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**Proceedings of the Twelfth 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 10 a.m. on Thursday, the 17th March, 1966.

PRESENT

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STARRED QUESTIONS

(To which oral answers were given)

Re: New Thana Buildings at Abhayapuri

Re: "Progotibadi Janamat", a Bilingual Newspaper

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora) asked:

*62. Will the Minister-in-charge of Information and Public Relations be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that the Registrar of Newspapers for India, New Delhi, referred the case of one Shri Paresh Chandra Barua of Dhubri to the A. D. M., Dhubri on 22nd October 1965 for obtaining a declaration in the prescribed form, in connection with publication of a bilingual newspaper, namely, "Progotibadi Janamat"?
- (b) If so, whether and when the A. D. M. obtained necessary declaration from the person concerned?
- (c) If not, why not?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied:

62. (a)—Yes. The case was received by the A. D. M., Dhubri on the 2nd November 1965 with the advice that in case the authority is satisfied that the proposed title "Progotibadi Janamat" is not similar to the title "Janamat", the declaration in the prescribed form and not in the form submitted by the declarant on 8th October 1965 may be accepted.

(b)—While the matter was under consideration, the declarant was arrested under D. I. Rules and was in jail with effect from 14th November 1965. On his release, he was asked to select some other suitable name for his weekly paper and to submit declaration in the prescribed form for authentication, but Shri Barua has not submitted the same.

(c)—Does not arise.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: Sir, may I know from the hon. Chief Minister when he was asked to give the new name by the Deputy Commissioner ?

Mr. SPEAKER: You mean the exact date ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: Sir, the exact date I do not have with me.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Sir, may I know from the hon. Chief Minister what is the reason for asking the editor to rename the newspaper ? Whether any legal or security implications are involved in it ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: Sir, because there was another paper with almost a similar name.

Re: Scarcity of Corrugated Iron Sheets

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) asked:

- *63. Will the Minister-in-charge of Supply be pleased to state—
- (a) Whether Government is aware that the people of Assam and more particularly the people of the Urban Areas are experiencing great hardship for want of G. C. I. Sheets ?
 - (b) If so, what steps Government propose to take to remove such hardship ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Supply) replied:

63. (a) & (b)—Government is aware of the hardship of the people. This hardship is equally felt by the people all over the State. Since Government of India have completely stopped production of G. C. I. Sheets for shortage of some of the ingredients for galvanisation, the State Government have already requested Iron and Steel Controller for release of black corrugated Sheets in lieu of our outstanding orders of G. C. I. Sheets to meet the requirements of the people as far as practicable.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister when the Government of India stopped production of G. C. I. Sheets ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: Sir, it was stopped since 1962 when the Chinese aggression took place.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister when it is fact that Government of India stopped production of G. C. I. Sheets since 1962, what alternative arrangement has been made by the Government of Assam to meet the requirements.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: Sir, we have been from time to time, year to year, making our demands to the Government of India. But we have been repeatedly told that they are not in a position to make fresh allotment. What they are doing is that they are trying to meet our requirement against the outstanding.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara): Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the allocations made by the Central Government to the State Government have been lifted in full ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: Sir, even after making the allotment sometime supply cannot be made fully. Anyhow I want notice for this question.

Mr. SPEAKER: The question is whether the allocations made by the Central Government to the State Government have been lifted in full ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): Sir, even the producers cannot give that quantity.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of Assam has taken this matter in the ministerial level ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: Sir, this was done at the Ministerial level. Even our hon. Chief Minister took up this matter at the ministerial level. Though they agreed to meet our requirements, they were not in a position to implement it.

Mr. SPEAKER: What about the Black Sheets ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: Sir, the Black Sheets have started to come.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora): Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister, since 1962 how much C. I. Sheets have been allotted for this State ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: Sir, regarding this I want notice and that was also asked by my friend Shri Barua. Sir, we have outstanding of 14,280 metric tons of G. C. I. Sheets against our Agricultural quota.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister when there is an acute scarcity of C. I. Sheets and when Government of India is not in a position to supply the required allotment, what alternative arrangement Government proposes to take to meet the minimum requirements of the State ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: Sir, nothing can be said at this stage.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: Sir, the Tile Industry is encouraged and one Asbestos Sheet Factory is also going to be started soon at Kokrajhar. Besides the Regional Research Laboratory, Jorhat has developed some process for manufacturing roofing materials from saw dust and paper pulp.

Shri PULAKESHI SINGH (Sonai): Sir, the hon. Minister has stated there is an outstanding of 14,280 metric tons against agricultural quota. I could not understand what is meant by agricultural quota ? Does it mean for agriculturists or Agriculture Department ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: Sir, that is for the Agriculture Department.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is the quantity for general quota ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: Sir, now we are getting against our outstanding which is also agricultural quota. Out of Agricultural quota, we are now trying to have some quantity of C. I. Sheets for the general public and institutions.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Agriculture): Sir, may I clarify the position? There is an agricultural quota of iron material which includes C.I. Sheets for the Agriculture Department and for Agriculturists also. Since there is an acute scarcity of C. I. Sheets, the Agriculture Department, after meeting the departmental requirements has been releasing the balance of the quota to the Supply Department for distribution. Government of India are not very happy about it. They desire that the Agriculture Department should take over the distribution of this quota so as to avoid distribution of C. I. Sheets to the non-agriculturists. It is seen that the local authorities, including the Supply Advisory Boards, distribute more to the general public than to the agriculturists. Therefore, the Government of India had been insisting that this quota should be taken over by the Agriculture Department and distributed in such a manner that it would help food production and also conservation of Land.

Shri INDRESWAR KHOOND (Jaipur): May I know what is the difference as regards durability between the black sheets and white sheets ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: That I cannot say.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: May I know whether any quota is earmarked for distribution to the general consumers ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: No, Sir, there is no separate quota. Distribution to consumers is done from the allotment made from the agricultural quota.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: May I know whether the agricultural quota is given only for the purpose of godowns and not for dwelling houses ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Agricultural quota is to be distributed to the agriculturists to help agricultural production. His residence also helps him in this matter. Although it is to be given for his godown and such purposes which help in his production activities there is nothing which debar from giving for constructing his house also.

Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHOUDHURY (Patacharkuchi): The Minister said that after fulfilling the demands of the agriculturists the remaining quota is distributed for other purposes. May I know whether all the demands of the agriculturists have been fulfilled ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: No, Sir.

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (Bihpuria): The Minister said that the agricultural quota is to be distributed to the agriculturists, but is it a fact that so far the whole quantity was kept by the Department for construction of godowns, offices, etc. ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: First priority is given to departmental works. Departmental works include not only the works of the Agriculture Department but also of the allied departments like Co-operative and Panchayat. I may give an example. The Panchayat Department decided to give subsidy for constructing a series of godowns in the rural areas for helping procurement and for distribution of seeds, fertilisers etc. to agriculturists. So we gave priority to this demand. In the same way, these departmental constructions, having connection with production get priority and whatever thereafter remains is released to the Supply Department for distribution to the agriculturist consumers. This is the only quota which is available for distribution in the State.

Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN (Karimganj-North): Are Government aware that while the people in this State are not getting C. I. Sheets for constructing their houses, thousands and thousands of bundles of C. I. sheets in the name of Industries, I. T. A. and package programme are lying unutilised for years in the godowns ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: I am not aware of that.

Shri DHANIRAM TALUKDAR (Barpeta): This problem of supply of C. I. Sheets will never be solved. I had the privilege of attending a meeting of the C. I. Sheets Allotment Advisory Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is your question ?

Shri DHANIRAM TALUKDAR: My point is that the supply is most inadequate to meet the Demand. I found, Sir, that only 8 bundles of C. I. Sheets were available for distribution to one mauza of 32 villages.

(A Voice—What is his question, Sir ?)

Mr. SPEAKER: His question is how can 8 bundles of C. I. Sheets be equitably distributed to a group of 32 villages ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: It all depends on the availability of C. I. sheets.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur): Is the Minister aware that due to diversion of C. I. Sheets from the agricultural quota many of the Gram Sevaks quarters are lying incomplete for want of C. I. Sheets ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: It may be possible in a particular subdivision if in that subdivision the agricultural quota had not arrived or if it had arrived it was not in sufficient quantity. But where the agricultural quota had arrived in sufficient quantity there should not be any such difficulty.

Shri MOHANANDA BORA: In view of the fact that Assam type houses need some sorts of roofing material like C. I. Sheets and also in view of the fact that the supply of C. I. sheets is quite inadequate, will Government try to manufacture some kind of alternative roofing materials ?

Mr. SPEAKER : That question has already been replied to by the Chief Minister.

Shri MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN (Dhubri): Does the requirement of C. I. Sheets for construction of Government offices come within the category of agricultural quota ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Normally not, but such requirements are given consideration by the Agriculture Department particularly if they are also connected with the work of food production.

Shri RADHA KISHAN KHEMKA (Tinsukia): মই জনিব পোবানে Agriculture quota disiribution হওঁতে কিয় চাঁবি পাচ মাহ সময় লাগে ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA : এই কথা মই নাজানো ।

Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHOUDHURY (Patacharkuchi): May I know whether there is any separate educational quota ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: Main consuming departments bring C. I. Sheets directly from the Centre. P.W.D. is one of them.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: As there is great demand for roofing materials in Assam and as the Government have not been able to provide alternative materials for roofing, will the Government consider the desirability of setting up more than one asbestos factories in Assam ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Industries): One factory which was to have come into production has not been able to do so due to a quarrel with regard to the plot of land between the company, the Railways and some village organisation there. So, Sir, the one which was expected to come into production has been delayed. After this comes into production we may consider setting up any factory.

Mr. SPEAKER : Why didn't you select an undisputed plot of land ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: That plot was suitable. It had a railway siding. As you know, Sir, a railway siding would be necessary. Therefore, that was a very good plot of land and the Forest Department also agreed to give some land, but due to the quarrel this delay has occurred.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: May I know whether priority has been given for manufacture of tiles on a large scale in the State ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PROSAD TRIPATHI: Yes, Sir

Shri MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN : May I know whether the possibility of using treated timber shingles has been explored by the Department of Industries ?

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI: It is not a question of exploration. All over the world treated timber is used for purposes of roofing. When I went to Italy I saw a series of houses with treated timber roofing.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: May I know whether the Khadi and Village Industries organisation tried to establish a tile factory for roofing purposes ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: (Minister, Khadi and Village Industries): কবা হৈছে ।

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: At what stage is it lying ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: নাটচ দিলে কব পবা যাব ।

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: Sir may I know from the hon. Minister what is the progress of the factory, and what is the quantity that has been produced up till now ?

Shri MAHENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: নাটচ দিলেহে কব পবা যাব ।

Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN (Karimganj-North): Sir, when the Government cannot get C. I. sheets, how does the black-marketcers get them to sell them in the open market ? What is the source ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: It is best known to the hon. Member. We have no knowledge from our side.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether Government will consider to provide certain quota for education and religious purposes ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: As a matter of fact the quantity of C. I. Sheets which we get, has been given to the Director of Consumer Goods for distribution to different institutions.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, is it a fact that in respect of distribution of C. I. Sheets to religious institutions some discrimination is going on ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: We have no knowledg of such things.

Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHOUDHURY: চাব, যিহেতু C.I. Sheets পোৱা নাযায়, চৰকাৰে নিৰ্দ্ধাৰিত দামত aluminium sheets দিয়াৰ কিবা ব্যৱস্থা কৰিবনে ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: It is a decontrolled commodity and we have no information about it.

Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN: Sir, it is a tedious job for hon. Members as well as public in general to enquire about availability of C. I. Sheets from the Government. Sir, why the Government cannot come up with a Press Note that it will not be possible to supply C. I. Sheets ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: The proceedings will be there.

Maulana ABDUL JALIL CHOWDHURY (Badarpur):

চার, গবর্নমেন্ট জানেন নাকি যে গবর্নমেন্ট কন্ট্রোল্লি C. I. Sheets ব্লেক মার্কেট করে ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: সেটা আমার জানা নাই ।

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: Sir, will the Minister be pleased to enquire about the source from which C. I. Sheets are available in the open market ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: We have no such information. But if the hon. Member can give some specific cases, we may enquire.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, I can bring some specific cases if the hon. Minister like to go to Jorhat where C. I. Sheets are available in plenty in black-market.

Mr. SPEAKER: Give the information to the Minister in writing. I am sure the hon. Minister will enquire about it.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, in the meantime, the C. I. Sheets will be removed from the godowns.

Re: Scarcity of Rice at Gauhati

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) asked:

*64. Will the Minister-in-charge of be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government is aware of the fact that Gauhati is facing acute scarcity of rice for the last few months in spite of increasing figure of paddy procurement by the Marketing Society during this year ?

(b) If so, what steps Government have so far taken to improve the situation ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Supply) replied:

64. (a)—It is not a fact that Gauhati is facing acute scarcity of rice for the last few months.

(b)—Government are regularly supplying adequate quantity of rice through Fair Price Shops and approved retailers.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora): Sir, is it not a fact that even in the last week the price of rice at Gauhati went high ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: There is no chance of rise in price of rice at Gauhati. There is a Marketing Co-operative Society and we have sufficient number of Fair Price Shops, approved retailers and Consumers Co-operative Stores. There is also flow of rice from the producing areas. So, I do not think there is any such scarcity at Gauhati now.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, even in the second week of February, the Gauhati Bar Association submitted a memorandum demanding that there is scarcity of rice in Gauhati and urging Government to take immediate steps in this direction ? I would like to know whether Government is aware of this fact ?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: I have not received any such information.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati): Sir, whether the Government is aware that the rice supplied at Gauhati is full of paddy? Whether Government will enquire into it?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: I have no such knowledge. If the hon. Member can give us some specific cases we may enquire into it.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: Sir, the rice supplied by the Fair Price Shops or Approved Retailers are mixed up with large quantities of paddy. This paddy is wastage. Sir, will the Minister be pleased to make an enquiry to save the national wastage in this way?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: This matter may be looked into if we get sample of such stuff.

Mr. SPEAKER: Have you got any sample with you?

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: I am sorry, I have not got any sample at the moment.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, what is the monthly quota of rice allotted for Gauhati?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: I want notice.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora): Sir, may I know why the supply is inadequate to meet the demand of the people at Gauhati?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: So far information goes, it is not inadequate.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: Sir, will the Minister be pleased to take personal interest in this direction instead of leaving it to the officers?

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA: I may do it if the hon. Member co-operate with me.

Re: Training in "Oil Technology" and "Automobile Engineering in Assam"

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) asked:

- *67. Will the Minister-in-charge of Education be pleased to state—
- (a) Whether Government propose to open the subject of "Oil Technology" and "Automobile Engineering" in the Engineering Colleges of Assam in view of rapid growth of such Industries in the State of Assam?
 - (b) If so, whether Government propose to take up the same in the Fourth Five-Year Plan period?

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Deputy Minister, Education) replied:

67, (a) & (b)—

- (i) Petroleum Technology has two separated courses:—
 1. Petroleum Engineering (Production) and

2. Petroleum Refining (Engineering). On a previous occasion the State Government proposed to Government of India to accord their approval for introduction of Petroleum Engineering (Production) in Jorhat Engineering College, Jorhat but Government of India declined in view of the reason that the training facilities in Petroleum Technology existed in the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad and the school can accommodate more trainees, if occasion arises. A scheme for introduction of Degree course in Petroleum Technology in Jorhat Engineering College, Jorhat has, however, been proposed in the draft 4th Plan with 15 intake for consideration.

(ii) There is no Institution offering Degree course in Automobile Engineering in India, except in Madras. A scheme for introduction of Diploma course in Automobile Engineering at H. R. H. the P. O. W. Institute, Jorhat with 30 intake has been proposed in the draft 4th Plan for consideration.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, may I know when the Government of India has informed about this ?

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA: Government of India's information was received on 8th June, 1964.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati): May I know from the hon. Deputy Minister whether any trainee from our State has been deputed to undergo training in Petroleum Engineering at the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad in view of the existence of Refinery in our State ?

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA: Yes, Sir. In 1963-64 there was no application, in 1964-65 one Shri Prasanta Barkakoti was deputed but he left for London for higher training and in 1965-66 one Shri Jugal Kumar Gupta has been deputed and he is undergoing training.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA: Whether any seat is reserved for Petroleum Engineering at the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad for trainees from Assam ?

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA: Four scholarships are there by the Assam Government for trainees of this State to the Dhanbad Institute, but there is no reservation of seat there.

Sari MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN (Dhubri): May I know whether any scholarship has been offered to any of our students for the Degree Course in Automobile Engineering ?

Shrimati KOMAL KUMARI BARUA: No, Sir.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: When Diploma course in Automobile Engineering is proposed to be started in Assam ?

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA: It is proposed to be started in the 4th Plan at H. R. H. the P. O. W. Institute, Jorhat.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Considering the fact that our Government require Petroleum Refining Engineers, has our Government thought it proper to impress upon the Government of India for allowing to open a course for this purpose in our Engineering Colleges ?

Shrimti KOMAL KUMARI BARUA: The State Government has already approached Government of India and a scheme is under consideration to be introduced for Degree course in Petroleum Technology in Jorhat Engineering College in the draft 4th Plan.

Shri MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN: Will Government be pleased to consider the necessity of having a Degree course in Automobile engineering in our State, in our Engineering Colleges?

Shrimati KOMOL MUMARI BARUA: It will be looked into.

Re: Widening, asphaltting, etc., of Kamarbandha Road from Jorhat to Golaghat

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) asked:

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

- (a) Whether Government have received any representation for widening and asphaltting of, as well as for construction of footpaths on Kamarbandha Road from Jorhat to Golaghat by considering the present heavy traffic (both military and civil)?
- (b) If so, what steps Government have so far taken in this regard?
- (c) If not, why?

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

68. (a)—Yes.
 (b)—The proposal has been included in the tentative list of 4th Five-Year Plan which has not yet been finalised.
 (c) Does not arise.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: May I know from the hon. Minister that considering the present need for widening of the road and considering that this road is mostly used by vehicles of Army personnel, do not the State Government feel it a necessity to impress upon the Government of India to take up the widening and other works of this road by themselves?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: No, Sir, there is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Whether it is a fact that such a proposal is with the Political Department?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: No, Sir.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: In view of the fact that this road is mostly used by Military vehicles, do Government consider it proper to approach the Government of India to at least bear 50 per cent of its expenditure for widening, construction, etc.

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: That is not under consideration of the State Government.

(Starred Question Nos. 61 and 66 were not put and answered as the hon. Questioners were absent and Starred Question No. 65 being identical with Starred Question No. 63, it was dropped).

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(To which answers were laid on the table)

Re: Police Outposts in Golaghat Subdivision

Shri NARENDRA NATH SARMA (Bokaghat) asked :

106. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that some Police Out posts are running for many years in differen parts of Golaghat ?
- (b) What are those Police Outposts ?
- (c) Whether Government propose to continue these Police Outposts ?
- (d) Whether Government propose to continue the Police Outposts at Kamargaon and Chomonigaon on a permanent footing ?
- (e) If so, whether Government will take immediate steps to construct the necessary buildings for these Outposts during this financial year, *i.e.*, 1965-66 ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied :

106. (a), (b) & (c)—At present there is only one Outpost at Ghiladhari under Golaghat Police Station in the Golaghat Subdivision. There are however proposals for setting up two more outposts, one at Kamarbandha under Golaghat Police Station and another at Ahatguri under Dergaon Police Station.

At present three patrol posts manned by the existing staff under the Superintendent of Police are functioning at Kamargaon, Chomonigaon and Boklai. These temporary patrol posts will be retained so long as the law and order situation demands.

(d)—As stated above there are no outposts at Kamargaon and Chomonigaon. There are only two temporary patrol posts at these two places and there is no proposal for having permanent outposts at these places ?

thought it (e)—Does not arise.
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Re: Kabuliwallas in Assam

Shri NARENDRA NATH SARMA (Bokaghat) asked :

107. Will the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government is aware that there is increase in the number of Kabuliwallas in Assam and particularly in towns and gardens of Assam ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact they are connected mainly with money lending business at abnormal rate of interest ?
- (c) Whether there is any valid authority for their coming and staying in Assam?
- (d) Whether it is a fact that some Kabuliwallas work as Spies for foreign countries ?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister) replied :

107. (a)—Two categories of people, *viz.*, the Afghan nationals and persons who originally came from the Tribal Areas of the North West Frontier Province now forming part of Pakistan are generally known as Kabuliwallas in this State. While the number of the former category is gradually decreasing since 1962 the number in the latter category has shown some increase.

(b)—Most of these two categories of foreigners are in reality money lenders though some of them are ostensibly carrying on cloth and other business on credit. They are reportedly charging high rate of interest from their debtors but no documentary evidence in support of that is available as they do not properly maintain the account of the money they invest as loan, and they do not generally mention in their books the rate of interest they charge and the debtors also do not come forward to complain about the high rate of interest charged in the transactions secretly entered into by the parties

(c)—The Afghan nationals like other foreigners can enter India with travel documents, *i.e.*, Passports and Visas and they are registered as foreigners under the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 on their arrival at their destinations. But the persons who came to India from the North West Frontier Province before the introduction of Indo-Pak passport-*cum*-visa system in October, 1952 are staying in India since then without travel documents.

