditure in any Particular year in order to complete any particular work, it should deserve praise and applause, rather than condemnation. I have not been able to appreciate the argument advanced because so many people are there in the Account Department and therefore excess expenditure has to be borne both in the year 1958-59 and 1959-60. I am sorry, Sir, that I cannot agree with him and it may be due to the misconception the hon'ble Member has about the procedure of expenditure of that blocks that such arguments have been advanced by him. I am sure, Sir, that after the explanation given by me, he will get rid of the idea that the work is not done properly by these people who have been appointed in the Accounts Department.

Then, Sir, he has criticised that there are more officers and personnel in the Accounts Department. In fact, I may tell him that since the increase in the number of expansion blocks which is now nearing a hundred and the various and large activities undertaken under the Anchalik Panchayats and Gaon Panchayats and several grants given by the Government, as also several grants obtained from the Government of India, it has become necessary to strengthen our Audit Department for the purpose of auditing accounts not only at the headquarters, but also to maintain accounts of expenditure and the amounts sanctioned by way of grants so

far as the Anchalik Panchayats and Gaon Panchayats are concerned. In fact, the Public Accounts Committee in their report has observed that there is inadequacy of staff for the purpose of auditing and the number of people, number of officers who have been cited by my hon'ble friend, have not been working for the last so many years and many of them will be appointed in order to strengthen the auditing work of this Department. Sir, as our work increases and more and more responsibilities are given and more and more amounts are sanctioned to the Anchalik Panchayats and Gaon Panchayats, it will be necessary for us to increase the number of officers in order to have effective supervision and auditing at the Anchalik Panchayat and Gaon Panchayat level. The hon'ble Member has also cited a number of instances where there has been a number of defalcation of accounts. That itself shows that such cases have taken place because there was no proper control and no proper auditing. On the one hand, I am asking for reducing the staff, while on the other hand, I am asking as to why such defalcation and misappropriation should take place, there is no meeting ground, Sir, it is a fact, that during the last two years, there have been cases of defalcation in a number of places, in a number of blocks and also at the headquarters and we have taken sufficient action against the persons responsible. Now, take for instance, so far as defalcation at the headquarters is concerned, a criminal case is pending against the person found responsible for misappropriation and that case has been pending in the Court at Shillong. My hon'ble friend from Jorhat has alleged that the case is dragging for a long time for disposal and that the Deputy Commissioner, is interfering with the administration of that case. I am not prepared to accept that charge because no specific instance has been shown by him to illustrate how the Deputy Commissioner is interfering with these things and this is entirely a matter within the High Court's jurisdiction. If there is such interference and such contempt of Court any hon'ble Member or the person concerned can file a petition to the High Court and it will be for the High Court to probe into the matter. So far as Government is concerned, we do not like to interfere with the administration of justice.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Can the employee go direct to the High Court without hearing the judgment of the lower Court ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): I could not follow.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: My point is that can that employee for whom the case is running go direct to the High Court without hearing the verdict of the Lower Court ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): But so far as the administration of justice is concerned, I would like to point out that Government would not interfere with the affairs of the case pending in the Court.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): I am not going to say that. I am just explaining the affairs that is going on there.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): Now, so far as this Government is concerned, the case is pending in the court and it

will take its own course. If anyone is not satisfied with the judgement given by the magistrate, the Government will see and the other party will see whether there is scope for appeal or revision to be filed before the High Court.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): That case is pending for three years because the Deputy Commissioner there is also incharge of Community Development.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): The hon. Member may have such opinion as he likes. But I do not believe that any responsible person will interfere with the administration and I do not accept such an allegation against the Deputy Commissioner at Shillong. Then, secondly, Sir, the hon. Member pointed out that no subsistence allowance has been given to the person against whom prosecution is pending. This is not a fact. He has been given a subsistence allowance. It may be that for one or two months he did not get it, but the fact remains that he has been given a subsistence allowance and he is entitled to that amount.