(d).—No such instance has so far come to the notice of the Government.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA (Balipara): May I know from the hon. Chief Minister whether in view of the fact that these Kabuliwallas are creating havoc in our tea gardens, will Government take some steps to arrange to offer these poor people loans at the time of need?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: Actually these money lending Kabuliwallas are exploiting the poorer section of our people, such as labourers in our tea gardens. Their activity is seen in many other areas also which are backward. It is the policy of the Government to save the poorer section of the people from money lenders exploitation and give loan and for this purpose credit co-operatives are being established.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati): Whether Government have devised some means so that these Kabuliwallas cannot charge exorbitant rates of interest from our people?

Mr. SPEAKER: There is the Money Lenders Act.

Shri BISWADEV SARMA: Considering the fact that this poor section of our people taking loans at high rate of interest cannot go to any Law Court for redress of their grievance, will not Government devise other means for that purpose?

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA: The people who are known as Kabuliwallas in Assam belong to two classes, one Afghans and the other Pakhtoons. So far as Pakhtoons are concerned there is no registration system for them and as far as Afghans are concerned they have to register themselves. In course of renewal of their visas if anything against any of them comes to the notice of the Government about unfair dealings or the like, their visas are not renewed. Sir, you have rightly said that the Money Lenders Act is there, but it is a fact that these Kabuliwallas function in such a manner and exploit the poorer section of our people in such a way that they cannot go to the court for relief. Therefore, it is a serious problem no doubt. I may mention that besides these Kabuliwallas even indigenous money lenders are exploiting the poorer section of our people. For solution of this problem credit co-operatives have to be organised and strengthened.

Re: Opium Addicts' Treatment Centres

Shri DWIJESH CHANDRA DEB SARMA (Digboi) asked:

108. Will the Minister-in-charge of Excise be pleased to state—

- (a) How many Opium Treatment Centres are in the State at present and where these are located?
- (b) How many addicts have been treated successfully so far? (please show the number Centre-wise)?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister of Excise) replied:

108. (a)—There are 9 (nine) Opium Addicts' Treatment Centres functioning at present and these are located at the following places—

- (1) North Lakhimpur.
- (2) Chabua.

- (3) Lekhapani.
- (4) Dhemaji.
- (5) Diphu.
- (6) Singimari (in Nowgong).
- (7) Baithalangu.
- (8) Tangla.
- (9) Rampur (in Kamrup).

(b)—The following addicts have been treated successfully so far in the different treatment centres since 1948-49 to January, 1966—

(1) North Lakhimpur	...	..	...	1,022
(2) Chabua	...	...	...	468
(3) Lekhapani	...	...	...	1,539
(4) Dhemaji	...	...	...	223
(5) Diphu ...	...	..	...	124
(6) Singimari	...	...	...	351
(7) Baithalangu	...	..	...	114
(8) Tangla	...	...	...	3
(9) Rampur	...	..	...	587
				4,431
		Total	...	4,431

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (Bihpuria): প্রশ্নোত্তর পৰা দেখা যায় এতিয়াও যথেষ্ট সংখ্যক মানুহে কানি ব্যৱহাৰ কৰি আছে আৰু চৰকাৰে যি ব্যৱস্থা কৰিছে সেইটো লেহেম হৈছে। গতিকে তাৰাতাৰি ব্যৱস্থা কৰিবনে ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: চৰকাৰে তাৰাতাৰি কৰিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিছে। কিন্তু Public ৰ পৰা বেছিকৈ সহায় পালেহে সুবিধা হব আৰু সোনকালে হব।

Re: Number of Opium addicts in the State

Shri DWIJESH CHANDRA DEB SARMA (Digboi) asked :

109. Will the Minister-in-charge of Excise be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government is aware of the number of Opium addicts in the State at present ?
- (b) If so, the number district-wise ?
- (c) If not, whether Government will take steps to ascertain the number ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE (Minister of Excise) replied :

109. (a), (b) & (c)—There is only one registered opium addict in the State. But in 1962-63 a survey of the suspected opium addicts was undertaken and the number district-wise was as follows:—

1. Lakhimpur	...	...	...	...	4,798
2. Sibsagar ...	...	...	...	...	1,232
3. Darrang ..	...	..	...	...	348

4. Nowgong	...	...	...	...	...	260
5. Kamrup ...	...	...	...	...	...	35
6. Garo Hills	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
7. Goalpara...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
8. Cachar ...	...	...	...	...	...	18
9. United Mikir and North Cachar Hills	...	...	...	...	...	442
10. United Khasi and Jaintia Hills	...	...	...	...	...	111
						7,294
				Total	...	7,294

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (Bihpuria): মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে কৈছে Public ব সহায় পালে তাৰাতাৰি কৰিব পৰা হব।

Mr. SPEAKER: ঠিক মতে Public ব সহায় পাইছেনে?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: কোনো কোনো ঠাইত Public ব ভাল সহায় পাইছে। বিশেষকৈ লেখাপানীত মাননীয় সদস্য শ্ৰীদ্বিজেশচন্দ্ৰ দেৱ গৰ্ম্মাৰ পৰা ভাল সহায় পাইছে।

Dr. HOMESWAR DEB CHOUDHURY (Patacharkuchi): In reply it has been stated that there is only one registered opium addict in the State, may I know from which place he comes from and his name ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: This person is not he but she a lady coming from Silchar.

Sir, you will appreciate that my friend Shri Dwijesh Chandra Deb Sarma from Digboi offered his co-operation and in the course of hardly two years we treated about 1,539 cases.

Mr. SPEAKER: We are not concerned with question No.108.

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Sir, I am giving an example only.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabor): অসম চৰকাৰে কানি বন্ধ কৰা আজি প্ৰায় ১৮ বছৰ হোৱাৰ পিচতো আজি ৭ হাজাৰৰ বেছি লোকে কানি খাই থকাটো কানি বন্ধ কৰা আন্দোলনৰ অকৃতকাৰ্য্যৰ প্ৰমাণ নহয়নে?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a hypothetical question.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora): Sir, what quantity of opium is consumed by this lady from Silchar ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: Half a tola per month and she gets it directly from Gazipur Government Factory.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: Where does she live, in the village or in the town ?

Shri BAIDYANATH MOOKERJEE: In Silchar town,

Re: Erosion at Gohaingaon

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabor) asked:

110. Will the Minister-in charge of P. W. D. (E. and D.) be pleased to state what steps the Department is taking to prevent the erosion at Gohaingaon and at Neamati which are threatening the Jorhat Town and other densely populated villages of Jorhat Subdivision ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY [Minister, P. W. D., (Flood Control)] replied:

110.—So far no anti-erosion measures have been taken at Gohaingaon and Neamati by this Department.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI: Sir, in view of the fact that large areas of paddy field, villages and even the Jorhat Town have been threatened by the Brahmaputra, will the Government be pleased to take up the protection works at Neamati and at Gohaingaon?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, as I have said in the House earlier, anti-erosion measure is taken only if conditions are satisfied, namely, if it is economic and secondly, if it is technically feasible.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI: Sir, is it not a fact that if Neamati is eroded then the Steamar ghat shall have to be abolished which will affect the economy of the people?

Mr. SPEAKER: It will not be abolished, it will be shifted.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether it is not fact that some French Experts came to Neamati in the month of January and they advised to divert the current from this bank to other bank and if so whether the Government has taken any step ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Sir, it will be better to divert this question to Inland Water Transport Department.

Shri BIMALA PRASAD CHALIHA (Chief Minister): Sir, this is in experimental stage. No conclusion has been arrived at.

Re: Bor-Ali near Gohaingaon

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI (Titabor) asked:

111. Will the Minister-in-charge of P. W. D. (E. and D.) be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that the height of Bor-Ali near Gohaingaon is being raised as a retirement bund of the Gohaingaon breach ?

(b) If so, how many kilometers are to be raised (from which point on the east and to which point on the west) ?

(c) What is the estimated height of the Bor-Ali to be raised ?

(d) What is the estimated amount of money allotted for Bor-Ali improvement ?

(e) What is the target date to complete the works of Bor-Ali ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Flood Control, etc.) replied:

111. (a)—A retirement from Gohaingaon to J. B. Road which follows the Bor-Ali for some length is under construction.

(b)—3.6 Kilometers starting from the Railway line on the east towards west.

(c)—Average height of the embankment along Bor-Ali will be 15 feet.

(d)—Rupees 10,68,365 is the probable cost of this work.

(e)—Expected to be completed by the end of April next.

Shri SARBESWAR BORDOLOI: Sir, is it not a fact that the Gohaingaon Bunds which was constructed during the last rainy season is also raising its heights ?

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: This is a different question.

Re: Abolition of tuition fee for Classes IV to VI in M. E. and H. E. Schools.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked:

112. Will the Minister, Education be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the tuition fee for classes IV to VI in M.E. and H.E. Schools has been abolished ?

(b) If so when?

Shri DEV KANT BOROOAH (Minister, Education) replied:

112. (a)— No.

(b)—It is proposed to provide free education for boys and girls of Classes IV to VI in the High and M.E. Schools of the State in the 4th Plan period in a phased manner. The phasing is as follows—

1966-67 free education for girls in Class IV.

1967-68 free education for girls in Class IV of Classes IV and V.

1968-69 free education for girls in Class IV of Classes IV to VI and boys in Class IV.

1969-70 free education for girls in Class IV For girls of Classes IV to VI and boys of Classes IV & V.

1970-71 free education for girls in Class IV for both boys and girls upto Class VI.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI: What additional amount will be involved if the scheme is implemented ?

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Deputy Minister Education): Rupees 29.05 lakhs.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Will the hon. Deputy Minister be pleased to state whether this scheme will be introduced in the girls schools or it will be introduced in the boys schools also ?

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA: Boys schools also will be included.

Re: Rehabilitation of landless, flood and erosion affected people of Golaghat Subdivision.

Shri NARENDRA NATH SARMA (Bokakhat) asked :

113. Will the Minister-in-charge of Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government requisitioned some lands at Numaligarh, Thuramukh and Murphulani T. Es. for rehabilitation of the landless, flood and erosion affected people of Golaghat Subdivision.
- (b) Whether the requisitioned lands were already distributed to some deserving people?
- (c) How many families were selected for the purpose of giving lands?
- (d) Whether Government directed the selected families to deposit certain amount for giving them lands?
- (e) How Government propose to allot the requisitioned lands to those landless, flood and erosion affected people?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Minister of State, Revenue) replied :

113. (a)—Yes.

(b)—Not yet.

(c)—480 families.

(d)—Yes.

(e)—At the rate of 8 bighas per family.

Re: Settlement of land to the flood victims of Puranigudam in Sibsagar Subdivision

Shri KHOGENDRA NATH BARBARUAH (Amguri) asked :

114. Will the Minister, Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government have already settled some flood victims of Puranigudam of Jakaichuk Mouza, Sibsagar Subdivision?

(b) Whether it is a fact that some of them were asked to settle at Charaideo, but possession was not given to them ?

(c) If so, why they were taken to Charaideo ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Minister of State, Revenue) replied :

114. (a)—Not yet.

(b)—As per decision of the Sibsagar Land Settlement Advisory Committee, the flood victims of village Puranigudam were allotted land in Charaideo Requisitioned grant; but possession of the land could not be made due to encroachment by some people. While the encroachers were being evicted by the Subdivisional Officer, Sibsagar one Shri Manbahadur had moved the Hon'ble High Court who had stayed the eviction as well as settlement of the flood victims.

(c)—Does not arise in view of the reply to question (b) above.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora): When the decision was taken ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: Long ago in 1950.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE: What action has been taken to evict the encroachers ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: When the order of eviction was passed, some of the encroachers filed appeal and these appeals are now before the High Court. Some of the encroachers have been removed.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): What alternative arrangement has been made for the settlement of the people ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: We are trying to get land in some other areas.

Re: Rehabilitation of families uprooted by flood and erosion in the District of Goalpara

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS [North-Salmara (Reserved for Scheduled Castes)] asked :

115. Will the Minister, Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) How many people have been uprooted by flood, erosion and by acquisition in the Subdivision of Goalpara during the year 1964 and 1965 ?

(b) How many of them have been rehabilitated till now ?

(c) Why the rest have not yet been rehabilitated ?

(d) Whether Government is aware that many uprooted families are still lying on the Public Works Department Road side and on the Bund ?

(e) When these families will be rehabilitated ?

(f) Whether Government propose to rehabilitate them before the next rainy season ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Minister of State, Revenue) replied :

115. (a)—1125 families have been uprooted by flood and erosion during the year 1964-65. No families have been uprooted by acquisition during this period.

(b)—833 families have been rehabilitated.

(c)—The rest affected people were allotted khas land elsewhere but due to their unwillingness to shift from their original places they could not be rehabilitated.

(d)—Yes. Some affected families at Lengtisinga Bazar are still living in the temporary sheds constructed on Public Works Department road side but none on the Embankment and Drainage bund.

(e)—Efforts are being made to rehabilitate them before the rainy season sets in.

(f)—As in answer to question (e) above.

Re: Construction of a road from Bhatgram to Telekhalerpar in Karimganj Subdivision

Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN (Karimganj North) asked :

116. Will the Minister P. W. D. (R. and B.) be pleased to state—

(a) Whether it is a fact that in the year 1962 Government received proposal from the questioner for construction of a new 2 miles road from Bhatgram village to Telekhalerpar village of Karimganj Subdivision ?

(b) Whether a survey alignment had also been made by the Executive Engineer, P. W. D. (R. and B.), Karimganj division ?

(c) What is the present position of that proposed road now ?

(d) Why the road has not been taken up finally for construction ?

(e) Whether Government will take up this road now ?

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

116. (a)—Yes, it was received for consideration under the 3rd Finance Commission Award.

(b)—Yes.

(c)—It has not been selected finally for construction under the programme.

(d)—Due to shortage of fund and low priority assigned by the member concerned.

(e)—There is no such proposal at present.

Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN: Sir, this road is a very small one and it will connect some underdeveloped areas. So will the Public Works Department kindly take up this particular road during the 4th Five Year Plan ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: Sir, due to the paucity of fund it will not be possible to take up this road ?

Re: Construction of a bridge at Siddheswar Ferry Ghat in Cachar

Shri RAMPIRIT RUDRAPAUL (Hailakandi) asked:

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

- (a) Whether there is a proposal for construction of a bridge at Siddheswar ferry ghat in Cachar ?
- (b) If so, whether any tender has been called for ?
- (c) The parties which submitted tenders and to whom the work has been allotted ?

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

117. (a) — Yes.

(b) — Yes.

(c) — Does not arise as tenders have not yet been received.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora): What was the last date of receiving the tender ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: 31st March, 1966.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora): What is the total amount involved ?

Sari GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: Rs.92 lakhs.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: When the tender was issued ?

Sari GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: This information is not with me.

Re: Establishment of an Inspection-cum-Dak Bungalow at Dasgram in North Karimganj

Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN (Karimganj North) asked:

118. Will the Minister of P. W. D. (R. & B.) be pleased to state —

- (a) Whether Government propose the establishment of an Inspection-cum-Dak Bungalow at Dasgram, North Karimganj ?
- (b) If so, when ?
- (c) If not, why ?

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

118.(a)—There is no such proposal.

(b) & (c)—Does not arise.

Re: Section III of Kamalpur-Borka Road

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked:

119. Will the Minister of P. W. D. (R. & B.) be pleased to state—

- (a) What amount out of Rs.1,10,000 sanctioned for Section III of Kamalpur-Borka road at the end of the 2nd Plan brought as spill-over work for the 3rd Plan was spent for that section of the road ?

- (b) What was the expenditure incurred for bridges and culverts and for earthwork out of that sanctioned amount ?
- (c) What is the unspent amount out of the sanctioned amount ?
- (d) Why the road has not been completed in the portion falling in village Borka connecting the Changsari-Chesamukh road ?
- (e) Whether the amount saved has been diverted to some other road and if so, to what road ?

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

119. (a) —The amount of the sanctioned estimate is Rs.1,15,300. As the road was taken up at the fag end of the 2nd Plan, no expenditure could be incurred during that period. However Rs.80,619 has been spent up-to-date.

(b) —Rupees.69,600 for bridges and culverts and (2) Rs 8,785 for earth-works.

(c) —Rs.36,915.

(d) —Due to inadequate allocation of funds, under the 3rd Plan.

(e) —No, the unspent amount of the estimate will be spent in the 4th Plan for the completion of the same work.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Will the Minister be pleased to see that at least some temporary bridge is constructed over the river ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI: I will look into the matter.

Re: Construction of Jalimura Changsari Road

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked :

120. Will the Minister-in-charge, P. W. D. (R.&B.) be pleased to state—

- (a) What amount of the total amount of Rs 93,000 allotted to the Jalimura-Changsari Road has been utilised for construction of the road during the last five years ?
- (b) Whether it is a fact that this locality is without any road and no vehicular traffic even bullock carts can enter into the area for want of roads and also due to the rivers over which there is no bridges ?
- (c) Whether the bridges and culverts have been constructed in the portion of the Road taken over by the P. W. D. during the 3rd Five Year Plan period ?
- (d) Whether the un-utilised amount earmarked for the road has been diverted to some other road and if so to what road and what is the amount diverted ?
- (e) Whether the bridges and culverts will be completed within the year 1965-66 ?

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

120. (a) —Rupees 42,447.00 has been spent upto date, out of the estimated amount of Rs.93,000 for this road.

- (b)—May be.
 (c)—The culverts have been completed and no works on the bridges could be done as yet due to paucity of fund.
 (d)—No, the unspent amount of the estimate will be utilised for the completion of the work in the 4th Plan.
 (e)—Hon. Member is referred to see (c) above.

Re. Construction of Rangiya-Darranga Road

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) asked :

121. Will the Minister-in-charge of Public Works Department (R.&B.) be pleased to state—

- (a) What amount out of the total amount of Rs.1,00,000 allotted to Rangiya Darranga Road for construction of bridges and culverts during the Third Plan period has been utilised up till now ?
 (b) What are the bridges and culverts constructed so far on the road and what amount has been spent in each of them ?
 (c) Whether the unutilised amount allotted to this road has been diverted to some other project and if so, to what project ?

Shri GIRINDRA NATH GOGOI [Minister of State, Public Works Department (R.&B.)] replied :

121. (a)—Rs.47,032.00.
 (b)—Bridge Nos.4/1, 4/3, 2/2, and 22/1 have been reconstructed at a cost of Rs.47,032.00. Expenditure on individual item is not available with the Department.
 (c)—The unutilised amount has not yet been diverted to any other project.

Re: Misappropriation from the Lahoal Anchalik Panchayat Fund

Shri NILA KANTA HAZARIKA (Dergaon, Reserved for Scheduled Castes) asked :

122. Will the Minister, Panchayat be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether it is a fact that several thousand of Rupees were misused or misappropriated two or three years ago from Lahoal Anchalik Panchayat Fund and Government ordered recovery of the same from some of the members of the Anchalik Panchayat ?
 (b) If so, what is the amount ? Whether the person at fault was a member of the Anchalik Panchayat ?
 (c) Who was the President of the Anchalik Panchayat and whether he took any action for recovery of the amount ?
 (d) Whether the then Vice-President of the Anchalik Panchayat who is now the President of the Anchalik Panchayat was involved in the matter ? If so, to what extent ?
 (e) How long it would take the Government to realise the money and to deposit it in the Panchayat Fund ?

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Deputy Minister Panchayat) replied:

122. (a) & (b)—Yes, an amount of Rs. 7,125.75p. was misused by certain members of the Anchalik Panchayat, in the year 1962.

(c)—Shri Sibeswar Barua was the President of the Anchalik Panchayat and he was also one of those who were held liable for misuse of the money.

(d)—No. It appears from the proceedings of the Anchalik Panchayat that the then Vice-President who is now the President of the Anchalik Panchayat opposed the transaction.

(e)—A sum of Rs. 1,500 has so far been realised. Necessary action is being taken to realise the balance amount as soon as possible.

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA (Lahoal) : উপসভা মহোদয়ৰ উত্তৰত কৈছে যে উল্লিখিত টকাখিনি Misuse হৈছে। তেখেতে কবনে লাহোৰাল পঞ্চায়তৰ সৰ্ব সন্মতিক্ৰমে গৃহীত প্ৰস্তাৱৰ ওপৰতে পঞ্চায়ত অফিচটো ভাড়াঘৰত থকা উক্ত টকাৰে পঞ্চায়তৰ অফিচৰ বাবে ঘৰ আৰু মাটি কিনিবলৈ দিছিল?

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : আঞ্চলিক পঞ্চায়তে প্ৰস্তাৱৰ বিৰোধীতা কৰিছিল। যি সময়ত এই প্ৰস্তাৱ লৈছিল তাত এটা প্ৰাকসম্পূৰণৰ উন্নয়ন খণ্ড মঞ্জুৰ হৈছিল। ঘৰদুৱাৰ সজাৰ ব্যৱস্থা উন্নয়ন খণ্ডত আছে। আঞ্চলিক পঞ্চায়তত তেনে Budget ৰ ব্যৱস্থা নাছিল আৰু প্ৰস্তাৱটো ডিব্ৰুগড় মহকুমা পৰিষদেও approve নকৰিলে।

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora) : What steps the Government have taken to realise the lost amount ?

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : Sir, the President and the members were made jointly responsible and a sum of Rs.15,500 has been realised.

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA : মন্ত্ৰী মহোদয়ে জানেনে যে সেই প্ৰস্তাৱৰ ওপৰত ঘৰ আৰু মাটিৰ মূল্য নিৰ্দ্ধাৰণ কৰিবৰ বাবে এটা A assessment কমিটি P.W.D ৰ S.D.O ৰে সৈতে কৰা হৈছিল?

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : তেবেকৰা Assessment কমিটি কৰা নাছিল। আঞ্চলিক পঞ্চায়তৰ এটা Sub-Committee ৰেহে এই সিদ্ধান্ত লৈছিল আৰু যি ঘৰ আৰু মাটিৰ মূল্য নিৰ্দ্ধাৰণ কৰা হৈছিল সি বজাৰ মূল্যতকৈ বহুত বেছি আছিল।

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA : এই কমিটিৰ নিৰ্দ্ধাৰিত মূল্য বেছি হৈছে বুলি আঞ্চলিক পঞ্চায়তৰ সভাত কেৱল শ্ৰীমোনোকো চফ্ৰ শইকীয়াইহে আপত্তি কৰা কথাটো সচানে?

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : মোৰ জনামতে পঞ্চায়তৰ ভাইচ প্ৰেচিডেণ্ট আৰু এজন সদস্যই বিৰোধীতা কৰিছিল।

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA : যদি আঞ্চলিক পঞ্চায়ততে আপত্তি কৰিছিল, তেনেহলে মহকুমা পৰিষদৰ আকৌ কোনে এই মাটিৰ মূল্য অধিক হৈছে বুলি আপত্তি কৰিছিল?

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : মহকুমা পৰিষদৰ কোনে আপত্তি কৰিছিল সেই কথা Proceedings ত পোৱা নেযায়।

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA : মহকুমা পৰিষদৰ Proceedings তুলি বুলি উপমন্ত্রী মহোদয়ে কৈছে ; তেনেহলে মই কব পাৰোনে লাহোৱাল আঞ্চলিক প্ৰস্তাৱটোও তুলকৈ কোৱা হৈছে ?

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : মই মহকুমা পৰিষদৰ তুলি বুলি কোৱা নাই, কিন্তু Proceedings ত কোনে আপত্তি কৰিছিল উল্লেখ নাই।

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA : ডেপুটি মিনিষ্টাৰ ডাঙৰীয়াই কৈছে যে প্ৰস্তাৱটো আঞ্চলিক প্ৰকায়তৰ মিটিঙত গৃহীত হোৱা নাছিল আৰু তাইচ প্ৰেচিডেণ্টেও আপত্তি কৰিছিল। মই জানো যে সেই প্ৰস্তাৱটো গৃহীত হৈছিল আৰু এজন সভ্যই আপত্তি কৰিছিল।

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : সেইটো তাইচ প্ৰেচিডেণ্ট আৰু এজন সদস্যই বিৰোধীতা কৰিছিল। যি কেইজন সভ্যই সেইটোত বিৰোধীতা কৰিছিল তেওঁলোকক দায়িত্বৰ পৰা অব্যাহতি দিয়া হৈছিল। প্ৰস্তাৱটো বিৰোধীতা নকৰা সকলক অৰ্থাৎ সমৰ্থন জনোৱা সকলক jointly and severally দায়ী কৰা হৈছে।

Shrimati LILY SEN GUPTA : যদি আঞ্চলিক প্ৰকায়তে ঘৰ মাটি কিনিবলৈ আপত্তি কৰিছিল, মই শুধিব পাৰোনে কিয় প্ৰকায়ত বিভাগে এই টকা আদায় কৰিবলৈ সকলো সদস্যকে দায়ী কৰি নাট্টি দিছিল ?

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : তাইচ প্ৰেচিডেণ্টৰ ওপৰত নাট্টি দিয়া নাছিল। যি সকল সভ্যই তাৰ বিৰোধীতা কৰা নাছিল সেই সকলৰ ওপৰত হে নাট্টি দিয়া হৈছিল। বিৰোধীতা কৰা সকলক অব্যাহতি দিয়া হল।

যি সকল সদস্যই অনিয়মিত খৰচ কৰাৰ প্ৰস্তাৱ সমৰ্থন কৰিছিল তেওঁ বিলাকক Jointly আৰু Severally দায়ী কৰা হৈছে।

Re: Outstanding Forest Revenue in North Lakhimpur Range

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (Bihpuria) asked :

123. Will the Minister, Forests be pleased to state—

- (a) Whether Government is aware that in North Lakhimpur Range about 3 lakhs of rupees is outstanding as Forest Revenue from 1948 to 1965 ?
- (b) If so, how this big amount accumulated ?
- (c) Whether these are amounts, defaulted by Forest Mahaldars or other individuals ?

Shri LALIT KUMAR DOLEY (Deputy Minister, Forest) replied :

123. (a)—Yes. The total amount of outstanding forest revenue from 1948 upto 1965 is Rs.2,66,931.

(b)—The reasons for accumulation are given below :—

(1) The amount of Rs.96,894·04p. is to be realised from other Government Departments including Railways on account of royalty on timber, sand and gravels. Since these are to be realised by book adjustments, certain delay is involved in adjusting the account.

(2) An amount of Rs.42,238·57p. is to be realised from the past sand Mahaldars mostly on account of non-collection of the minimum quota.

(3) The balance amount is made up of dues on cane mahals elephants, coupe kists, fishery mahal, royalty on timber, etc. In many cases action for realisation has already been initiated.

(c)—*vide* (b) above.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora): Sir, since such a huge amount has been outstanding from 1948 to 1965, may I know what steps Government Department has taken to realise this amount ?

Shri LALIT KUMAR DOLEY : Sir, Government are taking all steps to realise it. My information is that certain book transfer has still to be done and the process is being continued to realise the amount and for the others we are going to realise it through Bakijai proceedings.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): May I know from the Deputy Minister-in-charge of Forest for what reason the amount has accumulated for such a long time ?

Shri LALIT KUMAR DOLEY : Sir, this is a matter of book transfer from one Government to another. I am giving some information. Because of the extension of the new railway line the Railway Department extracted some sands and gravels and for this it is only a matter of book adjustment between one Government and another and that is why my reply was that it was in the process of adjustment. We are starting Bakijai proceedings against the balance amount. Therefore, I do not think very much irregularity has been done by Government.

Re: Implementation of the Adhjar Act

Dr. GHANASHYAM DAS (North Salmara, Reserved for Scheduled Castes) asked :

124. Will the Minister, Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Adhjar Act has been implemented successfully in the State ?

(b) If not, what are the difficulties in implementing this Act ?

(c) Whether Government is aware that many land owners are still realising half the quantity of paddy from the (Adhjar) producers ?

(d) If so, why action is not taken against such land owners ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Minister of State, Revenue) replied :

124. (a)—The Assam Adhjar Protection and Regulation Act, 1948 has been brought into force in all plains districts of Assam. For successful and effective implementation of the Act, Adhi Conciliation Boards have been established in each of the Anchilik Panchayats with representatives from

the land-lords and tenants. It has been noticed that both the land-lord and tenants have come to the Board for redress. A large number of cases have been amicably settled in these Boards, which shows that the Act has been effective to no mean extent in regulating and sharing of the crops and in protecting the tenants.

(b)—No specific difficulties have been brought to the notice of the Government.

(c)—Government has not received any such information.

(d)—Does not arise.

Shri RUPRAM SUT (Nowgong) : Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister concerned the total number of cases so far settled under the Adhiar Act?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : Sir, I have not got the information with me now.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) :
“আধি কনচিলিয়েচন বড” বিলাক গঠন হৈছেনে ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : হয়, হৈছে।

Shri RUPRAM SUT : Sir, who are the members of the Adhi Conciliation Boards?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : One representative of the tenants, one representative of the landlords and the S.D.C. of the Circle.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati) : Sir, how far the implementation of the Adhiar Act has benefited the tenants?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : Some benefit has been reaped by the people, but it has not been very successfully implemented.

Shri SHRIMAN PRAFULLA GOSWAMI (Nalbari-West) : When the Adhi Conciliation Boards have been constituted last?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : Sir, I want notice.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA : Sir, since the Minister has just now said that the implementation of the Act is not very successful may I call it unsuccessful?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : No, Sir.

Calling Attention to a matter of urgent Public Importance—
Devastating Fire at Jorhat Town on 24th February, 1966

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of Shri Dulal Chandra Barua and myself I call the attention of our Revenue Minister to the devastating fire that broke out at Jorhat on the 24th of February 1966.

Sir, due to this fire property worth Rs.40 thousand has been gutted and many people have lost their valuables. We would like to know from the Minister what steps have been taken so far to render relief to the persons affected by the fire. Moreover, Sir, since then about four times fire broke out in the Sibsagar District and it is known that even fire brigades could not cope with the situation. So, we would like to know what steps have been taken by the Minister so that people may not suffer due to such fire in future.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Minister of State, Revenue) : Sir, the fire incident occurred on the 24th February 1965 at about 3 p.m. near the juncture of Sarbajendha and Na-Ali road, Jorhat, and is reported to have started from the space crusted through the chimney of an oven of a bakery belonging to one Shri Abdul Mazid. Both the State and Military fire brigades immediately rushed to the spot and controlled the fire from further spreading. Police also helped in fighting the fire. The Additional Deputy Commissioner Jorhat and Circle Sub-Deputy Collector Jorhat were also present there.

One smallatched house and roof of one Assam type thatched house with pucca half-wall belonging to Shri Abdul Mazid were gutted as a result of the fire. The total loss is estimated at Rs.3,000. One cycle repairer, one laundry man and one tailor were the occupants in the rooms of the houses gutted by fire. Out of them the cycle repairer sustained loss of about Rs.2,500. Loss sustained by two others is negligible. There has been no loss of human life or cattle.

The Deputy Commissioner says that no relief is necessary. The question of rehabilitation loan will be considered on receipt of specific proposal from the Deputy Commissioner, Jorhat in this regard.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARU (Jorhat) : May I know if Government have received any representation from the persons affected for relief as well as rehabilitation loan?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : We have not received any such representation as yet.

Statement by Minister, Supply on the present food situation in the State

MR. SPEAKER : Now I call upon the hon. Supply Minister to make a statement on the food situation.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister Supply) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as desired by this August House I am to make a statement on food situation in the State with particular reference to rise in prices. Sir, rise in price of foods is not a peculiar phenomenon in Assam. It is a problem throughout the whole country. During the Kharif year 1964-65 the harvesting was good and the total production of rice was 19.11 lakh tonnes. A quantity of 3,07,407 tonnes or 83 lakh maunds paddy was procured by the Apex Co-operative Marketing Society against a target of 3,70,370 tonnes or 100 lakh maunds. The production of winter sown rice during the current kharif year (1965-66) has been estimated at 14.23 lakh tonnes against last year's production of 15.69 lakh tonnes. There has been loss in production of sown rice by 1.25 lakh tonnes or 47 lakh maunds than the last year. The harvesting of Autumn paddy of

the last season was also good. It is difficult to forecast this year's production of Autumn rice, as sowing has not yet started. If the Autumn and Spring paddy be successful then with the improvement of wheat supply and procurement of the targeted amount of 125 lakh maunds paddy, we hope to meet cereal requirement of the State.

As in previous years the Apex Co-operative Marketing Society has been functioning as the sole procuring agent of Government. Up to 6th March, 1966 they have been able to procure 41,75,825 maunds paddy against procurement of 43,44,605 maunds in the corresponding period of the last year. The shortfall in procurement up to the first week of March, 1966 has been a little over 1,68,000 maunds.

The prices of rice and paddy have gone high in quite a number of places, particularly, in Dhubri, Goalpara and Barpeta Subdivision and in Nalbari and Tihu areas of Gauhati Subdivision. The price went up very high in Dhubri and Kokrajhar Subdivisions during September, 1965 and remained so till the end of November, 1965. This abnormal rise in price was mainly due to unsuccessful harvesting of Ahu in Goalpara District and high price of paddy in adjoining areas of West Bengal. Even in Kokrajhar Subdivision, which is normally a surplus area, acute scarcity was felt during these months. Government had to rush 61,000 quintals rice to these two Subdivisions from other districts. This rise in price coupled with the less production of winter sali paddy during the current year, created a psychology of scarcity; and once an atmosphere of scarcity emerges, there is a tendency on the part of the growers, traders and consumers to aggravate the situation. These facts, to my mind, were primarily responsible for continuous high price of paddy in Goalpara district, even in the post harvest period. The big growers and hoarders are prone to hold back their stocks in expectation of still higher price in the lean months. This caused a serious setback to our procurement efforts. A repercussion of it was also felt in other areas, and the procurement has been low, since the middle of February, 1966. Government have, therefore, decided to build up good stock of paddy and rice in the deficit areas and to maintain supply through as many fair-price shops as necessary and simultaneously cordon off the deficit areas. Accordingly, 33,000 quintals paddy have been ordered to be moved to Dhubri Subdivision and 25,000 quintals to Goalpara Subdivision from other districts. More than half of this quantity has already been received in these two subdivisions. Arrangement has been made to maintain this flow in the coming months also. Direction has been given to the local officers to firmly enforce the price control in all areas throughout the State. Free movement of paddy within a district is allowed upto 5 maunds, but movement of paddy in bulk quantity is not allowed without permits from the competent authority. The hon. Members will agree with me that price control and procurement are only possible by cordoning off the surplus areas from the deficit pockets. Supply in the deficit areas is being maintained through the controlled agency from Government stock. This ensures against rise in price of paddy in surplus areas and also in the deficit pockets.

As a measure against smuggling of paddy outside the State, adequate number of check-gates have been set up and patrol parties deployed along the border of the State. Necessary Police help for maintaining 4 difficult check-gates has been requested for. The V.D.P. Organisations too have been requested to assist the Supply Staff in the enforcement work. The Railway Police and the Supply Staff in the Kamrup and Goalpara Districts have been instructed to check smuggling of foodstuff by rail routes. Order

under D.I. Rules has been issued requiring all persons holding a stock of more than 100 maunds of paddy and rice to declare their stock. The local officers have been checking the stocks and wherever undeclared stock has been found, the stock has been seized and the hoarder is prosecuted. In all districts and subdivisions special enforcement staff has been posted to keep strict vigilance and several cases of hoarding and black-marketing have been detected and steps have been taken to prosecute the offenders under the special court provisions.

Government have statutorily fixed the minimum and maximum price of different varieties of paddy and the *ex-mill* price of rice. The Apex Co-operative Marketing Society purchases paddy at the minimum price and they are required to deliver it to Government godowns or to the mill gate at the maximum price. In addition, they are allowed Rs. 1.68 paise per quintal as transport and other incidental charges.

Hon'ble Members are aware that this State depends entirely on the imported wheat for its requirement of wheat products. There was acute difficulty in wheat supply upto the end of January, 1966 and the monthly allocation made to Assam was reduced to 5,000 tonnes for chakki mills and 3,000 tonnes to the roller flour mills against our requirement of 12,500 tonnes for chakki mills and 6,000 tonnes for roller flour mills. The situation has since improved and our allocation in March has been raised to 8,000 tonnes for chakki mills and 7,000 tonnes for the roller flour mills. It is expected that the release will be further increased in the coming months.

Government of India make a bulk allocation of wheat to the State Government and the State Government make sub-allocation to the different Deputy Commissioners and the Sub-divisional Officers according to their requirement. The Deputy Commissioners and the Sub-divisional Officers allot wheat to the different chakki mills in their areas and issue atta through fair price shops, consumers co-operative stores and approved retailers. The allocation of wheat to the roller flour mills is made directly by the Government of India. The product of roller flour mills is sub-allocated by State Government to different districts and the local officers issue it through their nominees as decided by them.

As regards other essential commodities, salt, sugar, pulses and mustard oil, Government have decided to maintain, in its accounts, one month's requirement of the State. At present Government have the following quantities of the above articles in their buffer stock.

Salt	...	...	...	...	9,963 tonnes
Sugar	...	...	...	...	6,845 tonnes
Pulses including gram	...	...	...	...	1,515 tonnes
Mustard Oil	...	...	...	...	2,908 tonnes

It has been further decided to turn over this stock every alternate month. As pulses, salt and mustard oil are not controlled commodities we have to buy it in the open markets of the producing States and Government have decided to issue it at the prevailing market price in our States so long our economic price is higher than the market price.

Sugar position in the State is not unsatisfactory. Our monthly quota has been raised to 6,600 tonnes in February and Government of India have decided to raise it further by 10 per cent. Price of sugar is controlled and Government hope that there will be no difficulty in the availability of sugar at reasonable price to the consumers.

Supply position regarding mustard oil and pulses is fairly satisfactory and the price is gradually falling. As the Hon'ble Members are aware that Assam produces only a half of its requirements of mustard oil and a negligible quantity of pulses, we have mainly to depend on the imported pulses and mustard oil. Prices of these commodities in Assam are dependent on the prices in the market of those producing States. The State Government have not been able to ensure supply of these commodities at fixed prices to the consumers. The only step to be taken was to maintain a buffer stock to be released when prices tend to rise high and put a check to the profiteering by local traders. There has been no scarcity of pulses and mustard oil in the State, but while the availability position of pulses and mustard oil is not unsatisfactory the price position was not good till lately. However, the trend in the export markets outside the State appears to be in the decline and prices of these commodities will also fall further in our State.

The situation has since improved and our allocation in March has been raised to 8,000 tonnes for charki mills and 7,000 tonnes for the roller. I may inform the House that Government have issued orders under D. I. Rules directing all persons holding more than 10 quintals of pulses, mustard oil, wheat, wheat products, mustard seeds, etc. to declare their stocks. It is hoped that these measures would act as a check on suppression of stocks to create artificial scarcity for profiteering. Failure to declare stocks would lead to confiscation of the undeclared stocks in addition to prosecution. It will be seen from the foregoing paragraphs that while the overall price position in the State was not very satisfactory and there was occasional short supply in some pockets like Dibrugarh and Linsikia areas where orders have been issued to build up a reserved stock of 40,000 quintals of rice, the position regarding other essential commodities was satisfactory.

I have placed full facts regarding supply of essential food articles before the Hon'ble House. I would now invite suggestions for further improvement from the Hon'ble Members. Any valuable suggestions so far made by the Hon'ble Members have been noted and Government would give due consideration to them and with co-operation from all I still hope that we would be able to maintain regular supply of essential food articles during the current khariff year without much difficulty.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora) : Sir, we want a copy of the speech...

Mr. SPEAKER : The statement will be cyclostyled and supplied to all the Members.

Raja AJIT NARAYAN DEB (Bokmalbar) : Sir, may I put one question? May I know whether the supply of rice and paddy in Goalpara is sufficient and the price is rising because of psychological reasons, as the Minister has just now stated?

Mr. SPEAKER: According to rules such kind of statement cannot be discussed by any question without a substantive motion. By a substantive motion the statement can be discussed. I hope some motions will be coming forward.

Now, next item—Shri Bahadur Basumatari.