Now, so far as the complaints that the water supply grant given to Jorhat was not drawn in time by the Deputy Commissioner, Sir, that was not entirely the Deputy Commissioner's fault because we understand that the authority slip from the Accountant General was not issued to him in time, and the matter was taken up by the Department and regularised subsequently.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): On a point of information, Sir. Here instruction has been given to the Deputy Commissioner from the head office to draw the amount. There was no question of getting the authority slip from the Accountant General.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): Sir, the direction might be given by our Department, but unless and until the authority slip is given by the Accountant General no amount can be drawn. I would like the hon. Member to acquaint himself with this procedure that after the amount has been sanctioned to any particular district for any particular purpose, the amounts are not drawn until and unless they are accompanied with the authority slips issued by the Accountant General. Secondly, various allegations have been made against a number of officers, and I wish, as has been pointed out, if notices of these matters have been given to me in advance I would have dealt with all these matters as is not possible for me to remember each and every case to give a reply in such a short time. I would request the hon. Member that whenever an allegation of this nature is proposed to be raised in a cut motion, some indication may be given to me so that I may acquaint the hon. Member and place the entire facts before the House. It is not possible for me to remember all the details within such a short time.

Now, there was a complaint that one Project Officer was transferred but his transfer has been suspended again and again. I may inform the hon. Member that the officer concerned has already moved to his new place of posting. His transfer was postponed because his wife had died, and it would be very very wrong on the part of the Government not to take such circumstances into consideration, and not to accommodate the officer when such a tragedy takes place.

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI (Laharighat) : For the information of the hon. Member I can tell him that his wife actually died and his home is nearer to the place where he has been subsequently transferred.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance) : It may be so. But if the officer says that on account of the death of his wife, it was not possible for him to move from the place to the place where he has been posted, then I do not know what are the personal reasons. When the officer has approached the Department that on account of the death of his wife, he should not be transferred from the old station to the new station, I think it would be very hard on the part of the Department not to give consideration to such a request. Sir, it has been pointed out that one of the Block Development Officers in North Lakhimpur at Bihpuria has been moving about in a jeep with the Gram Sevikas. But my information is that there is no Block Development Officer at Bihpuria at present. There is an Extension Officer. Now, with regard to the jeep, a very wild allegation has been made that their jeeps are utilised by our Block Development Officers not for Government purpose but for private purposes. I do not dispute that there may be one or two cases. But on the basis of one or two cases, it would be unjust, to make wild allegations against all the Block Development Officers. I hope the hon. Member will realise the seriousness of these allegations, and unless and until there is a specific instance and that instance is brought to my notice, it will be difficult for the Department to check it. Then Sir, in this connection, I may point out that now all the Block Development Officers are under the control and supervision of the Anchalik Panchayat President, and whenever there is report against any misuse of such jeeps by any of the Block Development Officers to the President of the Anchalik Panchayat concerned, our Department has been taking action against such Block Development Officers. The hon. Member must realise that the Block Development Officer is not free to use the jeep in a manner he used to do before the constitution of the Anchalik Panchayats. But since the constitution of the Anchalik Panchayats, it is the duty and responsibility of the Anchalik Panchayat Presidents to see that the jeeps in their Blocks are properly utilised and if they find any of the Block Development Officers who are subordinate to them are not functioning properly and utilising the jeep for a purpose other than Government purpose, they can immediately report the matter to the Government and action will be taken against such officers. Therefore, I would submit, Sir, that in this matter for the hon. Member to feel helpless, I do not find the reason at all. I feel that they should acquaint themselves with these things. They are also *ex-officio* members of the Anchalik Panchayats concerned. I feel it is their obligation and responsibility that they should attend those meetings of the Anchalik Panchayats, and if there are such irregularities that the officers are not working in a manner as has been laid down under the Act and the rules prescribed under the Act, these matters should be brought to the notice of the Anchalik Panchayat Presidents and also before the hon. Members who are now criticising here and outside to help the Anchalik Panchayats in the proper discharge of their duties so that this kind of irregularities may be removed.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara) : On a point of information, Sir. Are the Anchalik Presidents authorised to do this? Is it made known to the Anchalik Panchayat Presidents that if any irregularity is made by the Block Development Officers, that can be reported against them by the Anchalik Panchayat Presidents?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Finance Minister) : Sir, our difficulty is that pattern which we have now introduced is not fully understood. The full impact of that pattern has not been realised by the Anchalik Panchayats. By various circulars to the Anchalik Panchayats we have made it very clear that for the purpose of functioning and controlling these Block Development Officers and the entire staff of the Extension Block are subject to the control of the Presidents concerned and in fact I have been finding that the cases vary from Block to Block. Where the Anchalik Panchayat President has understood his duty and is strong enough to control it, these things are not happening. But where the Anchalik Panchayat President is weak and has not been able to understand his duty and responsibility, these Block Development Officers practise in this way.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara) : Are there circulars to that effect ?