General Discussion of the Budget

Shri BAHADUR BASUMATARY (Panery, Reserved for Scheduled Tribes): অধক্ষ্য মহোদয়, মুখ্যমন্ত্রী ডাঙৰীয়াই ১৯৬৬-৬৭ চনৰ বাবে যি বাজেট দাঙি ধৰিছে তাৰ বাবে তেখেতক ধন্যবাদ জনাইছো। আজি দেশত বিশ্বাসৰ অভাৱ হৈছে। বিশ্বাসৰ অভাৱ যদি হয় তেতিয়া কৰ্মৰ অভাৱ হয় আৰু কৰ্মৰ অভাৱ হলে নিষ্কৰ্মা হয়। সেই কাৰণে দেশ জুৰি আজি যি বিশ্বাসৰ অভাৱ হৈছে সেই বিশ্বাস আকৌ ঘূৰাই অনাৰ চেষ্টা কৰাৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰৰ দৃষ্টি আকৰ্ষণ কৰিছো। আজি পৰস্পৰে পৰস্পৰৰ ওপৰত বিশ্বাস নাইকিয়া হৈছে। মই দেখিছো এই সদনত যদি কোনোবাই বক্তৃতা দিয়ে বা বিল আনে সেই বিল পাচ হোৱাৰ পিচত যদি কোনোবাই বাহিৰত সোধে “কি বিল পাচ কৰিলে?” তেতিয়া কয়: “এ! বিল পাচ কৰিলে কি হব?” যদি **Co-operative Bill** পাচ কৰে তেতিয়া কব **co-operative** কৰি কি কৰিব আৰু পঞ্চায়ত বিল পাচ কৰিলেও কব পঞ্চায়তত মানুহৰ বিশ্বাস নাই। দেখা গৈছে কাৰো ওপৰত কাৰো বিশ্বাস নাই।

আমাৰ দেশত পৰিকল্পনাৰ যোগেদি যিবোৰ আঁচনি হাতত লোৱা হৈছে সেইবোৰ কাৰ্য্যকৰী কৰিব পৰা নাই। এই কথা বহুত সদস্যই কৈ গৈছে। তাৰে কেইটামান মোৰ সমষ্টিৰ বিষয়ে কব খুজিছো। আমাৰ দেশত খাদ্যৰ অভাৱ হৈছে। সেই খাদ্যৰ অভাৱ কেনেকৈ সুস্থিৰ অৱস্থালৈ আনিব পাৰি তাৰ কাৰণে চৰকাৰে চেষ্টাও কৰিছে। তাৰ আগতে আমি চিন্তা কৰিব লাগিব কৃষকৰ বিষয়ে। আজি ভূমি সমস্যা সমাধান নহলে কৃষকে খেতি কৰে ক’ত? সেই কাৰণে আমি আগতে কৃষকক মাটি দিয়াৰ কাৰণে চিন্তা কৰিব লাগিব। আমাৰ মঙ্গলদৈ মহকুমাত খেতিৰ মাটি এনেয়ে পৰি আছিল কাৰণ খেতিয়কৰ জনসংখ্যা কম আছিল। খেতিয়া জনসংখ্যা বাঢ়িল তেতিয়া সেইখানি মাটিত মানুহ বহি গ’লত আনকি এতিয়া চৰকাৰী মাটিত বেদখল কৰিছে আৰু আজিলৈকে টোজি হৈয়ে আছে। গতিকে সেই মাটিবোৰ নিয়ম মতে দখল কৰিবলৈ দি উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি কৰি খাদ্য সমস্যা সমাধান কৰিবলৈ চেষ্টা কৰিব লাগে।

Mr. SPEAKER: একে কথাৰে সকলো সদস্যই কবনেলাগে নতুন নতুন কথা কব লাগে।

Shri BAHADUR BASUMATARY: মোৰ সমষ্টিৰ কথাৰে কওঁ। এই সমষ্টি শিক্ষাত বৰ পিচপৰা, কাৰণ শিক্ষাৰ মোল বুজা নাছিল। এতিয়া শিক্ষাৰ মোল বুজিছে কাৰণে ঠাউৰি হৈছে। গতিকে শিক্ষা প্ৰচাৰৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে। আগতে স্কুল খুলিলে চৰকাৰে লয়। এতিয়া কিছুমান **condition fulfil** কৰিব লাগে। আমাৰ নিৰ্দিষ্ট শিক্ষাৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত পিচপৰা ঠাইতসেই আটাইবোৰ **condition fulfil** কৰা টান গতিকে অলপ বেহাই দি হলেও পিচপৰা ঠাইৰ স্কুলবিলাক চৰকাৰে লোৱাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰিব লাগে।

তাৰ পিচত **Embankment** বিভাগে যিবিলাক আঁচনি লৈছে, সেইবিলাক নদীৰ মাজ ভাগতে লৈছে। যাৰ পৰা পানী ওলাইছে তাৰ একেবাৰে মুখত কৰিব লাগে। সেইটো নকৰাত পানীয়ে খেতি নষ্ট কৰিছে সেই কাৰণে যতে নদীৰ পানী বেছি, তাত মথাউৰি বন্ধাৰ আঁচনি কৰিলে বহু ঠাইতে মথাউৰি নালাগিব আৰু নিয়মিত ভাবে জলসিঞ্চনৰ কামো হব আৰু খেতিও হব।

Mr. SPEAKER: Now Shri Dulal Chandra Barua.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the very outset I want to offer my thanks to the hon. Chief Minister for presenting a surplus budget very tactfully and intelligently just to hoodwink this august House, as well as public in general.

Mr. SPEAKER: 'Hoodwink' is an unparliamentary word in respect of a Member.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Then, Sir, it is actually surprising to note that last year the budget deficit was shown to be more than Rs.10 crores and the then Finance Minister had taken a plea that, for the implementation of the revised pay scales this deficit had been shown. But so far as my knowledge goes till today the entire employees of the State Government have not been given the full benefits of the revised pay scales. Majority of them are still to get their revised pay scales. Now, Sir, apart from that also the one-man Commission appointed by the Government of Assam last to look into the anomalies and other things has not yet submitted its report. That report is still in the mother's womb and nobody knows when it will come out, and for the prolongation of the Commission, I think, the Government will also have to incur a huge expenditure. It will also add another amount of huge expenditure if Government sincerely implements the recommendation of the said Commission. Now, Sir, it is surprising to note that the hon. Chief Minister has totally ignored that significant thing and has presented intelligently a surplus budget. Apart from that it is evidently clear, this budget is an incomplete budget for which you are fully aware of the fact, Sir, that we the Members of the Opposition had staged a 'Walk Out' on the day of its presentation in the House, because it had not embodied the actual picture of the Budget provisions in respect of the autonomous hills districts and it had not incorporated the proceedings of the District Councils. During the year's Budget which was presented by the Chief Minister on the other day no effect of the revision of pay scale is seen. The hon. Chief Minister has shown this budget as surplus so tactfully just to make electioneering one and therefore I must term this as an electioneering budget, and with this election trick they are going to play with the people as the next general election is coming near. Sir, I can tell the hon. Members of the august House that though this budget has been shown as surplus now, later on when the deficits will occur during the financial year, the hon. Chief Minister will surely come up with supplementary demands for a few crores of rupees for the approval of this House just before the end of the financial year. If the tax collection machinery is augmented, the Government can surely give some financial benefit to the lowpaid employees of the Government as was given by the Central Government from out of their stepping up of the tax collection. Sir, during the last budget discussion, the then Finance Minister stated that the additional expenditure that would have to be incurred for giving effect to the revised pay scales would be more than 5 crores of rupees every year. Apart from that a huge arrear in respect of pay scales is still pending before the Government to meet and even then I am rather surprised to note how the hon. Chief Minister has come forward with a surplus budget. Sir, coming to the growing over-draft, which comes to nearly to the tune of 17 crores of rupees, I am rather worried to see such a huge gap and in what way the Government is going to bridge this gap. Sir, the hon. Chief Minister has pointed out that this gap may be reduced by getting the award of levying the Carriage Tax, with a hope that the hon. Supreme Court will give its verdict in favour of the State Government. But

how can we anticipate that the verdict will be in favour of the State Government? If the decision goes against the Government then how the Government will be able to fill up this widening gap? Sir, without taking into account all the unfavourable financial condition, and the huge arrears and without making any proper assessment, proper valuation, Government is going to show that they are having a surplus budget and with that they are having a surplus budget and with a hope that they will be getting the award of Carriage Tax, which nobody can anticipate because the hon. Supreme Court may not give the verdict in favour of the Government. In respect of financial assistance from the Government of India I must submit Sir, that the attitude of Government of India is not at all encouraging. The hon. Member, Shri Sarma has rightly pointed out that step-motherly treatment is made by the Government of India not only to the hill areas of the State but also to the other areas of this State in giving financial aid in respect of development projects from time to time. Therefore, Sir, I am surprised why the Government had not taken proper precaution in respect of non-plan expenditure without waiting for such a deplorable financial condition of the State Government. Now, Sir, the hon. Chief Minister has shown that he did not get any other item for fresh taxation than the motor vehicles. But, Sir, you are already aware of the fact that the State has already been very much hard-hit economically. And this tax will not have so much impact on the richer section of people as it will have on the common people who are already very much hard-hit. It is estimated to fetch only about 55 lakhs annually. Therefore on the basis of this tax also, the financial position of the State is not going to improve. Sir, our tax collection machinery is not doing the job properly in respect of collection of State revenue. In respect of collection of other taxes also the machinery is not performing its job upto the mark, and you know, Sir, the facts about evasion of the motor and other taxes. Sir, the then Finance Minister was coming up with tax proposals for the approval of the House during the last winter session, but nothing has so far been mentioned in the budget speech made by the hon. Chief Minister as to what amount had been collected till today. Apart from this also I would like to have clarification from the hon. Chief Minister in respect of Oil Royalty from the Government of India. That has been a long pending case, and nothing has so far been mentioned by the hon. Chief Minister till today and he has practically given no information as to what amount has been collected from the Government of India as oil royalty. Sir, coming to the economic condition, as I have already said, this State is practically backward and the per capita income is the lowest and the cost of index is the highest. For that purpose, we have discussed in detail already for executing agricultural and other development works in the State. Sir, quite a huge amount has been spent in the name of agricultural development to increase the food production but in actual practice nothing has been done so far for the improvement of the food position upto the mark. They have shown that there has been increase in production of foodgrains. But, Sir, though there is a little increase in production it is not because of intensive cultivation or application of modern methods of cultivation, but because of bringing more areas under cultivation.

Sir, on the Governor's Address also we have found that reason for non-increase of production has been given 'due to the vagaries of nature, floods, drought, etc., Sir, I stated in my last two Budget speeches that in spite of huge expenditure for increasing the agricultural output, very little is evident in the field of actual production. Whatever minor increase is shown is due to extensive cultivation. The yield rate has shown very little increase during

these plan periods. Sir, this year also, our hon. Chief Minister has taken the same plea. Sir, if we are to depend all the time at the mercy of nature what is the use of spending crores of rupees for the increase of agricultural production? Sir, can the hon. Chief Minister give us any concrete and definite figure of increase of yield rate in the other areas where the crop has not been affected by drought and flood? Sir, most of the money spent in the name of increase of agricultural output must have gone to the appointment of staff, construction of houses, purchase of machinery and fertilisers, etc. These machineries and fertilisers must have gone surely somewhere other than the field. Sir, I am afraid, unless the intensive cultivation is done on a war footing, the position of Assam will not be better than that of Kerala and West Bengal in the near future.

The rate of increase of output must go hand in hand, *i.e.*, at par with the increase of population, if not more. But in Assam during the last 5 years the production of rice has increased only by a little over 5 per cent whereas the population increase would have been 15 per cent. Coming to the question of power, we find that during the Third Plan alone, more than 45 crores have been spent for the generation of power and in the meantime two projects with the combined capacity of 17.5 M.W. have been commissioned. Sir, will the hon. Chief Minister give us an idea about the amount of revenue collected annually from these projects? If the collection of revenue is much below the expectation, what action has been taken by the Government to utilise the surplus energy in near future? Sir, is it a fact that the Planning Commission is reluctant to sanction any more new scheme due to very poor collection of revenue from the existing projects?

Sir, coming to the Industrial policy, I do not like to go into details. First of all, I would like to mention about the present unemployment problem. Sir, as you know, the unemployment problem is growing more and more day by day. Sir, I request the Government to give preference to the sons of the soil in getting appointment in the different industrial projects. People in Assam are now demanding for a second refinery and in Sibsagar people have already started a movement committee demanding the setting up of a second refinery in Assam. Therefore, Sir, before the agitation takes place, I urge upon the Government to take proper steps for setting up of a second refinery in the State. At the same time I urge upon the Government to see that sons of the soil are appointed in this project. I also suggest the Government to give proper training to our people before they start appointing people in the second oil refinery. As you know, Sir, we are facing great difficulties in the matter of appointing our people in Gauhati Refinery. The authority of the Gauhati refinery does not always give preference in getting employment to our people on the plea that our youths are technically not qualified. We find there mostly people are taken from the outside with the result that they never take much interest as the local people can take in respect of development of projects, I, therefore, caution the Government that sons of the soil should be appointed and no people should be taken from the outside.

Sir, another point is that, as you know, the Cement Factory is in the process of commission. In Assam Cement Factory the General Manager, who is a local man and who has got the real interest for the development of the State, has been transferred suddenly. Sir, he created an industrial climate in the factory with the participation and co-operation of the public of that locality. But as he has been transferred, practically the production of the factory now remains standstill. Sir, I want to know why

he has been transferred suddenly, who has taken keen interest for the development of the factory? The General Manager, Sir, is Mr. Raptip. Sir, it is for the benefit of the State I urge upon the Government to appoint such people in our industrial project who are really interested for the development of our State. The hon. Chief Minister has given a rosy picture about the industrial development of the State particularly in respect of development of small-scale industries. But coming to the industrial field what we find, Sir? There is a Jaxboard factory in Tinsukia. But it has been closed for the last six months and production cannot be resumed in near future as the sole selling agent, *i.e.*, M/S. William Jacks and Co. failed to sell the products. So, huge stocks of finished products are lying in the factory site. Reasons of failure are (1) favourable terms of agreement to the other side, (2) charging of high margin by the selling agent *i.e.*, sale price of the corporation is Rs.22 per 100 st. (covering cost of production and 10 per cent profit) sale price of the Agent is Rs.30 per 100 st. (3, it is proved to be uneconomic and (4) it has technical defect as plastering cannot be made permanent. On proper investigation it will be found out that the machines which had been purchased at a high cost of about 1 lakh of rupees was used by M/S William Jacks about 5 years in U. P., the possible price of which cannot be more than $\frac{1}{3}$ or $\frac{1}{2}$ of price paid by the Corporation. Similar is the case with the purchase of one tractor and two trailers from the party at Rs.20,000 and Rs.10,000 respectively. The party failed to provide with the original requisition, etc. Though the Managing Director has been asked by the Board to take necessary action to revise the agreement no effective action has been done to that effect. He is taking action only round about way which caused continuous loss to the corporation. Coming to the Match Splint Factory in Bijni, we find that the factory is not functioning regularly though the machineries were received during the month of January and February, 1963. This unit is also a failure. The Corporation failed to supply 300 Million splints monthly to WIMCO though an agreement had been executed for the current year. *i.e.* 1965. It is doubtful whether WIMCO will renew the agreement as the Corporation failed to execute the order. Practically speaking there is no market for veneers.

Sir, in respect of other defects, (1) I would like to say that there is defect in appointment; of inefficient and non-technical men. Inefficient non-technical men are appointed there. (2) The cost of installation, etc., has also been increased more than the estimate because of (a) erection of few sample machines which could have been done on contract basis maximum at the cost of say Rs.3,000 to Rs.5,000 which was done by appointing one Erection Engineer at a salary of Rs.800 P.M. plus pension with the headquarters at Shillong incurring an expenditure of more than Rs.12,000 including T.A. and D.A.

Mr. SPEAKER : Whether Rs.12,000 per year or per month ?

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Sir, including T. A. and D. A. this expenditure is incurred per month.

There was a problem of Simulu logs but that could have been solved if due interest had been given in proper time.

Now, Sir, regarding C.I. sheets, everybody knows that there is scarcity of C. I. Sheets in the State; with that end in view the C.I. sheets plant was proposed to be started by the A. S. I.D.C. Sir, but no

interest was given when the licence was received with a view to hand over it to some private party. Action has been taken only when the Chief Minister told the Director of Industries to take up C. I. Sheet Plant immediately as it was to manufacture a scarce material of public utility. Arrangements have been made to get the supply of the galvanising plant from M/S Chaliha Rolling Mills and they have now installed the machinery. (2) Sir, for the Corrugating machine an advertisement was published in the Statesman in response to which few parties *i.e.*, M/S Prakash Manufacturer, Bombay M/S Eastern India Commercial, Calcutta, M/S Khushallany Industries Calcutta etc., submitted quotation for supply of the machine. The first party is the actual manufacturer and the second and third parties are their agents. In their quotations they clearly mentioned that their principal is M/S Prakash Manufacturers. But orders have been placed first with M/S Eastern India Commercial, Calcutta and 10 per cent advance was also paid. They are to supply the machine within six months but failed to supply and refunded the money. Then again order has been placed with M/S Khushallany Industries, Calcutta and paid 30 per cent advance. They also could not supply the machine, and on enquiry it was known that the person who received the order and advance had no connection with the said firm and he was absconding. So, afterwards it was found that the company was a bogus one. Sir in the last month the order had been placed with M/S Prakash Manufacturers of Bombay. I am rather doubtful whether the said company also can supply the machinery in time. The two hand-operating corrugating machines supplied by the M/S Metal and Alloyed Industries, Tinsukia at the cost of Rs.7,000 are also defective and unusable. The order was placed by the Director of Industries without asking any quotation from any other parties. It is, therefore, Sir, only wastage of public money in the name of Industrial Development.

Then, Sir, regarding Assam Conductors and Tubes (P) Limited, we find that in the last balance sheet and Profit and Loss Account, the firm shows Rs.84,000 as development rebate reserve though they can show only Rs.43,000 as per rule. This is just to show loss depriving the Corporation from getting profit. But, Sir, one officer—one Director from the Government side just for his own interest, has made it, for which Government incurred a great loss. The State Government got only 5 per cent share in the project. Sir, but it is written in their letter head as "Collaboration with A.S.I.D.C.," a Government of Assam undertaking without the approval of the Board of Directors of the Corporation. In the Company the Corporation has only 5 per cent share but all the import licences are being obtained in the name of Corporation. Sir, the agreement is there. According to the terms of agreement the Company is to employ 60 per cent local people in their factory. But it is not implemented. A few persons were employed but many of them were forced to get out of their firm.

Then, Sir, regarding industries, our Chief Minister has given a rosy picture. Anyhow, we are to accept whatever information that has been supplied by the Minister. But, Sir, actually it is not so. Now, Sir, I would like to mention about the purchase of some old and defective tools and machineries at high cost from the Badarpur Industrial Project. Sir, some parts of the Calendering and Power Looms Plant at Badarpur have been broken due to mishandling and the cost of repairing will be Rs.8,000 to Rs.10,000. The sizing machine costing Rs.50,000 is also very old which may be broken even at the beginning of the operation.

Mr. SPEAKER : It is a rule that any statement given by the Minister in the House is taken to be correct. If any hon. Member wants to challenge such statements, he should challenge it by putting a motion.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA : Yes, Sir, I am going to challenge. Again, Sir, at Badarpur some uncertified boiler parts have been purchased. 102 numbers of tube lights which had been ordered to supply by air at the cost of Rs.1,600 reached the factory after a month. Again, Sir, an order has been placed with a party to supply three phased wire of 650 volt, but the supply is being made with 250/440 volt wire and these are being accepted and bills are being paid for three phased wire of 660 volts. The question automatically arises why there is complete failure. Because an inefficient and unreliable man has been appointed as the manager of the factory, at the initiative and interest of a high officer. Sir, he is a man of spinning, but the factory requires a man expert in power loom weaving. Considering his so-called efficiency, his previous employer from Co-operative Department released him from his previous post. As he is a spinning personnel, he has got no proper knowledge of operating power looms. There by appointing him a great injustice has been done and there is simply mere wastage of public money, by appointing such inefficient person, with such a big salary, but without any proper advertisement for which the available suitable persons in the State are being deprived. Then, Sir, no proper advertisement is given for the supply of materials to different Industrial projects also.

Now, Sir, coming to Industrial Estate at Gauhati, I would like to say that the agreement with the parties of the Industrial Estate, Gauhati expired on 31st December, 1954 but it has not yet been renewed by the Industry Department. The arrear of rent is at present Rs.2 lakhs which will be difficult to realise. The Industry Department have purchased 39 bighas of land at Gauhati from a man of the party in power at the cost of Rs.20,000, 50 per cent of which has already been paid. The position and the situation of the land is such that the estimated development cost will be Rs.7 lakhs. The land is situated at a slope and at a height of 1,200 ft. Sir, may I know from the Government why the land at such a cost was purchased; whether the site has been selected considering the suitability of the proposed Industrial area or is it just to give benefit to the Congress Leader by purchasing the land?

Sir, regarding raw materials which have been supplied by A.S.I.D.C., I would like to say that due to high handling charges on raw materials at Calcutta, the A.S.I.D.C. is selling the materials to the industrialists at higher price than even prevailing market price. There is example of charging more than Rs.100 per ton.

Therefore, Sir, our poor industrialists are not in a position to purchase raw materials at a proper price.

Now, Sir, about the Mirror Factory I like to point out that no action has yet been taken to start the factory though the imported plate glass is lying at the stores for last two years. Sir, regarding the defence production scandal at Nowgong I like to mention here that nothing has so far been heard about the findings of the enquiry that has been made to probe into the matter. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take appropriate action against those officers who were indulging in such serious corruption. Coming to the defect of such failure it rests on the management of the Board. Sir, the Director is the Managing Director of the

Corporation, to run the Factory of course a General Manager has been appointed but according to the Company Law there can be only one Managerial Head but violating the Law this has been done and the sorry part of the whole affair is that the Director does not attend meetings regularly. For these anomalies Shri Rabin Kakati who was the main person in running the Factory has resigned and the present General Manager who has been appointed at a high salary on a contract basis has failed to do anything during his tenure for the development of this Board. He is completely an inefficient person to run the management which is also a main cause of the failure of this Board. Sir, I demand an enquiry from the Government to probe into the matter and place facts before this august House immediately.

Coming to an . . .

(The bell rang)

Sir, give me another ten minutes.

Mr. SPEAKER: Two minutes.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Coming to the present burning problem that is confronting the State, *i. e.*, the Mizo development, you know it very well, so also you know other such developments in our State. For the wrong policies adopted by our Government we have lost the Naga Land. Sir, when the uprisings of Mizoes are going on in our State, you know Sir, what happened in Calcutta and in Kerela, but at this critical time, the Working Committee of the Congress Party has passed a resolution accelerating the need for the creation of a Punjabi speaking Suba and the creation of this Suba is the creation of separate State for a particular class of people. Sir, this foolish decision of Congress High Command is surely going to affect very greatly the integrity of this frontier State which will also encourage the re-actionary section of the people with the idea of separation. Sir, the Government no doubt has earmarked enough of money for the development of hill areas, and my hon. Friend Mr. Nichols-Roy said about it, but for some officers who do not want that there should be proper development in the hills areas the money is not properly spent. My submission is that it is already high time to think and to ponder about it and find out solution and these areas must be allowed to be developed properly and unity and integrity of the State must be maintained at all cost. Unless we do so, Sir, it will be unfortunate that with the separate feeling and separate tendency created, we shall have to lose the hill areas.

Sir, in the year 1957, one Leader of the Opposition, was one of the Members in the Cabinet but afterwards he resigned and joined the Hill peoples' party and why? There must have been some reasons. Did Government ponder about this matter? The Government should seriously consider about this matter and find out an immediate solution for the hill areas. Sir, if they fail to do so it would be proper on our part to part with our brothers like brothers before the situation become worse.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Give me another two three minutes as I am coming to some important points.

Sir, you know that in this Mizo situation there were also some foreign powers acting behind the move and not only that but there were people, not only outside this House, but inside the House who are encouraging the whole affair. Sir, you know that one hon. Member of the Mizo National Union in the 1962 Election contested with a Congress nominee and he got a good number of votes. Shrimati Jyotsna Chanda, M. P., complained about it but nobody took action.

Sir, you will be surprised to know that one of our hon. Ministers from Cachar met Mizo people in the house of an S. D. O., Public Works Department under suspension, who is his brother-in-law and encouraged them in this movement of theirs. Sir, may I know whether for the anti-State and anti-national activities of this S. D. O. whose car was detected in use by some Mizo miscreants he has been detained under the Defence of India Rules.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Sangma.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA:: One more minute.

Sir, Shaukat Ali of Rupahi village had been arrested at Imphal but for the influence of a Minister he was released and ultimately he was again arrested by Lakhimpur Police. Sir, one British national, namely, Mr Barker was arrested by the Manipur Police for anti-national activities but Shri Rahmatulla Majumdar of Silchar managed to set him free who later on fled away to U. K. Sir, one Rahmatulla Mazumdar, LL. B. of Silchar influenced the Additional Magistrate,.....

Mr. SPEAKER: One thing, Mr. Barua. When you make a complaint against a Minister, you must intimate in writing the Minister concerned beforehand about the complaint so that the Minister can come prepared with facts.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: I am simply explaining facts.

Now, Sir, a certain person concerned against whom there is a conviction order was issued a license for a Rice-Mill by the same hon. Minister who was then incharge of Supply, transferring the license from Upper Assam to Silchar which is illegal.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up. You will get more time to speak in cut motions.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A. SANGMA [Baghmara (Reserved for Scheduled Tribes)]: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am afraid, I can not congratulate the hon. Chief Minister for presentation of the Budget to this august House because of the fact that he has failed to fulfil the Constitutional provision in this regard, although, Sir, in this controversy you gave your ruling and to which we had to submit.

Sir, this time I am not going to discuss in detail the budgetary provisions but I would rather confine my observations to certain very important and urgent problems of the State. If I am to speak about the Budget provisions I may straightaway say that in spite of the fact that we are in the nineteenth year of attaining independence of our Country, we have not come

any nearer to the welfare State but we are more and more in the Police State. I am sure, you will agree with me that the situation prevailing in the State as well as indications which we can get from the budgetary provisions, which apart from some sizeable allotment of funds in respect of certain development departments, the greatest amount of allotment being in respect of Police show that we are nowhere nearer to the welfare State.

I would also point out to you that in the preparation of the Budget and for that matter in the formulation of plan and programme or for that matter in the formulation of the plan and programme the real need of the people has not been taken into consideration. Sir, it is heartening to note from the speech of the Chief Minister at page 12 which reads as follows— "The hon. Members are aware how the concept of Panchayati Raj has taken deep roots in the State. I have already mentioned while dealing with agricultural production that the Panchayats have been given important responsibilities in the effort to increase agricultural production. To enable the Panchayati Raj Bodies to discharge their responsibilities, necessary powers for preparation and formulation of development schemes have been delegated to them. It is expected that these measures will help them formulate schemes suitable to the needs of individual localities." But Sir, unfortunately there is no mention about the District Council. The Government have given power to the Panchayati Raj Bodies. I do not understand why it is not possible for this Government to delegate similar powers to the District Council.

Sir, I raised objection while the budget was being presented in the House because the district councils have not been given an opportunity to have their say in the allocation of funds as per provision of the sixth schedule. Sir, that is to say that the Government either does not care to take the hill people into confidence or it is its determination to neglect the hill people or it may be both. Sir, the Government should try to appreciate the various reasons for which the hill people today are not satisfied with the Government. Sir, why the hill people are not satisfied today? Why the hill people do not have confidence in the Government? For the dissatisfaction of the hill people the government put forward various reasons and other excuses. Sir, it is, in fact, very unfortunate to know from the speech of the hon. Members of this House something which is not relevant which has nothing to do with the dissatisfaction of the hill people. As for example the other day Shri Sriman Prafulla Goswami while mentioning as to what is happening in the mizo Hills unnecessarily blames the Christian Missionaries for the present armed conflict there. Sir, while similar disturbances occur elsewhere in the State or Assam, say in the plains and in other States nobody consider it fit to say that the Christian Missionary is behind the scene. Sir, if anything happens in the hills the Missionaries are blamed, may be because large number of hill people have professed Christianity. Sir, you will thus see that whenever anything happens in the Hills the responsible leaders find it convenient to blame religion for what is happening in the hill areas in spite of the fact that India is a secular State.

Sir, it is very unfortunate that even up till today both the State Government and the Government of India have not thought it desirable to make real assessment of the problems and the difficulties of the hills people

and appreciate their aspirations. On the other hand they bring something to the picture to blame the hill people for the happening in the hills and thus minimise the problem of the hills people. May I, Sir, with your permission, in this connection read out an important letter which was issued by the late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to the then Chief Minister, Shri, Bishnuram Medhi? This letter is dated 9th April 1955. This is regarding unnecessary blames which are brought against the Missionaries. "There is one matter I would also like to mention. The anti-missionary public utterances of some officials and others have created, I think a feeling of insecurity among the tribal Christians. These people do not make a distinction between anti-missionary and anti-Christian attitudes, and it is these Tribal Christians, who, because of their education, etc., become leaders. We should therefore avoid any anti-missionary or anti-Christian statements."

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you pass on that letter to me ?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A SANGMA: Yes, Sir, I shall do it. Ther again, Sir, regarding the hill people's demand for creation of hill State I shall read out the relevant portion which reads as follows, "You referred to the agitation for a separate Hill State being organised by the Christian tribals. This may be true so far as the inception is concerned, but I am sure that this feeling is now very widespread over the greater part of the hill areas and certainly in the Khasi area. I have received information from a variety of independent sources to this effect. Even the Assam M. Ps. here as the President and leading members of Assam P. C. C. share this opinion that the demand for a hill State has become widespread and strong. There is a feeling among these hill people of frustration and a lack of faith in the Assam administration. They say that they are afraid they may not be allowed to retain their way of life and to develop according to their own genius. They quote my statements as well as those of Bordoloi when they were assured that they would have this freedom. They make a long list of minor griveances in which is included a complaint that their language is ignored and very little is done for the economic development."

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Deputy Minister, Panchayats): What is the date of the letter ?

Mr. SPEAKER: 9th April, 1955.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A SANGMA : So, Sir, you will agree with me that the Government have not appreciated the problems of these hills people. They have not viewed the problems in their true perspective. They do not try to realise the probmes of the Hill people as late Jawaharlal Nehru, who was convinced that "in the ultimate-analysis the Government cannot suppress these hill people or govern them against their wishes. We can only win them over to any course of action that we wish to follow. It is important first of all, to have a clear realisation of the present position. Any attempt to minimise it would prevent us from dealing it adequately with what is happening today." The Government have to see the legitimate aspiration of these people.

But instead they try to rule them against their wishes ; they try to please one man here and one man there ; one party or one group here and there. They have tried to suppress the problems of the hills, but it proved unsuccessful. The late Prime Minister stated correctly when he says—“Any attempt to minimise it would prevent us from dealing it adequately”.

The Government have tried to minimise the important problems of the Hills and that is why they could not adequately meet the situation in the Mizo Hills and elsewhere. Sir, unfortunately the Chief Minister is not here ; the other Cabinet Ministers are here and I would request them to realise the basic reasons and the problems as to why the hills people today cannot be happy under the Assam administration. Please do not try to find some excuses, do not try to show inflated figures in the matter of development. Sir, I am not happy—unfortunately he is not here now. I mean Mr. Ahmed—when he misguided the Parliament by quoting that about Rs.340 *per capita* has been spent in the matter of development in Mizo Hills ; whereas elsewhere we have spent Rs. 160 *per capita*. Sir, the other day while we were discussing the border problem the department came forward and told the conference that 900 miles of border roads have been constructed by the P. W. D. Sir, I then wanted to know out of the total mileage of 900 miles what is the total mileage which is fit for vehicular movement throughout the year in the Hill Areas ? I also wanted to know the different classification of roads, *i. e.*, what is the total mileage of road fit for trucks and how much for jeeps. Sir, after getting the reply from the officer of the P. W. D. he came to know that only 20 per cent of the total mileage of roads are fit for vehicular movements in the hill areas whereas the Government is boasting that many things have been done and much has been spent for the border areas of the hill districts. This fact has been brought to the notice of Mr. Tarlok Sing when he came here last to study the problems of the hills. He was surprised to find that no real progress had been made in the field of development in the Hills areas. Moreover I do not think that it is the matter of economy which has made the hills people unhappy, but the question is whether you can shape your own policy, whether you can formulate your own schemes and solve the hill problem. At present we are made the second class citizens, as if we are fit to receive whatever is given by the Government. We have no say about it. Similarly in the matter of allotment of funds for the hills districts also we do not have any say. We have no voice against whatever is given. We have to accept it even when we are not satisfied. We are simply to accept it. This is the state of affairs, Sir ; under such state of affairs can you expect that the hills people can be satisfied ? Sir, we are blamed for expressing our aspiration for a separate State. Without trying to know the reasons behind it they call it a separatist movement—a separatist tendency. But who has encouraged this separatist tendency ? May I point out in this connection the recent Government Notification ? According to this notification from 15th April onwards Assamese language will have to be used in the Assam Valley upto the district level, that means that all the offices throughout the Assam valley will function in Assamese language upto district level. What will happen to the tribal employees in the plain district, who are not acquainted with Assamese language and the Assamese script ? Government will have to transfer them to the respective hill

areas. I am sure, Government will ask them to go to their respective districts, so that they can continue to serve in their own districts. For this reason, you do not want that tribal men should serve in the plains. When we are talking about emotional integration by your own Acts you are disintegrating them. In education according to Govt. policy if the university education changes over to regional languages in the Assam university the medium will be Assamese and no hills students can have their university education there. Therefore, all the hill students will have to have education in the proposed Hill university.

In future they will lose contact in service and in education. Later on these young students will have to run the administration of the country without having opportunity of contact with each other and make friendship while they are still young in the schools and colleges. Is that the way of bringing about integration of the country as a whole? This aspect which is very important has not been properly thought of; only because of sentiment, Acts are enacted and laws are made and thereby the people are allowed to be disintegrated. For certain basic consideration, for certain reasons if today the hills people rise up and ask for a separate State; you call it a separatist tendency. Sir, I was expecting that on the recent disturbances in the Mizo Hills the Chief Minister would invite us to discuss as to how this problem could be solved. But today we have been considered to be nobody as if we are not at all concerned with what has happened in the Mizo hills who are our fellow brothers. I do not know what was the proclamation made by Deputy Commissioner, Mizo Hills on the 4th and 5th March 1966. The Chief Minister considered it desirable to keep it a secret. Sir, we know there is excessive army operation in the Mizo Hills. Sir, I have here with me the Manual of Indian Military Laws, 1947.

I am sure, Sir, at least, it is not to my knowledge that martial law has been proclaimed in the Mizo Hills. We have not been informed whether martial law is in operation or the civil administration is still continuing to run the administration in the Mizo Hills. If martial law has not been introduced in the Mizo Hills then the Army can be called by the civil administration only to assist the regular Police force for maintenance of peace in the district. It is clearly laid down in the manual that even when there is occasion for the civil administration to call the Army to assist the civil authorities in tackling any disturbance the use of force by the Army should be limited; it should not exceed than what is necessary. There is no provision at all that the Air force can be called for to assist the civil authorities. But we have learnt that in Mizo Hills Air force has been called to do straffing.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the military operation in Mizo Hills is under the Defence of India Rules.

Capt. WILLIAMSON A SANGMA: If that is so the Army can be called only to assist the civil administration and the operation as such would be under the direction of the District Magistrate. The Army will not have the initiative to use force according to their own programme. If martial law has not been proclaimed it should be according to the order of the highest civil authority, *i.e.*, the Deputy Commissioner. I would like to have a clear cut reply from the Chief

Minister on this question. Of course, I cannot blame the Army authorities who have been called upon to assist the civil authorities. However this trouble in the Mizo Hills could have been avoided if the problems of the Hills could have been solved which the Government avoided either on this plea or that. Because of that attitude of negligence the hill brothers in the Mizo Hills are made to suffer. Sir, a friend of mine who has come back from Aijal has told me that the Aijal town has been reduced to what it was before 20 years ago as a result of Army operation.

Shri KAMAKHYA PRASAD TRIPATHI (Minister, Planning, Labour, etc.): Has the hon. Member any comment in regard to the rebellion staged by the Mizo National Front, or that he has no comment to offer on that, and that his comments are only on the actions of the Government?

Capt. WILLIAMSON A SANGMA: Sir, I repeat, I was told by a friend of mine that because of the Army Operation, because of the burning and so on and so forth, Aijal town has been reduced to what it was 20 years before. Therefore, you could imagine, Sir, what must have been the loss of property, life and so on and so forth. Will the Government put the responsibility on the rebels for these happenings or somebody else is to be blamed for that? Sir, my party is against violence. We do not believe that violence is the only means to achieve the goal. We still believe that through non-violence we will achieve our goal, through constitutional means, through democratic methods. Sir, I put the blame on the Government for this loss of life and property because if the Hills problems could have been tackled this rebel movement would not have come into existence; and the loss of life, property and hardship that my friends in the Mizo Hills are suffering could have been avoided. It is entirely because of the negligence and lack of appreciation of the Hills problems by the Government that this could happen. Therefore, for rebuilding the Aijal Town Government should spend money. Not only that, I cannot understand why when Government is definite that the people have put forth certain demands through democratic method, through elections or otherwise, they are reluctant to agree to that. In their earnest attempt to divide and rule when there is a demand which is not by the majority they will concede. For instance, the creation of the Jowai District Council. The Government did not consider it desirable in this regard to obtain the opinion of the people of the District through a referendum in spite of our earnest suggestion. I have been informed that as a result of the creation of the Jowai District Council there is widespread frustration amongst the Jaintia people. It was forced upon them. Why the rebels got the upperhand today? As we know Mr. Chaliha and his Government gave more attention to the Mizo National Front and they did not listen to the District Council. The Members of the Mizo Union, the Ruling Party, were put in the background and the Mizo National Front leaders were put in the forefront. In a similar way they have tried in the Khasi Hills, they have tried in the Garo Hills, in Mikir Hills and in North Cachar Hills to divide and rule. These are the circumstances which made the Hills people to rise. Therefore, we should not be held responsible for what is happening in the Mizo Hills. Let the Government realise its mistakes. I am still confident, Sir, if the creation

of a Hill State is conceded immediately the problems would be solved, but if the Government goes on following the same policy of delaying and not finding proper and satisfactory solution they may have to face similar situations elsewhere. A question may be put to me "How can you ensure that the Mizo people will be agreeable to remain in the Hill State if conceded?" I need not repeat what my General Secretary, Shri Stanley D. D. Nichols-Roy has stated in this connection. Based on the facts stated by him I am still convinced that the solution would lie in the creation of a State for the Hill areas of Assam, and I am sure this problem could be solved.

Sir, there are reasons why we still insist on that. Now, here I give one example of divide and rule. In the Garo Hills in the constitution of Block Development Committees, Sir, not a single elected representative from my Party, the G. N. C., has been taken in the said Committee. But a man who was defeated in the last election and who also lost his security deposit had been taken as a Member because he belongs to Congress. These are the methods of divide and rule. These facts were brought to the notices of Shri Tarlok Sing. Shri Sing was surprised to find that the District Council and its Members were not kept informed about what was happening in the blocks.

Has Government thought about it? Simply to blame Capt. Sangma and his party for asking for a Hill State and simply to blame Mizo people will not do. Have they realised their own mistakes, their indifferent attitude and their one-sided policy? May I know from the Chief Minister what is the disqualification of my members for which they cannot become Members of the Block Development Committees? If there is a law under which the members of G. N. C. party cannot be qualified to be members of the Block Development Committee, I will submit to that. Let the relevant rules be read out to prove that we are disqualified to be members of the Block Development Committee. Sir, I hope, the wisdom of the late Prime Minister, Mr. Nehru will prevail upon this Government and the Government of India and they will come to a final conclusion that it would not be any more possible to rule the Hill people against their will. Let through the creation of a separate Hill State with immediate effect the problem of hills be solved and it will be not only for the benefit of the hill people but in the interest of the country as a whole.

Thank you, Sir.

Adjournment

The House then adjourned till 2 p. m. for lunch.

(After Lunch)

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA (Deputy Minister, Community Development and Panchayats): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to take part in the Budget discussions to reply to some of the points raised by hon. Members in this House regarding Panchayats and Community Development.

Hon. Member from Dudhnoi, Shri Hakim Chandra Rabha, wanted to add the advice of Mahtama Gandhi "back to the villages" after his description of "lovely Assam" quoted by the Chief Minister in conclusion of his

Budget Speech. In my opinion, we cannot conceive of Assam without the villages. Actually lovely villages in the State will make lovely Assam. While the Chief Minister is very eager and desirous to convert Assam to a really lovely Assam, in the description which Mahatma Gandhi gave about our State, he never excluded the villages and the people living there. The Chief Minister has given more emphasis on them which is evident from his reply in the debate on Governor's Address.

The Chief Minister in reply to the debate on Governor's Address posed the problems of "the man behind the plough". This man behind the plough or with the plough is living in the village. His improvement means improvement of the population living in the villages. This 'man behind the plough' is to bear the burden of more production which we have been propagating since some time past. He is the man who is to produce to feed himself, his family and other population engaged in Administration, Defence and Industry. This man behind the plough has got limited resources and limited ambition. He is conversant with conventional type of cultivation only. He is to depend on a pair of bullocks either procured from his own resources or on hire or loan. He is to depend on uncertainty of rainfall. Many of such men behind the ploughs did not have their own adequate land for cultivation. He is vulnerable to be exploited by middle men, Mahajans and even by intelligentsia. Different legislations have been passed to safeguard his interest but sometimes complaint is there, that he is either unaware of it or unable to exert his right.

Panchayats were formed to mobilize these men with the ploughs. You know perhaps, Sir, that the Chief Minister in reply to the debate on Governor's Address regretted that even their voices appear sometimes feeble in Panchayats. The Community Development Programme was launched in the country for these villagers. Different Extension Officers in the Block were meant for these men with the ploughs. You know, Sir, that the Extension Officer, Agriculture is there in the Block to make these cultivators or the men behind the ploughs to be conversant with improved technique of cultivation so that they can produce more. The Veterinary Extension Officer is there to improve his cattle bullocks and also poultry in his house. The Social Education Officer is there to make his outlook progressive. The Medical Extension Officer is there to look after his health. The Co-operative Extension Officer is there to free him from exploitation by middlemen through Co-operative Movement. Similarly, the other Extension Officers in the Community Development Programme are to help these cultivators. With a view to associate his voice in the programme, Panchayats were formed in the Plains Districts. Now, the complaint is that the voice of this man behind the plough is not adequately effective in Panchayats in all places. In my opinion, to make the voice effective in the programme meant for him, a radical change in the outlook of those who are connected with it, is necessary. To bring a change in the outlook of intelligentsia and to develop self-reliance and initiative in the Community, I think, the Administrative machinery alone is not adequate. The lead will have to be taken by public leaderships. You know that we have been trying to build up leadership in different levels by constituting different tiers of Panchayats. Today, I feel that more effective and efficient leadership is necessary in village level, than any other levels. In the village level, we have Gaon Panchayats members as elected leaders for a family of about 50 or 60. These members of the Panchayats elect the President of Gaon Panchayats. These Presidents of the Gaon Panchayats are the Presidents of the Gaon Sabhas also. Sir, you know that people living in the villages

who are above 21 years of age, are members of this Gaon Sabha. This Gaon Sabha is the Democratic Unit which may be called also a Village Republic. The Gaon Panchayat is the Executive Committee only of this Gaon Sabha. These Gaon Panchayats are to sit monthly according to the Panchayats Act and their activities and progress are to be placed before their respective Sabha twice a year. The President of the Gaon Panchayat is also a member of the Anchalik Panchayat. The Anchalik Panchayat is associated with representatives of technical departments connected with rural developments. The President of the Gaon Panchayat is supposed to be able to bring the difficulties of 'men behind the ploughs' for discussion in the Anchalik Panchayat. In return, he is supposed to be capable of bringing the policy matters that were discussed and decided in Anchalik Panchayat to the 'man behind the plough'.