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Finance Minister) : Yes, in fact we have given circulars. A programme has to be laid down and the Block Development Officer has to consult the Anchalik Panchayat President whether for the purpose of touring a jeep can be placed at the disposal of the Block as the jeep is to be utilised by the Anchalik Panchayat Presidents also.

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI (Laharighat) : Sir, I want a clarification. Very often we hear complaints from the Anchalik Panchayat President that the B. E. Os., are under the Deputy Commissioner and the Panchayat Presidents have no control over the B. D. Os. There is always a clash between the Panchayat Presidents and the B. D. Os.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance) : Sir, Deputy Commissioner, as the head of the District administration, is in overall control of all the District Officers in that particular district. From that point of view they are under the Deputy Commissioner. What I mean to say is that the Panchayat Presidents are actually responsible for the administration at the block level and there will not be a single instance where we shall not support the Panchayat President if they bring to our notice any irregularity or improper function on the part of the B. D. Os. In fact, there are one or two cases in which the Panchayat President reported to us about the irregularities of the B. Os and as soon as we got the reports, we took immediate action against the B. D. Os concerned. Unfortunately, the difficulty is that the proper working of the Anchalik Panchayat and the functions of the block personnel under the Anchalik Panchayat have not been properly understood by many of our Anchalik Panchayat Presidents and Panchayat Committees. As a result, this kind of complaints keep on coming and for that purpose we have held a number of Seminars. Since there is large number of complaints, I am prepared to hold another conference, if necessary sector-wise, where the Anchalik Panchayat Presidents, and the B. D. Os will be invited and where all these difficulties may be discussed.

Circulars regarding the functions of the B. D. Os and the Anchalik Panchayats have been issued both to the B. D. Os and to the Anchalik Panchayat Presidents. Sir, as I have already stated earlier, I am prepared to discuss these matters with the Advisory Committee in which most of our hon. Members have been nominated as Members and there is Mr. Goswami and some other hon. Members from the Opposition in the Committee. I would like them to raise such points on which they feel doubt so that the matter may be discussed and the Panchayat Presidents may be advised as to how the work should be done. Sir, one hon. Member has also named some of the B. D. Os who have committed some irregularities. I shall look into the matter and if necessary, I shall pass on the information to the hon. Member who has raised this question.

With these observations I would request the hon. Member to withdraw the cut motion.

Mr. SPEAKER : Mr. Goswami, are you going to withdraw your cut motion ?

Shri LAKSHMI PRASAD GOSWAMI (Laharighat) : I am not withdrawing.

Mr. SPEAKER : Then I put the question. The question is that the total provision of Rs.2,66,83,000 under Grant No.29, Major head "31-1—Community Development Projects, National Extension Service and Local Development Works," at page 308 of the Budget, be reduced by Re.1, *i.e.*, the amount of the whole grant of Rs.2,66,83,000 do stand reduced by Re.1.

(Question was negatived)

Mr. SPEAKER : Now, I put the main question. The question that a sum of Rs.2,00,12,200 be granted to the Minister-in-charge to complete the sum necessary to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1963 for the administration of the head "37-1—Community Development Project, National Extension Service."