Hon. Members from Plains Districts are associated as *Ex-Officio* Members of Anchalik Panchayat of their respective constituencies. I would earnestly request them to help and guide Panchayati Raj Institution to have a radical change of their outlook and to give first priority in improving 'the man behind the plough'. One of the guiding principles of Panchayati Raj Institution is that some priority should be given to those who are more deserving. If we can improve the economic and social conditions of those who are comparatively more poor and backward in villages, I believe, it would not be difficult to improve those who are comparatively better off in the villages.

One of the main objectives of Community Development is that available resources of the villages are to be developed and new resources of the villagers are to be created. The provisions made in Community Development Programme or in Panchayats are to supplement the efforts of the village community.

Sir, we have started so far three Panchayati Raj Training Centres, viz. (1) Kahikuchi, (2) Joysagar and (3) Arunachal.

The third centre at Arunachal has been started last year. We have also moved the Government of India for a few more Panchayati Raj training centres; the gaon panchayat presidents are oriented in a short course of one week. To give wider scope to discuss the problems of the Panchayat Raj institutions Panchayat Sanmilans are organised at block, subdivisional and state levels. The enthusiasm of the people about the Panchayat Raj institutions can be seen from the fact that they took keen interest in holding block level, subdivisional level and State level Sanmilans where important discussions had taken place on Panchayat administration and also valuable suggestions offered.

Sir, the hon. Member from Thowra, Shri Durgeswar Saikia, referred to the relation of Field Management Committee with the Panchayats. I remember to have visited one of the Gaon Panchayats in Sibsagar subdivision where Shri Saikia was pleased to accompany me. I have given a number of suggestions to improve the working of the Panchayat there. Later on appropriate instructions were also issued. I am glad to note that Shri Saikia is taking a keen interest in his capacity of the President of the Sibsagar Mohkuma Parishad in improving the working of the Panchayats.

Sir, the registration authority of the Field Management Committee has been entrusted with the Presidentship of the Anchalik Panchayat. These Field Management Committees are to be associated in the Panchayats in the

capacity of members of the production sub-committees. The production sub-committees of the gaon panchayats are to be constituted with presidents of field management committee of the gaon sabha area, the chairmen of the service co-operative society or rural credit societies of the gaon sabha area, one or two experienced progressive cultivators and the local gram sevak. The Presidents and Secretaries of the gaon panchayats should be the Presidents and Secretaries of these sub-committees respectively.

Sir, these field management committees are associated in preparing and executing the village production plans. Thus I think there is organic link between the panchayats and the co-operatives as well as field management committees.

Sir, Shri Saikia also referred to eight halts and inspection of panchayat raj institutions. It is necessary that the officers connected with community development and panchayats should spend some time in the villages. Therefore we have fixed a certain scale of night halts for the officers. The Block Development Officers are to do 5 night halts during a month, the Extension officers, such as Agriculture, Panchayat, Veterinary, Co-operative, etc., are to do 8 night halts every month; the gram sevaks have to do at least 10 night halts in a month. Sir, it is expected that our inspecting officers should see that instructions issued from time to time are followed by the block level officials. Sir, to ensure proper inspection by administrative and technical officers we have laid down scales of inspection for different categories of officers. The Deputy Commissioners and Subdivisional officers are to inspect its block within their jurisdiction once in a quarter. The term Deputy Commissioner and Subdivisional officer include Additional Deputy Commissioner and Sadar Subdivisional officer. The District and Subdivisional heads of department should visit each block once in 6 months to give necessary guidance and supervision with regard to their respective departments. The heads of department and deputies and their zonal officers should amongst themselves inspect each block once in a year. The heads of departments should personally inspect as many blocks as possible in course of their regular tours selecting new blocks by turn every year. Thus we hope that the Panchayats and the Blocks will get effective guidance. Besides them, the headquarters staff of the Panchayat and Community Development and the Zonal Assistant Development Commissioner will amongst themselves inspect each block once in six months. The Commissioners of Divisions are also expected to visit blocks. The Production Commissioner is already visiting a number of blocks and guiding the local officers on the spot.

Sir, we also feel that close guidance is to be given to the gaon panchayats. So we have laid down scales of inspection of gaon panchayats by different block level officers. The block development officers should visit each gaon panchayat once in 6 months. The Extension Officers, Panchayat and Agriculture should inspect each gaon panchayat within their areas once in 3 months. Where there is no extension officer, Panchayat, the social education organisers should conduct inspection of each gaon panchayat at least once in 4 months. The other extension officers should inspect gaon panchayats at least once in 6 months. Sir, I think these instructions are adequate to give guidance and supervision of the panchayati raj institutions and community development blocks. We shall see that these instructions are followed strictly by different categories of officers.

Sir, some of the hon. members, especially the hon. member from Sorbhog, Shri Akshoy kumar Das, referred to corruption and misuse of money in panchayat. I can assure the House that steps have been taken to eradicate corruption and abuse from the panchayati raj institutions. We are anxious that cases of misappropriation are dealt with promptly and effectively at the first opportunity. Adequate legal and departmental actions have been taken in each case detected so far. Steps have also been taken to complete the audit of panchayati raj bodies. The question of strengthening the audit staff has received due attention. In fact, the staff of the examiner of Local Accounts has already been increased. The internal audit organisation of the Panchayat Department is also being strengthened. In the plan budget for the year 1966-67 under the head "32.-Rural Development", necessary provision has been made for additional supervisory and audit staff.

Sir, I would like to refer to the observations of the hon. member from North Karimganj, Shri Rithindra Nath Sen. His observations have been commented on in the editorial of Natun Assamiya yesterday. Shri Sen was reported as saying that five M.L.As. and three Presidents of the Mohkuma Parishads were deputed to Hyderabad in S. D. Os. training course and no S. D. O. was deputed, names of M. L. As. and Presidents of Mohkuma Parishads quoted by Shri Sen were the panel of names prepared for orientation course at Hyderabad. It was not for S. D. Os. course.

It is not correct that five M. L. As and three Mohkuma Parishad Presidents were deputed to Hyderabad, as appeared in the editorial of Natun Asamiya yesterday. Sir, there was some confusion. Shri Sen was selected for the orientation course and I am sorry that he has been sent to a course which he alleged that it was not meant for him. Sir, explanations are being called for from those who originated the proposal in the secretariat. However, Sir, Shri Sen himself told in this House that the training was very useful to him. He has undergone the first phase of the training. The Training Institution also accepted him. He has also alleged that the advance to be paid to him was delayed to him. Sir, the reason for delay in making payment to him is being enquired into. Sir, there was an allegation made by the hon. Member from Moran.....

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA (Jorhat) : Sir, on a point of clarification, the hon. Member Shri Sen.....

Mr. SPEAKER : You need not ask for that. The hon. Member himself is there.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA : Sir, as I have said the first phase of the training has been undergone by Shri Sen; the first phase related to orientation and the second phase is perhaps strictly for administrative purpose.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Kamalpur) : On a point of clarification, Sir. The fact remains that the training course was meant for the Subdivisional Officers, and it is surprising how.....

Shri ROTHINDRA NATH SEN (Karimganj North) : Sir, the real fact is that the Course was the Sixth Sub-Divisional Officers' Training Course and it was not Orientation Course. In any case, Sir, it was very much useful.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: Sir, as I have already told here, explanations have been called for from those who are responsible for this.

Shri SARAT CHANDRA GOSWAMI: But how is it that not a single Subdivisional Officer was sent from this State ?

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: Sir, we did not depute our Subdivisional Officers because at that time the administration could not spare them for this training course. Sir, there was certain allegation specially from the hon. Member from Moran that Gram Sevaks do not take pain to visit the villages. Sir, instructions are there that Gram Sevaks should undertake at least 20 days tour and out of that, there should be 10 night halts in villages. Sir, strict instructions will be issued to district officers so that the Gram Sevaks do undertake tours in villages and halt there for 10 nights in villages.

(The bell rang)

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: Sir, I may be given few minutes' more time.

Mr. SPEAKER: You are allowed five minutes more.

Shri DULAL CHANDRA BARUA: Sir, the Gram Sevaks.....

Mr. SPEAKER: We are not to discuss the entire Panchayat programme. What we are concerned with are the points raised by the different hon. Members regarding Panchayati administration and I am sure, the Deputy Minister will be relevant if he answers only those queries made by the hon. Members earlier, instead of speaking about the whole scheme of Panchayati Raj and what does the Panchayat stand for.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: Yer, Sir, the hon. Member from Kamalpur, Shri Sarat Goswami, has suggested that there should be revolutionary change in the leadership of the Panchayats, Sir, I quite agree that revolutionary leadership should be there in the Panchayats to bring revolutionary changes in the economic and social conditions of the rural population. Sir, with the hope of bringing vitality and life to the Panchayat leadership, Government have encouraged Panchayat Parishad—which is a purely non-official organisation, and you will be glad to know, Sir, Shri Sarat Goswami is the President of this organisation. Sir, Shri Lakshmi Prasad Goswami has referred to non-production of accounts by certain Panchayats for audit purpose. He has not mentioned the name of any Panchayat. Perhaps he has mentioned the observations of the Examiner of Local Accounts. After receipt of intimation from the Local Examiner, Government have instructed all Secretaries of the Anchalik Panchayats to impress upon the Presidents of Gaon Panchayats under their respective jurisdiction to produce records before the Audit. The question of audit of Panchayat Raj Bodies have been given all India importance. The Government of India set up a Committee in 1964 to study this problem. If any Panchayat fails to produce accounts, we will have to take appropriate action against it. Sir, yesterday the hon. Member, Shri Haladhar Uzir, referred that in Taralpur Anchalik Panchayat area, from mustard seeds, something else was grown. Sir, the matter has been enquired into. Sir, the B. E. O., Tamalpur received 20 maunds of mustard seed arranged by the S. D. O., Agriculture, Barpeta

which was distributed to the Gaon Panchayats. It was reported from two villages that some of the crops raised out of those seeds was found to be different from mustard crop. The matter is under enquiry by the District Agricultural Officer, Gauhati. Sir, the hon. Member Shri H. N. Talukdar, read out a news-item published in a paper about embezzlement of Panchayat funds in case of a number of Panchayats in Gauhati Subdivision. Sir, in Rampur Anchalik Panchayat, on receipt of the allegation made by the President of the Anchalik Panchayat the Assistant Development Commissioner, Gauhati was asked on 1st February, 1965 to enquire into it. The A. D. C. visited the place and verified the records and stores purchased by the B. D. O. and has been examining the concerned persons and papers. His report is expected shortly. Instructions are issued to expedite enquiry. Sir, the allegation about the misuse of money in Choygaon Anchalik Panchayat, the case was referred to the Police and the Cashier is under suspension since 25th March, 1964. The Police has referred the matter to the handwriting expert. Sir, in Boko Anchalik Panchayat, the Accountant is under suspension. The case was referred to the Police. After obtaining the report from the handwriting expert, the Police have charge-sheeted him on 25th December, 1965. Sir, regarding the Kamalpur Anchalik Panchayat, in 1964, the B. D. O. purchased agricultural implements and plant protection equipments worth about Rs.6,800 under Agriculture Scheme. The Schemes were part of the overall Five Year Scheme of the Block technically vetted by the District Agriculture Officer, Gauhati. The Agriculture schemes originally provided for purchase of agricultural implements and equipments and equipments costing about Rs.9,000. This was also approved by the then President of the Anchalik Panchayat on 19th November, 1964. Payment of Rs.6, 00 was made to the supplier by cheques from Panchayat account on 22nd December, 1964 against supplies already received. The B. D. O. incurred the expenditure from Panchayat fund in anticipation of recouping the amount from the Government grant to the Panchayat. Government has asked the District Agricultural Officer, Gauhati to enquire into the allegations and his detailed report is awaited.

(The bell rang up)

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH HAZARIKA: Sir, a number of points have been raised in this House by the different hon. Members. I am sorry for want of time, I could not clarify all those points.

Shri HOOVER HYNNEWTA (Shillong): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are meeting in this particular session under the shadow of a great misfortune which has befallen a certain part our State. Sir, our heart goes out to the Mizos in this hour of their sufferings. Sir, I am speaking on behalf of the Khasi people and I can say that we are not so much concerned with the independence demand put forward by the Mizo National Front or the methods that they have adopted for its realisation, we are more concerned with the reasons and causes which have led to such an open revolt. Sir, it is very regrettable that the seriousness of the situation in the Mizo Hills has been sought to be minimised on the floor of this House. I shall draw the attention of the House, Sir, to the statement made by the Hon'ble Chief Minister as reported by the *Assam Tribune* on 16th March, 1966. "In his statement before the House the Chief Minister said that some further reports had been

received which indicated that while some bunkers had been built, the opposition from the Armed gangs was very light and the security forces entered Lungleh on the 13th March at 13.15 hours. Some weapons were captured and a few persons arrested for further interrogation". And an official spokesman gave this information to the Press as reported by *Assam Tribune* on 15th March, 1966. "He said that combing operations were in progress all over the district and the Army units had reported little resistance from the unlawful elements who were now virtually on the run. At some places, they are waving white flags and retreating. Finding the situation hot many of the insurgents were reported to have dropped their arms and fled. Their strength is believed to have dwindled down to a few hundreds from the original estimate of a little over 1,000".

Sir, that being the official report, I personally fail to understand why the General Officer Commanding of the Eastern Command should immediately fly to Mizo Hills? I fail to understand why the Air Force had to be used in order to suppress the revolt? If the situation is as described by this official report, it passes all comprehension as to why the Air Force should be used at all against the hostiles? Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Chief Minister under what law was the Air Force called in aid of civil power since there was no declaration of Martial law? Did the Chief Minister have any pre-knowledge? Was he consulted? Did he have any hand in the matter? We want to be enlightened on this score. Sir, I regret very much that the Government is still pursuing that vindictive and teach-them-a-lesson attitude. "Crush them", declared the Union Minister. "Crush them" re-echoed the Prime Minister. Sir, I ask this House, I ask the country—have we not learnt anything from the past experience in the Naga Hills where the army had to be used for a number of year to quell the Naga revolt? Sir, when peace was brought although temporarily, in Naga Hills it was not by means of the Armed Forces but by following the policy of peaceful approach. Our late Prime Minister tried to impart his healing touch to the Naga problem and was partially successful. Peace can only be brought in this way and not by killing people. Sir, in order to help the military convoy to get through, the Air Force was used for straffing and as a result many houses must have been damaged and lot of people and cattle must have been either killed or wounded. Certainly this is not the way by which you can ultimately evolve a solution to a very very difficult problem. What I think, Sir, is that Government should deal with this uprising in such a way as will pave the way and create an atmosphere for the ultimate evolution of a solution acceptable to all. I do not think, Sir, as has been stated by the Chief Minister that these armed rebels are merely armed gangs, or blood-thirsty bandits who are out to shed human blood for the mere fun of it. Certainly not, Sir. It is only because they thought that the existence of their tribe is at stake that they are compelled to take this extreme measure. I do not say that this is a very wrong impression. They may be partially right when they feel that the future of their tribe is at stake. But certainly, Sir, I say that these youngmen have adopted a civilized method of revolt against the Government. To substantiate it, I will read from the Chief Minister's report—"while most of the Lungleh town seemed to have been deserted, there were 10 persons in the Civil hospital consisting of five Assam Rifles men and five persons of the B.S.F. One Junior Commissioned Officer and three other ranks of the Assam Rifles men were there with their families. It also appeared that the Superintendent of the Cachar Telegraph Circle and another officer from Cachar Post and Telegraph who were touring about in the Mizo district and were at Lungleh on the 26th February had been detained by unlawful

elements. The officers have been released". If the M.N.F. volunteers are blood-thirsty bandits, I ask the House where is the difficulty for these people who were captured by the rebels to be murdered? I repeat, Sir, if the M.N.F. volunteers were simply on the blood path where is the difficulty for them to kill these people some of whom are members of our Army (laughter)? Certainly, Sir, our Ministers are only amused to see that human beings are being killed. Human life has no importance to them. If one is killed here, and another is killed there, it is nothing to them. But to us, it is a matter of great concern. So, Sir, when the rebels are using the most civilised methods, I would urge the Government to adopt the same civilised attitude and use the minimum force. Certainly I do not say that the Government should surrender to an armed revolt. I would not support that course of action. But I say use minimum force in future so that a solution can be ultimately evolved.

I would also like to be assured by the Chief Minister that there was no bombing. We receive persistent rumours and report from some of the Mizo people that the Air Force resorted to bombing and I would like that a delegation of this House should go to Mizo Hills and make an on-the-spot enquiry as to whether the Air Force resorted to bombing.

Shri AKSHOY KUMAR DAS (Sarbhog): May I know whether the hon. Member is definite about the bombing?

Shri HOOVER HYNNEWIA: I am not definite. I think the senior Member of the House has some difficulty in hearing me. I have said that we receive persistent rumours and reports that there was bombing. I want it to be verified by no less than a delegation of the members of this august House.

Sir, it was said that the President of the M.N.F. had violated a written undertaking given to the Chief Minister not to resort to violent means for the attainment of their demand. Certainly, Sir, I will say it is very regrettable on his part to have violated the undertaking. But I ask this House, are our hands clean? When we are accusing the President of the M.N.F., let us pause and ask "had not even the Chief Minister violated a solemn pledge given on the floor of this very House"? When there was a persistent demand to make Assamese the Official Language, he said in 1960 that he would rather wait for the demand to come from the non-Assamese speaking people. It was a solemn undertaking but I think certain political forces compelled him to shift from that stand. Besides, have you not encouraged those who violated their written pledges? Have you not felt very much entertained and pleased when Mr. Pohshna took his stand in the House, condemning the party whose pledge he signed before he won the election? Have you not encouraged him to betray the party? You definitely encouraged him and when he condemned the APHLC you were laughing and laughing in diabolical enjoyment and because he betrayed his party he should be rewarded, and the United Khasi-Jaintia Hills Autonomous District must be divided in order to please him. I ask this House if you say that the people of Jaintia Hills are different from the people of Khasi Hills to the extent that they must be separated, I ask you, 'are the Mizos more akin to the Assamese speaking people of the State that they should remain under the same administration'? What is common between the Mizos and the Assamese speaking people? There is nothing absolutely except the fact that they were conquered by the same foreign power, the British; otherwise there is nothing, as a matter of fact to bind them together and put them under the same administration.

But the majority of Mizos, I admit, had given consent to be in India by being in Assam. Consequently the Mizo Union voluntarily associated itself with the Congress Parliamentary Party and Mr. Supranga at one time joined the Government as the Parliamentary Secretary. What happened now? The Mizo Union is now demanding a State of its own and the M.N.F. has gone one step further and demanded secession from India. Now, Sir, why was this demand made? When the Mizo problem was exposed to national and international view, many of our friends in this House and outside started looking around for a scape-goat. 'Let us try to find somebody to bear the blame for this'. The Missionaries, by virtue of their position, cannot join any controversy and come to this House to defend themselves. Even they cannot write articles in newspapers defending their position. 'Oh! yes, let us blame the missionaries'. It is they who instigate the demand for a Hill State because the tribal people are backward, so backward and stupid, so devoid of reasoning and independent thinking that they cannot decide for themselves and it must be the missionaries who instigate them. This is a kind of falsehood you have devised to cover up your sins of commission and omission. Sir, I say this is one of the causes that has led to this revolt. I know Manliana and others and they used to tell me that they very much resent this charge because first of all it is untrue and, secondly, it amounts to an insult to them—to suggest that Mizo people and the people of the hills are not capable of independent decision and had to spoon-fed by the missionaries. So, Sir, I would like to urge upon the members of this House and the people in general to stop putting the blame on others who cannot defend themselves. Sir, I would like to say that we had, in the past, been trying to sound a note of warning in this House and also while I was a Member of the Parliament I had occasion to issue a similar warning.

In one of my speeches in Parliament, I observed as follows:—

"In his reply to the debate in the Naga Hills & Tuensang area Bill, the Home Minister referred to the autonomous districts of Assam and said.—

'I have had talks with the leaders and I trust that matter too will be solved.'"

This was in the year 1958. "As the statement was made in November last, I hope the Government by now must have prepared concrete proposals for the solution of our problems and for meeting our legitimate aspirations. I hope that he would disclose the nature of his proposals in his reply to this debate. In conclusion, I want to stress the fact that any measures aimed at solving our problems which do not recognise our right to real autonomy and our desire for a unified administration will surely fail.