(The question was adopted)

Now I have one announcement to make.

Announcement by the Speaker, Shri M. M. Choudhury in the floor of the House on 22nd June, 1962, regarding resignation of Membership by Eight M. L. A's.

I had received eight letters from the following hon. Members, namely, (1) Shri D. D. Lingdoh, (2) Shri Ch. Chunga, (3) Shri H. Lingdoh, (4) Shri Nalindra Sangma, (5) Shri Saprawnga, (6) Stanley D.D. Nichols-Roy, (7) Shri Wilson Reade and (8) Shri Williamson A. Sangma, intimating to me that they thereby tender their resignation from the Assam Legislative Assembly, with effect from the 24th October, 1962. The eight letters were

1204 ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER RE: RESIG- [22nd June,
NATION OF CERTAIN M.L.As.

dated 9th June, 1962, and were handed over personally by Shri Nichols-Roy, Member of Legislative Assembly to the Secretary of the Assembly at 12-15 p. m. on the 16th June 1962. I have received another letter of resignation from Mr. R. Thanglur, Member of Legislative Assembly and this is dated the 15th June, 1962. As the Secretary of the Assembly on a previous occasion discussed the matter with Shri M. N. Kaul, Secretary of the Lok Sabha in a similar case when Shri Debeswar Sarma, resigned his seat from this House in the last Assembly and in the light of that discussion he advised me not to take immediate action on the eight letters and examine the question whether a member of the House can resign his seat indicating the date of resignation to take effect retrospectively or prospectively.

The practice in the Lok Sabha under Speaker's Direction 47(b) is that in such a case resignation takes effect from the date of the letter. Under rule 186(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Assam Legislative Assembly is that as soon as may be, the Speaker shall, after he has received a intimation in writing from the member under his own hand resigning his seat in the Assembly inform the House that the said member has resigned his seat in the Assembly and under sub-rule (2) the Secretary shall, as soon as may be, after the Speaker has received such intimation from a member resigning his seat in the Assembly notify the vacancy in the Official Gazette and shall cause a copy of the notification to be communicated to the Governor and to the Election Commission.

The relevant provision of the Constitution of India is Article 101(3) (b). It has not been stated anywhere in the Constitution that a member of Legislature can resign his seat with retrospective effect or at a future date.

Shri Durga Das Basu in his commentary on the Constitution of India third edition, at pages 561 and 562 states as follows.—

“Sub-cl. (b) —Resignation—The Sub-clause clearly provides that as soon as a member hands over his written resignation to the Chair, he ceases to be a member forthwith. It would seem that no proceedings for contempt can go on against him as a member, after the resignation”.

He again mentions : “It is submitted that the words ‘with effect from’ might create difficulties which are not envisaged by the Constitution. As has been already stated, the constitutional provision in Art. 101 (3) (b) lays down that the resignation shall be effective immediately after the letter of resignation is delivered. The member cannot, therefore, have any option to fix any date previous or subsequent, from which his resignation shall have effect”.

I thought it necessary in such a moot matter to get the benefit of the advice of the Advocate General, Assam, Shri B. C. Barua, who has kindly given me his written advice as follows:—

“With reference to the letters of resignations submitted by Shri Williamson Sangma and others, about which we discussed verbally, the position appears to be as follows.—

The members concerned do not obviously want effect the resignation to take effect immediately ; for it is expressly stated that these resignations are to take effect from 24th October, 1962.

The constitutional intendment behind Art. 190(3) of the Constitution appears to be that the resignations shall be effective immediately after the letter of resignation is delivered to the Speaker. But, all the same, the Speaker may not like to act in such cases contrary to the expressed wish

of the members regarding the date from which resignation is to take effect. On the other hand, till 24th October, 1962, hardly any action can be taken by him on these letters of resignation and these can only remain dormant. Besides, many things may happen in between and the members concerned may also change their minds.