"The idea of a Hills State has captured the imagination of our young men. It is for this House to decide whether they should be sent to jungles as rebels or be employed as guardians of the eastern frontier." Sir, our late lamented Prime Minister summarily dismissed this warning in his customary arrogance and said in reply: "Our friend Shri Hoover Hynniewta yesterday delivered a very interesting speech. I do not know what about". Sir, when we demand a Separate Hill State the Prime Minister said he did not know what about. How a tribal had audacity to demand anything, he must have wondered.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up. Mr. Hynniewta.

Shri HOOVER HYNNIEWTA: 20 minutes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: 5 minutes only.

Shri HOOVER HYNNIEWTA: Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the causes that have contributed to this revolt; one of them is the unjustified blame imposed on the Missionaries who are in the hill areas. Sir, our friends in the plains are demanding jobs for the sons of the soil, for the children of the soil and received employments in Oil India, in Assam Oil Company and other factories and institutions. I do not know why they do not apply the same principle and same attitude towards the hill people whose administration they are running.

Shri SHRIMAN PRAFULLA GOSWAMI (Nalbari West): Sir, on a point of clarification, does the term children of the soil exclude the tribal? Does not it apply to the children of the whole of Assam?

Shri HOOVER HYNNIEWTA: Sir, they said it in the context of the plain areas of Assam and the people residing there, they must have, excluded the hills people from the definition of the children of the soil. Most of the posts in our Hills one enjoyed by non-tribals. I do not understand why the Government cannot give the posts of Muhurrir, peons, typists, Lower Division Assistants and Upper Division Assistant to the Khasis. We have Khasi youngmen who are running here and there searching for jobs. These youngmen can easily do such jobs, but they are not enjoyed and the majority of the posts are given to people from outside.

Shri DEVENDRA NATH SARMA (Gauhati): Sir, may I know from the hon. Member whether all the posts of Shillong should be given to the Khasis?

Shri HOOVER HYNNIEWTA: Yes, Sir, that is my stand.

(Voice—No, No.)

Shri HOOVER HYNNIEWTA: I say, yes, as far as unskilled posts are concerned; I categorically say, yes. I would say my answer is in the positive; yes, yes, yes.

(Voice—No, No.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order, order.

(Captain Williamson A. Sangma rose to speak)

Shri HOOVER HYNNIEWTA: All right; I can take care of myself. Sir, I will tell you that most of the contracts, permit for the buses and taxies in our Hills are given to the non-tribals although a few tribals are there. Sir, they may shout at me but it would be better for them to go and fight the Mizo rebels instead.

Mr. SPEAKER: You please address the Chair.

Shri HOOVER HYNNIEWTA: I am addressing you, Sir, but sometimes I turn this side and sometimes that side.

Mr. SPEAKER: Try to have balance.

Shri HOOVER HYNNIEWTA: Sir, Mr. Ahmed the other day said on the floor of the Parliament that per capita expenditure in Mizo hills

was Rs. 340 whereas for the rest of Assam it is only Rs. 160. Certainly, Sir, we would like to be enlightened how anybody could arrive at such a comparative figure. Has he taken into account the fact of the hill areas that not a single Medical College, Agricultural College, University and High Court has been established? Sir, I would certainly like to be enlightened how this figure is arrived at. Sir, I want to tell you that we are not so much after grants as we are after our right to do things for ourselves. A special scheme was taken up for the Mizo hills and an amount of Rs. 5 crores was granted by the centre. Yet in spite of that this revolt took place, why does this happen? With you it is because the I.N.F. which is demanding independence were of the firm opinion that this money was being used for political purposes. It was being used as a weapon to seduce the people to the Congress side. By this weapon the Congress wanted to secure votes. To cite an example, a defeated Congress candidate has been given the ticket for the Rajya Sabha. Sir, Mr. Thanglura who was defeated in the Assembly elections from Mizo Hills he was given ticket for the Rajya Sabha. He has been made the member of the Rajya Sabha. Is this a correct policy? Is it in keeping with the democratic principle? So, I say, Sir, that public offices and grants are used for political purposes, you can never purchase the people by grants. On the other hand, the more grants they get, the more they want. They started wondering as to what happened during the 15 or 16 years of independence and the amount of money they should have got during that period.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Shri HOOVER HYNNEWTA: Sir, I would suggest to the Government that they should stop thinking in terms of using the grants as political weapon for we can never buy people's loyalty with money. It is only by doing what is just and fair that we can win their hearts.

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA (Deputy Minister, Education): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am really grateful to the hon. Members for the keen interest they have taken so far Education is concerned because almost all the hon. Members have spoken regarding the various aspects of Education. But, Sir, as you know, so far the education policy is concerned the hon. Chief Minister has already explained it in his reply to the debate on the Governor's Address and the hon. Education Minister on very many occasions spoke on the subject. So I do not want to kill the valuable time of this august House by repeating the same. I shall only try to furnish the information regarding the points raised by the hon. Members. But before going into details let me speak a few words regarding the principles followed by the Education Department. Sir, it is an admitted fact that education is the instrument of advancement, and social justice can be done only by imparting education to all sections of the people living in the hills and plains and hence it is essential, to bring parity in education as fast as possible. It is needless to say that for proper implementation of our ideal of democratic socialism we have to bring cohesion and integration of the different sections of our people. Sir, it is gratifying to note that since Independence there has been a great urge amongst the people for the development of education as a result of which we have seen so many institutions are coming up, because all of us know only through education and education alone that we can mould the future generation of our country, physically, mentally, socially, economically so that they can shoulder the responsibilities as citizens of an independent country. Though so many institutions have come up, we have

not been able to educate the people to the desired extent because the Census of 1961 shows that only 27 per cent of the people of our State are literate. Our main handicap is the paucity of fund. I fully appreciate the anxiety of the hon. Members regarding the deplorable condition of our elementary schools. I fully agree with them that elementary education is the base of the whole educational structure. But I admit that in spite of this urge of our people for education and our sincere efforts lots of things are yet to be done.

In this connection, Sir, I would like to say that no State Government can afford to provide all the facilities and amenities; so far as Primary education is concerned we are only providing teachers. We are speaking of States like Madras, Andhra and other States, but their level of educational cess is 20 per cent per rupee—of land revenue—for the development of elementary education. In Bihar also they are levying donation of 45 nP. *per capita* per rupee of land revenue. But in spite of that those Governments could not supply all these things to their schools. Because we have seen that through a scheme called School Improvement Committee the local people of those areas collect donations in cash and kind from the public to equip their elementary schools. So I would like to clarify to the hon. Members that it is not possible for us to provide all kinds of school materials and other equipments even though we are trying to do it with our limited fund.

As regards non-recurring grants some hon. Members complained that the rural areas are not getting but in the urban areas they are getting. Sir, I am giving the principles under which grants to schools are allotted for the information of the hon. Members. The principles of sanctioning non-recurring grants to Elementary schools are :—

(1) Non-recurring grants are placed with the District Councils in the Hills Districts. Rs.1 lakh was sanctioned to the District Councils during the year 1964-65 and an identical amount is being sanctioned during the current year also. In addition to the above amount, certain amounts were sanctioned for the urban schools at Aijal, Lungleh, Diphu, Shillong and Tura. These amounts were made available from the savings of the Elementary Education Board.

(2) Grants are also sanctioned through the Anchalik Panchayats. A list of schools is obtained from the D.I. of schools who on his turn consults the Anchalik Panchayat in this behalf. The schools selected are from a list submitted by the D.I. to the Anchalik Panchayat. An amount of Rs.4 lakhs was sanctioned during the last year and the same amount is being sanctioned during this year.

(3) The Municipalities and Town Committees also are receiving grants at the rate of Rs.1.50 lakhs. This grant was sanctioned last year and is going to be sanctioned during the current year as well.

(4) Schools are also selected for sanction of grants-in-aid when these are recommended by hon. Members. This was done last year and is proposed to be done during this year also.

(5) Specific schemes have been taken up for improvement of urban schools. All the schools situated in towns, however, could not be improved by just a few of them have been expanded so that the schools can serve more or less as a standard schools to feed the local high schools.

(6) A number of central schools have also been established. A central school is comparatively a bigger school in the area with accommodation for a large number of students. This central school is fed by cluster of single teacher schools with only the lower two classes. Schools of this nature get grants at a higher rate.

(7) Amalgamation of schools is being encouraged to reduce the number of schools in close proximity. An amalgamated school gets grant at a higher rate so that a school of this type can accommodate the children of all the neighbouring schools that are amalgamated.

(8) All schools of teachers who are recipients of National Award have been improved and quite some big amounts have been sanctioned for their schools.

(9) In addition to the big urban schools steps are also being taken to convert some of the rural schools into model school. A model school is again expected to be a very large school with a large enrolment and comparatively a large number of teachers. As these school buildings have to be more commodious than other schools, the cost on construction is naturally very high and, therefore, higher grants are sanctioned.

(10) Encouragement is being given by way of appreciable financial assistance to those schools where the local community's contribution is very significant. For example, a local community donating Rs.5,000 is encouraged as best as possible and a grant of not less than Rs.6,000 is attempted if funds are available.

This is the principle that we use to follow so far as grants to elementary schools are concerned. In this connection, Sir, let me clarify also the position so far as grants to secondary schools are concerned. The policy pursued in giving grants to secondary schools includes the following:

1. Eligibility of a School according to the educational standard.
2. Backwardness of the area where a school is situated.

Backwardness is considered primarily from the educational point of view. An area with about 10,000 population is considered to be educationally backward if there is no secondary school within a radius of 5 miles.

3. **Expansion and improvement of girls' education.**—As you know there is a big gap between the education of girls and boys, and it is now imperative, rather it is a 'must' to improve our girls' education, and we must give special consideration to the girls' institutions even by relaxing our existing rules.

Since last year the policy of considering the population of the whole sub-division has been considered. The idea is to remove the educational imbalance that existed among the different sub-divisions. Efforts are being made to redistribute schools according to block-wise population.

For non-recurring grants areas inhabited by tribal and scheduled caste people are also considered backward. Special emphasis has been laid on expansion and development of education in tribal areas.

Sir, many of the hon. Members have pointed out that new schools have not been given grants either deficit or *ad-hoc*. But in this connection let me say that in the year 1963-64, 169 new High schools were given *ad-hoc* grants, 132 were given increased *ad-hoc* grants, and 15 high schools were brought on to the list of the deficit system schools. During the same year 230 new M. E. Schools were given *ad-hoc* grants, 74 increased *ad-hoc* grants and 81 deficit system grants. During 1964-65, 9 High Schools *ad-hoc*, 17 increased *ad-hoc* and 1 deficit, 22 new M. E. Schools *ad-hoc* grants, 17 increased *ad-hoc* grant and 1 deficit grant. During the current year 15 new high schools have been given *ad-hoc* grants, 9 increased *ad-hoc* and 13 deficit grants. 4 new M. E. Schools got *ad-hoc* grants, 4 increased and *ad-hoc* 4 deficit grant. The list is placed on the Library Table.

As you are aware in 1964 we have raised the pay scale of our teachers as a result of which we had to curtail our expansion programmes, for example since last two years we could not take over any primary school and provide any additional teachers to elementary schools. But in spite of all these we have given some grants to some most desirable schools from our limited funds.

Sir, some of the hon. Members have referred to the standard of education. It is an admitted fact that we cannot sacrifice quality for quantity. In these days of competition until and unless our students are equipped with proper knowledge they cannot go ahead in the path of progress and prosperity. It is a fact that there is a big wastage and one of the main causes of wastage is that there are so many one-teacher schools. As I have already stated because of the financial handicap since the last two years we could not take over any Primary school, we are trying to provide additional teachers to these primary schools, but in the near future subject to the availability of funds for improvement of the standard of education right from the primary to the secondary stage we have increased the intake capacity of our training centres for which we have got money from the Government of India as an advance action. So far as secondary education is concerned, I am glad to mention, Sir, that we have increased the number of inspecting staff. Now we have 7 inspectors and Assistant Inspectors and Assistant Inspectresses attached to them. Moreover the Secondary Education Board has also appointed a number of Education Officers on various subjects and they are also trying to improve the standard of education by holding seminars of teachers and so on and so forth.

Sir, I am glad that many of the hon. Members have mentioned about the girls' education. I need not say that today education of girls is a 'must' because we cannot expect to have a good nation if our mothers remain illiterate. Even after the 1st and 2nd Plan it was found that there was a big gap between education of boys and that of girls. Therefore, the Government of India constituted one Committee under the presidentship of Shrimati Durgabai Deshmukh to look into the case of girls' education, and since then the National Council for Women was constituted. As a counterpart of it State Councils have been constituted in different States. The main function of these councils are to advise the Government for the development

and improvement of girls' education in the States. Sir, I have already mentioned that in the 1st Plan and 2nd Plan there were no special schemes for girls' education. During the 3rd Plan some special schemes were adopted for which the Government of India made special allocations, and out of that we have launched some schemes under which we use to give grants for girls' common room in schools where there is co-education, teachers' quarters, girls' hostel, appoint school mother, sanitary blocks to schools and also scholarships right from the primary to the University level. Our allocation for the 3rd Plan was Rs. 30 lakhs but as it was within the Plan ceiling for the shortage of our resources we could not avail all the Plan allocations and as the impact was also on education we could not utilise the whole amount. We have already spent about 22 lakhs of rupees out of that. During the Fourth Plan we propose to have 201.75 lakhs. Sir, in reply to one question I mentioned that from the next year we propose to give free education to all the girls of our State and under this scheme also.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Upto what standard ?

Shrimati KOMAL KUMARI BARUA: In the first year upto Class IV. During the fourth Plan we shall be able to extend it upto Class VI. By the end of the Fourth Plan the education for both boys and girls will be free. Many of the hon. Members have referred to the point whether we shall go back for two years course for intermediate or we will convert all schools to Higher Secondary schools. Sir, under the Chairmanship of Shri Kothari, Chairman of the University Grants Commission, a Commission has been appointed to go into various questions of education and as our Plans and policies are governed by the Government of India we are to wait till the Commission's report is published. Prior to that it would not be possible for us to take a decision on that matter.

Sir, regarding the Hill University I want to say as the hon. Members are aware that the Government of India is going to give one Hill University for the State of Assam, and for that we have also adopted a resolution in this House. A similar resolution is to be passed by the Nagaland Assembly. Our hon. Chief Minister has written to the hon. Chief Minister of Nagaland to expedite the matter. On this matter we have no hand except to request the Nagaland Government to expedite the passing of the resolution.

Sir, this morning hon. Member Capt. Sangma mentioned about the language in the University. He has mentioned that the language of instruction in the University will be switched over to the regional language, that is, Assamese. It is not a fact. There is neither any such proposal nor any move.

Sir, I would like to say one or two words so far as social education, mass literacy campaign, in the State is concerned. Sir, our hon. Members will be glad to know that from the second of October, 1964 we have launched a campaign for cent percent mass literacy and we have completed four blocks in one Mauza in Nowgong district and it is started in another four blocks, in Nowgong, two blocks at Goalpara and one at Dom Dooma i. e., this programe is going on in seven C. D. Blocks and the progress of work in this regard is very encouraging. For this purpose we have received a sum of Rs. 1.50 lakhs from the Government of India as advance action

and this amount is outside the State Plan. Now, Sir, these are the main points, so far education is concerned. I shall now try to give information on the points raised by the hon. Members. Sir, Shrimati Gohain mentioned about suitable sitting arrangement in elementary schools. I have already replied to this point and now I will only reply so far as girls' education is concerned. Sir, for expansion and for development of girls' education we have got specific schemes and we are giving grants. At the same time I would like to mention that expansion of education does not mean multiplication of schools; it means expansion of existing facilities. Though there are schools for girls and boys yet unless they fulfil the terms and conditions we cannot extend any help.

Sir, Mr. Nanda Kishore Singh mentioned about the elementary education. The Board of Elementary Education adopted a policy to take over the venture schools with only classes A and B. The question of single teacher schools was discussed and it was pointed out that a single teacher school with five classes is very ineffective, and so with a view to making teaching effective and at the same time provide scope for smaller children it was decided to take over the venture schools with classes A and B so that the older students could go to a nearby full-fledged school with all the classes from A to III. This is taken to be a very sound educational principle and, therefore, the policy of taking over venture schools with only classes A and B where a full-fledged school is available nearby should continue.

Sir, hon. Member Shri H. S. Lyngdoh referred to the present condition in the training centre at Shillong. I quite agree that the present location of the Lady Reid Basic Training Centre is not very conducive for training. The training centre in Shillong does have buildings for hostel and the trainees are accommodated in rented houses. It was, therefore, decided to shift the training centre to some other place. A site was finally selected at Sohiong and plans and estimates were also prepared. Government have now accorded administrative approval for construction of the buildings at an estimated cost of Rs. 5,42,400. The administrative approval was issued on 14th December, 1965. Sir, he also mentioned about the Primary school teachers. The teachers of primary schools are appointed by the District Councils and since the responsibility of management of primary education has been transferred to the District Councils the Department of Education cannot interfere in the appointment of teachers even if the Councils prefer to make appointment from unqualified candidates.

Sir, Shri Rupram Sut has mentioned about many things which have been covered by my general remarks. He also mentioned about Library for schools. Provision of library in elementary school is of course essential, and so we have already given library grants to 200 primary schools.

Shri Uzir has referred that teacher-training passed and basic-trained candidates have not yet been absorbed in the Gauhati Sub-division. It is a fact that the number of qualified and suitable candidates in Gauhati Subdivision is by far larger than the vacancies occurring in a particular year and therefore, all the eligible candidates cannot be appointed.

(The bell rang)

Sir, Shri Pegu has mentioned that the grants of Rs.5,000 has not been utilised by the Ratanpur Government M. V. school. It appear from the records that only Rs. 1800 was sanctioned to Ratanpur Government M. V. school during the last year. No report has been received regarding non-utilisation of the grant. The matter is being further enquired into. As regards Tataya Government M. V. school a grant of Rs. 1,765 was sanctioned during this year on 3rd June, 1965 as per estimates submitted for the repair of the school building.

Sir, Shrimati Sen Gupta has referred to the admission qualification of Pre-Primary School teachers. The minimum qualification prescribed is Matriculation and for the smaller children we need more qualified teachers. So the qualification for 'Pre-Primary teachers' training at Dibrugarh will not be condoned and the existing qualification which is Matriculation will be maintained.

Shri Upadhyaya has mentioned about Sanskrit Education, Sir, a scheme has been taken up known as 'Re-organisation of Sanskrit Education'. Under this scheme the total number of tols in the State is sought to be reduced to only 50. Already 10 tols have been covered under this scheme and another 8 are proposed to be so re-organised. Eventually all the tols are expected to fall within this scheme in which case the tols would get some non-recurring grant for building etc., and the Pandits of the tols would get a higher pay scale. The pay scale of the Pandits of the re-organised tols is Rs. 125--175 *i. e.*, the old scale of the Graduate teachers.

Sir, Mr. Sarat Chandra Goswami has referred about grant for primary schools. I have already replied to this point. About the points regarding secondary education mentioned about by Shri Sarat Chandra Goswami I would like to say the authority to Inspector of schools to approve of opening new section on account of the increase in enrolment and to approve of appointment of additional teachers is already there. The Inspectors of Schools are already empowered to approve of opening of new sections, if necessary, but on condition that the school will meet the additional expenditure on maintenance of additional teachers from its own resources. It is not possible to give grants under the deficit system to meet the expenditure on the maintenance of additional teachers without prior information. Our school session starts from January by which time the next year budget is prepared. Some additional funds are always provided in the budget for progressive expenditure but such an amount is always limited and may not be expected to meet the expenditure on the maintenance of additional teachers who are appointed in large numbers now a days on account of increase in enrolment. We have, therefore, made it a sort of rule that the Inspectors of Schools will inform us by June the additional requirements in their circles so that the necessary funds may be provided in the next year's budget. This is the only way that we can possibly meet the growing expenditure of schools regarding additional teachers.

It is, however, appreciated that 25 per cent of fee income which is the only fund available for schools under the deficit grants to meet all types of expenditure except the salaries of teachers against the sanctioned posts is too much meagre. We may, therefore, allow schools which open new sections and therefore appoint new additional teachers to utilise the fee income of the additional section for maintenance of

teachers without merging that income in general fee income but with due information to the Inspectors of Schools concerned. This procedure should continue till additional funds in the Education budget are available for sanction of new posts in the next financial year. If, however, this fee income is not sufficient to meet the expenditure the school concerned may draw on the contingency fund of 25 per cent of fee income.

As regards protection of pay of duly selected Headmasters the matter will be enquired into. As most of the Sub-Inspectors' circle now-a-days are co-terminus with the development blocks the Department will see that the respective Sub-Inspectors of Schools stay in their own circles preferably at block headquarters without spending too much of their time at the town office. Sir,.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Shrimati KOMOL KUMARI BARUA: Sir, one minute more. There are so many points raised by the hon. Members. But one point was raised in regard to the pay scale of the College teachers. This point was raised by Shri Talukdar. Sir.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up. Now, I call Mr. Dhaniram Talukdar.

Shri DHANI RAM TALUKDAR (Barpeta): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I welcome the budget speech which was placed before the House by the Finance Minister. Sir at the beginning I want to draw the attention of the House to one point which I consider is not only an important point but a vital point. That is the Mizo affair. Sir, so long I was under the impression that the Mizo people were very loyal and law-abiding people, and I was also under the impression that they also were part of Assam. Now, what we see? These Mizo people, probably in the year 1959, when millions of rats were a menace to them, the Government came to their rescue by spending lakhs and lakhs of rupees and in return for that what we have to-day? Now, it is these people who are practically at war not only with Assam but also with the Indian Union. Now, Sir, to come to an agreement between the two contending parties, from one side should come the offer and from the other side should come acceptance. The offer is there from our Government side but from the other side there was no acceptance. So we cannot have any peace on our side. I do not know exactly the number of these people including the hills excepting the people in the Nagaland. If I place the number of population at five lakhs of people, these five lakhs of people are challenging the fifty crores of people. That means one man challenging a thousand. This is possible only in a country like India, that is Bharat because we are the peace-loving nation. So, Sir, if there is a good sign from the other side, peace will be possible. I appeal to some gentleman here who were very vocal in their favour. Let them go there and convert them into very peaceful citizens otherwise we do not know whether India is dragging.

Now, Sir, I will come to my own constituency, that is called Barpeta. This Barpeta constituency includes the town of Barpeta. In the last two general elections, the Congress lost that seat. This time I was responsible for winning back that seat. But what was my reward? My reward is a big zero. Sir, tigers are generally not man-eaters they become so only when they are wounded and hungry. Our Government

has wounded the feelings of my constituency and I do not know where the matter will end. Sir, that book covering thousands of pages details a number of roads and a number of bridges. But when my fingers travelled through all the pages I could not find a single bridge or a single road for Barpeta. In one place I saw one and that was the construction of a godown. I found also construction of somebody's quarters. In one respect the Government were very generous. Sir, to accommodate 78 convicts which of course does not concern the public, the Government are spending almost 20 lakhs of rupees. So, in a place like Barpeta for 25,000 rupees a convict will have two palatial buildings, one for residential purpose and the other for hire.

Now, Sir, I come to education. There also I do not know whom to approach. It is something like a tennis ball; where to begin I cannot say and where to end also I cannot say. However, there are generous persons there and we are putting our hope in them. Now, Sir, in my last speech in the Governor's Address I pointed out one thing. That hundreds of students have been refused admission in the High Schools. The Higher Secondary Class has proved to be failure because up to this time we have got 35 Higher Secondary Schools and those pupils who are going for Higher Secondary Schools cannot follow the lectures in engineering class or in medical class. So, Sir, there is no use of these Secondary Classes.

This school has to be dissolved, this Higher Secondary Class. With the money that has to be spent for one Higher Secondary School three Matriculation schools can be maintained. Now, Sir, what is the justification for which the Government has to open up schools for Higher Secondary Education for less than half the students, while the majority are to be denied that education because there are no seats available; what justification we have to give education to some of our children and not giving the same education to some others? We have won our independent Government and run it for the last 18 years. But up to this time we have not been able to solve the problem of even primary education. There are many Lower Primary schools which have not been recognised by the Department. Then, Sir, for the first time when I came to this House, I found not a single bridge for my constituency, and I approached our Hon. Chief Minister and made a personal request, and he was kind enough to promise me a bridge (laughter from every side of the House) but, Sir, this time also I could not see any provision for that bridge!

(Voice—a bridge! a bridge!)

Sir, as I do not use speaks, and therefore probably I could not see it, I suppose.

(Laughter)

Then last time also, I made a special appeal to our Embankment Minister. He also promised me an embankment of 8 miles long to protect the crops of 5 Mouzas. I pointed out to him that last year due to early flood, there was damage done to crops valued at about 2 crores of rupees and if that embankment had been constructed by the Government then Government would have saved the localities and the crops worth of 2 crores of rupees or so. Sir, as far as I remember the hon. Minister noted it down with a smile.

(Laughter)

Sir, Mr. Chaudhury is a very kind and perfect gentleman. When he laughs, it is welcome, but when he smiles it is very dangerous.

(Laughter from both sides)

Sir, that also is the case with some other Ministers.

(Laughter)

Then Sir I do want to take much time.

(Voice—What about the Medical Minister ?)

Sir, regarding the Medical Minister, he is very good. What else am I to say, because there is no dispensary or if there are dispensaries some of them are being run by compounders and if there is doctor, there is no medicine. So the problem is solved.

(Laughter from all sides)

But he is a very accommodating man, Sir. Then I come to Public Works Department and my friend, Mr. Gogoi, he was once a friend of mine. Sir, on my way to Barpeta during the last Dol festival I found many of the bridges being dismantled. I was wondering to see that the bridges were being dismantled by the end of the dry season. Generally they have to be dismantled in the month of October-November. Now with the early rain by the first part of April, the sub-ways will be submerged by water and consequently the traffic on the sub-way will be stopped. So I request the hon. Minister to pay visits occasionally and see how the affairs are going on. Then, Sir,.....

Mr. SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Shri DHANI RAM TALUKDAR: Sir, last time you were kind enough to give me more time and I think you will be kind enough this time also to give some more time. Moreover, Sir, you may kindly allot some time for me out of the saving-by saving I mean, Sir, I do not waste time by putting questions and therefore you may very kindly give me some more time, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: All right, all right, you are given some more time. Please go on.

Shri DHANIRAM TALUKDAR: Sir, regarding the industries, some of my friends have stated about a new refinery. But what is going to happen? How it is going to be manned? So before opening that second refinery, I would request the Minister-in-charge, Shri Tripathi, to get some young Assamese people trained so that they may be employed in that refinery. Get some Assamese people, train them in some foreign countries, and after their training, set up the second refinery. In this refinery there must not be outsider, outsiders should not be allowed there. I mean no non-Assamese people should get all employments there. That should be the condition, Sir.

Shri MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY (Minister, Parliamentary Affairs): That would be against the Constitutional provision.

Shri DHANI RAM TALUKDAR: Then we must do away with that Constitutional provision.

(laughter from all sides)

Because we are interested in the welfare of our people. Now, Sir, about female emancipation. Sir, we must forget that the first Lady of India is above our head, the Prime Minister. We may wait for that day, Sir, when a sermon will come from Delhi, our Devalok, that you must reserve 50 per cent of the seats for Ladies, and I think that day will come very soon.

(laughter from all sides)

Then how the state of affairs will be run, if right from now we do not take keen interest for our female education. I am not interested for the old ladies, I am interested for our young people. They will be in the helm of affairs in future. So I am not thinking about our Lady Members. A day may come, when the ladies will be occupying these seats, and they will be telling us—vacate for us, and go to the kitchen.

(laughter from all sides)

That day may come.

Then, Sir, as regards the collection of Revenue, I would like to suggest a few acts before the House. Sir, there are lakhs and crores of rupees which are lying unrealised. Sir, in four or five mouzas one S.D.C. may be appointed to collect those revenues. But the income of those mouzas will be four or five times than the salary of the officer appointed. But we find some mauzadars fail to collect their revenue from their respective mouzas. I, therefore, suggest to the Government that those mouzadars, who fail to collect the revenue, should be allowed to go on leave.

As regards the reserve land in the name of P. G. R., I would like to state that thousand bighas of land under this name remain unused. I, therefore, suggest to the Government to distribute those land to the landless cultivators. In this connection I would like to mention that when the price of milk per maund was Rs. 3 the tax on buffalo was also Rs. 3. But now, when the price per maund of milk is Rs. 35 the tax per buffalo remains unchanged. I think, Sir, the rate of taxation on buffalo should also be increased, if the graziers fail to lower the prices of milk to Rs. 20.

(The bell rang)

Sir, I want to speak a few points more.

Sir, as regards supply I would like to speak a few words. Sir, it is a very curious affair. Last time I complained against a particular Inspector of Supply. Sir, I am told that he is getting above there in Barpeta. I do not like to disclose the name. I simply requested the Supply Minister about this Supply Inspector who is to be transferred. He also smiled, and

the said Inspector is reported to have said that he will be there till the general election. Sir, as regards one Police Sub-Inspector last time I asked the Inspector General of Police to transfer him from Barpeta. He gets lot of bribe. He gives protection to Pakistanis and take action against non-Pakistanis. I also brought this matter to the Superintendent of Police. Sir, I appeal to the Government to take action against the Police Officer. Sir, I think, the hon. Members of this House are getting impatient. But I would like to speak another very important matter which also relates to supply. To the district of Coochbihar in West Bengal, which is very near to Assam Border, 100 and 100 mounds of rice are being smuggled from our place. Several trucks are coming daily and they carry lots of rice and paddy from our State. But we find there is none in the checkpoint who can check the movement of these trucks. Sir, I pointed it out to the Hon'ble Supply Minister also. I do not know what action he has taken. Sir, unless and until we stop this the price of paddy cannot be reduced. This is one of the reasons for increased rates of paddy in our subdivision.

Shri RUPNATH BRAHMA (Minister, Supply): Sir, may I know, from the hon. Member, how many times he saw the trucks coming from West Bengal?

Shri DHANI RAM TALUKDAR: Throughout the year.

Mr. SPEAKER: His question is whether you have seen it with your own eyes?

Shri DHANI RAM TALUKDAR: Of course, Sir, I have not seen with my own eyes.

(Laughter)

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS (Minister of State, Revenue): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to the hon. Members for advancing constructive criticism and suggestions for solving the land problem in our State. Sir, it is a very difficult and complicated problem. But still I would like to say that sincere efforts have been made by the Government for solving this problem as far as possible. Sir, the main contention of the honourable members are—landless problem has not been solved, irrigation and flood affected people have not been rehabilitated, various laws passed for land reforms have not been implemented, etc. Sir, before I come to reply those points raised by the honourable members, I would like to make clear to this House about availability of lands, not only in our State but in the entire country. The problem of finding land is indeed a colossal one. In India, as a whole, per capita of land available is 1.84 acres compared to per capita of 12.8 acres available in U. S. A. and 26.5 acres of land available in U. S. S. R. But in India, it comes to 1.1 acres of cultivable land per capita. In the case of Assam, in 1963-64 the per capita of cultivable land stood at .28 Hectors i.e. about $3\frac{1}{2}$ Kathas. With a view to solve this problem, to some extent, the State Government has appointed a Committee which is called The Waste Land Survey Committee. That Committee has been touring throughout the State and has submitted a report which is under examination of the Government. After finalisation of the same we will be in a position to know how much land will be available. Sir, from the figures, it can be seen that since 1950 upto 1964, the distribution of land has much improved. In 1950-51, the area brought under plough was 1.99 million Hectors. Now this has increased to 2.28 million Hectors in 1963-64 and this is due

to settlement of land. So, you will find that sufficient lands have been distributed. But still it has not been possible to solve the entire problems of landless people in our State.

Shri MOHANANDA BORA (Bihpuria): Sir, may I know from the Minister what is the number of bighas in a Hector?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DÁS: One Hector is equivalent to approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ bighas.

Shri MUHAMMAD UMARUDDIN (Dhubri): Sir, I think one Hector is equivalent to approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres and not bighas.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DÁS: Yes, I am sorry, it is approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres and not bighas.

Sir, the Census Count of 1961 recorded 11,872,772 landless persons in our State. Of the total population of Assam, 92.3 per cent i.e. about one crore nine lakhs, live in rural areas. The rural population increased during that decade at the rate of 3 per cent per annum i.e. about 3 lakhs every year.

Sir, as a part of All India National Sample Survey Programme, the State Department of Economics and Statistics collaborated in the conduct of an enquiry into land holdings. The result recorded the percentage of rural landless families at 15.84, that means, about 22 lakhs people are landless in our State. So, Sir, you can easily imagine the magnitude of these landless people. But still we are trying our best to solve the problem as far as practicable. But it is not so easy to solve the problem within a short time. Moreover, the problem is further aggravated due to erosion of cultivable lands by rivers. Lots of people have been affected for setting up of industries and for military and other Government purposes. So, a huge number of people had become landless due to these various factors. Sir, with regard to erosion affected people, upto 31st December, 1965, the number of families rendered landless is 20,947, out of which 12,413 families have been rehabilitated, that is, land has been permanently settled with them and they have been given only temporary shelter, because permanent land is not available.

Shri TARAPADA BHATTACHARJEE (Katigora): Sir, may I know from the honourable Minister what is the number of persons who have not been provided land?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DÁS: The number of irrigation and flood affected is about 8,000.

From 1948 upto 31st December, 1965, we have thrown open for settlement 3,53,447 bighas of land from P. G. R. and 1,32,631 bighas of land from V. G. R. and 10,07,596 bighas of Sarkari waste land settled with landless flood affected people from 1949 upto September, 1965.

Besides that, Sir, we have requisitioned 1,96,924 bighas of land from the Tea gardens and out of this 1,57,873 bighas have been allotted and regarding others various appeals have been filed before the Government and the hon. High Court, which are pending. So the balance of the land could not be allotted.

Sir, besides that by the Ceiling Act we have acquired 95,000 bighas of surplus land and most of these lands are under occupation of the people. Some land which are waste land and which are not yet occupied will be distributed amongst the landless cultivators.

Shri MD. UMARUDDIN: Sir, on a point of information, what about the land which was taken for reclamation in Kaki and Philobari? Whether the entire land was used or not?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: Sir, in Philobari, the people are not going there because there is water scarcity. Recently I had been to Philobari and I saw that the Irrigation Department took up an irrigation scheme. I think this scheme has been completed by this time. Sir, in this area we shall settle many erosion and flood affected people and I think these people will go there. Regarding Kaki, Sir, it is very difficult to discuss this problem at this stage and besides that there is also the water scarcity. But as the hon. Member is aware the Jumna Irrigation Project has been taken up as stated by the hon. Agriculture Minister, and water will be available there. Still nearly half of the land is now under occupation.

Shri MD. UMARUDDIN: Sir, is it not a fact that the Jumna Irrigation Project will not touch the Kaki project?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: No, it will touch; then, Sir, with regard to the land reforms, abolition of intermediaries in respect of permanently Settled areas of Goalpara district and Karimganj Subdivision of Cachar district has been completed except a few to be acquired by the end of this agricultural year (1372) B.S. Rs.117 lakhs have been paid to the *ex-proprietors* and *jotedars* as compensation. Preliminary steps have been taken for issue of bonds but due to certain difficulties, the bond could not yet be printed and issued by the Reserve Bank of India.

Shri MD. UMARUDDIN: Sir, may I know whether the bonds are issued to the *Jotedars* which have not been issued?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: Sir, I have already stated that due to foreign exchange difficulty the paper for printing the bonds could not be made available by the Reserve Bank of India.

Sir, with regard to the Adhjar Act, today in reply to a question I stated that the Adhjar Act has not been successfully implemented. Sir, the attention of the Planning Commission has been drawn and Mr. Amir Raja who is in-charge of land reforms in the Centre came to Assam and we discussed this matter with him and the Planning Commission is examining whether the entire authority of leasing and receiving of rent can be entrusted to an independent agency like Land Tribunal which can be constituted so as to get rid of landlord tenant nexus so that it may be possible to implement the Assam Adhjar Protection Act.

Shri MD. UMARUDDIN: Sir, may I know what are difficulties in the way of successful implementation of the Adhjar Act? Whether Government proposes to set up a committee to go into the matter for the implementation of the Act successfully if necessary by bringing an amendment.

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS: No, Sir, that is not a problem for Assam alone. This problem is for the whole of India. The Planning Commission has been examining this matter. Then, Sir, with regard to Goalpara one of the Members raised a point whether in Goalpara the

revenue is collected under the Land Revenue Regulation or under the Goalpara Tenancy Act. Sir, you know that in Goalpara there was Zamindari system and after the Zamindari was abolished, the records of right were prepared and in preparation of this record of right there were certain anomalies and steps have been taken to remove these difficulties under sections 103 and 107 of Goalpara Tenancy Act. Under Section 4 (6) of the Zamindari Acquisition Act all dues accruing in respect of lands payable by tenants shall be recoverable as arrears of land revenue.

Shri Md. UMARUDDIN : Sir I want some clarification here ; the word "arrear" land revenue does not necessarily mean that it will be realised under the Assam Land Revenue Regulation. It may be realised under the Public Demand Recovery Act. May I know from the hon. Minister if any step has been taken to realise the arrears under the Public Demand Recovery Act ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : No, Sir. Because it is realisable as arrear of land revenue and arrears of land revenue are realised under the Land Revenue Regulations. So, land revenue itself is to be realised as arrear land revenue. Therefore, land revenue arrears are not realised under the Public Demand Recovery Act.

Now, Sir, I will reply to some of the points raised by the Hon. Members. Shri Akshoy Kumar Das has suggested that the landless people should be placed under the same category as Erosion and Flood affected people. Sir, there is one difficulty about that. There is the Government resolution of 1958 regarding the policy as to who should be given the first priority. In case of erosion affected people—those who become landless they are in the habit of cultivation. But in other case these people may not be in the habit of cultivation. At the same time, Sir, I have already stated that since the land problem is a colossal one in Assam, the people should not go for land and they should take some other avocation of life ; otherwise this problem cannot be solved. Then, Sir, I agree with Shri Das that Government reserves should not be opened and we are also trying to do so as far as possible but when emergency demands and when our erosion and flood affected people are to be rehabilitated it is not possible to keep the reserves as reserves. I have given the figure that 5 lakh bighas of land have already been distributed from reserves to the landless and erosion affected people.

Sir, Dr. Ghanashyam Das raised point that land has not been settled with the Scheduled caste people. I do not agree with him ; lots of scheduled caste people have been given land. Even at Gauhati, preference is to be given to the persons who are in occupation of land before 1963 for more than 5 years and they are to stay there carrying on their own business. In that case their cases are considered. Besides there is a provision that 50 per cent of the waste lands in Gauhati would go to the Scheduled castes people. So that question does not arise. Now, Sir, hon. Shri Durgeswar Saikia has raised a point regarding settlement of land by realising premium. We are charging a premium for converting annual land to periodic. One has to pay Rs.5 as premium charge for converting annual land to periodic. Moreover, any land which is used for commercial purposes and for land in urban areas, a premium is charged and the land becomes periodic.

Shri MD. UMARUDDIN : Sir, one point is not clear. In case of agricultural land a premium is charged for conversion. May I know when land is settled directly on periodic lease whether any premium is charged ?

Shri RADHIKA RAM DAS : Sir, the agricultural land is not directly settled. It must be first of all annual and then it is converted to periodic settlement on payment of premium.

Then, Sir, hon. Shri Probin Kumar Choudhury raised a point that in Kamakhya reserve land has been allotted to some persons, but they have paid premium and also road development charge and that the land has not been improved as yet. We have asked the Deputy Commissioner to report about the matter and after getting a report we shall take action regarding this.

Sir, hon. Shri Nanda Kishore Sinha has raised a point that Government are settling Evacuee lands in Katigora Circle, Cachar with the new refugees and realising revenue, although it was previously decided to settle such lands with local people and that this has caused dissatisfaction. Sir, it may be mentioned here in that connection that the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar has requisitioned an area of about 2,500 bighas of lands vested in the Assam Evacuee Property Management Committee in Katigora area of Cachar District to rehabilitate recently migrated refugees from Pakistan. No decision had at any time been taken to settle these evacuee lands only with local people. As these lands were lying fallow, Deputy Commissioner, Cachar has rightly requisitioned these for settlement with refugees whose rehabilitation is a moral responsibility of the Government of India.

Regarding the suggestion given by Shri Shriman Prafulla Goswami, he stated that looting is going in the Acquisition and Requisition Department. Sir, I disagree with the hon. Member, because if some land is to be acquired for the Medical Department in that case a representative of the Revenue Department and one from the Medical Department go to the place, they visit the place to be taken and prepare compensation. In case of the acquisition of land for the National High Way about which the hon. Member has mentioned we came to know about this from an Advocate of Nalbari first that there some officers have prepared list of compensation for articles although there was no such thing.

In this petition he cited some specific instances relating to Village Nij-Junuki Barma Bazar.

The allegation in the former village was that an Assam type building with R.C.C. pillars was falsely included in the compensation statement and that compensation was actually paid. In the case of the latter village a Public Works Department borrow pit was wrongly assessed as a fishery and compensation was paid thereof. As soon as we got the information we sent the Under Secretary, Revenue, to enquire into the matter. He went to Nalbari and made a preliminary enquiry on the spot and submitted a report. The Land Acquisition Officer was put under suspension. Three S. Ks were also placed under suspension. Sir, as regards their unauthorised occupation of the land. On receipt of this notice of eviction they came to Shillong and submitted a petition before the Chief Minister which was passed by the Chief Minister to the Minister of Revenue. The Minister of Revenue in his turn passed an order staying eviction pending report from the Deputy Commissioner on the petition. This report is still awaited. (The bell rang).

Sir, I have not been able to reply to all the points raised by the hon. Members. I shall take note of the points raised by the hon. Members.

Adjournment

The Assembly then adjourned till 9 a.m. on Friday, the 18th, March, 1966.

Shillong :
The 26th August, 1966.

R. C. CHAUDHURI,
Secretary,
Legislative Assembly, Assam.