In the circumstances, instead of permitting these letters to lie dormant, the Speaker may as well return these letters to the members concerned, with direction to resubmit them at the appropriate time, if they so wish".

As the eight hon. Members indicated in their letters that their resignation is to take effect from the 24th October, 1962, proximo, I am constrained to think that they have got no intention of resigning of their membership forthwith. As such and as there is no question of acceptance or rejection of a letter of resignation by a member, I am unable to take any action on the matter now. The right of resignation is an absolute and unfettered right conferred upon a legislator by the Constitution of India. There is no meaning apparently in submitting a resignation letter to take effect at any future date which may occur a day after or even towards the close of the present term of the Assembly. As this is a very important Constitutional point which has not been decided or interpreted by the higher judicial forum of India I directed the Secretary to refer the matter for the views of the Election Commission of India and the Ministry of Law, India. He had already sent Express Telegrams accordingly as follows.—

“ELECCOM”
NEW DELHI

REPEAT TO LAW
NEW DELHI

13000 LA KINDLY REFER TO ARTICLE 101 (3) (b) OF THE CONSTITUTION STOP EIGHT MEMBERS OF ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY GAVE IN WRITING LETTERS DATED NINTH JUNE HANDED TO ME ON SIXTEENTH JUNE TENDERING RESIGNATION OF MEMBERSHIP FROM ASSAM ASSEMBLY WITH EFFECT FROM TWENTYFOURTH OCTOBER 1962 STOP THE SPEAKER AND STATE GOVERNMENT DESIRE TO KNOW YOUR OPINION WHETHER SUCH LETTERS OF RESIGNATION ARE IN ORDER STOP STOP IF SO WITH EFFECT FROM WHAT DATE STOP KINDLY REFER BASU'S COMMENTARY OF THE CONSTITUTION THIRD EDITION PAGE FIVE HUNDRED SIXTYONE.

R. N. BARUA,

Secretary,
Assam Assembly.

As soon as I shall receive their views I shall make formal and necessary announcement on this behalf in the House.

Finance Minister's Suggestion Re: Time limit for Financial Business

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): Sir, may I just refer to Rule 157 of the Assembly rules, regarding the time limit for disposal of financial business. It reads,

"Time limit for disposal of financial business—in addition to the powers exercisable under these rules, the Speaker may exercise all such powers as are necessary for the purpose of the timely completion of all financial business including allotment of time for the disposal of various kinds of such business, and where time is so allotted, he shall, at the appointed hour, put every question necessary to dispose of all the outstanding matters in connection with the stage or stages for which time has been allotted."

My submission is that here the time allotted for the discussion of grants standing in my hand is $1\frac{1}{4}$ hour, since the time allotted is over all the remaining grants may be put to vote.

Mr. Speaker: The point is that I have gone through that Rule and it was pointed out to me by the Secretary earlier. In this connection, I would read Rule 144(3).—

"On the last day of the days so allotted, at 4-30 p.m. or at 11-30 a. m. if it is a Friday, the Speaker shall forthwith put every question necessary to dispose of all the outstanding matter in connection with the demands for grants; and the consideration thereof shall not be anticipated by any motion for adjournment or be interrupted in any manner whatsoever nor shall dilatory motion be moved in regard thereto."

I quite appreciate the anxiety of the Finance Minister regarding passing of the demand but as I have already expressed some Members are quite new to this House and I have requested them to come to my Chamber to fix up the time limit for tomorrow's demands. After discussion I shall fix the time limit and I strictly adhere to it from tomorrow.

Shri FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED (Minister, Finance): I am simply pointing out your difficulty and my difficulty.

Mr. SPEAKER: This is a good thing. Therefore, I shall discuss with them and I shall fix a time limit for each Member and in future I shall strictly adhere to this time limit.

The House stands adjourned till 10 a. m. on Saturday, the 23rd June, 1962.

Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 a.m. on Saturday, the 23rd June, 1962.

R. N. BARUA,

Secretary,
Legislative Assembly, Assam.